

**MEMORANDUM:**

**TO THE CLERGY & LAITY OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY  
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA**

**FROM: DIOCESAN SEARCH COMMITTEE**

**SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION AND RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS:**

- 1. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**
- 2. ARCHPRIEST DAVID BRUM**

**22 August 2009**

Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, and Faithful of the Diocese,

*Glory to Jesus Christ!*

Several important procedural questions have been submitted regarding the nominating of candidates “from the floor” during the Extraordinary Diocesan Assembly. We remind all clergy and lay delegates that specific information on “Instructions Concerning the Election of the Ruling Bishop” (approved by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America) was sent to all clergy and parishes of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey as part of our previous memoranda and Final Report of August 17, 2009. The Search Committee strongly urges all delegates to study these instructions, as well as the individual biography and curriculum vitae of each nominee. This information was sent to you previously, and it is also available on our diocesan website at <http://nynjoca.org>

The instructions clearly state that in addition to the names presented by the Search Committee for nomination, “names may be added from the floor.” If an accredited delegate, by formal motion, nominates a candidate from the floor who has previously been submitted to the Search Committee for their review and recommendation, the presiding officer of the assembly will state this to be the case. The delegate may, at this time, retract the motion. However, should the delegate sustain the motion, and if the motion receives a qualified second, the nominee shall be added to the list of candidates subject to a vote of the Assembly subject to a valid affirmation on the part of the nominee to accept nomination. Therefore, ***it is essential that clergy and lay delegates who may plan on making a nomination from the floor ensure they have proper contact information (i.e. phone/cell number) of the proposed nominee so their consent may be verified immediately.*** This consent **must** be available in real-time, at the moment of nomination. Unless such consent is received, a name will not be added to the list of nominees subject to the vote.

As we acknowledge the possibility of nominations from the floor, we urge all delegates to remember our efforts and deliberations in reviewing all forty (40) candidates submitted for consideration. As you know, we established a process and criteria by which every individual candidate was exhaustively considered and evaluated. It should not be a surprise that we labored diligently for literally hundreds of hours in face-to-face meetings, teleconferences, and research to identify and propose names for nomination. Having identified five names, these candidates

were thoroughly vetted: their biographies were obtained, criminal background checks were accomplished, and in-depth personal interviews were conducted. As you know, two of the candidates (late in the process) decided to withdraw their names from consideration and declined to be nominated. The Search Committee, after careful and prayerful consideration, determined to proceed with the three remaining candidates as our nominees offered by motion to the Extraordinary Diocesan Assembly. Any nomination from the floor would be offered without the benefit of this vetting process. The instructions clearly prohibit any comments or speeches “in favor” or “opposed to” any nominee, including any offered from the floor, during the Assembly. Therefore, any nomination from the floor shall be constrained to the motion to nominate by a delegate, a second to that motion by a delegate, and – pending a valid acceptance by the proposed nominee – the inclusion of that nominee on the list of candidates subject to the vote.

We also are compelled to communicate to the clergy and lay delegates to the Extraordinary Assembly regarding Father David Brum's association with the past administration of the Orthodox Church in America. Three such inquiries were presented to us from within our diocese. It is noted that there have also been whirlwinds of Internet “chatter” of suspicious origins, dubious character, and vacuous value on this subject, so we want to make it clear that we have no intention of having our words twisted or construed in any such way as to be seen as a reaction/reply to these havens of gossip and conjecture. We do, however, feel it is important to state the following to you, and for the record.

The Search Committee contacted the Chairman of the Special Investigative Committee (SIC) of the Orthodox Church in America that investigated the previous administration of the OCA: His Grace, +Benjamin, Bishop of the Diocese of the West.

Two direct questions were posed, for the record, to His Grace in light of his capacity as Chairman of the SIC:

*“Was Father David Brum found guilty of anything by the Special Investigative Committee?”*

His Grace’s answer: “No.”

*“Was Father David Brum found to be a part of the ‘inner circle’ that misappropriated funds in the OCA?”*

His Grace’s answer: “No.”

In addition, Bishop +Benjamin offered many positive statements regarding the excellent pastoral and administrative work of Father David Brum since his parish assignment in the Diocese of the West. We offer our extreme gratitude to His Grace for his openness, cooperation, and assistance in this matter.

The Diocesan Council has begun preparation for the Extraordinary Diocesan Assembly. **Tellers** (two lay, one clergy) have been identified to be responsible for distributing official ballots to delegates prior to voting, collecting the ballots after the vote has been taken, counting the votes,

and presenting the tabulated results to Locum tenens. The Locum tenens will announce the results of the vote to the Assembly.

A **Committee on Credentials** (two lay, one clergy) was also established by the Diocesan Council. Registration forms for delegates and observers, as well as lodging information, have been mailed to all the clergy and parishes of the diocese. It is our expectation that all parish delegates will ensure that their credentialing documentation is submitted along with the registration fee -- as per the official correspondence already received -- prior to the convening of the Extraordinary Diocesan Assembly. If additional registration documents are needed, please contact the Diocesan Chancellor, Father Joseph Lickwar (jlickwar@verizon.net) immediately.

Our sincere gratitude and appreciation is extended to all who labored so diligently in this process. We fervently ask for your continued prayers for our diocese, the nominees, and the delegates to the Extraordinary Diocesan Assembly to be convened in Clifton, New Jersey, on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Your brothers in Christ,

**The Members of the Search Committee**

Archpriest Joseph Lickwar	(Diocesan Chancellor)
Archpriest Alexey Karlgut	(Dean, New York State Deanery)
Archpriest Samuel Kedala	(Dean, New Jersey Deanery)
Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk	(Dean, New York City Deanery)