

MINUTES OF THE 20th ASSEMBLY of the DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The 20th Annual Assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, of the Orthodox Church in America was convened of Saturday, October 8, 1983, at St. Tikhon's Seminary/Monastery Complex, South Canaan, Pennsylvania.

MORNING SESSION

His Grace, the Right Reverend HERMAN, Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania served the Divine Liturgy and Moleben.

Following Liturgy, the Assembly gathered at the Monastery Dining Hall (Trapeza), and at 10:45 A.M., "O Heavenly King" was sung. His Grace, Bishop Herman then declared "this assembly to be in session".

Fr. Kondratick put forth the nominations of the Diocesan Council for the Assembly Officers:

Clergy Vice-Chairman	Fr. John Kuchta
Lay Vice-Chairman	Dr. Alexander Pianovich
Clergy Secretary	Fr. Joseph Gallick
Lay Secretary	Sergei Kapral

Fr. Lisko motioned for the above nominations to be accepted; Fr. Pawlush seconded the motion. At this time, Fr. Gallick declined the nomination (as he is on the Credentials Committee). Bishop Herman asked Fr. Adamcio to be the Clergy Secretary. Fr. Adamcio accepted. Nominations were then accepted by the Assembly.

Fr. Kondratick then read the Agenda with the following change: after the Auditor's Report, the Report of the Development Committee would be read.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Fr. Kuchta asked the Credentials Committee for their report on the Morning Session:

Hierarchy	1
Clergy	27
Lay Delegates	29
Diocesan Council	2
Observers	8
Total Present	67

Minutes of Last Assembly

The Minutes of the 1982 Assembly were then presented to the Assembly by Fr. Kondratick. They were accepted unanimously after a motion by Fr. Kovalak and Fr. Petorak.

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN BISHOP

His Grace, Bishop Herman welcomed all the delegates to the 20th Assembly which is still in the same warm spirit exemplified at the Philadelphia Council. His Grace then thanked Fr. Kondratick, Fr. Vansuch, Mr. Pcoslyar, and all the members of the Local Functioning Committee for their work at the Council.

His Grace then gave an extensive report on the State of the Diocese, reorganization of the Diocesan Departments, Court Litigations, and the projections of the Diocesan Development Project. (The full text of this report is attached.)

Fr. Kuchta thanked His Grace, Bishop Herman for his report.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT

Mrs. Marie McCarty read the report of the Diocesan Council. Fr. Swencki motioned to accept the report, Fr. Gallick seconded; Motion Passed.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Fr. Kondratick gave the Treasurer's Report which is up to September 30, 1983 (White & Pink pages attached).

He reported that 3 parishes in the Diocese are not complying with the new format of remittances. He thanked all the other parishes for their co-operation in sending their payments in on time.

He also reported to the Diocesan Council that there would be a deficit of approximately \$7,000.00, through December 31, 1983, but there would be enough money to meet normal Diocesan expenses.

Fr. Kondratick also noted some problems with the Parish Census, and that all computer read-outs distributed today should be returned to the Chancery, corrected, by October 31, 1983.

Fr. Lisko motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Fr. Pawlush. Motion passed unanimously.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Fr. Gallick reported that after examination, all the financial statements submitted were audited following established auditing procedures, and that they are accurate and true.

Fr. Petorak motioned to accept the Auditor's Report, Fr. Kovalak seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

At this time, Fr. Kondratick brought a typographical error to the attention of the Assembly. On page 3 of the Treasurer's Report (Orange Copy) it should read:

Cash Receipts	\$ 91,501.01
Interest Earned	\$ 1,158.65

DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Mr. Jason Kappanadze, Chairman of the Development Project, made his report on the status of the Project. He commented that the success of this project would lead to the elimination of his position. He wishes to be replaced by 7 to 8 thousand Faithful members of the Diocese who would become more involved in the life of their Diocese.

He further stated that there are some problems regarding the attitude of the Diocesan faithful. Many do not know what the Diocese is all about. Now is the time to reach out and appeal to a broader base of support, first raising attitudes, and then funds. This can be done through education. To this end, a new publication will be printed in a magazine format on a regular basis. Though not a "slick" product, it will be informative. This will give us a broader contributing base through education and candid articles.

Fr. Kuchta thanked Mr. Kappanadze for a very good report. Mary Jensen motioned to accept the report, seconded by Fr. Heckman. Motion passed.

Discussion then followed regarding the Development of the Diocese.

Fr. Bohush commented that it is time to explore and analyze new projects to help sustain the Diocese during decreases in Church membership. To this end, Fr. Bohush made a motion to increase the assessment to \$25.00.

Fr. Kuchta stated that the Chair would not entertain that motion at this time.

Fr. Shinn commented that our children are not the future of the Church, but rather that the Church is the future of our Children. We must have a revival of the conviction that Orthodoxy is the True Faith.

Fr. Kondratick stated that a long range revitalization program must be considered.

Transfers will now have to be made in order to meet mortgage payments. Thus far, \$40,000.00 has been paid in interest, \$12,000.00 on the principle. A raise of \$4.00 in the Diocesan Assessment would be necessary just to meet mortgage payments.

Fr. Kuchta relinquished the Chair to Dr. Pianovich and then spoke concerning a \$35.00 debt reduction assessment, per person, for the next 1 - 2 years. Other assessments will remain the same.

Fr. Garula suggested that the \$35.00 assessment be diverted from the mortgage to a growth structure.

Fr. Borichevsky mentioned that instead of borrowing from the banks, perhaps some arrangement can be made with local parishes, with the Diocese paying the parish instead of banks.

Much discussion then followed during which many opinions were voiced regarding the growth of the Diocese and reduction of the mortgage.

A recess for Lunch was taken at 12:15 P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Assembly as re-opened at 1:30 P.M. Dr. Pianovich, the Lay Vice-Chairman, conducted the Afternoon Session.

Discussion centered on the assessment of \$35.00 to eradicate the mortgage. Many, many opinions, both pro and con, were expressed.

Mr. Walter Kassian then moved, Fr. Michael Romanchak seconded the following motion:

"In order to begin to effectuate the vision of our Diocese in regards to Church Growth, we resolve to assess each Parish a one time assessment of \$35.00 per adult member, payable by June 30, 1984, in order to totally liquidate the Diocesan Center mortgage and foster 'a new beginning'. Said assessment would be the responsibility of the Parish to collect."

At this time, Dr. Pianovich called upon the Credentials Committee to report on the attendance of the Afternoon Session:

Hierarchy	1
Clergy	32
Lay Delegates	32
Diocesan Council	3
Observers	9
Guests	2
Total Present	79

A vote was then called on the Motion: 54 In Favor; 5 Against; 4 Abstain.

DEANERY REPORTS

Dr. Pianovich next asked for the Deanery Reports:

Fr. Daniel Geeza submitted the report of the Philadelphia Deanery (report attached).

Fr. Joseph Martin submitted the report of the Frackville Deanery (report attached).

Fr. John Kuchta submitted the report of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery (report attached).

Fr. Garula motioned to accept the Deanery Reports, Fr. Geeza seconded. Motion passed.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Fr. Swencki commented on the success of the Winter Encounter and the Choir Conference. A Lecture series is being planned for October at the Seminary, and a Teachers Conference

is being set up in Philadelphia.

Martin Paluch moved to accept the report, Fr. Shuga seconded. Motion passed.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MISSIONS

Fr. Kovalak submitted his Report (report attached).

Fr. Donlick expressed his joy at the response of support for the Holy Trinity Mission in Stroudsburg.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Russell Dugan indicated that there may be some increases in the insurance premiums. He is planning meetings with representatives from Blue Cross to investigate this further. One option he suggested to bring down the premiums would be for the members to take on more of the financial burden. More information will be forthcoming.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Fr. Kovalak submitted his report at this time (report attached).

REPORT OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

David Brzuchalski submitted the Report of the Metropolitan Council (report attached).

Mr. Alan Pcsolyar, speaking on behalf of the Local Functioning Committee for the All American Council expressed his thanks for all who helped to make the Council a huge success, especially His Grace, Bishop Herman.

Fr. Lisko made a motion to accept all the above reports, Fr. Vinyard seconded. Motion passed.

BUDGET

Fr. Kondratick submitted the budget for 1984, and commented that it must now be adjusted to compensate for the \$35.00 Assessment.

Fr. Swencki moved, Fr. Bohush seconded, to accept the Budget as is, with the deletion of "Diocesan Development", but keeping the proposed \$10.00 Assessment.

Much discussion followed, after which Fr. Bohush removed his second from the motion. Motion died for lack of a second.

Fr. Kondratick moved to amend the Budget by striking "Mortgage Payable", and setting the Diocesan Assessment at \$6.00 (its present level). Martin Paluch seconded the motion. 52 In Favor; 1 Against; 3 Abstain.

It was then announced that the 21st Annual Assembly of the Diocese will be held on Saturday, September 29, 1984, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Fr. Swencki motioned to adjourn the 20th Assembly, Fr. Jadick seconded. Motion passed.

His Grace, Bishop Herman thanked all the Assembly and pronounced the meeting "Closed".

Assembly adjourned at 2:49 P.M.

Approved: Bishop Herman

His Grace, Bishop Herman

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. John Adamcio

Fr. John Adamcio, Clergy Secretary

Sergei Kapral (s)

Mr. Sergei Kapral, Lay Secretary

DELEGATES, OBSERVERS, AND GUESTS

WILKES-BARRE DEANERY

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Delegate</u>
Alden Station	Fr. Joseph Gallick	Gene Haverlak
Berwick	Fr. Andrew Shuga	Stephen Kundrat
Dallas	None	None
Dundaff	None	None
Edwardsville	Fr. John Kuchta	William Talpash
Jermyn	Fr. Dennis Swencki	Sandra Arnold
Lopez	Fr. Michael Lepa	None
Mayfield	None	Joseph Jaye
Nanticoke	Fr. Robert Kondratick	Walter Kassian
Old Forge	Fr. John Adamcio	Jacob Barsigian
Olyphant (All Saints)	Fr. David Lisko	Walter Moschowsky
Olyphant (St. Nicholas)	Fr. Vladimir Fecho	Richard Cesari
Simpson	Fr. Michael Evans	Michael S. Mikulak
South Canaan		
(Monastery)	Fr. Sebastian	None
(Seminary)	Fr. Theodore Heckman	Martin Paluch
Stroudsburg	Fr. Daniel Donlick	Walter Zablotzky
Uniondale	Fr. Mark Shinn	Martha Dorosh
Wilkes-Barre		
(Holy Resurrection)	Fr. Vladimir Petorak	Sergei Kapral
Wilkes-Barre (Holy Trinity)	Fr. George Pawlush	Peter Welgo
Williamsport	Fr. Daniel Kovalak	Michael Stefanick

PHILADELPHIA DEANERY

Newark, Del.	Fr. Joseph Woodill	Paul Chalfant
Bethlehem	Fr. Dimitri Voytilla	Peter J. Chromiak
Buckingham	Fr. Vladimir Borichevsky	Hebe Bulley
Catasauqua	Fr. Michael Romanchak	Robert E. Romanchak
Coatsville	None	None
Philadelphia (Holy Assumption)	Fr. John Kowalczyk	John Pellack
Philadelphia (St. Stephen)	Fr. Daniel Geeza	William Gavula, Jr.
Philadelphia (St. Nicholas)	Fr. John Bohush	Mary Jensen
Pottstown	Fr. Jacob Kulp	Charles Staso
Wallingford	Fr. Claude Vinyard	S. Alan Pcsolyar

FRACKVILLE DEANERY

Centralia	None	None
Coaldale	Fr. Paul Borick	Michael Bubernak
Frackville	Fr. Paul Ropitsky	George Charlock
Harrisburg	Fr. Daniel Ressetar	Alice D. Hair
Lykens	None	Dr. Alexander Pianovich
McAdoo	Fr. Joseph Martin	Michael Zahitchuck
Minersville	Fr. Michael Hatrak	Luke Oakill
Mt. Carmel	Fr. Samuel Garula	Walter Sebasovich
St. Clair	None	None
Shenandoah	None	None
Shillington	Fr. James Jadick	Henry Zerbe

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Mrs. Marie McCarty

Mr. Donald Motel

Mr. David Brzuchalski

GUESTS & OBSERVERS

Russell Dugan
Joseph Paprota
Mary H. Burke
Kay Maliniak

Jason Kappanadze
Matushka Romanchak
Vera Chalfant
Dennis E. Hair

Marie Hudock
Michael Grabania
Margaret Pellack

**Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania
Orthodox Church in America**

Chancery Office:
P.O. Box 11
South Canaan, Pennsylvania 18459
(717) 937-4686

A G E N D A

Diocesan Assembly - Saturday, October 8, 1983
St. Tikhon's Seminary/Monastery Complex
South Canaan, Pennsylvania 18459

8:15 A.M. Reading of Third Hour
Hierarchal Divine Liturgy at St. Tikhon's Monastery Church

8:30 A.M. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy - His Grace, Bishop Herman
(a continental breakfast will be served immediately
following Divine Liturgy at the Monastery Dining Hall)

10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. - FIRST SESSION (St. Tikhon's Seminary Auditorium)

1. Opening Prayer
2. Reading of the Agenda
3. Report of the Credentials Committee
4. Election of Assembly Officers
 One Priest-One Layman.....Vice Chairmen
 One Priest-One Layman.....Secretaries
5. Minutes of the last Diocesan Assembly
6. Report of the Diocesan Bishop
7. Report of the Diocesan Secretary
8. Report of the Diocesan Treasurer
9. Report of the Auditors
10. Diocesan Deanery Reports:
 Frackville
 Philadelphia
 Wilkes-Barre
11. Diocesan Department Reports:
 Department of Religious Education
 Department of Missions
 Department of Insurance
 Department of Public Relations
12. Metropolitan Council Report
13. All American Church Council Report

12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. Luncheon (St. Tikhon's Monastery Dining Hall)

1:30 P.M. CLOSING SESSION (St. Tikhon's Seminary Auditorium)

14. Report of the Development Committee
15. Proposed Budget for 1984
16. Other Matters

4:00 P.M. Vespers/Matins (St. Tikhon's Monastery Church)