

## **MINUTES OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY, ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016**

The Assembly was called to order with the singing of "O Heavenly King" at 11:44 AM.

The minutes of the 2015 meeting were accepted as corrected for typographical errors.

### **Metropolitan's Report:**

His Beatitude welcomed all and thanked St. Luke's for hosting this as well as the Clergy Continuing Education program the day before.

His report focused on the "Four Pillars" of Church life which he has been developing: Spiritual Life, Stewardship, Evangelization and External Affairs. Concerning Spiritual Life, he again mentioned the Continuing Education retreat with Dn. Stephan Bibas on legal issues facing the clergy. He was able to hold two informal clergy gatherings in the past year. The Archdiocese has one student from St. Mark's at St. Tikhon Seminary and another, also from St. Mark's, who just graduated from St. Vladimir's. He reminded us of the suggestion of the last All American Council that parishes commit 1% of their budget to support of the seminaries.

Concerning the second "Pillar," Stewardship, His Beatitude noted that both Fr. John Parsells and Lisa Michalevsky have asked to be relieved of their duties as Archdiocesan secretary and treasurer, respectively. Fr. Dennis Buck has been asked to take on the role of secretary and is thinking it over; meanwhile he will take today's minutes. Matthew Matyuf will serve as treasurer. His Beatitude thanked Fr. John Parsells and Lisa for their service as secretary and treasurer, respectively, as well as for serving in other roles in the Church. He also thanked Fr. John Vitko for his work as Archdiocesan Chancellor and introduced Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak, who is now His Beatitude's full-time secretary as well as being the developmental director of the Stewards of the OCA (henceforth, SOCA), of which the Archdiocese is a member. His Beatitude challenged each parish to join both SOCA and Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors. He thanked Fr. Theodore Boback and Walter Alesevich for their work on Archdiocesan by-law revisions and reminded all that parishes are to revise their parish by laws by the end of 2017, if and as needed, to be in compliance with the revised Statute of the OCA. The Archdiocese will adopt its revised by-laws later at this meeting.

The third "Pillar" is Evangelization and Outreach. James Magruder from St. Andrew's attended the OCA's Mission School. Fr. Mark Koczak reported as the chairman of the Mission Board. A Mission Plan has been drafted. Fr. Mark would like to be relieved of the position of chairman of the Board, but wishes to remain as a member. Fr. Gregory Safchuk will chair the Board, and Popadija Kitty Vitko will be co-chair. Fr. Mark encouraged all to missionize, not just the committee--make contacts and connections in our neighborhoods, etc. His Beatitude noted Donna Karabin's service with Compassion In Action, which offers its program to parishes; and also noted her position in the OCA's Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid. Perhaps in the future, there can be a Compassion In Action program in the Archdiocese.

The fourth "Pillar" is External Relations. Our Synod is a part of the Assembly of Bishops. We were not invited to the Great Synod in Crete, but Fr. Alexander Rentel and Dn. Pavel Gavrilyuk [?] attended as observers. Our Synod will review the documents produced by the Great Synod. The Churches of Antioch, Russia, Georgia and Bulgaria chose not to attend. His Beatitude has met with the heads of each of the autocephalous Churches except the Church of Romania. He emphasized that our own autocephaly is a temporary situation, to lead to a "broader" autocephaly in a united Church in North America. Two questions: 1) What about Syndesmos? Archdeacon Joseph and Victor Lutes attended; 2) Why were we not accepted to take part in the Great Synod? It's a complex situation, with many possible answers. And so, we move on.

### **Chancellor's report:**

Attached

### **Chairpersons:**

Fr. John Vitko (St. Luke's) is the clergy co-chairman; Michael Thompson (St. Mark's) is the lay co-chairman of the Diocesan Assembly.

### **Credentials:**

13 clergy delegates, 18 lay delegates, 10 observers.

### **Minutes of 2015 Assembly:**

His Beatitude pointed out typos. Walter Alesevich (St. Nicholas Cathedral) moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Fr. Theodore Boback (St. Andrew's). Approved unanimously

### **Financial Report:**

Fr. John Vitko stated we need to discuss Holy Archangels Mission's request for their stipend, and that the Auditors' report would be deferred due to difficulties with the bank (see below) and with Quickbooks Pro. .

- Lisa Michalevsky reported that M & T Bank closed our account due to miscommunication, and we are moving to Bank of America, which has many local branches.
- Unfortunately, finalized financial reports were not available for the meeting due to difficulties in mastering the new . Matthew Matyuf, the new treasurer, will work to resolve this as soon as possible..
- We have ~\$30,000. in the bank. Invoices have been sent out late because of the change in banks.
- Our cash flow is positive. One or two parishes are behind in payments to Archdiocese. Parishes should still continue sending assessments in even if monthly statements have not yet been received. St. Matthew's and St. Andrew's have a problem with that as an invoice is needed for a check.

Concerning **Holy Archangels Mission's stipend request**, Fr. Vitko reported that the OCA Planting Grant to the Mission expired last year. They then received a stipend of \$11,600 rather than the \$7,000 that went to the other missions. This was to be done for one year at which time the Mission would receive the same as the other missions. Holy Archangels, however, has asked for a renewal of that \$11,600. stipend.

Fr. Mark Koczak reported that the Archdiocesan Mission Board recommended the extra funding for the Mission, as he, His Beatitude and the Chancellor had reviewed the progress and progress has been demonstrated. Moved by Fr. Michael Koblosh (All Saints of North America) to increase the stipend for Holy Archangels Mission to \$11,600. for the coming year. Seconded by Paula Eisengrein (Holy Archangels). Fr. Buck (St. Catherine's) offered an amendment that the same conditions apply as the year before. Seconded by Gregory Honshul (Holy Trinity). As the amendment was approved by both the maker and the second the motion to amend was withdrawn. The motion carried with one abstention.

### **Budget:**

Moved by Kitty Vitko (St. Luke's) to consider the budget as provisional. This will be discussed later during the vote on the budget.

Fr. Boback (St. Andrew's) asked if we needed a motion to delay the Auditor's report. Walter Alesevich so moved; Fr. Boback seconded. Passed unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Mission Board report:** Attached. Moved by Lisa Michalevsky to accept the Mission Board's statement as policy. Seconded by Fr. Robert Miclean (Holy Archangels Mission). Carried with one abstention.

**Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors report:** Attached.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Revision of Archdiocesan By-laws:**

Moved to accept by Fr. Boback (St. Andrew's); seconded by Fr. Vitko (St. Luke's). Passed unanimously.

#### **Orthodox Church Capital Investment Fund (OCCIF):**

A presentation by John Della Monica, the president of OCCIF, including videos and distributed pamphlets, was given about this fund to secure loans for the purchase, building, remodeling and refinancing of church facilities, as it is difficult for religious institutions to secure loans. Capital is invested, pooled and interest is sent out for the projects; the whole procedure stays within the structures of the Church. Donations are fully tax-deductible (501c3)

**Approval of Budget:**

Moved by Popadja Kitty Vitko to accept the 2017 budget as provisional, subject to new items being added. Yuri Dzambasow (St. Andrew's) wished to add a contingency that \$30,000. be kept in the bank account – but this was left to the discretion of Financial Committee which will be formed shortly. Carried with one "nay" and one abstention.

**Elections:**

For clergy delegate to Metropolitan Council, Walter Alesevich nominated Fr. Valery Shemchuk (St. Nicholas Cathedral). Seconded by Fr. Robert Miclean (Holy Archangels). Passed by acclamation. For lay delegate to the Archdiocesan Auditing Committee, Walter Alesevich nominated Gregory Honshul (Holy Trinity). Seconded by Kitty Vitko. Passed unanimously.

**PSP Compliance, Continuing Clergy Ed., OCA Statute** (Fr. Vitko): Background checks of clergy need to be done every 3 years. The Archdiocese pays for the clergy checks. The parishes pay for the background checks on the laity. Compliance reports, from each parish, are due by the end of the year. Clergy are reminded that they are to complete 20 real-time hours of continuing pastoral education every year. Parishes are to bring their own by-laws into compliance with the revised Statute of the Orthodox Church in America by the end of the year.

**Stewards of the OCA (SOCA):** Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak, secretary to His Beatitude, is also chairman of the Stewards, which funds the programs of the Church. This year's funding goals have been met; they are increasing for 2017. Check the SOCA page on the OCA website.

**Metropolitan Council report:**

Lisa Michalevsky added that the Metropolitan Council is to meet in the coming week.

[My notes refer me to a written report by Walter Alesevich on **FOCA**, but I do not have one]

**PARISH REPORTS:**

Written reports were submitted from Holy Archangels and St. Andrew's. St. Catherine and St. Nicholas Cathedral gave oral reports. See the Chancellor's report for further parish highlights.

**Next Meetings:**

Archdiocesan Assembly--His Beatitude suggests September 15 -16.  
Archdiocesan Council--February 18 and August 12.

**Adjournment:**

Moved by Walter Alesevich. Seconded by Fr. Vitko. Passed unanimously. Assembly was adjourned with the singing of "It Is Truly Meet."