

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania (OCA)

Meeting of the Diocesan Council – May 10, 2010

The meeting opened with the singing of the Tropar for Ascension “O Christ God Thou hast ascended in glory...” at 10:50 am.

All members of the Diocesan Council were present with the exception of Frs. Matthew Cantrell & John Soucek. They were both excused.

Fr. Dan Kovalak asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect the intention of publishing the newsletter quarterly, not annually. Also, the Wilkes-Barre Deanery scheduled a Deanery Parish Administrative meeting.

Doug Yates asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect that he suggested the CD used to pay off the bishop’s car should be replenished for the use of future purchases where appropriate.

Fr. David Mahaffey moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Mark Linnehan seconded. *Unanimous approval.*

Bishop’s Report:

The Synod of Bishops held a retreat in Colorado preparing for the upcoming Episcopal assembly. Archimandrite Meletios Webber led the retreat.

His Grace attended the consecration of Bishop Michael in Jersey City, NJ.

The St. Tikhon’s Orphanage Committee meeting was delayed. A task force was implemented.

The Diocesan Liturgy at St. Nicholas in Bethlehem was held on Bright Tuesday. His Grace would like this Liturgy to move around to different parishes within the diocese.

The Episcopal Assembly will be held next week. The OCA will be seated without a position on the executive committee. His Grace asks for the prayers of the faithful in this endeavor.

There will be clergy retreats on August 13 and December 7.

There will be a Matushki luncheon/retreat on June 26 at the Diocesan center.

A Luncheon for widowed Matushki will be held on July 24 at the Diocesan Center.

His Grace will be on vacation in France July 7-21.

Health Insurance Report:

Mark Linnehan reported that there were two meetings of the Health Insurance Committee. There was a misunderstanding in billing too little, a problem that will be rectified. It was suggested that a review/audit should be done for the last year and a process put in place so this error would not happen in the future. The committee reviewed the current plans, the cost of which will most likely increase. The next meeting is scheduled for June 17. The Committee will recommend its choice to the Bishop. A conference call could be held on the 19th of June.

Chancellor's Report:

Fr. John Kowalczyk noted that the Sexual Misconduct procedures put out by the OCA should be reviewed at each Parish annual Meeting.

There was a discussion on the progress of Diocesan Bylaws. Fr. Dan Kovalak recommended that the Bylaws of the Greek Archdiocese be reviewed.

Treasurer's Report: (See attached report)

Father Martin Browne reported that the Audit committee met in Philadelphia for the six month audit. David Yeosock reported that Fr. Martin did a very good job of keeping the books. The only concern was that the statements given to the Audit Committee were four days different and reflected different totals due to the assessment allocation.

Holy Assumption is up to date in its assessments and was in arrears some \$6,000.

Williamsport and Mechanicsburg are tithing to the diocese rather than the assessment/head tax.

There was a discussion on the Estella property whether it was a donation or from a will. If the woman donates it she could be ineligible for Medicare. She was advised to seek legal council before moving forward.

There was a discussion on the CD. Fr. John and the Bishop changed the address and filed and corrected the corporate documents.

*David Yeosock moved that in the spirit of best practices that the diocese requests an invoice receipt from the central administration each month for assessments. The motion was seconded by Elsie Herman. Fr. Nicholas Solak opposed. **Motion carried.** Fr. John Kowalczyk as Chancellor will contact Syosset concerning this.*

*Fr. Michael Hatrak moved that the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, OCA, resolves to authorize His Grace Bishop Tikhon (diocesan hierarch) and Fr. John Kowalczyk (Diocesan Chancellor) as signatories for the CD currently held at Wachovia bank. Motion seconded by Fr. Dan Kovalak. **The motion passed unanimously.***

The Bishop's car was paid in full. All assessments are up to date with the OCA.

Fr. Michael Hatrak moved to accept the Treasurer's report. John Buckeye seconded. ***Unanimous approval.***

A lengthy discussion was held on the role of the diocese and its relationship to the seminary.

Metropolitan Council Report:

Father David Mahaffey reported that there was a concern that Eastern Pennsylvania was looked upon negatively by some members of the Metropolitan Council. Since much of the meeting was held in executive session, there is nothing of substance that can be reported. The next meeting will be on September 21-22, 2010.

New Business:

A discussion followed concerning the giving of gifts to new bishops. *Mark Linnehan moved to have a line item for gifts for new bishops.* Fr. Michael Hatrak seconded. Seven yes, 5 no. ***Motion Passed.***

Fr. Kovalak presented a plan that would be used to classify parishes as "Chapel", "liturgical parish", or "Pastoral Church" in an effort to get a hold of the difficulties facing the parishes in the diocese. This plan would be reviewed every 3 years.

After a discussion on the role of the Diocesan Council and the direction the council is headed *Fr. Nicholas Solak moved to have a social outing for the Council on July 1 at 1 pm at a location to be determined.* Fr. Martin Brown seconded. ***Unanimous approval.***

David Yeosock moved to adjourn. Elsie Herman seconded. The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm with the singing of "It is Truly Meet."

Respectfully Submitted,

Fr. Timothy Hojnicky