

Diocese of Pittsburgh & Western Pennsylvania
Archdiocesan Council Meeting
February 21, 2013

A meeting of the Archdiocesan Council took place at the Archdiocesan Center (Cranberry Twp., PA) on February 21, 2013. Bishop Melchisedek called the meeting to order following prayer at 6:36 PM. After the singing of "O Heavenly King", "Memory Eternal" was intoned for the newly-departed Deacon Joseph Mell.

The following were present: Chancellor Archpriest William Evansky; Archpriests/Priests: Michael Senyo, Secretary; George Yatsko, Joseph Wargo, Mark Meholick, Igumen David (Lewis), Gregory Thompson, Nikolai Breckenridge, Deacon Seraphim Truckley. From the laity: Gregory Nescott, Justin Nescott, Gregory Avdakov, Dr. John Schulz, Gregory Sidorick, Nicholas Sidorick, Rebecca Danchenko, and Serge Daniels. Also present: Reader Barry Migyanko and Treasurer, Helen Billak.

Secretarial Report:

The minutes of the October 1, 2012, meeting, which had been distributed to members electronically, were accepted with no corrections or additions.

Financial Report:

Reports were distributed in hard copy and also prior to the meeting electronically (copies attached) by Treasurer Billak. The Treasurer:

- Noted upgrades in accounting systems, banking and bill paying.
- Proposed a \$3,000 merit bonus be given to Reader Migyanko. Motion made by Billak; seconded by Avdakov. Passed.
- Vladyka is now enrolled with Social Security and Medicare.
- Requested that Matushka Susanne Senyo chair an ad hoc committee to review and critique all insurance policies held by the Archdiocese. This proposal gained the Blessing of Vladyka.
- Reviewed investments with FNB & BPU (reports attached). Performance was declared satisfactory.
- Urged the development of a business strategy with regard to the property in Texas, owned by the Archdiocese.
- Reported that real estate appraisals were being conducted for the Cranberry property and the former Cathedral property on Reed Street.
- Reported that several small accounts were closed and consolidated into the Operating account.

Correspondence:

- A letter from Archpriest Mark Meholick requesting funds on behalf of Matushka Janet Mehalick to assist with funeral costs for Archpriest Michael Mehalick was read. Action was tabled until further information could be obtained. (Copy of letter filed.)
- A letter from Priest Basil Bieberdorff of Holy Spirit Mission, requesting \$5,000 from Mission Development budgeted funds was read. Vladyka spoke regarding this request, Blessing that \$1,000 be given for Choir Development for the Mission. Vladyka further reported that He was to visit the Mission on the weekend of February 23-24, and would speak to Priest Basil to further clarify the needs of the Mission and proposed renovations to their building. (Copy of letter filed.)

Report of the Ruling Bishop:

- Priest Rumen Stoychev's suspension has been lifted, and he has been released from his assignment to St. John parish in Monessen. He has been given a Blessing to seek assignment outside of the Archdiocese.
- A Catechetical Program is being developed by retired Archpriest Paul Ziatyk.

Report of the Ruling Bishop, cont'd:

- The Annual Lenten Retreat will be held on April 20 at the Cathedral. Professor Christopher Veniamin will be the presenter.
- A Clergy Synaxis will be held at the Cathedral on March 2. Archpriest Jason Delvitto will be the presenter.
- Announced that He has been named by the Holy Synod to the post of Locum Tenens of the Diocese of Philadelphia.
- Announced that Archpriest Theodore Shomsky intends to retire from active service in July.
- Attended the enthronement of Metropolitan Anthony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA; and meeting of the Holy Synod, Dean's Council and a meeting of the Council of the Diocese of Chicago.

Chancellor's Report:

Archpriest William Evansky reported:

- Updates continually sent to clergy are sent via email.
Reviewed dates of future events: Family Day—August 18; Archdiocesan Assembly—November 2 at New Kensington.
- Website: a member of the Cathedral parish, Daniel Dunfee, has shown interest in working on the website. Joseph Kormos has done some work as well.

Metropolitan Council:

Members Archpriest William Evansky and Dr. John Schultz will attend a meeting scheduled for the week of February 23.

Building and Grounds:

- Clarification was provided regarding the functioning of this committee. Vladyka appointed Deacon Seraphim Truckley as Cahir, with Nicholas and Gregory Sidorick as members. This committee is to deal with immediate needs, such as maintenance and repairs, and does not involve long range planning.

Youth Committee:

- Dr. John Schultz reported on the fine attendance at recent events sponsored by the Youth Committee.

Old/Unfinished Business:

- **Reed Street (former Saint Michael Cathedral) Property:** An appraiser is scheduled to visit the property on Friday, February 22.
- **Parish Development:** Deanery visits by Mr. Kormos have been scheduled as follows:
 - Ohio Valley: February 23
 - Allegheny-Beaver Valley: April 13
 - Mon Valley: Open
 - Altoona-Johnstown: March 30
- **Long Range Planning (Cranberry Property):** No report was given. The formation of a Committee is necessary.

Old/Unfinished Business, cont'd.:

- **By-Laws:** Gregory Nescott reported he is reviewing By-Laws from various dioceses and Orthodox jurisdictions. He will present a report to Vladyka for His comments and interpretations before presenting a final draft to the Council.

New Business:

- Archpriest Mark Meholick requested assistance for his travel costs related to Deanery and Archdiocesan business. Vladyka said this will be discussed at an upcoming Deans Meeting. No action was taken by the Council.
- The Chancellor announced the dates for future meetings of the Council: May 20, August 19, and October 21.

There being no further business before the Council, a motion to adjourn was made by Justin Nescott; seconded by Nicholas Sidorick. Meeting adjourned with the singing of “It is truly meet . . .” at 8:50 PM.

Archpriest Michael Senyo
Secretary

Approved for distribution:

Bishop Melchisedek

Archpriest William Evansky