

Orthodox Church in America – Diocese of New England

Diocesan Council Minutes – Wednesday, August 29, 2012 – Springfield, Massachusetts

OPENING

The regular meeting of the Diocesan Council held on Wednesday, August 29, 2012, at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Springfield, MA, was opened with the singing of “O Heavenly King” at 7:40 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 May 16, 2012 Meeting of the Diocesan Council were reviewed.

MOTION: Alexia Tassmer moved, seconded by John Barone that the minutes be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

2. HIERARCH’S REPORT

His Eminence reported on his schedule since our last meeting. Highlights: Following our last meeting I had a DOS Diocesan Council meeting via teleconference; Then to Greenville, SC and travel to Columbia, SC and then to Charleston, SC for the Feast Day at the church of the Ascension along with Met Jonah; I did miss the annual Pilgrimage to St Tikhon's this year, but celebrated Vigil and Pentecost at our Holy Trinity Cathedral in Boston; I had a private meeting with Andrew Boyd relative his future in the church; A Pension board meeting on the 19th of June; Lunch with Fr Kreta discussing relative issues in our diocese; Invitation to Albania for the inauguration of the Cathedral and the 20th Anniversary of Archbishop Anastios' election as primate; July 5/6 Lesser Synod meeting which led to a conference call with the whole synod on the 7th of July; Following I had a conference call with our clergy giving them an update on the activities and actions of the Holy Synod; Headed South for the DOS annual assembly in Miami - Spanish Liturgy in a new mission there; On July 28/29 at Holy Trinity Cathedral for the ordination of Dn. Jeffrey Frate to the Holy Priesthood; Meeting with Mike Andrzejewski relative his desire to enter Seminary; Our Finance meeting with John Skrobat, Protodeacon Paul, Fr. David Koles and Fr John Kreta a few weeks ago; This was followed by a one day synod meeting in Detroit; Upon returning I attended the feast day celebration in Cumberland, RI then headed up to New Hampshire for some time at Rally with our kids; This past Sunday & Monday I was in Dallas for the 1st year anniversary of the falling asleep of Archbishop Dmitri; and lastly, early today a meeting of the Pension Board at Syosset.

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 July 31, 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 – 7/31/12

Checkbook Balance \$ 32,821.44

Diocesan Budget: 9/1/11 – 7/31/12

Total Actual Income (Inflows) \$290,048.33

Total Actual Expenses (Outflows) \$275,575.28

Total Income/Expense (Net Total) \$ 14,473.05

- A) Scholarships: As of this meeting no applications for scholarships have been received for next year.

MOTION: John Barone moved seconded Fr. John Hopko, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Fr. Joshua Mosher was absent so there was no information concerning ONE. The request by Fr. David Koles to be relieved as web master was granted and Fr. Steven Hosking will become the new web master beginning after the Diocesan Assembly.

5. ONE STEWARDS

Prdn. Paul Nimchek stated that we have met our budgeted goal for the second year in a row with income for the year being \$20,500.

A. PARISH GRANT PROGRAM

There are three active grants. Holy Trinity, Willimantic has asked to postpone its grant and they will apply again in the future. Christ the Savior, Southbury received half early this year and half in September for the CT Bible Lecture Series. Ss. Peter & Paul, Meriden grant is for the 10 week course "The Way". Holy Ghost, Bridgeport program for feeding the homeless also had there request approved and received half earlier this year and the second half later in 2012.

6. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Both of our representatives, Fr. Robert Dick and David Zavednak were not present and the MC has not met since our last meeting. There will be a meeting of the MC together with the Holy Synod and this will be reported at our diocesan assembly.

7. YOUTH

Fr. John Hopko presented a written report (on file with the Secretary) and reported on a very successful Youth Rally 2012. There were 8 new kids attending and new staff members also. He offered thanks to Fr. Dennis Rhodes & Fr. Sergius Halvorsen and the Camp Nurse, Mat. Macrina Hopko. There were 14 adults and 40 kids attending Rally this year with more boys than girls attending. The theme was "Gratitude & Happiness". The expenses for this year were higher because the camp raised the cost of food by about \$2.00 per person. For Rally 2013 the request is to charge \$200 for the 1st camper and \$350 per family.

MOTION: Fr. John Hopko moved seconded Fr. Patrick Burns, to raise the price for campers attending Youth Rally to \$200 for the 1st camper and \$350 per family beginning in 2013. The motion passed.

8. MAINE MISSION

Fr. John Kreta reported that things are going well. Fr. John Pawelchak has been traveling there every other weekend. An OCF has been established at Bowdoin College. His Eminence has given a blessing for the mission group to submit three names for his approval. They have also set up a web page www.orthodoxmaine.org

9. FORCC

Next meeting will be in September at St. George Trumbull. They will be putting up Billboards around Southern Connecticut for Pascha. The Annual Scholarship Banquet will be held on October 7th at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Bridgeport with Jennifer Nahas, the executive director of OCF giving the keynote address.

10. CHOIR DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

No report.

11. OLD BUSINESS

1. Assembly Officers:

Clergy Vice-chairman:	Fr. John Hopko
Lay Vice-chairman:	Robert Popadic
Secretariat:	Fr. David Koles, Dn. Christopher Westrate
Credentials & Tellers:	Alexia Tassmer, John Barone
Nominations & Resolutions:	Fr. Patrick Burns, Prdn. Paul Nimchek

The slate was accepted unanimously.

2. Officers & Members whose terms expire: Fr. David Koles stated that he will not seek re-election as Secretary. John Skrobat will accept another term as Treasurer. All others are eligible to run for re-election.

12. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2013 Budget: John Skrobat presented that proposed budget from the finance committee. Fair Share numbers are expected to drop to \$95 pending approval of the Metropolitan Council & Holy Synod. A new line item for a Bishop's Administrative Assistant whose salary and duties will be split with the Albanian Archdiocese has been added. There are increases to the Bishop's, Chancellors and Secretaries stipend. Also the Web Masters stipend is separated from the Secretaries stipend. The 2013 income is set at \$334,560 and the expense at \$344,560 which included \$10,000 for the Parish Grant Program.

MOTION: Rdr. Daniel Bacon moved, seconded by Robert Popadic, to approve the 2013 Budget as presented. The motion passed.

2. COLA: Not ready at this time but will be presented at the assembly during the report of His Eminence.
3. 50th Diocesan Assembly: Will be hosted by Holy Ghost, Bridgeport on October 25-26, 2013.
4. 17th All American Council: There will be a special All American Council held for the express purpose of electing a new Metropolitan. It will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at Holy Trinity Church, Parma, OH. The Holy Synod, which met on August 6th in Detroit, decided this after lengthy discussion with varying opinions as to what & when this should take place. Parishes will not be assessed for this council but diocese will be asked to contribute. The total cost is estimated to be \$55,000 and the DNE portion is \$4,000.

MOTION: Fr. John Hopko moved, seconded by Alexia Tassmer, to pay the assessment of \$4,000 for the 17th All American Council within the current budgetary year. The motion passed.

5. OCA Strategic Plan: Fr. Nicholas Dellermann presented a written report and request (on file with the secretary) from the Contemporary Issues Implementation Team of the OCA Strategic Planning Committee. Fr. Nick was asked to be the liaison from the Team to the DNE. The Team would like

to hold a seminar on Marriage & Sexuality in the DNE. The DNE would pay for this seminar. The Archbishop and planning committee would choose the presenters, date, place, etc. The request was for His Eminence to appoint a planning committee to plan this seminar and present findings for approval. His Eminence said he will take this request under advisement.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Springfield, MA, beginning with the celebration of Daily Vespers and the Blessing of the New Diocesan Council at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Acting on a motion by Fr. Michael Korolev the meeting closed with the singing of “It is truly meet ...” at 9:45 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. Steven Hosking, Clergy-at-Large Representative
6. Fr. Patrick Burns, Clergy-at-Large Representative
7. Alexia Tassmer, Laity-at-Large Representative
8. Rdr. Daniel Bacon, Laity-at-Large Representative
9. John Barone, Laity-at-Large Representative
10. Robert Popadic, Laity-at-Large Representative
11. Fr. Michael Korolev, Auditor (Voting)
12. Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, Director & Financial Secretary of ONE Stewards
13. Fr. John Hopko, Diocesan Youth Rally Director

Members of the Diocesan Council excused for this Meeting:

1. Fr. Robert Dick, Metropolitan Council Clergy Representative
2. David Zavednak, Metropolitan Council Lay Representative
3. Fr. Caleb Abetti, Clergy-at-Large Representative
4. Fr. Joshua Mosher, Director of Communications – Editor, ONE Newspaper

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. Marion Gulash, Laity-at-Large Representative
4. Inga Leonova, Laity-at-Large Representative
5. Matushka Cindy Voytovich, Auditor (Non-Voting)
6. Sub. Dn. Lawrence Johnson, Auditor (Non-Voting)

Guests:

1. Fr. Nicholas Dellermann