

NO. 77 9 August 1965
 Sanctioned for fulfillment.
 The Father Secretary will send
 to each parish a copy of these
 minutes.

+Bishop Kiprian

MINUTES

1. The Third Diocesan General Assembly of the Eastern Pennsylvania Diocese of R.O.G.C. Church of America was held at the Holy Trinity Church, Catasauqua, Pa., and opened at 1 P.M., on June 5, 1965, with the singing of the Ascension Hymn.
2. 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 priest secretary. The results of the election were: Father Alexander Fedoronko was elected to preside from the clergy. Mr Russell Dugan was elected to preside from the laity. Father Daniel Pavelchak, secretary, from the clergy. Mr William Conco, secretary from the laity.
3. The second order of business was the roll call according to parishes

Parish	Priest	Lay	Parish	Priest	Lay
Chester	X	X	Alden Station	X	X
Coatesville	o	o	Shenandoah	X	o
Phila. St Michaels	X	X	St Clair H. Assumption	X	o
Phila. St Nicholas	X	X	St Clair St Michael's	X	o
Phila. H Assumption	o	o	Berwick	X	X
Pottstown	X	o	Edwardsville	X	X
Wilmington	X	X	Jermyn	o	o
Baltimore	X	X	Lopez	X	o
Bethlehem	X	X	Mayfield	o	o
Catasauqua	X	X	Nanticoke	X	X
Coaldale	X	o	Old Forge	X	o
Frackville	X	X	Olyphant, St Nicholas	o	o
Harrisburg	o	X	Olyphant All Saints	X	X
Lykens	o	o	Simpson	X	o
McAdoo	X	o	Uniondale	o	o
Minersville	o	o	Wilkes-Barre	X	X
Mount Carmel	o	o	Dundaff	o	o
X Present			O Absent		

Fr Romanchak then challenged the lay delegate, Mr Peter Madersky, from Bethlehem as to his right of representing that parish. Fr claimed he was a member of his parish. However, Fr Krell, pastor of the Bethlehem parish stated that Mr Madersky has been a parishioner of the Bethlehem parish for the past 8 years. Fr Fedoronko then asked that the matter be brought up under new business. It was so moved.

4. The next order of business was the reading of the agenda. A motion made by Fr Krell, seconded by Fr Romanchak to accept agenda was so passed.

5. His Grace, Bishop Kiprian, then spoke to the Assembly. He expressed his warm greetings and congratulations to the members for their labors in Orthodoxy. He went on to state the new position now facing the church and the tasks before us brought about with the passing of His Eminence, Metropolitan Leonty. He went on to give a short history on the life of the Metropolitan and of the Metropolia during his leadership and the great loss now being felt by all of us, and the plans now underway for the establishment of a proper memorial to his blessed memory. He informed the Assembly that a Sobor will be convened on Sept 22-23 the expressed purpose being the electing of a new Metropolitan. He expressed his sincerest wish that we, both clergy and laity, will work in the spirit of love and that our labors be dedicated to the further glory and propagation of the Orthodox Faith. He further stated that the highlight for the year in our Diocese was the celebration of the 60th Jubilee of our St Tikhon's Monastery. He went on to give a short history of the Monastery covering the past 60 years, and the financial position of the Monastery at the present time. He conveyed to the members his belief that the great success and achievement so far realized was due to the spirit and co-operation and the singleness of purpose and aim of all those responsible and of his profound gratitude and thanks to those concerned. His Grace concluded by stating his sincerest wish and prayer for success of this meeting through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
6. The next order of business was the report by the Bishop concerning the Rev Fr John Obletiloff. He stated that he is now excluded from the Metropolia and that the Dean of the Frackville Deanery, namely Fr. Basil Gambal, inform the starosta of the Palmerton Church of this decision.
7. The Secretary then made his report by reading extracts of previous meetings held by the Diocesan Council to which a motion was made and carried to accept. Motion made by Fr Michael Romanchak, 2nd. by Fr Gregory Stefchak.
8. The treasurer's report was then given and accepted as read. Motion made by Fr Rachko, 2nd. by Fr Nicholas Senofsky.
9. The auditors report was given and showed a balance of \$918.05. Motion made by Fr James Mason, 2nd. by Mr Frank Rusinko to accept auditors report was made and carried.
10. The next order of business was the election of a member to the Diocesan Church Court, brought about by the passing away of the V Rev. Gregory Pelesh. Fr George Pawlush was then elected to fill this vacancy. Motion made by Fr Raphael Rozdilsky.
11. Election of a member to the Diocesan Council, to replace Mr Roman Samilo who resigned, was then made. A unanimous ballot was cast for Mr Vladimir Oleynik, 100 Kokomo Ave., Hummelstown, Pa. 17036. Phone: 566-2337. Motion was made by Fr Nicholas Senofsky.

12. The next order was the covering of new business. The first item to be discussed was the establishment of a budget for the current fiscal year. After much discussion it was decided and approved that the same budget be adopted as was passed for the last fiscal year. Motion made by Fr Michael Romanchak, 2nd. by Fr James Mason. As to the proper assessment of each parish, it was decided upon that a commission be appointed by the Bishop consisting of 3 laymen and 3 priests, excluding members of the Diocesan Council, for the expressed purpose of looking into the matter. Proposals to be based on findings made of financial statements of last year's operations conducted in each parish of the Diocese. It was further decided that this commission shall study a proposal, made in the form of a motion by Fr John Rachko, 2nd. by Mr Roman Samilo of reimbursing the secretary and treasurer and if adopted at the next assembly meeting, the amount proposed to be retroactive. Motion carried.
13. A short recess followed at this time and meeting resumed at 3:15 P.M.
14. The matter of challenging the validity of the Bethlehem delegate was then brought forward. After considerable discussion His Grace was asked to resolve this question. The Bishop stated that the man in question is a member of the Bethlehem Church and is also a member of the Church Committee. He stated that no one could keep a person in a particular church against his will, and further stated that he had already approved of his election to serve on committee of the Bethlehem parish.
15. The Catasauqua cemetery question was then brought forth, in which Mr Andrew Brushko from Catasauqua questioned the pastor's right of having jurisdiction over the cemetery in question. The Fr Vice President Fr Alexander Fedoronko stated that this matter is not in the competence of this Assembly and that the matter should be taken before the Diocesan Court. The Bishop then stated that the question be transferred to the church court and a report be submitted accordingly.
16. Fr Adam Krell called for a clarification. He stated that his board of trustees called a meeting without his knowledge. He further stated that his board rejects the Normal Statutes of the church. Fr Vice President then informed him that we are not here to sit in judgement as to individual problems in a parish, Therefore a report should be submitted to His Grace and the matter transferred to the Diocesan Court.
17. The agenda at this time was completed.
18. A report was here given by Fr George Pawlush on the St Tikhon's Orphanage. He stated that the financial status of the orphanage for the past year showed \$400.00 in the black as opposed to \$2,000.00 in the red prior to this. He informed assembly that a new station wagon was purchased for \$2,300, and that renovation of two bathrooms in the orphanage was completed. He further stated that at this time the balance in the checking account totaled \$3,000. He also informed the members that an architect was now in the process of planning a new wing for the superintendant of the orphanage and his family. He stated that recently there has been a good deal of savings realized and attributed this to good administration. He closed his report by adding that a forthcoming

financial statement of contributions to the orphanage will be made available.

19. Before the meeting came to a close the Fr Vice President asked whether the assembly had any suggestions for council of a constructive nature.
1. Fr Roman of the monastery, asked that financial help be given to middle-aged married students of the seminary.
 2. That there be future gatherings such as that held in the Talerhoff commemoration which proved successful.
 3. Ways and means of raising money.
 4. What is being done concerning the accreditation of St Tikhon's Seminary.
20. Fr Andrew Slepecky talked on the "Talerhoff" celebration. He made comments on the support and financial help that came in. He felt that it could have been greater and the amount received was insufficient for such a celebration. He stated that the income was \$800., and that of this amount \$200. went to the monastery and \$175. towards a monument to be erected at ROOVA Farms. The rest went for expenses incurred.
21. The Bishop brought the meeting to a close by stating the following priests were being awarded by the church.
- Very Rev. George Seniavsky to the rank of Mitred Archpriest.
Rev Fr John Rachko to the rank of Very Reverend
F Fr Daniel Pavelchak-Skufia.
22. The meeting was called to a close by a motion made by Fr John Rachko, 2nd. Mr Michael Stchur. Meeting ended at 4 P.M.

Humbly submitted,
/s/ Father Daniel Pavelchak

Father Daniel Pavelchak, Sec.