

Orthodox Church in America – Diocese of New England

Diocesan Council Minutes – Wednesday, February 3, 2010 – Willimantic, Connecticut

1. OPENING

The regular meeting of the Diocesan Council held on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, at Holy Trinity Church, Willimantic, CT, was opened with the singing of “O Heavenly King” at 7:40 p.m. His Grace, Bishop NIKON, of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese chaired the meeting.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 2010 Meeting of the Diocesan Council were reviewed.

MOTION: John Barone moved, seconded by Fr. Joshua Mosher that the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

3. HIERARCH'S REPORT

His Grace, Bishop NIKON, presented a short oral report. Highlights of His Grace's report include:

- Several pastoral consultations and conferences in that past two months.
- Had dinner with the New England Seminarians at St. Vladimir's Seminary.
- Attended the CT Deanery annual Panikhida for Deanery departed at the December meeting.
- Went to Chicago for the funeral of Archbishop JOB.
- Attended the installation of Igumen Sergius as Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery.
- Led 40th Day Memorials for Archbishop JOB in Boston and the CT Deanery.

4. TRESURER'S REPORT

John Skrobat presented the report about the diocesan finances including distribution of detailed reports of the Diocesan Checking Summary and a comparison of Diocesan Income/Expenses and Budget for the period encompassing September 1, 2009 through January 31, 2010. He noted that income is ahead of budget due to parishes playing 'catch-up' with their Fare Share contributions. Also, expenses are under budget because of lower than expected scholarship distributions. All other line items are on budget or slightly below.

Financial Statement of Assets - 12/31/2009

Checkbook Balance	\$ 24,995.22
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Diocesan Budget: 9/1/2009 – 1/31/2010

Total Actual Budget Income (Inflows)	\$ 166,874.02
Total Actual Budget Expenses (Outflows)	\$ 135,580.94
Total Income/Expense (Net Total)	\$ 31,293.08

MOTION: Dn. John Zarras moved, seconded by Fr. Andrew Tregobov, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

Fr. Joshua Mosher stated that an electronic copy of the winter issue of ONE was posted in December and was printed and mailed in January. The next issue will go out at the end of February. Fr. David Koles noted that the DNE web page is as up to date as possible and always in need of pictures from parishes!

6. ONE STEWARDS

Prdn. Paul Nimchek stated that the \$2500 was turned over to the diocesan treasurer today. The annual mailing will go out in mid February. The initial mailing to all parishes has been sent. It included a cover letter, honor roll and a flyer showing where the funds are distributed. A 'Sponsor a Rallyer' contribution category has been added to the contribution envelope. New wall posters are being prepared for distribution later in the year. The 'Bishop's Circle' contribution category is also included on the envelope. In 2009 there were 9 members.

7. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Fr. Robert Arida, the chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee, stated that they have had three 2 day meetings and one teleconference call, met with the Lesser Synod and will meet with the Metropolitan Council in early March. A working draft of about 10 pages is being prepared. The 'plan' is about recovering 'Conciliarity' in all aspects of church life. Metropolitan JONAH was at all the meetings and is a vital participant. The work of the committee and the plan are being undertaken with the understanding of our theological hierarchical nature. Dn. John Zarras stated the next meeting at the beginning of March will be with the Lesser Synod. The Law Suits will be on the agenda with the Legal Committee keeping an eye on all proceedings. A Re-location Committee has been established to look into the feasibility of moving the chancery offices from NY to Washington, DC. This is a sub-committee of the Strategic Planning Committee and Dn. John is a member. The Finance Committee is working on the 2011 Budget which will be finalized in March. Dn. John noted that the OCA finished 2009 'in the black' but 2010 will be a challenge.

8. YOUTH

Fr. John Hopko, Youth Director, presented a written report (on file with the secretary). Youth Rally 2010 will be held Monday, August 16 until Saturday, August 21 at the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston's St. Methodius Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, NH. Counselors are the hot topic, more are needed!

9. SCHOLARSHIP

John Skrobat reported that he has received three applications for 2010 scholarships for a total of \$1,500.

10. CER (Committee on Evangelization and Revitalization)

Fr. Sergius Halvorsen reported that two parishes, St. Mary's Waterbury, CT and Christ the Savior, Southbury, CT are beginning the second round of focus groups. He has met with All Saints, Hartford for a presentation to the parish council and will be meeting with Ss. Peter & Paul, Meriden in the future.

It was stated that this is a program to determine 'church health'. A healthy church should grow. When the survey is taken there are 8 areas of parish life that are looked at to determine ones score. Success is defined by reaching concrete objectives, defined by the parish by an established date and time frame.

11. PENSION BOARD

Bp. NIKON reported that the pension plan was in the \$23 million range. A new actuarial company has been hired. The next meeting of the board will take place in March. It was noted that it is mandatory that a parish contribute to the Pension Plan for their rector.

12. CHOIR DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Cindy Voytovich presented a written report (on file with the secretary). There are four participants at this time. It was requested that the certificates of completion be presented at the Diocesan Assembly at the Divine Liturgy in recognition of the work done by those who have endured until the end.

13. OLD BUSINESS

a) 2010 Diocesan Assembly:

Everything is in order for the assembly to be at Springfield, VT/Claremont, NH on October 29-30, 2010.

b) Speakers:

Fr. Justin Matthews of FOCCUS will be contacted by Fr. Joshua Mosher and Fr. Theodore Pisarchuk of IOCC will be responding in March when his schedule is established.

Dn. John Zarras reminded us that His Grace has requested “workshops” in which there could be greater participation by all delegates at the assembly. It was suggested that we only have one speaker and the workshops. Bp. NIKON stated that our theme should be on evangelization, mission and church growth. These workshops need to be tailored for New England and our unique circumstances. Fr. Dennis Rhodes suggested that Fr. Jonathan Ivanoff come and lead the NCD (Natural Church Development) in workshop form. Also, Fr. Marcus Birch, OCA Chairman of Evangelization could be a resource for this workshop. The emphasis should be on ‘how to evangelize’ and ‘what do we do’ or ‘how do we do this’ in our region. Fr. Andrew Tregubov mentioned that St. Mary’s Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN has a program for the establishment of missions geared to urban sprawl; perhaps it can be geared toward New England?

14. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2010, at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Springfield, MA beginning with the celebration of Daily Vespers at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on a motion by Fr. Dennis Rhodes, the meeting closed with the singing of “It is truly meet ...”

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest David Koles
Diocesan Secretary

Members of the Diocesan Council present for this Meeting:

1. His Grace, Bishop NIKON, Diocesan Bishop
2. Fr. John Kreta, Chancellor
3. Fr. David Koles, Diocesan Secretary/Webmaster
4. John Skrobat, Diocesan Treasurer
5. Fr. Robert Arida, Metropolitan Council Clergy Representative and Dean of the Boston Deanery
6. Dn. John Zarras, Diocesan Metropolitan Council Lay Representative
7. Fr. Vladimir Aleandro, Dean of the Connecticut Deanery
8. Fr. Andrew Tregubov, Dean of the Northern Deanery
9. Fr. Marc Vranes, Clergy-at-Large Representative
10. Fr. Dennis Rhodes, Clergy-at-Large Representative
11. Fr. Robert Dick, Clergy-at-Large Representative
12. Alexia Tassmer, Laity-at-Large Representative
13. Rosemary Delaney, Laity-at-Large Representative
14. John Barone, Laity-at-Large Representative
15. Inga Leonova, Laity-at-Large Representative
16. Matushka Cindy Voytovich, Auditor (Voting)
17. Fr. Michael Korolev, Auditor (Non-Voting)
18. Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, ONE Stewards Financial Secretary
19. Fr. Joshua Mosher, Director of Communications – Editor, ONE Newspaper
20. Fr. Sergius Halvorsen, Chairman, CER

Members of the Diocesan Council excused for this Meeting:

Members of the Diocesan Council absent for this Meeting:

1. Fr. Mark Sherman, Dean of Missions
2. George Ludko, Laity-at-Large Representative
3. Marion Gulash, Laity-at-Large Representative
4. Thomas Eisenmann, Auditor (Non-Voting)
5. Fr. John Hopko, Diocesan Youth Director
6. Gregory Shesko, OCA Pension Board Representative