

# Orthodox Church in America – Diocese of New England

## Diocesan Council Minutes – Wednesday, November 16, 2011 – Springfield, Massachusetts

### OPENING

The regular meeting of the Diocesan Council held on Wednesday, August 17, 2011, at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Springfield, MA, was opened at the end of Daily Vespers with the prayers for the Installation of the new Diocesan Council for 2012 at 7:15 p.m., by Archpriest John Kreta, Chancellor of the Diocese of New England with the His Grace, Bishop NIKON, of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese who was a home recuperating from surgery. After the blessing of the new council everyone proceeded to the church hall where Fr. John Kreta chaired the meeting.

#### 1. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the August 17, 2011 Meeting of the Diocesan Council were reviewed.

**MOTION:** John Barone moved, seconded by Rdr. Daniel Bacon that the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

#### 2. REVIEW OF DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY MINUTES

The Minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Assembly held at Three Saints Church, Ansonia, CT in October 2011 were received and reviewed to be approved at the 2012 assembly.

#### 3. HIERARCH'S REPORT

In the absence of His Grace, Fr. John Kreta presented a short oral report. He noted that there are still two vacancies in the Connecticut Deanery at the parishes in Bridgeport and Waterbury. Secondly, the service of Holy Unction for His Grace was held on November 13<sup>th</sup> at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston with clergy coming from all parts of our diocese. Finally, the Northern Deanery will meet on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> for election of a Dean.

#### 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, 2011 through October 31, 2011. He noted that the Fair Share is behind budget by \$10,000. He hoped that this was due to bad timing with who had played "catch up" and haven't started this fiscal year's payments yet.

##### Financial Statement of Assets – 10/31/11

Checkbook Balance	\$ 58,001.31
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##### Diocesan Budget: 9/1/11 – 10/31/11

Total Actual Income (Inflows)	\$ 60,455.04
Total Actual Expenses (Outflows)	\$ 48,155.10
Total Income/Expense (Net Total)	\$ 12,299.94

**MOTION:** Alexia Tassmer moved, seconded David Zavednak, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

- A) Scholarships: \$1500 was paid out in August under last year's budget and in December one scholarship will be paid.

There was discussion about getting His Grace a full time assistant with half the salary paid by the DNE and half paid by the Albanian Archdiocese. Mr. Skrobat stated that we will look at this during our February meeting.

#### 5. PARISH GRANT PROGRAM

Prdn. Paul Nimchek stated that the application and explanation for the Parish Grant will be posted on

the DNE web. He will ask His Grace to appoint the Formation Committee to be the Application Committee. Everyone was in agreement. He stated that grants will be awarded on a first come first serve basis with a “cut-off” date of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

6. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Fr. Robert Dick, Clergy Representative from the DNE stated that the next meeting will be held February 7-9, 2012 in conjunction with the Lesser Synod meeting. Two main topics will be the budget & resolutions from the All American Council and the SMPAC. There are a number of revisions made and they need to be approved.

There was discussion about how to go about getting background check for everyone on ones parish council. Each parish needs to get a CORI check [Criminal Offender Record Information]. They cost anywhere from \$15 - \$25 per person. I was stated that a parish could claim “hardship” and the fees could be waived. The Cathedral has done this and Inga Leonova said she would send information as to how this works and the proper procedures to Fr. John Kreta. This should be the first order of business for a new parish council.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

No report.

8. ONE STEWARDS

Prdn. Paul Nimchek stated that the committee would meet at the beginning of 2012.

9. CHOIR DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

No report.

10. YOUTH

No report.

11. FORCC

It was reported that the Kursk Root Icon will be at St. George Albanian Orthodox Church in Trumbull, CT in conjunction with an unction service.

12. OLD BUSINESS

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The faithful of Holy Ghost, Bridgeport, CT and St. Jacob, Northfield Falls, NH have requested to host the Diocesan Assembly. Keeping with our rotating schedule the CT Deanery is slated for 2013 and the Northern Deanery for 2014. COLA has not been calculated. It will be ready for the assembly.

**MOTION:** Fr. Robert Dick moved, seconded by John Barone, that the Diocesan Assembly in 2013 be held in Bridgeport, CT and the Diocesan Assembly in 2014 be held in Northfield Falls, NH. The motion passed.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council is scheduled for Ss. Peter and Paul, Springfield, MA on Wednesday, February 15, 2011, with a snow date of February 20<sup>th</sup> beginning with the celebration of Daily Vespers at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on a motion by John Barone the meeting closed with the singing of “It is truly meet ...” at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest David Koles,  
Secretary

**Members of the Diocesan Council present for this Meeting:**

1. Fr. John Kreta, Chancellor
2. Fr. David Koles, Diocesan Secretary, Dean of the Connecticut Deanery, Webmaster
3. John Skrobat, Diocesan Treasurer
4. Fr. Robert Dick, Metropolitan Council Clergy Representative
5. David Zavednak, Metropolitan Council Lay Representative
6. Fr. Vasily Lickwar, Dean of the Boston Deanery
7. Inga Leonova, Laity-at-Large Representative
8. Alexia Tassmer, Laity-at-Large Representative
9. Rdr. Daniel Bacon, Laity-at-Large Representative
10. John Barone, Laity-at-Large Representative
11. Robert Popadic, Laity-at-Large Representative
12. Fr. Michael Korolev, Auditor (Voting)
13. Sub. Dn. Lawrence Johnson, , Auditor (Non-Voting)
14. Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, Director & Financial Secretary of ONE Stewards

**Members of the Diocesan Council excused for this Meeting:**

1. His Grace, Bishop NIKON, Diocesan Bishop
2. Fr. Steven Hosking, Clergy-at-Large Representative
3. Fr. Caleb Abetti, Clergy-at-Large Representative
4. Fr. Patrick Burns, Clergy-at-Large Representative
5. Fr. John Hopko, Diocesan Youth Rally Director

**Members of the Diocesan Council absent for this Meeting:**

1. Fr. Peter Carmichael, Dean of the Northern Deanery
2. Marion Gulash, Laity-at-Large Representative
3. Matushka Cindy Voytovich, , Auditor (Non-Voting)
4. Fr. Joshua Mosher, Director of Communications – Editor, ONE Newspaper