



**ORTHODOX
CHURCH in
AMERICA**

Metropolitan Council Meeting

Spring 2014

Other Reports



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
February 4 to February 6, 2014
Other Reports**

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**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
February 4 to February 6, 2014**

Metropolitan Council Agenda

Monday, February 3
Arrival and Committee

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
All Day	Transport	Airports	Chancery Staff
	SMPAC	Chancery	Fr. John Jillions
	Other Committees	Chancery	?

Any needed committee meetings can be scheduled for this evening

Tuesday, February 4 (Morning and afternoon sessions may change due to Metropolitan's schedule)
Metropolitan Council

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
8:00 AM	Breakfast	ENI	ENI
9:00 AM	Metropolitan Council		
	A. Agenda: Introduction		Fr. John Jillions
	B. Roll Call/Approval of Minutes		Fr. Eric G. Tosi
	C. Welcome		Metropolitan Tikhon
	E. Metropolitan's Report		Metropolitan Tikhon
Noon	Lunch	East Norwich Inn	Chancery Staff
1:00 PM	F. Chancellor's Report - ORSMA/SMPAC		Fr. John Jillions Cindy Davis
	G. Secretary's Report - Communication Issues		Fr Eric G. Tosi

- Archives Issues

	H.	18th AAC Update - Theme and Expectations - Preconciliar Commission	Fr. Eric G. Tosi
	I.	Report of the Strategic Plan Committee	Fr. John Vitko
	J.	Organizational Task Force	Fr. John Shimchick
6:00 PM		Vespers for St. Theodosius	Metropolitan Tikhon
7:00 PM		Dinner and Reception Chancery	Chancery Staff

Wednesday, February 5
Metropolitan Council

8:00 AM		Divine Liturgy for St. Theodosius	Metropolitan Tikhon
9:15 AM		Breakfast Chancery	Chancery Staff
10:15 AM		Metropolitan Council East Norwich Inn	

K. Metropolitan Council Committees

	1.	Report of Charity Committee	PDN Michael Myers
	2.	Report of Crisis Management Team	Fr. Eric G. Tosi
	3.	Report of Ethics Committee	Dr. Paul Meyendorff
	4.	Report of Human Resources	Fr. David Garretson
	5.	Report of Internal Governance	Fr. Chad Hatfield

1:00 PM		Lunch East Norwich Inn	Chancery Staff
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2:00 PM		Metropolitan Council East Norwich Inn	
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	L.	Treasurer's Report -External and Internal Auditor Reports	Melanie Ringa
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	M.	Report of Financial Development Committee	David Yeosock
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4:00 PM		Committee Meetings East Norwich	
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		Lesser Synod Chancery	
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6:00 PM		Dinner East Norwich	Chancery Staff
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**Thursday, February 6
Metropolitan Council**

8:00 AM	Breakfast	East Norwich Inn	Hotel
9:00 AM	Metropolitan Council	East Norwich Inn	
	N.	Pension Board Report	Fr. Gleb McFatter
	O.	Legal Report	Thaddeus Wojick/Judge Lanier
	P.	Legal Discussion	Jim Geoly
	Q.	Department Report Christian Education Institutional Chaplains	Valerie Zahirsky Fr. Steven Voytovich
	R.	Other Business/Committee Meeting Issues	
	S.	Next Meeting and Date	
Noon	Lunch	East Norwich Inn	Chancery Staff
1:00 PM	Projected End of Metropolitan Council Meeting and Departures		

Address of East Norwich Inn: 6321 Northern Blvd, East Norwich, NY 11732



**MINUTES
of the Joint Meeting of the Lesser Synod
and the 2013 Fall Session of
the Metropolitan Council**

**Tuesday, September 24 – Thursday, September 26, 2013
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 Tikhon
His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin
His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek

His Grace, Bishop Michael
His Grace, Bishop Mark

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Church Officers

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

Archpriest Eric Tosi, *Secretary*

Members elected by the All-American Council

Archpriest David Garretson (*Thursday only*)
Archpriest Chad Hatfield

Dr. Paul Meyendorff
Maureen Jury

Diocesan Representatives

Diocese of Alaska

Archpriest John Dunlop

Patrick Pletnikoff

Albanian Archdiocese

Archpriest Joseph Gallick (*except Thursday*)

William Peters (*except Thursday*)

Bulgarian Diocese

Vacant

Protodeacon Michael Myers

Archdiocese of Canada

Vacant

Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Priest James Weremedic

David Yeosock

Diocese of the Midwest

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta

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

Elizabeth Mikhalevsky

Diocese of the West

Archpriest John Dresko

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Archpriest William Evansky

Dr. John Schultz

Absent

Deacon Antony Dyl (*Diocese of the West*)

Sam D’Fantis (*Diocese of the Midwest*)

Guests (*for all sessions or as indicated in the minutes for their reports*)

Archpriest Michael Anderson (*alternate elected by the All-American Council – all sessions*)

Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky (*Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations*)

Priest John Parker (*Chairman – Department of Evangelization*)

Protodeacon Peter Danilchick (*SMPAC*)

Maureen Ahearn (*Pension Plan Administrator*)

Cindy Davis (*Coordinator for the Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegation*)

Alexis Liberovsky (*recording secretary – all sessions*)

Warren Rivetz (*advisor to the OCA Pension Board*)

John Sedor (*Chairman, OCA Pension Board*)

Thaddeus Wojcik, Esq. (*OCA General Counsel*)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin celebrated a prayer service at 9:01 AM to open the meeting at the East Norwich Inn.

A. Agenda: Introduction

Archbishop Benjamin then called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Fr. John Jillions delivered introductory remarks announcing that agenda changes would be necessary as His Beatitude is currently in flight returning from his grandmother’s funeral in France. He welcomed new members to the meeting and reflected on the productive retreat on conflict resolution that took place the previous day.

Fr. Eric Tosi mentioned that limited copies of previously distributed reports for this meeting are available. He requested a motion concerning the appointment of the recording secretary for this meeting.

A.1. MOTION KUCHTA/LANIER – To approve Alexis Liberovsky as recording secretary. CARRIED.

Fr. Tosi detailed changes for the meeting. He noted that His Beatitude would deliver his report as soon as he arrives from the airport this afternoon. Following the Metropolitan's report, the Chancellor's, ORSMA and SMPAC reports will be presented. The meeting will begin this morning with the Secretary's report to be followed by a presentation from the Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid, presented by Fr. John Vitko for Donna Karabin, who is unable to attend due to her mother's grave illness. Fr. John Parker will deliver the Department of Evangelization report this afternoon. The Reorganization Work Group report will also be presented, along with an External Affairs report from Fr. Kishkovsky and the reports of the Metropolitan Council's Committees.

A.2. MOTION VITKO/WEREMEDIC – To approve the agenda for this meeting as amended. CARRIED.

B. Roll Call/Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings (attached)

Fr. Tosi then conducted the roll call and introduced guests present for this meeting (see participants list). He asked for prayers for Sam D'Fantis who is absent from this meeting due to his recent serious surgery. He announced that Deacon Antony Dyl is unable to attend and that Hieromonk Stephen (Scott) has resigned from the Metropolitan Council.

Fr. Tosi presented the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Metropolitan Council on February 26-28, 2013 for approval.

B.1. MOTION LANIER/MEYENDORFF -- To accept the previous minutes as presented. CARRIED.

G. Secretary's report (attached)

Archpriest Eric Tosi, OCA Secretary, highlighted his written report. He noted the current staffing shortage at the chancery due to the departures of Jessica Linke and Andrew Boyd along with the medical leave of Gregory Sulich. He also noted some ongoing computer system issues. He reported that new format metrical books are being developed for parish use.

G.1. Archives Advisory Committee (attached)

In discussing the OCA Archives, Fr. Tosi introduced Alexis Liberovsky, the OCA Archivist, who provided an oral update on the formation of the OCA Archives Advisory Committee, as mandated by a decision of the previous meeting of the Metropolitan Council. Mr. Liberovsky presented the attached draft mission statement of the committee and the list of its members and consultants. He announced that the Committee's initial meeting will take place by the end of the year to begin formulating a strategic solution for more appropriate housing for the OCA Archives and securing grants or other funding for various projects, such as digitization, not funded in the budget. Fr. Tosi noted that the housing issue requires an appropriate permanent solution. In ensuing discussion, the Metropolitan Council expressed its enthusiastic support for the Committee's upcoming work. The Archives Advisory Committee is expected to present an initial report at the next Metropolitan Council meeting.

Fr. Tosi continued highlights of his report, providing details concerning the projected removal of the swimming pool on the chancery property. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that this should be postponed for the time being. In discussing communications, Fr. Tosi noted that fine-tuning of the OCA website continues on an ongoing basis and that many positive comments are being received from users of the website. Regarding *The Orthodox Church* magazine, he proposed that it become an annual review published once a

year. Melanie Ringa noted the cost savings of this proposal. In discussion, it was agreed to accept the proposal. Fr. Tosi also reported that health insurance coverage for chancery employees has been transferred from The *Orthodox Health Plan* to *United Health Care/Oxford* with comparable benefits and significant cost savings. Fr. Tosi's report also briefly noted the activities of the Crisis Management Team.

Following a short recess at 10:25 AM, the session resumed at 10:46 AM.

H. Department Reports

H.1. Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid (attached)

With the absence of the Department chairperson, Donna Karabin, due to the illness of her mother, Priest John Vitko delivered this report highlighting it with a PowerPoint presentation. He particularly noted the Department's charitable outreach, the recent successful Parish Ministries Conference that was organized together with other departments and included participants from other jurisdictions, along with ongoing work on the Resource Handbook. It was requested that diocesan liaisons be appointed for the Resource Handbook. Parish ministry training was also highlighted in the report. Melanie Ringa reported on financial details of Parish Ministries Conference.

I. Reorganization Work Group (attached)

Fr. John Shimchick, chairperson of the Work Group, presented its attached reported. He detailed the methodology of the Work Group's tasks. He noted the great amount of essential work being done by the officers and chancery staff and the need to better communicate this to the church at large. He also outlined the Work Group's assessment of the valuable efforts of the Church's departments. Janet Van Duyn stated that the Work Group found that the following areas need to be done at the national level: clergy assignments and records, archives, oversight of seminaries and stavropegial monasteries, chaplaincies (military and institutional), external affairs and inter-church relations, website, music and maintenance of a national database. She also noted overlap and some duplication of effort between the OCA administration, dioceses and parishes in youth work and education. In discussion, it was noted that legal matters are also a significant task at the national level. The Work Group was encouraged to define more clearly what should be done at the diocesan level and to be cognizant of financial realities. Fr. Shimchick questioned whether we can have robust dioceses without a strong OCA, whether we have a robust OCA without strong dioceses, and whether a diocese can exist without the OCA. Dr. Meyendorff stated that the Metropolitan Council is bound to insure and facilitate the work of the central administration between All-American Councils and that the Work Group should clarify what the work of the central administration should be and cannot dictate to dioceses what they should be doing. It was suggested that the tasks and goals of the Work Group need to be more clearly defined in its continuing work.

J. Strategic Plan Post-Conciliar Committee (attached)

Fr. John Vitko highlighted his attached report with a PowerPoint presentation, which was followed by discussion. The scope of the work of the Department of Continuing Education was particularly underscored. Fr. Vitko noted that there has been major progress on most of the Strategic Plan's goals and proposed that the Strategic Plan be phased out at the 18th All-American Council.

J.1. MOTION VITKO/HATFIELD – That the Strategic Plan Post-Conciliar Committee continue functioning in its present structure until the 18th All-American Council, even with transition of Committee members off the Metropolitan Council due to expiration of their terms. CARRIED.

Following a recess for lunch at 12:28 PM, the afternoon session was called to order at 1:36 PM

H. Department Reports

H.2. Evangelization (attached)

Priest John Parker, Department chairperson, presented an overview of the department's work and highlighted his attached report. He particularly noted the Planting Grant Program and presented the request for funding for 4 current grants and 1 new grant. Fr Parker outlined the mentorship program in which former planting grant clergy are assisting new planting grant missions. He discussed the need to serve college campuses and stewardship. He discussed the mandate of the 16th All-American Council for mission among African-Americans. He outlined various current and projected activities of the Department. He stressed the need for revitalization in some older parishes. He stated that the Department needs mobilization not centralization. He expressed the hope for new vigor in the department's work with the collaboration of those throughout the church skilled in the areas of the department's ministries. He also spoke of the formation of a weeklong mission school program. The report was extensively discussed.

L. Metropolitan Council Committees

L.1. Charity (attached)

Protodeacon Michael Myers presented the attached report of the Charity Committee. He noted the committee's recommendation for the reinstatement of a church-wide appeal for charity or other funding vehicle. The possibility of a PayPal button on the front page of the OCA website was also discussed.

L.3. Ethics

In a brief oral report, Dr. Paul Meyendorff, committee chairperson, noted that the Committee had received no complaints since the last Metropolitan Council meeting. The possible need to have non-disclosures statements signed by Metropolitan Council members and chancery staff was discussed.

L.5. Internal Governance (attached)

Archpriest Chad Hatfield highlighted the committee's attached report. He noted the success of the daylong retreat for the Metropolitan Council on conflict resolution conducted by Dr. Albert Rossi and Fr. Nicholas Solak, which was held at Our Lady of Kazan Church in Sea Cliff the previous day. He also reported on progress in integrating the tasks of the former Council Development Committee's work into that of the Internal Governance Committee. He additionally noted the significance of Dr. Meyendorff's attached reflection, titled "*Does the OCA Still Have a Vision?*" and the need for the further development of the OCA vision, in part, through the work of the Metropolitan Council. The need for a clearer definition of the Metropolitan Council's role in the governance of the Church was noted in discussion. In response to a question during discussion of the report, Protodeacon Peter Danilchick reviewed the history of the Internal Audit Committee being under the purview of the Internal Governance Committee.

R. Other Business

Due to his extensive work within the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America as a member of its Secretariat and its Committees on Canonical Regional Planning, Financial Affairs, and Theological Education, Protodeacon Peter Danilchick was asked to share his impressions of the recent fourth annual plenary meeting of the Assembly as well as its ongoing work. In his informal oral report, he presented a positive overview of the recent plenary meeting, noting particularly the work of the hierarchs in breakout groups, which some hierarchs were initially reluctant to accept. He stressed the overall cooperative spirit in both the plenary meetings and the committees in which he participates. Archbishop Benjamin and Bishop Michael also provided some comments on the recent plenary meeting of the Assembly. In discussion, the role

of the OCA in the Assembly and the possibility of the OCA's presence on the Assembly's Executive Committee were raised.

Following a short recess at 2:52 PM, the session resumed at 3:06 PM.

E. Metropolitan's Report (attached)

Having just returned from his grandmother's funeral, Metropolitan Tikhon delivered his attached report. He expressed his gratitude for condolences received in conjunction with his grandmother's repose and the rearrangement of the Metropolitan Council's agenda to accommodate his travel for her funeral. He noted the energy and zeal he has observed throughout the Church at all levels. He acknowledged the importance of the Reorganization Work Group as a starting point for continued discussion. He thanked the officers and chancery staff for their tireless labors with particular gratitude for Jessica Linke and Andrew Boyd who have left the chancery along with Gregory Sulich, who is currently on a medical leave. He also particularly noted the importance of the upcoming work of the Archives Advisory Committee. Finances and statute revision are current major administrative tasks. The Metropolitan announced that the Holy Synod has decided that a major review and revision of the Statute must be undertaken. He noted ongoing work nearing completion of finalizing Policies, Standards and Procedures (PSPs) concerning sexual misconduct as well as new initiatives in prevention and education. After highlighting his archpastoral oversight of stavropegial institutions and his own diocese, he expressed particular satisfaction with the agreement concluded with Metropolitan Jonah. Regarding his activities in External Affairs, he noted the close and positive relationships that have developed with Archbishop Justinian of the Moscow Patriarchate and Metropolitan Hilarion of ROCOR, as well as the significance of his recent visit to Russia, Ukraine and Belarus for the 1025th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus' and concelebration there with Primate or representatives of all the Orthodox Churches.

R. Other Business (continued)

Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, delivered an oral report highlighting a variety of significant issues and events, particularly: OCA participation in the celebration of the 1025th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus', the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, the upcoming assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Korea, a recent meeting of the Lausanne Movement in Albania, hosted by Archbishop Anastasios, the situation in the Middle East and the kidnapped bishops in Syria, recent Orthodox witness worldwide on moral issues and the election of Pope Francis in terms of Orthodox-Catholic Relations. He announced that Bishop Alexander, Dr. Paul Meyendorff and Cindy Davis would represent the OCA at the WCC Assembly.

F. Chancellor's Report (attached)

Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor, summarized his attached written report. He noted the pervading sense of calmness in the Church under the leadership of Metropolitan Tikhon. He particularly highlighted an attached overview of responses to a survey received from diocesan chancellors on OCA Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. The survey underscored the unique identity and character of each diocese. He outlined his current work in response to sexual misconduct and introduced Cindy Davis, Coordinator for the Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations (ORSMA).

F.1. ORSMA

Ms. Davis delivered her report outlining her activities in office coordination, communication, policy and procedure, collaboration with SMPAC (Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee) as well as misconduct prevention and education.

F.2. SMPAC

Protodeacon Peter Danilchick presented a report on SMPAC stressing its strictly advisory capacity and outlining its major activities and issues. He noted the significance of SMPAC's fiduciary responsibilities, the need for better communication and the revised PSPs, which are to be approved by the Holy Synod at its upcoming meeting in October 2013. He also indicated that SMPAC's charter and membership would be reviewed by the Holy Synod at its Spring 2014 meeting.

The session was adjourned with prayer at 5:28 PM and was followed by the celebration of Great Vespers at Saint Sergius Chapel for its patronal feast of Saint Sergius of Radonezh.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2013

Following the celebration of a Divine Liturgy at Saint Sergius Chapel on at 8:00 AM, the meeting was opened with prayer led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon at the East Norwich Inn at 11:05 AM.

Discussion and questions on the ORSMA and SMPAC reports ensued. It was acknowledged that the clarification of the relationship between SMPAC and ORSMA is an ongoing work in progress. Some communication issues remain. It was reiterated that SMPAC role is strictly advisory while ORSMA's function is implementation. There was a discussion on establishing time-line goals on investigations and issuing reports on that investigation. Also there was a discussion on how delaying a final report impacts the parish in terms of cost to a parish having to pay a priest and replacement while the investigation is ongoing as well as having closure to the investigation.

K. Legal matters (attached)

Judge Lanier, Chairman of the Legal Committee, presented its attached report. He and Thaddeus Wojcik, OCA General Counsel, provided updates on various legal matters affecting the Church.

K.1. MOTION MEYENDORFF/DRESKO – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

Confidential details pertaining to the Legal Committee's report were discussed in executive session.

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

Thaddeus Wojcik expressed appreciation for the handling of insurance matters by Fr. Eric Tosi. The committee suggested that diocesan lawyers meet together annually and that hierarchs meet regularly with their diocesan lawyers. Mr. Wojcik suggested that it would be useful for educational purposes to invite James Geoly, an attorney experienced in defending churches in sexual misconduct cases, to address the Metropolitan Council at its next meeting. He noted that Mr. Geoly would not need overnight accommodations as he has relatives in the area.

K.2. MOTION MIKHALEVSKY/DICK – To invite James Geoly to the next Metropolitan Council meeting and to cover the cost of his airfare. CARRIED with 2 opposed (Jury, Van Duyn).

Following a recess for lunch at 1:02 PM, the afternoon session was called to order at 2:05 PM.

Father Tosi asked for prayers for Maureen Jury on her 36th wedding anniversary and for the repose of Donna Karabin's mother.

M. Treasurer's Report (attached)

Melanie Ringa highlighted the attached Treasurer's report with a PowerPoint presentation and additional comments. She reported a preliminary deficit of \$27,716 in 2012, with audit adjustments resulting in a final net surplus of \$495,873. She noted that the auditors' report was an unqualified opinion.

M.1. MOTION MIKHALEVSKY/YEOSOCK – To accept the auditors’ report for 2012 as presented. CARRIED.

Ms. Ringa then detailed financial results as of July 2013 with a net deficit of \$81,277. Discussion ensued on psychological testing of candidates for ordination and mentoring of seminarians.

O. 2014 Budget (attached)

Fr. Gleb McFatter, chairman of the Finance/Investment Committee, commended Melanie Ringa for detail in her preparation of the budget for 2014. He reported that the committee has carefully examined the budget and recommends its adoption. He noted that the assessment has been lowered from \$95 to \$92 per capita. He indicated a \$23,000 reduction in salaries due to a voluntary 5% pay cut by the Metropolitan and the three officers. This cut is not extended to other chancery staff. He pointed to various reductions in expenses and an increase for ORSMA salary in order to make the director a full-time position. Melanie Ringa reported on projected efforts for departments to fundraise online to finance projects that could not be accommodated in the budget, which projects an operating deficit of \$22,473. Extensive discussion on the budget ensued. In response to a question regarding legal fees, Judge Lanier reported on negotiations with General Counsel regarding future fees, which according to proposals currently under joint review, will result in reduced expenses in this area. Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko suggested that that a voluntary pay cut by the Metropolitan and officers would be deconstructive for the Church. Bishop Michael spook on the need to change the focus from cutting expenses to finding ways of increasing revenue. He recommended a type of Stewardship appeal to raise the income.

O.1. MOTION POLATAIKO/VITKO – To thank the Metropolitan and OCA officers for their gesture of a voluntary 5% pay cut and not to accept it, while seeking alternate funding.

Discussion on the motion ensued. It was suggested that further discussion is needed before this motion can be addressed.

O.2. MOTION DRESKO/JURY – To table the previous motion. CARRIED.

O.3. MOTION DRESKO/VAN DUYN – To strike the expense of \$16,000 for the removal of the swimming pool in the 2014 budget.

After further discussion on maintenance of the chancery property, the motion was withdrawn. Budget discussion continued including possible ways to increase income as well as the pay cut proposed by the Metropolitan and officers. The impact of adopting a deficit budget was also discussed.

O.4. MOTION DRESKO/JURY - To reduce the property maintenance line in the budget from \$249,679 to \$233,679 and to increase the FOS/departmental revenue line from \$42,450 to \$48,923 resulting in a balanced budget. CARRIED with 2 opposed (Dick, Mikhalevsky) and 1 abstention (Tosi).

Fr. Dresko stated that this motion presumes that budget adjustments will be made if there is an unanticipated increase in income. Ms. Ringa noted that the replacement of the chancery’s two vehicles, which are old, as requested by the Metropolitan this morning, was not included in the budget. In discussion, it was agreed that the chancery’s priority should be one new vehicle for the Metropolitan’s use and that the issue of vehicle funding should be further discussed at the February meeting of the Metropolitan Council.

- O.5. MOTION POLATAIKO/DICK – To return Motion O.1. to the table. CARRIED with 2 opposed (Ringa, Jury).**

David Zavednak suggested an amendment to Motion O.1. to include an increase of \$23,381 in FOS/departmental revenue in order to offset the 5% voluntary pay cut of the Metropolitan and three officers, resulting in a balanced budget. The maker and the second of the original motion accepted the amendment. The amended motion was then discussed at length and moved as follows

- O.1. MOTION POLATAIKO/VITKO – To thank the Metropolitan and OCA officers for their gesture of a voluntary 5% pay cut and not to accept it, while increasing budgeted FOS/departmental revenue by \$23,381 resulting in a balanced budget. DEFEATED.**

- O.6. MOTION DRESKO/VAN DUYN - To approve the 2014 budget as amended. CARRIED with 1 abstention (Tosi).**

Ms. Ringa proposed that a committee to oversee endowments and special gifts, which was established by the Metropolitan Council in 1987 but was never active now be reinvigorated. She noted that, as originally constituted the Committee is to consist of the Chancellor, Secretary, Treasurer and three or more other members selected by the Metropolitan Council.

- O.7. MOTION JURY/MCFATTER – To reactivate the Endowments and Special Gifts Fund Committee with its membership including the OCA Officers and the members of the Finance Committee along with a hierarch to be appointed by the Holy Synod. CARRIED.**

Ms. Ringa reported that the St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, DC has requested assistance from the OCA and the Archdiocese of Washington to cover some \$35,000 in expenses incurred in conjunction with Metropolitan Jonah's residency there. These expenses included nearly \$10,000 in furniture costs. As the OCA at one time received an earmarked donation of \$5,000 to cover furniture expenses for Metropolitan Jonah, the Finance Committee is recommending that \$5000 be forwarded to St. Nicholas Cathedral by the OCA.

- O.8. MOTION DRESKO/LANIER – To release the \$5,000 donation earmarked for Metropolitan Jonah's furniture and to forward it to St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, DC. CARRIED.**

N. Financial Development (attached)

David Yeosock, Chairman of the Financial Development Committee, presented its attached report. He noted that many financial development issues have already been discussed during this meeting. He introduced Fr. John Dresko as the newest member of the Committee.

The session was adjourned with prayer at 4:30 PM and was followed by committee meetings.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

The morning session was opened with prayer at 9:07 AM.

P. Pension Board Report (attached)

John Sedor, OCA Pension Board Chairman, delivered the attached report on the Pension Plan, which was highlighted with a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Sedor, Warren Rivetz, a consultant from Morgan Stanley, and Maureen Ahearn answered questions from Metropolitan Council members. It was noted that the Plan currently has 287 clergy participants and 130 beneficiaries. A lengthy discussion ensued concerning greater

clergy participation in the Plan as mandated by the Plan itself and by All-American Councils. It was noted that any clergy receiving a salary from an OCA parish or institution or housing allowance is eligible.

- P.1. MOTION JILLIONS/MEYENDORFF - In keeping with the mandates of the OCA Pension Plan and the 5th (1977) and 10th (1992) All-American Councils, the Metropolitan Council reaffirms to dioceses, parishes and clergy that participation in the OCA Pension Plan is required of all clergy receiving income and/or housing benefits. This is necessary in order to ensure that all eligible clergy will receive a pension at retirement. Non-participation in the plan may only be authorized in writing by the OCA Pension Plan Office and approved by the local bishop. CARRIED**

An amendment to the Plan was presented and discussed.

- P.2. MOTION DRESKO/WEREMEDIC - WHEREAS, the Orthodox Church in America Pension Plan (“Plan”) was amended and restated effective January 1, 2010 and has subsequently had additional amendments;**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 10, Section 10.01, of the Plan, the Metropolitan Council has authority to amend the Plan;

WHEREAS, the Pension Board has presented a unanimous recommendation that the Plan be amended;

NOW THEREFORE, the following provisions of the Plan are amended as set forth below:

Plan Section 3.1 is restated as follows:

3.1 Employer Contributions

(a) It is the intention of the Church to continue the Plan and have regular contributions made to the Trustees each year by each Employer in such amounts as are necessary in addition to the contributions of Members to maintain the Plan on a sound actuarial basis. Every month, the Employer shall contribute to the Plan six percent (6%) of the Member's Compensation. Effective as of January 1, 2014, with respect to contributions for work performed after that date, the Employer shall contribute to the Plan eight percent (8%) of the Member's Compensation. The Employer shall transmit its contributions to the Trustees or their designate.

(b) A valuation of the Plan shall be made at least once every three years by an enrolled actuary, as defined under ERISA, to determine the contributions needed to maintain the Plan on a sound actuarial basis. The contributions by Members and Employers needed to support the Plan shall be changed from time to time based on the result of these valuations. Any forfeitures shall be used in the determination of future Members' and Employers' contributions, and will not be applied to increase the benefits any Member would otherwise receive under the Plan. CARRIED with 2 against (Jury & Van Duyn).

The following notice of intention to restate the Orthodox Church in America Pension Plan was presented for approval to the Metropolitan Council:

Current Plan Provision: Subsection 10.1(b) of the Orthodox Church in America Pension Plan (“Plan”) currently provides:

[...] The Pension Board is authorized to act on behalf of the Church to adopt technical or clarifying amendments, provided they are either required by law or have no material impact on the Plan, its Members, or the Church. The Pension Board is authorized to rely upon counsel and/or its actuary in determining that such amendment(s) are either required by law or have no material impact on the Plan, its Members, or the Church. Any such action shall be promptly communicated to the Metropolitan Council and, to the extent circumstances permit the Pension Board shall provide the Metropolitan Council with advance notice of its consideration of such amendment.

Proposed Action: From time-to-time employee pension benefit plans are submitted to the Internal Revenue Service for review in a process referred to as obtaining a determination letter. In this process, the Internal Revenue Service reviews the plan document to render an opinion that the plan as drafted meets the requirements for favorable federal tax treatment as a “qualified” plan. This means that the employees do not recognize income at the time contributions are paid into the trust and that the earnings of the trust are exempt from tax.

The Pension Board has authorized the submission of the Plan to the IRS for determination letter review. This process requires that a restated document be prepared. In the course of doing so it is likely that corrections of the document (such as correcting any errors in cross references) or change of text to improve clarity) will be made. Also, it is possible that the Internal Revenue Service will condition a favorable ruling upon inserting provisions viewed as required even if not applicable in our circumstances.

P.3. MOTION MIKHALEVSKY/DRESKO – To approve the notice of intention to restate the Orthodox Church in America Pension Plan. CARRIED.

Melanie Ringa noted that the 2014 budget has been prepared with 8% contribution as mandated by the Plan amendment that has just been passed.

Q. 18th All-American Council (attached)

Fr. Tosi presented his attached report on initial preparations for the 18th All-American Council in 2015. He extensively reviewed the process of choosing the venue of for the Council between Baltimore and Atlanta. Judge Lanier provided further information concerning Atlanta. Fr. Tosi noted that the Council is projected to take place in the summer and a youth program is being planned as at several previous Councils that took place in the summer. He additionally announced that FOCA (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America) is planning to hold their annual convention at same location in conjunction with the council and that there will be some overlap between their convention and the Council.

Q.1. MOTION LANIER & MCFATTER/VAN DUYN - To approve the Hilton in Atlanta, GA as the site of the 18th All-American Council on July 18-25, 2015 and to submit this recommendation for final approval to the Holy Synod. CARRIED.

Fr. Tosi presented recommendations for membership in the Preconciliar Commission.

Q.2. MOTION TOSI/LANIER - To approve the Preconciliar Commission membership as presented consisting of Bishop Mark as Episcopal Moderator, the Church officers: Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor, Archpriest Eric Tosi, Secretary and Melanie Ringa, Treasurer; Archpriest Myron Manzuk, Council Manager, Peter Ilchuk, Logistics Manager, Lisa Mikhalevsky, Metropolitan Council liaison, Carol Deerson, representing FOCA, Priest Benjamin Tucci, youth coordinator, the Local Committee Clergy Chairman (yet to be determined) and to submit these names to the Holy Synod for confirmation and appointment. CARRIED.

Fr. Tosi opened discussion on the projected goals of the 18th All-American Council. He suggested that the major topics for deliberation would be finances and statute revision. He asked that further input be submitted to him in the near future. Dr. John Schultz spoke of the FOCA convention, which will be held overlapping with the Council in Atlanta. Metropolitan Tikhon suggested that regional town hall meetings be held in preparation for the Council. The timeline of preparatory work for the Council, particularly regarding finances and statute revision as well as various details concerning the proceedings of the Council itself were extensively discussed. It was noted that the Preconciliar Commission would work out all the details pertaining to the Council. The budgeting and assessments for the Council will be among the initial tasks of the Preconciliar Commission.

L. Metropolitan Council Committees (continued)

L.4. Human Resources

Fr. David Garretson presented an oral report, noting that he was involved in recent staff transitions, the decisions not to hire replacements and the reassignment of work tasks among current staff. He also announced that a systematic process of staff review is being developed. Discussion ensued concerning staff transitions at the chancery.

S. Adjournment

Fr. Tosi proposed that the Metropolitan Council meetings in 2014 take place on February 4-6 and September 23-25. After discussion, these dates were approved by consensus.

In concluding remarks, Metropolitan Tikhon expressed his thanks to the Metropolitan Council for its work. Regarding the current work of the chancery, he remarked that while the staff is working hard, for which he is most grateful, additional staffing will need to be addressed. He called on everyone to keep working together for the glory of God.

S.1. MOTION EVANSKY/LANIER – To adjourn the meeting. CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 11:26 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary

Report for the 18th All-American Council Spring 2014 Archpriest Eric G. Tosi

1. Introduction

At the Fall 2013 Holy Synod meeting, the Synod agreed to the recommendations for the 18th All-American Council. The decision was to hold the 18th AAC from July 18-24 at the Hilton Atlanta. FOCA will hold its annual convention in conjunction with the AAC and there will be a youth component.

The Preconciliar Commission was appointed by the Holy Synod which consists of the following: His Grace Bishop Mark, synodal chairman; Fr. John Jillions, OCA Chancellor; Fr. Eric Tosi, OCA Secretary and Council Supervisor; Fr. Benjamin Tucci, Youth Director; Fr. Alexander Fecanin, Local Committee Chair; Fr. Myron Manzuk, Council Manager; Lisa Mikhalevsky, Metropolitan Council Liaison; Peter Ilchuk, Logistics Manager; Carol Deerson, Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America [FOCA] representative; Melanie Ringa, OCA Treasurer.

The Local Executive Committee was also appointed by the Holy Synod which consists of the following: Fr. Eric Tosi, Fr. Alexander Fecanin, local clergy chair; Fr. Myron Manzuk, council manager; Peter Ilchuk, logistics manager; Michaela Staskiewicz and Barbara Massoudi, co-lay local chair.

Both groups have met and have begun the planning process.

2. Planning Decisions

The 18th AAC will be held from July 18 to July 25, 2015 at the Hyatt Atlanta. There will be a youth component and FOCA will hold its annual convention in conjunction with the AAC. The contract with the hotel has been negotiated and signed. Other contracts such as logistical support and transportation are currently under review.

The Local Executive Committee met from November 12 to 13, 2014 at the hotel. It was attended by local deanery clergy and interested lay people. The purpose was to introduce the AAC, establish the parameters and goals of the local committee and to begin the organizational process. The local committee has begun recruiting chairs for the various committees and filling them with volunteers. It is expected to have this in place by the Summer. The next meeting will be in the late Spring

The Preconciliar Committee held its inaugural meeting on December 3, 2014 at the Chancery, The meetings established some clear goals and procedures. It looked into some scheduling issues and began to put together an initial agenda. It also began discussion on specifics of the 18th AAC. The PCC will meet again in Spring.

3. Decision Points

There were a number of decisions that have come out of the meetings which will need be presented in due course. These include operational and thematic issues.

A. The theme of the AAC will be based on the 1st All-American Sobor in which St. Tikhon presided. That them was "How to Expand the Mission". This theme has be adopted for the 18th AAC and the agenda will work around it. The logo which is in development will integrate the theme with a scene from an icon in the Chancery which depicts the 1st Sobor.

B. Based on this theme, the PCC is considering having less plenary sessions and more workshops which would build on the theme. Each workshop would be entitled "How to...." and emphasize practical aspects which would range from parish operations to applications. The Departments and other interested groups are being solicited for ideas. There will probably be twelve workshops that would be repeated so people could attend at least two. They would count towards Continuing Education credit.

C. A key feature of the AAC will be the Statute revision. This has been planned for a number of years and they have begun their work. It was decided by the Holy Synod to do a complete revision rather than a selected revision. Archbishop Nathaniel is chairing the Statute Revision Committee which consists of canon and civil lawyers as well as experts in related fields. They held their first meeting on January 16-17, 2015. The plan is to have the first draft completed and sent out to dioceses and parishes well in advance of the AAC. There will also be a series of town halls which will allow for further input. This will be a conciliar process and give plenty of time for comment and revision prior to being formerly presented at a plenary session of the AAC.

D. Statute revision is a critical part of the process as finance revisions cannot happen without the Statutes being changed (It assumes a per person giving). There have been a series of meetings chaired by Melanie Ringa and involving the diocesan chancellors and treasurers which are working through a new finance plan. This was a mandate from the last AAC and the new plan will be presented at the 18th AAC. It is also expected to take a full plenary session but the plan will be presented well in advance for discussion as part of the town halls process with the Statute revision.

E. The Youth component is currently being worked through under the chairmanship of Fr. Benjamin Tucci. A full report on the progress of this aspect of the AAC is attached. We will be looking for donations to bring the cost for the youth down as it currently is around \$300 per person and total cost is around \$30,000. They have begun to gather volunteers and there will be cooperation with the local Greek parishes in the area.

F. There is a consideration of having a Day of Service for all attendees. This would basically take place on one afternoon when the delegates will spread throughout the Atlanta area and give back to the local community. This will mean the loss of another plenary session but will also leave a lasting effect. The Local Committee is currently exploring the options.

G. There will be a new electronic registration system for the Council. All registration will take place online and be streamlined. A number of companies that offer these services have been interviewed and we are waiting on some bids. The registration process is complicated for the OCA and there are a number of approval steps that must be taken according to the Statutes. Church attorneys have looked to this and given appropriate guidance and we are confident it can be done. We are also looking at using electronic voting which may not be cost effective unless we schedule voting for the same day.

H. The PCC is taking into serious consideration the issue of fitting reports in the plenary session while still allowing plenty of time for discussion and resolutions. The PCC is quite aware of what happened at the last AAC and will work on ways to mitigate the issue for this Council. We will look at a way to balance the need for everyone to give their reports while still allowing for time for open discussion and not led to a monopoly of the time by a few individuals.

There does seem some who believe that the purpose of the AAC is to discuss major moral and ethical issues and issue statements. This, of course, would take a considerable amount of time and debate. If this is the direction then perhaps many of these issues could be formed into committees which debated prior to the Council and simply bring up recommendations for votes by the AAC. But we must ensure that these issues are within the competence of the AAC.

I. The assessment level will need to be established for this AAC. This will be based on a preliminary budget and collected in 2015. It is the initial recommendation that the assessment for the 18th AAC be the same as the 16th AAC in Seattle of \$11 per registered member as a starting point. This rate worked well for the 16th AAC and money was returned to the diocese. Other rates and fees can be established by the PCC such as an additional \$40 per parish to help fund the Youth component.

4. Conclusion and Action Items

The following action points are recommend to be adopted subject for the approval and guidance of the Holy Synod:

A. The recommendation of the adoption of the theme, logo and general direction of the 18th AAC.

- B. A preliminary budget be established based on the rate of \$11 per person with other fees to be set as recommended including a \$40 per parish fee for the Youth component
- C. The general guidance on plenary sessions and other activities which may mean a reduced number of sessions in order to accommodate the "How to..." workshops and the possible Day of Service.
- D. The use of electronic registration as will be determined by the PCC.
- E. All other operational matters are the purview of the PCC subject to approval by the Metropolitan Council and Holy Synod.



1/10/2014

AAC -Youth Planning for 2015

Status Report

Youth Status Report for the AAC
Authored by Fr. Benjamin Tucci

Youth Status Report for the AAC

At the PCC meeting this past December, there was overwhelming support to go ahead with planning youth programs for the upcoming AAC in Atlanta. The PCC discussed many items including program logistics, staff training, and financial responsibility.

Program Logistics

We do not plan to reinvent the wheel entirely by tweaking what was done in the past under the direction of Fr. Michael Anderson. Here is a proposed plan of how the week will unfold. Each day of the council will consist of prayer/worship, education, and an activity. The logistical planning will also involve working with the O Club (FOCA) department of youth since we are combining for the summer of 2015. There has also been some discussion on networking with the Greek Archdiocese and combining some of our efforts and activities with the Atlanta Archdiocese. Contact has been made with their current youth director as well as the national youth person for FOCA.

Date	3rd to 5th Grade	6th - 8th Grade	9th - 12th Grade
July 20	AM - Religious Ed 1 PM - Aquarium / Other local attraction	Religious Ed 1 Aquarium / Other local attraction	Religious Ed 1 Aquarium / other local attraction
July 21	AM – Religious Ed 2 PM -Stone Mountain	Religious Ed 2 Stone Mountain	Religious Ed 2 Stone Mountain
July 22	AM – Religious Ed 3 PM - Service Project	Religious Ed 3 Service Project	Religious Ed 3 Service Project
July 23	AM – Religious Ed 4 PM - Six Flags Youth Banquet	Religious Ed 4 Six Flags Youth Banquet	Religious Ed 4 Six Flags Youth Banquet
July 24	AM - Religious Ed 5 PM - Youth Presentation	Religious Ed 5 Youth Presentation	Religious Ed 5 Youth Presentation
Youth Ages 2nd grade and Under Vacation Bible School / Playgroup 9:30 AM to Noon Each Day			

Youth Status Report for the AAC

Activities will be added and adjusted to suit the needs of the council as well as FOCA. Plans are underway to have a few social events planned by the O Club in the evening for our youth and families.

We also spent time discussing how the service project day will unfold. We will work closely with the local planning committee to make sure that these activities are suited for our youth.

Staff Training

- All volunteers will need a background check they can provide or we can provide. Has to be within the last two years.
- All volunteers will fill out a volunteer application form.
- All volunteers will list references that will need to be checked.
- All volunteers will undergo an online training program involving youth protection. We have decided to explore using the Prisdium online training program.
- All volunteers will meet with Fr. Benjamin Tucci either on the evening of the 19th or early on the 20th for more touch and discipline guidelines to follow at the AAC specific to our week and to assign volunteers to their areas with information on what to expect for the week as far as their duties are concerned.

Financial Responsibility

The challenges presented at the meeting were expressed. Here is a list of what was discussed.

- Each volunteer and youth will cost a minimum of \$50 a day.
- Youth will pay for volunteer costs.
- We need at least 40 volunteers for 200 youth participants to stay within the OCA guideline. We might not need all of them, but we will need to train and screen them in advance just in case we will need them at show time.
- Volunteer training and screening alone will cost roughly \$60 per applicant. \$2400 should be set aside for this important training.
- Each volunteer will cost an additional \$50 a day or \$225 for the week. \$9000 for 40 volunteers.

Youth Status Report for the AAC

- T-Shirts / Room Rentals / Other expenses = \$5000 or more
- Assuming we have 150 youth (this is a rough estimate at best). Overhead per youth will be $(\$9000 + \$2400 + \$5000)/150$ or $\$16,400 / 150 = \110 in overhead per youth.
- Youth Participant estimate will be \$50 per day for transportation + lunch + event participation fee + estimated overhead costs or $\$225 + \$110 =$ roughly \$335 per youth participant.
- At the last AAC, the youth had a registration fee of \$150 per participant. Wow! Big difference. On top of the \$335, families will have travel expenses and hotel costs. This might be out of the budget for most families to afford... bringing down our numbers. Will we get 150 youth?

At the meeting, ideas for raising money were discussed. A good idea was to add to the assessment of each parish \$40 or what would be needed to cover the overhead costs to keep expenses down for the youth. Donations were also going to be sought.

Work To Be Done

1. Work with the Department of Religious Education to put together a religion curriculum for the week.
2. Put together a training program and an online application program for staff and volunteers.
3. Work with the local planning committee, the FOCA youth department (Marge Kovach), the Greek Atlanta Archdiocese (Julie Morse), and the service project coordinator to get and lock in all the details of the schedule.
4. Continue to tweak the budget. What will events cost... transportation... food... miscellaneous?
5. Make sure volunteers are adequately trained and screened.
6. Make sure an online website is developed for participants and nail down a participant fee.

Youth Status Report for the AAC

7. Make sure events run smoothly and to the best of our ability at the council.
8. Continue to report to the OCA of progress, achievements, and challenges.



**ORTHODOX
CHURCH in
AMERICA**

18th All-American Council “How to Expand the Mission”

*Hilton Atlanta
255 Courtland Street
Atlanta, GA
July 20-July 24, 2015*

18th All-American Council

- Contract is signed
- Initial Organization
- Preconciliar Commission appointed
- Local Clergy and Lay Chair appointed
- Local Committee appointed and in formation
- Organization of national and local operations
- Initial lay-out and operations

Responsibilities

Local Executive Committee

- Bishop Mark is Synodal Representative
- Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, Secretary and overall responsible for AAC
- Archpriest Myron Manzuk is Council Manager
- Archpriest Alexander Fecanin is Local Clergy Chair
- Michaela Staskiewicz and Barbara Massoudi are Local Lay Co-Chairs
- Peter Ilchuk is Logistics Manager

General Timeline

- Initial meetings - completed
- Appointment of PCC at Fall Holy Synod - completed
- PCC to establish theme, logo, agenda and material – in progress
- Local Committee to establish working groups within areas, set up local accounts and contacts, prepare site – in progress
- Chancery to coordinate all activities
- AAC Committees appointed 30 days prior

16th AAC Preconciliar Commission

- Bishop Mark (Synod)
- Archpriest John Jillions (Chancellor)
- Archpriest Eric G. Tosi (Secretary and Supervisor)
- Melanie Ringa (Treasurer)
- Archpriest Myron Manzuk (Council Manager)
- Peter Ilchuk (Logistics Manager)
- Archpriest Alexander Fecanin (Local Clergy Chair)
- Lisa Mikhalevsky (MC Representative)
- Priest Benjamin Tucci (Youth)
- Carol Deerson (FOCA)
- *Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky (Consultant)*

Composition of AAC

Article III, Section 2

- The Metropolitan and all bishops of the Church;
- The priests of each parish and an equal number of lay delegates;
- Priests not having parishes if accredited by the Metropolitan Council;
- One lay delegate from each parish not having a priest;
- The members and the alternate members of the Metropolitan Council, and the members of the Auditing Committee of the Church;
- Two delegates from each theological seminary;
- **Members of the Preconciliar Commission;**
- One representative of each Church organization officially accredited by the Holy Synod;
- **Additional persons may be invited by the Preconciliar Commission with the approval of the Metropolitan to attend one or more sessions of the All-American Council, without the right to vote. Members of preparatory committees may be invited to attend and participate in the discussions of the subject upon which their committees report to the All-American Council;**
- All lay members of the All-American Council shall have the same qualifications for membership as the parish delegates (Cf. Article III, Section 6).

Requirements for Representation

Article III, Section 4

- Every parish which has remitted all established assessments determined by previous All- American Councils for the support of the Church is entitled to elect delegates. The assessment must be paid in full by July 1st of the year in which an All-American Council occurs in order to have lay representation.

PCC Responsibilities

Article III, Section 5

At least one year prior to the next All-American Council, upon nomination by the Metropolitan Council, the Holy Synod shall appoint a Preconciliar Commission which shall be entrusted with the following responsibilities:

- To publish and distribute the agenda, notices, and arrangements for the All-American Council at least 60 days prior to the established date;
- To publish and distribute the proper credentials and certification forms at least 30 days prior to the All-American Council;
- To collect and certify the credentials of all delegates;
- To fix and collect the registration fees from each parish;
- To prepare the agenda and submit it to the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council for approval (the agenda may be changed by vote at the All-American Council);
- To ascertain that all reports to the All-American Council be in written form and that they be distributed to every delegate at least 30 days prior to the established date.
- The Preconciliar Commission shall establish those committees which may be necessary for the proper operation of the Council, such as a local functioning committee, a resolutions committee, credentials committee, translations committee, etc.

Election, Qualification, and Accreditation of Lay Delegates

Article III, Section 6

The lay delegates and alternates to the All-American Council must meet the following requirements to be validly elected, qualified, and accredited:

- Be elected by a parish meeting;
- Be a voting member of the parish in good standing (Cf. Article X, Section 5), at least eighteen years of age, having received the Sacraments of Confession and Communion at least annually for the past three years at his home parish. (Like holders of all offices in the Church, he may not be a person under ecclesiastical interdict, who is in violation of moral standards, who is married outside the Church, who is a member of anti-Church and/or secret societies.)
- The lay delegate or delegates will personally receive from their parish a **uniform document supplied by the Central Church Administration**. The parish rector shall forward to the Preconciliar Commission the name and the address of the elected lay delegate or delegates and alternates **two months prior to the All-American Council. The document of accreditation must be signed by the parish rector, or Dean in case of a vacancy in the parish, and the parish secretary, and sealed with the parish seal**. In case of a vacant parish, the parish is entitled to one lay delegate. The delegates from a theological seminary, if laymen, shall be accredited by a similar letter to the Preconciliar Commission by the dean of the theological seminary, immediately after their appointment.

Mandated Timeline (per Statute)

- Proposed Statute Revisions 90 Days prior (April 17, 2015)
- PCC to publish agenda, notices and arrangements 60 days prior (May 15, 2015)
- Chancery to publish credentials and certification 30 days prior (June 17, 2015)
- Agenda to be approved by HS and MC at Spring, 2015 meeting (February 2015)
- Reports to be distributed by Chancery 30 days prior (June 17, 2015)
- All statute change, resolutions, etc to be submitted 30 days prior (June 17, 2015)

General Agenda for AAC

- Reservations for hotel closes on June 26, 2015
- Team Arrival on Friday, July 17.
- FOCA Convention Saturday, July 18 to Monday, July 20.
- Saturday Vigil will need to be at local church and Sunday Liturgy at Hotel.
- Council to be Monday to Friday
- Friday Afternoon to be break-down of site

Local Committees

- Local Clergy and Lay Chair
- Local Treasurer
- Local Secretary
- Bishop's Welcome
- City Guide
- Council Workbook
- Credentials and Registration
- Exhibits and Displays
- Formal Dinner
- Liturgics
- Public Relations
- Secretarial
- Signage/Website
- Food and Beverage
- Souvenir Book
- Youth
- FOCA
- Day of Service

Clergy and Lay Chair

- Archpriest Alexander Fecanin (Area Dean)
- Michaela Staskiewicz and Barbara Massoudi
- Overall local coordination between Chancery, PCC and Chancery
- Sits on PCC
- “boots on ground”
- Local person did logo

Local Treasurer

- Barbara Massoudi will serve in dual positions
- OCA will pay bills directly
- Bonded through OCA
- Monthly reports and closing report
- Interact with Treasurer of OCA
- Collects local money and forwards local fees and bills

Local Secretary

- Barbara Massoudi will serve in dual positions
- Attends and record all local minutes
- Distributes copies to Chancery
- Ensures follow-up on action items

Youth

- Fr. Benjamin Tucci will supervise
- Assist in local identifying local attractions
- May need to assist in program
- Integrate into AAC agenda
- Safety!!!!!!
- Plan still being formulated

FOCA

- Carol Deerson is FOCA Planner
- First time with AAC and out of regions
- Convention will run from Saturday, July 18 to Monday, July 20. Overlap with AAC
- Events including Dinner Dance
- May Assist with Youth
- Planning beginning from their end

Day of Service

- New Element
- How can the delegates serve the local community?
- Fishes and Loaves Ministry
- Leave a lasting positive impact
- How can we do this?

Possible "How to..."

- Possible Activities for the afternoon
- Service Project OR
- **Training sessions (rather than workshops give hands-on training)**
Topics suggested:
 - Compassion in Action
 - Finance basics; how to's; reading/creating spreadsheets
 - How to keep your children and parish safe
 - Background checks
 - Praesidium Training
 - How to reach youth and young adults
 - How to prepare your parish for growth
 - How to use 21st Century Media
 - How to manage a parish education program/educate the parish
 - How to Revitalize Your Parish
 - How to Reach Out and Draw In

Other

- Possible visit to Martin Luther King Center
- Morning Plenary and Afternoon Other
- Youth Component
- Electronic Registration
- Electronic Voting
- Agenda refocus
- No Liturgy every day
- Bring in icons/monastic presence
- Matushka Breakfast/Youth Breakfast

THE 18TH ALL AMERICAN COUNCIL



HOW TO EXPAND OUR MISSION

JULY 20-24 2015 • ATLANTA, GA

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA





THE 18TH ALL AMERICAN COUNCIL

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Some Ideas for Preparation for AAC

Discussion was held on what should be done in preparation for the ACC. Suggestions are listed below:

- Working papers and reports should be distributed. This will be done electronically.
- Topics suggested:
 - How to define our role as a jurisdiction
 - How to work towards greater Orthodox cooperation and unity
- View of unity/autocephaly
- Town Councils
- Request demographics from Dioceses (similar to those from the Pew or Krindatch reports) to show future of Orthodoxy in America (it was also noted that a survey could be done as part of the training sessions)
- Request each Deanery/Diocese list the five most vibrant parishes

Some Considerations

- Department presentations – presentations should revolve around the theme
- Diocesan Presentations – how can they incorporate the theme with presentations
- All presentations should relate back to the theme
- Spiritual dimension with the youth should reflect the theme
- All group work should be the same – delegates should go to what is needed not necessarily what they want.
- Need to have immediate feedback from the delegates – is the AAC the correct forum for presentations?
- Delegates are looking for the Holy Synod to set priority and agenda
- Expanding the Mission needs to include retention
 - Look at reasons people do not go to church
 - Look at how the parish forms relationships in the community
- Delegates need take-aways
- Need to have clear priorities for the next 3 years set at the end of the Council
- Back to basics (Christology, spiritual life)
- At the Council the following items need to be done:
 - Metropolitan's address
 - Reports of the officers (NY corporate law)
 - Pass changes to the assessment (statute requirement)
 - New way of funding the church decision (task designated at last AAC)
 - Statute Changes
 - Elections
- Need to renew the spirit of the 1970's
- Address philosophical division within the church
- Take delegates out of the hotel into the community for a service project



**ORTHODOX
CHURCH in
AMERICA**

Questions?

Where do we go from here?

*Department of Christian Education
Orthodox Church in America*

His Grace, Bishop Benjamin – *Episcopal Liaison*
Chairperson / OCEC Representative

Mat. Valerie Zahirsky

Members

Veronica Bilas

Mat. Myra Kovalak

Daria Petrykowski

Maria Proch

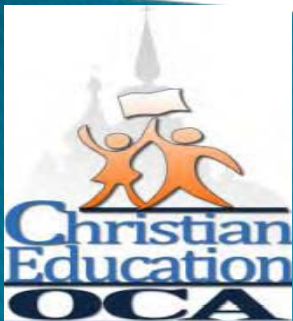
Jewelann Stefanar

Mat. Alexandra Safchuk

Mat. Christine Zebrun


Project Manager - Jewelann Stefanar

Web Developer – John Pusey



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission and focus of the Department of Christian Education is the support of church school teachers, clergy, families and others engaged in faith formation for every age level. Serving with the blessing and guidance of The Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America, this department provides a variety of services including:

- Web-based study units consisting of age-appropriate lesson plans and activities.
 - Workshops for church school teachers and staff.
 - Training in the use of the available curriculum and resources.
 - Articles offering timely educational information published in the official newspaper of the Orthodox Church in America, The Orthodox Church.
 - Review and recommendation of educational resources.
 - Production of resources for parish use.
 - Downloadable weekly parish bulletin inserts.
- 



Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. - Proverbs 22:6

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SAINTS IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

An Activity Book for Orthodox Children and Parents
Department of Christian Education • Orthodox Church in America

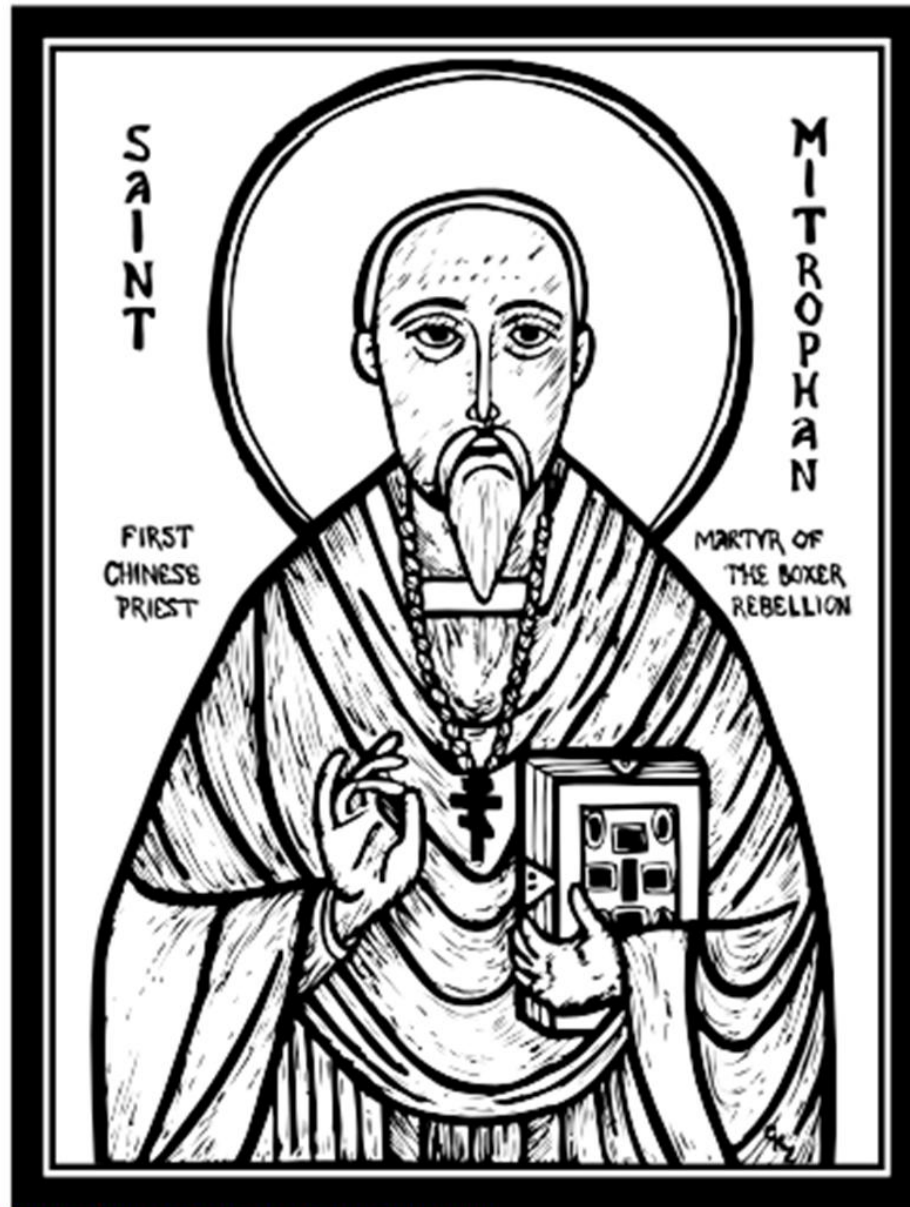
dce.oca.org/assets/files/resources/saints-in-times-of-trouble.pdf

St. Mitrophan

First Chinese Priest

Martyr of the Boxer Rebellion





Troparion *(Tone 6)*

Thy holy martyrs, O Lord, did not see earthly glory as a treasure to be held,
But facing the torments of men and the wisdom of demons,
Humbled themselves for Thy sake, even unto death.
Wherefore, O Righteous Father, as through them
Thou brought the priceless pearl to an unbaptized land,
Grant us Thy Spirit and great mercy for our souls.

Kontakion *(Tone 4)*

The divine Mitrophan, the martyred shepherd,
with his great and faithful flock,
Have hallowed China with their blood,
Wherefore we praise them with sacred hymns,
For they were faithful to Christ even unto death.



True or False Arithmetic

St. Mitrophan

To do this activity, read the story about St. Mitrophan. Then, without looking back at the story, decide whether each of the following statements is true or false, and do the arithmetic.

For example, if you decide that Statement A is true, you will add 5 to your Starting Number, which is 20. If you decide it is false, you will subtract 3 from the Starting Number.

A. The Chinese Orthodox Church began with a Greek military outpost in China.

If true, add 5. If false, subtract 3.

A. _____

B. Some soldiers from the outpost in China became the Chinese Emperor's bodyguards.

If true, add 4. If false, add 1.

B. _____

C. The Orthodox Faith was admired by China's Dowager Empress.

If true, add 8. If false, add 6.

C. _____

D. The "Boxers" wanted to get rid of ancient Chinese traditions.

If true, add 4. If false, multiply by 2.

D. _____

St. Alexander Nevsky's Travels



The Theotokos

Introduction (*Ages 4-6*)



Christianity is unique in giving the world a true understanding of God as having humbled Himself, in the Person of Jesus Christ, so that He could share and redeem our life. No other faith teaches, in the same way that Christianity does, that God would "demean" Himself by becoming Man. No other faith gives humankind the joyful news that by undergoing and overcoming an excruciating death, Jesus Christ destroyed death's power over us forever.

But our loving God is so careful of our freedom that He did not come to us in a flashy and overwhelming miracle. He sought human cooperation, and that came in the person of a young woman who lived in worldly circumstances of poverty and powerlessness. The young woman faced the brutal possibility that she would be stoned to death for fornication. Her willingness to face that hard reality, to cooperate with God's will, came from her faith.



Bulletin Inserts

Weekly Topics Include Scripture Commentaries,
Lives of Saints, Movie Reviews & Much More

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>

A Mother Predicts the Resurrection of Her Seven Sons

The history of the Maccabees begins with the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC. He had been astoundingly successful in conquering many lands, including Judea and the rest of Palestine. But confusion ensued when he died, and his followers and generals struggled to find a clear course of action for the future. Judea's future—how and by whom it would be ruled—was uncertain

By the year 300, Judea was firmly under the control of the Ptolemies of Egypt. When Antiochus III defeated the Egyptians he brought the Palestinian Jews into the Seleucid Empire. Two books relating the history of the Maccabees (known as I and II Maccabees) tell of the revolt of the Jews against Seleucid emperors such as Antiochus IV.

Antiochus was a dedicated Hellenizer, intending to bring everything in his empire in line with Greek culture and practice. Even possessing a written copy of the Jewish Law was an offense punishable by death, and his soldiers periodically inspected Jewish homes to find lawbreakers.

In Jerusalem, Antiochus pillaged the treasures of the Temple and erected a statue to the pagan gods on the Great Altar of Burnt Sacrifice. On a day of festival for the deity Dionysius, the Jews were forced to wear wreaths of ivy and walk in a procession honoring the god

On this day we read words written by Saint Paul that express the same certainty Solomonia offered to her sons: "For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God" (I Cor. 3: 21b-23).

Troparion — Tone 7

Let us praise the seven Maccabees,
with their mother Salome and their teacher Eleazar;
they were splendid in lawful contest
as guardians of the teachings of the Law.
Now as Christ's holy martyrs
they ceaselessly intercede for the world.

Kontakion — Tone 2

Seven pillars of the Wisdom of God
and seven lampstands of the divine Light,
all-wise Maccabees, greatest of the martyrs
before the time of the martyrs,
with them ask the God of all
to save those who honor you.

A Movie Review: Beyond the Hills



On July 26 the Church remembers Saint Paraskeva, a second-century nun. She traveled from city to city, preaching the faith, until she was denounced to the Roman authorities. After agonizing tortures, she was martyred.

The Church of the Three Hierarchs in Jassy, a city in northeastern Romania, is the resting place of the relics of another young nun, Paraskeva of Serbia. This fourteenth-century saint is especially revered by the Romanian Orthodox Church.

The tradition of female monasticism in Romania is enduring and spiritually powerful. Romanian film director Cristian Mungiu's movie "Beyond the Hills" doesn't reflect this. In fact, some sections of the movie treat Christian faith and ritual as primitive and superstitious, but Orthodox viewers will at least be impressed by the authentic way in which the daily life of Romanian nuns, living in harmonious community under the authority of an abbess and a priest, is depicted.

Who is in Delusion?

A recent issue of Time Magazine contained an interview with Richard Dawkins, a biologist and popular author well-known for his vehemently atheistic opinions. As part of the interview, a reader asked, "Given how little we know about the universe, how can we possibly be sure there is no God?"

Dawkins' answer: "There are all sorts of things we can't be sure of—we can't be sure there are no leprechauns and fairies. Science in the future is going to be revealing all sorts of things which we have no idea of at present, but it's extremely unlikely that it would happen to home in on an idea from a Bronze Age tribe in the desert." With typical disdain, he breezily equates belief in God's existence with belief in leprechauns and fairies.

Dawkins claims that reliable truth must be based on evidence. He has no use for religious faith, which he calls "blind trust in the absence of evidence." Yet his answer to the Time Magazine reader is not at all based on evidence. He says that it's "highly unlikely" that science will "home in on" the God of the ancient Scriptures. Where's the evidence for such a statement? What facts is it based on? How does he know this?

Saint Alexis Toth

Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in America

2 St. Alexis studied hard to prepare for priestly ministry.

3 He was ordained to the Greek Catholic priesthood in 1878.

1 St. Alexis was born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1854. His father was a Greek Catholic, or "Uniate," priest, while his uncle was a bishop.

5 In 1889, he arrived in the US to serve as pastor of St. Mary's Greek Catholic Church, Minneapolis, MN.

7 St. Alexis zealously fulfilled his priestly ministry, including comforting the sick and infirm.

9 St. Alexis wrote and published many educational resources for the enlightenment of his flock.

11 St. Alexis offered much assistance to St. Tikhon, Bishop of North America, and helped establish St. Tikhon's Monastery and Orphanage.



4 In addition to his priestly ministry, St. Alexis taught Church history and canon law at the Greek Catholic seminary in Presov.

6 In 1891, he and the faithful of St. Mary's were received into the Orthodox Church by Bishop Vladimir of the Aleutians.

8 Although he was materially poor, St. Alexis always helped the needy.

10 In 1893, St. Alexis was reassigned to Wilkes-Barre, PA, where he led many Greek Catholics back to Orthodox Christianity.

14 In 1994, St. Alexis was glorified as a saint of the Church during the annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery.

12 Through St. Alexis' tireless missionary travels and preaching, many were converted to the Orthodox Christian Faith.

13 St. Alexis reposed in 1909. Seven years later, his body was transferred to St. Tikhon's Monastery, where it is enshrined to this day.

Saint Alexis Toth

Saint Alexis Toth

Confessor and Defender of Orthodoxy in America

Our holy Father Alexis Toth was born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1854 [1]. His father and brother were priests of the Greek Catholic Church, while his uncle was a bishop. [Citizens of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, who traditionally had been of the Orthodox Christian Faith, were compelled to enter into communion with the Roman Catholic Church after the Union of Uzhorod in 1646. Known thereafter as "Greek Catholics," or "Uniates" – a term that, while originally derogatory in nature, enjoyed wide popular acceptance – they were permitted to retain certain practices, customs and liturgical practices common to and rooted in Orthodox Christianity.]

Alexis was always close to the Church, and began studies for the priesthood. An excellent student; he was fluent in Latin, German, Magyar and Russian, and acquired a reading knowledge of Greek [2]. In 1878, he married the former Rosalie Mihalich, whose father also was a priest. Later the same year, he was ordained to the priesthood [3] and assigned associate pastor of a Greek Catholic parish. Tragedy soon followed as both his wife and their only child died. Father Alexis was filled with grief, but continued to serve God with love and prayerful dedication. The next year brought new responsibilities as Father Alexis began teaching Church History and Canon Law at the seminary in Presov [4]. He also served as secretary to the Bishop of Presov and Administrator of the Diocese.



Greater changes were to come. In October 1889, Father Alexis was sent to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he had been assigned pastor of Saint Mary's Greek Catholic parish [5]. Soon after his arrival, he called on the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, John Ireland, who refused to recognize him as a Catholic priest or allow him to serve in his diocese. [Archbishop Ireland, perhaps not well versed in Greek Rite Catholicism, questioned how Father Alexis could have been a Catholic priest since he had been married.] After further difficulties, Father Alexis appealed to the Russian Orthodox Church, the North American head of which lived in San Francisco. On March 25, 1891, he and 361 parishioners of Saint Mary's Church were received into the Orthodox Church of their ancestors by Bishop Vladimir of the Aleutian Islands and Alaska [6].

Father Alexis was very devoted to his flock, healing and comforting the sick [7] and, despite his personal poverty and that of his flock, giving generously to those in need [8]. Using his broad education and experience, he wrote and published many educational resources explaining the differences between the true faith of Orthodox Christianity and other faiths and offering practical advice on living an Orthodox Christian life [9].

The year 1893 brought another major change in Father Alexis' life as he was transferred to the parish in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, which would be his home for the rest of his life [10]. He was soon called upon to help Saint Tikhon – at that time the Ruling Bishop and later Archbishop of the North American Church – in establishing Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk Monastery and Orphanage in South Canaan, Pennsylvania [11]. Father Alexis traveled far and wide to proclaim Orthodox Christianity while encouraging Greek Catholics to return to their ancestral faith [12]. Though humble about his own abilities, he was a true missionary. He has been credited with inspiring tens of thousands of former Greek Catholics to embrace the Orthodox Faith.

Saint Alexis died on May 7, 1909. Seven years after his death, his body was transferred from Wilkes-Barre to a prominent burial site behind the altar of Saint Tikhon Monastery Church [13]. At that time, it was discovered that his remains were incorrupt.

On May 29-30, 1994, the Rite of Glorification of Saint Alexis was celebrated during the annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage to Saint Tikhon Monastery [14].

O Holy Father Alexis, pray unto God for us! ■

Calling All Ancestors of Christ to the Feast of His Nativity

By Fr Dan Kovalak

A poem, in the style of "Twas the Night Before Christmas," discussing both our liturgical and personal, spiritual preparation for the feast of the Nativity of Christ.

**Twas the second Sunday before Christmas, and all
through the temple
Holy Ancestors of Jesus begin to assemble.**

**Their witness and love since the time of creation
now bids them "rejoice" in this cosmic celebration.**

**Justified by faith, both the great and the least,
now form a synaxis to partake of the feast**



Penteco st Activitie

To the Teacher:

S Here are three activities for the season of Pascha to Pentecost. One of them, *Word Scramble*, is for younger students. *Match That Number* is for intermediate students, and *Thinking about Pentecost* is for preteens or younger teens. An answer sheet with notes is included. The notes will give you directions for using the activities, and should answer any questions you have.

We have suggested several crafts to go along with the activities. Some of these might be done by several age groups working together—the older students helping the younger ones.

The Revised Standard Version of the Bible is the only one we have used in preparing the activities. Make sure to have Bibles on hand.

We hope you and your students will enjoy these activities. If you have printable activities you would like to share with other teachers, please send them to us at christianeducation@oca.org.

Thank you.

2013 Parish Ministries Conference



July 11-13 - Marymount College



**His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon,
offered a special workshop on
teaching Scripture on the parish
level**

Blessed is the Kingdom



Orthodox Institute 2013

Antiochian Village OCTOBER 31--NOVEMBER 3, 2013

OCA DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL CHAPLAINS

Brief Metropolitan Council Report

February 6, 2014

V. Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich,

Department Director

Brief Department Highlights:

- We celebrated ten years of formal endorsement in 2013
- Please view our department webpage, www.orthinc.org linked to OCA website.
- Metropolitan TIKHON is the Orthodox Ecclesiastical Endorser for OCA clergy and laypersons who are theologically and clinically trained.
- The OCA is a member of the **Commission on Ministry in Specialized Settings (COMISS)** www.comissnetwork.org
- Fr. Steven serves as endorsing representative to COMISS, **Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies (AREB)** and credentialing bodies.

Serving Institutional Chaplains

- This department reviews and recommends endorsements for Orthodox clergy and laypersons.
 - New endorsements are institution-specific for chaplains and/or for board certification through credentialing bodies.
 - Five-year peer review updates of endorsement, as well as for those moving to new positions.
- First formal visitation, through this department, of an institutional chaplain occurred in September, 2011.
- Plans to be made for second military and institutional chaplain conference.

Institutional Chaplain Visitation



Formal visitation with Fr. Alexandre Ioukhaievskikh by Institutional Chaplain Department, together with Bishop MICHAEL: Sept. 30 Sunrise Care Center, Sheepshead Bay; Oct. 1 Holy Pokrov Cathedral (2nd St. in Manhattan, on Patronal Feast Day), including celebration of Commissioning Service.

Commissioning Service

This Commissioning Service has been prepared by the Department of Institutional Chaplains. As developed this service is intended to serve several purposes:

It can be used to set apart faithful laypersons and/or clergy in (his, her, their) parish community who have completed:

Theological formation in the form of a Master of Divinity Degree
Four units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)
who have requested endorsement from the Metropolitan, through the Department of Institutional Chaplains, to minister in a specific institutional setting such as a hospital, hospice, long-term care, and many other settings.

It can also be used as a formal step in the process of an Orthodox Institutional Chaplain completing the above requirements and subsequently seeking to be certified by a national credentialing body. As above, this service precedes formal endorsement. This is especially true for laypersons who have not been previously set apart by ordination.

The emblem on the front cover is a reprint of a Commissioning Pin developed also by the Department of Institutional Chaplains.

Orthodox Church in America Institutional Chaplain Commissioning Service



Department of Institutional Chaplains

With the Blessing of Metropolitan
JONAH February 2010

Chaplain Commissioning

Jessica D'Angio and Larisa Waya, January 2012, Boston



Danny Partin, 2013
Kentucky



Serving the Church

- Institutional Chaplains participate in the life of their respective parishes, and aid in mentoring those interested in ministry. The fruits of their ministry are returned to the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.
- Institutional Chaplain Department is collaborating with the Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid in developing ***Compassion-in-Action: Parish Ministry Training***.
- Institutional Chaplains aid in teaching about care in hospitals, long-term care settings, corrections, and other settings, attend church conferences, and aid in preparing seminarians interested in CPE.

Consultation with national OCF leadership

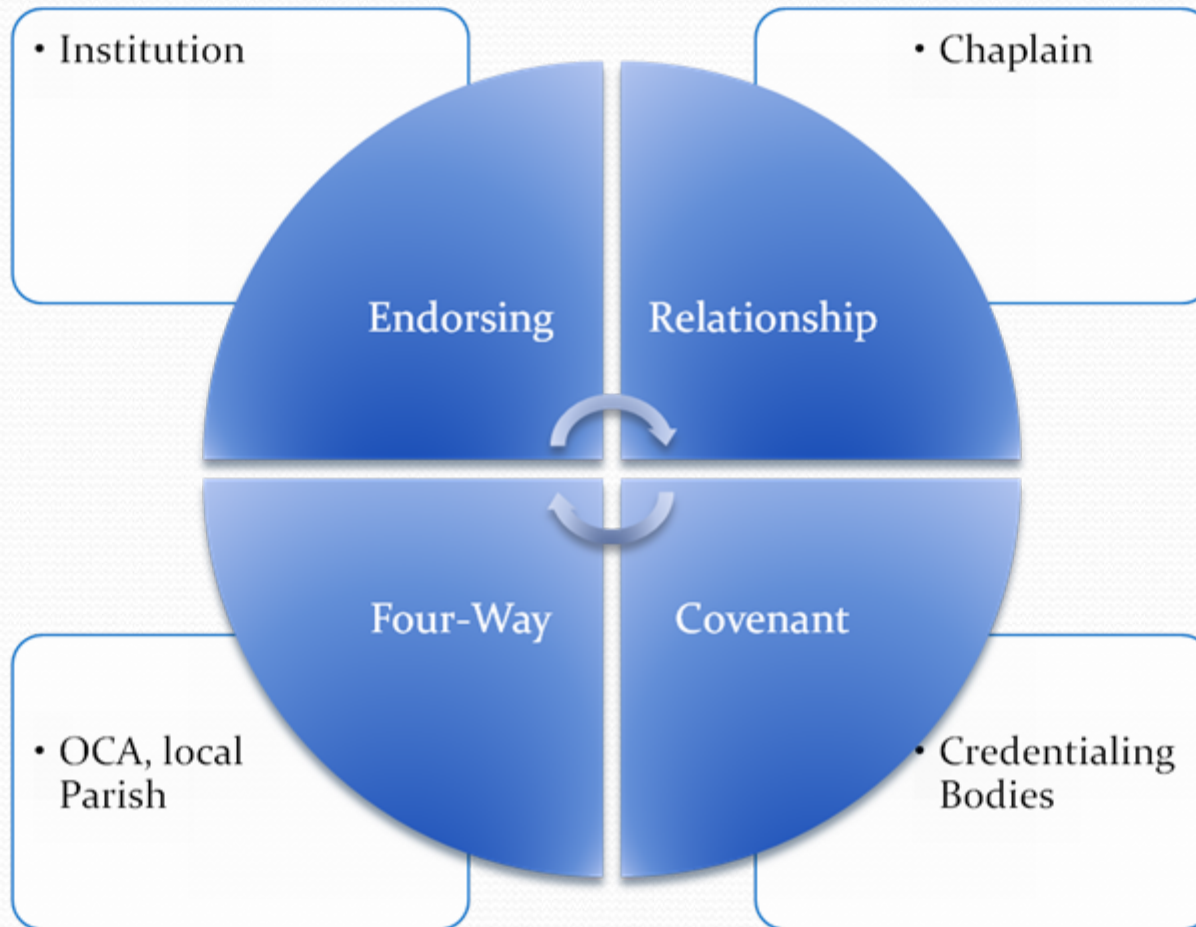
In March 2013 Fr. Steven met with multi-jurisdictional gathering of Orthodox Campus Fellowship. The focus was on developing ministry within college OCF's and was an incredible first meeting!



Representation in Greater Pastoral Care and Counseling Community

- Department represented by members at conferences and church gatherings (Ex. Parish Ministries Conference).
- Fr. Steven is past Chair of **Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies**, a body composed of endorsers from a multitude of Faith Traditions. This body actively reinforces the significance of the relationships between faith traditions and credentialing bodies as related to chaplains serving in institutional settings.
- Fr. Steven attended International Congresses for Pastoral Care and Counseling: 1999 Accra, 2004 Bangalore, 2007 Poland, 2011 New Zealand www.icpcc.net

Endorsing Relationship



Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies (AREB)

Chaplain endorsers from many faith traditions gather annually to learn from one another and share best practices.

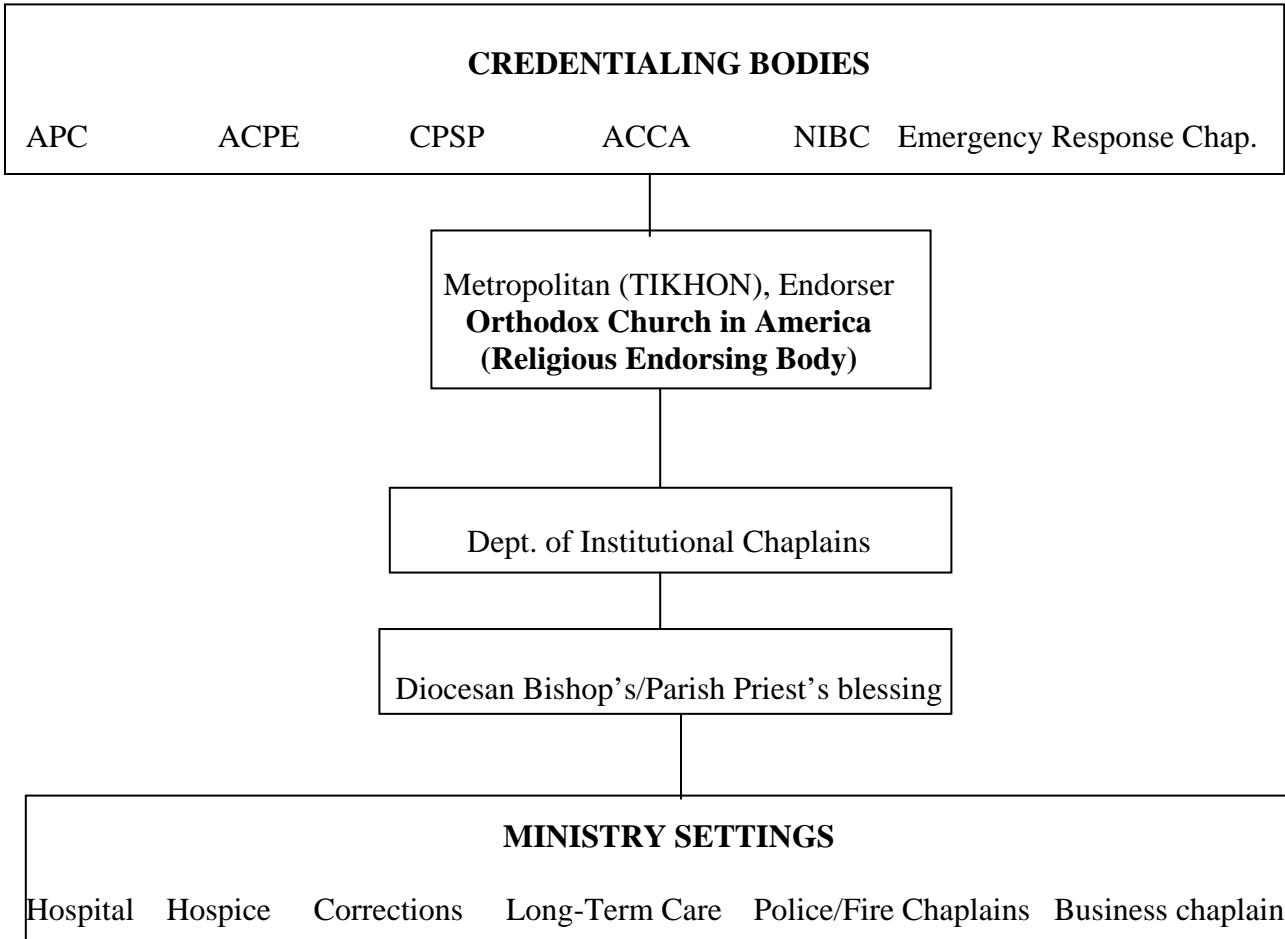
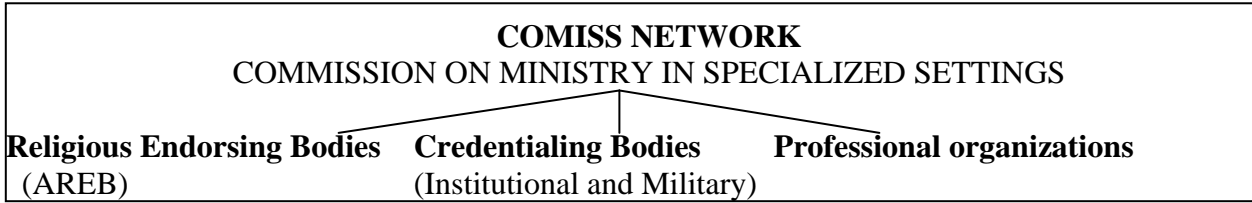


Conclusion

- It has been an honor to serve in the capacity of department director as these events have already gone far beyond my expectations of what might be possible!
- Department members include priests, deacons, lay men and women. Those certified have completed an M.Div., at least 1600 hours of supervised ministry training, and fulfill continuing education requirements.
- For questions, please e-mail:
institutionalchaplains@oca.org

INSTITUTIONAL CHAPLAINCY DEPARTMENT

(Connecting institutional chaplaincies with credentialing bodies and ministry settings)



Those ordained and not ordained are in various **ministry settings**. In order to function in these settings and to be certified in various credentialing bodies within COMISS, one needs to be endorsed. Our current process includes blessing of diocesan bishop as part of application, which is reviewed by credentialed OCA chaplains. Recommendation made for endorsement, completed by Metropolitan. Director of Department fields both requests for endorsement and guides those applying. Metropolitan is endorser for both institutional and military chaplains, so Metropolitan TIKHON, Fr. Boback for military chaplains, and Fr. Voytovich for institutional chaplains are listed with COMISS.

COMISS Network:
The Network on
Ministry in
Specialized Settings



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[Pastoral Care Week](#)

COMISS Network Member Organizations:

Orthodox Church in America

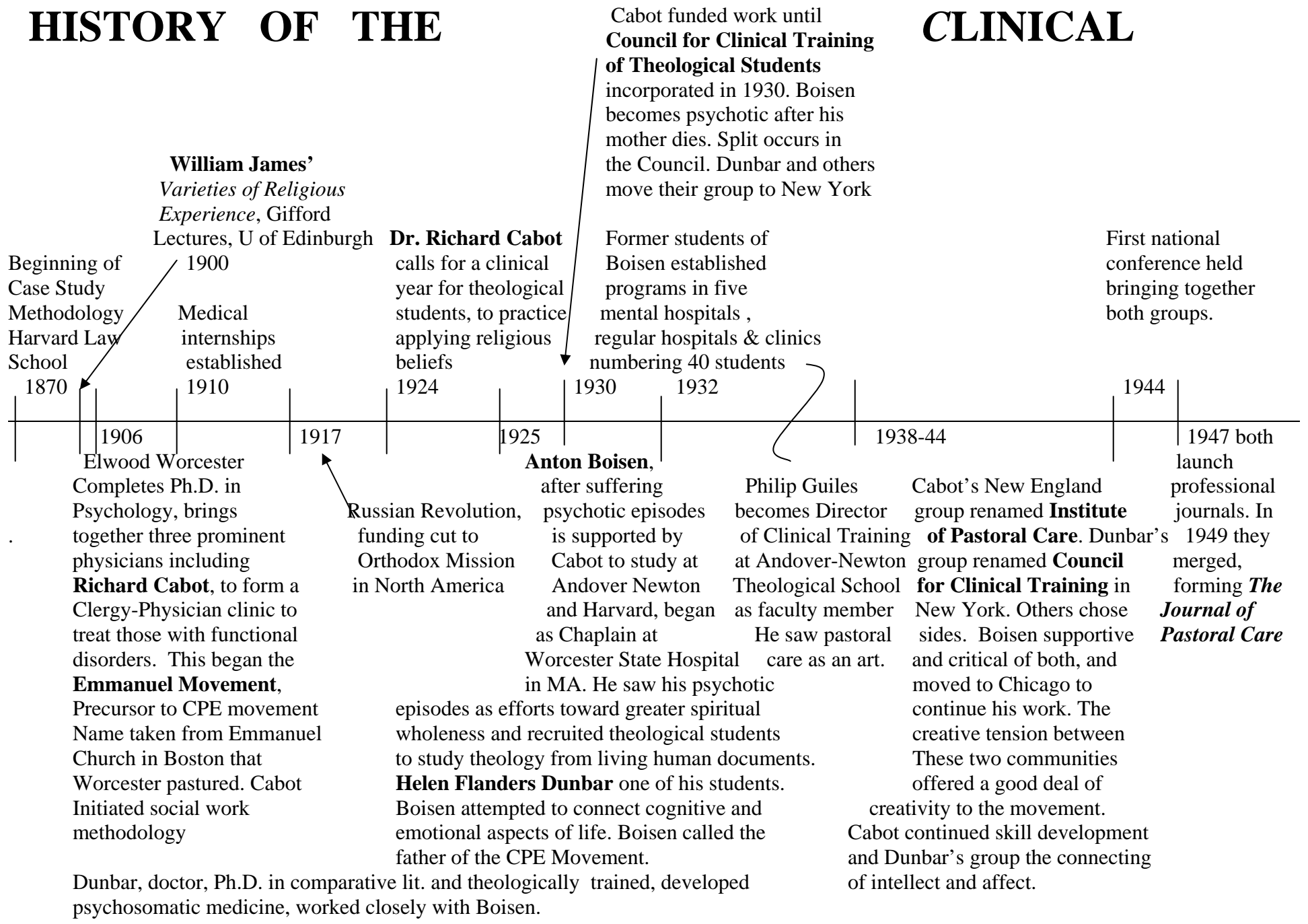
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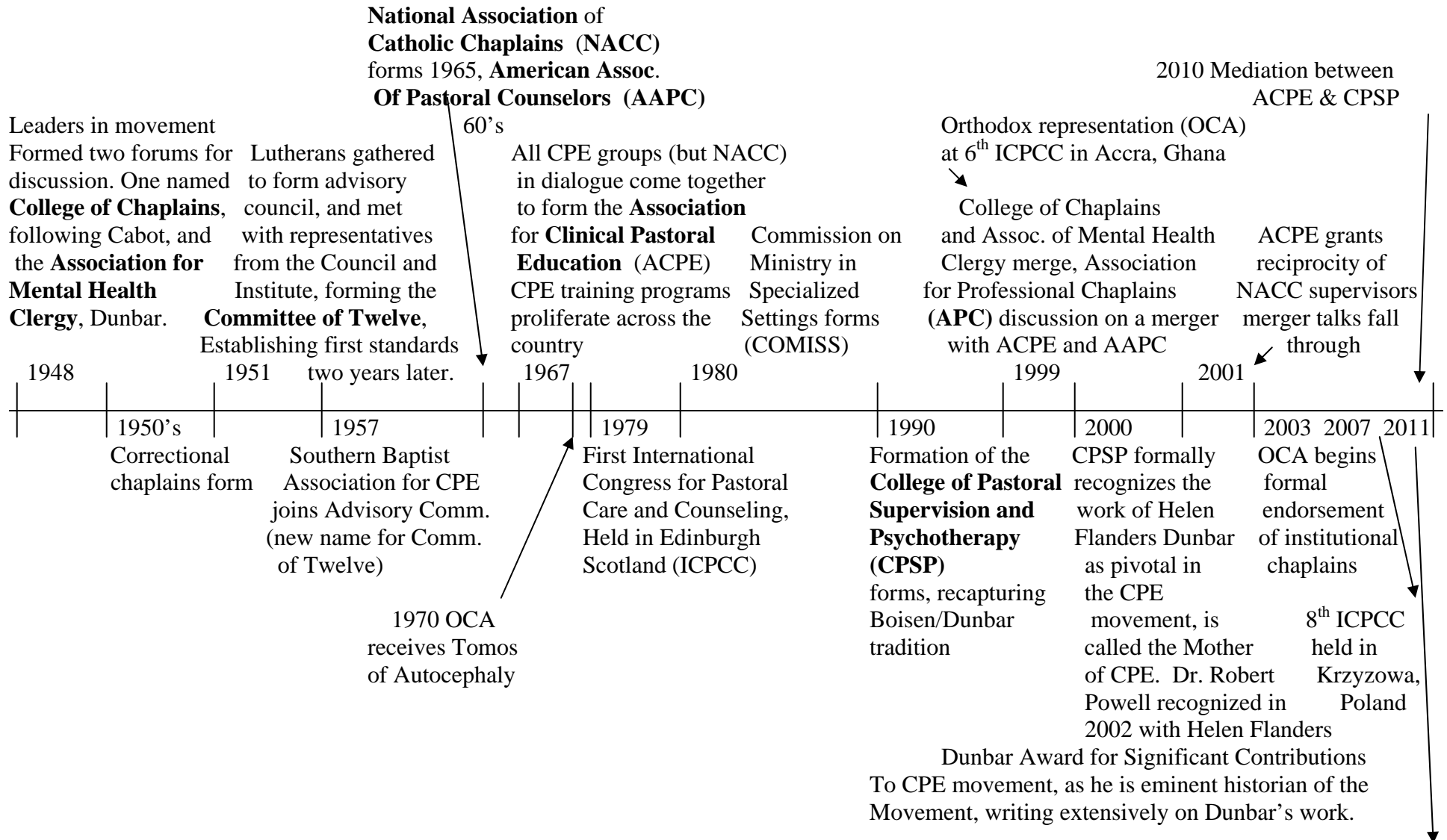
HISTORY OF THE

CLINICAL



PASTORAL

EDUCATION MOVEMENT



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2011, ICPCC, New Zealand, and first formal Institutional Chaplain Visitation