**MINUTES OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY,**

**ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2022**

The meeting, held via ZOOM at 12:04 PM, opened with "O Heavenly King" led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon.

There were no proposed corrections to the draft agenda, so it was approved.

**METROPOLITAN'S REPORT:**

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon reported that he was presently in New York for the Assembly of the Albanian Archdiocese, of which he is locum tenens. Igumen Nikodhim (Preston) has been nominated as bishop of that archdiocese.  Once he has been installed, His Beatitude will be freed up for more work in our diocese, though he remains locum tenens for the Diocese of New England.  Other commitments taking time from his work in our diocese include the ongoing COVID situation, the All-American Council and the falling asleep in the Lord of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman.

The remainder of his report focused on the continued strengthening of the Archdiocese.  He thanked the Archdiocese for hosting the All-American Council held the past summer in Baltimore, especially for Fr. Theodore Boback (St. Andrew's. Baltimore) and Lisa Mikhalevsky (All Saints of North America, Alexandria, VA) for their work chairing the council, and all who contributed.  A survey will follow in the coming week for feedback.  His Beatitude saw that the highlights of the Council were the liturgical services and the focus on the Dioceses of Alaska and Mexico.  He expressed the thanks of Bishop Alexei for our expressions of support for Alaska, which included $20,000 raised for that diocese, and Kitty Vitko (St. Luke's, McLean, VA) for the breakfast for our diocesan representatives and those of the Alaskan diocese.

Juliana Woodill (All Saints of North America, Alexandria, VA) leads the Archdiocesan Choir, which held a concert at St. Nicholas Cathedral August 28.  A video of the concert is available online.  He has met with Ms. Woodill concerning future work for the choir.  There will be more on this in New Business.

Clergy changes include the assignment of Fr. Alessandro Margheritino to All Saints of North America Mission in Alexandria, VA, and Fr. John Mikitish in the stavropegial office of Assistant to the Chancellor.

His Beatitude reported that he is getting more used to the area.  He has more flexibility now to visit and even to serve.  He attended the 50th Anniversary of St. Mark's in Bethesda, at which Dn. Matthew Prentice received the award of the double orarion.  His Beatitude enjoys more frequent interaction with the diocesan clergy.  He then thanked the Archdiocesan officers; Chancellor Fr. John Vitko (St. Luke's, McLean, VA), Treasurer Matthew Matyuf (Holy Trinity, Ashburn, VA), Secretary Fr. Dennis Buck (St. Catherine, Hagerstown, MD), Finance Committee chairman Cooper Pappas (St. Matthew's, Columbia, MD); also, thanks to the parishes for their prayers and support.

Questions from Fr. Boback:  1) Will the New England and Albanian dioceses be getting bishops?   For now, just the Albanians; Archim. Nikodhim has been elected; 2) For now, are we to use the Syosset mailing address or the local office's?  We will be getting a local post office box in the coming week; 3) What is the status of various national and international issues, especially as concerns the functioning of the Assembly of Bishops?  His Beatitude answered that issues abroad, especially the canonical situation in Ukraine, are affecting all people in North America; for example, concerning concelebration.  The October meeting of the Assembly of Bishops has been postponed to January.  The challenge for the OCA is to maintain balance in our relationships, focus on our life locally and address issues as they affect us; 4) Are we still involved with the NCC and WCC following the passing of Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky?  We are continuing our representation to those bodies; this assists us in external relations.

**CHANCELLOR'S REPORT:**

Archdiocesan Chancellor Fr. John Vitko thanked His Beatitude and all the clergy and lay leaders of the diocese for their assistance.  Much of what he would report would echo His Beatitude's report.  It has been a momentous year for the Archdiocese:  the offices of the OCA moving to Virginia, the All-American Council in Baltimore, the activities of the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDB), the development of the Archdiocesan Choir, St. Mark's 50th Anniversary, the Diaconal Vocations Program (DVP) working in conjunction with the DDB, etc.  Today our business includes the by-law change, support for the Alaskan diocese and further diocesan activities such as possibly reestablishing Diocesan Day.

His Beatitude appointed **CLERGY AND LAY CHAIRS** for the Assembly:  Fr. John Vitko and Lisa Mikhalevsky, respectively.

**CREDENTIALS REPORT:**  34 total participating--11 clergy and 13 lay delegates; 6 clergy and 4 lay observers.

**MOTION**byPaula Eisengren (Holy Archangels, Annapolis, MD) to accept the Minutes with changes to typos.  **Seconded** by Fr.Boback.

**PASSED**unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

**Treasurer:**

Archdiocesan Treasurer Matthew Matyuf (Holy Trinity, Ashburn, VA) reported that the original 2021 budget of $77,269 was amended in September to $77,069.  All parishes have met their First Fruits obligations.  These funds are split 60/40% to the Archdiocese and the OCA, respectively.  St. John the Theologian Mission Station began their First Fruits giving in 2022.  The saving funds have been established, comprising the Archdioceean Reserve, Emergency funds and Escrow.  End-of-year figures:  Income, $85,447; Expenses, $97,741; Net Income, -$12,293; EOY balance, $102,127.  Fr. John Vitko asked what caused the deficit; Matyuf replied that it was largely due to AAC expenses.

**Financial Committee:**

Financial Committee Chairman Cooper Pappas delivered a power point report.  For January 1-August 31, 2022, Archdiocesan assets are $97,400.28; combined with funds restricted for DDB, $136,644.51; minus liabilities of $25,800=$110,844.51.

**Profit and Loss** for 1/122-8/31/22:  total income $71,656.11 ($65,150.16 from First Fruits); expenses, $61,825.19; net income, $9,830.92.

The projected income for 2023 is $110,304.  Priority 1budgetexpenses for 2023 are $84,303; priority 1 and 2 ("stretch budget") expenses are $106,203, leaving an income of $4,101; after "miscellaneous" expenses, $2,901.  Three motions concerning the budget will be presented in New Business.

**Mission board funding** will not be increased for 2023.  All Saints in Alexandria has completed the term of its Mission Board support.  Holy Archangels in Annapolis will be in the second of three years past full support and will receive $3,600.  St. John's in Fairfax has begun it's funding.  2023 will be the second year out of 10 for St. John's to receive $7,000.

**DDB:**

Gregory Honshul (Holy Trinity, Ashburn, VA) reported that in 2022 DDB had raised $37,000, more than in years past.  Students in the DVP are serving as "ambassadors" for the DDB to the parishes.  Heads of various programs are Juliana Woodill for the Archdiocesan Choir, Kitty Vitko for Alaskan outreach and Fr. John Vitko for the DVP.  Along with those projects, DDB also contributed to the youth program at the AAC.  Priorities for 2023 include reestablishing Diocesan Day, Leadership training programs and enhanced Alaskan outreach.

As of 8/31/22, DDB's fund balance is $41,435; gift totals have been $30,900.  For 2023, programs will include vocations, to include Archdiocesan Choir programs, practicum programs for deacons and readers, and leadership programs including project management and church accounting; Alaskan outreach including clergy support and the "Pennies for Alaska" program which has been active at St. Nicholas Cathedral since 1968; and special events, including a "Diocesan Retreat Day."

**MISSION BOARD REPORT:**

Popadija Kitty Vitko (St. Luke's, McLean, VA) submitted a written report.  Salient points follow:

The last Mission Board meeting was September 9.  Fr. Alessandro Margheritino is the new rector at All Saints of North America in Alexandria, VA, following the repose of Fr. Michael Koblosh.

St. John the Theologian in Fairfax Station, VA holds both Saturday Vespers and now Sunday Liturgy at St. Mary of Sorrows Church.  Fr. Joseph Woodill offers the services, though he is formally retired.

Holy Archangels in Annapolis, MD has been serving a very transient congregation, including serving both St. John's College and the US Naval Academy.  The college outreach is supported by Annapolis Campus Ministry.

There is a desire to explore the feasibility of planting more missions in the Archdiocese.  Fr. Dennis Buck (St. Catherine's, Hagerstown, MD) has received inquiries from far western Maryland and is exploring possibilities.  There remain other unserved areas within the diocesan borders.

The Board is developing a standard reporting system for the missions and is committed to being more active in having Board members visit mission communities.  Attached to the written report was a history of the development and growth of parishes in the Archdiocese.  It was noted that in 1970, with the granting of autocephaly, there were only 2 parishes in our territory:  St. Nicholas in DC (not a cathedral at the time) and St. Andrew's in Baltimore.  The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 28 in Annapolis.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOVED** by Cooper Pappas to allocate $2,400 of the surplus in the budget thus:  $1,000 to SOCA, $400 to the Assembly of Bishops and $1,000 to OCA youth programs.  **Seconded** by Fr. Dennis Buck.  **MOVED to amend** by Dn. Matthew Prentice (St.Mark's, Bethesda, MD) to combine this motion with the second proposed motion from the Financial Committee to include that the listed recipients will only receive the amounts as the Archdiocesan finances remain as projected.  The amendment was **agreed** to by both the maker and the second.  The question arose as to whether there was presently a "youth program" as such within the OCA.  The current motion was **WITHDRAWN** by the maker.

**MOVED** by Fr. Theodore Boback to allocate $1,000 to SOCA and $400 to the Assembly of Bishops under the same condition as in the previous motion.  The motion **PASSED**with one dissenting vote.

**MOVED** by Matthew Matyuf to increase the line item for AAC travel by $1,000.  **Seconded** by Gregory Honshul.  **DEFEATED**.

**MOVED** by Fr. John Vitko that the Archdiocesan Council be given the authority to allocate up to $1,000 of the proposed budget surplus at its February meeting.  **Seconded** by Fr. Dennis Buck.  **PASSED** unanimously.

As there is no functioning Audit Committee, no report was given.  **MOVED** by Fr. John Vitko to revise the Archdiocesan By-Laws concerning appointment of lay auditors, that the Metropolitan is to appoint the auditors from recommendations made by the Archdiocesan Council.  The motion was **TABLED** so as to check the wording of such a motion against the Statute of the OCA and the Archdiocesan By-Laws.  The motion will be revisited at a special Archdiocesan Assembly to gather within 45 days.

**MOVED** by Fr. John Vitko concerning Alaskan outreach that DDB lead a continuing Alaskan Outreach Initiative focused on these high priority areas:

1) Support the Alaska Clergy Stipend Endowment;

2) Designate an Alaskan Support Representative in each parish;

3) Establish lines of communication between church school teachers in our parishes and those in Alaska;

4) Offering up prayers in our parishes and our homes

**Seconded** by Gregory Honshul.  **PASSED** unanimously.

**ELECTIONS:**

For the clergy delegate and alternate to the Metropolitan Council, Fr. John Vitko nominated Dn. Matthew Prentice and Fr. Theodore Bobosh nominated Fr. John Parsells (Christ the Savior, Berlin, MD).  Dn. Luke Scantlin (St. Nicholas Cathedral) nominated Dn. James Magruder (St. Andrew's, Baltimore), who declined the nomination.  Dn. Matthew Prentice was elected delegate and Fr. John Parsells was elected as alternate.

**BUDGET, revisited:**

**MOVED** by Cooper Pappas to accept the "stretch budget" proposed for 2023.  **Seconded** by Gregory Honshul.  Passed unanimously.

**MOVED** by Kitty Vitko to adjourn.  **Accepted** by acclamation.  The meeting was adjourned with the praying of "It is Truly Meet."