

## ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 19 AUGUST 2024

A regular meeting of the Archdiocesan Council was held on August 19, 2024, at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Allison Park.

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

**Present:** Archbishop Melchisedek; Treasurer Alexis Parshook

**Clergy:** Fathers William Evansky, Mark Meholick, Stephan Gresh, John Mikita, Andrew Nelko, John Parker, Dn. Nicholas York

**Laity:** Ray Steeb, Michael Eckert, Kyra Meholick

**Absent:** Fathers Thomas Soroka, Michael Senyo (excused).

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

**Treasurer's Report:** It was a relatively quiet quarter; we received a large amount back from state from closed Holy Trinity parish in Erie; \$64,000 received from cashing out of savings account from Ellwood city cemetery, purchased by sportsman club next door, who maintains the property, combined into Diocesan Acct. Bulk of other income in 2024 was money received for diocesan baseball game, Charleroi acct. Not reflected on report: late June/July several trees cleaned up at chancery (\$13,700). Motion to approve came from Fr. Meholick, seconded, pass

**External audit:** emailed in advance of meeting. Ray Steeb wanted to make note of the fact that we spent more than we took in; that must either come out of account or investments. We need to balance the budget. Motion approve Ray Steeb, seconded by Alexis Parshook, approved

**Budget proposal:** with the All American Council there's an adjustment for inflation for our share of the budget. There was a discussion about the "endgame" regarding inactive parish properties like Monessen and Charleroi. We can't go forever keeping the basic upkeep on these properties. Fr. Gresh gave an update on an estimate for roof repairs for the Charleroi parish (about \$25,000) and the possibility of the parish house as a rental sale. With the subdivision on the property, we discussed the possibility of selling the Charleroi house as separate from church. We don't want to be in the position of property managers.

Additionally, Fr. Senyo (who was not present) submitted a request that the LPAP grant amount not be reduced for the coming year; decreasing the amount has already been postponed by one year, asked to postpone another year. The question became how long we go with this, can't be open-ended support. There was some discussion about the need to reevaluate the length of the program; the program is working effectively, so a compromise might be to cut the grant somewhat, but not the original amount. Ray Steeb pointed out that were it not for the cost of maintaining the vacant parishes, we would have enough money to do one or even two more LPAP grants within the diocese. Appraisal has been done for the Monessen Church property, but no moves have been done to get properties on the market. It was discussed that the stipend needs to be higher for Fr. Cadman. We are looking to provide a stipend for someone to coordinate the diocesan website & social media stuff; we have not received any volunteers. There was a motion to accept the budget by Fr. Mark Meholick; seconded Ray Steeb.

**Report of the Hierarchy:** Was supposed to go to Parish Forum in Ohio and Chicago celebration but transportation difficulties prevented; annual trip to Italy first week of September. There is a meeting of the assembly of bishops in October. He has several upcoming visits to parishes; he celebrated the opening of St. Constantine school w/ bishop Thomas.

**Report of the Chancellor:** Mostly covered in prior discussions; traveled to St. Tikhon's, Mat. Annice's interment; Fr. Evansky thanked everyone for the love and support shown in the wake of his sister's passing. Budget prep; Charleroi concerns handled; in touch with deans etc.; met with Fr. Mikita to talk about revised Parish Development Program; Sep. 7<sup>th</sup> retreat reminder for Frederica Mathewes-Green: rescheduled parish council training for early 2025.

**Deanery Reports:** Fr. Mathewson was elevated to the rank of Archpriest; reader Thomas was tonsured at St. Nicholas in Dubois. Fr. Nelko: Transfer of deacon Mark Vukelic to Serbian jurisdiction in process; obtained relics recently for their parish, in the process of obtaining reliquaries to hold them.

**Department Reports:**

- Building and Grounds – Dn. Truckley can't continue the building and grounds chair starting Oct. 1 - need someone to replace. Deacon York motioned that we give Dn. Truckley a \$1000 gift card, seconded by Ray Steeb.
- Metropolitan Council—two in-person meetings next year, likely
- Sexual Abuse Prevention Policy: nothing new
- LPAP: discussed

**Unfinished Business:**

- chancery repairs
- assembly
- OCCIF

**New Business:**

- Elections this year at assembly: Southwest Deanery laity; Met. Council 3 year term on clergy up for renewal; Northwest Deanery laity; internal auditing committee, Fr. Elijah Bremer, Paul Dilly, Rd. John Thompson; thanked Ray Steeb for 6 years of serving on this council and Met. Council - huge help.
- Dn. York Motioned to skip, seconded by York; Passed

The next meeting of the Council will be the Diocesan Assembly on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Allison Park. The meeting closed with prayer and the singing of It is Truly Meet.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priest John Parker - Acting Council Secretary

Archbishop MELCHISEDEK  
Diocesan Hierarchy

Archpriest William J. Evansky  
Diocesan Chancellor