

Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western PA
Minutes of the 2016 Annual Archdiocesan Assembly

The Annual Assembly of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western PA was held on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at Holy Trinity Church in New Salem, PA.

The Assembly opened with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, presided by Archbishop Melchisedek.

The first plenary session was called to order by Archbishop Melchisedek at 11:20 am with the singing of O Heavenly King.

Credential Report:

1 Hierarch
21 Presbyters
28 Lay delegates
5 Observers
1 Alternate observer

A total of 50 voting members.

Election:

Clergy Vice Chair- Igumen Patrick Carpenter nominated Archpriest Igor Soroka, who declined. Igumen Patrick Carpenter nominated Archpriest Andrew Matychak, who declined. Chancellor Archpriest William Evansky nominated Archpriest Samuel Smolcic who accepted. Archpriest Samuel Smolcic was confirmed.

Lay Vice Chair- Archpriest William Evansky nominated Roy Glisan, who accepted. Roy Glisan was confirmed.

Clergy Secretary- Alexis Parshook nominated Archpriest Michael Senyo, who accepted. Archpriest Michael Senyo was confirmed.

Lay Secretary- Archpriest William Evansky nominated Rebecca Danchenko. Rebecca Danchenko was confirmed.

All elected by acclamation.

Minutes of Previous Assembly (2015):

The minutes of the 2015 assembly and the majority of reports were previously distributed electronically to the parishes, clergy and laity. Igumen Patrick Carpenter moved to accept the minutes and all submitted reports. Second by Archpriest Lawrence Daniels. Passed. The reading of the minutes was dispensed. The minutes were accepted with corrections or additions.

Report of the Hierarch:

His Eminence reviewed:

- Activities of the Holy Synod
- Activities of the Archdiocesan administration
- Agenda items for the 2016 Assembly, including the sale of property in Cranberry Township and the adoption of By-Laws for the Archdiocese
- Reviewed potentialities regarding parish closures and consolidations
- Responded to questions and remarks with regard to closure and consolidation of distressed parish communities

Chancellor's Report:

Father Chancellor reviewed:

- Responsibilities of his office
- Vacancies and clergy retirements
- The need to appoint a coordinator to review and oversee the OCA policies regarding clerical conduct and sexual abuse within the Archdiocese
- Potential sale of the former Cathedral (St. Michael's) property on Reed Street in the city of Pittsburgh

Treasurer's Report:

Alexis Parshook reviewed the report, which had been previously distributed electronically.

Dean's Reports:

The reports were distributed electronically prior to the Assembly. Accepted with corrections or additions.

- Archpriest Samuel Smolcic reported \$3459.00 was collected from parishes to provide charitable assistance to those who were affected by recent flooding in the Connellsville, PA region.

Departmental Reports:

Per previous motion by Igumen Patrick Carpenter, all reports were accepted as presented.

Ending of first plenary session.

The Second Plenary Session was called to order at 2:20pm.

Consideration of the 2017 Budget:

Treasurer Alexis Parshook reviewed the budget under consideration. Projected income was determined to be \$353,449.00.

Amendments to Budget-

- Igumen Patrick Carpenter moved to add \$1,000.00 to the Charities line item for the assistance of the Saint Sophia Academy in Johnstown, PA. Second by Archpriest Lawrence Daniels. Passed.
- Priest Nicholai Breckenridge requested the line item for Dean's expenses be increased from \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00 for each Dean. Archpriest George Johnson requested that this item be further amended to include mileage reimbursement. Motion was seconded by Archpriest Michael Senyo. Passed.

Nicholas Sidorick moved to accept the budget as amended. Second by Michael Stickles. Passed.

New Business:

Proposed By-Laws- Mr. Gregory Nescott reviewed the process of drafting the proposed By-Laws. He noted that the Archdiocese had previously functioned with no By-Laws in place. He noted the proposed By-Laws were largely based upon the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, except where specifically local needs had to be considered and addressed. An article by article review was undertaken, with opportunities for questions. Justin Nescott moved to accept the proposed By-Laws. Second by Igumen Patrick Carpenter. Motion passed.

Proposed Sale of Cranberry Property- Mr. Roy Glisan reported on the work of the appointed committee to review and oversee the potential sale of a great portion of the Cranberry property. A major portion of the unused property (30-32 acres of the total 38 acres) would be divested, keeping the home and the land in front and on the sides of the home. The offering to the Archdiocese is \$45,000.00 per acre or \$80,000.00 per building lot. There is a signed letter of intent. Concluding his report, Mr. Glisan recommended to the Assembly the sale of the property. He reviewed questions and comments. Archpriest Andrew Matychak moved to accept the Singer proposal and to sell the property. Second by Justin Nescott. Motion passed.

Priest Elijah Bremer offered his thank you of behalf of the entire Assembly to those who worked on the sale of the property and the By-Laws.

Elections for Diocesan Council:

Nominations were received for the following positions:

- Clergy at Large- Igumen Patrick Carpenter nominated Archpriest George Johnson. Second by Archpriest Andrew Matychak. Confirmed.
- Lay at Large- Diane Robb nominated Rebecca Danchenko. Second by Archpriest Lawrence Daniels. Confirmed.
- Auditors- Father Daniel Mathewson and Helen Billak would continue as auditors. The third will be appointed by the Hierarch at a later date.

The Assembly closed at 3:51pm. A Molieben was served following with the installation of officers and Council members by Archbishop Melchisedek. The meeting concluded with the singing of the Hymn to the Theotokos.

Respectfully submitted,

Very Rev. Michael Senyo
Clergy Recording Secretary

Rebecca Danchenko
Lay Recording Secretary

The Most Rev. MELCHISEDEK
Bishop of the Archdiocese of
Pittsburgh and Western PA

Very Rev. William Evansky
Chancellor of the Archdiocese of
Pittsburgh and Western PA