

# MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Holiday Inn Midway, Chicago, Illinois • 29 November 2018

## I. OPENING

The meeting of the Diocesan Council, convened at the Holiday Inn Midway, Chicago, IL at 10:12 a.m. on Thursday, 29 November 2018, opened with the singing of “O Heavenly King” led by His Grace, Bishop Paul.

## II. ATTENDANCE.

In addition to Bishop Paul, Council members in attendance included Archpriest John Zdinak, Chancellor; Robert Koncel, Treasurer; Archpriests James Dank and Alexander Garklavs; Priests Nicholas Finley, Herman Kincaid, and Benjamin Tucci; Protodeacon George Potym; and Mary Ann Bobulsky, Ellyn Gillette, Robert Graban, Simeon Morbey, and Carrie Sabourin. Bishop’s Council members in attendance included Archpriests Theodore Bobosh, Andrew Clements, Alexander Kuchta, Timothy Sawchak, and Paul Wesche.

Also in attendance was Philip Sokolov, Bishop Paul’s Secretary.

Absent were Archpriest John Matusiak, Secretary, and Dennis Garlick.

## III. SCRIPTURE READINGS.

Mary Ann Bobulsky read the day’s selection from the Epistles – 1 Timothy 6:17-21 – while Ellyn Gillette read the day’s Gospel reading – Luke 20:9-18. Bishop Paul and Fathers Zdinak, Wesche and Tucci offered reflections on the Epistle’s passages, “avoid the godless chatter” and “the life which is life indeed.”

## IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING AND ASSEMBLY.

Father Zdinak, on behalf of the Diocesan Council, noted two revisions to the minutes as presented, which were then accepted as revised upon motion by Mr. Graban and Father Finley.

## V. BISHOP PAUL’S REPORT.

Bishop Paul reported that the virtual youth retreat held 16 November 2018 was very successful, and the technology employed was greatly improved after the first effort. There were ample groups from Chicago, Minneapolis and Kansas City. Bishop Paul raised the possibility of holding the next retreat during the day on a Saturday, which could increase participation. He shared his hope that a Diocesan Youth Liaison will soon be engaged.

Bishop Paul stated that he is very happy with the Family Website, to which new content is continually being added.

It was announced that Mason Baker will serve as Bishop Paul’s *keleinik* [driver and subdeacon]. He will be working two days each week [12 hours] as the “Compliance Clerk” and will accompany Bishop Paul on about 75% of his weekend trips.

## VI. CHANCELLOR’S REPORT.

Father Zdinak reported on his work with Chicago’s Christ the Savior Church in the ongoing property transition process.

## VII. DEANERY REPORTS.

A. **Chicago Deanery.** Father Kuchta reported on the situation of Saint Elizabeth Mission, Chesterton, IN. The faithful look forward to Archpriest William Bass’ return.

B. **Cleveland Deanery.** Father Clements reported on the transition at Saint Gregory of Nyssa Church, Columbus, OH.

Priest Matthew Moriak has completed his CPE training and has acquired a full-time position. Priest Stephen Frase will become the parish’s Rector.

With regard to Saints Peter and Paul Church, Lakewood, OH, the faithful expressed their wish to have Archpriest Yaroslav Stebelsky, who has been serving as a supply priest, to be named Rector. Bishop Paul noted that he wishes to see the parish adopt the uniform Bylaws first.

Father Clements related the untimely deaths of Protodeacon Dennis and Helen Lucak, for whom all remain in mourning.

C. **Indianapolis Deanery.** Father Bobosh reported that during 2019, Bishop Paul will likely ordain deacons for Dayton and Indianapolis. In January 2019, a Deanery teleconference with Bishop Paul will be held to discuss the role of deacons in the parish. It was requested that the proceedings be recorded and made available in the future.

D. **Kansas City Deanery.** Father Sawchak reported on his visit, with Bishop Paul, to Saint Michael Church, Saint Louis, MO, with regard to a possible transition involving Archpriest Christopher Phillips. He added words of deep gratitude for Father Christopher’s efforts in the parish, especially with regard to the physical repairs made to the parish property.

Father Sawchak further reported that Archpriest Andrew Moore of Saint Thomas Church, Springfield, MO, will be relocating to Great Falls, MT on 1 March 2019 due to his wife’s job transfer.

E. **Minneapolis Deanery.** Father Wesche reported that Holy Resurrection Mission, Fargo, ND and Saint Elizabeth Mission, Saint Paul, MN should be ready to transition to parish status in the next few years. A building has been acquired in Fargo where, under the leadership of Priest William Rettig, the community was “bursting at the seams” in its former location. Under the leadership of Archpriest Marc Boulos, Saint

Elizabeth's also has purchased a new church building.

Father Wesche added that Saint Peter the Aleut Church, Minot, ND is striving for greater visibility under the leadership of Archpriest Stacey Richter, as is Saint Nicholas Mission, Pella, IA, where Archpriest Bartholomew Wojcik is Rector. Three Holy Hierarchs Mission, Dundas, MN, has moved into a new building, although a number of faithful members have moved out of the area. He also offered an update on Holy Myrrhbearers Chapel, Saint Cloud, MN. Father Wesche also commended Priest Hermann Klarr for his excellent work at Holy Assumption Church, Lublin, WI.

With regard to FOCUS Minnesota, Father Wesche reported that under the leadership of Matushka Vera Proctor, property has been acquired. FOCUS provides free hot meals and clothing to the neighborhood, maintains a mobile clinic, and is working in partnership with local Native American communities.

**VIII. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT.**

Mr. Graban reported that Archpriest Alexander Rentel has been appointed Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, effective 1 January 2019. A search for a new Treasurer was recently opened and announced on the OCA website. Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, Secretary, will remain in his position until after Pascha 2019. He added that His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon wanted the new Chancellor to be part of the selection process for the other two officer positions.

**VIX. TREASURER'S REPORT.**

Mr. Koncel reported that diocesan income and expenses are in line with the budget.

There was some discussion of the possibility of using the "Archbishop Job Memorial Scholarship Fund" to help send prospective students to seminary open houses. Bishop Paul stressed the importance of identifying candidates for theological study. Father Kincaid opined that perhaps the Fund could be used to sponsor local events to foster educational opportunities, such as choir director workshops. Father Tucci was asked to develop a protocol for allocating said funds.

**X. DIOCESAN WEBSITE.**

Carrie Sabourin reported that the idea was to "start from scratch," for which she requested a budget of \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00. Archpriest John Shroedel offered to host the site and help with technical details. Priest Joel Wilson and Phil Tesar both have proposals that are being considered. The goal is to begin the project after the new year and complete all tasks by the end of June. Mr. Graban suggested consulting with the OCA Chancery and the Dioceses of the South and the West, as well as our current host, Orthodox Web Solutions.

The meeting reconvened at 12:27 p.m. after a break for lunch.

**XI. STEWARDSHIP WORKING GROUP REPORT.**

Mr. Morbey reviewed the Parish Proportional Giving Policy. He clarified that "Restricted Money" refers to donations designated "by the donor." It was agreed that the annual deadline for Parish Financial Worksheets be set for 1 July. Upon motion by Father Tucci, seconded by Mary Ann Bobulsky, the Policy was approved as presented. Upon motion by Father Finley, seconded by Father Dank, the Stewardship Working Group was dissolved. Father Zdinak thanked Mr. Morbey and his coworkers for their excellent work.

**XII. KENYA FUNDRAISER REPORT.**

In a written report, Priest Jonathan Lincoln noted that we cannot raise funds for Kenya if they do not have a definite plan in place to build the medical center, which of necessity should include a targeted sum required to initiate and complete the project. Bishop Paul shared his concern with regard to the sustainability of the clinic, especially with regard to ongoing staffing. Father Zdinak suggested that we address His Grace, Bishop Neofitos' concern with helping to provide general financial support to his clergy. It was the unanimous opinion of those present that the Diocese of the Midwest should not build the medical clinic. Bishop Paul noted that he wishes the fundraising team under Father Lincoln's leadership remain intact in order to address future charitable work and projects.

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS.**

Upon motion by Father Kincaid, seconded by Father Dank, it was decided that in light of the recent report of the OCA Treasurer, the Diocese of the Midwest recommends that the surplus from the 19th All-American Council be used to defray the cost of delegates from Alaska and Mexico and the Youth Program at the 20th All-American Council. The Diocesan Council also expressed its deep gratitude to the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church, Madison, IL for its exemplary "ground work" for the 19th All-American Council.

**XIV. NEXT MEETING.**

The date for the next meeting of the Diocesan Council was set for 21 May 2019.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned upon motion by Mr. Morbey, seconded by Mr. Graban, at 2:11 p.m. with the singing of the Hymn to the Theotokos.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Mr. Philip Sokolov with Archpriest John Matusiak, Diocesan Secretary*