

Diocesan Council Meeting June 15, 2017

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

7111 Wertzville Road, Mechanicsburg, PA

MEETING MINUTES

Opening Prayer at 10:11am

Present:

- **Administration:** Archbishop Mark (Hierarch), Fr. Martin Browne (Chancellor); Joseph Tosca (Treasurer);
- **Frackville Deanery:** Fr. Timothy Hojnicky (dean & Metropolitan Council clergy rep); Fr. Stephen Vernak, Sandy Tosca
- **Philadelphia Deanery:** Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk (Dean); Protodeacon Peter Skoog
- **Wilkes Barre Deanery:** Protodeacon Sergei Kapral
- **Metropolitan Council: At Large:** Fr. John Onofrey

- **Absent:** Fr. Nicholas Solak (Wilkes Barre dean - sabbatical); Fr. Barnabas Fravel; Fr. Michael Demko; Susan Shlasta (lay rep); John Shingara

His Eminence offered our condolences to Protodeacon Sergei Kapral on the passing of his mother M. Olga. May her memory be eternal!

Treasurer report was moved to the top of the agenda due to the Tosca's need to leave at 12:30pm

Special guests: Dr. Cyril Jenkins, director of the Center for Orthodox Thought and Culture at Eastern University (brochure attached). **Fr. Andrew Damick**, pastor of St. Paul, Emmaus.

- Began with an OCF six years ago with 2 Orthodox Students
- The Center is currently under the umbrella of Agora Institute for Civic Virtue and the Common Good
- Currently establishing their own 501(c)3 organization
- Currently there is Minor in Orthodox Thought and Culture
- 2016/2017 – 15 Orthodox Students on Campus
- Asking the help of local Orthodox communities to raise their visibility and to encourage students to explore studying at Eastern; as well as financial appeals

Motion to offer \$750 to the Center for Orthodox Thought and Culture for our quarterly charity. Fr. Stephen Vernak. **Second:** Fr. Timothy Hojnicki. Approved.

Minutes of Previous Meeting as corrected: Protodeacon Sergei Kapral. **Second:** Fr. John Onofrey. Approved.

Archbishop's Remarks –

- Diocesan Center Update
 - Fr. Martin Browne spoke with Fr. Jillions. There has not been any recent contact between Judge Lanier and Atty Petorak. Affidavits need to be signed by all interested parties to complete the transfers (Diocese, Monastery, Orphanage Board, OCA). These were completed. Appointment **still needs** to be made with the Orphans Court Judge to make the final approval (ball is in John Petorak's "court")
 - Seminary expressed an interest in the property (first refusal)
 - No longer viable, they have no money
 - Monastery expressed an interest in the property
 - Honesdale Bank Appraisal: \$411,000
 - Did not reflect the HVAC improvements
 - Bank did not accept these as Energy Efficient
 - Previous Appraisal: \$426,000
 - Monastery Offer: \$385,000 (-land) = \$365,000
 - Contend that the land had been theirs
 - There was dispute over this
 - Attorneys said the Monastery cannot legally purchase the building and land, as it might jeopardize the land transfer
 - Ab. Mark posed the question – what should be ask for the property?
 - How to discern what to keep/get rid of
 - Fr. Stephen suggested that a small committee be given the authority dispose of extra contents (furniture and small ware)
 - What numbers are we looking for?
 - *Asking:* \$419,900
 - **Motion:** Protodeacon Peter Skoog. **Second:** Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk. Approved.
 - **Motion to hire a realtor after the deed is obtained:** Protodeacon Sergei Kapral. **Second:** Sandy Tosca. Approved.

- NOTE: No Diocesan Council members will not negotiate or discuss the selling price. All questions will be directed to Ab. Mark and Fr. Martin Browne.
 - Reminder: During the Diocesan Assembly, it was **moved/expressed** that the Diocese will not purchase a new Diocesan Center that will result in a loss.
- New Diocesan Center – location
 - Potential Property in Camp Hill discussed (mixed business/residential)
 - Potential Property in Bristol (St. Ann Catholic Rectory) discussed
 - Importance of mixed business/residential and tax-exempt status

Review of Officer's Reports

a. Chancellor Diocesan / Orphanage Property

- Deferred to after lunch

Action Item: Motion Text of motion. Name. **Second.** Name. Approved.

b. Treasurer presented by Joseph Tosca

Budget vs. Actual Summary

As of May 31, 2017

Parish Support

- *Actual: \$174,338.40*

Total Income

- *Actual: \$198,290.32*

Total Expenses

- *Actual: \$200,007.43*

Net Operating Income

- *Actual: (1,717.11)*

Account Balance Summary

- *Peer Group Checking: \$17,036.74*
- *General Checking: \$134,571.84*
- *Protected Fund MM: \$79,102.04*
- TOTAL: \$230,710.62***

Aging Summary (report attached)

As of May 31, 2017

Total = \$32,818.41

(91 and over = \$25,192.59)

Motion to remove St. Nicholas Philadelphia from the aging summary. **Motion:** Fr. John Onofrey. **Second:** Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk. Approved with one opposed – Fr. Martin Browne.

Motion to remove all payments owed to the Diocese prior to 2014 from Holy Trinity McAdoo from the aging summary. **Motion:** Fr. Martin Browne **Second:** Protodeacon Sergei. Approved.

Discussion on Coatesville – they are currently making payments to pay their arrears.

Discussion on Uniondale – Ab Mark will discuss with the parish council president and Fr. Innocent

Diocesan Program and Appeals Summary *(attached)*

Standardized Financial Reports

4 parishes who have not submitted standardized reports

- Catasauqua
- Coatesville
- Minersville
- St. Claire

Parish Support Level Summary *(report attached)*

Total Parishes 34

- Level 1 = 3
- Level 2 = 10
- Level 5 = 21

12 parish are giving less

7 parishes are giving the same

15 parishes that have increased their contributions

Special Appeal Summaries

- Fr. John Nightingale
Income: \$91,442.79
Expenses: \$90,727.79
Balance: \$1,170.00

- Fr. George Volkovinsky
Income: \$9,274.00
Expenses: \$9,645.00
Balance: (\$371.00)

Paul Berdy is discussing social security and housing allowance with the parish of St. John the Baptist, and the funds that are being picked up by the Diocese.

Motion to approve the treasurer's reports: Fr. Stephen Vernak **Second:** Fr. Martin Browne. Approved.

New Business – Diocesan Video for AAC:

- **Fr. Martin Browne** will gather a committee to work on the video for the AAC
- **Greg Ressetar** has expressed an interest in producing the video, but needs direction on content

Break for lunch at 12:37pm
Return from lunch break at 1:25pm

Archbishop Reports, *continued*

- **Mission School Recommendation**
 - 1 clergy (Frs. Ignatius Hunter, Matthew Joyner, John Edwards & Jason Franchak)
 - 1 lay (Fr. Dn. Seraphim Reynolds; Fr. Dn. Peter Skoog)
- **Bill Marianes**
 - Overall – well received
 - How do we share the information more broadly?
 - Resources available online
 - Those who can, should *re-present* this material within their parishes
 - Stopped worrying about consumers
 - Importance of Emphasizing that we live in “exponential times”

- **Parish Ministry Team Model**
 - Ab. Mark suggested inviting
 - **Fr. Patrick Kinder** to offering workshop based upon this model (Bill Marianes)
 - **Donna Karabin** (OCA Ministry Dept) to share what is available
 - **Anthony Bashir** to discuss long-term planning
- **New Clergy Assignments:** There was discussion on how best to transition new clergy into parishes.
- **Clergy Continuing Education:** Need to identify a new coordinator
 - **Potential:** Fr. John Edward (Fr. John Onofrey to assist)?

a. Chancellor Diocesan (Fr. Martin Browne)

- Report Emailed
 - Fr. Martin Browne gave the following highlights
 - Fr. John Onofrey asked a question regarding EIN for Diocese in regard to FGV. Fr. Martin shared the details.
 - Fr. Timothy asked about Alden Station. They have defected from the Diocese. Fr. Gabriel Petorak is now attached to the Cathedral.
 - We need the antimens, chrism, sacred items, etc.
 - Discussion was also held regarding St. Nicholas (Philadelphia)
 - We also need the antimens, chrism, sacred items, etc.
 - Protodeacon Peter asked about the public perception and precedent set by the defection of these two parishes. Ab. Mark stated that we do not have legal standing because of the Articles of Incorporation.
 - How many more parishes have similar articles and can possibly pursue the same path?

Deanery Reports

a. Philadelphia – Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk

- Ab. Mark visited the Philadelphia deanery during Holy Week
- Two vacancies in the deanery
 - Holy Trinity, Pottstown
 - Fr. John Edward, assigned
 - St. Nicholas, Bethlehem

- No candidate as of yet
- Fr. James Mason is covering

b. Frackville – Fr. Timothy Hojnicky

- Welcomed the Diocesan council to Holy Apostles parish
 - Property is coming along.
- Harrisburg
 - Iconography continues. Fr. Theodore Jurewicz is currently at the parish.
- Minersville/St. Clair
 - Fr. Michael Hatrak retired. Coverage for the parish is
- Mt. Carmel
 - Fr. John Edward is transferring to Pottstown
 - Fr. Ignatius Hunter is being assigned
- Coaldale
 - Vacant since July
 - Fr. James Weremedic is being assigned

c. Wilkes-Barre – Fr. Timothy Hojnicky

- **Fr. Nicholas Solak** is on sabbatical. Fr. Timothy Hojnicky covering.
- Schedule to fill vacancies is ongoing
- **Protodeacon Sergei** mentioned that **Holy Resurrection Cathedral** is celebrating 125th Anniversary this year

Fr. Timothy suggested that each parish have a “transition plan” when a priest retires or is reassigned.

Old Business

- Covered above

New Business

- **2018 Diocesan Assembly**
 - Wilmington, Delaware
 - Fr. Barnabas Fravel is booking a hotel (\$69 p/night)
 - Thursday, January 25 – Friday, January, 26

- **Lenten Clergy Retreat**
 - Fr. Martin Browne is suggesting Fr. Eugene Pentuic, and will contact.
 - Same location – Franciscan Spiritual Center
- **Update:** Vladimer Kellachow (from Harrisburg) accepted to **Cross Road Program**
- **Camp Tuition** for clergy children. Contact Ab. Mark
- **Diocesan Seminarians**
 - We may have two potential new enrollee's
- **Clean out the Diocesan Center**
 - "Staging" the Diocesan Center
 - Ask for help from parishes

Next Meeting on September 28, 2017

- Diocesan Center, South Canaan
- 10am – 3pm

Motion to close: Fr. Timothy. Second: Fr. Martin Browne. Approved.

Closing Prayer at 3:28pm