

MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST
Archangel Michael Woodside Event Center, Broadview Heights, Ohio • 11 October 2021

I. OPENING.

The meeting opened with “The Grace of the Holy Spirit” by His Eminence, Archbishop Paul at 3:07pm.

II. ATTENDANCE.

His Eminence, Archbishop Paul; Archpriest Paul Jannakos, Chancellor; Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Secretary. Council Members: Archpriests Andrew Bartek, James Dank, Elijah Mueller; Priest Jacob Van Sickle; Protodeacon George Potym; Mary Ann Bobulsky, Ellyn Gillette, Robert Graban, Simeon Morbey, and Carrie Sabourin. Deans: Archpriests Andrew Clements, Timothy Sawchak, Dusan Koprivica, Paul Wesche, and Joel Weir.

Absent: Archpriest Benjamin Tucci and Mr. Robert Koncel, Treasurer.

Guests: Priest Alexander Koranda, Director of Communications; Philip Sokolov, Archbishop’s Secretary, and Jennifer Sawchak.

III. SCRIPTURE READINGS.

Ephesians 1:22-2:3 & Luke 7:36-50. A discussion followed.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING.

No corrections received.

V. ARCHBISHOP’S REPORT.

1. Visitation to parishes continues and is going well. His Eminence reviewed his travel schedule.
2. Mr. Joe Jenkins, a parishioner of St. Luke Church in Palos Hills, was recently hired to drive His Eminence for parish visitations.

VI. CHANCELLOR’S REPORT.

1. No additions to his written report.
2. Noted that he is still learning the position of Chancellor and thanks Fr. John Zdinak for his guidance.

VII. PRESENTATION.

Philip Sokolov and Jennifer Sawchak presented an overview of the St. Andrew of Crete music ministry and offered a budget to fund their efforts. Questions and answers followed.

VIII. BUDGET PRESENTATION.

Robert Graban presented the 2020 financial report and 2021 budget on behalf of Robert Koncel, Treasurer, who was unable to attend the meeting. Simeon Morbey noted that the transition to proportional giving by parishes has gone well. Simeon Morbey, on behalf of the Finance Committee, also noted that the funds received by the Diocese from the Paycheck Protection Program were used for their program specified intentions (i.e., payroll expenses), and that an equal dollar amount was used to retire the Christ the Savior mortgage. No funds received from the Paycheck Protection Program were used to retire the mortgage.

IX. ENDOWMENT REPORT.

Nothing new to report.

X. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES’ REPORT.

1. Written report is included in the delegate handbook.
2. The Syosset property is still for sale.
3. Robert Graban discussed the OCA Pension Plan status. His Eminence, Archbishop Paul, is the liaison to the Holy Synod for the Pension Board.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS.

In addition to his written report, Priest Alexander Koranda reported that weekly emails from the diocese continue to go out. Postings to the diocesan website also continue. Parishes are encouraged to submit articles and photos for website posting.

XII. OLD BUSINESS.

A presentation and discussion occurred regarding the Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund (OCCIF). His Eminence asked the Council members to consider the Diocese’s potential investment participation in this program prior to their December 3, 2021, meeting.

XIII. DEANERY REPORTS.

1. **Chicago.** Fr. Alexander Kuchta, who was unable to attend, included a written report in the delegate handbook.
2. **Kansas City.** Fr. Timothy Sawchak – Prayers are requested for Fr. Moses Barry, and Fr. Michael Kuzara. A foundation within the deanery will award annual grants to each parish for mission work, beginning in January of 2022, in the amount of \$3,000 to \$5,000 each.
3. **Indianapolis.** Fr. Joel Weir – Fr. Joshua Coolman was assigned to the Lima, Ohio, parish. Life within the deanery is returning to normal following the pandemic. Fr. Joseph Gibson fell asleep in the Lord earlier this year. Memory eternal! There are two potential outreach efforts in both Muncie and South Bend, Indiana.
4. **Michigan.** Fr. Dusan Koprofica – Reports that the pandemic had a very negative effect on the clergy and faithful of the deanery. Parishes were labeled “non-essential” by government entities. His Eminence suggested the Clergy Peer Group program and/or Thriving Ministries for clergy.
5. **Minneapolis.** Fr. Paul Wesche – Priests are showing strong commitment to the Church. St. Cloud community is back to Mission status and doing very well. The parish in Minot, North Dakota is still without an assigned priest.

XIV. NOMINATIONS OF ASSEMBLY POSITIONS.

It was agreed to forward to the Assembly the nomination of the following individuals:

Presidium: His Eminence, Archbishop Paul, and Fr. Paul Jannakos.

Secretariat: Ellyn Gillette and Mary Ann Bobulsky, with Fr. Herman Kincaid, ex officio.

Nominations Committee: Fr. Joel Wier, Fr. Christopher Rowe, Fr. Benjamin Tucci, Kathy Jacobs.

Tellers/Credentials: Deacons attending the Assembly.

Resolutions Committee: Simeon Morbey and Fr. Jacob Van Sickle.

MOTION to forward the nominations to the Assembly: Mary Ann Bobulsky. Unanimous. PASSED.

XV. NEW BUSINESS.

His Eminence noted that Archangel Michael parish in Burbank, Illinois, voted in March to sell the church and hall buildings, leading to a merger with St. John of Chicago Chapel in New Lenox, Illinois. This plan has not materialized. The parish will meet on October 18, 2021, to vote to close the parish. The Diocese will most likely take over the parish assets.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the singing of “It is truly meet” upon motion by Fr. Jacob Van Sickle, seconded by Simeon Morbey at 5:09pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Diocesan Secretary*