

Orthodox Church in America – Diocese of New England

Diocesan Council Minutes – Wednesday, May 5, 2010 – Springfield, Massachusetts

1. OPENING

The regular meeting of the Diocesan Council held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010, at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Springfield, MA, was opened with the singing of “Christ is Risen” at 7:20 p.m. His Grace, Bishop NIKON, of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese chaired the meeting. We sang “Memory Eternal” for the newly departed Protodeacon Simeon.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES

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

MOTION: Fr. Dennis Rhodes moved, seconded by John Skrobat that the minutes be accepted with emendations. The motion passed.

3. HIERARCH'S REPORT

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

- With an early Pascha, many meetings, and much administrative work filled his schedule during Great Lent.
- Fr. Theophan Whitfield will replace Fr. Mark Sherman in Salem MA.
- He attended Strategic Planning
- Due to health issues he had to reschedule a number of parish visits.
- STOTS Report completed
- Served Holy Week at MA cathedrals
- Fr. Vadim Pismenney will be released to ROCOR
- St. Alexis and Holy Ghost Churches will be in need of pastors
- Centennial for Holy Trinity in Boston upcoming, Met. JONAH and Bp. MELCHISEDEK will attend.
- He will attend the consecration of Fr. Michael Dahulich to serve as Bp. of NY & NJ
- Episcopal assembly of all the Orthodox Bishops in North America at the end of the month, to be held in NY, for three days, following along the lines of the Chambesey conference. This event is sponsored by the Greek Archdiocese.

4. TRESURER'S REPORT

John Skrobat presented the report about the diocesan finances including distribution of detailed reports of the

Financial Statement of Assets – 5/5/10

Checkbook Balance by email)	\$ 13,000.00 (reported orally, to be verified later
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Diocesan Budget: 9/1/09 – 4/30/10

Total Actual Budget Income (Inflows)	\$ 237,935.65
Total Actual Budget Expenses (Outflows)	\$ 219,490.93
Total Income/Expense (Net Total)	\$ 18,444.72

MOTION: Cindy Voytovich moved, seconded John Barone that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

J. Mosher: Latest issue of ONE is on website, and print version should be coming shortly. Appeal to Boston and Northern Deaneries for more news stories. John Barone moves to accept report, Alexia Tassmer seconds.

6. ONE STEWARDS

No report, Dn. Paul not present. Bp. NIKON reported that the ONE Stewards appeal has gone out. His Grace reminded everyone of the Bishop's Circle level of giving. Slightly more than \$13,000 in total giving has been received to date, with a goal of \$20,000. Eight people are presently members of the Bishops Circle.

7. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Fr. Arida reported that the Strategic Plan met in DC after Pascha, to address strengths weaknesses and challenges in the draft document. This report will come out to dioceses and parishes in due time. Report accepted by acclamation.

8. YOUTH

Fr. Hopko not present. In a written report he noted that preparations for Rally 2010 underway and are going according to plan. Rally will be held the week of 8/16.

9. SCHOLARSHIP

John Skrobat reported that four students are receiving scholarships: Taylor Card at Holy Cross, and Fr. Theophan Whitfield, Justin DeMoulin, and Andrew Boyd, at SVS. Total of \$10,500 given out to date, \$4,500 remaining in budget for scholarships. There was discussion regarding dispersal of funds remaining in budget to diocesan seminarians. Cindy Voytovich moved to distribute the remainder of budgeted scholarship funds to students who have received scholarships based on total semesters attended in the 09-10 academic year, funds to be distributed at conclusion of the spring semester, Fr. Denis Rhodes second. Motion carried.

10. COMMITTEE on EVANGLEIZATION and REVITALIZATION

Fr. Sergius Halvorsen reported on work done in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly: Parish revitalization is not the best thing to talk about at a diocesan assembly. The best venue for this kind of presentation is in a local parish where the actual concerns and needs of the parish can be addressed. He suggested that it may be best to reflect on what the Diocese can do as united effort to directly participate in charitable work. Substantial discussion followed, and there was no agreement regarding the feasibility of diocesan wide charitable work.

Fr. Kreta suggested the possibility of proposing to the Assembly that someone be hired to help assess parishes and lead parish renewal and mission planting; work with the Missions Dean and the Bishop, to teach and equip parishes to outreach and grow. There was substantial discussion about this suggestion, and it was decided that Fr. Halvorsen should contact Joe Kormos (Parish Health Facilitator of the OCA Diocese of the Mid West) and Fr. Burch (Chair of the OCA Department of Evangelization) to discuss specifics of evangelization and revitalization as they happen in their dioceses. He will also work to prepare a report on the specifics—financial and otherwise—regarding this work in their dioceses, and present this to the council. The hope is that a proposal could be made at the Diocesan Assembly.

11. PENSION BOARD

Bp. NIKON: new system in effect with OCA pension in which time of service is taken into account. Pension fund went from \$27M to \$18M at bottom of recession. With the economic recovery, the fund is now at \$23M

12. CHOIR DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Cindy Voytovich: Four people presently in program. They should all complete program by the time of the assembly in the fall, and there are new students inquiring. Fr. Arida asked questions about the staff who run the program.

13. OLD BUSINESS

a) 2010 Diocesan Assembly: Preparations are well underway, and all is going well for the 2010 Diocesan Assembly, October 29-30, 2010.

b) Speakers: relative to item (10) Fr. Sergius will contact Joe Kormos and Fr. Marcus Burch to see if they will come to the Diocesan Assembly.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Bp. NIKON: Possibility of eliminating the position of the missions dean (not appointing a replacement after Fr. Sherman retires), and give this responsibility to each of the local deans. The drawback of this would be evident if we established a mission in Maine: could the deans of the Northern or Boston Deanery handle the added responsibility of supporting this mission? His Grace will not be appointing a new mission dean after Fr. Mark retires, but will have further discussion with the deans from the deaneries.

The budget committee will meet to prepare a budget prior to the August D.C. meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council is scheduled for Wednesday, August 25 2010, at Ss. Peter and Paul, Springfield MA, beginning with the celebration of Daily Vespers at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on a motion by Alexia Tassmer the meeting closed with the singing of "Shine, shine..." at 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. J. Sergius Halvorsen
(taking minutes for Archpriest David Koles, Secretary)

Members of the Diocesan Council present for this Meeting:

1. His Grace, Bishop NIKON, Diocesan Bishop
2. Fr. John Kreta, Chancellor
3. John Skrobat, Diocesan Treasurer
4. Fr. Robert Arida, Metropolitan Council Clergy Representative and Dean of the Boston Deanery
5. Fr. Andrew Tregubov, Dean of the Northern Deanery
6. Fr. Dennis Rhodes, Clergy-at-Large Representative
7. Fr. Robert Dick, Clergy-at-Large Representative
8. Alexia Tassmer, Laity-at-Large Representative
9. Rosemary Delaney, Laity-at-Large Representative
10. John Barone, Laity-at-Large Representative
11. Matushka Cindy Voytovich, Auditor (Voting)
12. Thomas Eisenmann, Auditor (Non-Voting)
13. Fr. Michael Korolev, Auditor (Non-Voting)
14. Fr. Joshua Mosher, Director of Communications – Editor, ONE Newspaper
15. Fr. Sergius Halvorsen, Chairman, CER

Members of the Diocesan Council excused for this Meeting:

- a. Fr. David Koles, Diocesan Secretary/Webmaster
- b. Dn. John Zarras, Diocesan Metropolitan Council Lay Representative
- c. Fr. Vladimir Aleandro, Dean of the Connecticut Deanery
- d. Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, ONE Stewards Financial Secretary

Members of the Diocesan Council absent for this Meeting:

1. Fr. Mark Sherman, Dean of Missions
2. Fr. Marc Vranes, Clergy-at-Large Representative
3. George Ludko, Laity-at-Large Representative
4. Marion Gulash, Laity-at-Large Representative
5. Inga Leonova, Laity-at-Large Representative
6. Fr. John Hopko, Diocesan Youth Director
7. Gregory Shesko, OCA Pension Board Representative