

Assembly of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Right Reverend Michael
Bishop of New York
Orthodox Church in America

Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection
November 9, 2010

Prayer

The assembly opened with the singing of “O Heavenly King ...” at 12:55PM EST.

His Grace, Bishop Michael, made opening remarks welcoming the delegates and observers and commending Fr. John Shimchick for his work on *Jacob’s Well*, copies of which were made available to the delegates.

Appointments

His Grace then made the following appointments:

Appointment of Vice Chairs (one from the clergy and one from the laity): Archpriest Joseph Lickwar (Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City, NJ), Mr. Scott Anderson (Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Syracuse).

Appointment of Secretariat (one from the clergy and two from the laity): Archpriest Ken James Stavrevsky (St. John the Baptist Church, Rochester, NY), Janet VanDuyn (St. John the Baptist Church, Rochester, NY), Protodeacon Michael Sochka (Holy Transfiguration Chapel, Princeton, NJ).

Appointment of Credentials Monitor: Archpriest Jonathan Ivanoff (St. John the Theologian Church, Shirley, NY)

Appointment of Ballot Tabulators: Priest Igor Kseniuk (Ss. Peter and Paul Church Bayonne, NJ), Subdeacon Alexis (Derek) Schmidt (Diocese of New York and New Jersey), Peter Eagler (Holy Apostles Church, Saddlebrook, NJ).

Opening Remarks

The Chancellor of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, Archpriest Joseph Lickwar, made the opening remarks and reminded delegates of procedures for the Assembly. He then called for motions to approve the appointments and minutes of the 2008 Diocesan Assembly and the 2009 Extraordinary Assembly at which Bishop Michael was nominated to be our Diocesan Hierarch.

Archpriest David Garretson (Ss. Peter and Paul Church, South River, NJ) made the motion. It was seconded by Archpriest David Vernak (Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ). Motion approved.

Address of Diocesan Hierarch, His Grace Bishop Michael

Fr. Lickwar introduced His Grace Bishop Michael and welcomed him on behalf of the Diocese.

Address attached. His Grace took questions from the floor.

Reports

The Assembly then heard the following reports. (All reports attached):

Report of the Credentials Monitor

1 bishop

47 clergy delegates

41 lay delegates (one additional lay delegate arrived after the initial report)

20 observers

Report of the Chancellor—Archpriest Joseph Lickwar

Reports of Deans

New Jersey—Archpriest Samuel Kedala

New York City—Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk

New York State—Archpriest Alexey Karlgut

Reports of the Diocesan Departments and Institutions

Office of Communications—Archpriest Ken James Stavrevsky

Fr. Ken indicated that the quantity of communications has gone up and he solicited thoughts and suggestions to make it more of a two-way communication. He reminded all clergy to ensure that the email list of clergy used for all official diocesan communications is kept up-to-date. Any changes to an email address should be submitted to him, to the respective Dean, and the Chancellor. The diocesan web page is in progress. He thanked Fr. John Parsells for his work as webmaster for the diocesan web site.

Jacob's Well—Archpriest John Shimchick

Fr. John asked delegates to consider articles for future editions of *Jacob's Well* and explained that although it took only 2 weeks to layout the current edition, it took 6 months to get articles.

Liturgical Music—Matushka Doreen Bartholomew and Carol Wetmore

Youth Ministry—no report (Priest John Cassar not present)

Metropolitan Council Representatives—Archpriest Alexis Vinogradov and John Kozey. Fr. Alexis thanked people for input regarding the strategic plan.

Missions—Archpriest Alexey Karlgut and Hieromonk Matthias Moriak

Fr. Matthias was recognized as bishop-elect of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest. Discussion included the newly established parish in Lansing/Ithaca NY and the community in Oneonta, NY. The Diocesan Diaconal Formation Program is now in session with classes conducted at the Endicott, NY campus.

Tabulation of Deanery votes. All three deans retain their positions for the next year:

New Jersey—Archpriest Samuel Kedala

New York City—Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk

New York State—Archpriest Alexey Karlgut

Mr. Scott Anderson as Vice Chairman assumed the Chair at approximately 2:00pm.

Report of the Treasurer—Lawrence Tosi, Esq.

Posted loss of \$49,000.00 from reserve. Extraordinary expenses included a lawsuit and legal fees to resolve issues with the disposition of the monastery property in Niagara Falls, NY and the purchase of furniture for the chancery in Bronxville, NY. Questions and comments were made during the discussion about the extraordinary expenses.

Report of the Diocesan Auditors—Archpriest Joseph Breton, Reader David Maliniak and William Rentz. Fr. Breton reported that they audited the books and found everything in order.

Report of Independent Auditor—James Jimenez

Discussion

Concerning the auditors' report, Archpriest David Vernak (Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ) pointed out that James Jimenez's submission was a review and NOT an audit. He reminded the assembly that previous assemblies had authorized an audit. Further discussion revealed that the 2008 Assembly set aside \$12,500.00 for an independent CPA to perform a one-time baseline audit.

A motion was made by Archpriest David Vernak and seconded by Peter Eagler that the assembly authorize an audit. His Grace, Bishop Michael stated that "no one is above a council" and that he would guarantee the audit is accomplished. He appointed Fr. David Vernak and Peter Eagler to the committee, along with himself, to ensure that it is carried out. Motion approved.

Motion to accept reports

The motion to accept the reports was made by Igumen Joseph (Hoffman - Church of the Holy Transfiguration, Pearl River, NY) and the motion was seconded by Reader David Maliniak, (Christ the Savior Church, Paramus, NJ). Motion approved.

2011 Budget

Mr. Larry Tosi presented the 2011 budget. Discussion and questions centered on parishes that have not kept up with their obligations to diocesan finances. His Grace told the delegates that churches in financial need were “a test of our understanding of Church.” These receivables remain a pastoral issue.

Motion to approve budget

The motion to approve the budget was made by Peter Eagler and it was seconded by Mark Benda (Holy Spirit Church, Wantage, NJ), Archpriest Daniel Skvir (Chapel of the Transfiguration, Princeton, NJ) made a parliamentary inquiry as to whether the motion to accept the budget included the money for an external audit. Money for an external audit is to be included in the 2011 budget.

Motion approved. The budget was approved as amended.

His Grace Bishop Michael raised the issue that the budget that was just approved was a deficit budget by approximately \$48,000. As an alternative way to raise money for seminarian scholarships, support for missions and assistance to struggling parishes, His Grace proposed the establishment of a Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor Program.

Archpriest David Garretson made a motion that: “The Diocesan assembly supports the distinguished diocesan benefactor program as proposed by Bishop Michael.” The motion was seconded by Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton (Annunciation Church, Brick, NJ).

Discussion and questions from the floor centered on how we might move from funding our diocese through assessments to a more scripturally-based method of proportional giving. The consensus was that we need to begin this work in earnest, but that the diocese is not ready to take that step yet.

Igumen Joseph (Hoffman) called the question. Motion approved unanimously.

At 3:30 pm the Assembly took a break. The Assembly resumed at 3:45pm.

New Business

The Assembly heard a presentation from Michael Herzak of Guide One Insurance. He is a risk manager and MS counselor. He explained the OCA Group Affiliation Insurance Program (GAP).

Elections

A slate of nominations was prepared. Nominations were opened up to the floor of the Assembly.

Election of one clergy and one lay person from each deanery to the Diocesan Council

New Jersey: Priest Stephen Evanina (Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church, Clifton, NJ) and Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton (Annunciation Church, Brick, NJ)

New York City: Archpriest Daniel Degyansky (St. John Chrysostom, Woodside, NY) and George Elia (Protection of the Holy Virgin Cathedral, New York City)

New York State: Archpriest Ken James Stavrevsky (St. John the Baptist, Rochester, NY) and Scott Anderson (Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Syracuse, NY)

Auditors: Igumen Joseph Hoffman, Mr. William Renz, Reader David Maliniak

Election of one clergy and one lay Diocesan Representative to the Metropolitan Council:

Archpriest Alexey Karlgut, Archpriest John Shimchick, and Dr. Paul Witek (Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ)

Motion to close nominations

The motion was made by Archpriest Samuel Kedala (Holy Spirit Church, Wantage, NJ) and seconded by Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk (Cathedral of the Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, Brooklyn, NY). Motion approved.

Voting

Voting was required to determine the clergy representative to the Metropolitan Council. Fr. Shimchick was elected.

At this time it was also reported that the three deans remained the same for the next year.

The motion to accept the slate of nominees was made by Archpriest David Garretson and seconded by Archpriest Daniel Skvir.

Motion approved. The Service of Installation of Deans, the Diocesan Council, Representatives, and Auditors was held.

Motion to adjourn

The motion to adjourn was made by Igumen Christopher (Calin - Protection of the Holy Virgin Cathedral, New York City) and seconded by Archpriest Samuel Kedala (Holy Spirit Church, Wantage, NJ). Motion approved.

The assembly adjourned at 5:05pm with the singing of “It is Truly Meet.” His Grace, Bishop Michael then intoned “Memory Eternal” for Archbishop Peter, Archpriest John Sochka, and Archpriest Igor Tkachuk.

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest Ken James Stavrevsky Date

Janet VanDuyn Date

Protodeacon Michael Sochka Date