

MINUTES OF THE 22nd ASSEMBLY
OF THE
DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The 22nd Annual Assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, of the Orthodox Church in America, was convened on Saturday, August 17, 1985, at St. Tikhon's Seminary/Monastery, South Canaan, Pa.

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

MORNING SESSION

Following the Divine Liturgy, the Assembly gathered at the Seminary gymnasium and at 11:40 a.m., "O Heavenly King" was sung by the faithful. His Grace Bishop HERMAN declared the 22nd Assembly to be in session.

Fr. Daniel Donlick offered thanksgiving to the Lord that Bishop HERMAN is able to be in attendance at the Assembly following his recent hospital confinement. He intoned a MANY YEARS for the continued good health of Bishop HERMAN.

The Secretary/Treasurer of the Diocese, Fr. Daniel Donlick, read the Agenda and asked for additional topics to be placed on the agenda for discussion. Since no additional topics were requested by the Assembly, the Agenda stood as read.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

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

Hierarch	1
Clergy	30
Laity	32
Diocesan Council	2
Lay Observors	8
Clergy Observors	2

for a total of 75 present at the Assembly. Fr. Hatrak reported that 64 of the 75 present are eligible for voting. Fr. Daniel Kovalak motioned to accept the Credentials Committee report. Fr. Claude Vinyard seconded. Motion passed.

ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY OFFICERS:

Fr. Donlick put forth the nominations of the following clergy and laity for the Assembly Officers:

Clergy Vice-Chairman--Fr. John Kuchta	Clergy Secretary--Fr. Eugene Vansuch
Lay Vice-Chairman-----Mr. Stephen Kundrat	Lay Secretary-----Mrs. Marie Proch

Dr. Alexander Pianovich motioned to close the nominations. Fr. David Lisko motioned that a unanimous ballot be cast. Fr. Joseph Gallick seconded. Motion passed.

His Grace Bishop HERMAN appointed the Diocesan Deans to the Nominating Committee: Fr. John Kuchta, Fr. Joseph Martin and Fr. Claude Vinyard in place of Fr. Daniel Gecza, who was unable to attend the Assembly. Individuals desiring to serve on the Diocesan Council are asked to contact any one of the three members during the lunch break.

MINUTES OF THE LAST ASSEMBLY:

The Minutes of the 1984 Assembly were presented. Fr. Daniel Kovalak motioned to accept the minutes of the 1984 Assembly. Fr. Claude Vinyard seconded. Motion passed.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN BISHOP:

His Grace Bishop HERMAN thanked all of the faithful members of the Diocese for their expressions of concern, prayers and best wishes extended to him during his recent illness. He encouraged all parishes to take advantage of the programs being offered by the Diocese. Pastors and lay leaders must accept their responsibility to implement the programs to build up the Diocesan Church. (The full text of this report is attached to the official copy of these minutes). A copy of the Bishop's report was distributed to the Assembly.

Fr. John Kuchta thanked His Grace, Bishop HERMAN for his report.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL SECRETARY:

Mrs. Marie McCarty entertained questions on the report which was included in the delegate's Assembly packet. A correction was noted that references to "St. Herman's Buckingham" should read "St. Mark's Buckingham". Mr. Donald Debus motioned to accept the report of the Diocesan Secretary with corrections. Mr. Paul Gozick seconded. Motion passed.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN TREASURER:

Fr. Daniel Donlick reported that three parishes have to fulfill their Diocesan Center requirements. These parishes will fulfill their responsibility as they made this commitment following a meeting with the treasurer.

In answer to a question regarding an item under "Location of Funds---June 30, 1985", Fr. Donlick reported that the amount of \$17,685.06 represents an investment in this management account. This is an escrow account from the Diocesan Center Funds. Under the category of the Bishop's residence and contents, this included all office equipment which belongs to the Diocese. Fr. Donlick stated that all monies received after July 7, 1985, are not reflected in this report.

In order to complete the packets of the delegates, additional copies of the 1984 or 1985 Financial Report were distributed. In error, some packets were missing either report.

On the 1984 Report there were not any questions from the floor.

On the 1985 Report, Fr. Vinyard stated that his parish of St. Herman's, Wallingford, has been donating \$100.00 per month to the Diocesan Mission Fund. The figures in the 1985 Report do not reflect these contributions. Fr. Donlick corrected the figures to read \$68.00 instead of \$81.00.

In response to a question from the floor, Fr. Donlick stated that we are running very close to the deficit budget as voted at last year's Assembly. It is too early to project the final budget figures as the report reflects a six month period.

Should parishes have any questions about their individual statistics published in the Report, Fr. Donlick will meet with them during the Assembly.

Mr. Donald Debus motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Mr. Jon Thoenebe seconded. Motion passed.

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS:

Fr. Joseph Gallick read his report to the Assembly, a letter dated August 9, 1985, 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. David Lisko motioned to accept the auditor's report. Seconded by Mr. Joseph Sokol. Motion passed.

DIOCESAN DEANERY REPORTS:

Fr. Kuchta referred all delegates to the Deanery Reports in the Assembly packet. Mr. Donald Debus motioned to accept the Deanery Reports. Seconded by Mr. Paul Gozick. Motion passed.

DIOCESAN DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

A. Department of Missions

Elsie Nierle, delegate from Holy Cross Orthodox Church, Williamsport, reported on the progress and activities of her parish. Fr. Daniel Kovalak presents lectures and slides in Williamsport to introduce Orthodoxy to the community. He also fulfills the religious needs of Orthodox students attending any of the four colleges or universities in his area.

B. Department of Youth

Mr. Martin Paluch referred all delegates to his report in the Assembly packet listing the camps and retreats held during the past year.

C. Department of Lay Ministry and Stewardship

Fr. Claude Vinyard referred to his report contained in the Assembly packet and entertained any questions.

The morning session concluded at 12:40 p.m. Lunch was served to the delegates in the Seminary gymnasium.

= AFTERNOON SESSION =

The Assembly reconvened at 1:40 p.m. under the chairmanship of Fr. John Kuchta. Fr. John Kowalczyk was called upon to introduce the speaker, Dr. John Dalak, who addressed the Assembly delegates and Church School Conference participants. Following the address, the Church School participants continued with their conference and the Assembly continued with the Agenda. The Lay Vice-Chairman, Mr. Stephen Kundrat, conducted the afternoon session.

DIOCESAN DEPARTMENT REPORTS (continued)

D. Department of Publications

Fr. Jason Kappanadze encouraged written articles from the faithful of the Diocese. Parishes are encouraged to continue submitting news items regarding events in the life of their parish for YOUR DIOCESE ALIVE.

E. Department of Insurance

Marie Hudock, administrator of the Insurance/Health Plan, reported that the financial records of the program were in good order when she assumed this responsible position. Should participants have any questions on the program, they are to contact her directly. She is available to the participants to answer any questions pertaining to Personal or Health Insurance. Discussion on the surplus funds in the program was tabled for a future meeting.

His Grace Bishop HERMAN expressed gratitude and thanks to Mr. Russell Dugan who, for many years, served as administrator of the Diocesan Insurance Program.

F. Department of Religious Education

Fr. John Kowalczyk answered questions from the Assembly on his report contained in the Assembly packet.

Fr. David Lisko motioned to accept the Diocesan Reports. Seconded by Fr. George Pawlush. Motion passed.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 1986:

Fr. Donlick reported that in February, 1985, a task force was appointed by His Grace Bishop HERMAN to meet with the Diocesan Council for the purpose of reviewing the financial structure of the Diocese. A special budget committee, appointed by His Grace worked with the Diocesan Treasurer in preparing the proposed budget for 1986.

In response to several questions from the floor, Fr. Donlick reported that:

- a) The construction of the pavilion was the joint venture of the Seminary and Monastery and that no Diocesan Funds were utilized for this purpose;
- b) the current legal funding for the court cases is provided by the Orthodox Church in America; and
- c) the Diocese is not anticipating any additional source of income other

than what is projected in the budget.

Mr. Jon Thoenebe motioned to accept the proposed budget for 1986. Seconded by Fr. Thomas Kulp. Voting: 55 in favor; 7 against; 0 abstentions; Motion passed.

Mr. Stephen Kundrat acknowledged Fr. Michael Hatrak who reported that the afternoon session attendance is as follows:

Hierarch	1
Clergy	30
Laity	33
Diocesan Council	2
Lay Observors	8
Clergy Observors	2

for a total of 76 present.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPORT

Fr. John Kowalczyk referred to his report in the Assembly packet. Both he and Fr. Daniel Kovalak entertained questions on the recent Mini-Council. Fr. Dan Kovalak presented a copy of the Metropolitan Council Budget Review and answered questions on the budget of the National Church.

His Grace Bishop HERMAN emphasised a positive approach in working on the level of the Diocesan and National Church. A negative attitude will not produce good results. It is important that we turn any negative attitude around and examine ourselves concerning our work for the Church of God. He encouraged all delegates to return to their parishes and share all the information received at this Assembly and promote a positive attitude about the life of the Diocese and National Church.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS:

Fr. Joseph Martin presented the nominations for Diocesan Council members according to Deaneries. At this point Fr. John Kuchta chaired the meeting to allow the Lay Vice-Chairman to participate in the nominations.

Wilkes-Barre Deanery:

For the Clergy member, Fr. Joseph Gallick. Mr. Stephen Kundrat nominated Fr. Eugene Vansuch. No additional nominations from the floor.
For the Lay member, Mr. Joseph Krenitsky. No nominations from the floor.

Philadelphia Deanery:

For the Clergy member, Fr. Claude Vinyard. No nominations from the floor.
For the Lay member, Mr. Joseph Anderson. Fr. Dimitri Voytilla nominated Mr. Donald Debus. No additional nominations from the floor.

Frackville Deanery:

For the Clergy member, Fr. Michael Hatrak. No nominations from the floor.
For the Lay member, Mrs. Marie McCarty. No nominations from the floor.

Fr. Dimitri Voytilla motioned to close nominations for Diocesan Council. Seconded by Mr. Paul Malinchak. Motion passed.

Balloting Results: Wilkes-Barre Deanery Clergy member is Fr. Joseph Gallick.
Philadelphia Deanery Lay member is Mr. Joseph Anderson.

Diocesan Council Member At-Large:

For the Clergy member, Fr. David Lisko. Mr. Paul Gozick nominated Fr. Eugene Vansuch. No additional nominations from the floor.

For the Lay member, Mr. Alan Pcsolyer. Mr. Paul Gozick nominated Mr. Donald Debus. No additional nominations from the floor.

Fr. George Pawlush motioned to close nominations for the At-Large positions. Seconded by Fr. Vladimir Borichevsky. Motion passed.

Balloting Results: Clergy member is Fr. Eugene Vansuch.
Lay member is Mr. Alan Pcsolyer.

Fr. Daniel Kovalak presented a paper on an alternate approach to funding in our Diocese to the Diocesan Council. His report is contained in the Assembly packet. Fr. Donlick encouraged the newly elected Diocesan Council to implement this approach on a voluntary basis.

Fr. David Shewczyk motioned that the funding approach offered by Fr. Kovalak be examined and considered by the 1985 Diocesan Council for future implementation. Seconded by Fr. Vladimir Borichevsky. Motion passed.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS:

There were no resolutions presented from the floor.

OTHER MATTERS:

Fr. John Bohush encouraged the establishment of a Diocesan Commission on Evangelization in preparation for the 1986 All-American Council. His Grace Bishop HERMAN stated that he and the Diocesan Council will labor in this direction.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS:

His Grace accepted the report of the Nominating Committee and appointed the following Auditors of the Diocese: Fr. Paul Borick, Mr. Russell Lahutsky and Mr. Gene Haverlak.

Since the All-American Council is set for August, 1986, the tentative date for the 1986 Diocesan Assembly is Saturday, June 28, 1986, at St. Tikhon's Seminary.

Fr. Daniel Kovalak requested the Assembly express thanks and appreciation to Dr. John Dalak for his presentation to the Assembly and Conference delegates. His Grace Bishop HERMAN thanked Dr. Dalak and the Church School teachers for their participation in the Conference and Diocesan Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Donald Debus motioned that the 22nd Diocesan Assembly be adjourned. Seconded by Fr. Claude Vinyard. Motion passed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Father Eugene Vansuch

Father Eugene Vansuch

Marie Proch

Mrs. Marie Proch