

Office of Communications

Orthodox Church in America Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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The newly established and appointed twelve-member Council of Presbyters [CP] of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey gathered for their first meeting with His Grace, Bishop +Michael, on 8 July 2010 at the Diocesan Center, Bronxville NY. CP members present were:



Archpriest Joseph Lickwar (Diocesan Chancellor)
Archpriest Alexey Karlgut (Dean, NYS Deanery)
Archpriest Samuel Kedala (Dean, NJ Deanery)
Archpriest Wiaczeslaw Krawczuk (Dean, NYC Deanery)
Archpriest Ken James Stavrevsky (NYS Deanery)
Igumen Christopher Calin (NYC Deanery)
Archpriest Jonathan Ivanoff (NYC Deanery)
Archpriest Gary Breton (NJ Deanery)
Priest Steven Evanina (NJ Deanery)
Archpriest John Nehrebecki (Retired)
Archpriest Sergius Kuharsky (Retired)

Absent: Archpriest Igor Burdikoff (NYS Deanery)

The meeting began at 11:00 a.m. with the singing of “O Heavenly King ...” and the archpastoral blessing of Bishop +Michael. His Grace thanked the members of the CP for their willingness to serve in this capacity for the diocese as his priestly assembly to assist him through advice and consultation on a wide variety of ecclesial matters. The tone, he said, will be “open, honest, and respectful.”

Topics and proposals specifically open for discussed and comment were:

- The Spiritual Court of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey
- A Diocesan Deaconate Program
- Special Diocesan Plan for Distinguished Donor Support
- “Concerning Marriage” -- Archpastoral Guidelines
- Annual Diocesan Clergy Retreat
- Annual Gathering for Matushki
- Annual Deanery-Wide Parish Council Conferences
- Annual Deanery-Wide Church School Teacher Training
- Annual Altar Servers’ Retreat
- Annual Family Life Conference

It was acknowledged that while some things are best accomplished at the diocesan level, many initiatives and programs are best conducted at the deanery level. The convening of a Clergy Conference was seen as the most urgent priority. Other items identified as priorities were: (1) Family Life Conference, (2) Altar Servers’ Retreat, and (3) Parish Council Conference.

