

MINUTES
DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST DIOCESAN COUNCIL
9 MAY 2007

The regular meeting of the Midwest Diocesan Council opened with the singing of "Christ is risen" at 10:18 a.m.

I. ROLL.

A. Members present. His Eminence, Archbishop Job; Archimandrite Vladimir [Wendling]; the Very Revs. John Adamcio, Vladimir Berzonsky, Andrew Clements, Michael Matsko, John Matusiak [Secretary], Basil Stoyka, and John Zdinak [Chancellor]; the Rev. Bartholomew Wojcik; Mr. Sam D'Fantis, Mr. Michael Herzak, Mr. Robert Koncel [Treasurer], Mrs. Mary Jane Lucak, Ms. Kitty Mabus, Mr. John Sedor, and Dr. Richard West.

B. Deans present. The Very Revs. Thomas Mueller, Timothy Sawchak, John Steffaro, and Andrew Yavornitzky.

II. SCRIPTURE READINGS.

Mr. Sedor read the day's appointed reading from the Acts of the Apostles, while Fr. Wojcik read the appointed reading from the Gospel of Saint John.

III. MINUTES. With one correction -- the date should read "January 17, rather than January 10" -- the minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented upon motion by Mr. Sedor, seconded by Fr. Adamcio.

IV. CANCELLOR'S REPORT. Fr. Zdinak reported briefly on the following.

A. He was not in the office in Chicago very much during Great Lent, primarily due to his health issues.

B. He, together with the staff, continues to support the work of Archbishop Job, which not only includes his diocesan duties but his other areas of involvement with the Orthodox Church in America.

C. He has worked with the deans with issues involving a number of parishes.

D. He expressed his hope that issues with Syosset will soon be rectified as this affects the life of the diocese and has been very time consuming.

V. DEANS' REPORTS. It was decided that, in the interest of time, the deans' reports be moved to the afternoon.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS.

A. "The Vigil." A brief discussion was held on the direction to be taken with regard to "The Vigil" in light of the expanded use of the internet and the diocesan web site. It was the consensus that "The Vigil" should include as much information as possible, given the fact that not everyone has internet access.

B. Diocesan web site. Deacon Joseph Matusiak presented the new diocesan web site, which features new graphics, mapping, and other resources. There are a few areas that still need attention. It was noted that the new site does not have a search engine. This

matter was corrected after the presentation.

VII. PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY. Mr. Kormos reported briefly on the following.

- A. He has started to conduct workshops, the most recent being in the Cleveland deanery. His aim is to have every parish leave the workshop with an action plan that fits its needs and concerns. He hopes to involve other speakers in these programs.
- B. He is working with the Very Rev. Michael Butler to develop a basic training program for lay catechists. Goals and a core curriculum are being considered at present.
- C. At present, some 250 clergy and faithful receive his e-newsletter. At very least, parish clergy, members of parish councils, and other key parish leaders should be receiving the e-newsletter.

VIII. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT. Fr. Berzonsky and Dr. West spoke on the following.

- A. Fr. Berzonsky offered a personal reflection on the current situation in the Orthodox Church in America, offering a review of the crisis' background.
- B. New financial software has been purchased and installed in the OCA chancery offices. Staff members are being trained in its use.
- C. The Very Rev. Alexander Garklavs and the Rev. Andrew Jarmus will assume duties as OCA chancellor and director of ministries and communications in June or July. Mr. Kevin Kovalytsik, candidate for treasurer, decided that he would not be taking the position. The search for a candidate for OCA secretary continues.
- D. Personnel adjustments continue at the OCA chancery.
- E. Dr. West felt that respect for the Holy Synod was down, adding that the Metropolitan Council was partially responsible for some of the difficulties being faced. He added that, with limited information and an atmosphere of mistrust, it is difficult for Metropolitan Council members to know exactly what they should do.
- F. The Metropolitan Council recommended the suspension of the former chancellor, Protopresbyter Robert Kondratik. Its members also called for an appearance by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius before the Holy Synod. Members of a Church court have been named, with Dr. Faith Skordinsky serving as accuser. Fr. Kondratik has until May 19 to respond to the court summons. He could apply for an extension, however.
- G. It was confirmed for the record that there is no prohibition against looking into discretionary accounts.
- H. With regard to the repayment of funds and accounts from the loan secured by the OCA, it was reported that this has been accomplished.

IX. TREASURER'S REPORT. Mr. Koncel commented on the updated report he distributed.

- A. He noted that the new car was purchased from the money market account.
- B. He stated that money from the sale of St. Theodore of Tarsus Church would be placed in the mission endowment fund.
- C. The present negative balance is primarily due to the cost of ongoing renovations.
- D. He spoke about parishes that are behind in their assessment payments, noting that at present \$94,000.00 is owed by four parishes.
- E. A motion, passed unanimously by the finance committee [Mr. Koncel, Mr. Sedor, Dr.

West, Mr. D'Fantis, and the Rev. Luke Nelson], was then resented, the text of which reads as follows.

"The finance committee recommends to Archbishop Job and the Diocesan Council that parishes that a/ have not paid their assessments to the OCA and/or to the diocese or b/ are in arrears in their assessments by more than one year, should be taken off of the membership rolls of the OCA and of the diocese. The guidelines of our Diocesan By-laws and the Statute of the OCA should be followed. Statutes of the OCA, Article VIII, The Diocesan Council, Section 5 under Competence, Item h: To supervise the collection of assessments fixed by the Diocesan Assembly."

It was the consensus to table the motion until later in the meeting.

X. ARCHBISHOP JOB'S REPORT. Archbishop Job offered a brief report on several issues.

A. He reviewed his reasons for stepping down as the accuser for the impending Church court for Fr. Kondratick. After presenting his reasons to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, he was relieved of this position.

B. He related concerns about the ongoing work of the special investigation commission. Specifically, he noted that the commission's work has been suspended until after Fr. Kondratick's Church court hearing. It is still unclear as to how the work of the commission will proceed, however.

C. He noted that, while many good things are happening in the diocese, the OCA crisis has been draining for everyone.

XI. DISCUSSION ON THE "PALATINE RESOLUTION." A lengthy discussion was conducted on the resolution overwhelmingly adopted by delegates to the 45th Diocesan Assembly held in Palatine, IL, in October 2006, the text of which reads as follows.

"We acknowledge the current financial scandal and leadership crisis within the OCA is intolerable to the faithful members of this diocese. It is the mind of the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest, meeting in Palatine, IL, this 11th day of October 2006, that we have no confidence in the manner in which the administration in Syosset, NY, has handled this crisis and scandal. We call upon the Metropolitan, the Synod of Bishops, and the Metropolitan Council of the OCA to adhere to the Statutes of the OCA in their entirety including accepting the competencies of all bodies within the OCA. In an effort to provide administrative accountability and fiscal transparency, the recommendations of the auditors for full financial disclosure and generally accepted accounting principles needs to be fully implemented [e.g. quarterly budgetary reporting]. If by the Spring Session of the Synod of Bishops, March 2007, any aspects of the Statutes are being violated, the Diocese of the Midwest will begin putting its assessment in escrow. His Eminence, Archbishop Job, with the Diocesan Council, will make the determination on this matter."

In the discussion, the Minneapolis Deanery's recommendation to withhold OCA assessments immediately was mentioned, while others called for a more cautious

approach.

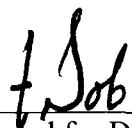
Fr. Adamcio, seconded by Ms. Mabus, moved to act affirmatively to enact the Palatine Resolution. In the lengthy discussion that followed, a number of diocesan council members expressed the feeling that some positive changes have been enacted by the OCA, while others felt that change had not gone far enough.

Eight members voted against the motion, with five members voting for it and two members abstaining. A lengthy discussion followed the vote, during which diocesan council members expressed the need for more information and clarification before the Palatine Resolution could be properly addressed.

Upon motion by Mr. Sedor, seconded by Mrs. Lucak, it was decided to rescind the vote that had just been taken. Three members voted against this motion. In light of the lack of time at this meeting, it was further decided that the matter of the Palatine Resolution, together with other agenda items that had not been addressed or completed at this meeting, would be acted on at a continuation of this meeting, to be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2007. It was felt that information that will be made available after the next Metropolitan Council meeting will be central in making a final decision on the Palatine Resolution.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until June 26 with the singing of "Shine, Shine" at 4:21 p.m. upon motion by Fr. Clements, seconded by Fr. Adamcio.

Respectfully submitted,
Father John Matusiak, Secretary
10 May 2007



Approved for Distribution
†JOB
Archbishop of Chicago
and the Midwest