



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 September 17, 2005 – St. Mary Church, Cambridge, MA

Call meeting to Order by Jamil Samara, President at 10:45am

Roll Call at end of minutes

Opening prayer by Fr. Dionysios Wilhelm

Reports

- a. Secretary's Report from 06/24/05 meeting presented by Elaina Matook
Motion to accept Secretary report by Maria McDowell
Seconded by Victor Kourey
Motion passed
- b. Treasurer's Report presented by Richard Plouffe
Motion to accept Treasurer report by Mary Ann Kourey
Seconded by Joseph Kouyoumjian
Motion passed
- c. Conferences
 - i. 2005 PLC
 1. No rep. from St. George Lowell (2005 conference) present
 2. Presented by Jamil Samara
 3. 2005 proceeds = \$900 (\$600 was budgeted for 2005 PLC income)
 - ii. 2006 PLC
 1. 2006 PLC hosted by St. George West Roxbury
 2. Preliminary meetings are currently being held
- d. Missions Council
 - i. The current long term goal is to expand this fund to make it more on an established entity within the Fellowship
 - ii. More brainstorming will occur during the breakout sessions
 - iii. The Fellowship voted in the winter to increase the allotment of money per parish benefiting our missions
 - iv. Fr. Dionysios, pastor of All Saints Orthodox Mission in Abington, MA
 1. Instead of asking for traditional donations, people are encouraged to invest in promissory notes (the equivalent of 10 year US Government Bonds)
 2. This plan is being presented to individual parishes
 3. A concern is raised about legal ramifications – discussion was tabled

4. Jamil Samara stresses consistent support to our missions since we are called to preach the Gospel to all nations

Fellowship Survey

- a. To be further developed during the breakout sessions
- b. This survey will be sent to each parish via bulletin or handout and will be collected by the parish Fellowship Representative
- c. The goal is to receive input from all parishioners concerning the needs and strengths of individuals and parishes
- d. Survey will be distributed within a week or two

Breakout Session - Young Adult Ministry

The Goal is to find out what is already happening in parishes and what we want to happen.

- i. West Roxbury Film Festival
 1. Independent documentaries on Middle East conflict, in accordance with the ethnic background of parishioners
 2. Communal dinner, film viewing, followed by discussion
 3. W. Roxbury has an Young Adult Fellowship – unofficial
- iii. Day long service projects, at parish or diocesan level
 1. Holy Resurrection Ukrainian Orthodox Church soup kitchen in Allston, MA on Mondays
 2. Ethos in Jamaica Plain
 - a. Social Service Nonprofit Organization
 - b. Saturday work projects such as shoveling snow, driving people to doctors, etc.
 3. Have outreach opportunities for all ages
 4. OCF can lend guidance to the organization of young adult outreach according to Joe Samra
 - a. need a bridge between college students in OCF and the Fellowship
- iv. Maria will obtain the emails of young adults at each parish via the below contacts in order to establish a listserv for all young adults in our diocese

Cambridge – Elaina & Steve

Dedham – TBA by speaking with Fr. John Teebagy

Lawrence – Maria McDowell

Lowell – Brendan Ferguson

Pawtucket – Basil Crow

West Roxbury - Brendan Ferguson

Worcester – Miriam Hyder

Abington – TBA

Cotuit – Brendan Ferguson

- v. A monthly or weekly calendar for Young Adults containing service, social, and worship opportunities can be created and sent via this email list

Breakout Session - Adult Ministry

- i. Education
 - 1. A focus on how to apply Orthodoxy to daily life
 - 2. Received positive feedback regarding last year's Footlamps Series - desire to expand Footlamps topics to include issues of elders, sexuality & teenagers, parenting
- ii. Can use the Fellowship to pool sources (e.g. Invite all parishes of diocese to participate in a fundraiser at one church)
- ii. Maintain a Pan-Orthodox perspective (connections at Holy Cross Seminary can be exploited)

Breakout Session - Senior Ministry

- i. There currently exists a lack of participation in social events, meetings, and the church in general
- ii. possibly due to lack of transportation or loss of interest?
- iii. Looking to cultivate social relationships with younger people (lonely)
- iv. Have younger adults provide service for senior adults
 - a. dinner
 - b. drive to church, market
 - c. socialize
- v. Contact must be made with the parish priest to know who is in need

Breakout Session - Technology – presented by **Erick Straghalis**

- 1. Websites
 - 1. Agreed upon a need to standardize information
 - 2. Should be utilized more as a communication tool
- ii. Suggestion for a committee to be established which would act as a resource for parishes to accomplish their technological goals
 - 1. online calendar
 - 2. posting bulletin on parish website
 - 3. creating a bulletin using more sophisticated software
 - 4. purchasing appropriate hardware and software requirements
- b. Conferences – did not meet
- c. Social Outreach – did not meet
- d. Missions, Evangelism, and Outreach – presented by Maria McDowell
 - i. Abington & Fall River are “mission parishes”
 - ii. Fr. Dionysios of All Saints would like to see Fellowship sponsor lectures on Orthodoxy in S. Shore area: spirituality, prayer, social responsibility to be held at libraries or community area versus at church itself

- iii. Evangelism in New England is more difficult than in other parts of the country according to Fr. Isaac Crow
 1. Use the Divine Liturgy as main evangelical tool
 2. Focus on having a community of love which is welcoming and friendly to newcomers
 3. Must educate current church members as well as non-members
 4. Try to bridge ethnicities
 5. Music is an effective tool

Announcements

- i. Footlamps tonight at St. Mary Cambridge with Dr. John Dallak
 - ii. Lobster Dinner October 5th at St. John Dedham
 - iii. Lobster Dinner at St. George W. Roxbury (check Yahoo calendar)
 - iv. Trip to NYC hosted by St. George Norwood, October 8th
 - v. Young Adult Retreat at Hellenic College/Holy Cross, Sept. 23-25th
 - vi. Sacred Music Meeting next month with David Franciosi
 - vii. Visions of the East St. John Damascus IOCC fundraiser, October 23rd
 - viii. After lunch service projects with SOYO, Fellowship, and Ladies
 1. IOCC Hurricane Katrina Relief Kits
 2. Prison Ministry
8. Fr. Isaac Crow suggested that we consider holding a Diocesan meeting at All Saints Mission in Abington to show our support for them and so they can participate directly in the life of our Diocese. Fr. Dionysios and Jamil will look into the logistics of this.
9. Closing Prayer by Fr. John Teebagy and Adjournment at 12:38pm.
10. After lunch, in collaboration with Teen SOYO and the Antiochian Women, we were able to assemble 100 health kits for the Hurricane Relief Effort and write many letters for the Prison Ministry program that will be distributed to prisoners during Pascha 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaina Matook
Fellowship Secretary

Roll Call:

Erick Straghalis
Theodore Hunt
Fr. Isaac Crow
Fr. Dionysios Wilhelm
Fr. John Teebagy
Fr. Timothy Ferguson
Mary Ann Kourey
Basil Crow
Brendan Ferguson
Joseph Kouyoumjian
Marie Shaker
Steve Zabak
Elaina Matook
Maria McDowell
Victor Kourey
Jamil Samara

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Jamil Samara – President | Victor Kourey – VP | Patricia Kilsey – VP | Maria McDowell – VP
Rich Plouffe – Treasurer | Elaina Matook - Secretary | Fr. Michael Abdelahad - Spiritual Advisor