

Diocesan Council Meeting, Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania
May 12, 2011

1. Meeting opened at 10:40AM with the singing of *Christ is Risen!*
2. **Review of minutes** of previous meeting of February 10, 2011
 - a. Fr. Dan Kovalak questioned whether a proposal by Mark Linnehan regarding the size of the subdivision of Orphanage property for the Diocesan Center had been passed.
Following discussion and review of the secretary's notes from the previous meeting it was decided to amend the minutes by changing "motion" to "recommendation." It was so moved by David Yeosock and seconded by John Buckeye that it be conveyed to the Orphanage Board our desire to obtain a 2 acre subdivision for the Diocesan Center.
 - b. It was decided to remove Fr. Tim's name from the section on the Treasurer's Report.
3. **Diocesan Bishop**
 - a. His Grace commented that he is tired, more mentally than physically due to the flow of events since the last meeting in February.
 - b. Related to this he presented his thought that it appears that we are relying more and more on meetings and committees to do the work of the Church rather than the other way around.
 - c. He spoke of his trip to Chicago
 - i. Consecration of Bishop Matthias was joyful and positive.
 - ii. Holy Synod Meeting was difficult.
 1. Minutes are on the OCA website
 2. He summarized the four resolutions adopted by the Holy Synod.
 - a. Metropolitan cannot appoint himself locum tenens. The intent was to prevent abuses such as had happened in the past. Canonically a vacant see should be filled within six months, though this is not always practical.
 - b. Chancery is synodal and not the Metropolitan's
 - c. Lesser Synod is the Executive Committee of the Holy Synod – clarifies the role of the Metropolitan.
 - d. Chancellor is the Chief Operating Officer of the Chancery and answers to the Holy Synod.
 3. SMPAC reported to the Holy Synod concerns.
 - a. Appointed by Holy Synod to assist the Metropolitan in handling sexual misconduct allegations
 - i. Revise existing policies
 - ii. Taken on oversight/review of how to handle
 - b. ORSMA reviews allegations
 - c. Confidential document under review by the Holy Synod
 - i. Past treatment and present and future treatment of sexual misconduct issues.

- iii. Metropolitan Council Meeting followed Holy Synod meeting. Difficult, painful meeting but honest discussion which indicated a general desire to move forward in a constructive and positive way.
 - 1. AAC still in the planning stages
 - a. Strategic Plan: latest version will be posted . It was discussed
 - 2. Significant revision
 - a. Took out general descriptions of the Church and made more specific and concrete in its focus.
 - b. Ten working groups focused on areas.
 - 4. Discussion followed on this report, seeking clarification and impressions of His Grace on matters covered above. His Grace offered responses to the various comments and questions raised by members.
 - 5. His Grace then announced that he had scheduled a Parish Revitalization Committee meeting for June 23rd, place and time to be determined.
 - 6. This raised the issue of the Special Diocesan Assembly scheduled for June 25. As there are no resolutions presented as of now it was decided that there was no need for a Special Assembly and this would be communicated to the diocese, encouraging those who wished to submit resolutions to do so directly to the AAC resolutions committee and/or speak with their deanery representative on the Diocesan Council.
 - a. Regarding possible resolutions it was mentioned that the Strategic Planning Committee recommended that no statutory changes be made at this AAC. His Grace indicated this was not an official position of the Church
 - b. Fr. Dan Kovalak spoke to the issue of communications, or lack thereof on the part of the offices and officers of the Church. He emphasized that substantial communication that conveys a true picture is what is needed.
 - c. Extensive discussion followed on issues related to communications and matters concerning the conduct of Central Administration affairs, and the conduct of various constituencies to these issues.
 - d. Fr. Martin Browne made the suggestion that it was imperative for us as a council to focus on the issues of our diocese which are critical not only to the health of the diocese, but to the health of the national administration as well. He expressed the opinion that our proper representatives on the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council be left to deal with them, with us offering input outside the context of these meetings.
 - 7. Regarding the issues of parish health
 - a. It was decided following a motion by David Yeosock and seconded by John Buckeye to change the Fiscal Year of our diocese to the Calendar Year, January 1 – December 31, as is done by the OCA.
 - b. A recommendation was offered to the Diocesan Assembly that all parishes in our diocese adopt the same Fiscal Year.
 - c. A motion was made by Mark Linnehan and seconded by David Yeosock for all parishes to provide a January to December budget with their other required annual reports. This motion failed.

Chancellor's Report

1. Bishop's Itinerary is available on the website
 - a. Highlighted Bright Tuesday in Harrisburg and St. Alexis in Wilkes-Barre.
2. Clergy Movements
 - a. Transfer of Priest Andrew Anderson, on leave of absence, at his request, to the Diocese of the West on April 7.
 - b. Deposition of Neal Carrigan from the priesthood.
3. Diocesan ByLaw proposals for Diocesan Assembly presented for review and future discussion.
 - a. Bylaws codify practices for clarification of statutory provisions.
 - b. Bylaws are diocesan specifications of statutory provisions.
 - c. It was recommended that, when complete, the Diocesan By Laws explicitly state that the interpretation of them rests with the Diocesan Bishop.
4. Sexual Misconduct
 - a. Questions about compliance: dates, penalties for non-compliance, and training.
 - b. Bishop will go to non-compliant parishes with diocesan attorney
 - c. Fr. John referred to new state procedures
 - d. Fr. Martin will obtain cd's from Church Mutual for parish training.

Treasurer's Report

Fr. Martin presented his report.

There were no extraordinary income or expense items.

Fr. Dan Kovalak mentioned that we should call the Dean's stipend a "travel expense"

The St. Tikhon's Summer Camp will open an account under the diocese in the coming days. No money to date has been requested from the diocese for the funding of the Camp.

There was a question on what constituted the "Missionary" expenditures.

- Holy Apostles Mission in Mechanicsburg receives \$500
- St. Stephen's Cathedral in Philadelphia receives \$200 for the Russian Mission

Continuing education: The Bishop will be requiring each clergyman to have 10 hours of continuing education per year, and will be asking the parishes to subsidize it.

A discussion was held about charity disbursements and how these requests would be handled.

Elsie Herman moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Mark Linnehan seconded. Unanimous approval

The Audit: David Yeosock presented the semi-annual audit report. Everything was reported to be in good order. There was an audit of the insurance fund as well.

Fr. Dan Kovalak moved to accept the audit report, Fr. Michael Hatrak seconded. Unanimous approval.

Metropolitan Council Report

1. David Yeosock indicated that most of the issues that could be discussed had already been aired during the bishop's report.
2. In response to questions he said that committee reports had been presented and offered to share them with any council member who wanted to read them.
3. The issues surrounding internet dissemination of leaked information was discussed at the meeting.
4. The Metropolitan Council refused to accept our proposal regarding the Coffee House in Harrisburg and the donation of \$7000 to it in lieu of the deficit incurred by the diocese by the shift in Christ the Saviour parish to a tithing system.

Old Business

1. Orphanage Board:
 - a. His Grace explained that it is necessary to apply for an EIN number from the IRS in order to open a bank account.
 - b. The last meeting was in February, following our last Diocesan Council meeting.
 - i. Seminary agreed to pay for survey of entire property
 - ii. Sent out RFP and received six replies ranging from four to fourteen thousand.
 - iii. The orphanage property is apparently mortgage free.
2. Monastery:
 - a. As a parish in the diocese it is compliant with PSP
 - b. Ambivalent status as stavropigial but a diocesan parish is not restricted to us. There are similar issues with other monasteries in elsewhere in the U.S.
 - c. His Grace will address the issue with Metropolitan Jonah.

New Business

1. Diocesan Council Meeting Dates
 - a. August 11 in Allentown
 - b. November 15 in S. Canaan.
2. Diocesan Assembly in Williamsport December 3

Motion to adjourn: Fr. Michael Hatrak, seconded by Elsie Herman.

Meeting closed with singing of *Shine, shine* at 3:45PM

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Martin Browne