



## DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND

*61st DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY*

Cumberland, RI

**OCTOBER 25-26, 2024**

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

The 61st New England Diocesan Assembly will convene on October 25-26, 2024, hosted by Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church, Cumberland, RI. 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 accommodation, registration for the assembly - including delegate accreditation forms and travel details are included in this attachment. All parishes will receive this packet in electronic form only.

Please note that the deadline for the hotel is **September 24th**, the forms and banquet registration is October 5th. 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 61st 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, 2024. Please note that lay delegates whose parish fair share is not current will be seated as observers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Alexia Tassmer**

# Diocese of New England

## A Guide for Delegates to the Diocesan Assembly

The Diocesan Council has created this Guide to help newly-elected delegates to the Diocesan Assembly prepare to participate. The Diocese of New England convenes its annual Diocesan Assembly typically on the last Friday and Saturday of October. Each parish in the diocese may elect one lay delegate for each member of the clergy assigned to that parish.

### **The Diocesan Assembly agenda consists of the following items:**

- ◆ Services (ex., An opening prayer service, Vespers, Divine Liturgy, and closing prayers)
- ◆ Selection of roles for the Assembly (vice-chairs, secretariat, credentials committee, elections and resolutions committee)—some of which are nominated from the floor.
- ◆ Written Reports for the past year with no further action expected (ex. Deanery Reports)
- ◆ Written Reports for the past year which call for a motion at the Assembly (ex. the Compensation Committee recommended revised Clergy Compensation Guidelines)
- ◆ Oral Reports (ex. Hierarchy's Report)
- ◆ Presentations that are summaries of written reports
- ◆ Presentations with no prior distribution (ex. guest speakers)
- ◆ Reports from the Diocesan Council carrying out the decisions of previous Assemblies
- ◆ Motions previously distributed (Budget, Compensation Guidelines)
- ◆ Motions first presented at the Assembly (usually in response to discussion and activity during the Assembly)
- ◆ Elections to Diocesan Council and Metropolitan Council of the OCA (3 year terms)

### **The role of the Diocesan Assembly Delegate involves the following activity:**

- ◆ Represent parish by reflecting the parish's view, information, etc., in discussions, including motions.
- ◆ Receive attentively the communications, reports and motions distributed in advance of the Assembly, and read them and discuss within the parish as appropriate.
- ◆ Discuss and vote upon motions and elections, responding to parish circumstances, presentations, and arguments made regarding motions. All deliberation and decision-making is influenced by the worship and prayer of the diocese assembled together under its bishop.
- ◆ Report back to the parish, particularly on matters not distributed before the Assembly meets. Report on important reports and presentations, actions taken and votes held.
- ◆ Deliver printed materials, including the finalized agenda, all reports, handouts, etc., to the parish council.

This means that the delegate has a number of crucial responsibilities before and after the Assembly. The clergy and lay delegates need to collaborate with parish leadership to ensure the parish is well-informed of decisions and activity of the diocese.

## **Hotel Information**

Hampton Inn & Suites, 55 Draper Avenue, North Attleboro, MA 02760

Phone (508) 203-7679 or <https://group.hamptoninn.com/u1pzk4>

Special group rate of \$199 per night ***Rate only through September 24th***

Group Name: Diocese of New England

## **Directions to Holy Dormition Orthodox Church**

### *From the south*

*Route 95 North to Route 146 North to Route 295 North to Exit 10*

*Turn right at the end of the exit ramp onto Route 122 (Mendon Road)*

*Continue on Route 122 for 2.7 miles to Manville Hill Road*

*Turn Left on Manville Hill Road and continue down the hill for 3/10 mile.*

*Turn left onto Fountain Street. A sign for the church is on the left corner.*

*Go straight up the hill to the church.*

### *From the north*

*Route 95 South to Route 295 South to Exit 10*

*Turn right at the end of the exit ramp onto Route 122 (Mendon Road)*

*Continue on Route 122 for 2.7 miles to Manville Hill Road*

*Turn Left on Manville Hill Road and continue down the hill for 3/10 mile.*

*Turn left onto Fountain Street. A sign for the church is on the left corner.*

*Go straight up the hill to the church.*

## **Directions to the Kirkbrae Country Club from Hotel**

Right toward Draper Ave 100ft

Right onto Draper 350ft

Left onto US-1S

Use the right lane to take I-295 S ramp to Warwick .3mi

Merge I- 295S 4.4mi

Exit 20 for RI-122 toward Cumberland .3mi

Slight right onto Ramp to RI-122N 150ft.

Merge onto RI-122N

Left onto Albion Rd

At traffic circle continue straight to stay on School St .6mi

Left onto Old River Rd .2mi #197 will be on left

## **From Kirkbrea Country Club to the Hampton Inn & Suites**

Exit the Kirkbrea Parking Lot turning right onto Old River Road  
Head southeast on RI-126 S/Old River Rd toward Kirkbrae Ave 1.0mi  
Left onto RI-116N 1.1mi  
Left onto Mendon Rd 0.3mi  
Use the right lane to take the I-295N ramp to I-95N/Attleboro/Boston .3mi  
Merge onto I-295N (entering MA) 4.6mi  
Take exit 2B for US-1N toward N. Attleboro .3mi  
Merge onto US-1 N/S Washington St .3mi  
Turn right onto Draper Ave 350ft  
Turn left  
Destination on right #55 Draper Ave

## **From Hampton Inn & Suites to Dormition Church (13 min)**

Head west toward Draper Ave  
Turn right toward Draper Ave 100ft  
Turn Right onto Draper Ave 350ft  
Left onto US-1 S .1mi  
Use right lane to take the I-295 S ramp to Warwick .3mi  
Merge onto I-295 S (entering RI) 4.4mi  
Take exit 20 for RI-122 toward Cumberland .3mi  
Slight right onto the ramp to RI-122 N/Mendon Rd 150ft  
Merge onto RI-122 N/Mendon Rd 2.4mi  
Left onto Manville Hill Rd .4mi  
Left onto Fountain St .1mi  
#71 Manville Hill Rd



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*61st DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY*

Dormition of the Virgin Mary

Cumberland, RI

**OCTOBER 25-26, 2024**

### **Tentative Schedule**

#### **Time**

#### **Event**

#### **Location**

#### **Friday October 25, 2024**

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.	61st Assembly Registration	Kirkbrae Country Club
10:00 a.m.	Opening Service of Thanksgiving	Kirkbrae Country Club
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Plenary Session	Kirkbrae Country Club
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	Kirkbrae Country Club
1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Plenary Session	Kirkbrae Country Club
5:30 p.m.	Vespers and Confession	Kirkbrae Country Club
6:30 p.m.	Social Hour	Kirkbrae Country Club
7:00 p.m.	Banquet	Kirkbrae Country Club

#### **Saturday, October 26, 2024**

8:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	Dormition Church
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	Brunch	Dormition Church Hall
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Plenary Session	Dormition Church Hall



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**OCTOBER 25-26, 2024**

### CLERGY (PRIEST/DEACON) REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PARISH \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please **RETURN** this form by **October 7, 2024** to:

Alexia Tassmer

95 South Orchard St

Wallingford, CT 06492

Any questions please call **Alexia** at 203-623-5336 alexiatassmer@gmail.com

**BANQUET- On Friday evening**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will attend** \_\_\_\_\_ **I will not attend.**

\*Hotel reservations are your responsibility; please see the above info concerning the **September 24th** Deadline!



**DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND**

*61st DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY*  
Dormition of the Virgin Mary  
Cumberland, RI

**OCTOBER 25-26, 2024**

**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 61st Annual Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of New England.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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 7, 2024 to:**  
Alexia Tassmer  
95 South Orchard St  
Wallingford, CT 06492

Any questions please call **Alexia** at 203-623-5336  
alexiatassmer@gmail.com

<b>BANQUET- On Friday evening</b> <b>_____ I will attend _____ I will not attend.</b>
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**OCTOBER 25-26, 2024**

### DIOCESAN LAY COUNCIL MEMBER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PARISH: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Rector \_\_\_\_\_

**Please RETURN this form by October 7, 2024 to:**

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Wallingford, CT 06492

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alexiatassmer@gmail.com

**BANQUET- On Friday evening**

**\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend \_\_\_\_\_ I will not attend.**

\*Hotel reservations are your responsibility; please see the above info concerning the **September 24th** Deadline!



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**OCTOBER 25-26, 2024**

### OBSERVER REGISTRATION FORM

PARISH: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*The undersigned observer has been duly authorized by his/her parish to participate in the 61st Annual Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of New England.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \$100.00 per person.**

**Please RETURN this form by October 7, 2024 to:**

Alexia Tassmer  
95 South Orchard St  
Wallingford, CT 06492

□ Any questions please call **Alexia** at 203-623-5336  
alexiatassmer@gmail.com

<b>BANQUET- On Friday evening</b> _____ <b>I will attend</b> _____ <b>I will not attend.</b>
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\*Hotel reservations are your responsibility; please see the above info concerning the **September 24th** Deadline!

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

## COLA Report



According to a vote of the 2022 Diocesan Assembly the COLA adjustment for 2025 would be from the Board of Labor Statistics, July US City average CPI.

- US City average is 2.9%

The COLA adjustment for the Diocese of New England 2025 is 2.9%

Yours In Christ,

*Alexia Tassmer*

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