

**Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania**  
**Archdiocesan Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

A meeting of the Archdiocesan council was held via FreeConferenceCall. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK.

**In Attendance:** His Eminence, Archbishop MELCHISEDEK; Archpriests Bill Evansky, Thomas Soroka, Mark Meholick; Priests Andrew Nelko, Stephen Gresh, Nikolai Breckenridge, Rebecca Danchenko, Alexis Parshook, Gregory Sidorick, Ray Steeb, Nicholas York, Gregory Ohler,

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of two most recent meetings were distributed electronically prior to this meeting. Additions or corrections. Motion to accept was made by Archpriest Bill Evansky; Seconded by Priest Nikolai Breckenridge. Motion passed unanimously

**Treasurer's Report:** A written report was distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Specific points of interest are.

a. The Archdiocese has taken advantage of an option offered by the OCA's Metropolitan Council to pay our monthly assessments to the OCA at a reduced rate for the next 6 months, with the payments to be caught up after that point. Additionally, the OCA has taken advantage of the Payroll Protection loan being offered by the Federal government, and will be reducing expected assessments from the dioceses accordingly, depending on the amount forgiven upon repayment of that loan.

b. We anticipate that there will be several parishes that will not be submitting their assessments to the Archdiocese during this time.

c. In anticipation of this shortfall, and in order to cover ongoing expenses, \$25,000 was withdrawn from investments.

d. To cover the demolition of SS. Peter and Paul Church in Boswell, \$35,000 was withdrawn from investments.

e. To fund the loan to St. Nicholas Church in DuBois (see minutes from March 9, 2020), \$120,000 was withdrawn from investments.

Motion to accept treasurer's report made by Archpriest Bill Evansky. Motion passed unanimously

**Report of the Hierarchy:** The Holy Synod has met several times over teleconference to discuss ongoing matters related to the national Pandemic. Currently the Synod is holding a meeting in place of what would normally be their spring Synod meeting.

Most of the diocese is currently more open, with all counties in PA being in the "yellow" phase, and several being "green". All will be in green soon. This allows a more regular Church attendance in our parishes, without some of the social aspects, such as coffee hour, or in-person Bible studies. Continued directives will be issued as needed.

**Report of the Chancellor:** The Chancellor has been spending the bulk of his time since the last meeting working with the Archbishop and Deans to keep the ongoing life of the Archdiocese as stable as possible given the ongoing pandemic, as well as formulating the various directives that the Archdiocese is expecting the parishes to follow.

The Chancellor has also been dealing with ongoing issues in several parishes, and in furthering the process of the purchase of the new Church temple for the St. Nicholas Parish in DuBois.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **a. Building and grounds**

It has become apparent that there are trees in the front of the Archdiocesan property that need to be removed. Upon recommendation of the Chancellor, motion to use “Jessen Tree Service” made by Priest Nikolai Breckenridge; Seconded by Priest Stephen Gresh. Motion passed unanimously.

### **b. Parish Development**

Forum will be an online affair on the same dates.

## **Unfinished Business:**

### **a. Loan for St. Nicholas Parish, DuBois, PA**

loan process has been completed, Parish has collected a Contingency fund (which was a condition of the loan from the Archdiocese), which is now \$14,100 (only 900 from the goal of \$15,000).

The transition is ongoing, and many former parishioners of the former Catholic parish are very enthused by the fact that the building will remain a Church. Currently the Altar is being prepared for the new Iconostasis. The Icons from the former parish in Boswell are being fitted into this space. They anticipate being in the new building in July.

### **b. Loan for the expansion of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Beavertown, PA**

Loan not yet completed due to the COVID situation. We are in communication with our lawyer over some matters that need to be resolved.

### **c. Investment Subcommittee**

Committee has not yet met. Their meeting will need to be in person. Committee is anticipating a meeting in June, but this is uncertain.

### **d. Legacy Parish Program Subcommittee**

Committee has also not yet met due to the COVID.

e. The Laity internal auditor position is still vacant.

f. Family Day will not be held this year due to COVID

## **New Business:**

a. SS. Peter and Paul Church in Boswell is now permanently closed. The Parish building has been demolished.

b. Motion made to waive the \$15,000 requirement for the “Capital Campaign” deductions on assessment calculations for the fiscal year 2020-2021, made by Archdiocesan Council Treasurer, Alexis Parshook; Seconded by Archpriest Mark Meholick. After discussion, motion passed unanimously.

c. The next Archdiocesan Council meeting will be held on August 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Archdiocesan Center.

d. The Annual Archdiocesan Assembly will be held in DuBois at the new parish Temple.

Motion to adjourn made by Archpriest Mark Meholick. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adorned with prayer at 7:18 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Priest Nikolai Breckenridge  
Acting Council Recording Secretary