

MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST
St. Peter & St. Paul Orthodox Church, Burr Ridge, Illinois • 2 October 2023

I. OPENING PRAYER.

The meeting opened with the singing of “O Heavenly King” and blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop DANIEL, at 3:07pm.

II. ATTENDANCE.

A. Officers: His Eminence, Archbishop DANIEL; Archpriest Paul Jannakos, Chancellor; Priest Esteban Vazquez, Vice Chancellor; Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Secretary; Robert Koncel, Treasurer.

B. Delegates: Archpriests Christopher Rowe, Zachariah Trent, Nicholas Wyslutsky; Priests Jacob Van Sickle, Basil Furgeson; Ellyn Gillette, Lisa Franks, Angela Zekios, Elizabeth LaMaster, Mary Ann Bobulsky.

C. Metropolitan Council Representatives: Archpriest John Baker and Robert Graban.

D. Deans: Archpriests Alexander Kuchta, Andrew Clements, Dusan Koprivica, Paul Wesche, Timothy Sawchak, Steven Kostoff.

E. Guests: Archpriest John Dresko.

III. SCRIPTURAL MEDITATIONS.

Ephesians 4:25-32 and Luke 6:24-30 were read by Archpriest John Baker. Members shared reflections and discussion on the topic of righteous anger.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING.

Motion Trent/Graban. APPROVED.

V. OPERATIONAL REPORTS.

A. Archbishop DANIEL: Offered members a preview of his opening address for the assembly, emphasizing the good works of the diocese. His Eminence discussed positive travels to parishes, increased enrollment from the diocese to seminary studies, and future vocations. A three-day retreat was held in Chicago over the summer for current seminarians to form community and deepen their commitment to the diocese. Introduced Fr. John Dresko from OCCIF.

B. Chancellor: The diocese overall is quite healthy with some hot spots. There are intentions to revisit and revamp our strategic plan. A diocesan pastoral school had its first exploratory meeting. Highlighted outreach efforts to the Dakotas.

C. Vice Chancellor: His Eminence offered gratitude to Fr. Esteban’s administrative skills within the chancery. Since June, operations are still in a case of “triage”. It is hoped that by January, a complete overhaul of chancery function will be completed, including development of operational manuals and standardization of functions.

D. Finance Committee: Offered by Robert Koncel. Eight requests were received for relief from diocesan assessments. One parish, St. Peter & St. Paul in Lorain, Ohio, asked for relief of debt due to prior maleficence by the former bookkeeper. The debt amounted to \$16,817.23. Motion from Finance Committee to forgive assessment debt from Lorain, Ohio. APPROVED.

E. Treasurer: Discussed proposed balanced budget for 2024. A reduction in percentage tithing to the OCA reduced by 2%. Increase in mission development grants and seminarian support. Increased all salaries/stipends by 3% (CPI based) for 2024. \$5,000 is being set aside to assist in expenses for the Suprasl World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth event to be held in Chicago in June of 2024. A bequest was received for \$50,000

to support seminarians from the diocese. Motion to recommend to the 62nd Diocesan Assembly adoption of the 2024 budget by Koncel/Rowe. PASSED.

- F. Metropolitan Council. See written report. Discussion was held regarding administration and structure of OCA pension plan.
- G. Communications. See written report. Discussion about Our Diocese app. Fr. Paul Jannakos reminded the council that this body approved a one-year pilot of the app. At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the diocese will not fund the app, and suggested a parish subscription-based plan.

VI. OLD BUSINESS.

- A. Office renovation and move. Fr. Esteban commented that the move was completed upon the sale of the Burbank property. Further, updates were given on the setup and operation of the office space within the chancery for current and future functions. Appropriate space is being investigated for permanent storage of the diocesan archives.
- B. Sale of Burbank property. Finance Committee is looking into short and long-term investing strategies for the realized funds.

VII. DEANERY REPORTS.

- A. Chicago. See written report. Correction: Fr. Joe Kopka is “slowly recovering”. Fr. John Segvich was elected as deanery treasurer. Fr. Esteban claimed responsibility for the late posting of the deanery report online.
- B. Cleveland. See written report. Fr. Andrew is retiring as of December 31st. New seminarian at St. Tikhon’s this Fall. Congratulations to Fr. Andrew from Fr. Paul Jannakos upon the retirement from his parish.
- C. Indianapolis. See written report. Parish growth in the deanery is going well.
- D. Kansas City. See written report.
- E. Michigan. See written report.
- F. Minneapolis. See written report.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS.

None.

IX. DATE OF NEXT DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING.

November 30-December 1, 2023, at St. Peter & St. Paul in Burr Ridge, Illinois.

X. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn Van Sickle. The meeting was adjourned at 4:53pm with the singing of “It is truly meet” and a blessing by His Eminence.

Respectfully submitted,
Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Diocesan Secretary