

1964

MINUTES

The First Diocesan General Assembly of the Eastern Pennsylvania Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America held at Saint Nicholas Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, opened at 1:00 P.M. on February 1, 1964, with the singing of the hymn, "To-day with the Grace of the Holy Spirit Assembled Us Together," followed by the greeting to His Grace, Bishop Kiprian, with the singing of "Many Years".

His Grace made his report to the Assembly in which he pointed out that the All-American Sobor has promulgated the present Revised Normal Statutes. In order to meet this revision the Eastern Pennsylvania Diocese has assembled to organize the organs of diocesan administration--the Council and an Ecclesiastical Court. Each parish was required to send two representatives to the Diocesan Council; one clergy and one layman.

There are many problems of the church that could be solved at the Diocesan level instead of being referred to the All American Sobor. Therefore, it is important that a complete diocesan administrative structure be established and put into effect as soon as possible. The primary purpose of this Assembly is the election of the officers of the Diocesan Council and Diocesan Court.

The first order of business was the election of two presiding officers for the Assembly; 1 lay and 1 priest Vice President and 1 lay secretary and 1 clergy secretary. The results of the election were:

Father Alexander Fedorenko was elected to preside from the clergy

Mr John Lorchak was elected to preside from the laity

Father Vladimir Borichevsky, secretary, from the clergy
Mr. Roman Samilo, secretary, from the laity.

The second order of business was the reading of the Statutes in English by the Secretary--statutes relating to the Diocesan Assembly, Diocesan Council, and Diocesan Court (Pages 62, 64, 66, and 68 in the English text of the Normal Statutes). At this point the Diocesan Assembly was turned over by the Diocesan Bishop to the clergy Vice President of the Diocesan Assembly. In his statement the Vice President, Father Alexander Fedoronko, stated that the Normal Statutes required not less than 3 clergy and 3 laymen to be elected to the Diocesan Council and that the first decision of this Assembly was to be whether there should be 3 or more to the Diocesan Council. Father Pawlush made the motion that the Assembly elect 1 representative from each Deanery to the Diocesan Council. This motion duly seconded by Father Slepecky. Discussion on the motion included suggestion that a total of 12 should be elected to the Council. Bishop Kiprian expressed the idea that 6 would be a more acceptable number with alternates. Mr Roman Samilo proposed an amendment of 1 alternate clergy and 1 alternate layman. There would be 6 votes on the Council. This was duly passed.

Further discussion indicated that 6 would be a sufficient number to be present at the council for a decision and that the alternates would be encouraged to attend all meetings in order to be able to participate in the voting when necessary. A clarification of the voting was resolved by an amendment proposed by Roman Samilo and seconded by Father Senofsky that the individual receiving the fourth highest vote from the clergy would be the alternate clergy member, and the fourth highest of the laity would be the alternate lay member. This amendment was passed. The original motion was also passed.

A motion was made by Father Krel that the subject of quorum for the Council be postponed until after the election of the Council. The nominations from the clergy were as follows:

Philadelphia Deanery:	Father N. Senofsky Father N. Harris
Wilkes-Barre Deanery:	Father D. Donovan Father G. Seniavsky Father J. Rachko
Frackville Deanery:	Father D. Pavelchak Father M. Romanchak

Nominations for lay members were:

Philadelphia Deanery:	Mr. Paul Murianka Mr. Roman Samilo Mr. Peter Boris
Wilkes Barre Deanery:	Mr. Frank Rusiako
Frackville Deanery:	Mr. John Lorchak

Father Alexander Fedorenko as presiding Vice President spoke on balloting procedure. Each person had to be a member in good standing as decided at the All American Sobor and, specifically, a Mason was ruled as a member not in good standing. Bishop Kiprian clarified the Church position on Masonry in response to a question by Mr. Al Krinitsky of Old Forge, Pa. A motion for an open ballot was defeated. The results of the election were as follows:

For the clergy:

Philadelphia Deanery:	Father N. Senofsky
Wilkes Barre Deanery:	Father J. Rachko
Frackville Deanery:	Father D. Pavelchak
Alternate:	Father M. Romanchak, Frackville, Deanery

For the laity:

Philadelphia Deanery:	Mr Paul Murianka
Wilkes Barre Deanery:	Mr Frank Rusiako
Frackville Deanery:	Mr John Lorchak
Alternate:	Mr Roman Samilo, Phila. Deanery

It was decided to leave the place of the meeting of the Diocesan Council up to the members of the Council.

The next election was the election of auditors: 3 members--1 clergy and 2 laymen and alternates 1 clergy and 1 layman. This motion was passed unanimously by the assembly. The result of the election of auditors was as follows:

For the clergy: Father Rozdilski
Father Geeza, Alternate

For the laymen: Mr Vladimir Fetchina
Mr Vladimir Olesnovich
Mr Peter Boris, Alternate

The next order of business was the Church Court. The Diocesan Court is to be composed of 3 clergy and 3 laymen with the Diocesan Bishop presiding. A unanimous ballot was cast for the nominations to the Diocesan Court.

From the Clergy: Father Alexander Fedoronko
Father Basil Gambal
Father Gregory Pelesh

From the laity: Mr Harry Podolok, Edwardsville, Pa.
Mr Eugene Horzsky, Claymont, Md.
Mr Alexander Leon, Philadelphia, Pa.

The next order of business was open discussion on subjects of interest to the diocese in general.

1. Discussion of the 50th Anniversary of Talerhof. Father Samilo suggested a day of commemoration with a special memorial service, a sermon, and a publication of material concerning this event.
2. Father Gregory Pelesh requested information on the method of solicitation for St Vladimir's Building Fund.
3. Father Daniel Pavelchak said that a special service commemorating the Sunday of Orthodoxy should be encouraged on a Deanery and possibly a Diocesan level.
4. Father Gregory Pelesh brought up the matter of the support of the orphanage at St Tikhon's.

5. Mr Alexander Leon suggested that the St Nicholas Balalaika Orchestra would be glad to give concerts for the raising of funds in different parishes.

6. Bishop Kiprian opened a discussion on the means of financing of the Diocesan Administration. Several suggestions were made from the floor. Father Adam Krell pointed out the method used by the Pittsburgh Diocese--membership dues by each parish. Father Senofsky suggested 1 dollar per person assessment to be paid to diocese. Father John Rachko suggested that the money be paid directly from the parish treasury at least initially. Father Vladimir Borichevsky made the motion that this Diocesan Assembly go on record that the diocese be financed on the basis of per parish and per member basis. Mr Harry Podolak seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously by the Assembly.

Father Daniel Pavečchak made a motion that the minutes be made available to all members of the Diocesan Assembly. Motion passed. Bishop Kiprian volunteered to have the minutes mailed by the St Tikhon Seminary in gratitude for donations made to the Building Fund.

A discussion on the next meeting of the Assembly led to a motion by Father Nicholas Senofsky that the semi annual meeting of the Council is to decide the time and place of the meeting. Seconded by Mr Olesnevich, and passed unanimously.

Mr Roman Samilo made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and Father Daniel Geeza seconded the motion. The meeting was duly adjourned.

/s/ Vladimir S. Borichevsky

Father Vladimir S. Borichevsky
Secretary

MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA DIOCESE:

Father Nicholas Senofsky
Father Daniel Pavelchak
Father John Rachko

Mr Paul Marianka
Mr John Lorchak
Mr Frank Rusinko

Alternates: Father Michael Romanchuk
Mr Roman Samilo

AUDITORS:

Father Raphael Rozdilsky

Mr Vladimir Fetchina
Mr Vladimir Olesnovich

Alternates:
Father Daniel Geeza
Mr Peter Boras

CHURCH COURT:

Father Alexander Fedoronko
Father Basil Gambal
Father Gregory Pelesh

Mr Barry Podolok
Mr Alexander Leon
Mr Eugene Horsky

THE FIRST DIOCESAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
DIOCESE OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX EPARK CATHOLIC CHURCH OF AMERICA
HELD IN BETHLEHEM, PENNA., ON FEBRUARY 1, 1964

Attending Clergy: His Grace, Bishop Kiprian and

1.	Father Nicholas Senofsky	Phila., Pa.	St Michael Church Wilmington, Del
2.	Father Basil Gankal	Frackville	Holy Ascension Church
3.	Father Gregory Pelesh	Olyphant	St Nicholas Church
4.	Father Andrew Vanush	Simpson	St Basil's Church
5.	Father Raphael Rozdileki	Olyphant	All Saints Church
6.	Father Daniel Geeza	Phila	Holy Assumption Church
7.	Father James Mason	Pottstown	Holy Trinity Church
8.	Father Roman Samilo	Chester	St Nicholas Church
9.	Father Andrew Slepecky	St Clair	St Michael's Church
10.	Father George Pawlush	Wilkes Barre	Holy Resurrection Cath.
11.	Father Daniel Donovan	Old Forge	St Michael's Church
12.	Father Gregory Stafchak	St Clair	Holy Assumption Church
13.	Father Daniel Kavalchak	Coaldale	Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos Church
14.	Father George Hasonecz	Naticoke	St John the Baptist Ch.
15.	Father Adam Kreil	Bethlehem	St Nicholas Church
16.	Father George Seniavsky	Alden	Holy Resurrection Church
17.	Father Nicholas Harris	Baltimore, Md	St Andrew Church
18.	Father Michasl Romanchak	Catasaugus	Holy Trinity Church
19.	Father Vladimir Borichevsky	Philadelphia	St Nicholas Church
20.	Father Alexander Fedozenko	Philadelphia	St Michael's Church
21.	Father John Rachko	Edwardsville	St John the Baptist

THE FIRST DIOCESAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
DIOCESE OF THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH OF AMERICA
HELD IN BETHLEHEM, PA., ON FEBRUARY 1, 1964

Attending Laymen:

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|-------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. John Sekallick | 725 Center St | Stowe, Pa. |
| 2. Michael Stehur | 160 First St. | Hudson, Pa |
| 3. Alexander Krenitsky | 506 Grace St | Old Forge, Pa |
| 4. Daniel Perrin | 327 Chestnut St | St Clair, Pa |
| 5. Vladimir Olesnovich | 3127 S. 20th St | Phila., Pa |
| 6. Joseph Rishkowski | 23 Martin St, Dower Askam, Wilkes-Barre, Pa | |
| 7. Alexander Radchuk | 1729 E. 3rd St | Bethlehem, Pa |
| 8. Paul Murianka | 722 Horbeck Avenue | Phila., Pa |
| 9. Frank Rusinko | Middle Road | Naticoke, Pa |
| 10. Peter Boris | 6404 Old Harford Rd. | Baltimore, Md. |
| 11. Eugene G Horsky | 505 Maple Road | Claymont, Md |
| 12. James S Riley | 242 Locust Avenue | Elmora Park,
Wilmington, Del. |
| 13. Steve Malincho | 114 S. Brd. Mt. Ave | Frackville, Pa |
| 14. Michael Pinchok | 329 S. Nice St | Frackville, Pa |
| 15. John Kraponick | 129 Clearfield St. | Freemansburg,
Bethlehem, Pa. |
| 16. Stephen Vasilenko | 412 N. Valley Ave. | Olyphant, Pa |
| 17. Vladimir J Fetchina | R. D. #1 | Clark's Summit, Pa |
| 18. John Wasco | 213 N. 11th St. | Allentown, Pa |
| 19. Alexander Leon | 909 Highland Boulevard | Gloucester, N.J. |
| 20. John Lorchak | R. D. #1 | Nesquehoning, Pa |
| 21. Roman Sanilo | | Coaldale, Pa St Marys |
| 22. Harry Podolek | | Chester, Pa |
| | | Edwardsville, Pa |
| | | St John's |