

## Minutes of 2013 Annual Archdiocesan Assembly

The Annual Assembly of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western PA was held on Saturday, November 2, 2013 at St. John the Baptist Church in New Kensington, PA.

The Assembly opened with the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, presided by His Grace Bishop Melchisedek and co served by clergy of the Allegheny-Beaver Valley Deanery. Following a light meal, the business portion of the Assembly convened with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit and called to order by Bishop Melchisedek at 11:15 am.

### Credential Report:

1 one Hierarch  
29 twenty-nine priests  
3 three deacons  
23 twenty-three lay delegates  
56 voting members  
6 observers were registered

### Elections:

Clergy Vice Chair-	Archpriest Igor Soroka nominated by Igumen David (Lewis) and seconded
Lay Vice Chair-	Serge Daniels nominated by Igumen Patrick (Carpenter) and seconded
Clergy Secretary-	Archpriest Michael Senyo nominated by Archpriest John Kopcha and seconded
Lay Secretary-	Rebecca Danchenko nominated by Dr. John Schultz and seconded
Tellers (Clergy)-	Archpriest Michael Zahirsky nominated by Dr. John Schultz
Tellers (Laity)-	Alexis Parshook nominated by Robert Wagner Gregory Sidorick nominated Nicholas Sidorick Justin Nescott nominated by Serge Daniels Justin Nescott declined the nomination
Tellers:	Archpriest Michael Zahirsky, Alexis Parshook and Gregory Sidorick were elected by voice vote

### Minutes of Previous Assembly

The minutes of the 2012 assembly were previously distributed to the delegates via email, and the reading of the minutes was dispensed. The minutes were accepted without corrections or additions.

### Report of the Hierarch

Copy filed.

In addition to the remarks of the Hierarch:

- Archpriest John Reeves noted the ordination of Subdeacon David Smith to the Holy Diaconate
- Priest Thomas Soroka noted the sorrowful passing of Protodeacon Joseph Mell.

### Chancellor's Report

Father Chancellor's written report was distributed electronically to the delegates prior to the Assembly (copy attached).

### Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was distributed electronically to the delegates prior to the Assembly (copy attached). Mrs. Billak reported on the establishment of a deficit budget for the coming year. Withdrawals from endowment funds were sustaining current operations at an excessive rate of 12% per year. The treasurer noted that the diocesan financial advisors deemed as healthy a withdrawal rate of 4% per year.

Responding to a question, Mrs. Billak reported that the Cranberry Township property and the Reed Street property had been appraised. The value of the Cranberry Twp. property was established at 1.2 million dollars. The Reed Street property was established at 80,000 dollars.

Archpriest Dragan Filipovic moved to accept the report with a second made. Motion passed.

### Audit Committee

Alexis Parshook presented to the Assembly a written report in addition to the report of W.T. Grimm and Associates, who conducted the "outside" audit (copies attached). Archpriest Michael Zahirsky moved to accept the reports with a second made. Motion passed.

### Dean's Report

Reports from each Dean were distributed electronically to the delegates prior to the Assembly (copies filed). Igumen Patrick (Carpenter) moved to accept the report with a second made. Motion passed.

At this point business was suspended in order to hear the report and presentation of Joseph Kormos, coordinator of the Parish Development Program. Additional materials and reports were presented (filed).

Following the report from Mr. Kormos, the First Plenary session was declared closed by the Hierarch and the assembled delegates partook of a festive meal prepared by the members of St. John's parish.

The Second Plenary Session was called to order at 2:20pm.

### Reports of Committees and Departments:

All reports were filed and previously distributed electronically (copies attached). Priest Nikolai Breckenridge moved to accept the reports as presented with a second made. Motion passed.

In connection with Archpriest Igor Soroka's Cathedral Choir report, Gregory Nescott moved to recognize Archpriest Igor Soroka for his fifty years of service to the Cathedral Choir with a second made. Motion passed.

Related to the Building and Grounds report submitted by Deacon Seraphim Truckley, Father Chancellor reported that an unsolicited offer to purchase the entire Cranberry Township property by Capital Group Properties of Southborough, Massachusetts for 2 million dollars has been received. Also, offers have been received to purchase the property on Reed Street. Father Chancellor explained that the officers and Diocesan

Council were exploring the offer with due diligence. After a lengthy discussion, the Assembly voiced that further detailed information on this potential sale be provided. It was further recognized that according to the Statute, the Diocesan Assembly is empowered to authorize and sale of diocesan property. Pursuant to this, Gregory Nescott moved, with a second made, that the Hierarch call for the convening of an extraordinary Diocesan Assembly to consider the proposal to sell the Cranberry property and issues relating to such sale, ASAP, but no later than year's end. Motion passed.

#### 2014 Budget

The treasurer presented the 2014 Budget, operating with funds determined at \$462,672.53. The treasurer reported this was a deficit budget to be supplemented by withdrawals from endowments. Justin Nescott moved to accept this budget with a second made. Motion passed.

New Business: NONE

#### Elections

Nominations were received for the following positions within the Deaneries:

- Ohio Valley Lay – Anupam (Anastasios) Gupta
- Altoona-Johnstown Lay - Gregory Sidorick
- Pittsburgh Deanery Lay – Rebecca Danchenko
- Altoona-Johnstown Clergy – Priest Basil Biberdorf
- Monongahela Valley Lay – Gregory Ohler

Clergy at Large: Archpriest Dragan Filipovic nominated by Priest Nikolai Breckenridge with a second made. Motion passed.

Laity at Large: Nicholas Sidorick nominated by Gregory Sidorick. Deacon Alexander Cadman nominated by Priest Basil Biberdorf. Deacon Alexander Cadman was elected. Nicholas Sidorick withdrew as Lay representative of the Altoona-Johnstown Deanery. Gregory Sidorick becomes the lay representative.

Auditors: Priest Gregory Thompson nominated by Archpriest Michael Zahirsky. Alexis Parshook nominated by Archpriest Michael Zahirsky. (Third position to be occupied by a Lay person is to be appointed by the Hierarch.) Motion passed.

Being no further business before the Assembly, the motion to adjourn was made by Archpriest Gregory Petersen with a second made at 4:00pm. Meeting was concluded with the singing of the Hymn to the Theotokos.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Very Rev. Michael Senyo  
Clergy Recording Secretary

---

Rebecca Danchenko  
Lay Recording Secretary

---

Right Rev. MELCHISEDEK  
Bishop of the Archdiocese of  
Pittsburgh and Western PA

---

Very Rev. William Evansky  
Chancellor of the Archdiocese of  
Pittsburgh and Western PA