

# Minutes of the Special Assembly of the Diocese of New England of the Orthodox Church in America

**Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, New Britain, CT – May 21, 2008**

The Special Assembly of the Diocese of New England of the Orthodox Church in America convened for the purpose of addressing the recommendation of the Diocesan Council to sell the Diocesan Residence in Cumberland, RI. His Grace, Bishop NIKON opened the Special Assembly at 7:00 p.m. with the singing of “Christ is Risen.”

His Grace welcomed all participants to this Special Assembly and thanked them for their effort of making the long journey for this one issue.

## **I. ASSEMBLY OFFICERS**

With the blessing of His Grace, Fr. John Kreta, Diocesan Chancellor, was appointed the Chairman of the Special Assembly. Fr. David Koles, Diocesan Secretary, was asked to take the minutes.

## **II. CREDENTIALS REPORT**

Fr. John Kreta asked Alexia Tassmer to present the Credentials Report. She gave the following report:

<u>Voting Attendees</u>		<u>Non-Voting Attendees</u>	
Hierarchy	1	Observers	2
Clergy Delegates	17	Guests	0
Lay Delegates	20		
Diocesan Council	<u>6</u>		
<b>Total Voting Members:</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>

**Grand Total Voting and Non-Voting 46**

It was noted that a quorum was present and that voting would be by a show of hands.

## **III. REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN RESIDENCE COMMITTEE**

Greg Shesko, Chairman of the Diocesan Residence Committee, opened his remarks by passing out a folder with photos of the Diocesan Residence. He gave a brief history of the residence.

1988 Purchased for Bishop JOB of Hartford.

1993 Rented by Fr. Vasily Lickwar, rector of Dormition of the Theotokos Church, Cumberland, RI.

2007 In November the Lickwar’s move out of the residence having purchased their own home.

Greg Shesko stated that he has met with three Real Estate Agents who have looked at the house and they agree that the selling price for the house should be no greater than the assessed value of \$270,000. Also that no ‘major renovations’ should be undertaken by the diocese because the diocese would not be able to recoup the value at the time of sale. They recommend that only minor exterior repairs be made in order to make the house ready for sale. The buyer would have to spend \$30 to \$50 thousand to bring the house up to adequate living standards.

The Diocesan Council has spent approximately \$9000 to get the exterior up to presentable conditions; cleaning, repairs, painting, etc.

Greg Shesko presented the following motion, second by Fr. Dennis Rhodes:

The Special Diocesan Assembly approves the Diocesan Council’s recommendation of February 20, 2008 to sell the Diocesan Residence at 6 New Clark Road, Cumberland, RI. The Council is authorized to contract with a local realtor to put the property on the market, to negotiate its sale at the best possible price and to undertake all necessary legal arrangements to conclude the transaction.

Fr. John Kreta asked for discussion and there was none. He asked for a vote on the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the assembly was made by Marion Gulash, seconded by John Barone. All in favor rose and sang, “Shine, shine, (the 9<sup>th</sup> Ode of Pascha)”

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. David Koles,  
Diocesan Secretary