

Orthodox Church in America – Diocese of New England

Diocesan Council Minutes – Wednesday, February 16, 2011 – Springfield, Massachusetts

1. OPENING

The regular meeting of the Diocesan Council held on Wednesday, February 16, 2011, at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Springfield, MA, was opened with the singing of “O Heavenly King” at 7:34 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 December 8, 2010 Meeting of the Diocesan Council were reviewed. In section 5 the heading should read “Treasurer’s” Report and the word physical should be changed to fiscal.

MOTION: Mat. Cindy Voytovich moved, seconded by Alexia Tassmer that the minutes be accepted as corrected. The motion passed.

3. HIERARCH’S REPORT

His Grace, Bishop NIKON, presented a short written report. Highlights of His Grace’s report include:

- Presided at the CT Deanery Annual Panikhida for the departed Clergy and Matushki.
- Fr. David Koles, in addition to his duties as Diocesan Secretary, has been elected Dean of the Connecticut Deanery.
- Following the Diocesan Assembly the doctor’s advised a time for recuperation. I have been taking their advice and have been in Florida until now and will return during January until the Pre-Lenten Sundays.
- Met with Bishop ILIA (Katre) of the Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America for lunch.
- Episcopal Assembly – Hierarch have been assigned committees but no meeting have been scheduled. Next gathering will be after Pascha.
- Next week all the Hierarch of the OCA will be traveling to Santa Fe, New Mexico for meetings and retreat.

4. 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, 2010 through January 31, 2011. He noted that income is behind by \$24,000 due to parishes not receiving their Fair Share information in a timely fashion. On the Expense side we are \$7378.64 under the budgeted expenses.

Financial Statement of Assets – 1/31/11

Checkbook Balance	\$ 26,330.95
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Diocesan Budget: 9/1/10 – 1/31/11

Total Actual Budget Income (Inflows)	\$ 131,387.80
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Total Actual Budget Expenses (Outflows)	\$ 126,815.14
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Total Income/Expense (Net Total)	\$ 4,572.66
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Mr. Skrobat stated that there are two parishes that are 1 month behind in Fare Share and two parishes that have multiple problems and need to be have a determination as to their situation. There was a request from the floor to change the accounting statement by removing the column ‘Fiscal 2010 Actual’ and replacing it with the 2011 Budget.

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

A) Scholarships: Only one scholarship has been issued to Andrew Boyd at St. Vladimir's.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

Fr. Joshua Mosher reported that the Winter of ONE is on the DNE Web page and will be mailing by March. The following issue is in preparation and will go out after Pascha.

6. ONE STEWARDS

Prdn. Paul Nimchek stated that the printer has all information and envelopes and the 2011 appeal will be mailed by the end of February. Today a check was given to the treasurer for \$2500 which was collected from September through January. A number of parishes have sent in funds as a response to Prdn. Paul's appeal at the Diocesan Assembly.

A) Grant Program: Not much progress due to seasonal weather conditions. The committee has been corresponding via email and looking at the DMW Grant Program to modify their information to fit the DNE. Should have an update by the next meeting.

7. MISSION UPDATE

Fr. John Kreta went to Orano, Maine, which is north of Bangor on the weekend of January 15-16. The faithful have been having reader services between visits of a priest. Two families have been added to the list since the last visit. They have opened a bank account. Two St. Tikhon's grads will be heading to the area and will assist with services. There are approximately 30 people, adults & kids in total. There are actually two different groups of people, one near Bangor, which is the larger and the smaller about an hour and a half drive to the south, but they have a chapel and received a visit from Met. JONAH.

8. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

No representatives present.

9. YOUTH

Fr. John Hopko reported that 2011 Youth Rally will be held August 8 – 13th at the camp in New Hampshire. The staff will arrive on the 7th. A letter to the staff is being drafted at this time. Also, a 'save the date' flyer should be distributed during Lent.

Fr. John asked His Grace to change his title from Youth Director to Rally Director and add another person to take over working with the diocesan youth and college OCFers.

10. TASK FORCE (Committee for Evangelization & Revitalization)

Fr. Sergius Halvorsen stated that he had participated in an on-line focus group "Empowering the Lay Apostolate" hosted by the Diocese of the Mid-West. Some questions raised for consideration were:

- a) Does everyone believe that the lay people have an apostolic vocation?
- b) Do we every gather as diocese for anything other than business?
- c) Can we get together similarly to the Antiochian Archdiocese's "Parish Life Conference"?

d) Why are we shrinking? Too formal, too dry, lacking in spiritual zeal?

These question will be explored as possible points of discussion at our Diocesan Assembly.

11. PENSION BOARD

Greg Shesko said that the next meeting will be March 15th during the Holy Synod / Metropolitan Council joint meetings.

12. CHOIR DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Mat. Cindy Voytovich reported that due to the extreme seasonal conditions the group has not met. Will gather during and after Lent.

13. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Diocesan Assembly – Ansonia has received the computerized ‘planning program’.
- B. Assembly Speakers: Fr. Alexander Garklavs, OCA Chancellor - His Grace will ask about availability; Fr. John Bacon on Youth Protection - Rdr. Daniel Bacon will ask about availability; Fr. Marcus Burch from South Carolina on Evangelization - Fr. Sergius Halvorsen will ask about availability; Fr. Mark Veronis on mission in America – Fr. Caleb Abetti will ask about availability.
- C. St. Nicholas Church, Pittsfield, MA: The parish is moving forward with its move to their new property. The Hospital has offered to buy their current property. They will be able to stay until November 2012. The Fravels will move to the new property in March.

14. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fr. John Kreta asked about funding for the potential mission in Maine. There was a brief discussion.

MOTION: Fr. John Kreta moved, seconded John Barone that \$200/month be allocated from the Mission Stipend for the mission group in Maine. Motion passed.

- B. The Secretary asked that we act upon the suggestion that any parish not complying with the stated deadline for submitting their ‘Pastor Annual Statistical Report’ be assessed a 10% to the figure used to calculate their Fare Share. Discussion ensued. It was stated that the parish priest must be held accountable to the bishop for complying to a mandatory report request and not the parish. The Secretary asked that a motion be put forward but no one stepped forward so the item was dropped.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council is scheduled for Ss. Peter and Paul, Springfield, MA on Wednesday, May 18, 2011, beginning with the celebration of Daily Vespers at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on a motion by Fr. Nicholas Dellermann the meeting closed with the singing of “It is truly meet ...” at 9:40 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, Dean of the Connecticut Deanery, Webmaster
4. John Skrobat, Diocesan Treasurer
5. Fr. Nicholas Dellermann, Clergy-at-Large Representative
6. Fr. Steven Hosking, Clergy-at-Large Representative
7. Fr. Caleb Abetti, Clergy-at-Large Representative
8. Rosemary Delaney, Laity-at-Large Representative
9. John Barone, Laity-at-Large Representative
10. Alexia Tassmer, Laity-at-Large Representative
11. Rdr. Daniel Bacon, Laity-at-Large Representative
12. Fr. Michael Korolev, Auditor (Non-Voting)
13. Matushka Cindy Voytovich, , Auditor (Non-Voting)
14. Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, ONE Stewards Financial Secretary
15. Fr. Joshua Mosher, Director of Communications – Editor, ONE Newspaper
16. Fr. Sergius Halvorsen, Chairman, CER
17. Fr. John Hopko, Diocesan Youth Director
18. Gregory Shesko, OCA Pension Board Representative

Members of the Diocesan Council excused for this Meeting:

1. Dn. John Zarras, Diocesan Metropolitan Council Lay Representative
2. Fr. Robert Arida, Dean of the Boston Deanery
3. Inga Leonova, Laity-at-Large Representative

Members of the Diocesan Council absent for this Meeting:

1. Fr. Robert Dick, Metropolitan Council Clergy Representative
2. Fr. Peter Carmichael, Dean of the Northern Deanery
3. Marion Gulash, Laity-at-Large Representative
4. Thomas Eisenmann, Auditor (Voting)