

MINUTES OF THE 16th DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY -- SEPTEMBER 14th and 15th, 1979

GUS GENETTI MOTOR LODGE - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

The 16th Annual Assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania of the Orthodox Church in America was held on September 14-15, 1979 at Gus Genetti Motor Lodge, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Following an Opening Molieben Service celebrated by His Eminence, Archbishop Kiprian, the Assembly was formally opened at 2:30 P.M. with the singing of "O Heavenly King."

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE. (Afternoon Registration)

The afternoon Registrations were as follows:

Hierarchs	- 2
Clergy	-29
Lay Delegates	-24
Auditors	- 1
Guests	- 3
Diocesan Council Member	- 1

ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY OFFICERS. Rev. Rodion Kondratick acted as Chairman for the election of Assembly officers. The following were elected to the indicated posts:

V. Rev. Daniel Ressetar	- Clergy Vice-Chairman
Rev. Joseph Gallick	- Clergy Secretary
Dr. Alexander Pianovich	- Lay Vice-Chairman
Mr. Gabriel Petorak	- Lay Secretary

AGENDA.

The Agenda was unanimously accepted as read upon motion by Rev. Dionysius Swencki and seconded by Rev. Rodion Kondratick.

1978 AGENDA MINUTES.

The Minutes of the 1978 Assembly were read privately. V. Rev. Daniel Donlick asked that page 2 under the Department of Missions concerning the Stroudsburg, Pocono Mission report be changed to read 7 families rather than 17 families. Upon motion made by Rev. Michael Hatrak and seconded by Rev. John Kowalczyk, the Minutes as corrected, were unanimously accepted.

ARCHBISHOP'S REPORT.

The written report of His Eminence, Archbishop Kiprian is attached to these Minutes and made a part thereof.

DIOCESAN SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The written report of the Diocesan Secretary, Rev. Rodion Kondratick, is attached to these Minutes and made a part thereof. Upon motion made by Rev. Dionysius Swencki and seconded by V. Rev. Vladimir Petorak, the Report was unanimously accepted.

DIOCESAN TREASURER'S REPORT.

The written report of the Diocesan Treasurer, Rev. Paul Ropitsky, is attached to these Minutes and made a part thereof. Upon motion made by V. Rev. W. B. Stroyen and seconded by Mr. Stephen Pelak, the Report was unanimously accepted.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The written report of the Diocesan Auditors, Rev. Michael Hatrak and Mr. Jerry Russin, is attached to the Minutes and made a part thereof. Upon motion made by Rev. David Lisko and seconded by V. Rev. Vladimir Petorak, the Report was unanimously accepted.

DEPARTMENT OF MISSIONS.

A written report of the Chairman of the Diocesan Department of Missions, His Grace, Bishop Herman, is attached to these Minutes and made a part thereof.

Detailed reports were given on the following Mission Parishes:

Holy Trinity Church - Stroudsburg-Pocono (V. Rev. Daniel K. Donlick)

The Mission has no property or permanent priest. Services are held in a vacant Roman Catholic Church. The heating loan of \$2,600.00 was repaid to the Diocese. The Diocese was also informed that they could discontinue the \$100.00 monthly allocation to the parish. A Building Fund has been established.

Holy Cross Church - Williamsport (Rev. Daniel Kovalak)

Divine Services are being held in the Episcopal Church. The parish now owns a parcel of ground valued at \$16,000.00. Funds are needed to construct a combination Church/Rectory. Recommendation: That a Special Mission Fund be established for the sole purpose of offering loans to newly established parishes and missions.

Following a general discussion, upon motion made by Mr. Jerry Russin and seconded by Rev. Michael Michlik the Report was unanimously accepted.

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

A written report of the Chairman of the Diocesan Department of Religious Education, Rev. Dionysius Swencki, is attached to these Minutes and made a part thereof.

V. Rev. Daniel Ressetar gave a report on his attendance at a Conference of Religious Educators in Harrisburg and of their plans for a Conference in 1981. He recommended that our Diocese be represented.

Upon motion made by V. Rev. Joseph Martin and seconded by Rev. John Adamcio, the Report and Recommendation were unanimously accepted.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS.

A written report on the purpose and functions of the Department of Public Relations is attached to these Minutes and made a part thereof. A presentation was made by Rev. Daniel Kovalak outlining the needs of such a department within our Diocese. The presentation was favorably and enthusiastically received and many suggestions were made by the delegates for consideration by this department.

DIOCESAN CHOIR.

A written report by the Chairman of this project, V. Rev. Daniel Ressetar, is attached to these Minutes and made a part thereof.

DEANERY REPORTS.

The written reports of the Frackville, Philadelphia and Wilkes-Barre Deaneries are attached to these Minutes and made a part thereof. Upon motion made by Mr. Don Motel and seconded by Rev. Dionysius Swencki, the Reports were unanimously accepted.

The Assembly adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

A Department of Religious Education Workshop was presented by Rev. Dionysius Swencki and Rev. Stavros Rousos at 7:30 P.M. In attendance were the delegates and Church School Teachers.

Following the Workshop, Vespers were celebrated in Holy Resurrection Cathedral.

Saturday, September 15, 1979

The Diocesan Assembly reconvened at 10:30 A.M. following Divine Liturgy which was celebrated in Holy Resurrection Cathedral.

STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP.

Rev. Daniel Kovalak gave an excellent presentation on Stewardship. He was assisted by Messrs. Don Motel and Alex Smerkanich. Rev. Michael Sekela also gave a report on the Stewardship Program within his parish. The presentation was enthusiastically received with great thanks to Rev. Daniel Kovalak. Written reports are attached to these Minutes and made a part thereof.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 12:15 P.M. and reconvened at 1:30 P.M.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (Afternoon Registration)

The Afternoon Registrations were as follows:

Hierarchs	-	2
Clergy	-	31
Delegates	-	28
Guests	-	3
Diocesan Council Members	-	4

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE.

A written report was presented by the Chairman of the Department of Insurance, Mr. Russell Dugan, which is attached to these Minutes and made a part thereof. Upon motion made by V. Rev. W. B. Stroyen and seconded by Rev. Michael Michlik, the Report was unanimously accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Rev. Michael Sekela, placed into nomination the following members for election to the Diocesan Council:

Frackville Deanery	Rev. Michael Hatrak	Dr. Alexander Pianovich
Wilkes-Barre Deanery	V. Rev. Vladimir Petorak	Mr. Gabriel Petorak
Philadelphia Deanery	Rev. Theodore Heckman	Mr. Don Motel
At Large	Rev. Rodion Kondratich	Mr. Stepehn Pelak
Auditors	Rev. John Kowalczyk	Mr. Michael Zupko, Mr. Jerry Russin

Upon motion made by Rev. Dionysius Swencki and seconded by Rev. Claude Vinyard, those individuals placed into nomination were unanimously elected to the Diocesan Council.

ELECTION OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL. (cont'd.)

It was announced that all Deans are Ex Officio members of the Diocesan Council with the right to vote.

RESOLUTIONS.

Upon motion made by Rev. Daniel Kovalak and seconded by Rev. John Kowalczyk, it was unanimously resolved that "The Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, being deeply concerned to fulfill the divine command of Our Lord Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel of Salvation to all nations, and especially within our Diocese, establish a Special Mission Fund for the sole purpose of making loans available to newly established parishes and missions."

Upon motion made by Rev. Daniel Kovalak and seconded by V. Rev. Joseph Martin, it was unanimously resolved that "The Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania formally establish a Department of Public Relations."

Upon motion made by Rev. Dionysius Swencki and seconded by V. Rev. George Pawlush, it was unanimously resolved that "The Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania promote, support, and encourage the concept of Stewardship within our Diocese."

DIOCESAN CENTER.

Rev. Rodion Kondratich made a presentation to the Assembly concerning the need to renovate the Diocesan Center which was followed by considerable discussion with regard to the work to be done, status of the building and manner in which funds will be raised for this project. A motion by Mr. Alexander Honcharik and seconded by Mr. Walter Kasian for the Diocesan Council to be empowered to act on this project was defeated. A motion made by Rev. John Adamcio and seconded by Mr. Walter Kasian to make a study concerning the necessary renovations and to convene another Diocesan Assembly as soon as possible thereafter for further action was defeated.

Upon motion made by Rev. Dionysius Swencki and seconded by Rev. Dimitri Voytilla, it was resolved that "The 1979 Diocesan Assembly approve the recommendation to renovate the Diocesan Center should a proper investigation reveal that the property belongs to the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania and that the Diocesan Council be empowered to implement the necessary measures to fulfill these recommendations." The resolution was accepted with one vote in opposition.

BUDGET FOR 1980.

The Budget for 1980 was presented by the Treasurer, Rev. Paul Ropitsky followed by considerable discussion.

A motion by Rev. John Adamcio and seconded by Mr. Russell Mosier to adopt a deficit budget was defeated. The amount of the deficit was \$7,000.00.

A motion by Mr. John Wansacz to increase the Diocesan Assessment by \$2.00 received no second.

Upon motion made by Mr. Roy Peckham and seconded by V. Rev. W. B. Stroyen, it was resolved that "The Diocesan Assessment be increased from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per adult member and that the Budget for 1980 be amended to indicate the increase in assessment and approved." The results of the voting was as follows: 43 in favor, 14 opposed and 1 absention.

Mr. Michael Warholick proposed an all layman committee for the Diocese, seconded by Mr. John Wansacz. The proposal was ruled out of order in view of the fact that it is not in conformity with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America which calls for complete cooperation between clergy and laity.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION.

His Grace, Bishop Herman reviewed the chain of command to be followed in resolving parochial problems. It was also announced that all pastors are to complete the Diocesan Census as early as possible that we may have an accurate accounting of the Orthodox Faithful within our Diocese.

DATE OF NEXT ASSEMBLY.

It was resolved that the Diocesan Council set the date for the convening of the Diocesan Assembly in 1980 taking into consideration that the All American Council will also be held in 1980.

ADJOURNMENT.

Having depleted the Agenda and upon motion made by Rev. Michael Lepa and seconded by Mr. Jerry Russin, the Diocesan Assembly was adjourned at 4:30 P.M. with the singing of "It is truly meet...." A Closing Molieben was served by His Grace, Bishop Herman.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Joseph Gallick, Clergy Secretary

Gabriel Petorak, Lay Secretary

Approved by:

+ Archbishop Kiprian
+Archbishop Kiprian

Date:

October 8, 1979

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 1979

PLACE:
GUS GENETTI'S HOTEL
WILKES-BARRE, PA.

ALDEN STATION	FR. GALLICK	STANLEY BRUTSKI
BALTIMORE	FR. SEKELA	ALEXANDER HONCHARIK
BERWICK	FR. SHUGA	ROY PECKHAM
BETHLEHEM	FR. VOYTILLA	MRS. HELEN TELEPCHAK
CATASAUQUA	-----	-----
CENTRALIA	-----	-----
COALDALE	FR. MICHLIK	MICHAEL WARCHOLAK
COATSVILLE	FR. KOZAK	-----
DALLAS	FR. STROYEN	RUSSELL MOSIER
DOYLESTOWN	FR. KOWALCZYK	DAVID A. OGOZOLIK
DUNDAFF	FR. LEPA	-----
EDWARDSVILLE	FR. KUCHTA	NICHOLAS BERDY
FRACKVILLE	FR. ROPITSKY	DAVID KEYSOCK
HARRISBURG	FR. RESSETAR	JOHN SCHROCHER
JERMYN	FR. SWENCKI	GABRIEL PETORAK
LOPEZ	FR. JADICK	KATHALEEN MATYCHAK
LYKENS	FR. HATRAK	DR. ALEX PIANOVICH
MAYFIELD	-----	-----
MC ADOO	FR. MARTIN	FRED STRONKO
MINERSVILLE	FR. HATRAK	-----
MOUNT CARMEL	FR. VINEYARD	-----
NANTICOKE	FR. KONDRATICK	WALTER KASIAN
OLD FORGE	FR. ADAMCIO	JOHN JADICK
OLYPHANT	FR. LISKO	JOHN WANSACZ
OLYPHANT	FR. FETCHO	JAMES THOMASHEFSKY
PHILADELPHIA	FR. GOIDICH	-----

PHILADELPHIA	FR. BOHUSH	-----
PHILADELPHIA	FR. FEDORONKO	ANTHONY SMALETZ
POTTSTOWN	FR. HECKMAN	-----
SAINT CLAIR	FR. MAYERNICK	SAMUEL PLIFKA
SAINT CLAIR	FR. BORICK	-----
SHENANDOAH	FR. ROPITSKY	-----
SHILLINGTON	FR. ROUSOS	VERA LOSK MARIE MC CARTY
SIMPSON	FR. EVANS	-----
STROUDSBURG	FR. DONLICK	THOMAS' KESSLER
UNIONDALE	FR. LEPA	JOAN KOWALSKY
WALLINGFORD	-----	DONALD MOTEL
WILMINGTON	FR. CHUPECK	JAMES P. RILEY
WILKES-BARRE	FR. PETORAK	STEPHEN PELAK
WILKES-BARRE	FR. PAWLUSH	PAUL DUTKO WALTER MASON
WILLIAMSPORT	FR. KOVALAK	ROBERT J. HURER

SOUTH CANAAN -

MONASTERY

Guest: Martin Pawluch

SEMINARY

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

MR. MICHAEL ZUPKO

MR. RUSSELL DUGAN

DIOCESAN AUDITOR

MR. JERRY RUSSIN

DIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

MR. ALEX SMERKANICH