

Minutes (DRAFT): Revitalization Committee Meeting 30 July 2011 – Eastern PA Diocese of OCA

Attendees Committee:

Bishop TIKHON, Fr. David Mahaffey, Fr. Martin Brown, Fr. Timothy Hojniki, Fr. Michael Demko, Fr. Dcn. Gregory Moser (minutes), Jamie Davis, Mark Linnehan, William Simpson, Paula Holqviak

Absent: Larry Skvir (tried to join by phone but could not due to technical difficulties)

Meeting Host:

The meeting was hosted by Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in McAdoo PA. Fr. Claude Vinyard, along with several council and parish members (adults and youth), were present and provided valuable input into the meeting discussions.

I. Opening Prayer

An Akathist to St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre was served by His Grace, TIKHON.

II. Approval of Agendas from 7th and 19th of July 2011

These minutes had previously been circulated via email for committee review. A motion was made by Bill Simpson to accept both sets of minutes and seconded by Paula Holoviak. They were accepted as final and will be posted onto the Diocese web site -- Revitalization tab.

III. Opening Introduction for the host parish

Following a brief introduction of all the attendees, His Grace, TIKHON provided a high level summary overview of the Committee's origin, overall goal as defined at the Diocesan Assembly, the scope of activities done by the Committee to date and expectations moving forward. His Grace emphasized the need to revitalize the Diocese as a whole with the Committee charged with developing a plan and methodologies that could be replicated and used in all of His parishes to some degree or another depending upon their defined individual needs. The expectations of the Assembly are that the Committee would implement a revitalization plan and methodology with at least one parish prior to the next General Assembly, and then report back the results.

The purpose for today's face to face meeting is to begin to review the "Parish Health Inventory Model" that was prepared by the OCA-Diocese of the Mid-West. The model is posted on their web site and has been implemented through their Parish Health Ministry, under the direction of Mr. Joseph Kormos. The Committee is assessing it to determine its applicability (as is, or with specific modifications) for implementation in the Eastern PA Diocese. After reviewing the model, the Committee intends to schedule a meeting with Mr. Kormos to gain a better understanding of how the model has been implemented, its acceptance, and its level of success. The Committee has also recommended that whatever model is selected, it first be reviewed with members of the clergy of the Diocese.

IV. Assessment of the Model (Focus Areas 1-3)

- The Committee concurred that the questions and content of the first three sections (Gospel Centered Vision, Vibrant Worship and Shared Leadership) with exceptions as noted during the meeting would be applicable for use in the Diocese.

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- Jamie volunteered to make edits of the document as discussed, highlighting what has been changed. The proposed changes will also be provided to Mr. Kormos, since the Mid-West Diocese has asked for comments/suggestions, as they consider this a work in progress.

Focus Area 1-3 Discussion – Gospel Centered Vision, Vibrant Worship, –Shared Leadership

Committee Members discussed Sections 1-3 of the Parish Health Inventory Model, suggesting changes and additions.

VI. Old – Business

Paula Holoviak presented a quote (\$338) from Unigraphics for 5000 printed icon cards – St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre (2-sided print – laminated, icon with prayer). His Grace TIKHON approved the expense as part of the Missionary Budget and he will direct the Treasury to allocate these funds. A quote was requested from Vestal publishing; however they did not provide a response.

His Grace has prepared an article for the next issue of Alive in Christ to provide an overview of the Revitalization Committee's efforts. His Grace must still prepare a pastoral letter asking each parish to conduct a montly Akathist to St. Alexis as a means of encouraging our prayers for parish growth and revival.

VII. New & Other Business

Paula Holoviak brought forth a concept to better involve our youth in the revitalization effort of our Diocese, suggesting that a retreat be held with revitalization as the theme. She suggested that Holy Trinity in Wilkes-Barre might consider hosting such a gathering in the fall, if the Committee agreed. Fr. Michael Demko is also organizing a youth retreat for next summer in the Berwick area. He agreed to talk with the organizers to see if this would be a topic that they would like to explore. The topic will be discussed in full at some later meeting.

Members of the Committee are requested to review the next two focus areas (Open Communication and Authentic Community) and be prepared to discuss these at our next meeting.

VIII. Close

His Grace, Bishop TIKHON led the closing prayer to the Holy Theotokos, "It is truly meet and right..."

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 2 August 2011 at 7:00PM EST.