



The Fellowship of Saint John the Divine Diocese of Worcester and New England

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Diocese of Worcester Fall Delegates Meeting - Minutes
October 23, 2004 at St. George Church, Lowell, MA

1. Call to order at 10:51 AM

2. Opening Prayer by Fr. John Teebagy

3. Secretary's Report –

- Fr. Joseph Kimmett moves to accept, Seconded by Mary Winstanley O'Connor

4. Treasurer's Report – Covers up until September 15, 2004.

- Motion to accept – Kh. Anna Hughes, Seconded by Fr. Joseph Kimmett

5. Cultivating new Leadership

Jamil urged the parishes to get people who are active in their home parishes to come forward and get active on a regional level. He pointed out that this board will be finishing its term at the end of the year, and we need to find new people to step up. Sonia added the point that we'd like to see a smooth transition, so let's try to look for potential officers soon and get them up to speed.

6. Regional Phone-a-Thon Proposal

There is a hand out, basically try to get each parish to turn in names of people in the age group of 20-55 year olds. The Fellowship will then organize a group to phone these people and inform them of what's going on, and maybe invite them to events targeted at key age groups during November, January, and March. A side effect will be to create a sort of database for the region.

- Mary Winstanley O'Connor mentioned that some people may not want their number published. Sonia says this will be taken into consideration when gathering the information.
- More discussion ensued on how effective this will be.
- Brendan makes a motion to accept. Mary Winstanley O'Connor seconds
- Proposal passes, though with not much enthusiasm

7. 3-2-1 CONTACT!

Communication has been lacking. Part of the problem is that we don't always know who we should be contacting. We are asking that each parish complete a form which will be used to compile a regional directory of important people in each parish. Please return this to the regional board ASAP.

8. Vocation.

Fr. Michael Nasser will be speaking at lunch about vocations. Jamil pointed out that Vocation is at the heart of the Fellowship's mission. We will be progressing forward using Vocation as the underlying theme for all the future activities of the Fellowship. A survey/questionnaire is handed out for use in the local parishes to encourage parishioners to begin thinking about vocation.

9. Business

Going forward, business will take on a new format to allow for more efficient meetings.

- a. **Conventions.** Mary Winstanley O'Connor brought up that too many kids roam around without their parents, it creates problems.
William Ansara from St. George Lowell discussed next year's conference. Their schedule has been turned in to the Bishop for approval. They have a nice hotel in Danvers. Fr. Leonard went on to discuss further on how these conventions have become useless and expensive and need some sort of revamping somehow. Mary WO continued with how difficult it is for this age group to commit to them because they're busy and what not. Discussion ensued on how the conventions have become mostly social and pressure comes from above to get as many registrants as possible making it seem as though it's only a fundraising ordeal.
- b. **St. Michael Church - Cotuit, MA.** Jamil says Fr. Nick Manikas invited everyone to his church for the celebration of their parish's patronal feast on November 7.
- c. **NAC.** Mike Deschenes says NAC is happy with the Footlamps program.
- d. **The Orthodox Institute - Nov. 1.** Kh. Anna Hughes talked about The Orthodox Institute at the Village Nov. 1, and then talked about
- e. **Sunday School teacher training.** Kh. Anna Hughes spoke. 77 Pan-Orthodox parishes were invited from the Greater New England area to the training in Worcester, though few attended. *The Way, The Truth, and The Life* was brought up and discussed.
- f. **NER College Contact.** Elaina Matook is the NER college contact person. She said she was looking for ideas to get and keep college students involved in the region and local parishes. Mary WO motioned for \$500 to be spent on the annual college contact gift, Jamil amends motion to put a line item in the annual budget for that amount as it has been done for the last few years. Seconded by Michael Deschenes. Accepted.
- g. **Footlamps.** Fr. Isaac thanked the board for Footlamps, Sonia reminded everyone to keep the energy going and invite people.
- h. **Sacred Music.** Jamil read the Sacred Music report. The regional choir recorded one CD, they're going to record a Christmas one soon.
- i. **Creative Arts and Writing.** Mary Ann Kourey talked about the Creative Arts and Writing bill from this past year, it came to \$1,130.00. Then brought up the point that the new curriculum does not allow for the extra time needed to work on CA&W projects.

Motion to adjourn by Brendan.

Closing prayer given by Fr. Joseph Kimmett.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nick Kourey

On Behalf of Secretary