

## Archdiocesan Council Meeting Minutes – 31 January 2022

The Archdiocesan Council held a regular meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, in the hall of Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. The meeting was called to order by Archbishop MELCHISEDEK at 6:30pm with the singing of “O Heavenly King. “

Members Present: Archbishop Melchisedek, Chancellor Archpriest William Evansky; Archpriests: John Mikita, Mark Meholick

Priests: Stephan Gresh, Andrew Nelko (Southwest Dean), John Parker

Laity Present: Rebecca Danchenko, Gregory Sidorick, Raymond Steeb, Nicholas York

Excused officially: Secretary Archpriest Michael Senyo, Michael Eckhardt, Alexis Parshook

**Secretary’s Report:** was distributed electronically prior to meeting. There were no changes or corrections.

**Treasurer’s Report:** electronically distributed beforehand, presented by Fr. Evansky. There was some discussion as to how much the Masontown property sold for, as well as the timeline for the Moundsville property. The council also discussed the long-term exposure on the Masontown cemetery, noting that the liability needs to be researched. Fr. Meholick motioned to accept the treas. Report, seconded by Ray Steeb.

**Hierarch’s report:** The Archbishop affirmed that we are not experiencing any Covid emergencies, but maintaining a “common sense,” situational approach. He also reported that an addendum to the archdiocesan by-laws with usage stipulations for our diocesan investment accounts is being prepared with the assistance of two lawyers. Once recommended by the council, the proposed by-laws change must be presented to the parishes 6-days prior to the next Archdiocesan Assembly for review.

**Chancellor’s report:** Fr. Evansky presented. Hoping for a “carrot, not stick” approach, Fr. Bill said that parishes successfully completing their annual parish information update form and assessment forms by June 30 are to receive a 5% discount when the revised assessment takes effect January 1, 2023. Fr. Evansky announced that Fr. Cadman is taking over as clergy coordinator to renew the Youth Committee, and called for recommendations for that committee, noting that we need “doers, not talkers.” Fr. Evansky continued by discussing the next step of sample parish by-laws, which had been halted by Fr. Breckenridge’s departure; a draft is being sent out to the deans to review over the coming weeks. For the council, 2 criteria to most consider: 1) that the verbiage squares with OCA statutes 2) that the language is pastoral and non-confrontational, understanding that while certain critical things must be standardized, needs will vary parish by parish. There was further discussion regarding the previous cemetery discussion, and how that would fit into the by-laws. Next, Fr. Evansky discussed the possibilities of the next clergy gathering, asking for suggestions and topics, possibly someone local, nothing too elaborate

(clergy preferred). Finally, as an OCA note, there is a new ORSMA Laity director - Emily Waters; contact her for reporting as the “on-the-ground” person.

**Metropolitan Council report:** there is an upcoming meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> of February, virtually. Things to be discussed are the proposed move from Syosset to the Washington, DC, area; being given dates, budgets, before the meeting on those days. The secretary of the OCA will move this summer, and a residence for his Beatitude between now and July 1<sup>st</sup> is at the cathedral Chancery. The Westwood (Syosset) property is currently off the market, as there is not the right current interest in it. Developers are working on it so it can sell for the cash goal of about 6 ½ million; not expected to be complete till the end of 2024. Funds are needed for D. C. Regarding the archives, St. Vladimir’s seminary is considering taking them. There was some discussion about St. Vlad’s moving to Texas but nothing is definitive. St. Vlad’s has the library space to house unique archives. Money is budgeted for it but it’s a work in progress.

Regarding the sexual abuse prevention policy, a reminder was given that 100% return of those forms from parishes, not optional is required; clergy will be contacted as needed.

#### **Unfinished business**

Discussing the diocesan 2018 Chevrolet Equinox vehicle, there are not a lot of options right now due to limitations of vehicle stock. Discussed possibly looking at another dealer. Nicholas York said he has a contact he would reach out to for a comparable three-year lease.

Future meetings were discussed. Great Sidorick motioned to adjourn, seconded by Fr. Nelko. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Priest John Parker – Acting Council Secretary

Archbishop MELCHISEDEK – Archbishop of PGH and W PA (OCA)

Archpriest William J. Evansky – Chancellor, Archdiocese of PGH and W PA (OCA)