

Diocesan Council Meeting June 05, 2018
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
980 Bridle Path Road, Bethlehem, PA 18017

Meeting Minutes

Opening Prayer at 10:07am 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, Fr. John Onofrey, Sandy Tosca

Philadelphia Deanery: Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk (*Dean*); Fr. Barnabas Fravel; Protodeacon Peter Skoog

Wilkes Barre Deanery: None

Metropolitan Council:

At Large: Reader John Shingara

Absent:

Fr. Nicholas Solak (Wilkes Barre, dean); Fr. Michael Demko; Protodeacon Sergei Kapral, Susan Schlasta (*lay rep*)

Guest:

Fr. Matthew Joyner, *host pastor*

Minutes of Previous Meeting, March 03, 2018

Motion to approve: Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk; Second: Fr. Raymond Browne. Approved.

Diocesan Assembly --- Fr Matthew Joyner

- \$72 p/night
- Cut off - Jan 1
- Budget of \$800 - \$1,000 for food
- A/V ready to go
- Wine and Cheese social on Thursday night

Archbishop's Remarks

- *Disposition of Current Offer on Bath Property*
 - Note: Nazareth property was deemed too maintenance intensive

- Bath property **came back into play**, and we submitted an offer of **\$280,000**
 - Engaged a local attorney (*Atty Larry Fox*) and going through the variance and permitting process.
 - Zoning hearing sometime in the next 30 days.
 - Owners offered an extension to the end of August, if we get held up in the zoning process.
 - We are in a good position to get the change in zoning approved.
- *Mentorship and Placement of Students*
 Draft proposal was emailed prior to the meeting
 DOEPA seminarians will be assisted by our parishes or the Diocese
 Non-Diocesan seminarians will be assisted by their home Diocese
 Fr. Victor shared that there should be at least 1-year of exposure to the monastic services, then year 2 and 3 to be at a local parish.
 Protodeacon Peter shared that there should be some mentorship for Matushki as well.
 Archbishop Mark will meet with the deans and prospective students regarding the program and specific vetting of ordination candidates

Diocesan:

- Daniel Valentine (Dn) - **Nanticoke**
- Silouan Burns (Dn) - **Berwick**
- Vjekoslav Jovicic (Priest) - **Stroudsburg**
- Larry Conover Dundaff - ???

Non-Diocesan:

- Fr Michael Shepherd - **Mechanicsburg**

Review of Officer's Reports

a. Chancellor Diocesan

- Email prior to the meeting
- Highlights – we are experiencing a clergy shortage. Coupled with the fact that many of our potential candidates are “foreign” and there has been a resistance to those whose first language is not English.
- Summer Camp – a lively discussion was held regarding the background of the cancellation of the program
 - ABM will call together a committee to discuss the future of the programs

b. All American Council

- Fr. Victor asked about the AAC and the parish participation – are we doing well with registration? Answer – yes!

b. Treasurer (*emailed prior to the mtg*)

Budget vs. Actual Summary

(*as of June 4, 2018*)

Parish Support

Actual: **\$161,240.66**

Total Income

Actual: **\$170,372.71**

Total Expenses

Actual: **\$170,044.13**

Net Operating Income

Actual: **\$328.58**

Note: Does not include OCA quarterly Assessment payment
Account Balance Summary (*report attached as of June 4, 2018*)

Peer Group Checking: **\$ 18,374.64**

General Checking: **\$ 525,010.57**

Protected Fund MM: **\$ 79,204.94**

TOTAL **\$ 622,590.15**

Aging Summary

(*report attached as of June 4, 2018*)

Total = **\$9,194.10** (*91 and over = \$2,765.15*)

Motion to forgive debt and suspend billing for Holy Trinity in McAdoo through December 2018, due to necessary repairs to the property and to allow them to reestablish their parish life: Fr. John Onofrey. *Second:* Dn. John Shingara. Approved.

Motion to approve treasurer's reports:

Fr. Stephen Vernak; *Second:* Fr. Raymond Browne. Approved.

Deaneries

a. Philadelphia – Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk

- Deanery picnic – Labor Day weekend
- Golf Tournament – end of September

b. Frackville – Fr. Timothy Hojnicky

- St. Clair and McAdoo vacant
- Lykens and Minersville are being served by Fr. Seraphim Reynolds
- Dn. John Shingara (Harrisburg), ordained to the Diaconate (St. Thomas Sunday)
- St. Michael is celebrating their 110th Anniversary (Sept 16)

c. Wilkes-Barre – Fr. Nicholas Solak

- Olyphant, HT Wilkes Barre, and Williamsport are vacant
- Another potential vacancy at the end of December

Lunch Break at 12:13pm
Return from Lunch Break at 12:58pm

Old Business

Sandy Tosca reached out to Rebecca Boyles from East Stroudsburg regarding AAC Video (*being completed by Greg Ressetar*) is progressing, individual segments are completed, awaiting the recording of Archbishop Mark. His Eminence will check with Fr. Dan Kovalak regarding some choir recordings that might be able to be re-released to help support some programs.

New Business

Fr. Stephen Vernak shared his experience at the Lilly Executive Course in Religious Finance. Fr. Stephen Vernak shared that Fr. Sergius will be speaking at CTS in October 2018, and that Fr. Barnabas Powell will be speaking in October 2019.

Mentoring Program Funding?

Parishes and Diocese will address as needed.

Charity

At the March meeting we already allocated the major funds for the quarter.

Motion to approve \$100 to sponsor:

Fr. Raymond Browne; *Second*: Dn. John Shingara. Approved.

Motion to approve \$250 to sponsor back-to-school backpacks for Mt. Carmel:

Fr. John Onofrey; *Second*: Fr. Barnabas Fravel. Approved.

Other items:

- FM Browne shared that at our next meeting we will need to start talking about parish realities. He also suggested that we all attend the open forum at the AAC on the pension.
- Joe Tosca asked us to address questions regarding the Communications report. We discussed the recommendations.

Motion to adjourn:

Fr. Stephen Vernak. Approved.

Closing Prayer at 1:30pm