

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH AND WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Saturday, November 4, 2023

Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral - Allison Park, PA

The meeting opened with the celebration of the Hierarchal Liturgy, with the Archbishop being co-served by the Chancellor and Diocesan Deans.

The business of the Assembly commenced at 11:20 am.

CREDENTIALS REPORT:

One Hierarchy, 19 Clergy, 5 Deacons, 5 members from the Diocesan Council, 1 Alternate, 2 registered Observers, 1 attached clergyman. 19 parishes represented.

CLERGY VICE CHAIR: Archpriest John Mikita appointed by the Archbishop.

CLERGY SECRETARY: Archpriest Michael Senyo appointed by the Archbishop.

LAY VICE CHAIR: Larissa Lindquist

LAY SECRETARY: Subdeacon Joseph Young

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ASSEMBLY:

Copies were distributed electronically and filed. No additions or corrections.

Motion to Accept Minutes of the Previous Assembly: Archpriest G Petersen. Second: Priest J Kotalik. ACCEPTED.

HIERARCH'S REPORT:

Noted by His Eminence:

--His Eminence continues to work toward full recovery and restoration of His health. As this has progressed satisfactorily, he has resumed a nearly full schedule of meetings, consultations, and parish visitations.

--He stated the importance of exploring the possibilities of establishing an OCF at Pennsylvania Western University, California, PA (formerly known as California State University), connected with the West Brownsville parish.

--He noted the upcoming All American Council/Sobor will be held in Phoenix, AZ, July 14-20, 2025.

--The parish growth conference was held in Parma, OH.

--He reported on continued conversations with local Anglican groups.

--LPAP has shown to be very successful in Jeannette.

--National clergy retreat was held in Chicago.

--He attended Spring and Fall Synod meetings.

--He attended an international conference on prayer and spirituality in Milan, Italy.

--Improvements were made to the structure of the Hierarchal residence and offices.

--An endowment fund was created for Seminarian Scholarships.

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT:

Copies were distributed electronically and filed.

Father Chancellor noted:

- He spoke of his duties and role as the Chancellor.
- He spoke of his responsibilities on the national and local levels of Church Life.
- He provided an overview of parish demographics, active parishes, clergy assignments and parish vacancies.
- Father Chancellor announced planning for various education programs and spiritual enrichment activities for both clergy and laity.
- He advised that the restructuring of the Parish Development program is underway.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Copies were distributed electronically and filed.

Alexis Parshook noted:

- This is her eighth Assembly as Treasurer and expressed her appreciation and thanks to all for their cooperation with her office and with Omelan, at the Diocesan Office.
- One single parish (Belle Vernon) remains in arrears with its Fair Share diocesan support.
- This is the second year since implementation of the 5% discount plan to those parishes which remit their support and other parish financials by the given deadlines.
- Unclaimed assets from the former Holy Trinity parish in Erie were awarded to the Archdiocese by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Higher amount of funds were expended this year due to much-needed repairs and renovations at the Diocesan center.
- Discussion was initiated by Archpriest George Johnson concerning Endowment Funds vs Investments vs Assets in order to clarify language and accounting terms. Endowments should be considered "restricted" accounts.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: Priest J Kotalik. Second: Archpriest J Petersen. ACCEPTED.

DEANERY REPORTS:

Copies were distributed electronically and filed.

- Archpriest Mark Meholick called upon Mr John Chakot to give a presentation regarding the Archbishop Job Scholarship fund, administered through the Saint John parish in Black Lick. Two scholarships have been awarded to two seminarians studying at St Tikhon Seminary. Copy of the report and information sheet filed.

OTHER REPORTS:

--**Metropolitan Council:** No written report offered.

--Priest J Parker and Mr R Steeb addressed issues regarding the OCA Pension Plan, stating that a 2 percent increase will be required from parish contributions, with goals established to encourage full parish participation in the Pension Plan.

--Spoke of the offerings received from various entities seeking to purchase the Syosset property.

--The OCA archives are now entirely located at Saint Vladimir's Seminary.

--Youth:

--Archpriest A Cadman offered reflections on the challenges and difficulties of youth in the Archdiocese. Noted was the overlapping of programs in a small geographic region sponsored by multiple jurisdictions.

--Discussion of planned outings, retreats and a camp week.

--**OCCIF Presentation:** With the blessing of the Archbishop, Archpriest John Dresko and Katherine Vitko gave a presentation on the work of the Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund (OCCIF).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget:

--The budget approved and recommended by the Archdiocesan Council was presented to the Assembly by Alexis Parshook.

--The following amendments were approved by the Assembly:

--2024 Capital Improvements line item REDUCED to \$2000.00 from \$8000.00.

--Proposed budgeted expense: \$422,348.00.

--Projected Income: \$385,415.00.

--Deficit Anticipated: \$30,933.00.

Motion to accept the 2024 Budget: Archpriest A Cadman. Second: Priest J Kotalik. ACCEPTED.

Elections:

--Three auditors are needed: Archpriest E Bremer, Mr Paul Dille and Mr John Thompson were appointed with the consensus of the Assembly.

Next Year's Assembly will be held on Saturday, November 2 at Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.

Meeting closed at 2:49 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest Michael Senyo
Assembly Clergy Secretary

Reader Joseph Young
Assembly Laity Secretary

The Most Reverend MELCHISEDEK
Archbishop of Pittsburgh and W PA (OCA)

Archpriest William J. Evansky
Archdiocesan Chancellor