



Diocesan Council Meeting - September 25, 2018

Diocesan Chancery
325 N. Walnut St., Bath, PA 18014

Meeting Minutes

Opening Prayer at 10:13am with the singing of "O Heavenly King"

Present:

Administration: Archbishop Mark (*Hierarch*); Fr. Martin Browne (*Chancellor*); Joseph Tosca (*DC Treasurer*);

Frackville Deanery: Fr. Timothy Hojnicky (*Dean & MC clergy rep*); Fr. John Onofrey;
Fr. Stephen Vernak (*DC Secretary*)

Philadelphia Deanery: Pdn. Peter Skoog

Wilkes Barre Deanery: Fr. Nicholas Solak (*Dean*)

Metropolitan Council:

At Large:

Absent:

Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk (*Dean*); Dn. John Shingara (*Diocesan at-large*); Fr. Michael Demko;
Fr. Barnabas Fravel; Pdn. Sergei Kapral; Sandy Tosca; Susan Schlasta (*MC lay rep*)

Guest:

Minutes of Previous Meeting, June 5, 2018

Correction p. 4. \$100 donation made to OCCGH for Golf Tournament

Motion to approve minutes as corrected:

Fr. John Onofrey; *Second:* Pdn. Peter Skoog. **Approved.**

Archbishop's Remarks

- *Purchase of Diocesan Chancery (Bath)*
 - \$5,000 additional received from St. Tikhon to move more expeditiously
 - Repairs completed and to be completed (*see spreadsheet attached*)
 - Reviewed
 - Acknowledgements for those who helped with the move
 - Bid for Lawn Service
 - Bernard Eisenhard - \$2,000
 - (see bid for details)

Motion to approve lawn service bid:

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

Motion to approve gifts for move helpers:

Fr. Raymond Browne. *Second:* Fr. John Onofrey. **Approved.**

- *Mentorship and Placement of Students*

Funds are being set aside for each of the students as the parishes are able.
Going well thus far.

Diocesan:

- Dn. Daniel Valentine - **Nanticoke**
- Dn. Silouan Burns - **Mechanicsburg**
- Fr. Vjekoslav Jovicic - **Stroudsburg**
- Larry Conover - **Dundaff**

Non-Diocesan:

- Fr. Michael Shepherd - **Berwick**

Motion to approve \$120 for Burns family to stay in hotel 1x p/mo:

Fr. John Onofrey; *Second:* Pdn. Peter Skoog. **Approved.**

- *Christian Education Director (vacancy due to the untimely death of Maria Proch)*

Looking for potential replacement to help coordinate Diocesan events

Fr. Raymond and Fr. Nicholas will coordinate this effort

Discussion regarding trends in engagement and technology

- *AAC/Diocesan Discussion*

Fr. Nicholas offered the following recommendations:

Consider being more proactive about training for our Diocesan and AAC delegates.

Inviting the OCA Small Parish Forum to be hosted in our Diocese

Project Mexico team from our Diocese

Review of Officer's Reports

a. Diocesan Chancellor

- Email prior to the meeting
- Fr. Raymond plans on being at the DC at least once a week going forward
- Winter and Summer Retreats for Teens
 - The administration will speak with the coordinators about their interest going forward.
 - Procedures & Standards, and Clergy Recommendations

b. Treasurer (emailed prior to the mtg)

Budget vs. Actual Summary

(as of 09/24/18)

Parish Support

Actual: **\$278,679.30**

Total Income

Actual: **\$287,234.05**

Total Expenses

Actual: **\$271,565.00**

Net Operating Income

Actual: **\$15,669.05**

Account Balance Summary (report attached as of 09/24/18)

Peer Group Checking: **\$ 23,639.15**

General Checking: **\$ 228,541.56**

Protected Fund MM: **\$ 79,240.55**

TOTAL **\$ 331,421.26**

Aging Summary

(report attached as of 09/24/18)

Total = **\$23,643.23** (91 and over = **\$1,250.10**)

Fr. Raymond noted that the safe deposit box at NBT (Penn Star) has been closed

Joseph Tosca provided a **ledger** showing the expenses for the **Diocesan Center**. After anticipated expenses – we currently have a **\$53,788.78** positive balance.

Fr. Raymond noted that Ab. Marks stewardship over the expenses has been exceptional.

Motion to approve treasurers' reports:

Fr. Stephen Vernak; *Second:* Fr. Nicholas Solak. **Approved.**

Deaneries

a. Philadelphia – Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk

- Clergy Deanery Picnic was held on Labor Day weekend

b. Frackville – Fr. Timothy Hojnicky

- Mt. Carmel celebrated their 110th Anniversary
- McAdoo requested to close/dissolve their parish
 - Other parishes are also considering this
- Reassignments were reviewed.

- Minersville, Lykens, and St. Claire are currently vacant of clergy assignments
- Clergy health concerns, several of our active clergy will need some time off in the coming weeks. Will take some coordination.

c. Wilkes-Barre – Fr. Nicholas Solak

- Two new assignments: Fr. Seraphim Reynolds (Holy Cross, Williamsport); Fr. Innocent Neal (Holy Trinity, Wilkes Barre).
- Olyphant remains vacant; there are several deanery clergy who may be approaching retirement, or are facing health issues.
- Several potential clergy discussed

*Lunch Break at 12:24pm
Return from Lunch Break at 12:58pm*

Metropolitan Council (Fr. Timothy Hojnicky)

- M. Tikhon and the MC started a committee to steward the \$87,000 that was raised to fund the National Youth Director.
- Syosset is being restructured, all the officers have resigned, and are being replaced. There is a “short list” but they have not been made public.
 - Metropolitan
 - Chancellor (chief of staff)
 - Treasurer
 - Chancellery Administrator (*no longer called Secretary*)
- 50th Anniversary of the Tomos and Canonization of St. Herman (2020)
 - Ab. Benjamin is chairperson for OCA
 - Each Diocese is asked to host an event
 - Each Diocese is asked to make pilgrimage to Alaska
 - Potential Cruise in Alaska
 - Synodal Liturgy at the National Cathedral (*Washington, DC*)
- Fr. Raymond asked about the updates to the OCA website. FT responded that there are some technical delays
- FT mentioned that there were some discussions regarding Social Media policy for clergy (*social issues, and politics*)

New Business

M. Sandra Appreciation

- Monetary gift
- Handwritten Icon - TBD
- Acknowledgement at Diocesan Assembly in January

Motion to approve M. Sandra Appreciation report:

Fr. Raymond Browne; *Second*: Pdn. Peter. **Approved.**

Hiring of Diocesan Administrative Assistant

- M. Ashley is not interested in covering as a long-term commitment.
- \$15 p/hour; we will continue to look for a permanent replacement

Hiring of Diocesan Financial Secretary

- M. Ashley is currently filling this position, and is willing to continue

Ab. Mark mentioned that he received a letter from a clergyman currently on suspension, asking forgiveness and transfer to another OCA Diocese.

Discussion was held regarding the Diocesan Spiritual Court. Ab. Mark will review the current composition and appoint new members.

Old Business

Nothing to report

Charity

Consideration of the following

\$750 to Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) – Orthodox Awareness Month

Motion to approve \$750 to OCF

Fr. Stephen Vernak; *Second*: Fr. John Onofrey. **Approved.**

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, December 4 at 10am (*Bath, PA*)

Motion to adjourn at 2:02pm

Fr. Stephen Vernak. **Approved.**