

Summary Report: Diocesan Council Meeting of July 19, 2010

A meeting of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey was held on Monday, July 19, 2010, 11 AM at Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church of Clifton, New Jersey.

The following council members were present: His Grace, Bishop Michael, and Chancellor: Archpriest Joseph Lickwar, Deans: Archpriest Alexey Karlgut, Archpriest Samuel Kedala and Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk and members: Archpriest Daniel Degyansky, Priest Stephen Evanina, Scott Anderson and Lawrence Tosi, Treasurer.

The meeting opened with prayer at 11 AM.

Reports

Episcopal

His Grace informed the council that his newly formed Council of Presbyters held their first meeting on July 9, 2010 at the diocesan residence in Bronxville, NY. The members of the council are as follows: Archpriest Joseph Lickwar (Chancellor), Archpriest Alexey Karlgut (Dean, NYS), Archpriest Samuel Kedala (Dean, NJ), Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk (Dean NYC), Archpriest Ken James Stavrevsky (NYS Deanery), Archpriest Igor Burdikoff (NYS Deanery), Igumen Christopher Calin (NYC Deanery), Archpriest Jonathan Ivanoff (NYC Deanery), Archpriest Gary Breton (NJ Deanery), Priest Stephen Evanina (NJ Deanery), Archpriest John Nehrebecki (Retired) and Archpriest Sergius Kuharsky (Retired).

His Grace noted that there were many topics discussed: a Diocesan Clergy Retreat, Annual Gathering for Matushki, Annual Deanery-Wide Parish Council Conferences, Annual Deanery-Wide Church School Teachers Training, Annual Altar Servers Retreats and Annual Family Life Conferences. At this point, the only program that has been officially planned is the Annual Diocesan Clergy Retreat which will be held on August 31 and September 1 at Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church, Clifton, NJ. His Grace distributed a list of the proposed retreats and gatherings to the council members and asked that they contact him with any ideas or concerns.

Regarding the recent meeting of the Council of Presbyters, His Grace informed the council that a major item discussed was the *Preliminary Draft of the Strategic Plan of the Orthodox Church in America*. His Grace stressed to the Council of Presbyters that he wants the draft discussed in a positive way, as our goal should be to help improve it, and not destroy it. His Grace wants the Strategic Plan to be one of the major items for discussion during the next Diocesan Assembly in November, and that it is important for the clergy and laity of the diocese to examine the draft and formulate questions and concerns they may have before the assembly. This will help to save time as everyone should come to the assembly already prepared to speak on the topic.

With this in mind, it was the decision of the Council of Presbyters that Deanery Open Forums be held to discuss the *Preliminary Draft of the Strategic Plan of the Orthodox Church in America*. The following

dates and locations were selected for Deanery "Open Forums" to discuss with His Grace and our OCA Strategic Plan Committee representative, the Strategic Plan draft document recently released:

New York State Deanery	New Jersey Deanery	New York City Deanery
October 21, 2010	September 14, 2010	October 10, 2010
Cohoes, NY	South River, NJ	Woodside, NY
1 PM Clergy	3 PM - Clergy	3 PM Clergy
7 PM Clergy and Laity	7 PM - Clergy and Laity	7 PM Clergy and Laity

His Grace distributed a handout to the council members concerning the Formulation of Response at the Diocesan Assembly - November 9, 2010 which includes the following topics:

1. Diocesan Response to the Metropolitan Council's Proposed Strategic Plan
2. Committee for Sexual Misconduct Guidelines
3. Diocesan By-Laws Committee
4. Committee for Proposed Salary Scale for Diocesan Clergy
5. Committee on Stewardship and Restructuring of Assessment/OCA Support
6. Diocesan Music Commission
7. Commission on Missions, Evangelism and Diocesan Growth
8. Diocesan Liturgical Commission
9. Diocesan Diaconate Program

His Grace then discussed an alternative way to fund the diocese through his proposed Special Diocesan Plan for Distinguished Donor Support consisting of the following: Mission Fund, Clergy Assistance and Seminary Education, as well as other possibilities for Distinguished Diocesan Donor Support, including: St. Andrew's Camp, Proposed Orthodox School in Rocky Hill, Covenant House, Emmaus House and Ss. Cosmas and Damian Home. His Grace will send a letter inviting people who have been blessed by God to share their blessings in support of one of the projects mentioned above. His Grace then distributed a preliminary outline of his plan to the council members for additional evaluation.

The above topics were discussed and the need to have individuals volunteer for various committees and commissions.

Chancellor

Father Joseph Lickwar reported that the residence the bishop has been prepared. There were minor repairs, painting and purchase of furniture, and that plans will be considered for creating a space at the center for a chapel.

Treasurer

Lawrence Tosi distributed a detailed financial report to the council members, noting that there was a small profit of \$243.72 from the consecration.

Mr. Tosi noted that there is no change regarding the situation of parishes that are delinquent in their assessment payments. Knowing that His Grace is going to visit these parishes to discuss this issue, there was no further discussion regarding this matter.

Items to be considered in preparing the 2011 budget are: episcopal travel expense, review of home owners insurance, health plan for His Grace, episcopal driver stipend, mission and evangelization, audit cost, and proposed retreats.

New Business

Father Alexei Karlgut reported on a proposed mission in Lansing, NY, and noted the following are to be considered: use of a church and selection of liturgical appointments, appointment of a priest to be in charge, financial assistance from the Diocesan Mission funds, and the salary for the priest in charge and rental cost of a church. These should be considered in the proposed budget. Discussion on the financial support to the mission followed and appropriate action was taken to fund the mission.

Nominations for the Diocesan Council and Metropolitan Representatives

Father Alexey Karlgut noted that the Diocese of New York and New Jersey is a newly-established, newly-constituted legal entity, and since the current Diocesan Council is a carryover from the former Diocese of Washington and New York, every seat of the current council is up for re-election. So, it is important for Diocesan Council to establish a nominating committee in order to present candidates to the Diocesan Assembly in November. Father Joseph Lickwar stated that as Chancellor of the Diocese, he would volunteer to chair the committee, but asked for two council persons to assist. Father Samuel Kedala and Scott Anderson agreed to assist. Father Joseph then stated that a letter announcing and explaining the nominating process, along with a form on which you can submit names for nomination will be sent to the parishes. Nominees are to be made via mail and from the floor of the Assembly. All nominees must be hierarchical approval and be present at the Assembly for election.

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council will be held on Tuesday, August 31, 2010 at Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church-Clifton, New Jersey. The meeting will begin at 11:00 AM.

Adjournment

Father Stephen Evanina made a motion to adjourn and Father Joseph Lickwar seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned. The participants concluded by singing the Hymn to the Theotokos.