



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

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

---

Diocese of Worcester Delegates Meeting - Minutes  
April 2, 2005 – St. Mary Pawtucket, RI

1. Morning Prayers
2. Call meeting to Order by Jamil Samara, President at 11:00 AM
  - a. Introduction by Jamil announcing that there will be proposals and ideas for changes to the current model of the Fellowship presented during the meeting.
3. Reports
  - a. Secretary's Report from 10/23/04 meeting
    - i. Motion to accept Secretary report by Fr Joseph Kimmet  
Seconded by Kh. Anna Hughes  
Motion Passed
    - ii. 9 d needs completion.
  - b. Treasurer's Report – September 2004 through April 2005
    - i. Treasurer Nick Kourey presented the reports making some additional notes as he reviewed them. Vice President Sonia Daly presented the Footlamps budget.
      1. Fr. John Teebagy recommends that the Deanery propose that Marriage workshops are mandatory for marriages in the region; Encourages Fellowship to continue the workshops through Footlamps.
    - ii. Motion to accept Treasurer's report by David Franciosi  
Seconded by Brendan Ferguson  
Motion Passed
    - iii. It is suggested that excess income for Footlamps will be used to kick-start 2005-2006 Program.
4. 2005 Parish Life Conference Presentation
  - a. Steven Abodeely presented for St. George Lowell. Brochures have been distributed to everyone in the region. Website contains the majority of the information. Antiochian Idol/ Concert and Wedding/Hufli are new events and are encouraged to promote them and as well as the AD book.
  - b. The 2006 Conference was presented by Debbie Laham. It will be at Lake Winnepesaukee, NH which is 2hrs. from Boston.
  - c. 2007 will be hosted by St. George Worcester.
5. Footlamps 2004-2005 - Year in Review
  - a. Fellowship continues support this great initiative and largely praises its initial success.
6. Diocesan Calendar 2005-2006
  - a. Before PLC parishes should submit full calendar to make future schedules. Email will be sent to churches for follow-up.
7. Restructuring the Fellowship
  - a. Jamil presented using a Powerpoint presentation.
  - b. Need for a Bishop
    - i. Fr. Joseph Purpura recommended that the Fellowship make their opinion known to the Archdiocese.

- c. Conference Planning
    - i. Suggestions to change how funding and income for the PLC was discussed.
    - ii. Questions were raised of how Fellowship can underwrite the conferences when our cut does not cover the costs. Should we have all expenses come out of the conference budget before cuts are given?
    - iii. How can organizations get cut when we are losing money to pay for programs? Ie. Ladies
    - iv. Larger regions have the benefit of have longer cycles. Fr Leonard expressed his frustration that a PLC is an overburden for parishes in the diocese.
  - d. Fr Joseph Purpura said that we need to proceed with caution of how we propose change.
  - e. Fr Isaac shared that this issues are the birth pangs of a diocese. A Bishop will help with focus.
  - f. The ideas were well received. With permission the Executive Committee will begin to formalize a plan. First receiving the blessing of the Archdiocese. Fr Michael Abdelahad recommends the money issue will be the first addressed and that if done diligently and well-thought out we can accomplish it.
  - g. Clergy will receive the presentation to review and digest.
  - h. Joe Samra motioned that the Executive Committee use the outline of the proposal of changes contained in the presentation as a start to detail plans of how to execute the changes. With Guidance from Fr. Michael, we will present the plan and changes to the Metropolitan before the June PLC, with hopes that at the PLC the changes can be ratified.
    - i. David Franciosi Moved  
Fr Michael Abdelahad seconded  
Motion Passed
8. Announcements
- a. Fr. Dionysius reported on All Saints Mission has moved to Abington.
    - i. Requested financial outreach increase from \$300 to \$500
      - 1. Motion to Request by Fr. Dionysios  
Seconded by Fr Michael Abdelahad  
Motion Passed
    - ii. Jamil recommends that we work to expand the mission committee. Fr. Michael Abdelahad suggested we look to kick-start a missions endowment with bank account funds.
  - b. Elections Committee – Looking for chair. Sonia gladly accepts nomination to chair committee.
9. Closing Prayer and Adjournment
- a. Motion to Adjourn Nick Kourey  
Seconded Fr Michael Abdelahad  
Meeting Adjourned

In Attendance:

Jamil Samara, President  
Sonia Daly, Vice- President  
Nick Kourey, Treasurer  
Joseph J. Samra III, Secretary  
Fr. Michael Abdelahad , Spiritual Advisor

David Franciosi  
Kh. Anna Hughes  
Victor Kourey  
Mary Ann Kourey  
Fr. Leonard Farris  
Steve Abodeely  
Fr. Joseph Kimmet  
Judy Foley  
Fr. John Teebagy  
Fr. Isaac Crow  
Brendan Ferguson  
Fr. Timothy Ferguson  
Debbie Laham  
Fr. Dionysius Wilhelm  
Fr. Joseph Purpura