

CORRECTED MINUTES • MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Chicago, Illinois • Thursday and Friday, 2 and 3 December 2010

THURSDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2010

I OPENING

The meeting opened at 6:10 p.m. with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, after which the chair was turned over to Archpriest John Zdinak, Chancellor.

II ATTENDANCE.

Members present: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, Locum Tenens; Archimandrite Matthias, Bishop-elect of Chicago and the Midwest; Archpriests John Adamcio, Alexander Kuchta, Andrew Clements, Michael Matsko, John Matusiak, Secretary, Thomas Mueller, Timothy Sawchak, Basil Stoyka, Paul Wesche, Christopher Wojcik, Andrew Yavornitzky, and John Zdinak, Chancellor; Priests Stephen Hrycyniak and Nathan Kroll; Mr. Sam D'Fantis, Mr. Michael Dorosh, Mrs. Alexa Geeza, Ms. Kitty Mabus, Mrs. Ann Marie Gidus-Mecera, Mr. Robert Koncel, Treasurer, and Mr. Mark Stokoe.

Guests present: Mr. Joseph Kormos.

III SCRIPTURE READINGS.

The day's appointed readings from the Epistles and the Gospels were read.

IV REPORT OF METROPOLITAN JONAH, LOCUM TENENS.

Metropolitan Jonah, reported that Bishop-elect Matthias will oversee the administration of the Diocese in January 2011. He spoke about the centrality of asking what it means to be a Christian in the 21st century, the importance of keeping our eyes gazing forward in order to strategically and aggressively plan for the future, and tradition of "baptizing" that within our culture deemed useful in gathering the harvest, here and now — and the harvest indeed is ripe.

Metropolitan Jonah offered a number of observations on tithing, emphasizing that "to go to a tithing system takes the 'buy-in' of all the members." He noted that Scripture demands a tithe, with everyone contributing the same percentage, devoid of any distinction as to rich or poor. He added that a committee on this issue was been formed by the Metropolitan Council and is working with Finance Committee.

Concerning the 16th All-American Council, Metropolitan Jonah announced that the Strategic Plan is at the core of the Council theme, "The Household of God." He spoke of a variety of matters, including reactions to the Plan, the OCA Statute, and contemporary and new social issues confronting the Church.

Turning his attention to the Holy Synod of Bishops, Metropolitan Jonah stated that the primary issue is improving ministry to and within the Church. Internal matters, such as the relationship of the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan, are not always as clearly defined as one might hope. With regard to autocephaly, he said that neither he, nor the Holy Synod, favors "rescinding, abrogating, or renouncing the autocephaly of the OCA as it was given in 1970. [There is] no intention of going under Moscow or Constantinople or anyone else. But we do need to forge new relationships with all of the Orthodox Churches."

V REPORT OF BISHOP-ELECT MATTHIAS.

Archimandrite Matthias stated that, while he remains overwhelmed, he has put all in God's hands, and that God's will should be done. He intimated that he had been looking forward to retirement and pursuing ministry in Guatemala. He stated that he is committed to do the best he can, to love the diocese, its clergy, and its laity, and to take care of each person to the best of his ability, so long as God gives him the physical strength to do so.

Archimandrite Matthias observed that a wonderful brotherhood exists within the diocese, and that he can feel the mutual love and respect people display for one another. He stated that it is time to move forward, into the future, and leave the scars of the past in the past — "it doesn't help to keep picking at a scab." We need to return to the basics of our Orthodox Christian faith. Noting that throughout the history of the Church there always have been people who have betrayed Christ and His Church, he stressed that the Church never failed her people. We must use everyone's talents and abilities to BE the Church.

Archimandrite Matthias reported that during the next few months he hopes to visit as many parishes as possible. He will also accompany the Project Mexico pilgrims this summer.

VI CHANCELLOR'S REPORT.

Father John Zdinak, Chancellor, reported on numerous repairs to the LaSalle property in preparation for Bishop-elect Matthias' arrival in early January. Concerning Bishop-elect Matthias' consecration, the dates are firm — 29 April-1 May — with Friday evening and Saturday morning services at Christ the Savior Church and Saturday evening and Sunday morning services at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

VI DEANERY REPORTS.

The reports of the deans stand as written, with two additions.

- A. In the Columbus Deanery report, the assignment of Priest Joel Wear to Crawfordsville, IN and attachment of Priest David Morone to Saint John Church, Indianapolis, IN, should be added.

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- A. In the Columbus Deanery report, the assignment of Priest Joel Wear to Crawfordsville, IN and attachment of Priest David Morone to Saint John Church, Indianapolis, IN, should be added.
- B. In the Kansas City Deanery report, the retirement of Archpriest Thomas Succarote should be added.

VII. PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY.

Joseph Kormos reported that the e-mail subscription list for the Health Ministry e-newsletter numbers of 1,200 individuals. He added that the newsletter is sent free of charge to everyone who requests it. Each edition contains a variety of ideas, ministry starters, and related resources.

Mr. Kormos discussed stewardship and generational differences, adding that there is no single “recipe” to increase stewardship. He spoke of the relationship between activity level and the amount of giving.

FRIDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2010

I. OPENING

The meeting reconvened at 9:12 a.m. with prayer.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Robert Koncel, Treasurer, reported that the Diocese's financial situation is positive at present. Highlights of his report include the following.

- A. The Mission Development fund carries a \$279,000.00 balance — up about \$23,000.00 in the past year.
- B. The Maintenance and Endowment Fund has a balance of \$9,000.00, which he opined was “really low for this category.”
- C. As a point of clarification, income from Fidelity Fund is placed into the Operating Reserve Fund. If needed, monies from these funds could be tapped for consecration expenses, although the hope is to “break even.”

Discussion turned to whether sufficient funds had been budgeted for the bishop's travel expenses. Father Zdinak noted that every effort is made to make travel as efficient as possible. He also asked deaneries to assist in travel expenses, especially if the bishop will be present within a deanery for four or five days.

Additional discussion was held concerning a variety of budgeted expenses, endowment funds, etc.

Council members passed a motion, made by Archpriest Christopher Wojcik and seconded by Priest Stephen Hrycyniak, that, as a standard operating procedure, if the parish development amount is not fully used as budgeted, the balance will be held in escrow for future use.

With regard to diocesan assessments, it was noted that they have not been raised in a number of years, with the consensus being that to raise them given the current economy would not be wise. Support for seminarian fundraisers in the deaneries should be encouraged, however. Father John Zdinak will look into ways of furthering this and other efforts to make known the needs of our seminarians and their families.

III. OTHER BUSINESS.

- A. The 2011 Diocesan Assembly will be held in Chicago September 28-30. The Diocesan Council recommends that it be held at one of the hotels in the shadow of Midway Airport.
- B. Updates are being made to the diocesan web site; the cost is minimal. Content will be provided by multiple web editors.
- C. A video of the Archbishop Job Memorial Mission Trip to Project Mexico needs \$3,000.00 in funding. Mark Stokoe remarked that it will receive wide exposure by the time participants post it on YouTube, Facebook, etc.
- D. February 2011 has been designated “Mission Month” to generate financial support for the Mission Trip. Parishes will be encouraged to raise funds, to sponsor individual participants, and to assist in any way possible.
- E. The Diocesan Council affirmed its past and ongoing support of the orphanage and monastery in Guatemala, with which Bishop-elect Matthias has a strong relationship, and his direct ministry thereto.

IV. WORKING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2011.

The afternoon session was devoted to the establishment of nine committees or working groups and engaging council member volunteers. Joseph Kormos' report on the results of the session are presented in the detailed chart attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

V. CLOSING.

There being no further business, the meeting closed in prayer upon motion by Father John Adamcio, seconded by Father Nathan Kroll.

*Respectfully submitted,
Archpriest John Matusiak, Secretary of the Diocese of the Midwest*

Working Committee Assignments

2011 Diocesan Council

Diocese of Midwest, Orthodox Church in America



The following is a summary of the discussion held on Friday December 3, 2010 at the Diocesan Council meeting.

The group created nine committees or working groups. Tentative assignments were made and a list of tasks or objectives was created.

The person marked as "1" is the temporary chairman. Get the group together by phone or email and determine the actual leader/chairperson. Basically the first name in alphabetical order was selected –unless there was a historical (or other) reason for assigning someone else.

Roles/Tasks assignments	Members
▪ Finance Committee	
▪ Develop budget ▪ Deal with requests for funding ▪ Review and action audit ▪ Monitor investments	▪ Bishop, Chancellor, ▪ Treasurer ▪ Sam D'Antis ▪ Fr S. Hryciuk
▪ Parish and Mission Development Committee	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Define overall breakdown of the Parish/Mission development budget <p><i>Mission related</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Define (recommend) mission policies ▪ Recommend establishment of new missions ▪ Oversee mission grants ▪ Review mission reports and provide feedback ▪ Define mission by laws; assure implementation <p><i>Parish Development related</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offer guidance and oversight to PD ministry. Identify desired outcomes from this ministry. ▪ Oversee PD grants ▪ Assist with PD projects <p>More detailed definition of this committee exist elsewhere. In part here.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ *Fr Tom Mueller, Chair ▪ Fr Paul Wesche ▪ Fr Steven Hryciniak ▪ Kitty Mabus ▪ Ann Marie Mecera ▪ Joe Kormos
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic Planning 	
<p>2011 Assignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review existing strategic planning documents ▪ Update ▪ Pose a number of key strategic questions for further discussion by Diocesan council and the Diocese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ *Fr John Adamcio ▪ Mike Dorosh ▪ Alexa Geza ▪ Fr. Paul Wesche
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilities 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Optimize and Utilize Diocesan facilities ▪ Review options for short/long term location of Chancery facilities/offices <p>++++++ (in one year...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Present maintenance operations summary ▪ Develop "numbers" on current option ▪ Define and present a series of Chancery options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ *Ann Marie Mecera ▪ Fr. John Adamcio ▪ Fr. Tom Mueller ▪ Mark Stokoe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seminarian Scholarships 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify eligibility for scholarships (generally and specifically) ▪ Define application process including accountability and annual review ▪ Recommend ways to increase available \$ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fr Andrew Clements ▪ Fr. Alex Kuchta
Diocesan Funding Options	
<p>In response to a tabled motion at Diocesan Assembly...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gather parish budgets ▪ Perform at least preliminary analysis of various funding approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sam d'Antis ▪ Fr. Tim Sawchak ▪ Fr Andrew Yavornitzky
Communications Committee	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Define communication Strategy (including but not limited to...) Purpose of website; Goals; What forms of communication to be used. ▪ Solicit content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mike Dorosh ▪ Alexa Geeza ▪ Mark Stokoe
Policy Review Committee	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review existing compensation policy and recommend changes ▪ Review existing by-laws and recommend changes ▪ Review Sexual misconduct policy of Diocese and recommend ways to better align with OCA policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fr. Andrew Yavornitzky ▪ Kitty Mabus ▪ Sam d'Antis
Compliance Committee	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General role: Oversee parish/Diocese compliance on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sexual misconduct ▪ Clergy compensation ▪ By laws ▪ 2011 Tasks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gather compliance data ▪ Recommend actions to improve compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fr Chris Wojcik ▪ Fr Nathan Kroll