

Archdiocesan Council Meeting - February 6, 2024

A meeting of the Archdiocesan Council was held on February 6, 2024, at Saint Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. Called to order with prayer by Archbishop MELCHISEDEK at 6:30 pm.

Present: Archbishop MELCHISEDEK, Chancellor Archpriest William Evansky, Secretary Archpriest Michael Senyo, Treasurer Alexis Parshook. Archpriests: Thomas Soroka, Mark Meholick, John Mikita. Priest: John Parker. Laity: Matushka Kyra Meholick, Rebecca Danchenko, Ray Steeb. Excused: Priests: Andrew Nelko, Stephen Gresh. Deacon: Nicholas York. Absent: Michael Eckert

Prior to conducting regular business, the Council members present repeated their Oaths of Office and were installed by His Eminence.

Secretary's Report: Previous Minutes were accepted with no corrections or additions. Accepted. Correspondence between the Archdiocese and the Sitka Diocese concerning the Alaskan Clergy Endowment Fund was filed.

Treasurer's Report: Copies distributed electronically and filed. NOTED: Since last report, \$30,000.00 has been withdrawn from interest-bearing account to cover expenses. Motion to accept: Archpriest Meholick Second: Ray Steeb.

Hierarch's Report: His Eminence noted: Travel for Hierarchal consecrations (Albanian, New England) in Boston; parish visitations; meeting with Christian Associates of Western Pennsylvania; retirement of Archpriest Andrew Matychak; ordination to the Diaconate of Dr John Schulz; Holy Spirit chapel in Beaverton is now in the process of being canonically established as a "stand alone" parish; several improvements for the Archdiocesan website were noted; forthcoming Spring (April 1-5) session of the Synod of Bishops.

Chancellor's Report: Parish Council education preparatory meeting in New Kensington hopes to lay a foundation for further meetings and seminars; repose of Deacon Joseph Rabickow of New Kensington; Charleroi parish is canonically "inactive". Noted: Upcoming retreats for clergy and laity; customary Lenten Vespers on Cross Sunday (April 7) at the Cathedral; Small Parish Forum date has been scheduled for July 9-11 in Cleveland, Ohio; Father Alexander Cadman is working with the Carpatho-Russian Diocese to share a camp week with the youth of our diocese at Camp Nazareth; All American Council, July 14-18, 2025, in Phoenix AZ; mentioned amendments for the uniform parish By-Laws in the Archdiocese.

Deanery Reports: Nothing noted.

Building and Grounds: Report distributed electronically and filed. Noted: The lawn sign at the Archdiocesan Center driveway entrance is in need of painting. His Eminence requested ideas, plans for the rebuilding of the Shrine for the Holy Theotokos on the property.

Metropolitan Council: Father John Parker and Ray Steeb advised: Syosset property (the former chancery) has tentatively been sold for 4.5 million dollars, with 100,000.00 dollars provided for the transitional period as ownership changes. Updated members of the workings of the Pension Board.

Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy Report: No report. Reminder to update background checks.

LPAP: Archpriest Michael Senyo offered a brief oral report. The condemned property next to the parish has been razed. Father Michael expressed the parish's and, perhaps, diocesan interest in purchasing the now-vacant property for parking or other appropriate development.

Parish Development: See Chancellor's note regarding Small Parish Conference. Current structures of this department will be reviewed and revised. His Eminence appointed Archpriest John Mikita as ad hoc subcommittee Chair to evaluate the program and make recommendation for 2025 program refocusing and renaming.

Youth Committee: Report by Father Alexander Cadman distributed electronically and filed.

Communications: The forthcoming issue of "Light of Orthodoxy" will be published and distributed following Holy Pascha.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: A formal motion was made to transfer to the Holy Spirit Chapel in Beavertown, all of its assets and liabilities being held in trust by the Holy Trinity parish in State College. Motion: Archpriest Thomas Soroka. Second: Alexis Parshook. Father Chancellor spoke regarding the insertion of a standard clause into all parish by laws (distributed and filed) relating to real and liquid parish properties, incorporation status and the issue of "ownership". The formula of this amendment would clearly state the relationship of the parish between the Archdiocese, Her ruling hierarch, and the Orthodox Church in America. Discussion revealed that the majority of our parish communities adhere to the current Statute of the Orthodox Church in America; but it should be determined which parishes do not, in order to perhaps avoid future conflicts and litigation in the case of a parish community closing.

With no further business, Ray Steeb moved to adjourn. Second by Rebecca Danchenko. The next meeting has been scheduled for May 21, at the St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Allison Park.

Archpriest Michael Senyo
Archdiocesan Council Secretary
Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and W PA (OCA)

The Most Rev. MELCHISEDEK
Archbishop of Pittsburgh and W PA (OCA)

Archpriest William J. Evansky
Chancellor
Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and W PA (OCA)