

## MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

48<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Assembly

Monday, 5 October 2009

### I. OPENING.

The meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit led by His Eminence, Archbishop Job, after which the chair was turned over to the Very Rev. John Zdinak, Chancellor.

II. MEMBERS PRESENT: Archbishop Job; Archimandrite Vladimir [Wendling]; the Very Revs. John Adamcio, Andrew Clements, Michael Matsko, John Matusiak, Secretary, Thomas Mueller, Stephen Sawchak, John Steffaro, Paul Wesche, Andrew Yavornitzky, and John Zdinak, Chancellor; the Revs. Joseph Gibson, and Mark Hodges; and Mr. Sam D’Fantis, Mrs. Alexa Geeza, Mrs. Ann Marie Gidus-Mecera, Mr. Robert Koncel, Treasurer, Mrs. Mary Jane Lucak, Ms. Kitty Mabus, Mr. John Sedor, and Mr. Mark Stokoe.

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Joseph Kormos, Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak.

### III. SCRIPTURE READINGS.

Mrs. Alexa Geeza read the day’s appointed reading from the Epistles, while the Very Rev. Andrew Yavornitzky read the day’s reading from the Gospels.

### IV. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

In reviewing the minutes from the previous meeting, it was noted that Archimandrite Vladimir [Wendling], Mrs. Ann Marie Gidus-Mecera, and Mr. Sam D’Fantis were present, and their names should be duly noted.

### V. REPORT OF THE ARCHBISHOP.

Archbishop Job noted that the membership of Saint Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Mission, Fargo, ND, had dissolved. The membership then petitioned to form a new community, named in honor of the Holy Resurrection, within the Diocese of the Midwest of the Orthodox Church in America. The Rev. Oliver Herbel, who as an OCA priest on loan to the AOCA had guided the mission, has been appointed to the mission. Archbishop Job noted that His Grace, Bishop Mark of Toledo of the AOCA was instrumental in this transition. He also fielded several questions on a variety of topics. In closing, Archbishop Job expressed concerns with a growing sense of congregationalism and parochialism, which must be addressed.

### VI. CHANCELLOR’S REPORT.

Father Zdinak noted that he had nothing to add to his written report.

### VII. REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES.

The Very Rev. Michael Matsko and Mr. Mark Stokoe reported on the work of the Metropolitan Council. Father Matsko spoke of the ongoing investigation of Saint Tikhon’s Monastery, adding that the team is attempting to determine the facts despite the lack of cooperation on the part of certain parties. Father Steffaro, a member of the investigation team, noted that Father Sergius, Abbot, is doing an excellent job. He added that “the truth will be found.” Mr. Stokoe responded to a variety of questions. He noted that a great deal of time is being spent on legal matters, adding that the OCA did not initiate any of the lawsuits, but is merely defending itself. He stated that a new OCA Treasurer had been named, and that the position is now part-time. He observed that the joint meetings of the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council represented a “huge change,” underscoring the importance of conciliarity in the life of the Church. He reported that finances are stable, despite limited income; that the strategic planning committee will host town hall meetings around the country; and that in general, a “new spirit” is evident.

### VII. DIOCESAN COUNCIL, ASSEMBLY MEETINGS.

In an effort to reduce expenses, it was felt that Diocesan Council meetings could be held at Archangel Michael Church, Burbank, IL, rather than at the hotel. Concerning the location of future Diocesan Assemblies, Mrs. Gidus-Mecera, Mrs. Lucak, Mabus, and Ms. Mabus will look into the possibility of a “standard” location for future assemblies, rather than holding them in varying locations.

#### VIII. HIERARCHICAL SELECTION PROCESS.

After discussion, it was felt that to discuss a process for the selection of a successor to Archbishop Job on the assembly floor was premature. Information in this regard would be offered, however. Archbishop Job noted that he cannot make a formal announcement of his intention to retire until he receives the blessing of the Holy Synod. It was felt that a committee should be established to look into the matter as addressed elsewhere in the past and to develop a process that meets our unique situation and needs. A plan for the coming year should be developed, and a committee to identify an appropriate process should be named.

#### IX. 2010 BUDGET.

Mr. Koncel noted that the proposed budget stands as submitted. He noted that three savings bonds worth \$30,000.00 were recently discovered. He noted that, despite losses, accounts were doing a "little better." After discussion, the 2010 budget was approved as submitted upon motion by Father Matsko, seconded by Mrs. Gidus-Mecera.

#### X. OTHER MATTERS.

- A. Secretariat for the assembly will consist of Father John Matusiak, Secretary, Mrs. Geeza, and Mrs. Lucak.
- B. Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak will oversee the deacons.
- C. Father Mueller will chair the nominations committee, of which Mr. Stokoe and Mrs. Gidus-Mecera will serve as members.
- D. Fathers Matsko, Wesche, and Hodges will serve as the resolutions committee.

#### XI. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned upon motion by Father Adamcio, seconded by Mrs. Lucak, at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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