

MINUTES OF THE 17TH ASSEMBLY
OF
THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The 17th Annual Assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania of the Orthodox Church in America, was held on September 5th and 6th, 1980 at the Gus Genetti Motor Lodge, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

MORNING SESSION

After Divine Liturgy and Molieben, served by His Grace Bishop Herman, the Assembly was formally opened at 10:40 A.M. with the singing of "O Heavenly King..."

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The morning registrations were as follows:

Hierarchs	2
Clergy	29
Lay Delegates	24
Diocesan Council Members	3
Observers	2

ELECTIONS OF ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Fr. Rodion Kondratich acted as Chairman for the election of the Assembly Officers. The following were elected to the indicated positions:

Clergy Vice-Chairman	Fr. John Kuchta
Secretary	Fr. Samuel Garula
Lay Vice-Chairman	Dr. Alenander Pianovich
Lay Secretary	Mr. Kenneth Bernstein

Fr. John Kuchta now presiding.

AGENDA

Agenda was read and unanimously accepted without alteration upon a motion of Fr. Dionysius Swencki and seconded by Fr. Joseph Gallick.

1979 MINUTES

The Minutes of the 1979 Assembly were unanimously accepted without alterations upon a motion by Fr. Dionysius Swencki and seconded by Fr. Joseph Gallick.

ARCHBISHOP KIPRIAN'S REPORT OF THE DIOCESE

The written report of His Eminence, Archbishop Kiprian was unanimously accepted and is attached to these minutes.

DIOCESAN SECRETARY'S REPORT

Fr. Rodion Kondratich presented the Diocesan Secretary's Report. Fr. Dionysius Swencki motioned that the Secretary's Report be accepted as presented. Motion

seconded by Fr. John Sorochka and passed unanimously.

DIOCESAN TREASURER'S REPORT

Fr. Paul Ropitsky submitted his report on the financial status of the Diocese. A question, poised by Fr. Alexander Fedoronko, concerning item #1 under the headline of EXPENSES of \$4082.20 to a John T. Howe, Inc. Fr. Ropitsky explained that this was the total for the fuel oil purchased to heat the Diocesan Center. Mr. Joe Crush motioned and Fr. Paul Borick seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as submitted. Motion past unanimously. Copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Fr. John Kowalczyk submitted the Auditor's Report on the financial records of the Diocese. Fr. Kowalczyk stated that the audit showed all financial records to be in order. Fr. Vladimir Borichevsky motioned and Fr. Basil Stroyen seconded that the report be accepted as submitted. Motion passed unanimously. Copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

Inter-diocesan Department Reports

• DEPARTMENT OF MISSIONS:

Fr. Daniel Kovalak reported the following progress of the Elevation of the Holy Cross Church Mission in Williamsport:

1. The new rectory and the chapel were completed on Palm Sunday.
2. Blessing of the chapel occurred on June 8, 1980 by His Grace, Bishop Herman.
3. 33 persons have left the parish because of relocation. Fr. Kovalak noted that the local economy played a large role in these relocations. He also informed the Assembly that of these 33 relocations, 32 were forwarded with papers.
4. There are presently 36 adults and 26 children now enrolled as members.

Fr. Kovalak reported that he was presently involved in a campus ministry with the following colleges:

1. Lock Haven
2. Lycoming
3. Bucknell

Fr. Daniel Donlick presented his report on the Holy Trinity Mission in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. Fr. Donlick reported 22 members and he was serving weekly Liturgies and had an active Sunday School Program. He mentioned that the goal of the parish was to provide the tourist trade in the Pocono Mountains with an active Orthodox church. He requested that all parishes of the Diocese pray for their success. He also stated that the parish was completely self-supporting and was receiving no financial aid from the Diocese or National Church.

•DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

Fr. Dionysius Swencki submitted his report to the Assembly on the present status of the Department. Copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

•DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE:

Mr. Russell Dugan reported that since the typing of his report in September 1st, he had received 3 new applications raising the total number of subscribers to 94. He also noted that there were two (2) additional prospects. Copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

•DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Fr. Daniel Kovalak submitted his report on the progress of the Department. He called for the cooperation of parishes in the Diocese to send the name and address of all major newspapers in their areas to the Department.

Fr. Alexander Fedoronko asked if the length of the news releases could be shortened, since in the larger cities local papers did not allow for the publication of lengthy articles. Fr. Daniel Kovalak stated that any articles could be edited at the discretion of pastor's receiving them. Copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

•DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC:

Fr. Daniel Ressetar presented his report to the Assembly. His Grace, Bishop Herman, expounded on this report by expressing his disappointment in the lack of participation of Diocesan parishes in the Annual Choir Conference. He stated that the Conference is held in conjunction with the Feast of St. Herman in August. Copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

•DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP:

Bishop Herman informed the Assembly that as of this date there was no official Stewardship Department in the Diocese. He noted that this responsibility was presently in the hands of the Diocesan hierarchs and the Diocesan Council.

•METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPORT:

A report on the Metropolitan Council was submitted by Mr. Donald Motel. Questions were asked about Item #3 of his report concerning how frequently the Council meets. Mr. Motel explained that the new format was not complete, however its aim was to reduce the cost involved in the transportation expenses of representatives attending those Council Meetings throughout the year.

Mr. Richard Reidy, Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, also noted that at least one (1) of these meetings, per year, should be extended to meet over a several day period in order to allow for the review of all Department reports. He theorized that this would enable the Council to become more of a

"working body" in the Church.

Copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

Fr. Daniel Kovalak motioned and Fr. George Pawlush seconded that the reports of all Inter-diocesan Departments be accepted as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

DEANERY REPORTS

The following Deanery's submitted their reports to the Assembly:

Philadelphia Fr. Kowalczyk (on behalf of Fr. John Bohush)
Frackville Fr. Joseph Martin
Wilkes-Barre Fr. George Pawlush

Fr. Vladimir Petorak motioned and Fr. Dmitri Voytilla seconded that the Deanery Reports be accepted as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Copy of these reports are attached to these minutes.

DIOCESAN CENSUS REPORT

Fr. Rodion Kondratich submitted his report of the Census of the Diocese. He noted that only 14 parishes had returned the computer generated listing of parishioners, and that the report was not the final tally. Another letter from the Archbishop will be sent to all Rectors concerning the membership lists. The lists, with corrections, are to be submitted by October of this year.

Fr. Kondratich also noted that response to the Archbishop's request for parish reports of marriages, baptisms, etc has not been good since only 17 of 41 churches have sent this information. The deadline for this information was January 31, 1980. Copy of this census is hereby included as part of these minutes.

Assembly adjourned for Lunch at 12:52 P.M.

Assembly Resumed at 1:56 P.M.

Dr. Alexander Pianovich now presiding.

DIOCESAN CENTER

His Grace, Bishop Herman, presented to the Assembly an oral report on the present progress of the Diocesan Center. He informed the Assembly that a meeting with ROCMAS is scheduled for late September in order to conclude the findings on the proposed Diocesan Center.

*New Business*CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS FOR THE ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL

(A)

Fr. Alexander Fedoronko, on behalf of St. Stephen's Orthodox Catholic Church of Philadelphia, submitted a resolution for the Assembly's consideration. This resolution proposed that the Church change its title from "The Orthodox Church in America" to "The Orthodox Catholic Church in America".

Fr. Fedoronko motioned:

"That this Assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, lend its support to the resolution submitted by St. Stephen's Orthodox Catholic Church of Philadelphia, that the title of our Church in America be changed from "The Orthodox Church in America" to "The Orthodox Catholic Church in America", when and if it shall be presented to the Sixth All-American Council in Detroit, on November 10th through November 14th.

After much discussion, a hand vote was called for from the floor:

In favor	-	39
Opposed	-	1
Abstentions	-	11

Motion carried.

(B)

Mr. Jerry Russin motioned, that

"The All-American Church Council, be held every four years."

Mr. Walter Kasian seconded.

In favor	-	18
Opposed	-	29
Abstentions	-	4

Motion defeated.

(C)

The following resolution was submitted to the Assembly for consideration:

"That the Holy Synod of Bishops make a study to adopt the Revised Julian Calendar as its norm and official Calendar for all parishes of the Orthodox Church in America, and that said study be completed by February 1, 1982, with its final disposition to be announced at the Spring session of that year."

Fr. Vladimir Borichevsky motioned and Fr. Alexander Fedoronko seconded, that the resolution be adopted by the Assembly.

In favor	-	37
Opposed	-	5
Abstentions	-	8

Motion carried.

(D)

Fr. Alexander Fedoronko proposed the following resolution:

"That the Pension Commission submit to every parish and priest in the Orthodox Church in America, a detailed financial report from the inception of the plan in 1975, through 1980 and thereafter issue annual statements."

Motion seconded by Fr. Vlamimir Petorak

Motion carried unanimously with voice vote.

(E) *Budget*

Fr. Joseph Martin presented the 1981 budget for approval by the Assembly.

Fr. Michael Hatrack motioned, Mr. Michael Sutko seconded, that the 1981 Diocesan Budget be accepted as presented.

Motion carried.

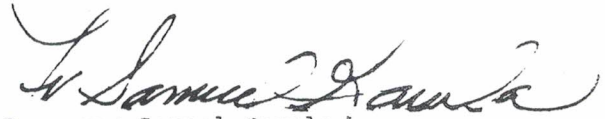
(F) *Adjournment*

Fr. Vladimir Petorak motioned, Fr. Paul Ropitsky seconded, that the Assembly be adjourned.

Motion carried.

His Eminence, Archbishop Kiprian, concluded the agenda with the closing prayer and blessing at 3:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Reverend Samuel Garula,
Clergy Secretary



Mr. Ken Bernstein,
Lay Secretary

Approved by:



† Archbishop KIPRIAN

Date:

October 26, 1980