

Orthodox Church in America – Diocese of New England

Diocesan Council Minutes – Wednesday, August 25, 2010 – Springfield, Massachusetts

1. OPENING

The regular meeting of the Diocesan Council held on Wednesday, August 25, 2010, at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Springfield, MA, was opened with the singing of “O Heavenly King” at 7:25 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 May 5, 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

Due to the recent surgery and loss of his voice, His Grace, Bishop NIKON, presented a short written report read by Fr. David Koles. Highlights of His Grace’s report include:

- Attended the 100th Anniversary of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston with His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH and His Grace, Bishop MELCHIZEDEK.
- Attended the Episcopal Assembly in New York City.
- Attended the Memorial Day Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon’s Monastery.
- Participated in the Diaconal Practicum at SVS during June.
- Met with our diocesan officers and our insurance representative in order to bring our coverage up to date.
- Scheduled Ordinations: Dn. Steven Hosking to the Holy Priesthood for Clinton, CT; Jeffrey Frate and Alexis Rostoygoev to the Holy Diaconate.
- Fr. Theophan Whitfield is acting rector of St. Nicholas Church, Salem, MA.
- Fr. Dennis Rhodes requested, and was granted, transfer to St. George Church, Trumbull, CT.
- Bridgeport, Waterbury and Ansonia, CT parishes are vacant and being serviced by diocesan supply clergy.
- Due to the recent surgery and subsequent 7 week treatment, the bishop’s schedule will be downsized.

4. CHANCELLOR’S REPORT

- A. Mission Station in Bangor, ME – there are 27 adults requesting attention and consideration.
- B. Insurance – Directors and Officers insurance was dropped during a change of carrier. We are working on a new policy for the diocese.
- C. A parishioner of one of our diocesan parishes has requested from the diocese \$500,000 to help offset medical bills incurred by what she claims was caused by a priest in our diocese practicing without a license.
- D. St. Nicholas Church, Pittsfield, MA voted to sell their rectory and buy a piece of land for a new church. The DNE owns 50% of the rectory. We will also need to approve this action.
- E. The daughter of Fr. Andrew & Matushka Galina Tregubov, Anna DeMoulin, gave birth to a baby boy, Leo Clement who have a number of complications. Your prayers are asked for their entire family.

5. TREASURER’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 July 31, 2010. He noted that income is ahead of budget due to parishes staying current with their Fare Share contributions.

Financial Statement of Assets – 7/31/10

Checkbook Balance	\$ 38,648.95
<u>Diocesan Budget: 9/1/09 – 7/31/10</u>	
Total Actual Budget Income (Inflows)	\$ 342,926.15
Total Actual Budget Expenses (Outflows)	\$ 302,676.32
Total Income/Expense (Net Total)	\$ 40,249.83

The position of Dean of Missions has been eliminated and will not be funded in next year's budget. It was asked if that money could be used to assist Berlin, NH. It was noted that the stipend was only \$150.00 for the years. Also, any excess 'mission money' at the end of the fiscal year will be distributed to the missions.

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

6. CHOIR DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

No report at this time.

7. FORCC

Fr. Vladimir Aleandro reported that the annual Scholarship Banquet will be held on Sunday, October 3rd at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Bridgeport, CT at 1:00 p.m. The guest speaker is Fr. Justin Mathews of FOCUS North America.

8. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Fr. Robert Arida reported that the working draft of the Strategic Plan is available on the OCA web. Everyone, especially those going to the assembly should study the document and offer input. There will be approximately 2 hours set aside for discussion at the assembly. Changes will be gathered from all Diocesan Assemblies around the nation, reworked and then presented to the AAC next year.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Fr. Joshua Mosher reported that the August – September issue of ONE will be mailing soon. Again, an appeal to Boston and Northern Deaneries for more news stories.

10. ONE STEWARDS

Prdn. Paul Nimchek reported that the summer issue of ONE had an envelope for the 2nd ONE Stewards appeal. Today a check for \$18,200 was turned over to the treasurer.

11. PENSION BOARD

No report at this time.

12. YOUTH

Fr. John Hopko was not present but submitted a written report (on file with the secretary). In a written report on the recently completed Rally 2010. He gave a complete breakdown of this year's rally costs. In the report there was a breakdown for the distribution of honoraria.

MOTION: George Ludko moved, seconded by Marion Gulash, to accept the recommendation of the youth director in his report as to the breakdown of honoraria. The motion passed.

13. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Diocesan Mission Coordinator: Fr. Sergius Halvorsen spoke about the possibility of adding this position to the DNE. In the DMW, called the Parish Health Coordinator, he visits parishes, conducts webinars, prepare newsletters, conducts conferences, etc. For our diocese a stipend of \$4000/month, which is approximately 12-14% of the budget, would be the starting point. Discussion ensued. The consensus among the members was not to pursue this as a budgetary item at this time, but rather to gather more information from the DMW and their Parish Health Coordinator.
- b) Assembly Speakers: Fr. Sergius Halvorsen had contacted Joe Kormos about coming to the Diocesan Assembly. He was available to speak to us.

MOTION: Fr. John Kreta moved, seconded by Fr. Dennis Rhodes, to invite Joe Kormos to be the speaker at our assembly. If there were any complications with this then Fr. Marcus Burch would be invited. The motion passed.

14. NEW BUSINESS

- a) 2011 Budget: John Skrobat presented that proposed budget from the finance committee. Income is almost the same as previous year. There is a 4% increase for Bp. NIKON. The Diocesan Administration will have a slight increase to their stipends. The balance of the expenses are basically unchanged. The new insurance policy cost is in the budget and it does have coverage for the Rally including sexual misconduct coverage. ONE is budgeted for 6 issues per year at an approximate cost of \$2000 per issue.

MOTION: Fr. Robert Dick moved, seconded by Inga Leonova, to accept the 2011 Diocesan Budget as presented. The motion passed.

- b) COLA: Greg Shesko was not present so there is no COLA information at this time.
- c) Assembly Officers:

Clergy Vice-chairman:	Fr. Robert Dick
Lay Vice-chairman:	Inga Leonova
Secretariat:	Fr. David Koles, Fr. Joshua Mosher
Credentials Committee:	Alexia Tassmer, Mat. Cindy Voytovich
Nominations & Resolutions:	Fr. John Hopko, Prdn. Paul Nimchek

The slate was accepted unanimously.

- d) Youth Rally Drama Group: A group of Ralliers did a play at this years Rally on the Book of Jonah. They have requested permission to perform at the Diocesan Assembly. The consensus was to invite them to perform on Saturday after Divine Liturgy.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10, 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 Marion Gulash the meeting closed with the singing of "Shine, shine..." at 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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. 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. Fr. Vladimir Aleandro, Dean of the Connecticut Deanery
7. Fr. Dennis Rhodes, Clergy-at-Large Representative
8. Fr. Robert Dick, Clergy-at-Large Representative
9. George Ludko, Laity-at-Large Representative
10. Alexia Tassmer, Laity-at-Large Representative
11. John Barone, Laity-at-Large Representative
12. Marion Gulash, Laity-at-Large Representative
13. Inga Leonova, Laity-at-Large Representative
14. Matushka Cindy Voytovich, , Auditor (Voting)
15. Fr. Michael Korolev, Auditor (Non-Voting)
16. Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, ONE Stewards Financial Secretary
17. Fr. Joshua Mosher, Director of Communications – Editor, ONE Newspaper
18. Fr. Sergius Halvorsen, Chairman, CER

Members of the Diocesan Council excused for this Meeting:

1. Dn. John Zarras, Diocesan Metropolitan Council Lay Representative
2. Fr. Andrew Tregubov, Dean of the Northern Deanery
3. Fr. Marc Vranes, Clergy-at-Large Representative
4. Rosemary Delaney, Laity-at-Large Representative

Members of the Diocesan Council absent for this Meeting:

1. Thomas Eisenmann, Auditor (Non-Voting)
2. Fr. John Hopko, Diocesan Youth Director
3. Gregory Shesko, OCA Pension Board Representative