

Diocese of Pittsburgh & Western Pennsylvania
Archdiocesan Council Meeting
June 3, 2013

A meeting of the Archdiocesan Council took place at the Archdiocesan Center (Cranberry Twp., PA) on June 3, 2013. Bishop Melchisedek called the meeting to order following prayer at 6:30 PM, with the singing of the Paschal Tropar.

The following were present: Chancellor Archpriest William Evansky; Archpriests/Priests: Michael Senyo, Secretary; George York, Joseph Wargo, Joseph Oleynik; Igumen Patrick (Carpenter), David (Lewis); Priest Gregory Thompson, Nikolai Breckenridge, John Kopcha; Deacon Seraphim Truckley. From the laity: Gregory Avdakov, Dr. John Schultz, Gregory Sidorick, Nicholas Sidorick, Rebecca Danchenko, and Serge Daniels. Also present: Administrative Assistant, Reader Barry Migyanko, and at the invitation of His Grace, Matushka Susanne Senyo of the Diocesan Insurance Committee. Treasurer, Helen Billak was excused due to a death in her family.

Secretarial Report:

The minutes of the February 21, 2013, meeting, which had been distributed to members electronically, were accepted with no corrections or additions.

Financial Report:

Reports were distributed prior to the meeting electronically (copies attached). Father Chancellor reported on the long term investments: First National Bank: \$662,273.77; BPU: \$651,025.00.

Correspondence:

- No new correspondence was presented.
- The Council continued to table action on the request regarding reposed Archpriest Michael Mihalick's funeral expenses, as Archpriest Mark Meholick was not present.

Report of the Ruling Bishop: (copy attached)

Vladyka reported:

- That two vacancies are expected in July with the retirements of Archpriests Shomsky (Weirton) and Hendershot (Crossingville).
- Archpriest Dragan Filipovich was received into the Archdiocese and assigned to St. John the Divine Church (Monesson), effective June 1.
- The Catechetical Program will commence in September, meeting at the Diocesan Center. The program's director is (retired) Archpriest Paul Ziatyk.
- His Grace continues weekly meetings with the Chancellor and monthly meetings with Archdiocesan officers.
- Planning of events to gather clergy, Matushki and faithful.
- Announced intention to make plans to strengthen the Archbishop Benjamin Scholarship Fund, establishing a goal to raise \$250,000.
- Noted on the eminent completion of a Chinovnik for the Archdiocese, with notes for deacons, sub deacons, readers and servers.

Chancellor's Report (copy attached):

Archpriest William Evansky reported on:

- The Archdiocesan Catechetical Program.
- Upcoming events.
- Review of past events on the Archdiocesan calendar.

Metropolitan Council (copy attached):

Dr. John Schultz reviewed his written report. Discussion occurred regarding matters particular to the status of retired Metropolitan Jonah. Dr. Schultz also noted that the date of the 18th All American Council has been moved to 2015.

Building and Grounds (copy attached):

Deacon Seraphim reviewed his written report. Secretary Archpriest Michael Senyo offered thanks on behalf of the Administration on the excellent condition of the grounds and the improvements being made to the property.

Youth Committee (copy attached):

Priest Nikolai Breckenridge reviewed his written report and noted upcoming activities/events.

FOCA (copy attached):

Serge Daniels reviewed his written report, noting the calendar events for the summer and fall. He also reported on the District Meeting held on June 2.

Parish Development Program (copy attached):

Director, Joseph Kormos provided the report. Father Chancellor reported that a meeting of the district Deans will be held on June 8 to discuss the program and review its impact thus far. Father noted that Mr. Kormos will be present at this meeting.

Old/Unfinished Business:

- **Reed Street (former Saint Michael's Cathedral) Property:** An appraisal was conducted and determined that the market value of the property is \$100,000. The report, undertaken by the firm of Kelly, Rielly, Nell and Barna, has been filed with the Bishop's office.
 - A motion was made by Nicholas Sidorick to market the property for an asking price of \$175,000. Seconded by Priest Nikolai Breckenridge. Motion passed.
- **Long Range Planning (Cranberry Property):** The residence and property were appraised by the same firm, Kelly, Rielly, Nell and Barna, which determined the value of the home and thirty acres at \$1,100,000. The separate, wooded portion was valued at \$90,000. This report is also filed with the Bishop's office. Discussion resulted in the agreement that now is not the time to put the property on the market.
- **By-Laws/Incorporation:** No report was given.

New Business:

- **Texas Property:** Treasurer Helen Billak researched the location of this property and had reported to His Grace, regarding the so-called “Texas Property”. The 23 acres of this property were originally gifted to the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh during the rule of Archbishop Stephen (Dzubay), d. 1933. The acreage was sold by Archbishop Kyrill in 1983, the Archdiocese retaining only the mineral rights. Because the Archdiocese does not own the property, there is no liability. There is a contract for mineral rights with another party, which will be coming up for renewal in a few months. A more detailed report will be presented at the next meeting of the Council.
- **Insurance Issues (copy attached):** Matushka Susanne Senyo, CIC, CISR, offered a review of the meeting held on March 14, 2013, with other insurance professionals from the Diocese and her co-worker, who specializes in health and life insurance. The policies held by the Archdiocese were reviewed; and several recommendations to the current policies and additional insurance needs were cited. A discussion concerning health care insurance occurred, with Igumen Patrick providing a general report on the Orthodox Fellowship Health Plan and the status of the current renewal of the program with Highmark. Matushka Susanne offered to organize an ‘Insurance Fair’ at the upcoming Diocesan Assembly, the purpose of which will be to provide an educational opportunity to learn about all lines of insurance which should be considered by the clergy and delegates: commercial insurance for the parishes and personal insurance for the clergy and their families. His Grace blessed this offer.
- **Family Day:** The date for Family Day has been set for August 18, to be co-chaired by Larice Nescott and Danielle Ilchuk, with the assistance of the Allegheny-Beaver Valley Deanery.
- **Food Pantry:** Igumen Patrick reported on the great increase in patrons of the food pantry’s services and encouraged greater support.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Council will be August 19, 2013, at 6:30 PM, at the Archdiocesan Center.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Rebecca Danchenko; seconded by Priest Gregory Thompson. Meeting adjourned with the singing of the Paschal Hymn to the Theotokos.

Archpriest Michael Senyo
Secretary

Approved for distribution:

Bishop Melchisedek

Archpriest William Evansky