

Diocesan Council Meeting – June 16, 2014
Christ the Saviour Church – Harrisburg, PA

Present: Archbishop Mark, Fr. Kowalczyk, Fr. Martin, Fr. Perich, Fr. Hojnicky, Fr. Solak, Fr. Schellbach, Fr. Weremedic, Fr. Gorodenchuk, Fr. Vernak, Fr. Gauvain, Mark Linnehan, David Yeosock

Absent: Elsie Herman, Doug Yates, John Buckeye

Began at 10:10 a.m. with *O Heavenly King*

Minutes of Previous meeting: Motion to approve Fr. Tim/D. Yeosock. All in favor.

Message of the Diocesan Bishop

a. John Krisa - hold up with John Petorak preparing petition. Instrument est. monastery included provision for monastery. Wants the Monastery Board to ? Waiting for John Petorak to complete petition for merger of monastery and orphanage.

Discussion followed: Abp Mark will meet with John Krisa and is awaiting call from John Petorak

b. AAC and Revised Statutes

Corrections made to Revised Statutes. Straight up/down vote.

Diocesan Assembly – own by laws and proposed revision of support of the church. Extend the Assembly one more day?

c. Supporting the work of the church: Finance Committee proposal.

Potential impact of new funding and territorial dioceses. May require coverage of expenses previously covered by OCA – travel for bishop for Synod, Assembly of Bishops.

d. Synod Meeting. Concern over wandering monks not attached as well as Readers and Subdeacons. Abp Benjamin's form adopted by HS for maintenance of list by diocese of who they are and where they are. Forms will be sent to the clergy to fill out and keep the list. Includes directions for how they are to dress. Form for petition for readers.

- Question from Fr. Solak regarding transfer of Met. Jonah to ROCOR.
- Transferred. No financial obligations. He was paid full salary for remainder of year he resigned. Three years of health insurance which ends this July and a stipend of \$1000 a month. Offered his moving expenses by a certain date, with which he did not comply.

e. Insurance : John Malinchok checked options. Stopper was the Camp. Church Mutual suggesting give very good price if insure whole diocese. Meeting with representative 6/17. Something to look into.

e. Fr. John Bohush: He is suspended. Removed from the parish. Removed and excommunicated the Parish Council. No services until they cooperate with administrators, Fr. Perich and Fr. Martin.

- Refusal to do background check.
- Diocese is not interested in going to court. Interested in discipline for the clergy. Medicinal component of the canons.
- Abp Mark will meet with Fr. Pianovich tomorrow.
- Fr. Solak : commended those who worked in seeking a resolution.

Chancellor

In the administration since 1987. Not the first time we are in a position of conflict over hierarchical authority. Good to meet with Fr. Pianovich as senior priest with great respect. Still potential for negotiation with St. Nicholas.

Diocesan Center – immediate issue.

All American Council – pick up in level of participation. Contacted with deans and clergy who are going now. Suggestion: call a meeting with our clergy in Atlanta.

Treasurer's Report

David Yeosock commended Fr. Martin for his service.

Possibility of automatic payments

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Fr. Paul/Fr. James

All in favor

Fr. Ignatius Gauvain will assume Treasurer's position on July 1st and Father Browe will assist as needed for a smooth transition.

Finance Committee Report : see attached.

Deans Reports

Wilkes Barre:

- Fr. Traian will be released to our diocese when his position is replaced in Hazleton. Put him in Nanticoke which is where he wants to go
- Uniondale, Alden Station, Dundaff continue to be vacant
- Simpson: Fr. Benjamin Johnson leaving diocese in the near future
 - Fr. John Kowalczyk administrator for past two months.
 - Said he wouldn't respond to emails
 - Talk to them: positive experience
 - Received \$50,000 bequest from Mat. Irene Borick
 - Special meeting to do paving - \$30,000.
 - Listed in the Bulletin as the Administrator
 - Want to have a priest replacement

Frackville Deanery:

Mount Carmel filled with Fr. John Edward ordained in Stroudsburg on Day of Holy Spirit. Served in Mechanicsburg, Harrisburg, and at the monastery, and on June 21 with Archbishop. He has been visiting people since arriving.

People pleased; he is happy to be there.

Lykens – vacant. 2nd and 4th Sundays services. Booked for rest of summer
Mechanicsburg waiting for township direction to start building.

Philadelphia Deanery:

Bethlehem – Fr. Shipley requested transfer. Given permission to go to Diocese of West effective June 30th. Fr. Weremedic has met council and negotiated compensation package. Effective August 16

Assumption of BVM – Fr. Cantrell requested leave of absence until Sept 1. Fr. Victor spoke to him and will keep in touch with him. Fr. Christopher Grecu of Romanian diocese will care for them.

St. Nicholas – addressed also.

St. Michael's in Wilmington - considering Fr. Barnabas Fravel.

Holy Trinity in Pottstown – trouble financially. Contact with Fr. Jason, Fr. Perich and Fr. Browne

Philadelphia has no substitute priests.

Multiple simultaneous departures, with some making overtures outside of the diocese.

Fr. Perich is resigning as dean due to his health, family health. Sole curator and financial backer of museum for 30 years. Three exhibitions this year. Cannot do all the physical work required as Dean. Father Victor Gorodechuk was appointed Dean to fill his term. Fr. Perich will assist Fr. Gorodechuk and will assume the position as Clergy Representative of the Philadelphia Deanery.

Financial Committee

Process

Level of info on which recommendations are made

8 members

template for consolidating financial information – Cash Flow statement

4 areas

cash at the beginning of the year

any reserve

many parishes didn't provide

income and expense

Cash flow from income property

Financial Activities – financial instruments

Consolidate many categories on reports provided

Give us what we need to proceed forward

Major recommendation: this form or something like it be used.

Looked at financial records available in the diocese

Various formats – level of detail.

Some had no information, some so poor not usable.

Committee members assigned 5 parishes

Cash flow form for each parish

Didn't request parishes to resubmit with the new form –

Based on info provided made up the forms

Analyzed donations

Analyzed operating expenses/income to identify financially precarious parishes.

What operational budget is, multiply by 10% to see how much to give to diocese on tithing model

What is the total for the diocese according to the 10%.

How parishes give to diocese, how diocese gives to the OCA

Parishes give 550 per capita, per annum up to 2300 per capita, per annum.

Fundraising = not seeing as bigger than 20%, many cases less than that

Recommend that the diocese approve the proposed financial resolution #1 at the AAC

If we go to 10% we can still meet our budget.

If parishes want to go to 10 – why? If less, no.

The message: what you give to the parish is voluntary. What the parish gives to the diocese is voluntary. We would like % and diocese will suffer if not. Should be a dialogue.

Recommendations:

Form Mark Linnehan recommended standard. Fr. Timothy. Parishes required to provide minutes, financial statement – this would be the template. All in favor.

Resolution 1 Recommend voting for this at AAC and continue in that fashion whether the resolution passes. Mark Linnehan, Fr. Stephen Vernak. Withdrawn by Mark

Support Resolution 1 Fr. Victor, Fr. Ignatius. All in favor

Continuing Education: Fr. Nicholas Solak

Abp Mark, Fr. Nathan Preston and Fr. Ian Pac-Urar went to San Francisco in beginning of May to get training and request funding from Lily Foundation 25,000 matching grant over 3 years for clergy peer learning groups

Continuing Ed fund

Waiting to hear about the proposal from Lily Foundation

Teen Retreat: Fr. Tim Hojnicky

Spruce Lake new location in Canadensis

OCA Mission School in Detroit – 1million donation – use interest

- Well done. Every diocese except W. Pa and Alaska not represented
- Week long. Establishing and revitalizing parishes.
- Hope to do it annually. Fr Demko and Ted Tripp represented our diocese.

Summer Camp – 100 registered.

Diocesan Center.

John Petorak said they are working on subdivision. Should be done in a few weeks. Take care of diocese first, then merge properties for monastery/diocese

Liturgical Life: Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk

Regular conference calls

Funeral Book complete
Format of abridged vigil service.

Suggestion from last meeting one continuing education session devoted to this.

Make it an hour – resurrectional gospel on Saturdays.
Abp. Forwarded pastoral life committee of assembly of bishops to clergy drafts for stillborn, miscarriages,

Motion to Accept: Fr. Steve, Fr. Paul. Approved.

Metropolitan Council Report: Nothing to report

Communications: Aric Gingo

Visits to website steady – avg 230 a day, down a little
Pascha very busy
Now very busy
Everything gets posted.
Parish represented
Photos as large as possible for double duty for site and magazine
Video capability
Next issue, Pascha, article on Mechanicsburg, not the graduate issue.
12 graduates – average in past 60 July 1st deadline
website remake
 history of diocese – Fr. Perich will do this.
 technical writer
 component on website total email dominated.
 Diocese can send emails to all people.
Motion to accept by Fr. James, Mark all in favor

Old Business:

Diocesan By Laws: if the statutes are passed Mark Linnehan can revise in one month. Get it up on the website for January.
Motion: Fr. Stephen, Fr. Perich All in favor

New Business:

Charities
Fr. Vernak. Agia Sophia has a donor who will match requesting \$500
Fr. Kowalczyk; Nicholas Kowalczyk go as our rep to Syndesmos conference in Poland in August, requests \$450 for airfare.

Motion: Fr. Perich, David Yeosock

Next Meeting will be held at St. Mary's Church, Coaldale, August 18

Motion to Adjourn and singing of *It is truly Meet* at 405pm

DOEPA Finance Committee Report

Mark Linnehan

June 16, 2015

The Finance Committee (FC) of the Diocese, consisting of eight lay members across the Diocese was charged with:

1. Recommending a method to the Diocese for meeting financial obligations to the OCA, and
2. Evaluating readiness and recommending methods for the shift to proportional giving within the Diocese.

To this end the FC has been meeting for several weeks via teleconferences and met at St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem on the 30th of May.

In order to get financial information for each parish the FC used the annual reports that were available at the Diocesan Center. Many were not in electronic format so with the assistance of Mat. Sandy Kopestonsky, three members of the committee scanned and organized the paper records for easier electronic transfer.

Each FC member was assigned up to 5 parishes to glean financial information and to put it into a common report format. This will allow for easier analysis and comparison of financial information between parishes. A common spreadsheet was shared on a Google drive for the consolidation of information. Though the financial reports from the parishes were in various states of completion, the FC members used their best judgement to establish a single report for each parish.

The analysis of information is just starting, but recommendations are expected to be provided to the Diocesan Council at their next meeting in June.

One significant side-effect of the study is that a couple of parishes have asked to have meetings in their parishes with a representative of the FC to discuss the parish's stewardship programs, financial reporting, the role of the Finance Committee, and future expectations of the Diocese. All parishes are invited to have a member of the FC visit to allay any fears or concerns that their members may have in regards to the study being conducted.

Feel free to contact a member of the Finance Committee to ask questions or to schedule a meeting in your parish. The following are our current volunteers:

- Wilkes-Barre
 - Deacon Sergei Kapral
 - Michael Rucks
- Frackville
 - Mark Linnehan
 - John Malinchok
- Philadelphia
 - Larry Skvir
 - Mike Dorosh
 - Deacon Gregory Moser
 - Dan Herbert - Holy Assumption Philadelphia

TASK ! - Recommending a method to the Diocese for meeting financial obligations to the OCA

- As a committee we recommend voting for Resolution 1 for the All American Assembly which states:
 - **Proposed Resolution for OCA Funding 2016-2018 as Recommended by the Holy Synod, March 19, 2015 Amended May 5, 2015**
 - For the budget years 2016, 2017 and 2018, each territorial diocese of the Orthodox Church in America shall remit its annual diocesan financial obligation for the work of the central administration according to the following formula:
 - If your 2015 assessment at the \$90 per capita is greater than 46% of your diocesan operating budget, excluding restricted and designated funds (“**Net Operating Budget**”): Your financial obligation in 2016 will be 46% of the 2016 “*net operating budget*”; in 2017 will be 40% of the “*net operating budget*”; and in 2018 will be 34% of your “*net operating budget*”.
 - The “net operating budget” is intended to represent that which would previously been the diocesan assessment plus the OCA assessment.

- I will pass this recommendation along to the Diocesan Council at the June 16th meeting.
- I will also let them know that we recommend using a standard form for gathering financial information and I will offer our Cash Flow form as the standard.

Recommendation to the Diocesan Council

- **A common form should be used for the gathering of financial information in the future.**

The Finance Committee will continue to work on Task 2, with the intention of providing additional recommendations to the Diocesan Council.