

MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST
Virtual Meeting via Zoom • 2 December 2020

I. OPENING.

The meeting opened with at 5:11pm CST with the singing of “O Heavenly King”. Archbishop PAUL officially called the meeting to order.

II. ATTENDANCE.

Present: His Eminence, Archbishop Paul; Archpriest John Zdinak, Chancellor; Priest Herman Kincaid, Secretary; Robert Koncel, Treasurer.

Council Members: Archpriests James Dank, Elijah Mueller, Andrew Bartek, and Benjamin Tucci; Priest Jacob Van Sickle, Protodeacon George Potym, Ellyn Gillette, Robert Graban, Kenneth Herman, Simeon Morbey, Carrie Sabourin, and Mary Ann Bobulsky.

Deans: Archpriests Alexander Kuchta, Timothy Sawchak, Dusan Koprivica, and Joel Weir.

Philip Sokolov, Secretary to the Archbishop.

Guest: Archpriest Paul Jannakos.

Absent: Archpriests Andrew Clements, Paul Wesche.

III. OPENING STATEMENT BY ARCHBISHOP PAUL.

1. His Eminence welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation in the Bill Marianes retreat. He also announced that Fr. Paul Jannakos will be appointed Chancellor on February 1, 2021. His Eminence thanked Fr. John Zdinak for his many faithful years of service to the Diocese. Many years!
2. His Eminence reflected upon the Bill Marianes retreat. He expressed concern for implementing Bill’s ideas given the nature of council members being volunteers. Very pleased with the retreat overall. Asked feedback from Council members about the retreat. Positive feedback overall. The importance of keeping to deadlines and accountability was emphasized. Timelines are determined by the council teams. A little apprehension about the “corporate world” feel of the ideas. Do these ideas resonate with “Church”? **MOTION:** To have Finance Committee work with Fr. Paul Jannakos to compensate Bill Marianes for his work with the Diocese. Moved by Simeon Morbey, Seconded Fr. Herman Kincaid. 15 Yes, 1 No. Motion Passed.
3. More leeway has been given to parishes about Covid precautions according to their capacity and local conditions. Almost 100% masking when visiting churches. Trusting clergy to make the decisions that are best for their parishes.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

Two sets of Minutes: September 15th & October 5th: Correction - Fr. Andrew Bartek as Archpriest in September minutes. Motion to accept as amended: Fr. Herman Kincaid, seconded by Fr. Andrew Bartek. Motion passed.

V. DEANERY REPORTS.

1. **Chicago.** Fr. Alexander Kuchta reporting. Two transitions: Fr. Elijah is the new rector at Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Milwaukee, and Fr. Phillip Maikkula is assigned to St. Makarios Mission in Hyde Park. Increased rates of people exposed to Covid. Cancelled Deanery Youth Winter Camp this year.
2. **Cleveland.** Fr. John Zdinak reporting. Still in search of rector for St. Theodosius in Cleveland. St. Innocent Church, Olmsted Falls, Fr. Margheritino will in the next 6-7 months be moving to take a position with the OCA Chancery. His Eminence has a candidate in mind for that parish. Two parishes in Cleveland Deanery were closed for 2

weeks due to Coronavirus: St. John in Warren and St. John in Campbell. Russell Harvischak in Campbell reposed. 50th Anniversary of OCA service and presentation (by Fr. Alexander Garklavs) will be streamed from St. Nicholas Church in Mogadore.

3. **Indianapolis.** Fr. Joel Weir reporting. Things are relatively quiet. Churches are open. Still have vacancy in Lima, Ohio. Two outreaches happening during Covid – South Bend, Indiana, and Muncie, Indiana.
4. **Kansas City.** Fr. Timothy Sawchak reporting. Transition at Archangel Michael in St. Louis, a graduate from St. Tikhon’s coming in in May. Fr. Christopher Phillips will be retiring. Mother Alexandra moved into the monastery in Marshfield which is now known as Holy Resurrection. She is starting to do candles now. This weekend, Ash Grove is suspending services due to a COVID thing.
5. **Michigan.** Fr. Dusan Koprova reporting. Nothing new to report. All parishes open. ODO is still feeding people with serving lunch. Philanthropic work is still being down by parishes. High unemployment with state lockdowns.
6. **Minneapolis.** Fr. John Zdinak reporting. Minot still in need of priest. St. Cloud well under Fr. Andrew Jaye. Chapel in Bemidji without priest. Fr. Ted Wojcik and wife now fully retired and moved to Pella, Iowa.
7. **Fr. John Zdinak:** It has been a blessing and an honor. I want to thank HE for relieving me. It has been a joy, it has been one of the better parts of my ministry, operating on the Diocesan levels. I thank the Deans and the Diocesan Council for all their works. For Rob, whom I have worked with all these years, thank you for supporting my ministry in the Diocese.

VI. TREASURER.

1. Reviewed P&L through screen sharing. Highlighted “Special Contributions” of \$200,000. \$100,000 grant from Greater Horizons for Buckner Cemetery up keep. \$100,000 donation for monastery purchase. \$242,700 in checking as of today. \$100,000 dedicated for Buckner Cemetery and Monastery purchase. Finances are sound for this time of year. \$37,000 was transferred out of Mission Endowment into Mission Projects fund. Will transfer \$100,000 to new Perpetual Care Fund (Cemetery) and remaining Monastery Funds to New Monastery Fund before end of year. (See three notes on Rob’s report.) (See attachment G, pages 1, 2, 3.) (Attachment H, pages 1, 2.) (Last page as well, p. 17.) Archbishop PAUL: Holy Resurrection Monastery is now incorporated. Bylaws will be approved soon. Committee to discuss seminarian scholarships: Archbishop PAUL, Fr. Paul Jannakos, Fr. Herman Kincaid, Mr. Robert Koncel, Fr. Elijah Mueller, and Philip Sokolov.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

1. At the request of Archbishop PAUL, the Council moved into executive session to discuss a private matter pertaining to Fr. John Zdinak’s retirement.

VIII. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES’ REPORT.

1. OCA property for \$6.5 million. Received \$5.5 million cash offer. Attorney has been retained to deal with negotiations and potential contracts.
2. All-American Council is moved to July of 2022. If negotiations don’t go well with hotel in Baltimore, Dallas has been proposed as an alternative.

IX. OLD BUSINESS.

1. None.

X. NEW BUSINESS.

1. None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned upon motion Mr. Koncel, seconded by Fr. Mueller, at 7:31pm CST. Philip intoned “It is truly meet”.

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