

KIPRIAN, Archbishop of Philadelphia
and Pennsylvania

MINUTES OF THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA
HELD ON JUNE 30, 1973 AT ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY/SEMINARY--SOUTH CANAAN, PA.

THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA •
INCLUDING THE DEANERIES OF FRACKVILLE, PHILADELPHIA AND WILKES-BARRE WAS HELD
JUNE 30, 1973 AT ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY/SEMINARY, SOUTH CANAAN, PA.

An opening Molieben was served by The V. Rev. Vladimir Borichevsky of St.
Tikhon's Seminary, and immediately following the delegates assembled in the
seminary auditorium and the meeting was officially opened with the prayer,
"O Heavenly King", at 10:40 a.m.

The delegates' attendance record is attached to these minutes and made a
part thereof. The number in attendance was as follows:

	24 priest delegates
	21 lay delegates
	3 priest guests
	1 lay guest
	3 Diocesan Council members
+	<u>2 bishops</u>
	56 TOTAL

The Agenda which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof was
read by The Rev. Daniel Donlick.

ELECTION OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

Fr. Vladimir Borichevsky, Lake Ariel, Pa., was nominated for the office of
Vice-President. Fr. Borichevsky was elected Vice-President of the Assembly
(clergy).

Mr. Paul Semanco, St. Clair, Pa., was nominated for the office of Lay
Vice-President. The nomination was closed and Mr. Semanco was elected Lay
Vice-President.

Fr. Joseph Martin, McAdoo, Pa., was nominated for the office of Clergy
Secretary. Fr. Martin was elected.

Mr. Russell Dugan was nominated for the office of Lay Secretary and was
elected to that office.

The minutes of the last meeting held on July 8, 1972 were distributed.
Correction to the minutes was made. The correction was: "Fr. Fedoronko
was not in attendance at the meeting." A motion was made by Fr. Slepecky
and seconded by Fr. Petorak to accept the minutes with the correction. The
motion was passed.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN ARCHBISHOP

The Archbishop's report was distributed to the delegates. It is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's report was distributed to the delegates. It is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof. Fr. Joseph Gallick made a motion to accept the report and Fr. Rodion Kondratich seconded the motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The report was distributed to the Assembly. It is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

Additional to the Treasurer's report: St. John the Baptist Church of Edwardsville, which was inundated by the waters of the flood received a check in the amount of \$2415.18.

Fr. Joseph Gallick made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; seconded by Mr. Harry Wansacz. Passed.

AUDITORS' REPORT

The Auditors reported that the books balanced. Motion to accept the report made by Fr. Joseph Gallick and seconded by Mr. Harry Wansacz.

OLD BUSINESS

Fr. John Kuchta, Rector of St. John's Church, Edwardsville, expressed the gratitude of the parish for establishing a flood relief fund and gift of \$2415.18.

It should be noted also that several of the Orthodox who received aid from the flood relief returned their check with a note of appreciation.

Mr. Nicholas Komernicky expressed thanks from Holy Ascension Church of Lykens for the donation sent to them from the flood relief.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

His Eminence at this time suggested that a committee be formed to select candidates for the Diocesan Council.

The following were appointed:

Fr. Vladimir Petorak
Russell Tatusko

Fr. Claude Vinyard
Eugene Grabousky

Constantine Spyrou

A motion to close the selection of members was made by Fr. John Kuchta and seconded by Mr. Harry Wansacz.

DEANERY REPORTS

The reports of the Wilkes-Barre and Frackville Deaneries are attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

There was no formal report from the Philadelphia Deanery since the Dean, Fr. Nowitsky, was ill.

PHILADELPHIA DEANERY

The court litigation between St. Michael's and St. Stephen's has been resolved.

A motion was made by Fr. Dan Ressetar to form a commission to evaluate the situation in the Philadelphia Deanery and to report back to the Diocesan Council. Seconded by Fr. George Pawlush. Passed.

OTHER MATTERS

A report was given by His Grace, Bishop Herman concerning the financial crisis presently besetting the Orthodox Church in America. He reported as Chairman of the Task Force.

LUNCH 12:15-1:30 p.m.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Philadelphia Deanery

Fr. Nestor Geeza and Mr. Constantine Spyrou. Motion to close by Fr. Vladimir Petorak and seconded by Fr. Alexander Fedoronko.

Frackville Deanery

Fr. Joseph Martin and Mr. Russell Tatusko. Motion to close by Fr. Joseph Gallick and seconded by Fr. Andrew Slepecky.

Wilkes-Barre Deanery

Fr. George Pawlush and Mr. Russell Dugan. Motion to close by Fr. Rodion Kondratich and seconded by Mr. Harry Wansacz.

At-Large

Fr. Vladimir Borichevsky and Mr. Daniel Ziaya. Motion to close by Mr. William Conco and seconded by Mr. Frank Rusinko.

AUDITORS

Fr. Vladimir Petorak, Mr. Michael Yeosock, and Mr. Russ Rudawski. Motion to close by Mr. Russ Dugan and seconded by Fr. John Kuchta.

ECCLESIASTICAL COURT

Fr. Dan Ressetar, Fr. George Pawlush, Fr. Vladimir Borichevsky, Mr. Steve Pelak, Mr. Eugene Grabowsky, and Mr. Ted Pschick. Motion to close by Fr. John Kuchta; seconded by Harry Wansacz. Motion to accept the report by Fr. Andrew Slepecky and seconded by Mr. Russ Rudawski.

APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Fr. Daniel Donlick appointed Secretary of the Diocese.
Fr. Paul Ropitsky appointed Financial Secretary of the Diocese.

MISSIONARY REPORT: Fr. Dan Ressetar

Newspaper	\$229.54	
Postage	2.08	
Travel	+ 42.84	
	<u>274.46</u>	Total

These expenses were incurred during trips to Doylestown and Williamsport.

Question was asked concerning status of St. Andrew's Church, Dallas. This is currently being investigated by Fr. Kondratick.

DIOCESAN CENTER

The Assembly went on record as charging the Diocesan Council to take necessary action to take over the orphanage as a diocesan center. A motion to this effect was made by Mr. Russell Tatusko and seconded by Mr. Steve Pelak. Passed.

GROUP INSURANCE

Mr. Michael Yeosock made a motion to initiate both plans within the Diocese (Blue Cross and Blue Shield and the Prudential Life Insurance Plan), seconded by Mr. Russell Tatusko. Passed.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

At the suggestion of His Grace, Bishop Herman, an invitation has been extended to the National Church (Orthodox Church in America) to move the headquarters from New York to South Canaan. This was approved by the entire Assembly.

ALASKAN WALK

Fr. Vladimir Borichevsky gave a report concerning the recent Walk for Alaska held on Memorial Day. It was quite successful.

BUDGET

A motion was made by Mr. Constantine Spyrou and seconded by Fr. George Pawlush to accept the budget. It is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

A report was given concerning the forthcoming All American Council, and also concerning the financial crisis in the Orthodox Church in America.

NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING

June 22, 1974, was selected as the date of the next Diocesan Assembly meeting at South Canaan, Pennsylvania.

CLOSING REMARKS

Many Years was sung for Mr. Frank Rusinko in appreciation for his many years of devoted service on the Diocesan Council.

Many Years was sung for His Grace, Bishop Herman.

A motion to close the Assembly meeting was made by Fr. George Pawlush and seconded by Fr. Claude Vinyard. The meeting closed with prayer at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Joseph Martin
Russell Dugan

AGENDA FOR THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY
June 30, 1973

1. Opening Prayer
2. Election of two presiding officers for the Assembly:
 One lay--One priest.....Vice-President
 One lay--One priest.....Secretary
3. Roll Call
4. Reading of Agenda
5. Reading of the Minutes of the last Assembly
6. Report of the Diocesan Archbishop
7. Report of the Secretary
8. Report of the Treasurer
9. Auditors' Report
10. Old Business

SHORT RECESS

11. New Business:
 - (a) Election of Members of the Diocesan Council:
 Individual Deanery Representatives: one layman--one priest
 from each deanery
 Additional Members: one lay--one priest, at-large
 Election of Auditors. Election of Ecclesiastical Court.
 - (b) Deanery Reports (Written reports from each deanery to be distributed)
 - (c) Missionary Reports
 - (d) Group Insurance Plan
 - (e) Promotion of Diocesan Aims and Programs
 - (f) Other Matters
 1. The All-American Church Council (Sobor) 1973
 2. Diocesan Assembly date and length of meetings
12. Closing Prayer

ARCHPASTORAL ADDRESS OF HIS EMINENCE, THE MOST REVEREND KIPRIAN, ARCHBISHOP
OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA

Venerable Fathers and beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,
Members of the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of
Philadelphia and Pennsylvania:

CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST!

I greet all of you on this day of our Diocesan Assembly, in our Spiritual
Centre of Orthodoxy, the Monastery of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk.

Another year has passed since our last Diocesan Assembly and, thanks to
Almighty God, all is in order within our Diocese.

A great event in the life of our Church and Diocese took place on
10 February: the consecration of the Vicar Bishop of our Diocese, the
Rt. Rev. Herman. It was a great joy for me personally to participate in the
consecration to the episcopate of my helper and partner of eleven years. It
was likewise an honour for our Diocese, in which Vladyka Herman has served since
his ordination. And, due to the consecration of Bishop Herman, nearly every
parish in our Diocese received an episcopal visitation during this past
Lenten season.

Also, on 13 May, 1973, at St. Michael's Cathedral, Sitka, I participated
in the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Gregory Afonsky as Bishop
of Sitka. It was during the March meeting of the Holy Synod that Fr. George
Afonsky was nominated for consecration to the episcopate, to occupy the
then-vacant See of Sitka. On 30 March, he was tonsured a monk here at St.
Tikhon's Monastery by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Ireney, and given the name
Gregory, after St. Gregory the Theologian. On 1 April he was elevated to the
rank of archimandrite, and then the consecration itself took place in Sitka.

During February of this year, St. Herman's Pastoral School opened in Kenai,
Alaska. Metropolitan Vladimir, Archbishop of Berkeley, presided at the opening
ceremonies. The first semestre of the school was completed 15 May, and on that
occasion were present His Beatitude, Metropolitan Ireney and His Grace, Bishop
Gregory.

Important dates in the life of our Diocese included:

4 November, 1972,	on which date I consecrated the renovated Church of St. Andrew in Baltimore, which had been destroyed by fire.
11 March, 1973,	on which date Vladyka Herman broke ground for the new rectory of Holy Resurrection Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre.
3 June, 1973,	on which date Vladyka Herman and I blessed the new rectory of St. Michael's Church, Jermyn.
24 June, 1973,	on which date Vladyka Herman and I consecrated the renovated Church of St. John the Baptist, Edwardsville, which had been severely damaged during Tropical Storm Agnes.

Once again, on Holy Thursday, I presided at the ancient Service of Foot-Washing
here at our St. Tikhon's Monastery. Present with me at the Lord's Table were Vladyka
Herman and 28 priests of our Diocese.

Also at our Monastery, the annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage was held this year on 27 May, in connection with the 35th anniversary of St. Tikhon's Seminary. Besides Bishop Herman and myself, 4 other members of the Synod of Bishops were present: Metropolitan Ireney, Archbishop John (Chicago), Bishop Theodosius and Bishop Dmitri. This year's pilgrims had the opportunity to see and venerate the renowned Icon of Our Lady of Tikhvin.

Ordinations this year were as follows:

22 October, at St. Tikhon's Monastery, Fr. Michael Evans was ordained deacon by me.
29 October, at St. John the Baptist Church, Mayfield, I ordained Fr. Evans priest.
14 January, at St. Tikhon's Monastery, Fr. Joseph Chupeck was ordained deacon by me.
10 February, at Holy Resurrection Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, Vladyka Herman ordained Fr. Chupeck to the priesthood.
15 April, at St. John the Baptist Church, Mayfield, I ordained to the diaconate Fr. Dennis Swencki.
12 May, in Sitka, Alaska, Bishop Gregory ordained Fr. Eugene Bourdukofsky a deacon.
20 May, at St. Tikhon's Monastery, I ordained Fr. Panteleimon to the diaconate.
24 June, at St. John the Baptist Church, Edwardsville, I ordained to the diaconate Fr. Theodore Boback.

Also, this past year, Fr. Joseph Gallick was released as Rector of St. Vladimir's Church, Lopez, and appointed Rector of Holy Resurrection Church, Alden Station. Fr. Michael Evans was appointed Rector of St. Vladimir's Church, Lopez. Fr. Elias Krenitsky was released as Rector of St. Andrew's Church, Dallas (17 June), and Fr. Rodion Kondratich was assigned as Priest-in-Charge for that parish (1 July).

Last September, the V. Rev. Andrew Fedec, one of the oldest priests of our Diocese, and formerly Rector of Holy Ghost Church, Shenandoah, passed away. I presided at his funeral, assisted by the venerable clergy of our Diocese.

St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia, plans to build a new temple. The court case of long standing between this parish and St. Michael's Church is now over, with the unfortunate decision that all the money collected from both sides is now the property of St. Michael's Church, and St. Stephen's Church must pay this church the sum of \$38,000. As a consequence of the same court decision, however, St. Stephen's now has property of its own on Verree Road. The faithful of this church are most dedicated and energetic, and it is our hope that, with the help of God, this parish will be able to erect a new temple in the near future. The V. Rev. Alexander Fedoronko is Rector of St. Stephen's Church.

We are constantly labouring for the promotion and welfare of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, and that of the Orthodox Church in America. Only with the continued cooperation of the clergy and laity of our Diocese can we hope to be successful.

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