

Orthodox Church in America – Diocese of New England

Diocesan Council Minutes – Wednesday, February 15, 2012 – Springfield, Massachusetts

OPENING

The regular meeting of the Diocesan Council held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012, at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Springfield, MA, was opened with the singing of “O Heavenly King” at 7:25 p.m. His Grace, Bishop NIKON, of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese chaired the meeting.

1. REVIEW OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 16, 2011 Meeting of the Diocesan Council were reviewed. Corrections were to the from His Graces’ report that the Northern Deanery elected a new dean and in the motion under New Business change Northfield Falls, New Hampshire to Northfield Falls, Vermont.

MOTION: Fr. Robert Dick moved, seconded by Sub. Dn. Lawrence Johnson that the minutes be accepted as amended. The motion passed.

2. HIERARCH’S REPORT

His Grace gave a rundown of his treatment and recovery over the past two months. During this time of healing, both inside and out His Grace has been increasing his workload. St. Nicholas Church, Pittsfield, MA have gained access to their new church but have an unresolved issue with the state of Massachusetts concerning handicapped access to the altar area. The Lesser Synod & Metropolitan Council will be meeting in New York next week. Also the Pension Board will be meeting. The DOS Search Committee met last week and has set the DOS Assembly in July for election of their Diocesan Hierarch. While in the south His Grace visited Kentucky with Bishop Mark. For the Sunday of Orthodoxy, His Grace will preside at the Vespers at Holy Trinity Cathedral. Work for the Episcopal Assembly continues in preparation of their next gathering in September. Re-districting of diocese in America is on of the major items on the agenda.

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 January 31, 2012. He noted that the Fair Share is slightly ahead of budget. As of December 31, 2011 only 4 parishes did not fulfill their obligation and one of those made NO payments in 2011. A letter of explanation has been sent to each parish. Income is far ahead of expenses, but there have been no issues of ONE.

Financial Statement of Assets – 1/31/12

Checkbook Balance	\$ 65,568.41
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Diocesan Budget: 9/1/11 – 1/31/12

Total Actual Income (Inflows)	\$143,432.83
Total Actual Expenses (Outflows)	\$121,924.43
Total Income/Expense (Net Total)	\$ 21,508.40

MOTION: Fr. Vasily Lickwar moved seconded Fr. Robert Dick, that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted as presented. The motion passed.

- A) Scholarships: Two scholarship applications were accepted, Andrew Boyd at St. Vladimir’s and John Taylor Carr at Holy Cross.
- B) Fr. Steven Kozler Fund: There was one family who had continued to give \$50/month to this fund for assistance to Matushka Karen Kozler. They have stated that their contributions will stop.

- C) Discussion about sending “gift” contributions to our widowed Matushki ensued. At this time there are three; Pishtey, Sovyrda & Kozler. Prdn. Paul Nimchek suggested that we send “gifts” twice a year, Christmas and Pascha at \$250 each time.

MOTION: Fr. Vasily Lickwar moved, seconded Fr. Robert Dick, that the monetary gifts to our widowed Matushki be continued twice a year for the amount of \$250 each time. The motion passed.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Fr. Joshua Mosher announced that the next issue of ONE is in draft form awaiting His Graces’ approval and will then go to the printer and mailing house.

5. ONE STEWARDS

Prdn. Paul Nimchek stated that the annual mailing will be going out next week. He gave our treasurer \$\$ tonight as a start-up for the 2012 campaign. He also noted that His Grace, via the DOS, gives a monthly contribution.

A) Parish Grant Program

Prdn. Paul Nimchek announced that applications have been posted on the DNE web. Also, that two parishes have applied for the grant and the Application Committee has approved both for \$2000 each. Holy Trinity, Willimantic in concert with Windham Interfaith Ministry for “Walk for Warmth” in which HTOC will be the host and Christ the Savior, Southbury in concert with the Woodbury Clergy Association for CBLs, lectures on the Holy Scriptures by Fr. Paul Tarazi.

6. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Fr. Robert Dick, Clergy Representative from the DNE stated that the next meeting will be held next week in conjunction with the Lesser Synod meeting. The main topics will be the budget, SMPAC revisions, strategic plan and legal issues.

- A) In preparation for the budget talks there were two preliminary meeting. The first was with the OCA Department Chairman (report on file with the secretary). These Chairmen along with OCA Officers reviewed the funding of the OCA and adjusting the Fair Share as a result of the resolution passed at the AAC. Some diocese may take all three years until the next AAC to comply. The DOS & DOW are in good shape financially but all others are in various stages of crisis.

- B) The second preliminary meeting was with Diocesan Chancellors and Treasurers (report on file with the secretary). Each diocese can come up with their own method of financing the OCA as they move from a “head tax” to proportional giving in order to comply with the AAC resolution. In the DNE we pass 60% of what we collect to the OCA. In 5 months we collected approximately \$141,000 and passed out \$79,000 to the OCA. The DOS sends 43% and the DOW 37%. Proportional Giving will have more diocesan involvement if parish finances. Our treasurer, John Skrobat, stated that he will be willing to come up with a type of “standardized budget form” to be used to calculate a new Fair Share. He will need to have a copy of every parishes financial / budget statement. It was noted that every parish must already send this information to His Grace each year. The Secretary will request each parish to do this again, via email, “CC”ing the Chancellor and Diocesan Treasurer.

7. YOUTH

Date for Youth Rally 2012 is Monday, August 13 – Saturday, August 18. The staff will arrive on the 12th for orientation and training.

8. MAINE MISSION

Fr. John Kreta reported that Fr. John Pawelchak has been traveling there for monthly services, adult study, organizational meetings, etc. He will be doing Clean Week services in Bangor and Dear Isle along with a stop at Bowden College and the fledgling OCF there. Fr. John wants these folks to show their commitment to this mission station by being active between visits of a priest.

9. FORCC

No report.

10. CHOIR DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

No report.

MOTION: Sub. Dn. Lawrence Johnson moved, seconded Prdn. Paul Nimchek, that all reports be accepted. The motion passed.

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- A. It was suggested that Fr. John Jillions, new OCA Chancellor, be invited to speak. His Grace said he would extend an invitation since he will be in New York next week.
- B. Kursk Root Icon of the Theotokos will be at Three Saints Church, Ansonia on Sunday, April 1st for the Connecticut Deanery Unction service.
- C. Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers will be hosted by Holy Trinity Cathedral at 5:00 p.m. and the clergy of the Boston & Northern Deanery will gather to concelebrate. Clergy from the Greek Archdiocese will be present.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council is scheduled for Ss. Peter and Paul, Springfield, MA on Wednesday, May 16, 2012, beginning with the celebration of Daily Vespers 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 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest David Koles,
Secretary

Members of the Diocesan Council present for this Meeting:

- 1. His Grace, Bishop NIKON, Diocesan Bishop
- 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. Vasily Lickwar, Dean of the Boston Deanery
- 7. Fr. Steven Hosking, Clergy-at-Large Representative
- 8. Fr. Caleb Abetti, Clergy-at-Large Representative
- 9. Fr. Patrick Burns, Clergy-at-Large Representative
- 10. Robert Popadic, Laity-at-Large Representative
- 11. Fr. Michael Korolev, Auditor (Voting)
- 12. Sub. Dn. Lawrence Johnson, , Auditor (Non-Voting)
- 13. Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, Director & Financial Secretary of ONE Stewards
- 14. Fr. Joshua Mosher, Director of Communications – Editor, ONE Newspaper

Members of the Diocesan Council excused for this Meeting:

- 1. David Zavednak, Metropolitan Council Lay Representative
- 2. Inga Leonova, Laity-at-Large Representative
- 3. Alexia Tassmer, Laity-at-Large Representative
- 4. Matushka Cindy Voytovich, , Auditor (Non-Voting)

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. Rdr. Daniel Bacon, Laity-at-Large Representative

4. John Barone, Laity-at-Large Representative
5. Fr. John Hopko, Diocesan Youth Rally Director