

# ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH AND WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MINUTES – 2021 ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Saturday, November 13, 2021 ~ St. John the Baptist Church ~ New Kensington, PA

The Annual Assembly of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh was held on Saturday, November 13, 2021 at Saint John the Baptist Church in New Kensington, PA The assembly was opened with the celebration of the Hierarchal Liturgy by the hierarch, assisted by the chancellor, deans, parish rector, and deacon.

The meeting was called to order by the archbishop at 11:12 am.

## 1. CREDENTIALS REPORT

1 Hierarch  
20 Priests  
4 Deacons  
3 Archdiocesan Council Members  
23 Lay Delegates  
5 Alternates  
3 Observers  
1 Non-OCA Clergy

**Total Attendance: 60 Total Votes: 51 26 parishes represented.**

## 2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRS AND SECRETARIAT

A. Clergy Vice Chair: Archpriest Mark Meholick nominated by Priest Stephan Gresh  
B. Lay Chair: Ms. Rebecca Danchenko nominated by Archpriest Elijah Bremer  
C. Clergy Secretary: Archpriest Michael Senyo appointed by the Hierarch  
D. Lay Secretary: Dr John Schulz appointed by the Hierarch

**ALL AFFIRMED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 2020 Assembly were previously distributed.  
There were no additions or corrections.

**MOTION: “ To approve the 2020 Archdiocesan Assembly minutes as presented.” Made by Ms. Kyra Meholick. Seconded by Deacon Seraphim Truckley. MOTION PASSED**

## 4. HIERARCH’S REPORT

Copy filed Of Note: The parishes in Madera & Irvona celebrated their one hundredth anniversary. The rector, Igumen David Lewis, is retiring. He is seeking to increase local parish involvement in university/college campus ministry. Regarding the forthcoming AAC in Baltimore, MD, the Archdiocese will absorb 50% of each parish’s parish registration costs/fees for the Council, as a good will gesture in the wake of the health crisis. The small parish conference is being planned. Synod meetings were held at the Monastery in Rives Junction, MI, Washington DC and a joint meeting with the Metropolitan Council was held in Cleveland, OH The Archbishop hopes to travel to the Ukraine and Belarus later in the year. The Long Range Planning Committee will be activated to deal with property offers, financial investments, endowments, etc. Clergy conferences and retreats for the laity will be scheduled.

## 5. CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

Copy filed Of Note: Clergy salary increases must at least meet the current COLA , with a recommendation of 5.9 per cent. Remuneration standards for supply clergy were reviewed, with strong emphasis being placed on proper protocols to be followed when securing substitute clergy, hosting visiting clergy, and clergy travel outside of the Archdiocese. Admonished parish leadership to comply with requests for statistical reports, financial status reports, background checks, and contact information. Parish leadership was urged to inspect their parish by laws to assure they were current with the Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America and the Archdiocese.

## 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Report distributed electronically. Alexi Parshook received questions and comments from the assembly. Of Note: Moundsville property was sold, and the funds were invested with the Archbishop Benjamin Fund. The PPP loan was forgiven.

**MOTION: "To accept the Financial Report as presented." Made by Mr. Ray Steeb, Seconded by Priest Andrew Nelko. MOTION PASSED**

## 7. AUDIT REPORT

Report was distributed electronically. Copy filed.

**MOTION: "To accept the Audit Report." Made by Ms. Kyra Meholick, Seconded by Deacon Seraphim Truckley. MOTION PASSED**

## 8. DEANS'/COMMITTEE/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

All distributed electronically and filled. Of Note: Building and grounds will continue to be chaired by Dn S Truckley. Dr J. Schultz offered an oral report regarding FOCA. Father N. Breckenridge reported on the activities of the Metropolitan Council and updated new information regarding the clergy Pension Plan. The plan is underfunded, but liquid. Clergy participation is mandated, but rarely enforced. Parishes must contribute their share to the fund, even if the clergyman does not participate.

## 9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business discussed.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Fiscal Year

Archdiocesan Administration recommended that the Fiscal year be changed from July 1 through June 30 to January 1 through December 31.

- i. **MOTION: "That the current budget be an eighteen (18) month budget running from July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022." Made by Priest Alexander Cadman. Second by Priest John Joseph Kotalik. MOTION PASSED.**
- ii. **MOTION: "That starting January 1, 2023, the Fiscal Year coincide with the Calendar Year (January 1 through December 31). Made by Priest Nikolai Breckenridge. Second by Priest John Joseph Kotalik. MOTION PASSED.**

**The Assembly adjourned for Lunch at 12:56 pm and reconvened at 2:16 pm**

## 11. BUDGET

The following changes were proposed to the Budget:

- Under Expenses Section Archdiocesan Center, Line Item # 1 Furniture/Appliances change from \$7,000.00 to \$5,250.00.
- Under Expenses Section Archdiocesan Center, Line Item # 2 Property Insurance change from \$6,000.00 to \$4,500.00.
- Under Expenses Section Archdiocesan Center, Line Item #4 Worker's Comp Insurance change from \$350.00 to \$1,200.00.
- Total under Archdiocesan Center Section changes from \$127,475.00 to \$123,825.00
- Total ADWPA Expenses changes from \$677,797.00 to \$674,147.00.
- Net Income changes from \$45,476.00 to \$41,826.00

**ALL CHANGES ACCEPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

**MOTION: "To accept the Proposed Budget as amended." Made by Mr. Jacob Mandell, Second by Mr. Mick Eckert. MOTION PASSED.**

## 12. ELECTIONS

**A. Clergy Representative to the Metropolitan Council**

NOMINATION: The name of Priest John Parker was placed in Nomination by Chancellor William Evansky.

**MOTION: “ To close nominations and elect Priest John Parker as Clergy Representative to the Metropolitan Council.” Made by Archpriest Michael Senyo. Second by Priest Stephen Gresh. MOTION PASSED.**

**B. Lay Representative to the Metropolitan Council**

NOMINATION: The name of Mr. Ray Steeb was placed in Nomination by Chancellor William Evansky.

**MOTION: “ To close nominations and elect Mr. Ray Steeb as Lay Representative to the Metropolitan Council.” Made by Mr. Frank Namisnak. Second by Archpriest John Mikita. MOTION PASSED**

**C. Auditors**

**1) Clergy Member of Auditing Committee**

NOMINATION: The name of Archpriest Elijah Bremer placed in Nomination by Ms. Rebecca Danchenko.

**MOTION: “ To close nominations and elect Archpriest Elijah Bremer as Clergy Auditor.” Made by Archpriest Michael Senyo. Second by Priest Andrew Nelko. MOTION PASSED**

**2) Lay Members of Auditing Committee**

NOMINATION: The names of Mr. Paul Dille and Mr. John Thompson were placed in Nomination by Ms. Rebecca Danchenko .

**MOTION: “ To close nominations and elect Mr. Paul Dille and Mr. John Thompson Lay Auditors.” Made by Archpriest Michael Senyo. Second by Archpriest Elijah Bremer. MOTION PASSED**

**D. Deanery Representatives to the Archdiocesan Council**

**1) Southwest Deanery Lay Representative:** The SW Deanery elected Mr. Michael Eckert as their Laity Representative.

**2) Northwest Deanery Lay Representative:** The NW Deanery elected Sbdn. Nicholas York as their Laity Representative.

**13. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**MOTION: “To adjourn the 2021 Archdiocesan Assembly.” Made by, Seconded by Priest Stephen Gresh. Priest Andrew P. Nelko. MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting closed with prayer at 2:36 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest Michael Senyo  
Clergy Recording Secretary

Dr. John P. Schultz  
Laity Recording Secretary

Approved:

The Most Reverend MELCHISEDEK  
Archbishop of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania

Archpriest William J. Evansky  
Chancellor – Archdiocese of  
Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania