



The Fellowship of Saint John the Divine New England Region

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Secretary's Report NER Fellowship Meeting – 10/26/2003

Attendees:

Executive Board: Jamil Samara (President), Sonia Daly (Vice President), Nicholas Kourey (Treasurer), Lynn Touma (Secretary), Fr. Michael Abdelahad (Spiritual Father)

Parish Delegates: Joseph Kouyoumjian (Cambridge), Fr. Isaac Crow (Pawtucket), Robert Laham (Boston), Fr. Alex Khouri (Boston), Michael Deschenes (Lawrence/NAC), Fr. Leonard Faris (Lowell), Marie Shaker (Dedham), Margaret Khouri (Dedham), Mary Ann Kourey (Worcester), Miriam Hyder (Worcester), Laila Swydan (Worcester), Lynn Hajjar (Lawrence), Uncle Ralph (Lawrence), Kh. Anna Timko Hughes (Lawrence), Fr. Dionysius Wilhelm (Hingham)

Meeting opened with a prayer at 10:45 am

1. General

- a. Brief introduction of attendees.
- b. Discussion of the mission of The Fellowship of St. John The Divine.
 - i. In addition to the overall idea of Witness, Worship, Service & Fellowship being the main aspects of the organization, specific elements involved in these aspects are being developed.
 - 1.) This development is taking place in the National Fellowship of St. John in addition to regional groups.
 - ii. The constitution should be reviewed in order to gain perspective on the requirements and restrictions of the Fellowship of St. John.
 - 1.) Bi-laws should be reviewed and outdated portions possibly revised.
 - 2.) Fr. Michael Abdelahad noted the importance of patience as the Fellowship evolves in order to grow into a solid, constructive and exciting organization.
 - 3.) In further organizing the Fellowship, we should proceed cautiously as there is a possibility of problems arising if we try to organize too excessively. The stereotype of the necessity of structure within an organization could block the mission of an organization.
- c. The Fellowship may become more attractive to non-members if there were an increased focus in ministry, towards those who fall into the 19-35 year range, which would possibly fulfill their needs as they transition into new stages of life.

2. Secretary's Report

- a. Amendment from Fr. Michael Abdelahad regarding Missions. \$2,400 should be given to St. Michaels Church rather than the missions.
- b. Motion to accept report by Fr. Michael. Seconded Nick Kourey. All in favor.

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. The goal for the Antiochian Village Fund Drive, which is now totaling \$3,980, was \$10,000. Funds were first being raised towards building a new cabin.
 - i. It is unknown whether a new cabin is the current goal.
 - ii. Suggestion that the project instead be used as a regional scholarship. There would need to be a notice notifying people of the change.
- b. Motion to accept report by Lynn Touma. Seconded by Joseph Awad. All in favor.

4. Ongoing Committees

- i. Existing Committees should be further evaluated in order to identify if and where improvements could occur.
- ii. Should naturally interact and overlap.
- iii. Comprised of many people who may have a small amount of free time to volunteer; however as a group, they can accomplish many things.
 - 1.) Additional focus could also be made towards non-orthodox outside of our parishes.

- 2.) Appoint people to head committees to make them vibrant functioning parts of the Fellowship. Volunteers should contact Jamil.
- a. Christian Education: (Kh. Anna Hughes)
 - i. Will now be part of Education / Spirituality
 - ii. 11/7/03 – 11/9/03 National Education Conference at the Antiochian Village. Sunday School teachers are encouraged to attend.
 - iii. Reminder that all parishes should be using the Archdiocese Church School materials.
 - b. Department Of College Ministry: (Laila S.)
 - i. Currently looking for internship opportunities.
 - ii. Orthodox Christian Fellowship – OCF:
 1. Suggestion to contact Sunday School Superintendents from each parish for a updated list of college students, as the current list is outdated.
 2. Requested \$300 for luggage tags to be given to student. This is a static amount given to OCF each year.
 - c. Parish Life Conference: (Mary Ann Kourey)
 - i. 2004 Conference hosted by St. Mary's in Cambridge.
 1. Held at the Radisson Hotel in Plymouth, MA and will include a cruse.
 2. It will be the same date as usual.
 - ii. Creative Arts Festival bill for 2003 submitted by Mary Ann Kourey.
 - iii. Guidelines and judging sheets for 2004 festival distributed.
 - d. Mission Council: (Fr. Joseph Kimmitt)
 - i. Report distributed
 - e. Oratorical Festival: (Jimmy Chalhub) – no report at this time
 - f. Food For Hungry: (Fr. Dionysious Wilhelm)
 - g. Sacred Music: (David Franciosi)
 - i. Report distributed.
 - ii. Bob Laham motioned to loan \$1,500 to the Department of Sacred Music to cover the cost of copying CD's. Proceeds from the sale of the CD's.
 1. Nick seconded. All in favor.
 - h. Scholarship: (Bob Laham)
 - iii. In 2003 the Abdelahad family awarded a total of \$2,250 in scholarships.
 - iv. Glen Morris will begin to be giving annual scholarships.
 - v. \$2,800 was earned last year on bonds of endowment fund.
 - i. St. Philips Prayer Discipline: (Fr. Isaac Crow)
 - vi. Will now fall under Spiritual & Educational.
 - vii. For information and packets of St. Philips Prayer Discipline contact Douglas H.
 - j. Web Page: (Michael Deschenes)
 - viii. Will now fall under Technology & Information.
 - ix. The website was updated with a schedule for today's meetings.
 - k. New England Council of Churches: (Fr. Michael Abdelahad)
 - x. Meeting of the parish councils of each parish to discuss land that was purchased in Wrentham.
 1. The fund includes the monies gained from the sale of the land.
 2. The fund could be used as a salary for a regional youth director.
 3. The total sale of the land was approximately \$350,000 and a total including vested interest is approximately \$450,000

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Touma