

ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH AND WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Orthodox Church in America

Minutes ~ Archdiocesan Assembly 2019

Saturday, November 2, 2019 ~ Saint Andrew Church ~ Mingo Jct., OH

The Diocesan Assembly of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western PA was held at Saint Andrew Church, Mingo Jct., OH on November 2, 2019.

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 assisted by Archdiocesan Clergy.

The first Plenary Session began with the singing of "O Heavenly King" at 11:15 am.

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

1. CREDENTIALS REPORT

A. Treasurer Alexis Parshook presented the credentials report as follows:

Hierarchy:	1
Clergy	17
Deacons	4
Laity Delegates:	27
Archdiocesan Council Members	3
Retired Clergy	1
Alternates	2
Observers:	2

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 57

TOTAL VOTES: 52

B. (At the request of the Assembly body, and with the blessing of the hierarchy, a list of parishes with no clergy or laity representation at the Assembly, as well as a listing of Archdiocesan parish priests not in attendance, is included here in the Assembly meeting minutes.) **Sixteen parishes are not represented by a Clergy or Laity Delegate as follows:** Ss. Peter & Paul, Crossingville, PA; St. Michael, Curtisville, PA; St. Nicholas, Duquesne, PA; St. Mary, Pittsburgh, PA; St. John the Baptist, Black Lick, PA; St. Michael, Irvona, PA; St. Mary, Madera, PA; Holy Trinity, Charleroi, PA; Ss. Cyril & Methodius, Jeannette, PA; St. Mary, Masontown, PA; St. John the Divine, Monessen, PA; Ss. Peter & Paul, Moundsville, WV; Holy Transfiguration, Steubenville, OH; and All Saints, Wolf Run, OH.

C. **Seven Archdiocesan Priests were excused by His Eminence:** Igumen Patrick (Carpenter); Monk-Priest Constantine (Curchin); Igumen David (Lewis); Archpriest Andrei Alexiev; Archpriest Andrew Lowe; Archpriest Andrew Matychak; Archpriest Alexander Poshyvajlo; Priest Daniel Mathewson. **Other Priests not in attendance include:** Archimandrite John-Jacob (Piruta); Archpriest Michael Sochka; Archpriest Michael Simerick; and Archpriest Gregory Peterson.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRS AND SECRETARIAT

A. Clergy Vice Chair

Priest John Kotalik nominated Archpriest David Vernak for Clergy Vice-chair.

B. Laity Vice-Chair

Mr. Gregory Nescott nominated Mr. Roman Glisan for Laity Vice-Chair.

C. Clergy Recording Secretary

Archpriest Mark Meholick nominated Archpriest Michael Senyo for Clergy Recording Secretary.

D. Laity Secretary

Priest Andrew P. Nelko nominated Dr. John Schultz for Laity Recording Secretary.

There were no other nominations for the Vice-Chairs or Secretariat.

ELECTION: All the above nominated were elected by unanimous consent of the Assembly.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 2018 ASSEMBLY

The Minutes from the 2018 Assembly were previously distributed to the parishes and additional copies were passed out to those in attendance at this Assembly.

There were no additions or corrections.

MOTION: “To approve the 2018 Archdiocesan Assembly minutes as presented.”

Made by Mr. Ron Skvir, seconded by Priest Andrew P. Nelko.

MOTION CARRIED

4. REPORT OF THE HIERARCH

His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK read his report on the State of the Archdiocese.

Highlights of his report included:

- Clergy ordinations and assignments.
- Parish vacancies.
- Parish visitations.
- Parish Growth initiatives.
- Annual Parish Forum (formerly Small Parish Forum).
- Archdiocesan Education programs.
- Activities of the Holy Synod.
- Church-wide responsibilities.

5. CHANCELLORS REPORT

Chancellor Archpriest William Evansky’s report was distributed prior to the assembly. He had no additions or corrections.

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 regarding the property sale, investments, and the collection of “assessments.”

Discussion regarding the forwarding of assessments included reports that the various parishes forward their assessments in various degrees of timeliness and that four (4) parishes have paid nothing.

This contributed to a budget shortfall of \$41,000.00. There was a suggestion that the payment information of the parishes be made public. No action was taken on this suggestion.

MOTION: “To accept the Treasurer’s report as presented.” Made by Mr. Ray Steeb; seconded by Priest Andrew P. Nelko.

MOTION CARRIED

7. AUDITING REPORT

Chancellor Evansky and Treasurer Parshook presented the External Auditor’s Report prepared by W.T Grimm and Associates. The Chancellor noted that the report was “clean,” and that the Internal Auditing Committee has endorsed the External Auditor’s Report with no exceptions noted.

MOTION: “To accept the Auditing Report.” Made by Mr. Ray Steeb; Seconded by Mr. Ron Skvir,

MOTION CARRIED

8. DEANS’/COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The Deans’ Reports for each Deanery and the Reports from the Chairs of the various Committees and Departments were included in the Report Packet and distributed in advance electronically except as noted.

Except as noted below, all reports are accepted as presented

Additions are as follows:

- A. Report of the Dean of the Eastern Deanery:
 - Dean Archpriest Mark Meholick reported on the Deanery's support of the St. Andrew Mission Center in Kenya, Africa. Fr. Meholick also moved the establishment of an Archbishop Job Scholarship Fund, and a 10-year Anniversary of Repose Liturgy to be celebrated on December 18.
- B. Report of the Northwest Deanery
 - Associate Dean Archpriest Thomas Soroka reported that the activities of St. Cyril of White Lake Food pantry are on a hiatus as Igumen Patrick recovers from recent surgery.
- C. Report of the Southwest Deanery
 - Dean Priest Andrew P. Nelko reported on Deanery vacancies and efforts to build up the Deanery Clergy Brotherhood.
- D. Report of St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral
 - Cathedral Dean Archpriest Michael Senyo updated the assembly on the activities of the Cathedral. He reiterated that all Cathedral activities are open to the entire Archdiocese.
- E. Archbishop Benjamin Scholarship Fund Report
 - His Eminence reported that he would like to build this fund to have assets of at least \$250,000.00.
- F. Catechetical Programs
 - The format of the program will be transitions from the traditional classroom lecture format to retreats throughout the Archdiocese. This will be a "mini-lecture" format.
 - Dates and speakers for Clergy and Laity will be as follows: November 16, 2019; February 7, 2020; February 8, 2020; and April 4, 2020.
 - The Annual Parish Forum will be held in the Cleveland area.

(The Assembly then recessed for Lunch at 1:20 pm and reconvened after lunch at 2:15 pm.)

- G. Property Sale

The final report of the sale of the Cranberry property was distributed.

 - Sale was closed on July 25, 2019.
 - Thirty-two (32) acres were sold at a price of \$1,444,680.00.
- H. Metropolitan Council

Representatives Priest Nikolai Breckenridge and Mr. Ray Steeb reported on the recent meeting.

 - Discussion included a model of Church governance for the Orthodox Church in America that supports the Gospel, missionary, and traditional vision of the Orthodox Faith.
- I. Pittsburgh District Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA)

District Governor distributed a written report (it was not sent electronically).

 - He reported that the District will be hosting a National Youth Event in the spring of 2020. This event will include worship, service, and fellowship activities.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was presented.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2018 PROPOSED BUDGET

Treasurer Parshook presented the 2020 proposed budget.

- 1) Changes to the proposed budget for Income include:
 - Adjusting income from "Parish Assessments" from \$270,095.00 to \$264,448.00.
 - "Chapel mortgage loan repayment" changes from \$3,000.00 to \$4,500.00.
 - The addition of a line item under Income for "Investment Withdraw for Chapel Addition" in the amount of \$87,250.00.

- Total income becomes \$463,998.00.
- 2) Changes to the Budget for Expenses include:
- The addition of a line item under section “Other Property” for “Chapel additional financing” in the amount of \$87,250.00.
 - Total for “Other Property” changes from \$16,515.00 to \$103,765.00.
 - Total expenses changes from \$368,930.00 to \$456,180
- 3) Changes to Total Income/(Loss)
- Total Income/Loss changes from \$12,965.00 to (\$7,818.00)

MOTION: “To accept the 2020 Proposed Budget as adjusted.” Made by Treasurer Alexis Parshook; Seconded by Priest Elijah Bremer. MOTION CARRIED

11. ELECTIONS (Chaired by the Chancellor)

A. Election of Internal Auditors

The internal Auditing Committee has one Clergy opening and two Laity openings.

Mr. Greg Sidorick 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 Mr. Greg Sidorick; Seconded by Treasurer Alexis Parshook. MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Gregg Sidorick placed the name of Ms. Helen Billak into nomination as a Laity Member of the Internal Auditing Committee. (Please note Ms. Billak was not able to attend the Assembly; however, this nomination was made with the blessing of the Hierarch as per Statute.)

MOTION: “To close nominations for Laity Members of Internal Auditing Committee and elect Ms. Helen Billak.” Made by Mr. Greg Sidorick.; Seconded by Priest Elijah Bremer. MOTION CARRIED

Note: The Second Lay Auditor will be appointed by His Eminence upon considering qualified and willing individuals.

B. At-Large Archdiocesan Council - Clergy

One at-large Clergy position is open.

Priest John Parker placed the name of Priest Stephen Gresh into Nomination for At-large Clergy Delegate to the Archdiocesan Council.

Archpriest Michael Senyo placed the name of Priest Elijah Bremer into Nomination for At-large Clergy Delegate to the Archdiocesan Council.

ELECTION: A paper ballot resulted in the election of Priest Stephen Gresh.

C. At-Large Archdiocesan Council - Clergy

One at-large Laity position is open.

Mr. Ron Skvir placed the name of Ms. Rebecca Danchenko into Nomination for At-large Laity Delegate to the Archdiocesan Council.

Archpriest Michael Senyo placed the name of Mr. Ron Skvir into Nomination for At-large Laity Delegate to the Archdiocesan Council.

ELECTION: A paper ballot resulted in the election of Ms. Rebecca Danchenko.

D. Deanery Elections

Deanery Caucuses elected the following:

- Eastern Deanery: Deanery Laity Delegate to Archdiocesan Council ~ Mr. Greg Sidorick.

12. RESOLUTION

The Assembly thanked Archpriest John Kopcha and the members of St. Andrew Church for their hospitality in hosting the Assembly.

13. ANNOUNCEMENT

Chancellor Evansky noted that the 2020 Archdiocesan Assembly will be held on November 7, 2020, at a Parish to be determined.

14. MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION: “To adjourn the 2019 Archdiocesan Assembly”

Made by Priest John Kotalik; seconded by Archpriest Mark Meholick

MOTION CARRIED

15. INSTALLATION OF ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL

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

Having no further business to consider, the 2019 Archdiocesan Assembly was concluded at 2:48 pm with the singing of “It is truly Meet.”

Respectfully submitted by:

Archpriest Michael Senyo
Clergy Recording Secretary

Dr. John P. Schultz
Lay Recording Secretary

Approved:

The Most Rev. MELCHISEDEK
Archbishop of Pittsburgh &
Western Pennsylvania (OCA)

Archpriest William J. Evansky
Chancellor - Archdiocese of
Pittsburgh & Western Pennsylvania (OCA)