

ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 16 MAY 2022

A regular meeting of the Archdiocesan Council was held on May 16, 2022 at Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park, Pennsylvania.

The meeting began with prayer and was called to order by Archbishop Melchisedek at 6:30 pm.

Present: Archbishop Melchisedek; Chancellor Archpriest William Evansky; Secretary Archpriest Michael Senyo; Treasurer Alexis Parshook.

Clergy: Fathers Mark Meholick, Alexander Cadman (Meeting Guest), Stephan Gresh, Andrew Nelko, John Parker, Thomas Soroka and John Mikita.

Laity: Michael Eckert, Gregory Sidorick, Raymond Steeb, Rebecca Danchenko and Nicholas York, Eileen Glisan (Presentation Guest).

Prior to conducting regular business, Eileen Glisan was given a blessing by Vladyka to make a presentation on Pro Life efforts within the Archdiocese, offering literature to be taken back to local communities by the representatives on Council.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Minutes were distributed prior to the meeting electronically, copy filed. There were no changes or corrections.

Treasurer's Report: The report, including bank balances, income and expenses and investment information was distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Copy filed. Alexis Parshook offered a review. Michael Eckert moved to accept the report. Seconded by Father Stephan Gresh. Passed.

Report of the Hierarchy: The Archbishop reported on the welcomed full schedule of parish visitations since the pandemic. Vladyka reported that he attended the recent funeral of Archbishop Paul of Chicago and the Holy Synod meetings in Washington, DC. Vladyka reported on His efforts to fill the vacancy in Philipsburg and other vacant parishes in the Archdiocese. These communities are being "covered" through local deanery clergymen. There are several candidates undertaking studies for the Diaconate in the OCA DVP. Vladyka also presided, at the request of Bishop Thomas of Charleston, at the blessing of a chapel and clinic in the Hill District of Pittsburgh headed by Fr. Paul Abernathy under the jurisdiction of the Antiochian Archdiocese. Noted also was the small parish conference (remote) and the upcoming All American Council to be held in Baltimore, MD.

Report of the Chancellor: Father Chancellor provided an update on the proposed amendment to the Archdiocesan Bylaws concerning finances and investments and endowments. Father John Parker was appointed to the vacant New Kensington parish. A review of the FNB investments was provided. Father reported a great deal of time has been spent with the archbishop on preparations for Holy Synod meetings and the All American Council. Guidelines regarding vacations, absences, substitute clergy and supply clergy were emphatically repeated. The Archdiocesan Assembly will be held on Saturday, November 5 at the Cathedral. Father Chancellor again directed, with the blessing of the archbishop, that parishes examine and update their bylaws to reflect the holy Canons and the Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America.

Department Reports:

- Building and Grounds – no report.
- Parish Development – Joseph Kormos submitted a report electronically prior to the meeting. Some clergy expressed their concerns and offered input regarding the budgetary impacts involved with retaining this department with concern to its overall effectiveness. A constructive discussion followed, with Vladyka stating these concerns would be fairly considered.
- Metropolitan Council: R Steeb spoke regarding the removal of the Metropolitan's residence and offices to Washington DC within six to eight weeks. An offer of 3.5 million dollars was made for the Syosset property, but this offer was rejected. Regarding the AAC, Steeb reported about concerns with the Pension Plan and its administration, also speaking about an amendment to the Statutes directly concerning the Plan.
- Regarding the archives of the Orthodox Church in America, these will be moved to Saint Vladimir's Seminary (tentative plan).
- Policy on Child Protection and Sexual Abuse: Father Alexander Cadman reported that parish compliance with recording youth personnel, teachers and workers, together with the clergy background checks was at eighty five percent.
- Youth Committee: Father Alexander will also head the Youth Committee. Father stated that committee work will be open to any qualified member of the Archdiocese who is willing.
- LPAP: Father Michael Senyo offered an oral report on the progress of Jeannette parish through the assistance of LPAP.

Unfinished Business:

- Nicholas York reported that a new vehicle for the Archdiocese has been leased through Colussy Chevrolet in Bridgeville, PA.

New Business:

- A copy of the proposed By-Law amendment on finance and the Endowment Fund was distributed. Copy filed. After discussion, Nicholas York MOVED to endorse the amendment for proposal to the Archdiocesan Assembly in November. SECOND was provided by Michael Eckert. PASSED. Father Thomas Soroka suggested that a detailed explanation of the funding plan be sent in writing (hard copy) to each parish.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on August 22, location to be determined. The meeting closed with prayer and the singing of Memory Eternal to the newly reposed Hierarchs, Archbishop Paul and Metropolitan Hilarion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Archpriest Michael Senyo

Archbishop MELCHISEDEK

Archpriest William J. Evansky

Diocesan Hierarchy

Diocesan Chancellor