



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

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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Diocese of Worcester Delegates Meeting - Minutes  
June 24, 2005 – Diocesan Conference

1. Call meeting to Order by Jamil Samara, President at 10:45 AM
2. Opening Prayer by Fr. Michael Abdelahad
3. Reports
  - a. Secretary's Report from 04/02/05 meeting
    - Motion to accept Secretary report by Debbie Laham
    - Seconded by Maria McDowell
    - Motion Passed
  - b. Treasurer's Report
    - i. Treasurer Nick Kourey presented the reports making some additional notes as he reviewed them. Nick presented the decision of the Exec. Board to send the earmarked funds for the Antiochian Village. Furthermore the Board committed to following up on checks that expired earmarked for the Village Building Fund.
    - ii. Nick shared that an oversight in dues collection prevented any dues being collected. We will be sending out requests for dues immediately.
      - Motion to accept Treasurer's report by David Franciosi
      - Seconded by Marie Shaker
      - Motion Passed
    - iii. Jamil presented the past year budget for review, a correction was made with reference to scholarship donation.
    - iv. Jamil presented the proposed 2005-2006 budget for approval.
      - Motion to accept Budget by Bob Laham
      - Seconded by Linda Ayoub
      - Motion Passed
  - c. Bishop THOMAS addressed the meeting and shared his thoughts. He sees the future of the Fellowship to be an integral part of Missions and Evangelism.
  - d. Parish Reports
    - i. Parishes shared updates:
      1. Norwood is looking to start a fellowship program.
      2. St. George West Roxbury has begun working on Stewardship.
      3. St. Mary Pawtucket focusing on Stewardship and Evangelism.
      4. St. Mary Cambridge – Fellowship is working to serve church and sponsoring educational and service activities.
      5. St. George Worcester – Ministries are run through parish council, working to coordinate internal and external out-reach, and building OCF chapters.

6. All Saints Missions – Offers food pantry. Moved mission from Braintree to Abington. They are growing and investigating buying there current building.
7. St. George Lawrence – Projects focus on service internally and externally.
8. St. John Dedham – Collects funds for FFH and runs a Seniors Dinner.
9. St. George Lowell – No established Fellowship – one project is working with food pantry once a month and visit shelter.
- e. Jamil shared fliers and announcements from NAC and from GOA YAL.
- f. Scholarship Fund Report presented by Mary Winstanley O'Connor. It will be proposed that the Order will be taking on the raising of funds for the Scholarships.
- g. Fr. Antony Hughes shared enthusiasm from the Teen meeting. He then asked the Fellowship for a Grant of Funds to aid the regional Teen SOYO.
  - i. Jamil suggests that the fellowship aid the teens by teaching them how to care for their finances properly.
  - ii. Jamil asks the Teens to apply for a grant from the program once it is established, possibly a matching challenge.
4. New Fellowship Structure
  - a. Three vice-presidents focusing on different ministry group, young adults, adults and seniors.
    - i. Jamil motions to provisionally create a new structure for the fellowship to include the grant program.  
Debbie Laham seconds.  
Motion Passed.
5. New Conference Structure and Conference Committee
  - a. Jamil explained the proposal of providing for an ON and OFF year conference.
  - b. Jamil continued to explain that we are looking to remove conference responsibility for the Fellowship and to put it in the hands of people who are more equipped to run and guide them.  
Motion by Jamil to move the conference committee to the Diocesan Level.  
Work will be done over the summer to figure details and guidelines. Mary Winstanley O'Connor will chair the new committee.  
Seconded by David Franciosi.  
Motion Passed.
6. Diocesan Assembly
  - a. Jamil explained the board will examine the possibility of holding assemblies.
7. Footlamps 2005-2006 Preview
  - a. Sonia gave the year in review. Reported that we came out \$600 profit from this year.
  - b. Marriage Workshops lost money. Asks for feedback if we should continue them.
  - c. Sonia requests a meeting of the Deanery to decide if they want to mandate the Marriage Workshops for all parishioners preparing to get married.
  - d. There are 6 workshops planned, Sonia is looking for one more.
8. Diocesan Calendar 2005-2006
  - a. Collecting of calendars from all parishes. Ask to send it parish calendars as soon as possible.
9. Elections – Executive Board
  - a. Scholarship Committee

- i. Cynthia Haddad, Bob Laham and Fawaz El-Khoury will all be serving again.  
Mary Winstanley O'Connor motioned.  
Seconded by Fr John Teebagy.  
Motion passed.
    - b. Executive Board
      - i. Ballot all unopposed.
        - 1. President – Jamil Samara
        - 2. Vice President for Senior Ministry – Victor Kourey
        - 3. Vice President for Adult Ministry – Patricia Kilsey
        - 4. Vice President for Young Adult Ministry – Maria McDowell
        - 5. Treasurer – Rich Plouffe
        - 6. Secretary – Elaina Matook
- Mary Winstanley O'Connor motioned to accept the ballot as is.  
Seconded by Fr. Michael Abdelahad.  
Motion passed.
10. Committees Ideas
- a. We will be creating the following committees. The executive board asked for names of volunteers for each committee:
    - i. Parish Missions - Debbie Laham, Will Crocker (Cotuit), Kenny Laham, Paul Swydan (Worcester)
    - ii. Conferences – Bob Laham Sr. , Bob Laham Jr. David Franciosi (Norwood) past chairmen
    - iii. Technology- John Haddad, Peter Cox, Victor Kourey
    - iv. Prayer & Worship – Joe Mackoul, Tony Bashir
    - v. Social and Fellowship – Nick Kourey, Linda Ayoub
    - vi. Service and Outreach - Paul Joseph, Joe Samra, Sonia Daly
11. NAC Constitution
- a. Mary motioned for Jamil to have authority to review and represent the Fellowship at the National Convention.
  - b. Seconded by Sonia Daly.
  - c. Motion Passed.
12. Conference 2006
- a. Elizabeth Votruba reported that Radisson Hotel in Plymouth is now a consideration, The Margate is still the prime location however it is in contract negotiations. Discussed dates and rates. The Fellowship expressed support for both locations.
13. Closing Prayer and Adjournment
- a. Motion to Adjourn Nick Kourey
  - b. Seconded Fr. Michael Abdelahad
  - c. Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph J Samra  
Outgoing Secretary