



DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

44th DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

SS Peter & Paul Church

Meriden, CT

OCTOBER 26-27, 2007

To the Reverend Clergy, Parish Councils and Faithful of the Diocese of New England

The 44th New England Diocesan Assembly will convene on October 26-27, 2007, hosted by Sts Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Meriden, CT. Registration begins on Friday morning at 8:30 A.M. Clergy and lay delegates are reminded that this is a two-day assembly, and all are expected to be present for the entire assembly.

Details regarding hotel accommodations, registration for the assembly - including delegate accreditation forms and travel details - are one attachment. In the second attachment are the financial documents, including the proposed budget. All parishes with electronic mail capabilities are receiving this packet in electronic form.

- **Please note that the deadline for the hotel is October 20th and for the forms and banquet registration October 20th. If you do not intend to be at the banquet please indicate so. We will be charged for all meals that are ordered.**

As indicated in the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, the parish lay representative(s) are to be chosen by election — either at a general parish meeting or a parish council meeting, according to local practice. The number of lay representatives corresponds to the number of assigned (not attached) clergy — priests and deacons — in the parish. Vacant parishes may elect and send one (1) lay representative. Accordingly, lay representation to the 43rd assembly is on the enclosed sheet.

In order to send voting delegates to the Diocesan Assembly, parishes must be current with their diocesan and OCA Fair Share, that is at least through the fiscal year just ended on August 31, 2007. Please note that lay delegates whose parish fair share is not current will be seated as observers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Matushka Cindy Voytovich



+ *Nikon*

Bishop of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese
Orthodox Church in America

Rt. Rev. Nikon (Liolin) P.O. Box 149 Southbridge, MA 01550 508-764-3222
Email: bpnikon@aol.com

September 2007

Dear Reverend Clergy, Matushki, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I extend this invitation to you to participate in the 44th Annual Assembly of the Diocese of New England. For many it is a regular occasion and for others it will be a first. Saints Peter and Paul in Meriden Connecticut is a beautiful edifice and if you have not had the opportunity to visit before I know it will be a treat to the senses for you.

I know that Father Joshua Mosher and the parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul in Meriden, Connecticut are anxiously awaiting and are looking forward to our arrival.

How joyous it is when the whole church gathers, Bishop, Clergy and Laity not only to determine and define our direction and activities for the coming year as "all things must be done in order." Certainly, the business of operating is important but to join together in the celebration of the Eucharist Liturgy which is our greatest joy.

It is in this light that I once again think of our gathering together in Meriden on Friday and Saturday October 26-27 in 2007 for this 44th Annual Assembly as the "Synaxis of the Diocese of New England." Defined by the dictionary "Synaxis" means the gathering of the faithful, especially for the celebration of the Lord's Supper. I know all of you will want to participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy on Saturday Morning.

Included with this package you will find all pertinent information regarding accommodations, schedules, etc. I know that none of us will want to miss out on fully participating in the life of our church.

With my Love, Blessings and Prayers,

+ Nikon

Bishop of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese

Your Grace, Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

It is a great privilege for us, Saints Peter & Paul Church in Meriden, Connecticut, to host the 44th Diocesan Assembly. In usual parish life, it is so easy to lose sight of the reality and importance of our common life in the wider Church. But when we assemble in the name of our Lord each year, we renew the bonds of fellowship that give life not only to the diocese as a whole, but also to each parish. This year, we of SS. Peter & Paul get to witness this sometimes beautiful, sometimes challenging, but always crucial work up close. Thank you for giving us the opportunity.

Saints Peter & Paul Orthodox Church was founded in 1911 by the Very Rev. Seraphim Oblivantzeff and the Brotherhood of SS. Peter & Paul. Only a few years later, everything these founders had established was nearly snatched away by the Soviet-sponsored "Living Church," but the claim was eventually defeated in court. By the 1940s, the community had outgrown its original church building, and in 1955, the current church was completed and consecrated by Metropolitan Ireney of blessed memory. Ivan Dikey, who also worked at St. Tikhon's Monastery, painted almost all the iconography of the church from 1961 to 63. Thanks to all the talents lovingly dedicated to it, worship in this place is truly awe-inspiring. More recently, the church received a relic of our venerable Father Herman of Alaska and built a shrine to celebrate his memory.

Meriden, which celebrated its 200th anniversary last year, is a small city about half-way between Hartford and New Haven on I-91. It flourished as an industrial and transportation center in the middle of the twentieth century, and even now manufacturing represents a plurality of local employment. Meriden is the home of Hubbard Park, the largest municipal park in all of New England. Hubbard Park consists of 1,800 acres and was designed by the famed architect Frederick Law Olmstead. Meriden is also next door to Middletown and Wesleyan University, where we are in the beginning stages of a college ministry.

Now the faithful of SS. Peter & Paul Church are approaching our 100th anniversary and seeking to renew the missionary spirit that God planted so evidently in our founding fathers and mothers. Like so many New England parishes, we are striving to serve the Lord better in Christian education, ministry to the elderly, ministry to the poor and needy, stewardship, evangelism, and above all simple trust in the Lord. Knowing that these concerns are also at the heart of the diocesan agenda, we eagerly welcome you all to join us in Meriden for the Assembly on October 26 and 27. May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ grant us the Spirit of Wisdom to better understand His will for all that we do!

Yours in Christ,

Priest Joshua Mosher, Rector
SS. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, Meriden

Directions to SS Peter & Paul Church

From I 84 (East or West)

Exit 27 toward Meriden/Middletown
Merge onto I 691 East
Exit 8 Broad St
Straight onto Camp Street
At fork in road stay right (Camp St)
Stop Sign – Right onto Bunker Ave
First Left onto Warren Street
First Left onto Park Ave
Church is 3 blocks in on Right.
Parking is across from the church in City Park.

From the South - I 91 North

Exit 17- CT 15 N (Wilbur Cross Parkway)
Merge onto I 691 West via Exit 68W
Exit 8 (Broad Street)
Left onto Broad St
Right onto Camp Street
At fork in road stay right (Camp St)
Stop Sign – Right onto Bunker Ave
First Left onto Warren Street
First Left onto Park Ave
Church is 3 blocks in on Right.
Parking is across from the church in City Park.

From the North – I 91 South

Exit 18 onto I 691 West
Exit 8 (Broad Street)
Left onto Broad St
Right onto Camp Street
At fork in road stay right (Camp St)
Stop Sign – Right onto Bunker Ave
First Left onto Warren Street
First Left onto Park Ave
Church is 3 blocks in on Right.

PARKING

Parking is across from the church in City Park.

HOTEL

Comfort Inn & Suite

900 East Main Street
Meriden, CT 06450
203) 440-9600

*To reserve a room at the group rate call the above number
Tell them you have a group rate set under SS Peter & Paul Church
Group rate is \$89 per night (\$119 without).*

Directions to Comfort Inn 900 East Main Street Meriden, CT 06450

From I 84 (East or West)

Exit 27 toward Meriden/Middletown
Merge onto I 691 East
Exit 10 onto CT-15 South/Wilbur Cross Parkway
Exit 67W (1st exit) East Main Street
Right onto East Main Street
Hotel is on Right

From South on I 91 N

I 91 North
Exit 16 (East Main Street)
Left onto East Main Street
Hotel will be on Right

From North

I 91 South
Exit 17 Wilbur Cross Pkwy/CT-15S/East Main Street
Exit 67 – East Main Street
Right onto East Main Street
Hotel on Right

From Hotel to SS Peter & Paul Church

Right onto East Main Street 1.1 mi.
Right onto Center Street .8 mi.
Right onto Park Avenue
Church is 2 blocks in on left
Parking available across from church in City Park

From SS Peter & Paul Church to Hotel

Right onto Park Ave out of City Park
Right onto Warren Street
Right onto Bunker Avenue
First Left onto Camp Street
At light – Right onto Broad Street
Left onto East Main St
Hotel is 1 mile on left (next to Dunkin Donuts)



DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

44th DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

SS. Peter & Paul, Meriden, CT

OCTOBER 26 -27, 2007

Parish lay representation at the 2007 New England Diocesan Assembly is as follows:

Boston Deanery		Connecticut Deanery	
Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston	3	Three Saints, Ansonia	3
Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Chelsea	1	Saints Peter & Paul, Bethel	2
Saint Mark of Ephesus, Kingston	1	Holy Ghost, Bridgeport	1
Holy Annunciation, Maynard	2	Saint Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, Clinton	1
Saint Nicholas, Salem	1	All Saints, Hartford	2
Dormition of the Virgin Mary, Cumberland	2	Saints Peter & Paul, Meriden	1
		Holy Trinity, New Britain	1
		Holy Transfiguration, New Haven	1
		Saint Nicholas, Norwich	1
		Saint Nicholas, Pittsfield	1
		All Saints of North America, Salisbury	1
		Christ Savior, Southbury	3
		Saints Peter & Paul, Springfield, MA	1
		Holy Assumption, Stamford	1
		Saints Cyril & Methodius, Terryville	3
		Nativity of the Holy Virgin, Waterbury	1
		Holy Trinity, Willimantic	1
<u>Northern Deanery</u>			
Holy Resurrection, Berlin	2		
Holy Resurrection, Claremont	3		
Saint Jacob of Alaska, Montpelier/Northfield Falls	2		
Holy Trinity, Springfield, VT	2		

Reminder:

In order to send voting delegates to the diocesan assembly, parishes are required to be up-to-date with their fair share remittances, that is, at least paid thru the fiscal year which ended on August 31st, 2007. Lay delegates whose parish assessments are not current will be seated as observers.

Orthodox Church in America

DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

44th Diocesan Assembly
Meriden, Connecticut

October 26- 27, 2007

AGENDA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2007

First & Second Plenary Sessions

Following the Opening Service of Prayer this Agenda will be followed

• A report from the credentials committee will be given at the beginning of each session

1. ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY OFFICERS
 - A. Clergy Vice-Chair
 - B. Laity Vice-Chair
 - C. Secretariat
 - D. Nominations and Resolutions Committee
 - E. Credentials Committee

2. HIERARCH'S REPORT
His Grace Bishop NIKON

3. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL Very Rev. Mark Sherman/Dn. John Zarras

4. DISCUSSION ON CURRENT PROBLEMS IN THE OCA

4. PRESENTATION Very Rev. Vladimir Aleandro

5. ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2006 MINUTES

6. DEANERY AND DEPARTMENT REPORTS
 - A. Boston Deanery Very Rev. Robert Arida, Dean
 - B. Connecticut Deanery Very Rev. Vladimir Aleandro, Dean
 - C. Northern Deanery Very Rev. Andrew Tregubov, Dean
 - D. ONE/Communications Rev. Sergius Halvorsen
 - E. ONE Stewards Protodeacon Paul Nimchek/Matushka Cindy Voytovich
 - F. Scholarships Mr. Peter Kopcha
 - G. Youth and Campus Ministry Rev. John Hopko

- H. Pension Board Mr. Greg Shesko/Mr. Paul Culton
 - I. Missions – Very Rev. Mark Sherman
 - J. Choir Directing Program Rev. Steven Voytovich/Matushka Cindy
 - K. Scouting- Very Rev. John Bacon
 - L. Cost of Living Adjustment for 2007 Mr. Greg Shesko
- 6. TREASURER’S REPORT
Mr. Peter Kopcha
 - 7. AUDITOR’S REPORT
Mrs Marion Gulash
 - 8. CLERGY MEETING WITH BISHOP/LAY DELEGATE MEETING

SATURDAY, October 27, 2007

Following Divine Liturgy & Brunch

- 9. OLD BUSINESS
- 10. 2008 DIOCESAN BUDGET AND ASSESSMENT
Mr. Peter Kopcha
- 11. ELECTIONS TO THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL
 - A. One clergy-at-large (3 Year Term)
 - B. Two laity-at-large (3 Year Terms)
 - C. One Metropolitan Council, clergy, (3 Year Term)
 - D. One auditor, Non-Voting, (3 Year term)
- 12. PRESENTATION
- 13. RESOLUTIONS
- 14. NEW BUSINESS
- 15. NEXT DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY AND ADJOURNMENT
2008- Cumberland, RI
2009- Waterbury, CT



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OCTOBER 26 -27, 2007

Tentative Schedule

Friday October 26, 2007

Time	Event	Location
8:30- 10:00am	43 rd Assembly Registration	Church
10:00am	Opening Service of Thanksgiving	Church
10:30am-1:30pm	1 st Plenary Session	Church
1:30-2:30pm	Lunch	Church
2:30pm-5:30pm	2 nd Plenary Session	Church
6:00pm	Vespers and Confession	Church
7:00pm	Social Hour	Hotel
7:30pm	Banquet	Hotel

Saturday, October 27, 2007

8:30am	Divine Liturgy	Church
10:30-11:30am	Brunch	Church
11:30am-1:00pm	3rd Plenary Session	Church



DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

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OCTOBER 26-27, 2007

CLERGY (PRIEST/DEACON) REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____

PARISH _____ CITY _____ STATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Please RETURN this form by October 20, 2007 to:

Alexia Tassmer

c/o SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church,

PO Box 334, Meriden, CT 06450

➤ Any questions please call **Alexia Tassmer** at 203.284.0856

BANQUET- On Friday evening _____ I will attend _____ I will not attend
--

*Hotel reservations are your responsibility; please see the attached info concerning the

October 20th Deadline!



DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND
44th DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY
SS Peter & Paul Church, Meriden, CT
OCTOBER 26-27, 2007

DELEGATE / ALTERNATE REGISTRATION FORM

(Please circle if you are a delegate or an alternate)

PARISH: _____

CITY _____ STATE: _____

The undersigned has been duly authorized by his/her parish to participate in the 44th^h Annual Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of New England .

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____

Signature of Rector _____

Signature of Parish Secretary _____

PARISH SEAL

APPROVED: _____

Credentials _____

OFFICIAL STATEMENT DELEGATE / ALTERNATE

I am a member of my parish in good standing. I have received the mysteries of Confession and Communion at least annually for the past three years at my home parish. I am not under ecclesiastical interdict. I am not married outside of the Orthodox Church. I am not living in violation of Orthodox moral standards. I am not a member of any anti-church and/or secret societies (such as Masonic organizations.) I have contributed the required fair share remittances to the Orthodox Church in America and to the New England Diocese.

Signature of Delegate / Alternate (Circle One)

Date

(Any departure from the above mentioned qualifications must be explained on a separate sheet of paper by the observer and the Rector and submitted to the Diocesan Bishop (Administrator) through the Credentials Committee for approval by the Bishop or administrator.)

Please RETURN this form by October 20, 2007 to:

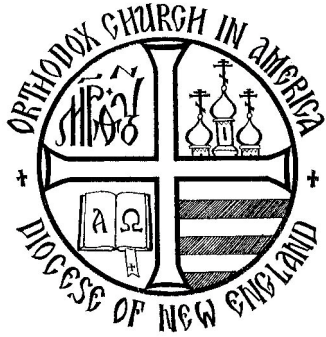
Alexia Tassmer
c/o SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church,
PO Box 334, Meriden, CT 06450

➤ Any questions please call **Alexia Tassmer** at 203.284.0856

BANQUET- On Friday evening

_____ I will attend _____ I will not attend

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DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

44th DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church,
Meriden, CT

OCTOBER 26 -27, 2007

DIOCESAN LAY COUNCIL MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____

HOME PARISH: _____

CITY _____ STATE: _____

Signature of Rector _____

Please RETURN this form by October 20, 2007 to:

Alexia Tassmer

c/o SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church,

PO Box 334, Meriden, CT 06450

➤ Any questions please call **Alexia Tassmer** at 203.284.0856

BANQUET- On Friday evening

_____ I will attend _____ I will not attend

**Hotel reservations are your responsibility; please see the attached info concerning the
October 20th Deadline!*



DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

44th DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

SS. Peter & Paul Church,

Meriden, CT

OCTOBER 26-27, 2007

OBSERVER REGISTRATION FORM

PARISH: _____

CITY _____ /STATE: _____

The undersigned observer has been duly authorized by his/her parish to participate in the 44th Annual Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of New England.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY/ZIP _____

PHONE: () _____

Signature of Rector _____

PARISH SEAL

Signature of Parish Secretary _____

APPROVED: _____

Credentials _____

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OBSERVER

I am a member of my parish in good standing. I have received the mysteries of Confession and Communion at least annually for the past three years at my home parish. I am not under ecclesiastical interdict. I am not married outside of the Orthodox Church. I am not living in violation of Orthodox moral standards. I am not a member of any anti-church and/or secret societies (such as Masonic organizations.) I have contributed the required fair share remittances to the Orthodox Church in America and to the New England Diocese. I certify that the above information is true. I also understand that as an observer, I may not speak or vote on any matter on the assembly floor.

Signature of Observer _____ **Date** _____

(Any departure from the above mentioned qualifications must be explained on a separate sheet of paper by the observer and the Rector and submitted to the Diocesan Bishop (Administrator) through the Credentials Committee for approval by the Bishop or administrator.)

**Please RETURN with the Assembly Fee of \$50.00 per person by
October 20, 2007 to:**

Alexia Tassmer
c/o SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church,
PO Box 334, Meriden, CT 06450

➤ Any questions please call **Alexia Tassmer** at 203.284.0856

BANQUET- On Friday evening _____ I will attend _____ I will not attend
--

*Hotel reservations are your responsibility; please see the attached info concerning the **October 20th** Deadline!

The **Assembly Fee** covers all the reports, all meals and the banquet.
Checks are payable to the DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND.



DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

44th DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

SS Peter & Paul, Meriden, CT

OCTOBER 26 -27, 2006

**(Draft) Minutes of the 43rd Assembly of the Diocese of New England
Holy Annunciation Church, Maynard, MA – Oct. 27-28, 2006**

The Assembly opened with a Service of Prayer celebrated by His Grace Bishop NIKON of Boston at 10:30 AM on Friday morning, October 27, 2006. The first plenary session convened at 11:00 AM with the singing of “O Heavenly King.” The session took place in the nave of the Holy Annunciation Church.

His Grace, Bishop NIKON, called the Assembly to order and welcomed all Clergy, Delegates, and Observers to the Assembly.

I. ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop NIKON chaired the election of Assembly Officers, as follows:

Clergy Vice Chair – Fr. Dennis Rhodes, nominated by the Diocesan Council. Motion made by Cindy Voytovich, seconded by Fr. Vasily Lickwar, to approve the nomination and elect this candidate to this office. Motion carried.

Lay Vice Chair – Timothy Tassmer, nominated by the Diocesan Council. Motion made by Fr. Mark Sherman, seconded by John Winkleman, to approve the nomination and elect this candidate to this office. Motion carried.

Secretariat – Fr. David Koles (the Diocesan Secretary) and Fr. Steven Voytovich nominated by the Diocesan Council. Fr. Jason Vansuch was nominated from the floor. Motion made by John Winkleman, seconded by Matushka Ann Sovyrda, to approve these nominations and elect these candidates to the Secretariat. Motion carried.

Credentials Committee – Peter Kopcha and Paul Culton, nominated by the Diocesan Council, Diane Malley-Parcella, nominated from the floor. Motion made by Joan Skrobat, seconded by Marion Gulash, to approve these nominations and elect these candidates to the Credentials Committee. Motion carried.

Nominations and Resolutions Committee – Fr. Michael Westerberg and Greg, nominated by the Diocesan Council, John Winkleman, nominated from the floor. Motion made by Fr. John Eissman, seconded by Alexander Martins, to approve these nominations and elect these candidates to the Nominations and Resolutions Committee. Motion carried.

COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS

Greg Shesko offered some corrections/changes regarding nominations and procedure for resolutions. He stressed the importance of resolutions being submitted ahead of time in writing, so that they might be reviewed by the Nominations and Resolutions Committee before possible presentation to the full Assembly.

II. HIERARCH'S REPORT

His Grace, Bishop NIKON

Pastoral changes that have occurred include Bishop NIKON being named as the diocesan hierarch for the Diocese of New England by Metropolitan HERMAN and Archbishop JOB of Chicago. Enthronement occurred Dec. 16-17, 2005.

- Fr. Dimitry Konstantinow fell asleep in the Lord. The chapel in his home will remain open and listed in diocesan directory.
- Fr. Nicholas Timpko retired.
- Fr. John Dresko released to OCA Chancery.
- Fr. Dennis Rhodes reassigned to Holy Nativity Church in Waterbury.
- Fr. David Koles assigned to Holy Trinity Church in New Britain.
- Fr. Joshua Mosher to SS. Peter and Paul, Meriden.
- Fr. Jason Vansuch to St. Nicholas Church Norwich.
- Fr. Anthony Gori requested retirement and following some travel will be available as supply priest. Fr. John Kreta will be administrator of St. Mark of Ephesus Church.
- Fr. George Tyiapko requested release from Pittsfield.
- Fr. Vasily Gilbert requested reassignment
- Fr. Timothy Lowe, has moved back to Connecticut, is attached to St. Sergius Chapel in Syosset but is available as a supply priest to the diocese,
- Efforts underway to fill the parish of Three Saints in Ansonia.
- Fr. John Kreta is appointed Chancellor effective Nov. 1st, 2006.
- Fr. Mark Sherman is also appointed Dean of Missions effective also Nov. 1.
- Fr. Sergius Halvorsen has been attached to Christ the Savior Church in Southbury.
- Fr. Andrew Tregubov was elected the new Dean of the Northern Deanery.
- Bishop NIKON attended a gathering at Three Saints Park welcoming Fr. Jason Vansuch and Fr. Joshua Mosher and celebrating Fr. Nicholas Timpko's many years of service to deanery and diocese.

Parish Celebrations:

- St. Nicholas Church, Norwich; SS. Peter and Paul Church, Springfield, MA; St. Nicholas Church, Pittsfield all celebrated 90th anniversary.

- Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church in Waterbury celebrated 100th anniversary.
- Fr. Vladimir Aleandro, Dean of CT Deanery was present at SS. Peter and Paul anniversary celebration as Bishop NIKON was hospitalized.

Through previous unanimous diocesan assembly decision, clergy compensation is to continue with new pastor at rate of previous pastor's compensation. Bishop NIKON indicated that he will not overrule this policy and that of COLA that have already been in place.

Bishop NIKON was invited to celebrate Bishop SERAPHIM's 60th birthday. He went on his own.

Bishop NIKON was officially invited to visit the Orthodox Church in Albania in May. Much growth and development has taken place. 185 churches refurbished, and medical facilities, many other church-related functions have been developed, along with 14 church camps. Orthodox comprise 30% of Albanian population but now very prominent. Seminaries are now functioning as well. Bishop NIKON celebrated Liturgy in Tirana with Archbishop ANASTASIOS.

Seminarian scholarships are continuing to be offered. Applications to be turned in for each semester. A number of seminarians are currently attending from our diocese. Four late vocation candidates were approved for ordination within our diocese.

Bishop NIKON has visited all parishes in New England Diocese and Albanian Archdiocese. He was also to attend SCOPA meeting in Chicago, but was unable to attend due to health concerns. Bishop NIKON also attended Friday Akathist services in Boston area Albanian parishes. Southbridge Church will host a Bioethics Lecture.

Bishop NIKON continues to support local OCF at UConn. Fr. John Hopko also again organized and hosted our diocesan youth rally in NH. He continues in role as Youth Director.

National Church Financial Crisis

National church financial crisis has become for many an all-consuming concern for the clergy and faithful of our church. A good deal of truthful and less-than-truthful information is now widely available, tearing at the very fabric of our church. Questions that have been raised have yet to be fully answered. Questions of procedures, mismanagement, and other concerns remain open. Proskauer Rose law firm gave preliminary report. The limited report could not be shared at this time, though the Metropolitan Council and Holy Synod will be receiving this information in a meeting to be held in

December. Other dioceses have issued resolutions expressing concern about this ongoing crisis and we need to as well. Trinity of bishop, priest, and laity need to be reflected locally, and at diocesan and national church levels. No decision has been made to withhold the assessments from our diocese. With information from a well-informed attorney, with consensus from lawyers at national church level, we should continue to send assessments. However, if crisis remains unresolved and we continue to send assessments, we could be seen as duplicitous to the financial issues/concerns.

All pastors have been asked to meet with Bishop NIKON to make parish visitations along with meetings with parish councils or youth of parishes.

Communications: We have not had the ONE paper published during this last year. Fr. John Dresko's efforts to publish the paper were mentioned. Mat. Cindy Voytovich took over this responsibility and Fr. John Dresko met with her several times. A number of complications have delayed the publication of the paper. Mat Cindy has assured His Grace that an issue will be going out next month.

ONE Stewards: late distribution of envelopes caused a delay and reduction in the donations for ONE Stewards. Address updates, articles and information needs to be forwarded in order that our website and paper can be timely and full. Dn. Paul Nimcheck has asked to retire as Treasurer but would like to stay on as Director of ONE Stewards and director of church property in Cumberland.

This next decade will be a turning point for the diocese. Clergy and laity remain committed to the work of the diocese, the financial condition is sound, and parishes remain an oasis for those in need. We must all continue our efforts to learn more about our faith and to grow. We need also to continue to be ready, willing and able to respond to needs beyond those of our parish communities. Unless we continue to develop and nurture a true missionary spirit, we will be committing spiritual suicide.

Questions: Has a statement been prepared on behalf of our diocese to the national church? Fr. John Kreta as Chancellor-to-be will work on this with other clergy.

A letter was written by Fr. Nicholas Timpko concerning his role as Chancellor. He noted that information on clergy compensated has been gathered.

III. PRESENTATION BY FR. MICHAEL DAHULICH

A brief bio was read in introducing Fr. Michael by Fr. Dennis Rhodes, Clergy Vice Chair.

Fr. Michael is responding to the current crisis in our church by focusing on the Corinth in the first century. Corinth was destroyed when it rebelled against Rome. It was later rebuilt. It also reclaimed its former heritage of immorality. This church established by Paul had let its guard down.

He focused on the words One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic in our Creed. St. Paul lifted up our church in this way through his letters and ministry. “Knowledge puffs up, only love edifies.” This crisis in the early church is not unlike our present crisis.

What words might St. Paul offer to us today? “Watch, stand fast in the faith, let love guide all things.” I Cor. 16: 13 The Church of Corinth needed to watch. The Church in Corinth was infected.

Do we remain hardened in our own self-focus, or be willing to be humble, sacrificial, and loving, trusting in testing that comes to us from God? “My strength is made perfect in weakness.”

The last part of Paul’s message is hardest. Do everything in love. We have in some way been paralyzed through what has occurred, waiting for something to happen.

At the same time, however, we have record attendance at seminaries, outstanding mission parishes active, and many examples of powerful witness occurring in the midst of this ongoing crisis. The infection of this crisis does not need to be paralyzing, but can be an opportunity for growth.

The diocese is challenged by Fr. Michael to be engaged with one another in love. He referenced the three legged stool. We need to be witnesses of what can be accomplished in and beyond our diocese. Let us not be paralyzed. Every step we take brings us closer or repels us from our Lord Jesus Christ. Choose life, not death.

A question was raised wondering if the call for change here is coming from the roots of the church. Fr. Dahulich again reiterated sobornost through the three-legged stool.

We then took a five minute break before returning to diocesan business.

Credential’s Report presented by Paul Culton: as of 11:30am

<u>Voting Attendees</u>		<u>Non-Voting Attendees</u>	
Hierarchs	1	Observers, Guests, Alternates	15 (10 observers, 5 guests.)
Clergy Delegates	27		
Lay Delegates	<u>29</u>		
Subtotal	57	Subtotal	15

His Grace Bishop NIKON then asked to open the floor in offer time for concerns to be expressed about the ongoing financial crisis.

The website offering information about the current crisis was observed by several as presenting at least some information regarding what has been going on and ongoing efforts to understand the length and breadth of the crisis.

A question was also raised about the current role of the Metropolitan Council, especially as we are electing a new Metropolitan Council member who will be attending the meeting planned for December that His Grace had referred to.

The session ended at 1:30pm to break for Lunch.

Session II Began at 2:45pm

IV. DIOCESAN CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Bishop NIKON indicated that with a diocesan hierarch in the diocese, there would not be a Chancellor's Report

V. 2005 ASSEMBLY MINUTES

A motion to accept the 2005 Annual Assembly Minutes, as presented, was made by Marion Gulash, and seconded by Mat. Ann Sovyrda. The motion carried.

A question was raised as to the discussion of plans for the enthronization of Bishop NIKON being absent from the minutes. It was recalled as being conducted "off the record" while Bishop NIKON had stepped out.

VI. REPORTS

Fr. Dennis Rhodes, Clergy Vice Chair, invited the presentation of the following reports, most of which were presented in written form in the materials handed out in preparation for the Assembly:

Boston Deanery – Fr. Robert Arida, Dean (Report was turned in, not present in materials)

Connecticut Deanery – Fr. Vladimir Aleandro, Dean

Northern Deanery – Fr. Mark Sherman, Dean

Communications (ONE newspaper, the Diocesan Website, etc.) – Mat. Cindy Voytovich reiterated some of the struggles that prevented publication of ONE and indicated that progress is being made. She offered again the e-mail address for submission of information for articles: voytsc@earthlink.net

ONE Stewards – Matushka Cindy Voytovich, Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

Matushka Cindy appealed to all present to work towards the development of ONE Stewards, which is essential to financial health of the Diocese. A

question was raised as to the need for ONE Stewards and whether the programs funded by it be funded fully through the budget.

Credential's Report presented by Peter Kopcha: as of 3:00pm

<u>Voting Attendees</u>		<u>Non-Voting Attendees</u>	
Hierarchs	1	Observers, Guests, Alternates	14 (10 observers, 4 guests.)
Clergy Delegates	27		
Lay Delegates	<u>27</u>		
Subtotal	55	Subtotal	14

Grand Total Voting and Non-Voting 69

Scholarships – Protodeacon. Paul Nimchek
Metropolitan Council – Fr. Michael Westerberg and Daniel Crosby. The report is in the materials. Fr. Michael shared that the 1.7 million dollar loan has gone through, and a possible repayment plan would involve subdividing and selling a portion of the chancery property. Also regarding the potential of selling of the former chancellor's home currently reveals a value of about \$599k, with another home selling in the neighborhood for \$700k. No plans have been finalized yet on either possibility.

Youth Ministry – Fr. John Hopko
Icon Book Project – Fr. Andrew Tregubov, All the books have been sold. Money loaned from the diocese has been repaid as well as a small profit. He yet has about 110 books that he would like to keep and pay for.

Pension Board – Fr. Michael Westerberg, and Gregory Shesko
The Pension Plan of the Orthodox Church in America is in good administrative and financial health. His Grace, Bishop NIKON, is Episcopal Moderator of the Pension Board. Fr. Michael Westerberg is the Pension Group Leader. Mat. Betty Kondratick resigned her position as administrator of the Pension Board. A part time bookkeeper will be hired by Fr. Michael Westerberg. Job descriptions were developed for the bookkeeper and a part-time plan administrator. There will be no interruption in benefits during this transition. Plan is regularly audited by three auditors, and an audit is nearly complete at this time for 2005.

Missions Deanery – Fr. John Kreta, Dean
Choir Directing Program – Fr. Steven and Matushka Cindy Voytovich
Fr. Steven asked that anyone interested in participating in the next training group to please see him or Mat. Cindy.

Scouting Report – Fr. John Bacon. The New England Outreach had 185 scouts instead of 135.

Cost of Living Adjustment – Mr. Gregory Shesko. This year's COLA is 3.6%.

A motion to accept these reports was made by John Winkleman, seconded by Michael Stenko. The motion carried. Copies of all printed reports are on file with the Diocesan Secretary.

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, Diocesan Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report

STATEMENT OF ASSETS:

Checkbook balance (8/31/2005):	\$ 5,995.72
Savings & Investments:	<u>\$ 67,316.33</u>
Total Cash Assets:	\$ 73,312.05
Value of Diocesan Residence:	<u>\$300,000.00</u>
Total Assets:	\$373,312.05
Outstanding Bonds and Loans:	\$ <u>2,000.00</u>
Overall Diocesan Condition:	\$371,312.05

BUDGET REPORT:

Total Budget Income for 2005-2006 fiscal year ending 08/31/06:	
\$337,960.72	
Total Budget Expense	<u>\$335,940.54</u>
Total Budget Expenses over Income	\$2,020.18

A complete, detailed breakdown of the Treasurer's Report was distributed to those in attendance and copies are on file with the Diocesan Secretary. Dn. Paul reviewed orally all the reports he distributed, explaining the facts and figures presented in the printed information. He indicated that the Mission Appeal will be forwarded for the past three years but has not yet been received.

ONE Stewards is budgeted for 23k for the coming year. About \$13,000 has been received. About \$2,000 has come in during the last two months.

Checking Summary: OCA appeals should go directly to national chancery, not to the diocesan treasurer. Transactions to/from savings were done due to limited cash flow.

Investment accounts: MM Savings account has very low interest, therefore used for transfers to checking. AF fund is a stock donation to the diocese, started at \$500, as of today is worth over 500. LCBA Savings Plan was approved at the 41st Diocesan Assembly.

VIII. AUDITOR'S REPORT

A motion was made by Fr. John Bacon, seconded by Dn. John Zarras, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented pending receipt of a satisfactory audit report submitted to the next Diocesan Council Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The customary audit of the Diocesan Financial Records did not take place before the convening of Assembly this year. It is scheduled to take place on Nov. 11th, with the results to be presented to the Diocesan Council at their next meeting.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Fr. Dennis Rhodes, Clergy Vice Chair, asked for items of Old Business. Fr. Michael Westerberg outlined the procedure for nominations and resolutions.

No Old Business presented.

X. 2007 DIOCESAN BUDGET AND ASSESSMENT

Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, Diocesan Treasurer presented the complete budget and assessment package for the upcoming financial year. Deacon Paul commented especially on the changes and adjustments from last year's budget. Copies of the material distributed are on file with the Diocesan Secretary.

Motion to accept the 2007 budget made by Paul Culton, seconded by Fr. Michael Westerberg. Fr. John Hopko moved to amend the budget dividing the Youth Director stipend so that half will go to staff, seconded by Nancy Muro. Motion passed. Amendment to increase the Bishop's salary by the \$4800 reduction of the chancellor's stipend was forwarded by Fr. Vasily Gilbert. No second. The budget passed with the first amendment. Dn. Paul mentioned that fair share numbers are predicated on the OCA assessment remaining at current levels.

Greg Shesko moved to recognize Protodeacon Paul Nimchek's twenty years of service as Diocesan Treasurer, seconded by Fr. John Hopko. Motion was enthusiastically passed.

The session closed with prayer at 5:15 PM. The gathered body celebrated Vespers, followed by a dinner for the delegates at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough.

***** Overnight Break *****

After the celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning, October 28, 2006, at Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church, Maynard, MA, followed by a brunch in the parish

social hall, the Diocesan Assembly reconvened in the nave of that Church at 11:30 AM with the singing of “O Heavenly King.”

Presentation of Statement from Diocese of New England to the national Church. Presentation made by Fr. John Kreta, newly appointed Chancellor of the Diocese. He read the statement. (see attached Appendix I) Fr. Mark Sherman moved to accept this statement, Fr. John Eissman seconded. Discussion then proceeded on the statement. Amendment made by Brian Donovan, Fr. Robert Dick to strike the specific points beginning with “We specifically urge...” and specific points 1, 2, 3.

Credential’s Report presented by Diane Malley-Parcella at 11:45am

<u>Voting Attendees</u>		<u>Non-Voting Attendees</u>	
Hierarchs	1	Observers, Guests, Alternates	11 (9 observers, 2 guest)
Clergy Delegates	23		
Lay Delegates	<u>24</u>		
Subtotal	48	Subtotal	11
Grand Total Voting and Non-Voting		59	

The amendment passed 40 for, 6 against, 1 abstentions.

Fr. Michael Westerberg moved another amendment to strike the last portion of the now third paragraph, beginning “including the placing ...” Fr. Mark Sherman seconded. Discussion continued on this amendment. Vote was 20 for, 24 against, 2 abstentions. The amendment did not pass. The statement, as amended, was now voted on. 33 voted for, 4 against, 7 abstentions. The statement passed as amendment. (see attached Appendix II)

XI. ELECTIONS TO THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Lay Vice Chair, Timothy Tassmer asked Greg Shesko, Nominations and Resolutions Committee representative, to present the slate of candidates, as listed below:

SLATE:

Open Position: One (1) Clergy-at-Large Representative to Diocesan Council

Nominated Candidates from the Nominations Committee: Fr. Jason Vansuch.

Open Positions: Two (2) Laity-at-Large Representatives to Diocesan Council

Nominated Candidates from the Nominations Committee: Mat. Ann Sovyrda and Timothy Tassmer.

Open Position: One (1) Diocesan Treasurer

Nominated Candidate from the Nominations Committee: Peter Kopcha.

Open Position: One (1) Diocesan Secretary

Nominated candidate from the Nominations Committee: Fr. David Koles.

Open Position: One (1) Diocesan Auditor

Nominated Candidate from the Nominations Committee: Marion Gulash.

Fr. John Hopko moved, and Mat. Cindy Voytovich seconded to close the nominations for these positions and cast a unanimous ballot for those nominated. Motion passed.

The nominations process being concluded, elections by means of written ballot took place for the position having multiple candidates.

Open Position: One (1) Diocesan Lay Representative to the Metropolitan Council

Nominated Candidates from the Nominations Committee: Dn. John Zarras and John Winkleman to fill out Daniel Crosby's term. Each offered a brief statement.

XII. ELECTION RESULTS

At this point in the Assembly the results of the elections to the Diocesan Council were announced as follows:

Position: One (1) Diocesan Lay Representative to the Metropolitan Council

Dn. John Zarras

XIII. PRESENTATION ON STEWARDSHIP

Timothy Tassmer, Lay Vice Chair, introduced Fr. John Dresko, former rector of Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, now Director of Development and Stewardship for the Orthodox Church in America, who gave a presentation on stewardship.

Fr. John shared that in the 16 years as pastor of Holy Trinity parish he only received two bequests. He went on to outline the different kinds to bequests that can be made, including: Stock (no capital gain tax, tax deduction as a gift. Homes, checks, trusts, annuities, etc.

The Office of Development will be offering a service on planned giving with advisors, lawyers, brokers, etc. A new website will be linked to the OCA site for planned giving. This project has been funded by a parishioner from the New England Diocese.

XIV. RESOLUTIONS

Two resolutions were presented by the Resolutions Committee. (see attached Appendix III)

Motion made for Resolution #1 by Nicholas Senio, seconded by Fr. John Eissman. Motion failed.

Motion for Resolution #2 by Dn. John Zarras, seconded by Peter Kopcha. Fr. Michael Westerberg moved an amendment that the resolution begins as follows: "Be it resolved that we ask our Diocesan Bishop to appoint ..." seconded by Michael Stenko. The mover of the motion accepted the correction of original motion. It passed unanimously.

XV. NEW BUSINESS

Cindy Voytovich moved to thank Fr. Robert Dick, Diane Malley-Parcella and the local committee for all their work in preparation and hosting the diocesan assembly. Paul Culton seconded. Passed unanimously.

XVI. NEXT DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

2007 Diocesan Assembly: Meriden, CT.

2008 Diocesan Assembly: Berlin, NH.

XVII. ASSEMBLY ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the assembly was made at 1:35pm by Marion Gulash, seconded by John Winkleman. All in favor rose and sang, "It is Truly Meet." With a benediction given by His Grace, Bishop NIKON, accompanied by prayerful best wishes for safe travel home on the part of all gathered for the Assembly, the proceedings came to a close.

Respectfully submitted,

The 2006 Diocesan Assembly Secretariat:

Fr. David Koles, Diocesan Secretary

Fr. Steven Voytovich, Fr. Jason Vansuch

APPENDIX I

Proposed Statement of the Diocese of New England

We the Diocese of New England are deeply saddened and concerned by the scandal affecting our Church. We acknowledge that such financial scandal and attendant leadership crisis are intolerable. In addition, we believe that significant legal risks to the Church, including this Diocese, will result from continued failure to take decisive action.

To remedy the situation, we urge the immediate compliance with the Statutes of the OCA and all applicable Federal and State law and full fiscal transparency and compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting principles and rules of corporate and fiduciary behavior.

We specifically urge that, without excluding other appropriate action:

(i) The Metropolitan Council avoid any further financial loss or exposure or liability, by acting to assure that all OCA bank accounts and accounts at other financial institutions hereafter require at least one signer not subject in any way to the administration at Syosset, with such exception as may be shown to be required in the case of a separate account containing small amounts for day-to-day expenses, and that similar signatures be required for any significant contractual or other commitments. This in no way requires the removal of any present signers, or implies any wrongdoing by anyone of them, but merely constitutes ordinary prudence for their protection. Such signers should act only in accordance with applicable directions from or resolutions of appropriate Church authorities and in compliance with Church Statutes and state and federal law.

(ii) The Metropolitan Council establish a Law Committee of moderate size, whose members may but, not unless required by law, need not be Council Members, and who shall in no case be members or staff of the Syosset administration. The Law Committee's task shall be to investigate all factual circumstances of the financial scandal and administrative failings, losses to date and any possible sources of recovery from individuals or institutions, and report their findings and recommendations to the Metropolitan Council and the Holy Synod. Such committee should include lawyers familiar with corporate governance and criminal investigations. Any and all legal counsel to the OCA should be instructed to co-operate fully and openly with such committee.

(iii) The Metropolitan Council act promptly to implement the recommendations of such law committee and/or undertake such other actions as it may deem appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

We further urge expeditious action by the Metropolitan Council to resolve the crisis and protect Church assets. Absent such actions, we resolve that the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of New England, subject to the consent of its Bishop, acting at its next Special or regular meeting, act to consider all appropriate remedies required to protect Church assets, including the placing in Escrow of all assessments pending satisfactory resolution of the matter.

Finally, we urge any and all appropriate parallel and or supplementary action by the Holy Synod, all in order to protect the property, spiritual values and good name of our Church in this time of crisis, and urge the full and complete co-operation of the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council in resolving these matters.

APPENDIX II

Statement of the Diocese of New England

We the Diocese of New England are deeply saddened and concerned by the scandal affecting our Church. We acknowledge that such financial scandal and attendant leadership crisis are intolerable. In addition, we believe that significant legal risks to the Church, including this Diocese, will result from continued failure to take decisive action.

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APPENDIX III

Proposed Resolution #1

After witnessing the serious breach of trust that has occurred throughout the Orthodox Church in America, it is with deep sorrow and disappointment, but also strong conviction, that this resolution must be made for the good of Christ's Church by the Diocese of New England at its annual assembly gathered in Maynard, MA on October 28, 2006

It is recognized that the OCA may be severely damaged by alleged ethical and financial improprieties. Full and truthful financial disclosure and all necessary corrections in church governance and administration must be instituted expeditiously. This will begin to restore the confidence of the clergy, faithful, and other members of our communities. We must strive to be a community of faith and love that is above reproach in its conduct. There is no other way to remain viable as a church, to grow, and to receive our Lord's blessing.

Those who have been unable or unwilling to adhere to the Statute of the OCA should resign. They should be replaced by qualified persons who will uphold the Statute and applicable civil laws.

The guidelines presented by the new "Best Practices" document should be implemented as soon as it is finalized and then distributed to all dioceses and parishes of the OCA. By themselves, they do not mandate legal requirements subject to penalties if not fulfilled.

To insure proper conduct in financial matters, the OCA, as a corporation in the State of New York, must adhere to the laws of the state that apply to non-profit corporations.

Submitted by: Nicholas and Marie Senio
 Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church, Maynard, MA

Proposed Resolution #2

Be it resolved that our Diocesan Bishop be asked to appoint members to a Task Force to study all related issues and factors that may be contributing to declining membership over recent years in the New England Diocese.

Be it further resolved that all findings of the Task Force, along with recommendations to address the issues, form the basis of a Task Force written report on Declining Membership that will be distributed to all Diocesan parishes for study and discussion before the next annual Diocesan Assembly.

Be it further resolved that the subject of Declining Membership and the associated Task Force Report be placed on the agenda of the next Annual Assembly with sufficient allocated time for discussion and further recommended action as deemed appropriate by the assembled delegates.

Wherefore the assembled delegates to this 43rd annual assembly of New England support the adoption of said resolution.

Submitted by: The Rev. Sergius Halvorsen and Dn. John Zarras
 Christ the Savior Orthodox Church, Southbury, CT