

MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Saint Michael Woodside Center, Broadview Heights, Ohio • Wednesday, 11 October 2017

I. OPENING

The meeting opened with the singing of “O Heavenly King” led by His Grace, Bishop Paul, at 2:06 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE.

Present were Bishop Paul; Archpriest John Zdinak, Diocesan Chancellor; Mr. Robert Koncel, Treasurer; Archpriests John Adamcio, James Dank, Alexander Kuchta, and Elijah Mueller; Priest Nicholas Finley; Mr. James Emrick; Mr. Dennis Garlick; Ms. Ellyn Gillette; Mr. Robert Graban; and Mr. Simeon Morbey. Also present from the Bishop’s Council were Archpriests Theodore Bobosh, Andrew Clements, Thomas Mueller, Timothy Sawchak, Paul Wesche and Andrew Yavornitzky; and Mr. Philip Sokolov, Bishop’s Secretary. Absent were Archpriests Alexander Garklavs and John Matusiak, Secretary, and Mr. Barry Gluntz.

III. SCRIPTURE READINGS.

Mr. Morbey read the day’s selection from the Epistles – Philippians 1:12-20 – while Father Adamcio read the day’s Gospel reading – Luke 8:22-25. Reflections were offered by Bishop Paul and Father Yavornitzky.

IV. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

The minutes of the 8 June 2017 meeting were accepted with one correction – in 7 F, “was” was changed to “has” – upon motion by Father Adamcio, seconded by Mr. Garlick.

V. NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS FOR DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY.

The following were nominated and appointed to the designated offices.

Credentials: Archpriest John Memorich and staff.

Presidium: Bishop Paul and Father Zdinak.

Secretariat: Ms. Gillette, Mr. Graban, and Mr. Sokolov.

Nominating Committee: Father Clements, Priest Joel Weir, Ms. Marge Oliver.

Resolutions Committee: Father Sawchak.

Tellers: All deacons, chaired by the senior deacon.

VI. BY-LAWS.

It was stated that the By-Laws Task Force is working on revising the Diocesan By-Laws, bringing them into conformity with the recently revised Statute of the Orthodox Church in America.

VII. 2018 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY.

It was stated that the 2018 Diocesan Assembly would be held in Chicago or Cleveland, but not in conjunction with the 19th All-American Council. The 2018 Assembly, which will follow the usual one-day format, will deal with two major items – the revision of the Diocesan By-Laws and the Stewardship Proposal. Details on these two issues will be made available well in advance. In a related matter, Mr. Morbey discussed the Stewardship Proposal as it currently stands.

VIII. CHRIST THE SAVIOR CHURCH, CHICAGO.

Father Zdinak noted that the faithful of Chicago’s Christ the Savior Church have increased their contribution significantly. He listed the parish’s property expenditures for repair of the flat roof [\$8,000.00/2013], upgrade of the courtyard [\$18,000.00/2014], tuck pointing [\$22,000.00/2016-2017], residence and church remodeling, including first floor kitchen stairway, third floor bathroom, church basement [Church school rooms, storage and archive room, enclosing residence back stairway for storage] [\$60,000.00/2007-2015], iconography [\$160,000.00/2009-2015], iconostasis [\$40,000.00], altar windows [\$10,000.00/2016-2017], and boiler upgrades, traps and insulation [\$2,100.00/2016]. He further reported that at the parish’s annual meeting in September funds were approved to fix the four dormers on the church [\$11,000.00] and to strip, paint, seal and cover with lexon the large stained glass window on the north side of the building [\$31,000.00]. The parishioners’ goal is to take full responsibility for the property within a reasonable period of time.

IX. TREASURER’S AND AUDITORS’ REPORTS.

Mr. Koncel presented his written report, which stands as submitted. He noted that workers’ comp is high but in line with rates in Illinois, which tend to be high.

Upon motion by Mr. Koncel, seconded by Father Finley, “Funds in excess of \$500,000.00 from the Diocesan Parish/ Mission Development Fund may be utilized for mission work within the Diocese of the Midwest. The final determination of fund distribution shall be per the recommendation of the Mission Department Coordinator in concurrence with the Finance Committee and with the approval of the Diocesan Bishop.” Motion carried.

The 2018 budget was approved upon motion by Mr. Koncel, seconded by Father Dank.

In related discussion, Bishop Paul noted that the Diocese will be assessed for the 19th All-American Council and that it should be reported at the Assembly that another invoice is expected, for which the Diocese will invoice the parishes.

With regard to the Auditors’ Report, “all went well.” A document retention policy has been embraced, but it was noted that “we need it in a form that shows it had been passed and that it is indeed our policy.” The Diocese needs to request the accountant to do the reconciliation on a monthly basis. A procedure regarding follow-up on unchased checks also needs to be embraced.

In response to an enquiry by Bishop Paul, it was agreed that the Diocese should identify someone capable of writing grant proposals, or willing to learn to do so. Father Elijah Mueller and Father Finley will work to identify candidates.

X. NEXT MEETINGS.

The next meeting of the Bishop's Council will be held on November 28, 2018, with the next Diocesan Council meeting will be held the following day. Both meetings will take place at Chicago Midway.

XI. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Garlick, second by Mr. Morbey.

Respectfully submitted/ Mr. Philip Sokolov with Archpriest John Matusiak, Secretary