

MINUTES OF THE 21ST ASSEMBLY
OF THE
DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The 21st Annual Assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, of the Orthodox Church in America was convened on Saturday, September 22, 1984, at St. Tikhon's SEminary/Monastery, South Canaan, Pennsylvania.

His Grace, The Right Reverend HERMAN, Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania celebrated the Divine Liturgy and Moleben.

MORNING SESSION

Following the Divine Liturgy, the Assembly gathered at the Monastery dining hall and at 11:15 a.m., "O Heavenly King" was sung by the faithful. His Grace Bishop HERMAN then declared the 21st Assembly to be in session.

Fr. Daniel Donlick, Diocesan Secretary/Treasurer then read the agenda and asked for any additional topics to be placed on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Sam Mervis, St. Mark's, Buckingham requested a discussion on the possibility of Diocesan property in each deanery.

ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Fr. Donlick put forth the nominations of the Diocesan Council for the Assembly Officers:

Clergy Vice-Chairman	Fr. Daniel Geeza
Lay Vice-Chairman	Dr. Alexander Pianovich

Fr. David Lisko motioned that a unanimous ballot be cast. Fr. Joseph Martin seconded the motion. Nominations were accepted by the Assembly.

Fr. Donlick put forth the nominations of the Diocesan Council for the Assembly Officers:

Clergy Secretary	Fr. Eugene Vansuch
Lay Secretary	Mrs. Sarah Jubinski

Fr. John Kuchta motioned that a unanimous ballot be cast. Fr. Joseph Gallick seconded the motion. Nominations were accepted by the Assembly.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Fr. Daniel Geeza asked the Credentials Committee for their report on the morning session. Fr. Hatrak submitted the following report:

Hierarchy	1
Clergy	32
Lay Delegates	30
Alternates	3
Diocesan Council	5
Observers	<u>7</u>
Total Present	78

MINUTES OF THE LAST ASSEMBLY

The minutes of the 1983 Assembly were presented. Fr. Dimitri Voytilla motioned to accept the minutes of the 1983 Assembly. Mr. Paul Gozick seconded. The Assembly accepted the minutes.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN BISHOP

His Grace Bishop HERMAN welcomed all delegates and observers to the Assembly. He expressed his joy on how many delegates attended the Divine Liturgy prepared and participated in receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

His Grace then gave an extensive report on the State of the Diocese, the official census, appointments, re-assignments, transfers, releases, the diocesan departments, diocesan assessments, special diocesan center assessment, parish census, clergy compensation guidelines, court litigations. (The full text of this report is attached to the official copy of these minutes.) A copy of the Bishop's report was then distributed to the Assembly.

Fr. Geeza thanked His Grace, Bishop HERMAN for his report.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL SECRETARY

Mrs. Marie McCarty entertained questions on the report which was submitted to the delegates in their Assembly packet. The following correction was made: page 2, item 7, the correct date should read, "Diocesan Assembly for 1984".

Fr. Michael Evans motioned to accept the report of the Diocesan Council Secretary as corrected. Fr. James Jadick seconded. The motion passed.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Fr. Donlick presented the following changes to the published report:
(1) Under the heading "Additional Receipts", the category "Diocesan Development Fund" should read "Diocesan Center Assessment";
(2) Under the heading "Location of funds" the certificate of deposit should read "6/2/87" instead of "6/2/27".

Fr. Donlick commented that monies received after September 12, 1984 are not reflected in this report.

Fr. Donlick entertained questions on the treasurer's report.

Fr. Lisko motioned to accept the report of the treasurer as corrected. Mr. Gozick seconded. Motion passed.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

Fr. Gallick read his report to the Assembly, a letter dated September 21, 1984, which was submitted to His Grace Bishop HERMAN. (A copy of the letter is attached to the official minutes.) The financial statements submitted were audited and found to be accurate.

Fr. Adamcio motioned to accept the auditor's report. Mrs. Mary Jensen seconded. Motion passed.

DEANERY REPORTS

Fr. Geeza referred to the Deanery Reports in the Assembly packet. Fr. Geeza submitted the report of the Philadelphia Deanery. Fr. Martin submitted the report of the Frackville Deanery. Fr. Kuchta submitted the report of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery. All Deanery Reports are made a part of the official minutes.

Fr. Petorak motioned to accept the Deanery Reports. Mr. Sergei Kapral seconded. Motion passed.

The Morning Session concluded at 12:20 p.m. Lunch was served to the delegates in the Seminary Dining Hall.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Assembly was re-convened at 1:35 p.m.

Dr. Alexander Pianovich, the Lay Vice-Chairman conducted the afternoon session.

Dr. Pianovich called upon the Credentials Committee to report on the attendance at the Afternoon Session. Fr. Hatrak submitted the following report:

Hierarch	1
Clergy	32
Lay Delegates	31
Alternates	2
Observers	7
Diocesan Council	<u>5</u>
Total Present	78

DIOCESAN DEPARTMENT REPORTSA. Department of Religious Education

Fr. Kowalczyk referred to his published report on the Assembly packet and entertained questions.

Fr. Petorak motioned to accept the report. Fr. Shewczyk seconded. The motion passed.

B. Department of Youth

No report submitted at this time.

C. Department of Missions

Fr. Ressetar referred to his report published in the Assembly packet and entertained questions. Fr. Ressetar encouraged all the faithful of the Diocese to participate in the upcoming workshop on Church Growth.

Fr. Joseph Martin motioned to accept the report. Fr. Michael Evans seconded. The motion passed.

D. Department of Publications

Seminarian Jason Kappanadze gave a report on YOUR DIOCESE ALIVE and thanked all those associated with the publication for their support, time and talents. He publicly acknowledged and thanked all advertisers whose financial support has aided the publication. This publication has received much praise throughout the Diocese and Seminarian Kappanadze was commended for his efforts. Jason asks that all parishes submit information on awards, baptisms, marriages, etc., for the Parish News section. He asks that parishes submit to him their thoughts and ideas on how best to distribute YOUR DIOCESE ALIVE to all the Diocesan faithful. He then entertained questions on his report.

A discussion of the distribution of YOUR DIOCESE ALIVE focused on the method of distribution and reaching the greatest number of faithful. Some parishes use bulk mail to send to all parishioners, others distribute on Sundays in church. A motion to mail in bulk to each individual and bill the parish for mailing expenses was made and withdrawn.

The consensus was that the distribution should be the responsibility of each parish. Suggestions included mailing, Sunday distribution, and encouraging individuals to take a copy to those not in church.

E. Department of Insurance

Mr. Russell Dugan reviewed and reminded subscribers of the procedures to follow in making claims. Since our coverage has been changed, it is suggested that subscribers shop around for physicians who are participants in the Blue Shield program, thus avoiding having to pay the difference in what the physician charges and what Blue Shield allows. To date, there are 214 subscribers to the plan. As a result of our excellent experience, Mr. Dugan announced that there will be a 5% reduction in our group rates for 1985. A financial report of the Department was not completed and readied for distribution at the Assembly. Mr. Dugan assured the Assembly that a complete financial report will be prepared a week from this coming Friday and will be available for distribution.

F. Department of Lay Ministry and Stewardship

Fr. Claude Vinyard referred to his report published in the Assembly packet. He also prepared a booklet "Guidelines for Stewardship" which was distributed at the Assembly. Fr. Vinyard emphasized the establishment of parish resources.

G. Metropolitan Council Report

Mr. David Brzuchalski referred to the report published in the Assembly packet. He drew attention to the 8th All-American Council which is scheduled for Washington, D.C., on August 17-22, 1986. A correction was made to the report: the last sentence should read, "The Metropolitan Council will again convene in August of 1985".

Mr. Paul Gozick motioned to accept the Department Reports. Fr. John Kowalczyk seconded. Motion passed.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1985

Fr. Donlick referred to the printed budget in the Assembly packet. A typographical error was brought to the attention of the Assembly. The figure for the Total Expenses should read \$51,182.00, instead of the \$46,442.00.

Fr. Donlick was asked to clarify the status of the surplus funds of the Diocesan Center Assessment. He stated that the surplus funds would be used for the Diocesan Center as originally proposed. Much discussion followed during which many opinions were voiced regarding the deficit budget as presented.

Mr. Walter Moschowsky motioned to accept the proposed budget for 1985 as presented with the exception that the Diocesan Assessment be increased from \$6.00 to \$8.00. Fr. Borichevsky seconded. 37 in favor; 9 against; 22 abstentions; Motion passed.

His Grace Bishop HERMAN spoke to the Assembly on the vote just taken. He over-ruled the increase because of 22 abstentions. He expressed his concern about the non-committal attitude of the delegates who are supposed to represent their parishes. As responsible delegates, each individual should vote for or against a motion.

Mr. Joseph Paprota motioned to accept the deficit budget as proposed with the corrections noted. Fr. John Kuchta seconded. 48 in favor; 15 against; 0 abstentions. The motion passed.

There was a motion by Fr. John Bohush that when the Diocese runs out of money, the Diocese may borrow money from the Diocesan Center Assessment at 15% interest. The motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Mr. Paul Gozick to allow the Diocese to borrow from the Diocesan Center Assessment fund without any interest. Seconded by Fr. Swencki. Motion passed.

OTHER MATTERS

- A. Mr. Sam Mervis encouraged the Diocese to adopt a program of purchasing property in each Deanery, thus showing a presence of the Diocese in each Deanery. Following discussion on the suggestion, no formal action was taken.
- B. Mr. Martin Paluch presented a report on the Department of Youth. He moved the following resolution: A youth coordinator over the age of 21 be chosen by each parish. The name and address of this person should be submitted to the Diocese no later than November 1, 1984. Fr. Dennis Swencki seconded. The vote passed.

- C. In regards to the next Diocesan Assembly, His grace Bishop HERMAN asked for a preference of either a one or two day Assembly. By show of hands, the delegates affirmed their desire for a one day Assembly.
- D. Fr. Donlick requested that parishes submit their computer print-outs with the necessary corrections to the Chancery Office by October 20, 1984.

ADJOURNMENT

Fr. David Lisko motioned that the 21st Assembly be adjourned.
Mrs. Mary Jensen seconded. Motion passed.

His Grace, Bishop HERMAN closed the Assembly at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Fr. Eugene Vansuch, Clergy Secretary



Mrs. Sarah Jubinski, Lay Secretary

Approved:

His Grace, Bishop HERMAN