

MINUTES OF THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA,
HELD AT ST. TIKHON'S SEMINARY, SOUTH CANAAN, PA., ON SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1974

A regular yearly meeting of the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, including the deaneries of Frackville, Philadelphia and Wilkes-Barre, was held at St. Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary, South Canaan, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, June 22, 1974.

An opening Molieben was served by Bishop Herman at St. Tikhon's Monastery Church. Immediately following, the delegates assembled in the seminary auditorium and the meeting was officially opened with the prayer "O Heavenly King..." at 10:40 a.m.

The registration record of the delegates and Diocesan Council in attendance is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof. The number in attendance was as follows:

2	Bishops
29	Clergy delegates
21	Lay delegates
1	Clergy guest
7	Lay guests
60	Total attendance

Agenda approved as read with addition of Radio Program as item under New Business.

Nominations and election of presiding officers of the assembly was held with the following being elected to the offices indicated:

Fr. V. Borichevsky	Clergy vice-president
Mr. John	Lay vice-president
Fr. J. Sorochka	Clergy secretary
Mr. Russel Dugan	Lay secretary

The minutes of the last meeting, held on June 30, 1973, were distributed to the assembly. There being no additions or corrections, the minutes were accepted upon a motion of John Dudash, seconded by Constantine Spyrou, and unanimously approved.

The Archbishop's report, which was distributed to the delegates, is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

The report of the secretary of the Diocesan Council, Fr. Daniel K. Donlick, was distributed to the delegates. The report, which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof, was accepted upon a motion of Eugene Grabousky, seconded by Russell Dugan, and unanimously approved.

The report of the treasurer of the Diocesan Council, Fr. Paul Ropitsky, was distributed to the delegates. A question was raised regarding the income for the year and it was suggested that this figure should be broken down in detail, showing the assessment paid by the parishes of the diocese and the sources of any other income in future reports. The report, which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof, was accepted upon a motion of Russell Tatusko, seconded by Michael Yeosack, and unanimously accepted.

The auditors reported that they have checked all financial records of the Diocesan Council and found all books to be in proper balance. Fr. George Pawlush moved that the auditors' report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Constantine Spyrou and passed.

Bishop Herman reported that the report of the Department of Missions was not ready at this time and that it be tabled until after the luncheon recess, when it will be distributed.

The Department of Religious Education had no report to present to the assembly, as this committee had recently been selected and had no opportunity to prepare a report.

A report of Department of Special Fund Collections, which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof, was distributed by Fr. Theodore Boback. The report was approved upon a motion of Eugene Grabousky, seconded by Fr. John Chupeck and unanimously passed.

Under old business, Russell Dugan gave a detailed report on the proposed Group Life Insurance and Blue Cross/Shield plans. He stated that all arrangements were made to place the program into a reality once a sufficient number of enrollees was received. He reported that he felt he had enough individuals interested in the Blue Cross plan and would like permission from the assembly to get this phase of the program started at once. A motion was made by Fr. John Kuchta, seconded by Eugene Grabousky, that the plan with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Northeastern Pennsylvania be accepted and that he be given authority on behalf of the diocese to obtain this group insurance for all interested persons. Motion passed.

Under the old business of individual mission reports, Bishop Herman reported that this information will be distributed with the Department of Missions report which was earlier tabled until later today.

Under the old business of clergy salary adjustments, Bishop Herman reported that this item was placed on the agenda as a reminder to church councils to place this item of business on their agenda at each annual parish meeting. Thomas Sarnoski of St. John's Church in Nanticoke stated that their parish conducts extra projects to raise funds for this purpose and that any adjustments should be based upon the 14% increase in cost of living. Fr. Borichevsky stated that this item should be reflected in stewardship. He continued by saying that the way a priest is supported financially is a picture of the dignity in which his flock holds him.

William Conco suggested that the clergy speak on the issue to impress the flock of their church to give their fair share towards these adjustments.

Constantine Spyrou questioned how the readjusted starting salary of a newly-ordained priest assigned to his parish would effect them. He suggested that the readjustment should amount to a 10% increase in salary.

Constantine Spyrou made a motion that the minimum salary of a priest be increased from \$500.00 to \$550.00. The motion was seconded by William Conco after which a lengthy discussion followed. Bishop Herman spoke and reminded the assembly of the action taken at the Diocesan Assembly in 1971. After further discussion, the matter was tabled until after the luncheon recess.

Bishop Herman reported that he now had the report of the Department of Missions and individual mission report and same distributed to the assembly. The report is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

The assembly adjourned for lunch at 12:20 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Comments were made regarding the mission report and the recipients of the aid offered by the Diocesan Council expressed their gratitude for the help given to them.

The discussion of the salary adjustment for priests was opened again and it was brought out that the resolution of 1971 regarding the matter stated that each parish "consider" the sum of \$500.00 as the minimum salary and that this resolution did not make this salary mandatory.

A motion was made by Russell Tatusko, seconded by William Conco, that the resolution of 1971 be reworded so that the minimum salary become mandatory and that a "paid vacation" be added to the resolution. The motion was passed with 8 abstaining and none voting "Nay."

The reports of the Wilkes-Barre, Frackville and Philadelphia deaneries, which are attached to these minutes and made a part thereof, were distributed to the delegation. Fr. George Pawlush reported that, in addition to what is contained in his report, his deanery paid for the freight on the toys shipped to Alaska, which amounted to between \$60.00 and \$70.00.

Under the Department of Finances, it was reported that a new remittance advice form will be instituted in the diocese so that, when monies are received, the treasurer will know for what purposes the monies are being remitted.

Bishop Herman stated that stamps will be distributed to all parishes which are to be affixed to Report of Marriages, etc. which are being submitted to the diocese. A total of 50 stamps will be distributed to each parish. The cost of the stamps are \$1.00 each, with the diocese receiving 50¢ and national headquarters receiving 50¢. Bishop Herman stated that each parish priest shall use the Record Sheet for recording church statistics (Form S-74) and that statistical information is to be prepared by each parish and submitted immediately after the annual parish meeting.

A motion was made by Fr. John Sorochka that each parish pay for the stamps upon receipt of same. Motion was seconded by William Conco and passed with 1 "Nay" vote.

It was announced that before a parishioner is transferred from one church to another a letter of transfer shall be prepared by the former pastor and forwarded to the parishioner's new pastor.

A brief report was given on the national church financial picture and all were asked to continue to work and cooperate to enhance the financial status of The Orthodox Church in America.

A motion was made by Fr. John Kuchta that in the future, all financial

reports be prepared with detailed information concerning receipts and expenditures. Motion was seconded by John Dudash, Jr. and unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Fr. Joseph Martin, seconded by Fr. Joseph Gallick, that the termination of the fiscal year be changed from May 31 to December 31. Motion passed.

The proposed budget for the six month period ending December 31, 1974 and fiscal year ending December 31, 1975 which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof, was presented to the delegation.

A motion was made by John Dudash, Jr., seconded by Fr. John Kuchta that the Diocesan Council be given permission to consider a salary remuneration for the Council's treasurer. Motion passed.

A motion to accept the budget as presented was made by Fr. George Pawlush, seconded by Eugene Grabousky and unanimously passed.

Under promotion of Diocesan Aims and Programs, Bishop Herman spoke of other projects being held in New England, etc., and suggested consideration of dinners, dances, etc. He suggested that a retreat be held at least once a year involving the entire diocese. Fr. Borichevsky suggested that we have a formal opening of the Diocesan Center.

Fr. Joseph Chupeck and Fr. Daniel Donlick spoke of the possibility of instituting a Diocesan Newsletter. It was unanimously agreed by the delegation that the diocese through the Diocesan Council institute a diocesan newspaper, if feasible.

It was agreed by the body that the diocesan assembly be held during the month of June on a date to be decided by the Council.

Fr. Theodore Boback spoke on the radio program being broadcasted in Wilkes-Barre, St. Louis and Philadelphia. He stated that it is an educational program on the Orthodox Church and is being sponsored by the Alumni Association of St. Tikhon's. He stated that funds will be solicited by the association so that they can continue this program.

Fr. Michael Romanchak made a plea to the assembly that all priests and laymen encourage more women to attend this assembly.

Fr. John Kuchta made a plea to the assembly for financial aid to Fr. Roman and suggested that the diocese make a donation from the diocesan fund.

A motion to donate \$1,000.00 from the Charity fund to Fr. Roman was made by Fr. Joseph Martin, seconded by Fr. George Pawlush and unanimously carried.

A motion to close the assembly was made by Fr. Joseph Martin, seconded by Russell Dugan and passed. The meeting was closed with prayer at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. John Sorochka

Russell Dugan