

# DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY, OCA

November 5, 2020

The clergy and lay delegates of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey met for the annual Diocesan Assembly, on Thursday, November 5, 2020. The Assembly was convened via videoconference, headquartered at Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne NJ, where Archbishop MICHAEL and the two Assembly Co-Chairs were located to conduct the meeting.

Prior to the Assembly a Molieben was served by His Eminence. "Memory Eternal" was intoned by Archbishop MICHAEL for all the clergy and matushki of the Diocese who have reposed in the Lord since the last Diocesan Assembly

His Eminence then gave a brief homily.

V. Rev. DAVID GARRETSON gave some technical instructions regarding the virtual platform.

The proceedings began with the singing of "O Heavenly King" at 11:59 AM.

## Appointments

His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL announced the following officers appointed for the Diocesan Assembly:

V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR (SS. Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City NJ), Clergy Chair

Mr. JAMES KORNAFEL (SS. Peter and Paul Church, South River NJ), Lay Chair

Rev. MATTHEW BROWN (Holy Apostles Church, Saddle Brook NJ), Secretariat

Archdeacon MICHAEL SUVAK (Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral, New York NY), Secretariat

Mrs. TRUDY ELLMORE (Holy Cross Church, Medford NJ), Secretariat

V. Rev. STEPHEN EVANINA (Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne NJ), Credentials Monitor

V. Rev. DAVID GARRETSON (SS. Peter and Paul Church, South River NJ), Credentials Monitor

V. Rev. LEONID SCHMIDT (Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus NJ), Ballot Tabulator

## Address of the Hierarchy

V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR then introduced Archbishop MICHAEL, for whom “*Eis Polla*” was sung. His Eminence presented his Address to the Assembly.

## Acceptance of Minutes and Report of Credentials Monitor

After the conclusion of his address Archbishop MICHAEL entertained a motion to accept the Minutes of the 2019 Diocesan Assembly. **Dn. SEAN MCNULTY (St. John the Baptist Church, Rochester NY) made a motion to accept the 2019 Diocesan Assembly minutes. The motion was seconded by V. Rev. GARY BRETON (Annunciation Church, Brick NJ). Archbishop MICHAEL opened the floor to corrections or questions concerning last year’s Assembly minutes. There were no comments. The motion passed unanimously by virtual hand count.**

V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR thanked the Archbishop for his address. He then invited V. Rev. DAVID GARRETSON, the Credentials Monitor, to give his report. Father David reported that there were 1 Hierarchy, 48 clergy, and 29 lay delegates, 1 retired clergyman, 1 observer, and 5 department heads for a total of 85 participants. It was determined that there were sufficient numbers to constitute a quorum.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Report of the Treasurer

V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR invited Mrs. JAN VAN DUYN (St. John the Baptist Church, Rochester NY), Diocesan Treasurer, to offer a few words regarding her written report. She commented that seventy percent (70%) of parish tithes have been sent to the Diocese so far this year, amazing in light of the pandemic. She also reported that the Diocese had applied for and received the Payroll Protection Program loan in the amount of \$27,000. The repayment forgiveness paperwork is in process at the time of the Assembly. She then invited comments or questions. There were none.

**A motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was made by V. Rev. ALEXEY KARLGUT (SS. Peter and Paul Church, Endicott NY) and was seconded by V. Rev. STEPHEN EVANINA. There was no discussion. Motion carried.**

### Report of the Diocesan Auditors

V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR called forward the Diocesan Auditors to make their presentation. Archimandrite JOSEPH (HOFFMAN) (Transfiguration Church, Pearl River NY) of the Diocesan Audit Committee reported that the members of the Committee had completed their audit and they found the finances of the Diocese in order. He then invited any comments or questions. There were none. **A motion was made by Archdeacon MICHAEL SUVAK to accept the Auditors’ Report. It was seconded by Mr. HERMAN MEYER (St. Vladimir Church, Trenton NJ). The motion passed with two (2) votes in opposition.**

## Floor Open for All Other Reports

*The following reports were distributed electronically prior to the Diocesan Assembly; some were presented with highlights by the persons reporting:*

- *Chancellor's Report by V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR, Diocesan Chancellor*
- *New Jersey Deanery Report by V. Rev. GARY BRETON, Dean*
- *New York City Deanery Report by V. Rev. WIACZESLAW KRAWCZUK, Dean (Transfiguration Cathedral, Brooklyn NY)*
- *New York State Deanery Report by V. Rev. ALEXEY KARLGUT, Dean*
- *Metropolitan Council Representatives' Report by Archimandrite JOSEPH (Hoffman) and Mr. JAMES KORNAFEL*
- *Office of Communications Report by V. Rev. KEN JAMES STAVREVSKY (St. John the Baptist Church, Rochester NY), Director, and V. Rev. VOLODYMYR ZABLITSKY (Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers NY)*
- *Report from the Commission on Liturgical Music by V. Rev. DANIEL SKVIR (Transfiguration Chapel, Princeton NJ), Matushka DOREEN BARTHOLOMEW (Our Lady of Kazan Church, Sea Cliff NY), and Mrs. CAROL WETMORE (Holy Trinity Church, Randolph NJ)*
- *Report from the Commission on Missions and Evangelism by V. Rev. ERIC TOSI, Chair (St. Gregory the Theologian Church, Wappingers Falls NY)*
- *Department of Youth Ministry Report by Ms. DANIELLE GEEZA, Chair (Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus NJ)*
- *Department of Religious Education Report by Matushka TAMARA COWAN, Chair (Holy Trinity Church, Elmira Heights NY)*
- *Diocesan Publications Report, Jacob's Well, by Rev. MATTHEW BROWN, Director*
- *Report on Saint Andrew's Camp submitted by Matushka TAMARA COWAN, Program Director*
- *Report on PSP Compliance submitted by Rev. LEONID SCHMIDT, Director of Compliance*

Mr. JAMES KORNAFEL invited each department head who submitted the above reports to give brief highlights from the report and to then entertain questions.

V. Rev. MATTHEW SEARFOORCE (Mother of God Church, Mays Landing NJ) asked a question of Mr. KORNAFEL regarding the possible selling of the OCA Chancery. Mrs. LORAIN BABAIAN (Holy Trinity Church, East Meadow NY) asked Mr. JAMES KORNAFEL if the OCA had considered subdividing the property and keeping the Chancery building. V. Rev. ALEXEY KARLGUT asked a question of Archimandrite JOSEPH (HOFFMAN) regarding the authority of the Metropolitan Council to execute the sale of property of the OCA. Mr. HERMAN MEYER asked a question to V. Rev. ERIC TOSI regarding items needed for missions. Ms. OLGA PTACH (Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers NY) asked V. Rev. DAVID COWAN (Diocesan Vice-Chancellor, Holy Trinity Church, Elmira Heights NY) if the virtual Sunday School material could be sent out earlier in the week. Rev. JOEL BRADY (Holy Apostles Mission, Lansing NY) asked Rev. MATTHEW BROWN if the priest should send out the issue link for Jacob's Well to parishioners if their name was submitted to the editor. V. Rev. ERIC TOSI asked Rev. MATTHEW BROWN a question about sharing the

Web link to the online version of *Jacob's Well*. V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR asked Rev. MATTHEW BROWN how the editor got a staff member from Hillsdale College to contribute.

**Mr. JAMES KORNAFEL asked for a motion to accept the reports. A motion was made by MARIE GIOKAS (St. Basil's Church, Watervliet, NY) and was seconded by V. Rev. MARTIN KRAUS (Holy Trinity Church, East Meadow NY). It passed unanimously.**

## NEW BUSINESS

### Adoption of the 2021 Budget

Mrs. JAN VAN DUYN reviewed the proposed budget. There were no salary increases but there was a line item added for the pension for the Personal Secretary to the Archbishop. She then entertained questions from the floor.

**A motion to accept the proposed budget was made by V. Rev. ALEXEY KARLGUT and was seconded by V. Rev. STEPHEN EVANINA. The motion passed with two (2) votes in opposition.**

### Other New Business

Archbishop MICHAEL announced that there will be a Diocesan-wide collection to raise funds for Saint Andrew's Camp sometime next year.

### Appointments by the Archbishop

Archbishop MICHAEL reappointed V. Rev. JOSEPH LICKWAR as Chancellor, V. Rev. DAVID COWAN (Personal Secretary to the Archbishop) as Vice-Chancellor, Mrs. JANET VAN DUYN as Diocesan Treasurer, Mrs. STEPHANIE BURK as Assistant to the Treasurer, Rev. MATTHEW BROWN as Diocesan Secretary, V. Rev. JASON VANSUCH (St. George, Buffalo NY) as Editor of the "First Fruits" publication, and V. Rev. VOLODYMYR ZABLOTSKY as Director of Communications.

### Date of 2021 Diocesan Assembly

The next Diocesan Assembly is scheduled to be held at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Endicott, NY on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### Motion to Close

Archbishop MICHAEL entertained a motion to adjourn the Assembly. **A motion to adjourn the 2020 Diocesan Assembly was made by V. Rev. MATTHEW SEARFOORCE and seconded by Matushka SHIRLEY LICKWAR (Saints Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City NJ).** The Diocesan Assembly adjourned with the singing of "It is Truly Meet" at 2:41 PM.