

Diocesan Council Meeting September 28, 2017
Diocesan Center, South Canaan

MEETING MINUTES

Opening Prayer at 10:11am
with the singing of "O Heavenly King"

Present:

- **Administration:** Archbishop Mark (Hierarch), Fr. Martin Browne (Chancellor); Joseph Tosca (Treasurer);
- **Frackville Deanery:** Fr. Timothy Hojnicky (Dean & Metropolitan Council clergy rep); Fr. Stephen Vernak, Sandy Tosca
- **Philadelphia Deanery:** Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk (Dean); Fr. Barnabas Fravel; Protodeacon Peter Skoog
- **Wilkes Barre Deanery:** Fr. Nicholas Solak (Wilkes Barre, dean); Protodeacon Sergei Kapral
- **Metropolitan Council:** Susan Schlasta (lay rep)
- **At Large:** Fr. John Onofrey; Rdr. John Shingara

Absent:

- Fr. Michael Demko

Minutes of June 30th meeting

- Motion: Fr. Timothy Hojnicky; Second: Protodeacon Sergei. Approved.

Archbishop's Remarks

Parish Bylaws

- ABM shared a spreadsheet updating us on the progress with parishes (9/28/17)

Diocesan Property

- Arch. Sergius approached ABM about purchasing property.
- There is a potential problem legally selling the property "back" to the monastery
- Discussion was held regarding this
- ABM said he is not opposed to selling to the monastery, it would have to be at a fair value, and in an ethical/legal way
- FJO asked about the possibility of a shared sewer/septic system between the Diocesan building and the orphanage – this does not appear to be an issue
- The transfer of deed and final settling of bills is due to happen soon
 - Appraisal value \$426,000
 - Our asking: \$419,000
 - Realtors value \$390,000 (*list at \$425,000*)
 - Monastery offer \$365,000
- Discussion was held regarding potential buyers, etc.
- Fr. Nicholas Solak thanked ABM for his efforts to see this through

Relocation "Preliminary Search Committees" to investigate preferable location.

Issues to consider:

- a. Accessibility, traffic patterns on weekends
 - b. Age, size, price
 - c. Crime rate
 - d. Appreciate trends vs. Declining value
- ABM would like to develop a search committee
 - FJO suggested that we look towards the Bethlehem area
 - Discussion was held regarding the location of the Diocesan Center; that it would be beneficial that the name of the see should reflect the location of the Bishop (*i.e. Bishop of Bethlehem, etc.*)
 - What is the future of the Diocese of Western PA?
 - Sandy Tosca recommended that we look at the operating budget, the demographics, and the cost of travel, etc. in proposed locations.

Motion that a preliminary committee be formed: Fr. Nicholas Solak; Second: Fr. John Onofrey. **Approved.**

- 30 days to be formed and constituted.

Donation from Helen Monkovich Estate

- 6 acres near Lopez
- Waiting for deed – when they arrive they will be put on the market

Potential Donation from Grabovy Family (Louisville, KY)

- 2 parcels (Pocono area)
- Will do some research to see if we will accept

Seminarian Support

- ABM discussed his recent memo
- FJO offered his thoughts

Motion to send out Seminary appeal for the Diocese to send living expenses to the seminarians. Protodeacon Sergei. Second: Rdr. John Shingara. Approved.

Protodeacon Peter mentioned the importance of Seminarians getting practical experience in pastoral life, and liturgics

*Break for Sonia Perich Panakhida at 11:50pm
Returned for a working lunch break at 1:43pm
Welcome Lawrence Conover
Welcome Rdr. James Latimer
Welcome Daniel Valentine*

St. Tikhon Camp Review

- Letter was received from Holy Cross parish in Williamsport about the summer camp, and incidents regarding camp counselors and some incidents.
- It was discussed and recommended that each counselor and volunteer needs an annual letter from clergy, as well as the rest of the vetting process.
- It was decided that Ab. Mark will meet with the St. Tikhon Seminary Camp Directors in person, and will respond to the parish of Holy Cross.
- Updated procedures and process needs to be implemented.

Review of Officer's Reports

Chancellor

Emailed before the meeting

Treasurer

Budget vs. Actual Summary (as of Sept 27, 2017)

Parish Support

Actual: \$283,558.32

Total Income

Actual: \$317,706.75

Total Expenses

Actual: \$313,219.66

Net Operating Income

Actual: \$4,487.09

Account Balance Summary

Peer Group Checking: \$24,369.74

General Checking: \$131,322.43

Protected Fund MM: \$79,127.96

TOTAL: \$234,820.13

Aging Summary (report attached as of Sept 27, 2017)

Total = \$25,647.66

(91 and over = \$5,777.77)

Notes:

- ABM recommended that we create a **car replacement account** with a **\$300 p/month** deposit.
- St. John in Edwardsville will begin payroll responsibilities, as Fr. George now has his green card.

- Next Diocesan Council meeting we will review the budgets
- Update on balances in the Nightingale and Volkovinsky accounts.
- All parishes have submitted parish support letters from last year (except for Minersville and St. Clair). New letters will be sent out in the coming months.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Reports: Fr. John Onofrey. Second: Fr. Stephen Vernak.
Approved.

Deaneries

Philadelphia – Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk

- Major concern is finding a priest for St. Nicholas in Bethlehem
- St. Nicholas, Coatesville parish is celebrating their 100th Anniversary
- Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon will be speaking at St. Stephen in October
- Deanery Clergy picnic was held
- We received an update about St. Nicholas in Philadelphia and our attempt to recover our antimensia

Frackville – Fr. Timothy Hojnicky

- Holy Ascension in Lykens had a flood. Property has been restored recently
- Holy Trinity in McAdoo is down to 2 members
- Ss. Peter & Paul in Minersville & St. Mary in St. Clair have coverage through readers services or a visiting clergy

Wilkes-Barre – Fr. Nicholas Solak

- Holy Resurrection Cathedral is celebrating its 125th Anniversary
- All the parishes are covered as of now
- Update on Fr. John Nightingale – ABM suggested that we call and visit whenever possible.

Liturgical Life Committee – Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk

- Nothing to report

Clergy Continuing Education –

- Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon will be speaking throughout the Diocese in October
- Fr. Alcuin Kellerhouse spoke about pastoring to people who addicted in Harrisburg this past September
- ABM would like to invite Sandra Anderson from Minneapolis to come and talk with our parishes about ministry, and the program they have.

Metropolitan Council Report

- Fr. Timothy reported that the 2018 budget was passed
- During the council, an earthquake struck Mexico. The council approved a \$5,000 donation. Archbishop Alejo asked that we hold off an appeal until they could assess the needs.

- AAC planning is well underway. The website is live, and the agenda is set. There is a youth component again.

Communications

Report was submitted via email

Motion to approve \$700 to update our website: Fr. Stephen Vernak. Second: Fr. Timothy Hojnicky.

Old Business:

- Diocesan Assembly (St. Michael Delaware)
- Hilton Hotel in Newark, DE for accommodations

New Business:

AAC Video – highlight the ministry and outreach of our Diocese

10-minute maximum (waiting for quotes from Aric Gingo & Greg Ressetar)

Charity (\$750 available for charity)

- Update: Vladimer Kellachow went to the **CrossRoad** and appreciates our Diocese support
- **Share 50/50 to Puerto Rico and Mexico. Motion:** Fr. Martin Browne. Second: Protodeacon Sergei Kapral. Approved.

Schedule Next Meeting and Closing Prayer

- Thursday, November 9th from 10am – 4pm
Holy Trinity - Pottstown, PA

Motion to adjourn Fr. Timothy Hojnicky. Approved.

Closing Prayer at 4:05pm