

Orthodox Church in America – Diocese of New England

Diocesan Council Minutes – Wednesday, May 16, 2012 – Springfield, Massachusetts

OPENING

The regular meeting of the Diocesan Council held on Wednesday, May 16, 2012, at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Springfield, MA, was opened with the singing of “Christ is risen” at 7:30 p.m. His Eminence, Archbishop NIKON, of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese chaired the meeting.

1. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the February 12, 2012 Meeting of the Diocesan Council were reviewed.

MOTION: Fr. John Hopko moved, seconded by Inga Leonova that the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

2. HIERARCH’S REPORT

His Eminence attended the Lesser Synod meeting following our last Diocesan Council meeting. He also was able to attend and serve at the CT Deanery Unction service at Ansonia in April. During Holy Week he served at both cathedrals in Boston. At the end of the first week of May the Holy Synod gathered in Ohio for the Consecration of Archimandrite Alexander (Golitzen) bishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese. The following week the Holy Synod gathered at the Vatra in Michigan. His Eminence stated that the most frustration part about the meetings were spending the first day and a half dealing with sexual misconduct issues and not enough on pastoral or diocesan issues. The Metropolitan Council joined the Holy Synod and discussed legal updated and procedures. Both the Diocese of Alaska and the Diocese of the South remain widowed. There are some candidates but they don’t have enough pastoral experience. It was decided that if a candidate is proposed to the synod, the synod may appoint them as "administrators" or auxiliaries to the locum tenens for a year prior to consecration. The DOS will be having a Special Assembly for the purpose of nominating a candidate in conjunction with their regular assembly in July.

3. 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 April 30, 2012. He noted that income is slightly under budget due to a few parishes slightly behind in Fair Share. There are still 2 parishes behind in 2010 payments and one has made no payments in 2011. Expenses are also below budget also because of a missing issue of ONE, no charity or discretionary distributions.

Financial Statement of Assets – 4/30/12

Checkbook Balance	\$ 26,318.05
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Diocesan Budget: 9/1/11 – 4/30/12

Total Actual Income (Inflows)	\$205,981.75
Total Actual Expenses (Outflows)	\$199,477.32
Total Income/Expense (Net Total)	\$ 6,504.43

There has been a return of \$4,600.00 to the diocese from the AAC account because the 16th AAC did not cost as much as expected.

MOTION: John Skrobat moved seconded Fr. Robert Dick, that the overage be returned to the parishes of the diocese by the same percentage that they were assessed. The motion passed.

- A) Scholarships: Two scholarship applications were received and distributed, Andrew Boyd for two semesters at St. Vladimir’s and John Taylor Carr for one semester at Holy Cross.

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

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Fr. Joshua Mosher announced that the May issue of ONE is in the printing process and has been posted on the DNE web.

5. ONE STEWARDS

Prdn. Paul Nimchek was absent so there was no report.

6. PARISH GRANT PROGRAM

Two parishes have applied for the grant and the Application Committee has approved, Southbury for \$1500 and Willimantic for \$2000. Holy Trinity, Willimantic has asked to postpone the reception of its grant because the event that the funds were going to be applied to was paid by the Windham Interfaith Ministry. They will apply the funds for another event in the future.

7. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Fr. Robert Dick, Clergy Representative from the DNE attended the joint meeting of the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council. Three areas of concern were legal issues, strategic plan and financials.

- A) The legal issues took up the first half of the week. Most is not for posting to the general public.
- B) The second area of concern is the Strategic Plan. The newest revision received "luke warm" reception by the Holy Synod and the clergy representatives on the Metropolitan Council.
- C) The financial discussions centered around the AAC resolution on the Fair Share. The Holy Synod is not in complete agreement with the approved resolution. The Legal Committee has also challenged the resolution vis-a-vie the Statute. It takes a 2/3 majority to change the Statute and this seems to be what the resolution is doing. Therefore it must be put forward at the next AAC for approval. All Diocese except the DOS & DOW use the "head tax" for calculating the assessment. These two diocese use proportional giving. In the DNE 56 – 58% of our income goes to the OCA. Head Tax dioceses are going broke and proportional giving parishes / diocese are growing.

The next meeting will be a joint session of the Lesser Synod and Metropolitan Council September 25 – 27. Our Diocesan Council needs to talk about giving/support of our parishes to the DNE/OCA. John Skrobat has requested from all parishes to send in their 2011 Actual vs. Budget statement so that he will be able to come up with a type of "standardized budget form" to be used to calculate a new Fair Share. He said that 17 parishes have complied with the request; the majority of missing are in the CT Deanery. The Secretary has been requested to contact the Deans and/or pastors of those "non-compliant" parishes so that a report will be ready for our next meeting.

8. YOUTH

Fr. John Hopko presented a written report (on file with the Secretary) and a Flyer for Youth Rally 2012. Clergy staff is in place and also the Camp Nurse, Mat. Macrina Hopko. Additional "lay" staff is needed. Thoughts on the theme are either The Bible: Defense of the word of God or the Virgin Mary: Great example not great exception. Again a reminder that the cost is remaining the same, \$175 for the 1st camper, \$125 for the 2nd and the 3rd or more free.

9. CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

No replacement has been named for Fr. Sergius Halvorsen.

10. MAINE MISSION

Fr. John Kreta reported that things are going well. Fr. John Pawelchak has been traveling there every other weekend. They are still researching areas for a permanent site. There are about 40 – 45 adults in three different locations. They are beginning to compile a budget, membership list, etc. and saving for a weekly stipend for a priest possible beginning in September. The rector of the ROCOR church in Richmond is squawking about our presence as interference. Abp. Nikon will meet with Metropolitan Hilarion in July and discuss the situation.

11. CHOIR DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

No report.

12. OLD BUSINESS

1. Speakers for Assembly: Fr. John Jillions, Chancellor of the OCA has confirmed that he will attend and speak at the assembly. Also, Fr. John Bacon will make a presentation on Youth Protection Training.
2. Background Check Information: Inga Leonova will get this to Fr. John Kreta and he will distribute to all rectors in the diocese.
3. Statistical Reports: The Pastors Annual Statistical Report is to be sent to all rectors in the DNE and returned no later than September 14th.

13. NEW BUSINESS

1. 49th Diocesan Assembly: Must have hotel reservations confirmed by **September 23rd**! There are two hotels; Peabody Marriott \$149 and Danvers Courtyard \$164/\$174. Banquet will be at the Peabody Marriott.
2. Diocesan Council Meetings: His Eminence suggested that we change our meeting schedule to three times a year, possibly the end of January and the end of May and early September. After much discussion consensus was that no more than four and no less than three meetings per year were in order but the actual months would be decided at a later time.
3. Annual Sexual Misconduct Compliance Forms: These form were distributed to all rectors at the Diocesan Assembly and should be returned to His Eminence & Diocesan Chancellor after each parish has its annual meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29, 2012 at Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, due to Fr. Michael Korolev being on vacation, beginning with the celebration of Daily Vespers at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on a motion by Fr. Patrick Burns the meeting closed with the singing of “It is truly meet ...” at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest David Koles,
Secretary

Members of the Diocesan Council present for this Meeting:

1. His Eminence, Archbishop NIKON, Diocesan Hierarch
2. Fr. John Kreta, Chancellor
3. Fr. David Koles, Diocesan Secretary, Dean of the Connecticut Deanery, Webmaster
4. John Skrobat, Diocesan Treasurer
5. Fr. Robert Dick, Metropolitan Council Clergy Representative
6. Fr. Steven Hosking, Clergy-at-Large Representative
7. Fr. Patrick Burns, Clergy-at-Large Representative
8. Inga Leonova, Laity-at-Large Representative
9. Alexia Tassmer, Laity-at-Large Representative
10. Rdr. Daniel Bacon, Laity-at-Large Representative
11. John Barone, Laity-at-Large Representative
12. Robert Popadic, Laity-at-Large Representative
13. Fr. Michael Korolev, Auditor (Voting)
14. Fr. Joshua Mosher, Director of Communications – Editor, ONE Newspaper
15. Fr. John Hopko, Diocesan Youth Rally Director

Members of the Diocesan Council excused for this Meeting:

1. David Zavednak, Metropolitan Council Lay Representative
2. Sub. Dn. Lawrence Johnson, , Auditor (Non-Voting)
3. Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, Director & Financial Secretary of ONE Stewards

Members of the Diocesan Council absent for this Meeting:

1. Fr. Vasily Lickwar, Dean of the Boston Deanery
2. Fr. Peter Carmichael, Dean of the Northern Deanery
3. Fr. Caleb Abetti, Clergy-at-Large Representative
4. Marion Gulash, Laity-at-Large Representative
5. Matushka Cindy Voytovich, , Auditor (Non-Voting)