

MINUTES OF THE 18th ASSEMBLY  
OF  
THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The 18th Annual Assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania of the Orthodox Church in America, was held on September 12, 1981 at St. Tikhon's Seminary/Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania.

MORNING SESSION:

After Divine Liturgy and Moleben, served by His Grace Bishop Herman, the Assembly was formally opened at 10:45 AM with the singing of "O Heavenly King".

BISHOP HERMAN DECLARED THE ASSEMBLY IN SESSION:  
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

The morning registration was as follows:

Hierarchs	1
Clergy	34
Lay Delegates	32
Diocesan Council Members	2
Observers	7

LED BY HIS GRACE BISHOP HERMAN, THE ASSEMBLY SANG "MEMORY ETERNAL" FOR DEPARTED HIERARCH OF THE DIOCESE — ARCHBISHOP KIPRIAN.  
ELECTION 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. David Lisko
Lay Vice-Chairman	Dr. Alexander Pianovich
Lay Secretary	Mr. Kenneth Bernstein

Fr. John Kuchta is now presiding.

AGENDA:

The agenda was read and unanimously accepted without alteration upon the motion of Fr. Dionysius Swencki and seconded by Fr. Samuel Garula.

1980 MINUTES:

The minutes of the 1980 Assembly were unanimously accepted without alterations upon the motion by Fr. Dionysius Swencki and seconded by Fr. Samuel Garula.

EXTRA-ORDINARY DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY MINUTES:

The minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Diocesan Assembly, held in Holy Resurrection Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, on February 19, 1981, were accepted upon a motion by Fr. Vladimir Petorak seconded by Fr. Joseph Gallick.

#### BISHOP HERMAN'S REPORT OF THE DIOCESE:

His Grace Bishop Herman noted the increasing activity of the Diocesan Departments. He pointed out that the programs are designed to serve the Church, and that it would be very beneficial if there was greater participation by the laity and parish clergy in the programs, both on the Diocesan and National Church. The written report of His Grace Rt. Rev. Bishop Herman was unanimously accepted and is attached to these minutes.

#### DIOCESAN SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Fr. Rodion Kondratich submitted his report to the Diocese. A question was raised by Fr. Samuel Garula, who wanted an explanation to item #2 (76th Diocesan Council Meeting). Fr. Kondratich explained that the positions of Secretary and Treasurer are now combined, and that the diocesan office would be opened and staffed every Monday from 9 to 4 for the transaction of Diocesan Business. Fr. Daniel Kovalak motioned that the Secretary's Report be accepted as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Gabriel Petorak. A written report is attached to these minutes.

#### DIOCESAN TREASURER'S REPORT:

Fr. Rodion Kondratich submitted his report of the Diocese. As the report was being reviewed, Fr. Kondratich explained that the monies shown as receipts on assessments represents the monies received in that period, not the assessment for the calendar year. He further explained in response for a request by Fr. Stroyen for charting or graphing of trends, that the treasurer be required to give detailed financial statements. Fr. George Pawlush motioned that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Motion seconded by Fr. Vladimir Petorak. A written report is attached to these minutes.

#### DIOCESAN AUDITOR'S REPORT:

Fr. Joseph Gallick read his report, and a copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Fr. Joseph Martin motioned to accept the Auditor's report as presented. Motion seconded by Fr. John Kowalczyk.

#### DIOCESAN DEANERIES REPORT:

- A. The Frackville Report was submitted by Fr. Joseph Martin, Dean, who noted that in addition to his written report, Fr. Hutnyan had joined the Deanery, by assignment to St. Clair.
- B. Philadelphia Report was submitted by Fr. Theodore Heckman, Former Dean.
- C. Wilkes-Barre Report was submitted by Fr. George Pawlush, Dean.



## DIOCESAN DEANERIES REPORT - Continued:

Mrs. Maria McCarty motioned that the Deaneries Report be accepted as presented. Motion was seconded by Fr. Samuel Garula. A written report is attached to these minutes (3 reports).

### REPORT OF DIOCESAN DEPARTMENTS:

- A. Religious Education: Fr. Swencki, In addition to the written report submitted by Fr. Dennis Swencki, His Grace Bishop Herman noted that the conference on Ministries with a team from the National Department of Stewardship and Lay Ministries would in all likelihood be held on either October 30th or on November 14th, and not on November 7th as shown in the report.
- B. Missions: Fr. Daniel Kovalak, In addition to his written report, Fr. Kovalak (who is also a special consultant to the National Department of Missions) noted:
  - 1. Funds given to Mission's appeals can be earmarked, if properly noted as such, to both Diocese and to the Chancery of the OCA.
  - 2. Requests at a National level for funds were over \$170,000, but the receipts to be distributed were less than \$70,000, hence the Diocese received only a percentage of their requests (at least equal to 1/3 of the diocesan contributions).

In response to a question from Fr. Stroyen, Fr. Kovalak explained that the National Church by and large accepts the designation by an individual diocese that a church is a mission. His Grace Bishop Herman added that in this Diocese all missions are established and considered as missions according to criteria established by the Diocesan Council.

- C. Department of Insurance: Mr. Russell Dugan, In addition to submission of his written report, Mr. Dugan made some explanatory comments. He noted that plan participation is up greatly over previous years; that plan participants received about \$90,000 in benefits for their \$30,000 in premiums; that the billing period would be changed to coincide with the plan anniversary; and that the one-year waiting period has now been waived by the insurance carrier.
- D. Department of Public Relations: Fr. Dan Kovalak, A written report was submitted. Mr. Daniel Jones asked about future television shows and also about better communications between the parishes and the Diocesan level. Fr. Kuchta noted that having a regularly staffed Diocesan Office should offer better communications. His Grace Bishop Herman added that it is impossible for the Bishop and the Diocesan Council members to be everywhere. He further noted that priests, lay delegates

REPORT OF DIOCESAN DEPARTMENTS - Continued:

and parish council members are also responsible for this communication and also for participation in and the support of projects and programs.

Motion to accept the Reports of the Diocesan Departments was made by Mrs. Mary Jensen. Motion was seconded by Fr. Paul Borick. A written copy of the reports are attached to these minutes.

REPORT OF THE DELEGATE TO THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL: Fr. Theodore Heckman

(Who acted on behalf of Fr. Joseph Martin)

Fr. Heckman did not submit a written report, explaining that he had just seen the minutes of that meeting for the first time. He did explain the new format and also reported on a few items of interest, such as:

- A. A two-year increase of 50.5% in funds received by the national church, an increase facilitated by monthly submission of assessments and augmented by growth in stewardship support.
- B. Annual appeals down slightly from 1979, with Seminaries appeal significantly down.
- C. Subject to approval of the Holy Synod, selection of Philadelphia as the site for the Seventh All-American Council to be held in August of 1983.

Motion to accept the report of the delegate to the Metropolitan Council was made by Fr. James Jadick. Motion seconded by Mr. Jerry Russin.

DIOCESAN CENSUS FOR 1981

Fr. Rodion Kondratich

Fr. Kondratich noted that the written report of August 31, 1981, included the Baltimore parish (which has now been transferred to the Diocese of Washington, D.C.), and that the figures without Baltimore would be 7,901 adults and 1,718 children. He also informed the priests that corrections to the census list which they received was due to the Diocesan office by November 15, 1981, as were assessment monies for 1981 of which:

\$79,132.25 in National Assessments and

\$17,405.30 in Diocesan Assessments were outstanding.

Motion to accept the Diocesan census was made by Fr. Samuel Garula. Motion seconded by Mr. Stephen Pelak. Motion carried unanimously. A copy of the census report is attached to the minutes.

At 12:34 PM, the assembly recessed for lunch and for a tour of the Diocesan Center.



THE AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY, COMMENCING AT 2:04 PM:

Fr. Joseph Gallick submitted a revised count from the credentials committee;

Hierarchs	1
Clergy	36
Lay Delegates	32
Diocesan Council Members	3
Observers	7

Dr. Alexander Pianovich is now presiding.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN CENTER COMMITTEE: (Mr. Russell Dugan)

A written report was submitted. After some remarks by Mr. Dugan, there was some discussion about the authorizing of the construction of a new building. In an attempt to clarify the matter, Fr. Rodion Kondratich explained that the property used by the Diocese is, in fact, all the possession of the National Church either through the Seminary, Monastery, or the Orphanage; but the portion used is leased by the National Church to the Diocese at no cost to the Diocese. His Grace Bishop Herman further pointed out that for about 15 years the Diocese has not fulfilled its responsibility to provide its own Diocesan Center but rather has used the Seminary and the Monastery at no cost. His Grace further noted that the Metropolitan and the Diocesan Hierarchy would not allow the Diocesan Council to take an action in contradiction to the teachings of the church. His Grace emphasized that the building of a Diocesan Center is an action of foresight, to enable the Diocese to continue to grow and thrive.

Mr. Russell Dugan moved that the report of the Committee be accepted as a vote of confidence for the project. Mr. Jerome Russell seconded the motion.

Affirmative	67
Negative	1
Abstentions	4

Motion carried. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Fr. John Kuchta is now presiding.

SPONSORSHIP OF THE ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL 1983:

Fr. Kondratich informed the Assembly that, subject to approval by the Holy Synod, the site selection committee had chosen and the Metropolitan Council had approved the Franklin Plaza Hotel in Philadelphia as the site for the Seventh All-American Council. He asked those willing to work on this project to see either himself or Bishop Herman.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE DIOCESE FOR 1982.

(Fr. Joseph Martin)

Motion to accept the budget as presented (including the \$2.00 increase in the assessment). Fr. Dennis Swencki moved. Seconded by Fr. Samuel Garula.

During discussion on the motion, it was explained that the utilities figure included the new Diocesan Center.

Affirmative	71
Negative	0
Abstentions	1

A copy of the approved budget is attached to these minutes.

OTHER MATTERS:

A. RESOLUTION FOR CLERGY SALARY BOARD OF THE DIOCESE: FR. JOSEPH MARTIN

Fr. Martin pointed out that such a resolution was first accepted at the 1971 Diocesan Assembly and has been updated at subsequent Assemblies as needed. There were extended discussions, especially about the Social Security portions of the resolution. Fr. Michael Romanchak made a motion to accept the resolution. Motion seconded by Mr. Russell Dugan.

Affirmative	67
Negative	3
Abstentions	2

A copy of the approved Resolution is attached to these minutes.

B. RESOLUTION FROM ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH IN OLD FORGE: MR. DANIEL JONES

His Grace Bishop Herman noted that changing the format of Diocesan Council would require that a different procedure be followed, hence this resolution could not be accepted. Mr. Daniel Jones of St. Michael's explained the rationale of the resolution, which was a desire for better communication between the Diocese and the parishes. Bishop Herman noted that the real effect of the resolution would be to have more than annual meetings of the Diocesan Assembly and, as he had pointed out earlier, such a change could not be accomplished by this resolution.

The resolution is in contradiction to the Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America.

OTHER MATTERS - Continued:

C. STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM:

Mr. Kenneth Bernstein, newly-appointed director of the Diocesan Department of Stewardship, explained that the Department was still under development, and he expressed his willingness to travel to any parish which would invite him so that he could help facilitate a Diocesan Program, meaningful to and usable by the parishes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY:

The motion to adjourn was made by Fr. George Pawlusch. Motion was seconded by Mr. Stephen Pelak. After the singing of "It is Truly Meet", the 18th Annual Assembly was adjourned at 3:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted

*Priest David Lisko*

Priest David Lisko  
Clergy Secretary

*Mr. Kenneth Bernstein*

Mr. Kenneth Bernstein  
Lay Secretary

Approved by:

*+ Herman*

+Herman,  
Bishop of Philadelphia,  
and Eastern Pennsylvania

Date: *November 5, 1981*



WILKES-BARRE DEANERY

<u>CHURCH NAME</u>	<u>CLERGY</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE</u>
Holy Resurrection Church, Alden Station	Fr. Joseph Gallick	Stanley Brutski
Holy Annunciation Church, Berwick	Fr. Andrew Shuga	Stephen Kundrat
St. Andrew's Church, Dallas	Fr. Basil Stroyen	
St. John's Church, Dundaff	Fr. Thomas Nones	
St. John's Church, Edwardsville	Fr. John Kuchta	William Talpash
St. Michael's Church, Jermyn	Fr. Dionysius Swencki	Gabe Petorak
St. Vladimir's Church, Lopez	Fr. Michael Lepa	
St. John's Church, Mayfield	Fr. John Sorochna	
St. John's Church, Nanticoke	Fr. Rodion Kondratich	Walter Kasian
St. Michael's Church, Old Forge	Fr. John Adamcio	Daniel Jones
St. Nicholas Church, Olyphant	Fr. Vladimir Fetcho	Jim Thomashefsky
All Saints Church, Olyphant	Fr. David Lisko	Walt Moschowsky
St. Basil's Church, Simpson	Fr. Michael Evans	Michael Mikulak
Holy Trinity Mission, Stroudsburg	Fr. Daniel Donlick	Helen Kessler
SS Peter & Paul Church, Uniondale	Fr. Thomas Jones	Peter Jubensky
Holy Resurrection Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre	Fr. Vladimir Petorak	Stephen Pelak
Holy Trinity Church, Wilkes-Barre	Fr. George Pawlusch	Paul Gozick
Elevation of the Holy Cross, Williamsport	Fr. Daniel Kovalak	Jerome Russell



WILKES-BARRE DEANERY (cont.)

<u>CHURCH NAME</u>	<u>CLERGY</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE</u>
St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan	Fr. Gamaliel <u>Fr. Adam Krill</u>	<hr/>
<u>TOTAL</u>	16 CLERGY	14 LAY DELEGATES

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Michael Zupko, Auditor  
Jerry Russin, Auditor  
Russell Dugan, Diocesan Council

FRACKVILLE DEANERY

<u>CHURCH NAME</u>	<u>CLERGY</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE</u>
SS. Peter & Paul Church, Centralia	Fr. Samuel Garula	
St. Mary's Church, Coaldale	Fr. Mark Shinn	Michael Bubernak
Holy Ascension Church, Frackville	Fr. Paul Ropitsky	
Christ the Savior Church, Harrisburg	Fr. Daniel Ressetar	Mrs. Alice Hair
Holy Ascension Church, Lykens	Fr. Michael Hatrak	Alexander Pianovich
Holy Trinity Church, McAdoo	Fr. Joseph Martin	Larry Davidovich
SS. Peter & Paul Church, Minersville	Fr. Michael Hatrak	Luke Oakill
St. Michael's Church, Mt. Carmel	Fr. Samuel Garula	Walter Sebasovich
Assumption Church, St. Clair	Fr. Michael Hutnyan	Russell Draovitch
St. Michael's Church, St. Clair	Fr. Paul Borick	Stephen Dudish
Holy Ghost Church, Shenandoah	Fr. Paul Ropitsky	
St. Herman's Church, Shillington	Fr. James Jadick	Marie McCarty
<u>TOTAL</u>	9 CLERGY	9 LAY DELEGATES

PHILADELPHIA DEANERY

<u>CHURCH NAME</u>	<u>CLERGY</u>	<u>LAY DELEGATE</u>
St. Michael's Church, Delaware	Fr. Joseph Woodill	James S. Riley
St. Nicholas Church, Bethlehem	Fr. Dimitri Voytilla	Peter G. Billie
Holy Trinity Church, Catasauqua	Fr. Michael Romanchak	R. E. Romanchak
St. Nicholas Church, Coatesville	Fr. Andrew Goidich	
Assumption Church, Philadelphia	Fr. John Kowalczyk	Joseph Kavalkovich
St. Nicholas Church, Philadelphia	Fr. John Bohush	Mary Jensen
St. Stephen's Cathedral	Fr. Daniel Geeza	Anthony Smaletz
Holy Trinity Church	Fr. Theodore Heckman	William Romanik
St. Herman's Church, Wallingford	Fr. Joseph Toroney	Kenneth Bernstein
St. Mark's Church, Warrington	Fr. Vladimir Borichevsky	Jon A. Thoemebe
<u>TOTAL</u>	9 CLERGY	9 LAY DELEGATES



OBSERVERS PRESENT AT ASSEMBLY

1. George Grabania
2. Subdeacon Basil Grisel
3. Dennis Hair
4. Kay Maliniak
5. Matushka J. Romanchak
6. Thomas Kessler
7. Tom M. Hreenile