

Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Extraordinary Diocesan Assembly
Holy Assumption Church ~ Clifton, New Jersey
August 31, 2009

Minutes of the Assembly

Opening Prayer and Greeting

After a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am followed by a brunch in the parish hall, the Extraordinary Diocesan Assembly began with the opening prayer at 12:37 pm. His Beatitude, Metropolitan +JONAH, delivered greetings and comments related to the nomination and election process, and to the climate and environment in which it is being conducted.

Appointments

His Beatitude appointed the Vice Chairman: from the clergy Archpriest David Vernak (Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus NJ) and from the Laity, John Kozey (St. Andrew Church, Dix Hills NY).

Archpriest David Vernak announced the appointments to the Secretariat: Archpriest Gary Joseph Breton (Annunciation Church, Brick NJ) as chair, Archpriest Herman Schick (St. George Church, Buffalo NY), and Scott Anderson (Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Syracuse NY).

Father Vernak assumed the chair and announced the appointments of the Credentials Committee: Archpriest Daniel Degyansky (St. John Chrysostom Church, Woodside NY) as chair, George Elia (Holy Virgin Protection Cathedral, New York NY) and Stephanie Burk (Secretary of the Chancellor).

Father David Vernak announced the appointments of tellers: Archpriest Alexis Vinogradov (St. Gregory the Theologian Church, Wappingers Falls NY) as chair, Peter Eagler (Holy Apostles Church, Saddle Brook, NJ), and Lawrence Tosi (Holy Resurrection Church, Wayne, NJ).

Clarification: Status of delegates, retired clergy, and observers

Father Vernak delivered a clarification on the status of delegates, retired clergy, and observers.

Introduction of the Episcopal Candidate Search Committee

John Kozey introduced the chairman of the Episcopal Search Committee, Archpriest Alexey Karlgut.

Explanation of the Election Process and Response to Questions

Father Alexey Karlgut (Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Endicott NY) chairman of the Episcopal Candidate Search Committee, explained the election process. He announced that the name of Archpriest David Brum had been removed by the Search Committee from consideration. Father Karlgut then read an excerpt from a letter addressed to the Search Committee from Archpriest David Mahaffey.

Questions were then asked of the Search Committee. Those asking questions were: Archpriest John Shimchick (Holy Cross Church, Medford NJ), Archpriest David Garretson (Ss. Peter and Paul Church, South River NJ), Archpriest Michael Meerson (Christ the Savior Church, New York NY), Archpriest Sophrony Royer (St. John the Baptist Church, Passaic NJ), Archpriest John Nehrebecki (Retired), Rebecca Matovic (St. Mary Magdalen Church, New York NY), Archpriest Igor Burdikoff (Christ the Saviour Church, Ballston NY), Archpriest David Vernak, Archpriest Jason Kappanadze (Holy Trinity Church, Elmira Heights NY), Archpriest Stephen Mack (St. Nicholas Church, Auburn NY), Igumen

Christopher [Calin] (Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection, New York NY), Archpriest Ilya Gotlinsky (Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church, Binghamton NY).

Credentials Report – Archpriest Daniel Degyansky reported 49 clergy delegates, 49 lay delegates, 28 observers. Based on 98 total delegates, 66 votes represents a 2/3 majority. A brief discussion took place concerning the voting eligibility of deacons. It was determined that only assigned deacons were eligible to vote.

Motions

Archpriest David Garretson made a ***motion: To postpone the nomination and election for the office of hierarch of the diocese of New York and New Jersey to a time and place to be set by the Locum tenens and Diocesan Council, with consultation with clergy and laity of the diocese; such date is to be no earlier than December 1, 2009.*** Motion was seconded by Archpriest John Shimchick.

A discussion on the motion ensued. Speaking for the motion were: Archpriest David Garretson, Archpriest Alexis Vinogradov, and Rebecca Matovic. Speaking against the motion were: Mary Forbes (Holy Trinity Church, Rahway NJ), Janet Van Duyn (St. John the Baptist Church, Rochester NY), and Archpriest Jonathan Ivanoff (St. John the Theologian Church, Shirley, NY).

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Archpriest Jason Kappanadze. The maker of the motion, Archpriest David Garretson, rejected the amendment.

Another amendment to the motion, proposed by Lawrence Tosi requested that the vote on the motion be taken by paper ballot. No second to the motion was necessary. The amendment was accepted by the maker of the motion.

A vote on the motion was taken using paper ballots. Results: **42 in favor, 56 not in favor. The motion was defeated.**

No additional motions were made from the floor. A **motion to close** motions from the floor was made by Archpriest Aaron Archer (St. John the Baptist Church, Spring Valley NY). The motion was seconded by Archpriest Samuel Kedala (Holy Spirit Church, Wantage NY). The **motion was unanimously accepted.**

Nominations

Archpriest Alexey Karlgut officially announced that the Episcopal Candidate Search Committee presents two candidates: Archpriest Michael Dahulich and Archpriest David Mahaffey.

Nominations from the floor were then solicited. Nominated were:

1. Igumen Marc (Labish) of New Skete Monastery by Archpriest Igor Burdikoff, seconded by Archpriest Thomas Edwards (St. Gregory Palamas Church, Glen Gardner NJ). An unsuccessful attempt was made to contact Igumen Marc by telephone and email. An additional amount of time was granted for contact to be established.
2. Igumen Joseph (Hoffman), Church of the Holy Transfiguration, Pearl River NY, by Archpriest Joseph Frawley (St. Martin Chapel, West Point NY), seconded by Archpriest Aaron Archer. Nomination declined by Igumen Joseph.
3. Igumen Christopher (Calin), Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection, New York NY, by Archpriest Sophrony Royer, seconded by Archpriest Yakov Ryklin (St. Mary Magdalen Church, New York NY). Nomination declined by Igumen Christopher.

4. Priest Vladimir Alexeev (Church of the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn NY) by Archpriest Yaroslav Sudick (Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers NY), seconded by Priest Nikolai Gulin (Church of the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn NY). Nomination declined by Father Vladimir.

No additional nominations were made from the floor. A **motion to close nominations** was made by Archpriest Samuel Kedala. The motion was seconded by David Maliniak (Christ the Saviour Church, Paramus, NJ). The **motion was unanimously accepted**.

A discussion took place regarding the necessity of a nominee from the floor to be present. Metropolitan +Jonah cited a recently distributed letter requiring notification to the candidate and his subsequent acceptance of the nomination. Igumen Marc (Labish) had yet to establish contact with Archpriest Igor Burdikoff, the nominator. Father Igor, at the urging of His Beatitude, agreed to have the nominee's name removed from consideration.

Voting

Archpriest Joseph Lickwar explained the procedure for filling out the paper ballots. The credentials committee reported again on those present and eligible to vote: 49 lay delegates, 49 clergy delegates. John Kozey reiterated that 66 votes were needed for a 2/3 majority. The ballots were distributed, collected, and tabulated by the tellers. The results were presented to His Beatitude.

Announcement of the results of the vote

His Beatitude, Metropolitan +Jonah read the results of the vote:

Archpriest Michael Dahulich -- 55
Archpriest David Mahaffey -- 33
Priestmonk Mark Labish -- 2
Abstentions -- 8

Since the required 2/3 majority for election was not attained, John Kozey read the rules for a second ballot.

After some discussion, a **motion** was made by Archpriest David Garretson *to suspend the rules requiring a second ballot and send the two names of Archpriest Michael Dahulich and Archpriest David Mahaffey to the Holy Synod for consideration, approval, and canonical election*. The motion was seconded by Archpriest Jonathan Ivanoff. It was stated that a vote to suspend the rules required a 2/3 majority to pass. A vote was taken by a show of hands. The results were: **96 in favor, 2 not in favor**. The **motion passed**.

Adjournment

Peter Eagler made a **motion to adjourn**. Igumen Christopher (Calin) seconded the motion. The **motion passed**.

Closing Prayer

After some closing comments, His Beatitude, Metropolitan +Jonah led the assembled gathering in a closing prayer at 3:45pm.

**These preliminary MINUTES are subject to amendment and APPROVAL
at the next Diocesan Assembly**