

**Diocesan Council Meeting,  
March 1, 2017  
St. Nicholas, Bethlehem**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Note:** We met at the property at 325 N. Walnut Street, Bath, PA to meet with the realtor and one of our potential contractors. Those assembled went throughout the house.

Opening Prayer at **11:28am** 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); Protodeacon Peter Skoog
- **Wilkes Barre Deanery:** Fr. Nicholas Solak (Wilkes Barre, dean); Fr. Michael Demko; Protodeacon Sergei Kapral
- **Metropolitan Council:**
- **At Large:** Rdr. John Shingara

**Absent:**

- Fr. Barnabas Fravel; Fr. John Onofrey; Susan Schlasta (lay rep)

**Guest:**

- Fr. Matthew Joyner, *host pastor*

**Minutes of Nov 7<sup>th</sup> meeting**

- Motion: Fr. Martin Browne Second: Fr. Timothy Hojnicky Approved.

**Archbishop's Remarks**

***Diocesan Assembly***

ABM remarked that St. Michael's in Wilmington did a great job.

Fr. Matthew and the faithful at St. Nicholas in Bethlehem are currently working on the 2019 Assembly.

***Diocesan Property***

ABM noted that an offer was made on the house in Bath. An inspection was scheduled for tomorrow; however, it was cancelled while we investigate the zoning of the property. It is currently zoned as commercial (CH2) only, we will apply for a variance for mixed commercial/residential (CH1).

ABM presented bids from John McGarrity and Mark Dartouzos; as well as single bid for the roofing by Kunsman. Discussion on the specific line items was discussed.

Motion: To allocate \$45,000 for property improvements/repairs/fees

- Motion: Pdn. Peter Skoog Second: Fr. Stephen Vernak Approved.

Diocesan Center was sold for \$375,000

Proposed Diocesan Center is being purchased for \$265,000

Closing is scheduled for mid-April; but most likely will be delayed to address zoning issues.

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*Lunch break at **12:03pm**  
Returned to business at **12:15pm** (working lunch)*

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### **Review of Officer's Reports**

#### ***Chancellor***

*Emailed prior to the meeting*

#### ***Deaneries***

*Philadelphia – Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk*

Report presented

*Frackville – Fr. Timothy Hojnicky*

Report presented

Two ordinations – Dn. Peter Staller at Christ the Saviour in Harrisburg and Fr. Seraphim Reynold in Mechanicsburg. Fr. Seraphim is now splitting time between Lykens and Minersville.

Sunday of Orthodoxy – Sat, Feb 24 at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Lancaster.

Each of the local Orthodox Churches in Harrisburg area will host a Vespers (Pan-Orthodox)

*Wilkes-Barre – Fr. Nicholas Solak*

Report presented

Clergy vacancies addressed (Holy Trinity, and All Saints); Holy Cross is coming vacant with Fr. Kovalak's impending retirement

Other situations and concerns were addressed

ABM reported that we have "acquired" two seminarians who are interested in serving the Diocese after their graduation/ordinations: Silouan Burns & Vjekoslav Jovicic.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning rumors regarding of “forced retirements”, as well as clergy shortage, and seminary parish assignments.

***Treasurer***

*Budget vs. Actual Summary (as of Feb 28, 2018)*

Parish Support

Actual: \$56,756.07

Total Income

Actual: \$62,621.37

Total Expenses

Actual: \$44,714.19

Net Operating Income

Actual: \$17,059.35

Note: Does not include OCA quarterly Assessment payment

Account Balance Summary (report attached as of Feb 28, 2018)

Peer Group Checking: \$19,933.91

General Checking: \$533,740.47

(Note: Includes income from the sale of the Diocesan Center - \$375,000)

Protected Fund MM: \$79,171.09

**TOTAL: \$632,845.47**

*Aging Summary (report attached as of Feb 28, 2018)*

Total = **\$16,255.10**

(91 and over = \$2,138.10)

Note: Coatesville is paying monthly + additional to pay the 91-day arrears

Motion to approve treasurers report (*Emailed prior*). Fr. Stephen Vernak; Second: Pdn. Sergei Kapral. Approved.

**Old Business:**

- No Old Business

**New Business:**

- Parish Workshop Presentation (S. Tosca)
  - Assemble small work groups to start working on concrete projects
  - Create groups along the same size/demographic realities
  - Discussion was held regarding implementation of the plan

- ABM suggested gathering parish council chairs for a meeting, then roll-out into the parishes that want to participate
- Fr. Raymond mentioned that we should consider using people with “tenuous ties” to help with some of the skills gaps in our parish. This includes those who are related to those who are active (or less than active) in our parish.
- Charity
  - Frs. Nicholas Solak, Timothy Hojnicky, and Stephen Vernak have been asked to participate in a clergy summer exchange with the Patriarchate of Moscow. Discussion was held to designate \$2,100 from clergy assistance to help with airfare (\$700 each)
    - Motion to approve \$2,100: Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk; Second: Fr. Martin Browne. Approved.
  - Frs. Nicholas Solak asked for support for the Project Mexico group from Holy Trinity in Stroudsburg in August.
    - Motion to approve \$750: Fr. Stephen Vernak; Second: Prn. Sergei Kapral. Approved.
  - Fr. Stephen Vernak asked for support for the Shipley family (formerly of St. Nicholas, Bethlehem)
    - Motion to approve \$750: Fr. Stephen Vernak; Second: Fr. Timothy Hojnicky. Approved.

Seminarian Scholarship (\$2,000): Split it five ways (\$400 each)

- Motion to approve: Fr. Stephen Vernak; Second: Fr. Timothy Hojnicky Approved.

*Location for next meeting:*

**Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 3pm** at 325 N. Walnut Street, Bath, PA

**Motion to Adjourn** by Fr. Stephen Vernak; Approved.

**Schedule Next Meeting and Closing Prayer at 2:07pm**

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Fr. Stephen Vernak***