

ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH AND WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Orthodox Church in America

Minutes ~ Archdiocesan Assembly 2017

Saturday, November 4, 2017 St. Gregory Orthodox Church ~ Homestead, PA

The Diocesan Assembly of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western PA was held at St. Gregory Church Homestead, PA, on November 4, 2017.

His Eminence, The Most Reverend MELCHISEDEK, Archbishop of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, presided at the Assembly.

The Assembly began with a Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK.

The first Plenary Session began with the singing of "O Heavenly King" at 11:20 am.

Archpriest William Evansky, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western PA, then called the Assembly to order.

1. CREDENTIALS REPORT

Treasurer Alexis Parshook presented the credentials report as follows:

Hierarch:	1
Priests:	28
Deacons:	6
Lay Delegates:	30
Archdiocesan Council Members	7
<i>Retired Priests:</i>	2
<i>Alternates:</i>	5
<i>Observers:</i>	3

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 82

TOTAL VOTES: 72

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRS AND SECRETARIAT

Chancellor Evansky placed the name of Archpriest Samuel Smolcic as Clergy Vice-chair and Mr. Ronald Skvir as Lay Vice-Chair into nomination for the Assembly.

MOTION: "To close nominations for Clergy and Lay Vice-Chair and cast a unanimous ballot for Archpriest Samuel Smolcic and Mr. Ronald Skvir."

Made by Archpriest David Lesko; seconded by Archpriest Gregory Peterson.

MOTION CARRIED

Chancellor Evansky placed the names of Deacon Alexander Cadman as Clergy Recording Secretary and Dr. John Schultz as Lay Recording Secretary into nomination for the Assembly.

MOTION: "To close nominations for Recording Secretaries and cast a unanimous ballot for Deacon Alexander Cadman and Dr. John Schultz."

Made by Archpriest Gregory Peterson seconded by Archpriest David Lesko.

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chancellor Evansky reported that the Minutes from the 2016 Assembly were previously distributed to the parishes and additional copies were passed out to those in attendance at this Assembly.

CORRECTIONS: On page 2 under Consideration of Budget – Amendments to Budget: Bullet Point #2 be change from "the line item for Dean's expenses be increased from \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00 for each Dean" be corrected to "the line item for Dean's expenses be increased \$1,500.00 to \$3,000.00 (\$1,000.00/Dean)."

MOTION: "To approve the 2016 Archdiocesan Assembly minutes as corrected."

Made by Archpriest David Lesko, seconded by Priest Elijah Bremer.

MOTION CARRIED

4. ARCHBISHOP'S REPORT

His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK then read his report on the State of the Archdiocese. Highlights. His report included:

- Activities of the Holy Synod
- Activities of the Archdiocesan Administration
- Campus ministry activities of the Archdiocese
- The "Facing Facts" Parish Development Program
- Review of Archdiocesan Parishes
- Review of the Annual Small Parish Conference held in New Kensington
- Activities of the Assembly of Bishops (The O.C.A. is now represented on the Executive Committee by Archbishop MICHAEL)
- The sale of St. Michael's Church

MOTION: "To receive His Eminence's report as presented."

Made by Archpriest David Lesko, seconded by Archpriest Gregory Peterson.

MOTION CARRIED

5. CHANCELLORS REPORT

Chancellor Evansky's report is in the Report Packet; he had no additions or corrections.

His report included:

- The appointment of Deacon Alexander Cadman as the Archdiocesan Coordinator for the Policy on Sexual Abuse and Misconduct.
- Heartfelt thanks to Archpriest Samuel Smolcic, who is retiring.
- The evolution of the Parish Development position. Mr. Joseph Kormos has been very helpful working with Parish Councils.
- Additional details on the sale of the Reed Street property (St. Michael's). The final purchase price was \$112,000.00

MOTION: "To earmark the proceeds of the sale of St. Michael's/Reed Street to a Scholarship Fund for Seminarians." Made by Igumen Patrick (Carpenter); Seconded by Mr. Serge Daniels.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION: "To extend our love and greetings to Mitered Archpriest Igor Soroka on the occasion of his retirement and gratitude for his fifty-eight years of service to the Archdiocese in many positions including Dean and Archdiocesan Cathedral Choir Director. May God grant him many years." Made by Mr. Gregg Nescott; Seconded by Archpriest David Lesko.

MOTION CARRIED

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Archdiocesan Treasurer Alexis Parshook presented the written Treasurer's Report.

A general discussion ensued with all questions asked and answered in depth.

MOTION: "To accept the Treasurer's report as presented." Made by Mr. Joe Bonifalli; seconded by Mr. Greg Ohler.

MOTION CARRIED

7. AUDITOR'S REPORT

Chancellor Evansky and Treasurer Parshook presented the External Auditor's Report. The 2016 Audit is still open and the Auditing Committee has not yet met.

MOTION: "To accept the Auditor's Report pending its approval by the Archdiocesan Council"

Made by Mr. Nicholas Sidorik; Seconded by Archpriest David Lesko.

MOTION PASSED

8. DEANS'/COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The Deans' Reports for each Deanery and the Reports from the Chairs of the various Committees and Departments are included in the Report Packet.

MOTION: "To accept the Reports of the Dean's, Committees, and Departments and presented."

Made by Igumen Patrick (Carpenter); Seconded by Mr. Ronald Skvir

MOTION PASSED

The Assembly then recessed for Lunch at 1:05 pm and reconvened after lunch at 2:10 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

9. 2018 PROPOSED BUDGET

Treasurer Parshook presented the 2018 proposed budget.

There was a general discussion on the proposed budget.

The following changes were proposed:

- The All-American Council Assessment for the Archdiocese was set by The O.C.A. at \$25,000.00.
- Therefore, adjustment to the Budget on page 2 Section: OCA; AAC Funding change from \$23,849.00 to \$25,000.00.
- This will change OCA total from \$177,049.00 to \$178,000.00. The ADWPA Total Expenses will change from \$416,094.00 to \$417,245.00.
- Finally, the Net Income/ (Loss) will change from \$69,983.00 to \$68,832.00.

MOTION: "To accept the 2017 Archdiocesan Budget as amended." Made by Treasurer Alexis Parshook; seconded by Mr. Justin Nescott.

MOTION CARRIED

10. PROPOSAL ON ARCHDIOCESIAN FUNDING

Priest Nikolai Breckenridge gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Parish Assessment Policy to fund the Archdiocese. The Proposed Policy is attached.

MOTION: "To accept the Parish Assessment Policy Draft of October 31, 2017 as the basis for funding of the Archdiocese." Made by Mr. Gregg Nescott; Seconded by Priest Nikolai Breckenridge.

MOTION: "To amend the policy Section 4. Transition and Stability which currently reads: Due to the nature of this change, Archdiocesan revenue could fluctuate wildly, both during the transition away from the old assessment system, and in the years to come. Therefore, regardless of the newly calculated effective rate percentage, *the change will be no more or less than 2% of the previous year's effective rate. For example, if in the previous year, the effective rate an entity paid to the Archdiocese was 8.8% of their eligible income, the next year's effective rate will be no more than 10.8%, and no less than 6.8%.*

Be changed to read:

Due to the nature of this change, Archdiocesan revenue could fluctuate wildly, both during the transition away from the old assessment system, and in the years to come. Therefore, regardless of the newly calculated effective rate percentage, *the change will be no more or less than 15% real dollar change from the prior year assessment. This limitation will expire three years past the implementation.*" Made by Mr. Skip Steeb; Seconded by Deacon Alexander Cadman.

AMENDMENT PASSED.

**On the Original Motion as Amended:
MOTION PASSED**

11. RESOLUTION

The Parish Council of St. Mary Orthodox Church, Pittsburgh, PA (South Side) adopted and presented the following resolution to the Assembly:

MOTION: “Be it resolved, that the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania shall hold an Annual Archdiocesan Appeal to help fund the Archdiocesan ministries.” Made by Mr. Andrew Tomasitis; Seconded by Igumen Patrick (Carpenter).

MOTION FAILED

12. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

The internal Auditing Committee one Clergy opening and two Lay openings.

Chancellor Evansky placed the name of Priest Daniel Mathewson into nomination as a Clergy Member of the Internal Auditing Committee.

MOTION: “To close nominations for Clergy Member of Internal Auditing Committee and elect Priest Daniel Mathewson.” Made by Ms. Diane Robb; Seconded by Mr. Alex Deter.

MOTION PASSED

Chancellor Evansky placed the names of Ms. Helen Billak and Ms. Mary Ann Sivak into nomination as Lay Members of the Internal Auditing Committee.

MOTION: “To close nominations for Lay Members of Internal Auditing Committee and elect Ms. Helen Billak and Ms. Mary Ann Sivak.” Made by Mr. Gregg Nescott; Seconded by Deacon David Rostcheck.

MOTION PASSED

13. MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION: “To adjourn the 2017 Archdiocesan Assembly”

Made by Igumen Patrick (Carpenter); seconded by Priest Daniel Mathewson.

MOTION CARRIED

14. INSTALLATION OF ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL

Following the adjournment, His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK administered the Oath of Office to the Archdiocesan Council

15. 2018 ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

The 2018 Assembly will be held on November 3, 2018 at a location TBD.

The Assembly was concluded at 4:05 pm with the singing of “It is truly Meet”

Following the Assembly Great Vespers was celebrated.

Respectfully submitted by:

Deacon Alexander Cadman
Clergy Recording Secretary

John P. Schultz, M.D.
Lay Recording Secretary

Approved:

Archbishop MELCHISEDEK
Archbishop of Pittsburgh &
Western Pennsylvania

Archpriest William Evansky,
Chancellor of the Archdiocese of
Pittsburgh & Western Pennsylvania