

# Orthodox Church in America – Diocese of New England

## Diocesan Council Minutes – Wednesday, November 28, 2012 – Springfield, Massachusetts

### OPENING

The regular meeting of the Diocesan Council held on Wednesday, November 28, 2012, at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Springfield, MA, was opened with the singing of “O Heavenly King” at 7:33 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 August 29, 2012 Meeting of the Diocesan Council were reviewed.

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

2. Reception and review of the Minutes of the 49<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Assembly Salem, MA (October 2012). Beginning in 2013, the Oath and installation is to be given at the conclusion of the Assembly.

### 3. HIERARCH’S REPORT

His Eminence reported on his schedule since our last meeting.

Highlights: I have made scheduling for the coming year visitations, although much work is anticipated with the national church transitions. Of course, following our assembly was the AAC and immediately following the election there was a preliminary meeting of the Holy Synod in Parma. In addition to the AAC I was asked to attend the MW Diocesan Assembly the Sunday and Monday before the AAC in as much as Bp Matthais was on leave. This was a difficult situation and I reported back to the Synod my impressions of the situation in the Mid-West. In addition I was asked to accompany His Beatitude for his first Liturgy at St Nicholas Cathedral in Washington DC November 07-18. It gave me the opportunity to give a preliminary report on my visit to the MW Diocesan Assembly as well as share some concerns for our church and a few schedule problems and hopes for his Beatitude.

### 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, 2012 through October 31, 2012. He noted that income is slightly under budget due to the timing of the Assembly income & expenses. Fair Share Income is off to an okay start.

#### Financial Statement of Assets – 10/31/12

Checkbook Balance	\$ 8,752.00
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#### Diocesan Budget: 9/1/12 – 10/31/12

Total Actual Income (Inflows)	\$ 61,803.61
Total Actual Expenses (Outflows)	\$ 56,498.82
Total Income/Expense (Net Total)	\$ 5,304.79

- A) Scholarships: As of this meeting we have received one application for scholarships have been by Dn James, of Holy Cross for \$1500.

**MOTION:** Mat Cindy Voytovich moved seconded by John Barone, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

5. CHOIR DIRECTOR'S TRAINING PROGRAM

Have spoken with a few interested people – 6 interested in the program. There has been discussion of a Diocesan Choir Director workshop. The National church is going to be doing a Choir Director Program but have requested us to continue locally, as they are not yet ready to launch a program .

6. COMMUNICATIONS

Fr. Joshua Mosher reported ONE issue completed with plans of another shortly. He will also speak with Fr Steven Hosking (new web master) to investigate putting the ONE on Web site first & publishing later.

Fr. Steven Hosking has become the new web master. (Absent) It has been suggested to put Parish News on Web site with drop downs.

7. ONE STEWARDS

Prdn. Paul Nimchek stated that we have concluded this year and are preparing for next year. Our Annual Appeal will launch in Mid-February. We are in the process of printing new envelopes and need newer pictures to update brochure.

8. YOUTH

Fr. John Hopko Absent – no updates

9. STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Fr. Caleb Abetti reported how the program was discussed and instituted at the AAC. The largest issues were marriage & sexuality, fine language, homosexuality, beginning and end of life issues - elderly care and hospice care. There was a critical mass of teaching with a GOAL (Temporary Template) was to lead with strength. In the New England Diocese the presentation will be Marriage & Sexuality in the church. We are hoping for Fr. John Barre as a speaker with Fr. Tom Hopko as response speaker. We are also looking for a second response speaker.

After discussing the logistics Fr. Dick asked to make sure it relates to who we are as a church and follows the Holy Traditions and Doctrines of the church.

This will be a two day event in White River Junction looking into holding the presentation in February. Advertising has not been planned yet.

10. FORCC

Reported the new officers: Alexia Tassmer, President, Robert Lazar, Treasurer, William Balamaci, Assistant Treasurer, Heidi Crosby, Correspondence Secretary, Mat. Jenny Mosher, Recording Secretary, and Fr. Dennis Rhodes & Fr. Michael Macura, Clergy Chair. Next Banquet is October 6, 2013 guest speaker not secured.

11. PARISH GRANT PROGRAM

No new updates. It has been requested/required that at future Assemblies that the Grant recipients give presentations on the results of their Grant.

12. OLD BUSSINESS

a. 50<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Assembly – Bridgeport, CT (Oct 25-26, 2013)

b. Possible speakers for the assembly:

Fr. John Parker (new Department-chair on Evangelization OCA)

Fr. Sergius \_\_\_\_\_

with Metropolitan Tikhon to be invited even if not a speaker.

- c. Alexia Tassmer is the committee to work with Bridgeport.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. \$500 to support Alaska attending the AAC

- b. 2014 Northfield, VT

2015 Berlin, NH

2016 Springfield, Mass

Fr. Kreta moved, seconded by Fr. Vasily Lickwar. Motion passed.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Springfield, MA, beginning with the celebration of Daily Vespers at 6:30 p.m.

THERE IS NO SNOW DATE!

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on a motion by Fr. David Koles the meeting closed with the singing of "It is truly meet ..." at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexia Tassmer,  
Secretary

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

1. His Eminence, Archbishop NIKON, Diocesan Hierarch
2. Fr. John Kreta, Chancellor
3. Alexia Tassmer, Diocesan Secretary Webmaster
4. John Skrobat, Diocesan Treasurer
5. Fr. Robert Dick, Metropolitan Council Clergy Representative
6. David Zavednak, Metropolitan Council Lay Representative
7. Fr. Vasily Lickwar, Dean of the Boston Deanery
8. Fr. David Koles, Dean of the Connecticut Deanery
9. Fr. Caleb Abetti, Clergy-at-Large Representative
10. Fr. Patrick Burns, Clergy-at-Large Representative
11. Fr. Michael Korolev, Clergy-at-Large Representative
12. Timothy Tassmer, Laity-at-Large Representative
13. John Barone, Laity-at-Large Representative
14. Robert Popadic, Laity-at-Large Representative
15. Mat. Cindy Voytovich, Auditor (Voting)
16. Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, Director & Financial Secretary of ONE Stewards
17. Fr. Joshua Mosher, Director of Communications- ONE Newspaper

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

1. Fr. Patrick Burns, Clergy-at-Large Representative

2. Patricia Egan, Laity-at-Large Representative
3. Pamela Parsons, Laity-at-Large Representative

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

1. Fr. Peter Carmichael, Dean of the Northern Deanery
2. Rdr. Daniel Bacon, Laity-at-Large Representative
3. SubDn. Lawrence Johnson, Auditor (Non-Voting)
4. Marion Gulash, Auditor (Non-Voting)
5. Fr. John Hopko, Diocesan Youth Rally Director
6. Fr. Steven Hosking, Webmaster