

NAC Fellowship of St. John The Divine
Minutes of the General Assembly
July 25, 2007, Montreal, Canada

The Meeting opened with a prayer at 11:10 AM by our Spiritual Advisor, Archpriest John Nosal.

His Grace, Bishop ALEXANDER joined us.

Introductions were made by individuals in attendance. Joan thanked Jamil Samara for posting the meeting packet for all members.

Minutes of the Mid-Winter Meeting were presented. There is one correction on Page 2, the second last paragraph. The words “Motion failed” needs to be added. Fr. Michael Abdelahad moved to accept the Minutes as corrected. Second by Kyra Pelachik. Passed.

Joan Farha spoke about our Spiritual Advisor, Fr. John Nosal, who has asked permission to step down as Advisor after eleven years. Fr. John spoke about the work the Fellowship does and said to “Trust God” to help us achieve our goals. Fr. John thanked everyone.

Joan Farha presented Fr. John with an icon and several books as a token of our appreciation.

Our new Spiritual Advisor is Fr. Chris Salamy.

Election of Officers:

President: Peter Samore nominated Joan Farha. Second by Judy Stanley.
Joan Farha elected by acclamation.

Vice President: Peter Samore nominated Jane Tadros. Second by Lisa Fares.
Jane Tadros elected by acclamation.

Treasurer: Peter Samore nominated Robert Bayouk. Second by Nicholas Ellaham.
Robert Bayouk elected by acclamation.

Secretary: Peter Samore nominated Linda Simon. Second by Fr. Joe Abud.
Linda Simon elected by acclamation.

Joan spoke about increasing Coordinators stipend to \$500.00 – use our Discretionary Fund. This matter will be discussed in February at the Mid-Winter Meeting.

The Financial Report was presented by the Treasurer, Robert Bayouk. Several questions were answered. Julie Abboud stated that bank charges can be reversed. Robert needs to contact bank. Dan Kevorkian moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Second by Judy Stanley. Passed.

Joe Samra spoke about the OCF. “Awareness” – We must reach out to our College Students. Spoke about tragedy at campus. Our challenge is to develop programs and continue to offer activities to keep our students. Joan spoke about the Young Adult Retreat.

Fr. Joe Abud spoke about confusion in the Midwest. He asked Joe to keep us informed. Liaisons are important.

Metropolitan PHILIP arrived. Sayedna approved the re-election of the officers. He spoke about the Bible Bowl handled by Esther Simbol.

Fr. Joe Abud spoke about the contact with the Pan-Orthodox Group. NAC has done a wonderful job. Metropolitan PHILIP said the "Church started as a Mission." He spoke about reaching out to Pan-Orthodox Groups – "Preach Gospel of Unity." Fr. David Randolph stated we should reach out to the African Americans and learn to understand their culture.

Joan stated she hoped to have more projects to present to the Metropolitan for his approval by the end of today.

Joan welcomed guests in attendance.

COORDINATORS REPORTS:

- **ORATORICAL** - Peter Samore spoke about adding Emotional Control to Score Sheet. Total possible points 110. Peter moved that we add Emotional Control-10 points to score sheet. Second by Judy Stanley. Discussion followed. Fr. John Nosal suggested that the words be Dramatic balance/honesty. Call for vote. Peter withdrew his motion. Peter moved that Dramatic balance/Honesty be added under Presentation & Delivery. Amend rule #9/Oration not a sermon or dramatic interpretation. Motion passed.

Judy Stanley spoke about participant not having any competition. Since the participant is the only competitor they are declared the winner but cannot compete following year. Judy moved in Junior Division if there is only 1 participant they be allowed to participate the following year. Second by Dan Kevorkian. Fr. David Randolph asked to amend the motion that we allow Junior Division participants (win or lose) to compete the following year. Discussion. Vote on amendment 7 in favor, 11 against. Amendment failed. Vote on original motion passed.

Joan welcomed Sister Ignatia (Sara Bitar) from Greece. Sister Ignatia spoke about Greece and the Monastery and thanked everyone for their prayers. Sister Ignatia passed out booklet entitled "The Enemy Within" to each Diocese.

● **YOUNG ADULT RETREAT** (Sonia Belcher) will be held September 14-16, 2007. Sonia passed out an information packet to each Diocese. She will send Registration form via email. Kyra Pelachik spoke about the speakers who have been invited to the Diocese of Los Angeles' Young Adult Conference and retreats.

Jamil Samra suggested that the NAC Boston Retreat combine with the California Diocese Conference. Young Adults need to work together. Sonia stated we need more Retreats. She will have proposal at the Mid Winter Meeting.

●**DIOCESE REPORTS:** Fr. Michael Abdelahad moved to accept all Diocese Reports. Second by Dan Kevorkian. Passed.

●**SPECIAL PROJECTS: JULIE ABOUD: Bulletin Inserts:**

Jamil Samara stated we should highlight ourselves – Orthodox Unity. Joan stated the insert for OYO is ready to go.

Joan stated that Fr. Joseph Huneycutt from St. George, Houston, Texas, is the new coordinator for St. Phillip's Prayer Discipline.

September: Fellowship – 3 focus areas

November: OYO

Feb.2008: Oratorical/Bible Bowl-List contacts and coordinators

April 2008: St. Phillips Prayer Discipline/Fr. Joseph Huneycutt

Joan introduced Dr. George Farha, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

●**FOCUS AREAS:** (Unity; Mission, Outreach Evangelism & Spiritual Renewal) Fr. Michael Abdelahad moved we continue the Focus Areas for the next 2 years. Second by Judy Stanley. Motion passed. Fr. John Nosal stated it is important to share this information on a Diocese level and communicate it on a parish level.

■ **UNITY:** Joan spoke about invitation to the St. Peter Aleut group. They will be joining us for Vespers, Dinner & the Bible Bowl. This should be repeated at Parish Life Conferences in each Diocese. Joan stated she will appoint a coordinator for each Focus Area.

■ **EDUCATION:** Jamil Samara spoke about the 1994 Bishop's Conference at Ligonier, PA. – Documents obtained by Fr. Joe Abud can be seen on Youtube. Jamil made DVD copies for each Diocese. He asked that they be passed on to parishes for Group Discussions.. He will be anxious to hear feedback at the meeting in February.

■ **Mission, Outreach, Evangelism** – Fr. Jeremy Davis suggested we support one Mission Priest. Cost would be \$600.00 thru OCMC. Fr. Jeremy moved that the Fellowship support one (1) Mission Priest through the OCMC for this year 2006-2007. Second by Jamil Samara. Motion passed.

Fr. Michael Abdelahad suggested we consider this as a Budget line item in alternating years.(\$1,000.00 for Missionary Activity). Joan stated this is covered in the new budget.

MISSION PROJECT 2008: Joan spoke about trip to Alaska. Fr. Michael stated it would be a continuation of what was started last year. They will work with the OCMC to establish 2 camps in Alaska next year. Multiple Episcopal blessings and approval will be asked for. We could become a bridge – witness to SCOBA. OYO is also planning a trip to Alaska. Three

organizations working together would impact a lot of people. Joan would appoint a coordinator to work with the other organizations. We need to develop a proposal.

Jane Tadros suggested planning trips to Monastery's on a Diocese level (weekend trips) so more people could participate.

Fr. Michael Abdelahad moved that NAC pursue one large scale trip to Alaska in 2008. Second by Peter Samore. Motion Passed.

Joan introduced Philip Saliba who joined our meeting.

Father John Nosal spoke about Vacation Bible School – Many children attending are friends of Orthodox Children. He suggested that an Orthodox Vacation Bible School program be created.

■ **Spiritual Renewal:** Blog/Joe Zogaib – (Suggested that an on line forum be set up – could post one of the Gospels and invite lay people to comment on bible verse/passage.) Joe was unable to attend our meeting. Fr. Joe Abud suggested this topic be put on hold for now.

Fr. Joe Abud thanked Jamil for posting the meeting packet.

■ **Book of Hours:** Nicholas Ellaham looked into this matter – got complicated once the Department of Liturgics was contacted. Fr. Joe Abud stated the information is out there if people want it.

BOOK SERIES PROPOSAL: Joan read proposal submitted by Fr. Michael Shanbour. The goal of this project is to promote spiritual growth among the faithful. This project would be promoted in each Diocese. Fr. Paul Hodge moved we adopt this proposal. Second by Jane Tadros. Motion passed.

Julie Abboud suggested “Purpose Driven Life” – already on CD.

Joan will appoint a Spiritual Coordinator to work on this and other possibilities.

Meeting broke for lunch. Meeting re-convened.

Esther Simbol gave an update on the Bible Bowl. Esther explained the procedure used in the Midwest – using carbon paper and sticks. All diocese should use this method next year. She spoke about the topic for 2008.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion about change of venue for the Mid-Winter Meeting. This request was tabled. The meeting will be held at the Village February 1-3, 2008.

Jamil Samara spoke about the Oratorical topic for 2008. Concerns of the Fellowship will be relayed to Fr. Joseph Purpura.

Jane Tadros moved we give Sister Ignatia \$1,500.00 towards her expenses. Second by Judy Stanley. Motion passed.

●**WEBSITE:** Joan will speak to Steve Barber to get more information posted on the Web Site.(especially our Focus Areas).

●**WORD MAGAZINE ROTATION:** Joan thanked all presidents and Jamil Samara for a wonderful article on the Fellowship. Linda Simon will e-mail a new rotation list to all presidents. Joan asked to be added to the rotation list.

●**DEPARTMENT OF COLLEGE MINISTRY: Elaine Matook -** Leigh Cohlma is the new Chairperson.

NEW BUSINESS:

●**MINI-AUDIT:** Jamil Samara reviewed the Financials of the Fellowship. Fr. Joe Abud moved that we have an amendment to the bylaws requiring an annual review of the Finances every summer. Second by Fr. Michael Abdelahad. Motion Passed.

●**PROPOSED BUDGET:** Robert Bayouk presented the Proposed 2007-2008 Budget. Assessment income \$14,000.00 – Convention proceeds, approximately \$12,000.00, \$1,500.00 each from Donations, Interest & St. Philip Discipline for a total amount of \$30,500.00 in Income. Expenses will total \$31,600.00.

Discussion held. Motion to change Young Adult Outreach from \$500.00 to \$1,500.00. Fr. Joe Abud moved to accept the Proposed Budget with change. Second by Jane Tadros. Motion passed. Robert corrected Checking Account balance – should be \$9,161.36 as of 7/16/07. Time Deposit balance \$40,863.00. Income from interest on Time Deposit Account will be approximately \$1,000.00.

●**YOUNG ADULT OUTREACH:** Discussion about money allotted. (\$500.00) Kyra Pelachik moved we increase the amount to \$1,500.00. Second by Esther Simbol. Motion passed.

Discussion about our elections held every 2 years. Three Diocese hold elections in even number years; Ottawa, Worcester, Wichita. Four Diocese hold elections in odd number years; Toledo, Miami, Los Angeles and Eastern.

●**2009 ARCHDIOCESE CONVENTION: Palm Desert, California -**

Discussion about Survey presented at the PLC's by Khourieh Maggie Hock and Fr. Joseph Purpura. Organizations were informed of Survey by e-mail – no one received a communication from a Bishop. This Survey should not have taken place during the meetings. Many of the questions were inappropriate for the Teens. Fr. Joe Abud stated “we are not against surveys – our concern was the way it was presented.”

If someone wants an item put on the Agenda they should communicate with the President as least one month in advance of the meeting. The President will decide when they will be on the agenda and how much time is allotted.

●**FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE: ROBIN NICHOLAS:** Robin was unable to attend but sent her report. This could be the biggest collection since 1994. If your church is not listed please see Fr. Michael Abdelahad.

SISTER IGNATIA thanked the Fellowship for our financial support and prayers.

Fr. Michael Abdelahad thanked Fr. John Nosal for his years of service to the NAC.

Fr. Michael Abdelahad moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 PM. Fr. John Nosal closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda A. Simon, Secretary