

**Diocese of Pittsburgh & Western Pennsylvania**  
**Archdiocesan Council Meeting**  
**February 4, 2019**

A meeting of the Archdiocesan Council took place at the Archdiocesan Center (Cranberry Twp., PA) on February 4, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM, by His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek.

**In Attendance:** His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek; Archpriests William Evansky, Michael Senyo; Priests Nikolai Breckenridge, Andrew Nelko; Laity: Gregory Sidorick, Gregory Ohler, Alexis Parshook, Gregg Nescott, Nicholas York. Excused: Archpriests George Johnson, Mark Meholic, Thomas Soroka, Rebecca Danchenko.

**Secretarial Report:** Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed electronically prior to this meeting. No corrections or additions.

**Financial Report:** Report was distributed electronically. Ms. Parshook noted several parishes were negligent in their financial responsibilities. These parishes were being contacted by the Hierarch and Chancellor. A motion was made to accept the report by Fr. Nikolai; seconded by Fr. Andrew. It was further noted that the new funding policy, with instructions and clarifications, was distributed to the parishes.

**Correspondence:** Acknowledgement from St. Vladimir's Seminary in receipt of \$1500.00 from the Archdiocese towards the tuition of Zachariah Mandel. Copy filed.

**Report of the Ruling Bishop:**

- Vladyka reported on His travel and parish visitations.
- Archpriest Michael Simerick was installed as rector of St. John's parish in Philipsburg.
- Three clergymen have requested retirement: Archpriests Reeves, Lesko and Oleynik.
- The Holy Trinity parish in Ellport has been closed.
- The rector of Saint Nicholas parish has declared itself to be closed without the blessing of the Hierarch.
- Vacant parishes are Donora, Wolf Run, Steubenville, W. Brownsville, Masontown, State College, Canonsburg, Duquesne.
- Diocesan property sale is still pending and expected to be accomplished within weeks.
- Vladyka mentioned the work of Joseph Kormos with various communities in the Archdiocese.
- A clergy retreat regarding clergy peer support will be held at St. John's church in New Kensington on February 27. Retreats for the clergy and laity of the Archdiocese are being planned for the Summer and Fall.
- Vladyka spoke on the firm position of the Orthodox Church in America and the Archdiocese supporting the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church and clarified the position of the Church regarding serving with schismatics and those who support them.

**Report of the Chancellor:** Father Chancellor noted various activities throughout the Archdiocese, vacancies and clergy assignments, printing and distribution of the “Light of Orthodoxy” publication.

- The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vladyka’s consecration to the Episcopacy will be commemorated in the Archdiocese on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul.
- It is hoped that the Archdiocesan property sale will be accomplished by the end of February. The sale will bring \$1.5 million to the treasury of the Archdiocese. The bankers will be notified regarding the distribution to the investment accounts. Archpriest Michael Senyo moved to deposit sale proceeds into the Archdiocesan investment accounts. Motion seconded by Ms. Parshook. Motion carried.

**Reports:**

- Building and Grounds: Report distributed and filed.
- Property Study: Tabled.
- Youth Committee: Report distributed and filed.
- FOCA: Report distributed and filed.
- Parish Development: Report distributed and filed.
- Metropolitan Council: There is no report as there has not been a meeting.
- Light of Orthodoxy: Father Chancellor remarked that greater efforts should be implemented to distribute the publication electronically and in bulk copies to the parishes. Also, parishes might copy and distribute.
- Sexual Abuse Coordinator Report: Deacon Alexander Cadman reported that four parishes were not in compliance, creating a risk for the Archdiocese: Curtisville, Monongahela, Portage and Vintondale.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Family Day: Father Chancellor led a discussion concerning the continuation of the Family Day event. It was decided by consensus to continue for one more year, then decide on the needs, benefits and difficulties related to the event.
- Long Range Planning: There is no report.
- Metropolitan Council: Archpriest Michael Senyo nominated Ray Steeb, a member of St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, to serve as Lay Representative to the Metropolitan Council, serving a three-year term. Seconded by Gregg Nescott. Motion carried.
- Social Media Guidelines: Guidelines were distributed. Copy is attached.

**New Business:**

- Sewage Line Repair: Alexis Parshook made a motion, which was seconded, to approve the required repair of the property sewage line by Matoka Plumbing. This issue was recently raised by Cranberry Township.
- Property purchase by Singer Holdings, LP: Roy Glisan updated the Council concerning the property purchase. The development planned by Singer has been altered, with the changes approved by the homeowner's association. The removal of the current pavilion will be delayed until Phase III, according to this new plan. It was discussed by Council that we should engage an architect to plan and assist us in making a decision about what to do with the current pavilion, as well as to address options for parking should the pavilion (or a replacement) be placed on the property remaining after completion of the sale.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest Michael Senyo, Secretary

Approved for distribution:

---

Archbishop Melchisedek

---

Archpriest William Evansky