

Holy Ghost-St George
Monday January 11, 2021
Via Zoom

On Monday, January 11, 2021, the joint committee of St. George and Holy Ghost Churches met via Zoom. This meeting was chaired by Father John Kreta, Chancellor of the Diocese of New England along with the participation of Father Joseph Gallick, General Secretary of the Albanian Archdiocese.

The following minutes are from the meeting:

Participants:

Fr John Kreta, facilitator (Chancellor, Diocese of New England [DNE]); Fr Joseph Gallick (General Secretary, Albanian Archdiocese [AlbA]); *From St George Church:* Bill Kovachi, Gregory Buzi, Laura Chadwick, Laura Coughlin, Peter Dacey. *From Holy Ghost Church:* Fr John Jillions, LoveAnn Curran, Mark Curran, Richard Jankura, George Kasper, David Lepesko, Ruth Sencio.

Notes

1. Fr JK opened the meeting at 6:35 pm with the Epiphany Troparion.
2. Fr JK reported on his very positive meeting with Metropolitan Tikhon, who understood the need for a commitment from him and from the diocesan leadership before we make further efforts toward uniting our parishes. "He is on board with us." His Beatitude is willing to support the HG-SG efforts toward unification, with the understanding that both parishes will need to approve whatever plan is finalized. He will be meeting in February with the Diocesan Councils of the AlbA on Feb 4 and the DNE on Feb 23. Before these meetings His Beatitude would like to have our report on efforts thus far so he can review the progress and then present the report to the respective diocesan councils. Fr JK noted that it is providential that His Beatitude remains the locum tenens of both dioceses and can thus work together with all parties concerned as we chart a pioneering path from which others may benefit as well.
3. Fr JJ will expedite completion of a draft outline of the report. After further discussion it was agreed that the representatives of each parish should review the outline and add their own comments so that the final report accurately reflects the perspective of both HG and SG.
4. Fr JK reported no further news on episcopal candidates for the DNE. As discussed at the HG-SG meeting in December the Holy Synod is looking at this as part of the larger OCA-wide issues of diocesan vacancies, aging episcopacy and clergy shortage. Fr JG also had nothing to report concerning the search for a bishop to serve the AlbA.
5. Fr JK asked about progress in HG-SG collaboration since the previous meeting. While the pandemic continues to prevent joint services, the parishes are now sharing postings from our respective facebook pages. BK noted that SG will be starting live-streaming services now that they have new technology at the parish. Agreed that we will start sharing weekly bulletins of both parishes so that parishioners become more familiar with each other's life.
6. **Agreed actions:**
 - 1) Drafting of interim report for Metropolitan Tikhon to present to Diocesan Councils of AlbA and DNE. Fr JJ will draft outline (by 1/15/21). HG and SG representatives will review and add their comments (by 1/22/21). Fr JJ will complete the draft and circulate to the committee for approval (by 1/27/21). Approved final report sent to Fr JK, for delivery to Metropolitan Tikhon (and discussion with him on 1/29).
 - 2) Sharing of parish bulletins.
7. Next meeting: Monday, March 1, 2021, 6:30 pm via zoom.

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8. Fr JK asked Fr JJ to end the meeting with a prayer, around 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr John A. Jillions