

**Diocese of Pittsburgh & Western Pennsylvania**  
**Archdiocesan Council Meeting**  
**February 10, 2020**

A meeting of the Archdiocesan Council took place at the Archdiocesan Center (Cranberry Twp., PA) on February 20, 2020. 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; Thomas Soroka, Mark Meholick; Priests Nikolai Breckenridge, Stephen Gresh, Andrew Nelko; Laity: Gregg Nescott, Nicholas York, Ray Steeb, Rebecca Danchenko, Gregory Ohler, Greg Sidorick; Guest: Carl Huss, Treasurer, St. Nicholas Church, DuBois.

**Secretarial Report:** Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed electronically prior to this meeting. No additions or corrections. Motion to accept by Nicholas York; seconded by Fr. Mark Meholick; motion passed.

**Financial Report:** Alexis Parshook was excused due to illness.

- Investment Accounts Balance is \$1,550,087.31.
- FNB balance has increased by \$7,890.58 in earnings.
- Fr. William Evansky will distribute the reports electronically ASAP.
- Fr. Nikolai Breckenridge reported on the work of OCCIF, which lends to parishes. It is possible to consider investing in this fund. Fr. Nikolai proposes to take \$100,000 from each investment and invest it in this fund to avoid market fluctuations and putting money and resources into growing Churches and missions. Qualifying investments are \$50,000. Gregg Nescott moved to establish a committee to explore these types of matters; seconded by Nicholas York; motion passed.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Report of the Ruling Bishop:** Visitations and schedule reviewed. (Copy attached.)

- Fr. George Yatsko has been granted retirement.
- Vacant parishes are being served by Diocesan clergy.
- Fr. Ignatius Hunter has been assigned to Holy Trinity in State College.
- A Parish Conference is to be held in Northeast Ohio.
- Retreats were led by Fr. Steven Voytovich.
- His Eminence traveled to Washington, D.C. and New York.

**Report of the Chancellor:** Report was submitted by Archpriest William Evansky

- Clergy & Lay retreats were held, led by Fr. Steven Voytovich. Responses were encouraging.
- There will be a conference on Saturday, April 4, 2020, led by Valerie Zahirsky: Surprising Saints.
- Lenten Schedules were requested.
- Sunday of Orthodoxy will be held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in the North Hills, at 4:30 p.m.
- Third Sunday of Lent, March 22, 2010, Sunday of the Cross, will be held at 5:00 p.m. at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.
- Census Reports/Statistical Analysis is being done to count the parishes. Membership varies.
- Reminder that the All American Council is upcoming in Baltimore. There was a discussion of local funding.
- Funding Policy for the Dioceses has been sent to parishes.

**Reports:**

- Building and Grounds: Report distributed electronically by Deacon Seraphim and filed. There are basic maintenance issues: awnings, windows, drains need attention.
- Youth Committee: No report.
- FOCA: Dr. John Schulz is the Governor. There is a proposal from the OCA to host a national youth event in Weirton.
- Parish Development: Report was filed. No comments or questions.
- Metropolitan Council:
  - Fr. Nikolai Breckenridge reported that the Syosset property is to be put up for sale. A move to Washington D.C. is being viewed. A Location Committee was established to explore properties and find a secure location for the archives.
  - Youth Work: Results of a survey completed by the youth were presented to Metropolitan Council by D. Rental. Of note was their interest on moral teachings and moral theology.
- Pension: It was decided to increase contributions to 10% for parishes; minimum of 6% for clergy.
- Light of Orthodoxy: Winter issue was distributed.
- Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy Coordinator: No report was given.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Long Range Planning: His Eminence wishes to meet with the Deans on March 17.
- Internal Audit Vacancy: There is still a vacancy.
- Endowment Sub-Committee: A motion by Fr. Nikolai was made to merge the management of the funds into the Investment Committee. Seconded by Ray Steeb; motion passed. The members are Helen Billak, Fr. Nikolai, and Ray Steeb.

**New Business:**

- St. Nicholas Church in DuBois has a loan request for \$120,000. Fr. Nikolai moved that St. Nicholas provide a contract with a repayment schedule. Seconded by Fr. Steven Gresh; motion passed. A specific meeting will be held to address this issue on March 9, at 6:30 p.m.
- Fr. Bill requested that a committee be formed to establish policies to entertain requests from parishes/missions for financial assistance (Legacy Parish Assistance Program [LPAP]). Fr. Michael Senyo, Fr. Thomas Soroka and Gregg Nescott will form the committee. There will be a specific meeting in March.

The next meeting of the Archdiocesan Council will be on May 18, 2020.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest Michael Senyo, Secretary

Approved for distribution:

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Archbishop Melchisedek

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Archpriest William J. Evansky