



**MINUTES
of the Joint Meeting of the Lesser Synod
and the 2012 Spring Session of
the Metropolitan Council**

**Tuesday, February 21 – Thursday, February 23, 2012
East Norwich Inn, East Norwich, NY**

These draft minutes are subject to approval at a subsequent meeting of the Metropolitan Council

PARTICIPANTS

LESSER SYNOD

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah
His Grace, Bishop Nikon
His Grace, Bishop Tikhon

His Grace, Bishop Benjamin
His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Church Officers

Archpriest John Jillions, *Chancellor*
Melanie Ringa, *Treasurer*

Archpriest Eric Tosi, *Secretary*

Members elected by the All-American Council

Priest David Garretson
Archpriest Chad Hatfield

Dr. Paul Meyendorff
Maureen Jury

Diocesan Representatives

Diocese of Alaska

Archpriest John Dunlop

Patrick Pletnikoff

Albanian Archdiocese

Archpriest Joseph Gallick

Bulgarian Diocese

Priest Matthew-Peter Butrie

Protodeacon Michael Myers

Archdiocese of Canada

Archimandrite Alexander (Pihach)

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Archpriest David Mahaffey

Diocese of the Midwest

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta

Sam D’Fantis

Diocese of New England

Priest Robert Dick

David Zavednak

Diocese of New York New Jersey

Archpriest John Shimchick

Janet Van Duyn

Diocese of the South

Priest Gleb McFatter

Judge Ray Lanier

Diocese of Washington

Priest John Vitko

James Karabin

Diocese of the West

Archpriest David Lowell

Dr. Dmitri Solodow

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Archpriest John Reeves

Gregory J. Nescott

Absent

Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko (Archdiocese of Canada) – absent due to illness

William Peters (Albanian Archdiocese)

David Yeosock (Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania) – absent due to death in family

Guests *(for all sessions unless otherwise indicated)*

Archpriest Michael Anderson (alternate elected by the All-American Council)

Archpriest Theodore Bobosh (SMPAC – Tuesday evening session only)

Archpriest Ian Pac-Urar (Strategic Plan implementation session on Wednesday only)

Priest Caleb Abetti (Strategic Plan implementation session on Wednesday only)

Priest Christopher Rowe (Strategic Plan implementation session on Wednesday only)

Protodeacon Peter Danilchick (SMPAC – Tuesday evening session only)

Wendy Cwiklinski (Strategic Plan implementation session on Wednesday only)

Donna Karabin (Strategic Plan implementation session on Wednesday only)

Alexis Liberovsky (recording secretary for this meeting)

Thaddeus Wojcik, Esq. (OCA General Counsel – all sessions except Wednesday morning)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2012

A. Opening Moleben

Following an orientation session for the many new members of the Metropolitan Council, which was conducted by Fr. Eric G. Tosi, Secretary, Gregg Nescott, esq., Dr. Dimitri Solodow, Thaddeus Wojcik, esq. General Counsel, the meeting was opened with prayer led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah at the East Norwich Inn at 7:05 PM.

B. Agenda: Introduction

B.1. Appointment of Co-chair:

Metropolitan Jonah announced that he has asked Fr. John Jillions to co-chair the meeting

B.2. Roll Call

Fr. Eric Tosi conducted the roll call and introduced guests present for the meeting. He announced that the Council's consultants – Protospresbyter Thomas Hopko, who is ill, and Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky, who is traveling, are unable to be present for this meeting.

B.3. Approval of Recording Secretary

Fr. Tosi requested approval of the OCA Archivist, Alexis Liberovsky, as recording secretary for this meeting.

B.3.A. MOTION GARRETSON/MAHAFFEY - To approve Alexis Liberovsky as recording secretary. CARRIED.

B.4. Agenda (attached)

Fr. Tosi presented the draft Agenda for this meeting.

B.4.A. MOTION VITKO/MCFATTER – To approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings (attached).

Fr. Tosi presented the draft minutes of the previous meetings of the Metropolitan Council on September 28-29, 2011 and October 31, 2011 for approval.

Fr. David Garretson pointed out that per New York State law, those who vote against a motion or abstain must be listed by name in the minutes. Thaddeus Wojcik (OCA General Counsel) disagreed. After discussion, it was agreed that names of those voting against a motion or abstaining would be listed in the minutes.

Fr. Joseph Gallick pointed out typographical errors on pages 5 and 9 in the minutes of September 28-29, 2011.

C.1. MOTION REEVES/MEYENDORFF – To accept the minutes of September 28-29, 2011 with correction of typographical errors and the minutes of October 31, 2011 as presented. CARRIED.

D. Opening Remarks: Metropolitan Jonah

Metropolitan Jonah welcomed everyone to the meeting and spoke of the significant growth and restructuring since the last Metropolitan Council meeting. He commended the efforts of the new chancellor to build strong and trusting relationship with himself, the Holy Synod and administration. He stressed the mandate of the 16th All-American Council to reassess the entire structure of financing the Church. Both of these facts are a path to the future. Rebuilding of trust mutually with bishops is of central importance, although this might not occur as fast as hoped. In fulfillment of the mandate for his full health assessment, physical and psychological, Metropolitan Jonah noted that he has been following up with doctors to reduce his stress levels. He has been also setting up his office in Washington, DC. He noted his archpastoral visits to Canada and Mexico, in his own diocese and throughout the northeast. He mentioned the deteriorating health of his parents and the necessity of their impending move to Washington, DC. He highlighted several significant ecumenical events in which he participated including the March for Life in DC, where he was the main speaker, the opening of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, as leader of a retreat for Benedictine abbots, and speaker at the Augustinian community at Villanova University. Extremely significant was the concelebration in December of the Synods of the OCA and ROCOR, ending all previous alienation and paving the way for close cooperation. He additionally noted his celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the ROCOR cathedral in DC. In December, he was the main speaker at the OCF West Coast conference where he

had been chaplain for many years. In January, he participated in the meeting of the Committee for canonical regional planning of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, where the process of uniting the Orthodox communities was discussed. Ultimately, this process will be part of the Great Council, whenever it will be held. The Assembly will present a plan to the Council for ratification. While many are skeptical, this may actually bear fruit. He also highlighted the recent meetings of department heads and the diocesan chancellors and treasurers to discuss implementation of the decisions of the All-American Council. He commended the departments for their ministries accomplished with little funding. The chancellors and treasurers discussed ways to implement proportional giving as mandated by the All-American Council. Each diocese is unique and has its own strengths and weaknesses. In order to strengthen our evangelical imperative, funding needs to be restructured at all levels of the church, which will also entail a reassessment and realignment of administration and ministries. Metropolitan Jonah is particularly concerned about the effect of the economic downturn on our seminaries, particularly St. Tikhon's, which has perhaps been hardest hit. Metropolitan Jonah is particularly pleased with the work of the new chancellor and their developing relationship. He noted the complexity of the chancellor's job, which is currently consumed by issues of clergy misconduct. He stressed the need to hire a professional to manage misconduct issues under the chancellor's supervision. He commended the countless uncompensated hours volunteered by the Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee (SMPAC) members in their outstanding work.

Dr. Dmitri Solodow commended the Metropolitan for his extremely positive report. His Beatitude noted a new synergy and the positive impact of the All-American Council and its aftermath.

E. Chancellor's Report (attached)

As a first time participant in a Metropolitan Council meeting, Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor, shared his impressions of the daunting tasks that it faces. He noted the skepticism of society at large towards the institutional church that needs to be surmounted. We can strive to overcome this by manifesting our identity as the Church in and for America. He then summarized his written report stressing efforts in building relationships, building a stable church administration, discerning which ministries belong at which level of the Church and make decisions on those issues, introducing proportional giving and reducing assessments. We are committed to making a change on funding issues and our people must adjust to this change. Regarding sexual misconduct issues, they are a much bigger part of the work than Fr. Jillions anticipated. He estimated that 75-80% of his time has been spent on this work. Until recently, Fr. Alexander Garklavs was doing this work as a consultant. For example, one misconduct case opened in late December has generated over 600 emails. There are currently five active cases. This whole area is becoming increasingly complex. Unless we have a person with professional qualifications in both investigation and counseling to be a coordinator, we will not be able to adequately address misconduct issues. Training investigators and counselors locally in the dioceses as well as preventative measures and programs are also needed. This would allow the chancellor to properly fulfill his other duties.

Gregory Nescott noted that for years misconduct complaints were suppressed. They are now being handled in a new way, which encourages people to come forward with their complaints with the hope that they will be properly handled. In regard to the psychological vetting of ordination candidates, Gregory Nescott inquired if seminary candidates are vetted. Bishop Tikhon, Fr. Chad Hatfield and Fr. Jillions responded that background checks are conducted on seminary applicants, but that in depth psychological testing is only conducted once a petition for ordination is submitted. If a problem is perceived in a student, appropriate testing may be done.

Fr. Hatfield, following up on comments in Fr. Jillions' report that commended the Metropolitan's courage in addressing problems of the last three years, suggested that should such issues arise again, the Church not hesitate to engage an outside facilitators to help us restructure and get back on track, as such issues concern all of us, not just the Metropolitan. Gregory Nescott noted that this was done a year and a half ago, but should the need arise, this could be pursued more extensively in the future.

F. Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee (SMPAC)

Fr. Jillions introduced Archpriest Theodore Bobosh and Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, SMPAC members, present for this discussion of various issues pertaining to the ongoing work of the SMPAC. He announced that on December 9, 2011, the Lesser Synod approved a suggestion from SMPAC that its charter be revised to place it under the authority of the Holy Synod and the *POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND PROCEDURES OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT (PSPs)* be revised to place the Office for Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations under the authority of the Lesser Synod. He stated that there are five current investigations. Some information on investigative method and procedures conducted by response teams was provided. It was stressed that the Church's investigations are not criminal police investigations. The investigations conducted by the Church include a pastoral dimension, seeking to reach out to both alleged perpetrators and victims. When a police investigation is initiated, a Church investigation is conducted only after completion of the police investigation. Protodeacon Peter Danilchick provided some historical background on the formation of the SMPAC, which was established two years ago following the Sidebottom case to revise the PSPs approved in 2003. A memorandum from SMPAC was submitted to the Holy Synod a year ago. After a request for additional documentation, some 600 pages were appended to the memorandum. The Holy Synod has yet to issue its response to the memorandum. The required professional qualifications of a person to coordinate the Office for Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations were discussed. Protodeacon Danilchick noted that the SMPAC has recommended that the PSPs be revised to make the complaint process easier and less forbidding. Fr. Theodore Bobosh shared additional observations on the work of the SMPAC. He noted that church leaders are now being held criminally responsible for not properly supervising clergy who are perpetrators. Gregory Nescott commented on the changing legal landscape in terms of reporting sexual abuse. He provided information on several high profile cases in other churches. He outlined the issues facing the OCA to improve its handling of sexual misconduct. Thaddeus Wojcik detailed liability issues and other legal considerations. A lengthy discussion on the necessity of a change in culture and attitudes in handling sexual misconduct in today's climate regarding such issues. Bishops Tikhon and Melchisedek reported that they are preparing the Holy Synod's comprehensive response to the SMPAC memorandum and its appended documents, which has been a laborious, painstaking and time-consuming task. It is projected that it will be completed for the upcoming Holy Synod meeting in May.

Based on issues raised during today's discussion, the need for a resolution specifying action items that need to be undertaken was affirmed. It was agreed that a resolution should be drafted for consideration later during this meeting. Various issues and problems in the handling of cases in the past were discussed. The importance of careful and diligent follow-up in all areas was particularly noted.

F.1. MOTION GARRETSON/REEVES – To adjourn the evening session. CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:58 PM.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

The morning session was called to order, following prayer, at 9:21 AM. Fr. John Shimchick read the Scripture readings for the day from the Prophecy of Joel.

Fr. Jillions announced that the report on External Affairs would be presented immediately after lunch.

Each Metropolitan Council committee spoke briefly about its work to inform new members.

G. Secretary's report (attached)

Archpriest Eric Tosi, OCA Secretary, highlighted his written report. He lauded the chancery staff for its hard work especially in conjunction with the recent All-American Council. He spoke of the fruitful transition with Fr. Jillions as the new chancellor. He announced a proposed adjustment in the responsibilities of Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak. As he currently serves part-time as the Metropolitan's secretary and deacon along with some

communications work and as department coordinator, it is proposed that the department coordination be assigned to a new position of Department Coordinator. In discussion, Dr. Dmitri Solodow spoke against the proposal of hiring the position stating that in management culture such coordinator positions have been deemed superfluous in recent decades and that as we will be reexamining the role of the central church administration and the place of ministries currently offered by departments, at various levels in the Church, now is not the time for this type of coordinator position. This change in management culture was rebutted by another member of the Council. Fr. Tosi responded that the Church officers, due to their other work, often do not have time to provide coordinating guidance to departments when needed. Fr. Michael Anderson inquired whether departments are currently provided with their budget updates. Melanie Ringa responded affirmatively. Further discussion on the issue ensued. It was noted that the request for a coordinator came from department heads themselves to enhance cohesiveness of their work. A debate followed on how the expense of such hiring would flow from the financial discussions at the 16th All-American Council. Gregory Nescott suggested that the Metropolitan Council's statutory mandate is not to interpret the will of the All-American Council, but only to implement its decisions. In further discussion of the issue in relation to Human Resources policy, Fr. David Garretson stated that current policies have not been violated. Nevertheless, he suggested that the hiring should be perhaps deferred. Fr. David Mahaffey stated that such hiring would be viewed negatively in his diocese. Fr. John Vitko spoke in favor of the proposed position. Metropolitan Jonah noted that the 16th All-American Council expressed a real desire for the ministries that are offered by departments. The departments will also be involved in implementation of the Strategic Plan. There needs to be coordination between the central administration and the departments. He also suggested that any action or further discussion on this position and any decision on hiring take place in conjunction with the financial report.

Fr. Tosi further highlighted communications work. He particularly noted the complex issue of moderating public postings on Facebook, Twitter and other internet media of the OCA. Fr. Jillions announced the inauguration of a chancellor's blog in April. The complexity of ensuring the timeliness and accuracy of postings on the OCA website was also discussed. The legal issues pertaining to liability in internet posting were likewise discussed. Dr. Dmitri Solodow noted the decision of the All-American Council, blessed by the Synod, to make the OCA website interactive. Frs. Tosi and Jillions stated that discussion with experts on how best to accomplish this is moving forward.

H. After Action Report for the 16th All-American Council (attached)

Fr. Eric Tosi highlighted his attached written report. He requested input for improvement at the next All-American Council. He noted that the success of the 16th Council was due in large part to early preparation. He announced that the Council came in under budget. It is proposed that these funds will be returned to the dioceses proportionate to their contributions. Expenses were judiciously cut. Much money was saved by not printing council materials. An excellent turnout of vendors and exhibitors contributed to income. Gregory Nescott pointed out shortcomings in the nomination and election procedures for church-wide positions at the 16th Council and suggested improvements. He pointed to additional inadequacies in resolution scheduling and banquet reservations. In discussion, various time management issues were also raised. The frequency of the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the Council was also discussed in terms of the time constraints of the council schedule. It was suggested that a different setup of the plenary hall other than round tables be explored. Fr. Mahaffey suggested that consideration be given to holding a future council on a college campus. Fr. Tosi stated that this has been investigated in the past and will also be considered for future venues. Metropolitan Jonah expressed his gratitude to the central administration and the local committee who worked hard in the organization of the Council. In general, it was agreed that it was a well run Council.

Following a short recess at 10:55 AM, the session resumed at 11:10 AM.

I. Post-Conciliar Committee (attached)

Fr. John Vitko highlighted his attached written report with a PowerPoint presentation. He noted that the Strategic Plan applies to most parishes. He noted the overwhelming support for the Plan at the 16th All-

American Council. He appealed for further input from the bishops and Metropolitan Council member during discussion today and over the next month. He stressed that the plan remains a living document that can continue to evolve.

He then introduced the Implementation Team Leaders of the working groups to develop the various goals of the plan. Each Team Leader gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the discussions of the workshops at 16th All-American Council and further deliberations of working groups since the Council. (See the posted PowerPoint presentations).

- Evangelization and Parish Development – Archpriest John Reeves

In response to a question, Fr. Reeves affirmed that this implementation would certainly be coordinated with the OCA Department of Evangelization. In discussion, he reiterated that these efforts must include the active knowledge and participation of the hierarchs.

- Leadership and Management – Archpriest David Lowell

In addition to a PowerPoint, Fr. Lowell also distributed a text version of his presentation. In discussion, Dr. Solodow inquired about lay leadership mentoring. Fr. Lowell responded that although not explicitly stated in the presentation, it is projected to begin with clergy leadership mentoring programs, which can later be adapted for laity programs as well. It was requested that this be explicitly stated.

- Youth and Young Adults - Priest Christopher Rowe

In addition to his PowerPoint, Fr. Rowe also distributed a text of an expanded version of his presentation. In discussion, Fr. Joseph Gallick asked about cooperation with FOCA. Fr. Rowe responded that no resource will be rejected and that the implementation will strengthen the OCA Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, which has recently had meetings with FOCA.

- Revitalizing Diocesan Relations – Mrs. Donna Karabin

In response to this segment, Bishop Tikhon offered the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania as an initial pilot project for the implementation team in diocesan revitalization.

- Inter-Orthodox Relations – Matushka Wendy Cwiklinski

Matushka Cwiklinski stressed that this aspect of the Strategic Plan implementation pertains to grassroots initiatives that can be locally implemented, rather than a top-down approach, which is within the purview of the hierarchy through the Assembly of Bishops. She relayed some of the inter-Orthodox cooperation experiences in San Diego in which she is very much involved.

- Contemporary Issues – Priest Caleb Abetti

Fr. Abetti noted that contemporary issues are important to us because Jesus Christ faced contemporary moral and social issues during his time on earth. In truth, there is no issue that is not contemporary. Our task is to discern the will of man in light of the will of God and to be faithful to the Church's Tradition as found in the Gospel.

- Continuing Education – Archpriest Ian Pac-Urar

Fr. Pac-Urar underlined that continuing education was viewed in discussions during the All-American Council as the key connected with all other implementation goals of the Strategic Plan. In discussion, concerns

regarding funding to staff the proposed Office of Continuing Education were expressed. Fr. Pac-Urar suggested that outside funding be found if resources are not available in the OCA budget.

In conclusion, Fr. Vitko noted the enthusiastic participation in the Strategic Plan workshops at the All-American Council that has resulted in a new crop of people participating.

Following a recess at 12:59 PM, discussion resumed over lunch at 1:20 PM.

Fr. Jillions shared some reflections on the Strategic Plan, which, he stated, focuses on the real life of the Church as seen in the implementation proposals. A wide-ranging discussion ensued with the presenters and other issues concerning implementation of the Strategic Plan were also broached. Metropolitan Jonah lauded the presentations and stressed that the evangelical imperative of spreading the Gospel message must be central in all implementation activities.

In response to questions, Fr. Vitko clarified that any further input can be sent directly to Implementation Team Leaders and copied to him. The title "Strategic Plan" for the entire process was also questioned in discussion. Fr. Vitko stated that this title is used for lack of a better one, but could be changed if a better title is proposed.

- I.1. MOTION VITKO/HATFIELD - To approve proceeding with the implementation proposals for the Strategic Plan as presented today subject to:
1. Considering any further inputs that might be submitted by the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council over the next month; and
2.. Not committing to any costs at this time beyond those that can be covered by the funds currently allocated for the Strategic Plan in the 2012 budget or that can be raised from other funding sources. CARRIED.**

F. Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee (SMPAC)

Based on the previous day's discussions, the following motion concerning SMPAC and related issues was presented.

- F.2. MOTION GARRETSON/MAHAFFEY - That the Office for Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations review in a systematic and timely manner previously "closed" clergy sexual misconduct files to determine any necessary action. To fund the appropriate staff and resources to ensure the professional, prompt, and timely execution of the Policies and Procedures regarding sexual misconduct (existing PSP). The Metropolitan Council requests that the Holy Synod issue their complete response to the SMPAC memorandum of February 2011 with all deliberate speed.**

It is further resolved: That the Metropolitan Council increase the existing budget line item for the Office for Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations not to exceed \$125,000. CARRIED with 1 vote against (Maureen Jury).

R. Other Business

Dr. Solodow initiated discussion on the mandate of the All-American Council to create a process to define what work and ministries, including various aspects of implementation of the Strategic Plan, should be done centrally or locally. Various points of view on how this process should be approached were expressed in extensive discussion. It was suggested that the dioceses should be included in discussion of these issues. During the discussion, several motions were presented but not adopted. In conclusion, the following motion was presented and adopted:

- R.1. MOTION SOLODOW/JURY - To establish a work group to prepare an initial draft report on what is the work of the Church and where, centrally or locally, it can be most efficiently and effectively done and that the work group be composed of the Lesser Synod, the Officers and three members of the Metropolitan Council. CARRIED.**

The process of naming Metropolitan Council members to the work group was discussed. Dr. Solodow stated that he did not wish to be a member but could act as facilitator, if requested. Nominations to the work group were made from the floor.

- R.2. MOTION SOLODOW/GALLICK – To approve the nomination of Fr. John Shimchick, Maureen Jury and Janet Van Duyn as the members of the work group from the Metropolitan Council. CARRIED.**

Following a recess at 2:51 PM, the session resumed at 3:04 PM.

In the absence of Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky, Dr. Paul Meyendorff presented Fr. Kishkovsky's attached written report on the Office of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations. He noted that the report was presented to the Lesser Synod the previous day and approved. He underscored that external relations fall within the responsibility of the Primate. He stated that the OCA has in some ways been marginalized in recent years – for example in the Episcopal Assembly. Therefore, our strong vision and witness is all the more important. He suggested that we have two trump cards – the very fact of our autocephaly, visibly expressing the vision of a local, territorial and united Church, which we must strive to achieve. The second is the role of translating Orthodoxy to the West and translating the West to the rest of the Orthodox world. These are strengths that we must continue to pursue. We must maintain our relations with the other Orthodox, as mandated by our Tomos of Autocephaly. The context of ecumenical meetings provides, in some cases, the only opportunity for us interact with some of the other Orthodox churches. In receiving the report, the Lesser Synod approved its proposal of a working group composed of Frs. Jillions, Kishkovsky, Erickson and Dr. Meyendorff to review and strategize OCA participation in external affairs and interchurch relations.

J. Metropolitan Council Committees

J.1. Charity – attached

Father John Reeves presented the attached report of the Charity Committee and encouraged the submission of new requests for grants from worthy organizations.

J.2. Council Development

As the committee does not currently have a chairperson and has been inactive, no report was presented

J.4. Ethics – attached

Fr. David Mahaffey presented the committee's attached report and noted that no ethics complaints had been received since the last meeting of the Metropolitan Council.

J.5. Human Resources

Fr. David Garretson delivered an oral report noting that in fulfillment of the specific mandates of previous Metropolitan Council meetings, all necessary administrative paperwork was completed to effect the hiring of Fr. John Jillions as chancellor and to conclude the severance of former chancellor, Fr. Alexander Garklavs, who has now been assigned to Parma, OH.

Fr. Garretson initiated an extensive discussion on hiring policies in terms of advertising position openings and the involvement of the Metropolitan Council in approving hires, particularly as this relates to stipendiary personnel.

J.5.A. MOTION GARRETSON/SOLODOW – Having heard the Human Resources Committee report concerning hiring policies, the Metropolitan Council reaffirms the provisions of the Human Resources manual that all open positions, including stipendiary positions, must be advertised on the OCA website. CARRIED.

J.5.B. MOTION MYERS/MAHAFFEY – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

A personnel issue was discussed in executive session

J.5.C. MOTION BUTRIE/REEVES – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

J.3. Crisis Management

Dr. Dmitri Solodow, chairman of the Crisis Management Committee, delivered an oral report. He provided background on the history of the establishment of the Committee, its purposes and actions as well as the functioning of the Crisis Management Committee and the Crisis Management Team that is activated as needed. Upcoming activities will include crisis management training for the Crisis Management Team and the Holy Synod, particularly pertaining to interaction with the media and the Crisis Management Team will memorialize in writing its procedures and actions as an aid in future situations. A discussion of the report took place.

J.6. Internal Governance

Dr. Dmitri Solodow, chairman of the Internal Governance Committee, briefly outlined the purposes of the committee. He presented the attached report of the Internal Audit Committee, which functions under the Internal Governance Committee. A prerogative of the Internal Governance Committee is to nominate the Church's Internal Audit Committee. It was announced that Deacon Martin Watt, current chairman of the Audit Committee, does not wish to continue in this position due to his other commitments. Dr. Solodow suggested that the Metropolitan Council accept Deacon Martin Watt's recommendation to reappoint the committee's other members as the Audit Committee for the new triennium.

J.6.A. MOTION SOLODOW/NESCOTT – To appoint Vera Bozko-Summer, Karen L. Simons-Durkish and Michael S. Strelka as members of the Internal Audit Committee for the current triennium. CARRIED.

In response to a question, Dr. Solodow stated that the Internal Audit Committee will itself elect its own chairperson. He explained the OCA Best Practices document for new Metropolitan Council members and announced that, as mandated by the document itself, the Internal Governance Committee will undertake the triennial review of the document in the coming months.

K. Legal Issues

K.1. MOTION GALLICK/REEVES – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, Gregory Nescott, Legal Committee chairman, Judge Ray Lanier and Thaddeus Wojcik presented the Committee's confidential report, which covered a variety of current and potential legal issues. A lengthy and in-depth discussion ensued.

Following a dinner recess at 6:05 PM, discussion of legal issues resumed at 6:40 PM.

K.2. MOTION – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 7:40 PM.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2012

Following the celebration of a Divine Liturgy at Saint Sergius Chapel at 7:30 AM, the meeting was opened with prayer led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah at the East Norwich Inn at 10:05 AM.

Fr. Tosi announced the following additions to the agenda – Orthodox Health Plans report, an additional legal issue and a review of 16th All-American Council resolutions and Statute amendments.

He reminded Council members to sign up for committees and to submit their annual ethics, best practices, whistleblower and oath of office forms.

L. Finance Report - attached

Melanie Ringa noted that 2010 financial documents were thoroughly reviewed at the last meeting and have been posted on the OCA website. She further mentioned that it was the first clean audit in many years.

She stated that work is beginning on finalizing the 2011 statements. After the external review and auditing in May, they will be finalized by the end of June. In a PowerPoint presentation, she highlighted the details of the 2011 Statements attached to the Treasurer's report. She indicated items that came in over or under budget. She explained the status of the Honesdale Bank loan and noted that its current balance is \$677,000 at a 7% interest rate. She provided additional background information on annuities and bequests. She reported on the financials pertaining to the 16th All-American Council, which was under budget. A discussion took place regarding a proposal to distribute the excess funds back to the dioceses proportionately to their contributions. Some members questioned whether these funds should be repaid to the parishes as these funds were collected from their AAC assessments.

L.1. MOTION VITKO/LANIER – That the excess funds from the 16th All-American Council be redistributed to the dioceses and stavropegial institutions proportionately to their contributions. CARRIED with 1 abstention (Fr. John Reeves).

Further discussion on various details of the 2011 financial statements took place and Melanie answered questions from the meeting participants.

M. Finance Committee report

Fr. Gleb McFatter reported on the status of the 2012 balanced budget passed at the Metropolitan Council's 2011 fall meeting. He outlined budget changes including repayment of \$100,000 to permanently restricted funds as recommended by the external auditor and the severance package for Fr. Alexander Garklavs. He presented other items for discussion including a proposal to secure life insurance for all OCA clergy, an updated appraisal on the OCA chancery property, a \$6,000 stipend for the proposed department coordinator and \$30,417 increase in the budget for the Office of Sexual Misconduct. He announced that the Finance Committee is recommending that a certified appraisal not be conducted presently but that other means of assessing the value of the OCA Chancery property be found. The committee is also recommending that the additional \$30,417 for the Office of Sexual Misconduct be transferred from the budget for legal costs. Various issues pertaining to the line items in the proposed budget increase were extensively discussed. Fr Eric Tosi presented a proposal to cover all active clergy with life insurance. A discussion ensued. The importance of clergy care was underscored in conjunction with the low salaries of many clergy.

- M.1. MOTION MAHAFFEY/SOLODOW – That the possibilities of clergy life insurance continue to be explored and that a full report be presented at the next meeting of the Metropolitan Council. CARRIED with 1 abstention (Fr. David Lowell).**

Fr. McFatter reported that recently received unrestricted bequests will total more than \$200,000 - exact figures are not yet available, as these bequests are still being processed. These bequests would be placed in a temporarily restricted fund designated to repaying the loan.

- M.2. MOTION SOLODOW/VITKO – That the funds received in recently received bequests be temporarily restricted to pay off the Honesdale Bank loan. CARRIED with 1 abstention (Fr. David Mahaffey).**

As no motion was made to accept the hiring of a department coordinator, this item was removed from the proposed budget increase. It was agreed that it is imprudent to transfer a budgeted amount from legal expenses to the Office for Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations and to include this item in the budget increase. This would include an increase in the expenses for the Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations and the payment of the severance pay for the former Chancellor, Fr Alexander Garklavs.

- M.3. MOTION GARRETSON/DICK – To approve an increase in the 2012 budget of the Orthodox Church in America in the amount of \$160,855, which would only allow for repayment of \$100,000 to Permanently Restricted Endowments, as strongly recommended by the external auditors at the September 2011 Metropolitan Council meeting, \$31,200 for the severance package for Father Alexander Garklavs and \$30,417 to fund a Coordinator of the Office of Sexual Misconduct, and rejecting additional increased funding proposals. CARRIED with 1 vote against (Janet Van Duyn).**

Fr. McFatter outlined some information on the functioning of the Finance/Investment Committee and its membership.

N. Financial Development Committee

Due to the absence of David Yeosock, Chairman of the Committee, a report was not presented

O. Results of Chancellors/Treasurers meeting

Melanie Ringa offered a positive assessment, as portrayed in her attached Treasurer's report, of the meeting of the OCA officers with the diocesan chancellors and treasurers on January 17-18, 2012 (see attached minutes of this meeting). A lengthy discussion ensued on possible methods for funding the OCA budget and whether anything other than a per-capita assessment system of funding would be a violation of the OCA Statute. A wide range of issues pertaining to financial support was also addressed in this discussion and numerous ideas for alternative funding were presented. It was agreed that any decisions must be faithful to both the OCA Statute and the decisions of the All-American Council. It was particularly noted that we are legally bound as a matter of fiduciary responsibility to fulfill the provisions of the OCA Statute.

M. Finance Committee report

A further discussion took place concerning a contingency for the deficit in the 2012 budget

- M.4. MOTION VITKO/VAN DUYN – That the Treasurer prepare a contingency plan for the \$160,855 deficit in the approved 2012 budget of the Orthodox Church in America. CARRIED with three abstentions (Garretson, Meyendorff, Reeves).**

P. Pension Board Report

Fr. Gleb McFatter, a member of the OCA Pension Board, provided a brief oral report on the state of the OCA Pension Plan at the end of 2011 and answered several questions. He noted that pension assets are currently \$23,400,000, with a loss of 4.5% in 2011. Current projections are that the Pension Plan will have a surplus by 2035 or 2040. Over the last three years, the performance of the Plan has been up by 11.8%. The Plan currently has 578 members.

Following a recess for lunch at 12:58 PM, the afternoon session was called to order at 1:35 PM.

K. Legal Issues

K.3. MOTION GARRETSON/LOWELL – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, Thaddeus Wojcik led discussion regarding a legal issue.

K.4. MOTION NEScott/MAHAFFEY – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

R. Other Business

Review of 16th All-American Council resolutions and Statute amendments

Fr. Eric provided a brief oral report on the status of implementation of the resolutions and Statute amendments adopted by the 16th All-American Council, that have not already been discussed at this meeting.

- deaf outreach

This has been referred to the Department of Evangelization who will work with St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, DC, where the resolution originated.

- outreach to African-Americans

An initial featured interview with Fr. Moses Berry has been posted on the OCA website. Other postings will follow. A full implementation plan will be developed. The Department of Evangelization will be working on this with Fr. Berry.

- monastery resolution

This has been discussed with His Beatitude. This matter falls largely within the competence of the diocesan bishops. Feature postings will be published on the OCA website.

- seminary support

St. Vladimir's Seminary has already sent out a letter on this. Fr. Hatfield reported on the positive responses received from a number of parishes. St. Tikhon's and St. Herman's will be approached for their follow-up to this resolution. More coordinated efforts will continue to implement this resolution.

- sanctity of marriage

A statement has been published. This issue will be a focus of the Contemporary Issues working group. Both the youth blog and OCF are working on this issue. The Holy Synod is preparing a statement.

- Statute Amendment – Article X, Section 5

This amendment allowing parishioners to receive confession at another parish with the permission of their priest has now been incorporated into the Statute and published on the OCA website.

- Resolution regarding 1975 Statute Amendment

Fr. Tosi asked Judge Lanier to provide an update. Judge Lanier stated that the issue concerns term limits for Metropolitan Council members. The purpose of the 16th All-American Council resolution was to confirm a 1975 Statute amendment that had not previously been published in the Statute. Due to the change in periodicity of All-American Councils soon after the 1975 amendment, it is not entirely certain what the adopted amendment mandated. Further archival research to clarify this issue will continue.

In response to a question, Fr. Tosi stated that resolutions that did not make it to the floor of the All-American Council have been tabled. It was suggested that resolutions not be left to the last day during the Council. Further discussion on the process of submitting resolutions and their presentation at the All-American Council took place. The better use of media technology during sessions was suggested.

Orthodox Health Plans

Fr. Tosi reported on the recent controversy regarding new government legislation and insurance coverage for voluntary abortion coverage. This is being discussed by the representatives of various jurisdictions to Orthodox Health Plans Board. There has been much misinformation on the internet. A statement on this matter that will be issued by the joint members the Orthodox Health Plans is presently being drafted.

Q. Department reports – attached

Fr. Tosi pointed out that brief department summary reports emanating from discussions at the meetings of department heads and diocesan chancellors and treasurers in January are in the materials distributed for this meeting.

R. Other Business

By consensus, the next meeting of the Metropolitan Council was tentatively scheduled for September 25-27, 2012.

Fr. John Jillions thanked all participants in the meeting for the generally positive tone of the meeting, and exhorted all to depart in a spirit of mutual forgiveness, in view of the approach of Great Lent. He asked everyone to forgive him.

Fr. Eric Tosi requested that the Metropolitan Council recognize those members whose terms have recently expired: Archpriests Theodore Boback, Theodore Bobosh, Michael Matsko, Michael Oleksa, Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, Deacon John Zarras, Matushka Anna Andrew, David Grier, Rosalie Luster, Eleana Silk and Dr. Paul Witek along with Priest Matthew-Peter Butrie and Protodeacon Michael Myers whose terms are about to expire. By consensus, the Metropolitan Council expressed its profound gratitude to all of these people for their service on the Council.

R.3. MOTION D’FANTIS/VAN DUYN – To adjourn the meeting. CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 2:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary