

MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST
Archangel Michael Woodside Event Center, Broadview Heights, Ohio • 7 October 2019

I. OPENING.

The meeting opened with the singing of the Lord's Prayer and the blessing of food by His Grace, Bishop Paul at 1:00 p.m. Lunch was enjoyed by all.

II. ATTENDANCE.

Present: His Grace, Bishop Paul; Archpriest John Zdinak, Chancellor; Robert Koncel, Treasurer.

Council Members: Archpriests James Dank and Alexander Garklavs, Priest Herman Kincaid, Protodeacon George Potym, Mary Ann Bobulsky, Dennis Garlick, Ellyn Gillette, Robert Graban, Simeon Morbey, and Carrie Sabourin.

Deans: Archpriests Alexander Kuchta, Andrew Clements, Timothy Sawchak, Dusan Koprivica, Paul Wesche, and Priest Joel Weir.

Philip Sokolov, Bishop's Secretary.

Priest Joel Wilson, designer of the new Diocesan website.

Absent: Priests Nicholas Finley and Benjamin Tucci.

III. SCRIPTURE READINGS.

1:40 p.m. "O Heavenly King" was sung following lunch.

Carrie Sabourin - Ephesians 1:22-2:3.

Mary Ann Bobulsky - Luke 7:36-50.

His Grace offered reflections.

IV. NOMINATIONS OF ASSEMBLY POSITIONS.

It was agreed to offer up the following individuals to serve at the Assembly:

Presidium: Fr. John Zdinak

Secretariat: Philip Sokolov, Ellyn Gillette and Fr. Herman Kincaid

Nominations: Fr. Dusan Koprivica, Carrie Sabourin and Mary Ann Bobulsky

Tellers: Deacons, chaired by Protodeacon George Potym

Credentials Committee: Mary Jane Lucak

Resolutions Committee: Fr. Alessandro Margheritino, Fr. Nicholas Finley and Robert Graban

V. BISHOP'S REPORT.

Highlighted a few areas from his Assembly report:

1. The biggest trouble we are facing is to find more candidates for seminary. We anticipate many openings in parishes, plus we must be able to plant new missions.
2. His Grace is very excited about the revamping of the webpage.
3. It is always ideal in an area when there is only one Orthodox church that is "THE Orthodox Church" which is attended by all people of all ethnicities. Holy Resurrection Church in Fargo, ND, which just celebrated its 10th anniversary and was elevated to full parish, is one such.
4. His Grace's health is improved, but he still does travel a lot. But he does enjoy parish visits.

VI. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT.

Highlighted the progress toward Christ the Savior Chicago resolution.

VII. DEANERY REPORTS.

Chicago. Fr. Alexander Kuchta reported that the deanery clergy support the establishment of the Aurora, IL mission (cf. Mission Committee Report).

Cleveland. Fr. Andrew Clements – Report stands as submitted.

Indianapolis. Fr. Joel Weir – Report stands as submitted.

Kansas City. Fr. Timothy Sawchak – The three remaining people at Desloge parish submitted motion to close the parish.

Michigan. Fr. Dusan Koprivica – Report stands as submitted.

Minneapolis. Fr. Paul Wesche – Report stands as submitted.

VIII. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT.

Report stands as submitted.

IX. RESOLUTION ON CHRIST THE SAVIOR CHURCH.

Fr. Zdinak suggested Rob Koncel present the budget as if the resolution will pass, but not vote on the budget. We then vote on the resolution. A vote in favor of the resolution will also accept the budget. If resolution fails, Rob will have to present the alternate budget, followed by a second vote.

X. BUDGET PRESENTATION.

Mr. Koncel reviewed the major changes to the budget - highlighted the added Rent expense of \$12K, but the much lower Utilities cost.

He pointed out the \$40K Special Projects Fund, which was created last year as a cushion; we were unsure what our income was going to be because we weren't sure how many parishes were going to request relief. For 2019, a total of 9 parishes requested relief. So the Special Projects Fund covered that. For 2020, the Finance Committee met on 9/25 to review 11 relief requests. 6 were repeat requests, 5 were new. We approved 8 and denied 3 (but even these denials are going to be reviewed before they are finalized, to make sure we are fair). Budget reflects the expected income which takes into account the 8 parishes which are permitted a lower percentage tithe.

At our last meeting we voted to put \$5K towards Mother Maria of Paris Charitable Ministry - that had been something that had not been budgeted and is an example of something that could come out of the Special Projects Fund.

His Grace took issue with the Budget where it says background checks are about "\$700 each". Mr. Sokolov clarified that that's the average cost for an "invoice" which covers as many as 25 background checks. Usually the Diocese is only responsible for Clergy (priests-deacons) background checks; all others get reimbursed by the parishes. It was agreed that the Background Checks estimate in the Budget was too high.

An addition/correction to the budget which is in the Delegate Handbook is being posted separately on the webpage.

MOTION: Koncel/Graban to submit this revised budget and the alternate budget to the Assembly. Motion passed.

At the urging of Simeon Morbey, it was agreed that we change the name of the Special Projects Fund to "Financial Reserves", and the purpose in Fiscal Year 2020 will be for covering shortfall from financial relief granted to parishes, or for other projects approved by Diocesan Council with the blessing of His Grace.

Simeon Morbey also mentioned that the "\$70,000 savings" that is mentioned in the "historical context" document will not be reflected in 2021 because of moving costs and mortgage paydown.

MOTION: Morbey/Graban that the finance committee come up with an investment policy/strategy by the summer meeting in 2020. Motion passed.

XI. WEBSITE REVAMP.

Presented by Carrie Sabourin and Fr. Joel Wilson

First phase is to take the content on the old website and import it into a WordPress content management system. Second phase is looking at how the website will be a tool for the website, more than the content repository it is now. There would be a need for an individual to maintain the website (content manager), perhaps even full time. His Grace thanked them for their hard work.

XII. NEW BUSINESS.

His Grace, Bishop Paul appointed Fr. Herman as Diocesan Secretary. Fr. Andrew Bartek, as alternate, will serve the remainder of Fr. Herman's Diocesan Council Clergy Delegate term.

Fr. Alexander Garklavs requested to be relieved of his duties on Metropolitan Council, therefore the position falls to Fr. Elijah Mueller, alternate. Fr. Alexander commended Robert Graban as an excellent representative for the Diocese.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the singing of "O Heavenly King" upon motion by Mr. Garlick, seconded by Mr. Morbey at 4:21pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Philip Sokolov with Priest Herman Kincaid, Diocesan Secretary*