



**Metropolitan Council Meeting
Spring 2021
Reports**



Meeting of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America

Wednesday, February 24, 2021
Wednesday, March 3, 2021
conducted by video conference

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Call to Order (February 24, 2021)

This is the first meeting of the regular Spring 2021 Session of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America, which is meeting under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon. We are meeting today, Wednesday, February 24, 2021, and, by the grace of God, plan to continue this session next Wednesday, March 3, 2021. If the Metropolitan Council is not able to complete its business as indicated on the agenda during the two dates scheduled, His Beatitude will call for another meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2021. Our meetings will be held via teleconference due to the continued public health crisis.

I note at the outset today that, thanks to the work of Priest Alessandro Margheritino and Archpriest John Schroedel, all the materials for the Metropolitan Council have been posted and made available in a designated folder for the Metropolitan Council on Box.com. Every member of the Metropolitan Council has been contacted and asked to accept the invitation to join this account and thus have access to all the documents for this meeting. If you are experiencing any difficulties logging on or accessing these materials, please contact Fr. Alessandro. Moving forward, we will continue the use of the virtual folder on Box to post and upload materials for our meetings. I further anticipate that we will begin uploading materials from previous meetings of the Metropolitan Council also.

Review of Agenda (February 24, 2021)

In the course of our meeting today, after the Roll Call, we will be called upon to approve the minutes of the Regular Fall 2020 Session that met on August 27, September 16, September 17, and November 4. In a slight change to the agenda, we will consider the minutes of the Special Session of the Metropolitan Council that was held on November 19, 2020, at our meeting next week, Wednesday, March 3.

After we consider the approval of these minutes, His Beatitude will offer his report to the Metropolitan Council. After this report, Ray Steeb and Gregory Honshul will provide us with an update on the sale of the Westwood Property. Deacon Peter Ilchuk will then give a report on the plans for the 20th All-American Council. After him, the Pension Plan Administrator, Mr. Michael Stieglitz, will update the Metropolitan Council on the status of the plan. The Metropolitan Council will also have to reconsider the resolution that was put forward at the Spring 2020 Session of the Metropolitan Council to petition the Holy Synod to form a joint committee,

made up of members of the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council that would investigate and then seek ways to enforce the synodal mandate for full clergy participation in the Pension Plan. Fr. Nicholas Solak will then present an updated on the Thriving in Ministry program. Fr. Nicholas will then be joined by His Grace Bishop Alexis in order for them to make a proposal for funding a series of Clergy Health Synaxes. Finally, Fr. Alessandro Margheritino, Acting Secretary, will make his first report to the Metropolitan Council, and discuss the recent meetings of SMPAC, the Archives Advisory Committee, the different tech upgrades at the Chancery, and review the recent publications of the Orthodox Church in America. Fr. Alessandro will raise the question of the annual desk calendar. The Metropolitan Council will have an opportunity to discuss a) whether we want to continue publishing it, b) ways we might want to amend it, and c) how we might go about finding additional sponsors for it.

His Beatitude will conclude our meeting today with any concluding remarks he might want to make and then with a prayer.

Please note that for the exclusive purpose of assisting the recording secretary with the taking, we are recording this meeting.

We have met via GoToMeeting and Zoom for almost a year now, and, I expect, we are consequently more used to meeting in this manner. Nevertheless, I want to remind us that everyone should be sure that they will have time to speak and be heard. We can schedule further meetings, if needed, for example. As always, I would only ask that we hold on to questions until a speaker has finished, or I have called for questions. Please use the features available to us in Zoom, and, if needed, use raise your hand, your virtual hand, or use the chat feature.

Roll Call

During our meeting today, we have with us a number of guests: Priest Alessandro Margheritino, Acting Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America; Judge E.R. Lanier, General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America; and Alexis Liberovksy, Archivist of the Orthodox Church in America, who will take minutes of our meeting. During the course of our meeting, we will also be joined by His Grace Bishop Alexis of Bethesda, locum tenens of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska, Archpriest Nicholas Solak, Deacon Peter Ilchuk, Council Manager, and Mr. Michael Stieglitz, Pension Plan Administrator.

[Take Roll Call]

Approval of Minutes – Regular Fall 2020 Session

The minutes of the regular Fall 2020 Session of the Metropolitan Council, which was held August 27, September 16, September 17, and November 4, have been posted online at oca.org, and were distributed via email by Fr. Alessandro on Monday, December 7, 2020. As distributed, are there any corrections?

If there are no (further) corrections, the minutes of the regular Fall 2020 Session of the Metropolitan Council, which was held August 27, September 16, September 17, and November 4, 2020, and which were distributed via email on Monday, December 7, 2020, are approved.

Tentative Agenda – Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 1:00-3:30 pm EST

1. Opening Prayer
2. Call to Order – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
3. Review of Agenda – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
4. Roll Call – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Fall 2020 Session of the Metropolitan Council
6. Report of the Metropolitan – His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon
7. Property Committee – Ray Steeb and Gregory Honshul
8. 20th All-American Council – Dn. Peter Ilchuk
9. Pension Board – Mr. Michael Stieglitz
10. Thriving in Ministry – Archpriest Nicholas Solak
11. Clergy Health Synaxis Proposal – His Grace Bishop Alexis and Archpriest Nicholas Solak
12. Report of the Acting Secretary – Priest Alessandro Margheritino
13. Concluding Remarks – His Beatitude
14. Prayer – His Beatitude

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Looking ahead to our meeting on **Wednesday, March 3, 2021**, we have the following tentative agenda:

Tentative Agenda – Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 1:00-3:30 pm EST

1. Opening Prayer
2. Call to Order – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
3. Review of Agenda – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
4. Roll Call – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
5. Report of the Metropolitan – His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon
6. Report of the Chancellor – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
7. Legal Report – Judge Lanier and David Lane
8. Report of the Treasurer (presentation of a. financials, b. investments, c. internal audit, d. amended 2021 Budget, and e. final report on Stewards donations) – Mr. Andrew Smith
9. Department Updates – Archpriest Thomas Soroka
10. Internal Metropolitan Council matters
11. Concluding Remarks – His Beatitude
12. Closing Prayer – His Beatitude



**MINUTES
2020 Fall Session of
the Metropolitan Council
of the Orthodox Church in America**

**Thursday, August 27, 2020
Wednesday, September 16 – Thursday, September 17, 2020
Wednesday, November 4, 2020
conducted by video conference**

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

PARTICIPANTS

CHAIRMAN

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon

CHURCH OFFICERS (*EX OFFICIO*)

Archpriest Alexander Rentel, *Chancellor*

Andrew Smith, *Treasurer*

MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL

Archpriest Antonio Perdomo

Katherine Vitko

Archpriest Thomas Moore

Lynnell Brunswig

Archpriest Kirill Sokolov

Mark Linnehan

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Diocese of Alaska

Archpriest David Askoak (except 9/16-17/2020)

Albanian Archdiocese

Archpriest Dennis Rhodes (except 11/4/2020)

Donna Dimitri

Bulgarian Diocese

Priest Gabriel Bilas

Bogdan Popescu

Archdiocese of Canada

Protodeacon Jesse Isaac

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky

Sharon Shingara (except 11/4/2020)

Diocese of the Midwest

Archpriest Elijah Mueller

Robert Graban

Diocese of New England

Priest Theophan Whitfield

Michael Danchak

Diocese of New York/New Jersey

Archimandrite Joseph (Hoffman)
(except 11/4/2020)

James P. Kornafel

Diocese of the South

Archpriest Joseph Ciarciaglino

Christopher Lewis

Archdiocese of Washington

Archpriest Valery Shemchuk

Gregory Honshul

Diocese of the West

Archpriest Michael Anderson (11/4/2020 only)

David Lane, Esq.

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Priest Nikolai Breckenridge

Ray Steeb (except 11/4/2020)

ABSENT (for all meetings unless otherwise indicated)

Archimandrite Joseph (Hoffman) (Diocese of New York/New Jersey) – 11/4/2020

Archpriest Michael Anderson (Diocese of the West) - 8/27 & 9/16-17/2020

Archpriest David Askoak (Diocese of Alaska) – 9/16-17/2020

Archpriest Dennis Rhodes (Albanian Archdiocese) – 11/4/2020

Dorothy Chaney (Diocese of Alaska)

Mark Petasky (Archdiocese of Canada)

Sharon Shingara (Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania) - 11/4/2020

GUESTS (for all meetings unless otherwise indicated)

Archpriest Thomas Soroka (Project Manager for the Departments) – 9/17/2020

Priest Alessandro Margheritino (Executive Assistant) – 9/16-17 & 11/4/2020

Deacon Peter Ilchuk (All-American Council Manager) – 8/27 & 9/17/2020

Stephanie Crocenzi, CPA (external auditor from Satty, Levine & Ciacco, CPAs, P.C.) – 9/17/2020

Judge E.R. Lanier (OCA General Counsel)

Alexis Liberovsky (Recording Secretary)

Frank Lou, CPA (external auditor from Satty, Levine & Ciacco, CPAs, P.C.) – 9/17/2020

Susan Wisnewski (Accounting Manager) - 8/27 & 9/16-17/2020

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

A. Call to Order

Metropolitan Tikhon opened the session with prayer and called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

B. Agenda: Introduction (attached) & Roll Call

Father Alexander Rentel reviewed the agenda for the meeting and conducted the roll call.

C. Metropolitan's Report (attached)

Metropolitan Tikhon presented his attached report in which he particularly highlighted the agenda items for the meeting, including an update on the Church's finances and the appointment of a new member of the Auditing Committee, consideration of a motion from the Property Committee to engage a realtor in order to sell Westwood (the OCA Chancery property), as well as an update on planning for the 20th All-American Council including consideration of possible postponement of the Council until 2022. He stressed that all of these issues involve our stewardship for the Church, manifested in various ways.

D. Treasurer's Report (attached)

Andrew Smith, OCA Treasurer, highlighted his attached report including audited financial statements for 2019 (attachment A) and a preliminary accounting of the Church's financial situation for the first six months of 2020 (attachment B), which indicated the stability of the Church's finances in the wake of the pandemic. Mr. Smith noted that this was in part due to lower than anticipated expenses. He also reported that the Orthodox Church in America was able to obtain funding from the Paycheck Protection Program of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress in March 2020 (attachment C). After discussion, it was decided to defer further consideration of this funding and related issues to the next meeting of the Metropolitan Council.

- D.1. MOTION LANE/CIARCIAGLINO – To table further discussion of the Paycheck Protection Program including appropriate disposition of surplus monies remaining from this funding to the next meeting of the Metropolitan Council in September. CARRIED with two (2) opposed (GRABAN, LINNEHAN) and two (2) abstentions (BILAS, ISAAC).**

In view of the resignation of Auditing Committee member Dimitri Pletz last year, Mr. Smith reported on the careful search conducted to fill this vacancy (attachment D). He then proposed Ms. Maha Adranly (attachment E) for membership in the Auditing Committee and requested authorization for the upcoming internal audit to be conducted virtually.

- D.2. MOTION SMITH/VITKO - In accordance with Article V, Section 9 of the OCA Statute, to appoint Maha Adranly as a new member of the internal Auditing Committee and to authorize staff to work with the Internal Auditing Committee to conduct an audit in the 4th Quarter of 2020 virtually, due to the coronavirus pandemic. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

To conclude the Treasurer's report, Mr. Smith offered a preliminary glimpse at the tentative 2021 budget (attachment F), which will continue to be refined in the coming weeks, and will be formally presented to the Council for approval at its next meeting in September.

E. Property Committee (attached)

Ray Steeb, Cochairman of the Property Committee, began his oral presentation by introducing for approval the following resolution from the Committee together with the attached listing agreement contract indicated in the resolution.

- E.1. MOTION STEEB/VITKO – To adopt the following resolution as presented by the Property Committee:**
Whereas, the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America, voted to carry the motion made by LANE/STEEB at the February 2020 meeting, mandating the following actions:
- **Efforts shall be made immediately towards the sale of the Chancery property.**
 - **Efforts shall be made immediately to determine a location to house the offices of the OCA Chancery administration.**
 - **Efforts shall be made immediately to determine a location for the residence of the Metropolitan, and**
 - **Efforts shall be made immediately to determine a location to house the OCA archives.**

Whereas, the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America, further voted to carry the motion at the June 2020 meeting;

Whereas, The Property Committee, duly organized for the above stated purposes, proceeded to identify prospective Real Estate Brokers and request that they submit their sale plans and strategies;

Whereas, The Property Committee identified required characteristics of a successful real estate firm whose qualifications will include provision of excellent customer service, have a national and local presence, be technology and data driven, and develop a marketing strategy that will maximize financial return in a timely manner;

Whereas, The Property Committee has discussed the Chancery sale prospect with three candidates and further auditioned two agents, including review of submitted written plans;

Whereas, The Property Committee, has identified an agent who meets the above stated criteria and terms, now recommends Broker Fran Mazer and Team, representing Compass Realty;

Whereas, The Legal Committee has completed review of contractual documents;

Whereas, The Property Committee now recommends that the Orthodox Church in America engage Fran Mazer and Team, for a term period of 9 months, at the list price of \$6,500,000.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America directs the Orthodox Church in America, by the Metropolitan or his designee to engage Fran Mazer and Team, representing Compass Realty, to execute the final documents, attached and incorporated as Exhibit A. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

In discussion of the motion, Ray Steeb outlined the three independent and possibly diverging aspects of relocation that would result from the sale of Westwood (the current Chancery property): a) Archives, b) Metropolitan's residence, c) Chancery offices. He stressed that each of these interrelated facets is being considered as a separate project. Mr. Steeb also reported on the various considerations in selecting a realtor to market the property and possible marketing strategy. He noted that it would likely be more advantageous to sell to an individual rather than a corporate entity that would seek to develop the property. In view of accountability and transparency before the entire Church, it was suggested that the reasoning for selling the property and the steps of the process being undertaken toward the sale be more prominently publicized on the OCA website.

F. 20th All-American Council

Deacon Peter Ilchuk, Council Manager, delivered an oral report with a PowerPoint presentation on preparations for the 20th All-American Council (AAC) scheduled for July 26-31, 2021 in Baltimore, MD. He reported on the various difficulties and obstacles for the Council due to the pandemic. These include safety measures that would have to be put in place. He indicated that the Baltimore Hilton, where the 20th All-American Council is scheduled to be held has not yet reopened to the public. He suggested that the Church might consider postponing the Council or conducting a Council with limited attendance and other restrictions in 2021. However, this hotel has no openings in 2022. In deliberations, it was suggested that the possibility of a virtual All-American Council should also be considered. Deacon Peter indicated the need to further discuss some new factors with hotel management regarding possible postponement and rescheduling of the All-American Council. The Metropolitan Council decided to defer any decision on the possible postponement of the 20th All-American Council until its next meeting in September.

G. Adjournment

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon adjourned the first meeting of the Fall Session of the Metropolitan Council with a closing prayer at 9:18 PM. The Fall Session will reconvene on September 16-17.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

2-A. Call to Order

Metropolitan Tikhon opened the meeting with prayer and called the gathering to order at 1:05 PM

2-B. Agenda: Introduction (attached) & Roll Call

Father Alexander Rentel reviewed the agenda for the meeting and conducted the roll call.

2-C. Metropolitan's Report (attached)

Metropolitan Tikhon presented his attached report highlighting the life of the Church and his own ministry since the Spring Session of the Metropolitan Council in February, especially in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. He commended everyone for their labors in adjusting to new circumstances resulting from the pandemic, particularly the chancery staff led by Archpriest Alexander Rentel, OCA Chancellor. He indicated the staffing changes taking place at the Chancery, including the departure of his longtime personal secretary, Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak, and the appointment of Deacon John Thetford to that position. His Beatitude reported on his two recent archpastoral visits in the Albanian Archdiocese and the Diocese of New England for the celebration of memorial services marking the first anniversary of the repose of Archbishop Nikon (Liolin). In his account of the Church's external contacts in recent months, he noted his phone contacts in the spring with Patriarchs Bartholomew of Constantinople and Kirill of Moscow, as well as increased activity in the work of the Executive Committee of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the USA, which is taking place virtually. He announced that in addition to his written reflection, posted on the OCA website earlier this week, on the upcoming sale of Westwood, the building housing his residence and the OCA Chancery, he is also preparing video reflections on this and other topics. His Beatitude answered questions from Council members and wide-ranging discussion took place.

H. Chancellor's Report (attached)

Archpriest Alexander Rentel, OCA Chancellor, began his attached report by reviewing various aspects of the Church's Covid-19 response, personnel matters and staffing changes.

H.1. MOTION HOJNICKI/BRECKENRIDGE - To move into executive session. CARRIED.

A confidential personnel matter was discussed in executive session.

H.2. MOTION BRECKENRIDGE/LANE – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

Continuing his report, Fr. Alexander discussed the postponement of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the granting of autocephaly to the Orthodox Church in America and the glorification of St. Herman of Alaska, as well as the efforts being undertaken toward the relocation of the OCA Chancery and Archives and noted the recent meeting of the Archives Advisory Committee.

2-E. Property Committee

Ray Steeb, Cochairman of the Property Committee, provided an oral update. He reported that in fulfillment of the decision by the Metropolitan Council on August 27, the approved contract with the realtor was signed on August 31 and the Westwood property was listed for sale. Mr. Steeb indicated that the listing with photos may be viewed online and that several interested individuals have already visited the property for onsite viewing or will be coming in the next few days. Discussion ensued.

2-D. Treasurer's Report (attached)

Andrew Smith, OCA Treasurer, highlighted his attached report including audited financial statements for 2019 (attachment A) and comprehensive reports on the Church's finances for the first six months of 2020 (attachment B). The Council also continued discussion of the funds received by the OCA through the Paycheck Protection Program of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress in March 2020. Mr. Smith indicated that the 2021 budget would be submitted for approval by the Metropolitan Council at its next meeting in October. He also noted that in accordance with the motion adopted by the Metropolitan Council at its previous meeting in August authorizing a virtual internal audit, it would be scheduled soon with the Auditing Committee.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 3:11 PM.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

3-A. Call to Order

After prayer led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, he called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. Fr. Rentel reviewed the agenda for the day.

2-D. Treasurer's Report (attached) – continued

Mr. Smith introduced Frank Lou, CPA from Satty, Levine & Ciacco, CPAs, P.C., the present external auditing firm for the Orthodox Church in America, who delivered the attached PowerPoint presentation to report on the recently conducted audit of OCA finances for 2019. He indicated a clean opinion from his firm and commended the timeliness and accuracy of the OCA financial records and operations. He then responded to questions from Council members.

2-D.1. MOTION SMITH/GRABAN – To accept as presented the external audit report for 2019 from Satty, Levine & Ciacco, CPAs, P.C. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

I. OCA Departments update (attached)

Archpriest Thomas Soroka delivered the attached report detailing his initial work as the recently appointed Project Manager of the Departments of the Orthodox Church in America. He outlined his vision and strategies for productive and cost efficient work by the OCA departments and provided updates on current departmental work. He indicated that department activities going forward would be project oriented and highlighted the approved projects currently undertaken by each department. Father Thomas also announced steps to streamline and unify the web presence of OCA departments. Finally, he briefly reported on his ongoing project coordinating the creation of a new adult catechism, consisting of 16 one-hour long lessons, including a catechist's guide, a catechumen's guide, PowerPoint slides, and a list of accompanying online resources. Extensive discussion ensued particularly regarding liturgical texts and music.

2-F. 20th All-American Council

Deacon Peter Ilchuk, All-American Council Manager, provided an oral update with a PowerPoint presentation on preparations for the 20th All-American Council highlighting a variety of complex issues and obstacles for convening the Council as scheduled due to the pandemic. After thorough consideration and discussion of all issues, including the changing and unpredictable circumstances related to the pandemic, a straw poll among Council members indicated a majority in favor of deferring for the time being any decision on the possibility of postponing the 20th All-American Council. This course of action was then affirmed.

2-G. Adjournment (attached)

Fr. Rentel indicated that the next and likely final meeting of the Metropolitan Council's Fall Session would take place by video conference during the third week of October and that the main issues for consideration would be the OCA budget for 2021, a report on the Pension Plan with proposed amendments from the Pension Board, as well as further updates and discussion regarding the 20th All-American Council.

Metropolitan Tikhon delivered his attached concluding remarks in which he expressed encouragement for the Metropolitan Council and the Church to continue moving forward in uncertain times. He added some comments on the relocation of the chancery and closed the meeting with prayer at 3:38 PM.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020

4-A. Call to Order

After prayer led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, he called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

3-B. Agenda: Introduction (attached) & Roll Call

Father Alexander Rentel reviewed the agenda for the meeting and conducted the roll call. He noted that this meeting had been originally scheduled for October 21, but was postponed due to the repose and funeral of retired OCA Primate, Metropolitan Theodosius (Lazor).

J. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (attached)

Father Rentel presented for approval the attached draft minutes of the regular Spring Session of the Metropolitan Council on February 5-6, 2020 and the Extraordinary Session on March 31, 2020. The minutes of both sessions were approved by consensus as presented.

3-C. Metropolitan's Report (attached)

Metropolitan Tikhon began his attached report by expressing hopes for a productive meeting. Among recent events in the life of the Church, he particularly noted the funeral of Metropolitan Theodosius, where he had presided, the grave illness of Archbishop David of Alaska and the serious condition of former Metropolitan Council member, Gregory Nescott. He asked for prayers for them and all who are ill, especially those afflicted by the pandemic. He then offered his perspective on key agenda items for this meeting.

3-E. Property Committee (attached)

Gregory Honshul, Cochairman of the Property Committee, presented the attached report to update the Council on efforts to sell Westwood, the property where the Metropolitan's residence and OCA Chancery are located, since a contract with a realtor was signed on August 31. He detailed marketing strategies being undertaken by the realtor and noted that there have been several showings for both developers and an individual who wishes to renovate the building as a residence, but no offers have been received. Metropolitan Tikhon suggested that that Church-wide discussion regarding the sale of Westwood should be encouraged and that the historical significance of the property should be memorialized. Questions and discussion ensued.

K. Legal matters (attached)

Judge E.R. Lanier, OCA General Counsel, presented the attached joint report of the Legal Committee of the Metropolitan Council and the General Counsel. He noted litigation involving the Church and other legal matters of concern. He expressed particular satisfaction with OCA involvement in the Committee for Legal Matters of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, which is chaired by

Archbishop Michael. The Committee has been active this year in advising and assisting with issues related to the pandemic. He also reported that he had recently presented a lecture to students at St. Vladimir's Seminary.

L. Presentation of 2021 Budget (attached)

The Church's proposed budget for 2021 was presented and explained by OCA Treasurer, Andrew Smith. He indicated that this was strictly the operating budget of the Central Church Administration and does not take into account expenses for the All-American Council, which entails its own budget, and does not include possible expenses associated with the sale of Westwood. Any changes in circumstances, including those related to the pandemic, which might entail revisions to the budget will be presented to the Council for budgetary amendments during its next meeting. After questions and discussion, a motion was made to adopt the budget as presented.

L.1. MOTION VITKO/DANCHAK – To approve the proposed 2021 budget as presented. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

L.2. Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) resolution (attached)

Following up on discussions at previous meetings of the Fall Session, Mr. Smith presented for approval by the Council the attached motion to authorize the Chancery Administration to pursue and submit an application for forgiveness of the loan it had received through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress in March 2020. Mr. Smith indicated that, in consultation with legal counsel, it has been ascertained that the OCA has satisfied the intent and all parameters of the program. After discussion and clarifications, the motion was adopted as follows. It was agreed that the wording of the motion implies that the application for the loan forgiveness would be submitted by the Treasurer with the knowledge and blessing of the Metropolitan and overseen by the Chancellor.

L.2.A. MOTION CIARCIAGLINO/DIMITRI – To authorize the Chancery Administration to pursue and submit an application for forgiveness of 2020 CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program loan funding. This authorization is granted to the extent that the Orthodox Church in America has satisfied the intent and parameters of the program by retaining payroll during the measurement period and incurring other allowable expenses in accordance with the most recent available guidance from the Small Business Administration. CARRIED with one (1) opposed (LINNEHAN) and two (2) abstentions (BILAS, ISAAC).

M. Church Planting Grants (attached)

The attached proposals for Church Planting Grant funding in 2021 totaling \$68,000, prepared by Father Thomas Soroka, Project Manager for OCA Departments, who was unable to participate in the meeting, were presented to the Council for approval by Father Alessandro Margheritino, Executive Assistant. Father Rentel stated that after approval at this meeting, the proposals would be submitted to the Holy Synod for final confirmation. The proposals were approved as presented.

M.1. MOTION BRECKENRIDGE/HOJNICKI - To approve funding for three planting grants in 2021 as presented totaling \$68,000. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

N. OCA Archives Relocation (attached)

Fathers Rentel and Margheritino presented the attached memorandum with an attached proposed resolution regarding the process of relocating the OCA Archives and the role of the Archives Advisory Committee and its role in launching this process by issuing Request for Proposals to parties interested in providing housing for the OCA Archives. The resolution was adopted as follows.

N.1. MOTION BRUNSWIG/MUELLER - To adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Westwood property that houses the Archives of the OCA is for sale; WHEREAS, it seems urgent to initiate the planning process for the relocation of the aforementioned Archives;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Council of the OCA directs the Archives Advisory Committee:

A. That the Metropolitan Council officially formalizes the advisory panel previously appointed by the Metropolitan known as the OCA Archives Advisory Committee. Members of the Committee are: Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Priest Alessandro Margheritino, Alexis Liberovsky, Archpriest John Erickson, Archpriest John Perich, Mat. Tamara Skvir, Dr. Anatol Shmelev, Daria Safronova-Simeonoff, Matthew Garklavs. This Committee will assist with advisory functions in respect to the relocation process and will support the work of the OCA Archivist, Alexis Liberovsky.

B. To issue a Request For Proposals (RFP) from interested parties that would:

- a. Provide support and assistance to the OCA Archivist, Alexis Liberovsky, for the curation and storage of the OCA Archives;**
- b. Provide appropriate storage services for the OCA Archives;**
- c. Provide display/access to OCA archives as needed/requested.**

C. To set up the necessary criteria for the RFP, specifying that:

- a. The OCA always owns all archival materials and information submitted for storage services;**
- b. The OCA is always consulted on the disposal of any submitted archival materials or information;**
- c. The OCA can at any time take over the management, curation and/or storage services of its archives. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3-G. Adjournment (attached)

Fr. Rentel noted that while this year's events to celebrate the 50th anniversaries of the granting of autocephaly to the Orthodox Church in America and the glorification of Saint Herman of Alaska had to be postponed, he reported that the new edition of "A Commemorative List of the Departed Servants of Orthodoxy in North America" will soon be published and that this will allow for ongoing prayerful remembrance of those who came before us, which is a fitting way to mark the anniversaries. He indicated a new feature on the main page of the OCA website, which is a constantly updated listing of upcoming events, which is especially useful in view of often changing scheduling circumstances due to the pandemic.

Metropolitan Tikhon delivered his attached closing remarks (included at the end of the text of his attached report for this meeting) in which he expressed appreciation for the amount of work accomplished during the Fall Session of the Metropolitan Council and conveyed his gratitude for the ongoing efforts of Council members and OCA Chancery staff. After leading the Council in prayer, he declared the Fall Session of the Metropolitan Council adjourned at 3:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL MEETING

SPRING 2021

FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting is being convened electronically via Zoom and is not taking place in person. At least one more session of the Spring meeting is scheduled (March 3, 2021), with a third under consideration.

REPORT OF THE METROPOLITAN

1. *Welcome.* I welcome all of you to the first session of the Spring Meeting of the Metropolitan Council. It is good to see all of you on my screen as we look forward to the possibility of meeting once again in person.
2. *COVID Update.* While it is not yet time to celebrate the conclusion of the pandemic and the restoration to full and normal life throughout society, there are certainly signs of improvement. This gives me hope for the life of the Church—and not because of the present decline in COVID cases and deaths, or the growing availability of vaccines, though these developments are certainly encouraging. I myself received the first dose of the vaccine two weeks ago and am scheduled for the second dose next Tuesday. Rather, what gives me hope is the fact that, over the past year, the life of the Church has flourished in ways that perhaps she has not flourished in recent decades. I certainly do not want to diminish the reality of the tragedy of the pandemic which has affected us in countless ways. But through all the tragedy, I have been most impressed and moved by the degree of dedication, perseverance, and pastoral initiative taken by our bishops, our clergy, our monastics, and our faithful. In the past month, I have been receiving a steady stream of letters of concern from various quarters urging me to take any number of actions: to abandon my fear of the civil authorities, to stop preventing people from taking communion, to take a stronger political stand against the pandemic restrictions, to overcome my fear of the virus by not wearing a mask myself or by not forcing parishioners to wear them, to stop abusing my priests through onerous directives that demand an unhealthy kind of obedience. While everyone is free to have an opinion, and while I do not exclude the possibility of all of these issues

arising within the life of the Church, I generally find these opinions to be completely out of touch with the reality that I have experienced over the past year. If anything, I have seen an increase in pastoral ministry, in evangelical outreach, in care for the sick, in recognition of the reality of death, in dealing with depression and loneliness. The external expression of our worship may have been slightly altered in terms of glory and attendance, but I am convinced of the internal growth and spiritual development of our clergy and faithful, growing even in the midst of the struggles.

3. *The Church.* So I am grateful to my brothers on the Holy Synod, to all the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Church for their patience, efforts, and support over the past year—in spite of the heavy emotional, physical, and spiritual toll that this has taken on all of us. I am grateful especially to the members of this Metropolitan Council for your willingness to serve the Church without the grumbling and without the complaining that has been heard, sometimes quite loudly, from other segments of the world and even within the Church. In reflecting on this, the words of the Apostle Paul come to mind, and so I offer to you, and to the rest of the Church, what he writes to the Thessalonians: “We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thes 1:3). Thank you for your faithful efforts on behalf of the Orthodox Church in America.

4. *Publications.* We will hear a more detailed report from our Acting Secretary, Fr. Alessandro, later in this meeting. But I did want to acknowledge his most excellent contributions to the work of the Chancery and make note of a few publications that the Orthodox Church in America has recently issued, in large part through his efforts:

- a. The first is the small booklet issued by the Holy Synod, *We Rejoice Even In Tribulation: An Encyclical of Hope*. This Encyclical was intended to serve as an expression of gratitude from the Holy Synod for the patience, longsuffering, and courage of our clergy, monastics, and faithful during the past difficult year, and as a source of encouragement for all of us to

persevere under the continuing challenges. Certainly, no single document can hope to fully capture the extent of the spiritual, emotional, pastoral, and physical difficulties that each of us have faced in so many complex circumstances. But it stands as a genuine expression of the Holy Synod's appreciation for, and solidarity with, the entire Church and the rest of the world. It is available as a PDF on the website of the Orthodox Church in America; every parish in the Orthodox Church in America received 5 hard copies, and each Diocesan Chancery received a box.

- b. The second is the *Desk Calendar* that has been published annually for many years. Fr. Alessandro Margheritino will lead us on a discussion of the value of continuing the printing of the *Desk Calendar*. While it remains a relied-upon resource for many, for others it has been made obsolete by other applications and electronic calendars. We would welcome any direct feedback from the members of this Council on the usefulness of the *Desk Calendar*, or suggestions for expanding or transforming it into a more useful physical resource.
- c. Finally, we were able to produce the updated *Commemorative List of the Departed Servants of Orthodoxy in North America*, which is known as the *Diptychs* of those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. As the title indicates, it contains the names of all the departed bishops, clergy, clergy wives (a newly added category), monastics, and significant laypeople of the Orthodox Church in America, from her beginnings in 1794 until today. This document was painstakingly reviewed and updated, primarily through the efforts of Barry Migyanko. It is organized both by rank and by date, and I personally have found it quite moving to offer up these names in prayer. In the earlier versions of the *Diptychs*, I did not personally know those who had come and gone so many years before me. But now I read the names of my fellow-laborers, those with whom I served, and others whom I ordained or taught in seminary.

5. *Departed Clergy.* In that light, I note with some sorrow that, since the Autumn Metropolitan Council meeting, we have added 20 new names to the *Diptychs*. I thought it would be good to mention their names here:

- Archbishop David
- Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak
- Mitred Archpriest Daniel Ressetar
- Mitred Archpriest Eugene P. Pianovich
- Archpriest John Tkachuk
- Archpriest John Chupeck
- Archimandrite Alexander [Cutler]
- Archpriest Joseph Gibson
- Archpriest Joseph Irvin
- Archpriest James Doyle
- Archpriest Rodion Pfeiffer
- Archpriest Ernesto Rios
- Archpriest John Horosky
- Protodeacon Benjamin Richards
- Protodeacon John Eby
- Matushka Elizabeth Kachur
- Matushka Eloise Lesko
- Matushka Laura Isakov
- Matushka Olga Govrusik
- Mary Eleanor Trader

Some of these succumbed to complications brought on by COVID, while others were senior clergy who had served for decades, such as the former Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak, whose contributions we should particularly acknowledge in the context of our meeting. Whatever their particular trajectory, they each offered a valuable contribution to the life and expansion of the Orthodox Church in America. While we mourn their loss, we are also grateful for their faithful service in so many different areas. As we go through Great Lent, of course, we have several opportunities to remember the departed on the appointed Soul Saturdays. I encourage all of us to offer sincere prayers for our departed loved ones, as we traditionally do, as a reminder of the hope of the resurrection. At this point, I will intone Memory Eternal and ask Fr. Dennis to sing the response.

6. *Prayers for health.* In addition, I would ask for your prayers especially for His Eminence Archbishop Alejo, who has recently been afflicted by COVID but seems to be recovering well, and for their Graces, Bishop Daniel and Bishop Alexis, who also had the virus and are now suffering some of the long-term effects. We continue to ask for prayers for our current Metropolitan Council member, Fr. Antonio, and for Gregory Nescott, a former member of this body.

7. *My travel.* Since our last meeting, I have primarily remained in residence here at the Chancery, but I did travel to St. Tikhon's Monastery for the celebration of the Nativity, to my parents' home in Elizabethtown, PA, through the civil New Year, and to Washington, DC, for a residency of several weeks. This year the Orthodox Church did not send a delegation to the annual March for Life, but several events were held virtually to mark this important date: a) on January 17, I was the main speaker at an event sponsored by Zoe For Life; b) January 24 was the date chosen as Sanctity of Life Sunday, for which I prepared a pastoral letter; c) a virtual march for life was held on January 28, which I presided at in person at St. Vladimir's Three Hierarchs Chapel, and at which several speakers participated virtually, including His Eminence Archbishop Michael and Dr. Anna Iltis; and d) St. Tikhon's Seminary hosted a day-long retreat on January 30. I am currently working on my Lenten schedule, which will include spending the First Week of Great Lent at St. Tikhon's Monastery and then dividing the rest of the time between the other Stavropegial Institutions, the Albanian Archdiocese, the Diocese of New England, and the Archdiocese of Washington, where I will be for Holy Week and Pascha.

8. *The Chancery.* This past week, I took the whole week off for some personal time, though I remained in residence at the Chancery. I was able to do this in large part because of the solid support that is offered to me by the Chancery Staff, both those who are working here in person and those who are working remotely. Under the direction of the Chancellor, Fr. Alexander Rentel, there has been a tremendous increase in efficiency of my Office and communication throughout the Church on many levels. I am grateful to Fr. Alexander and to all those who work with him on

monitoring all of these matters, especially Fr. Alessandro, Fr. Thomas Soroka, Dn. John Thetford, and Barry Migyanko.

9. *External Relations.* As is to be expected, there has been very little physical activity in the area of external relations. In terms of the larger pan-Orthodox situation, I think that the past year has provided, or perhaps forced, a healthy pause in inter-Orthodox relations, relations which have been strained of late. Whether or not such a pause can bring about a closer collaboration between the worldwide Orthodox Churches remains to be seen. However, there has been some positive direction on the local level, particularly in the work of the Executive Committee of the Assembly of Bishops of the United States. It was not until very recently that the Orthodox Church in America was even present at that table, but the pandemic has even more directly provided an opportunity for more regular meetings of the Executive Committee. Throughout 2020, these meetings were held on a weekly basis and now will be held every two weeks. But regardless of the frequency, a tangible fruit of these meetings has been not only the opportunity to get to know one another better, but to do so in a forum that allows us to at least try to hold a united position on particular subjects, such as our common response to the pandemic, which was the genesis of these weekly meetings. However, this has also translated into opportunities to discuss other ecclesiastical matters of mutual interest and, perhaps more significantly, to express real disagreements.

As you know, the Executive Committee is comprised of the heads of all Orthodox jurisdictions in the United States, but presently the Moscow Patriarchate has elected to not participate. This is reflective of a broader scenario with which all of us are familiar, and about which many of us have strong opinions. Our own Holy Synod has expressed her formal position on this matter, and it is not my intention to discuss that here. However, I will note that, even in this tense global context, I have maintained personal contact with both His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew and His Holiness Patriarch Kirill during the pandemic. I spoke with each of them at the beginning of Holy Week last year and again more recently around the time of the Feast of the Nativity. Such contacts are certainly limited in

that they do not produce immediate ecclesiastical resolution to pan-Orthodox issues, but they do allow for the Churches to maintain a degree of human and brotherly relations, which is not insignificant.

I mention this, in part, because it pains me to see the level of strife that sometimes exists among our own clergy. I don't mean to imply that this is a systemic problem, nor does it deny that there are extremely inspiring examples of clergy brotherhood and clergy cooperation throughout the Orthodox Church in America. Nor does it negate what I spoke about earlier in terms of the tremendous efforts and growth made by our clergy and faithful. What troubles me is that there seems to be an increasing infiltration of those good and blessed efforts by a kind of "spiritual fog." I don't know how to define this fog, but it finds expression in many ways, primarily those based on caricatures of ecclesiastical, political, and ideological positions to the exclusion of any real or productive dialogue. I hope that we can maintain a real clergy brotherhood and community life which are founded on a common witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and service to the Church through the Holy Mysteries. I am not saying that this is absent, but I am saying that it is being threatened by a tendency to align ourselves as clergy and as faithful with one party or another, whether this be a political party or particular website or blog. This results not just in polarization, but in fragmentation, which is deadly for our Christian witness.

10. Property Committee. Before we hear from the Committee, I thought it would be good for me to emphasize a few points:

- a. This is a question of stewardship, understood not simply in financial terms but in terms of the patrimony of the Church.
- b. As such, I am finishing up a 10-part podcast series on the subject of stewardship. In 2-3 minute audio segments, I outline my own thoughts on stewardship as it relates to the Orthodox Church in America, to the Chancery Office, and to the proposed relocation we are contemplating.
- c. We are close to finalizing the Landing Committee, which will be tasked with assessing the various options for a new location for the Chancery Offices.

11. *Clergy Health Synaxes*. I would like to signal my full support for this project, which is part of my emphasis on clergy health. My hope would be that, starting from this particular project, we might even move towards a more permanent endowment for clergy health.

12. *Concluding remarks*. Thank you, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Orthodox Church in America

Metropolitan Council

24th February 2021

Location Committee Report

The Westwood Property continues available for sale since being listed with Compass Realty last September 2020. Here follows an update pertaining to our efforts.

If you recall, the Metropolitan Council acted quickly on the advice of members, and the marketplace, to list Westwood for sale, in the hope of taking advantage of the COVID exodus from Manhattan to properties in the Long Island suburbs. This exodus is occurring, but at price thresholds up to the \$2 Million range. However, properties at the price level of Westwood (\$6.5 Million) are not attracting activity (selling) across the entire market area, with the exception being the Hamptons. This now affords the Metropolitan Council the time needed to effectively plan for the move from Syosset to Washington DC. Here follows an update pertaining to the efforts we have exercised.

As approved by the Metropolitan Council, we engaged the legal services of Seth Levine, of the Law office of Richman & Levine, PC. Seth is a welcome member of our team and we have selectively requested his assistance to clarify contractual matters and speaking on our behalf with legal counsel for a recent prospective buyer, Pinewood Development. We reviewed and considered three separate offers from Pinewood, each structurally differentiated by varying price and risk share. After thorough discussion, consensus confirmed a lack of willingness to encumber the Westwood property or commit to a discounted offer at this early stage of the sales process. All offers were eventually declined as “we are not able to accept at this time, thank you for your interest”.

We singularly remain focused on finding a wealthy individual, interested in restoring Westwood and preserving her historic beauty. We virtually meet weekly with our agent, Fran Mazer of Compass Realty, who is actively pursuing multiple sales strategies including.

- Marketing to Equestrian interests,
- Direct marketing to the wealthy (i.e., Bruce Springsteen & Billy Joel, who both invest, to preserve prized architecture, from destructive development),
- Virtual “repainting” representation of Westwood (see multi-list link),
- The link to the multi-list is: <https://www.compass.com/listing/6850-north-hempstead-turnpike-syosset-ny-11791/604308822531949177/>.
- Sub-divide (...or partition...) Westwood acreage to neighboring landowners.

The Location Committee have met with an experienced local engineering company, who are advising us on how we might pursue sub-dividing (partition) the Westwood property. The strategy being, to offer surrounding neighbors the opportunity to expand their existing lot footprint. The goal is to achieve our sale price, by lowering the sale price of Westwood (making it more attractive for the current economy) and supplementing our return with lot sales to make up the price difference.

There is expense associated with this option and we are working through the detail to determine the return on investment.

His Beatitude recently initiated the creation of a new planning committee that will work in tandem with the Location and Archive committees. The current name is the Landing Committee and members are being identified and recruited. More information to follow, but this committee, will be charged with creating the planning and answers to questions surrounding each segment of the Chancery move such as, space needs for the Chancery, new residence for His Beatitude and the Archives, plus move logistics and budget considerations for each step, amongst others.

In summary, by all measurable sales metrics, we are experiencing reduced market activity, which was to be expected, as 2020 came to an end and 2021 begins. Weather and the economy are both contributing to reduced activity, but we are expecting both to improve as we come to the end of first quarter 2021 and we make progress against the ongoing health pandemic. The Landing Committee now anticipate selling the Westwood Property will be a more extended process, reaching well into 2022 and longer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Steeb & Gregory Honshul

Co-Chairpersons

20th All American Council Update
Metropolitan Council Spring Session 2021
Deacon Peter Ilchuk

Introduction

Since my last report, much work has been done to work with the Hilton in Baltimore to accommodate our request to postpone the 20th All American Council till July 2022. After numerous emails, phone calls, and zoom meetings with the various people on all levels of the Hilton Global Brand involved with making these decisions, we were finally able to reach an agreement with the Hilton.

We have finalized an offer to hold the 20th All American Council at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel from **Monday July 18th to Friday, July 22nd 2022**. We were able to retain the original rate of 143.00 per night + tax. Dates for the official registration process and deadlines will be forthcoming.

The FOCA has also agreed to hold their 95th Annual Convention at the hotel from Friday July 15th to Monday July 18th just prior to the opening of the Council.

A trip was also made to a backup site location in Dallas in late December to review 2 potential properties for the 20th All American Council should the Hilton in Baltimore not be able to honor our request to move the Council to 2022. Since they were able to move us, the potential council sites in Dallas will now be placed on the initial site list for the 21st All American Council to be held in 2025.

Preconciliar Commission

Having received the news of the postponement of the Council, under the direction of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, the Preconciliar Commission will reconvene sometime after Pascha this spring to review the council theme, should there be any revisions; plan and review the overall agenda; and draft a release for pertinent council information for the clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America.

Local Committee

The local committee, Co-Chaired by Fr. Ted Boback and Lisa Mikhalevsky, will also reconvene after the meeting of the Preconciliar Commission to review its role with the planning of the All American Council. The subcommittees will review their roles and responsibilities for the operation of council and will start their physical planning this summer and into the fall. Once again, they are very excited to start up their work again and look forward to welcoming the Hierarchs, Clergy, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America to the Archdiocese of Washington.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dn. Peter Ilchuk, Council Manager



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February 24th, 2021

Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces, honorable clergy, and lay delegates:

On behalf of the OCA Pension Board, I take this opportunity to update you on the status of the Pension Plan as of December 31, 2020. The net time-weighted return on core investments managed by Morgan Stanley for this year was 12.55% compared to our benchmark of 12.49%. The net time-weighted annualized return for the period December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2020 on investments managed by Morgan Stanley was 8.85 % compared to our benchmark of 9.70%. 2020 was challenging and saw a significant decline in the financial markets during the first quarter followed by a strong recovery. As you may recall, the S&P 500 declined 19.6% in the 1st quarter of this year. The ending market value of plan assets on December 31, 2020 was \$26,689,268.

As a result of the pending relocation of the Chancery, the OCA Pension Office has changed its address and telephone number. Our new address is **P.O. Box 8121 Hicksville NY 11802-8121**. Our new main telephone number is **516-464-0322** and to better serve our members and parishes the new telephone number can also send and receive text and fax messages.

Additionally, the Pension office has acquired a Pension system called Milliman Actuarial Retirement Calculator (“MARC”). This system will provide better service for both our members and parishes, provide better data security, and minimize administrative cost by the Pension office performing calculations and recording contributions without needing an outside consultant.

Lastly, to enhance our service to our members and parishes, we now have a website <https://ocapension.org> that can be used as a reference about the Pension Plan and to provide news and updates regarding the OCA Pension Plan.

With regard to participation in the Pension Plan, there are currently 351 active participating members and 38 inactive members for a total of 389 active/inactive participants. In addition, there are currently 206 monthly benefits recipients.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priest Gleb McFatter, Chairman

PROPOSAL FOR CLERGY PEER SYNAXIS

OFFICE OF PASTORAL LIFE

The Office of Pastoral Life oversees two programs of Clergy Peer Learning aimed at supporting clergy health: The Thriving in Ministry Program (TiM) and The Clergy Synaxis Program. Though both programs are programs of peer learning, they are distinct initiatives.

The TiM Program is supported by a \$470,000 grant received in 2019 from the Lilly Endowment's Thriving in Ministry Grant Initiative. This grant is a five-year grant. As a program of peer learning the TiM Program provides a positive and supportive peer learning experience for healthy priests and priest wives seeking to grow in their parish ministries. The TiM Program has 9 active groups of parish priests and 6 active groups of priest wives with approximately 70 total participants. As the pandemic begins to wind down, it is expected new groups will form in 2021 and beyond.

Distinctive characteristics of the **TiM Program**.

1. Peer learning for clergy and clergy wives (40 priests and 29 priest wives)
2. Pan-Orthodox peer learning program. (46 OCA, 13 GOA, 7 Antiochian, 1 Serbian, 1 Romanian, 1 Moscow Patriarchate)
3. In-person quarterly meetings for 5 hours.
4. Funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment.

The Office of Pastoral Life has offered three Clergy Synaxes for parish priests and deacons in 2020 - the first in June, the second in September and the third in December. Conducted through Zoom, these gatherings brought together over 100 priests and deacons from every diocese of the OCA. The Synaxes of Clergy are based on the model of peer learning and were conceived as an urgent response providing support and care to the emerging challenges of parish ministry in the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Distinctive characteristics of the **Clergy Synaxis Program**.

1. Peer learning for parish priests and parish deacons.
2. Peer learning for priest and deacons of the OCA.
3. Quarterly virtual meetings for 2.5 hours.
4. Not funded.
5. Focuses on the shifting circumstances of parish ministry in the pandemic and beyond.

Clergy Synaxes - Background Information

The Clergy Synaxes Program is an initiative of the Office of Pastoral Life outside the work and grant activities of the TiM Program. As such, funds from the TiM grant are not available to support the Clergy Synaxes Program.

The peer learning approach for the Clergy Synaxes has proved highly successful and beneficial - providing connection, encouragement, and collegiality among the OCA clergy. Following the first Synaxis in June, an exit poll was administered with 80 participants responding to the poll

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OFFICE OF PASTORAL LIFE

questions. One question was: “Was this Conference helpful to you?”. All 80 respondents replied: “Yes”. At the September Synaxis, 76 participants responded to the exit poll. To the statement: “I found the Conference helpful” 41 ‘strongly agreed’ and 27 ‘agreed’ with the statement. In that same poll, to the statement: “I am interested in doing more Peer Learning” 70 responded ‘yes’ while only 6 responded ‘no’.

These quarterly Synaxes aim to empower parish priests and deacons to better serve Christ by providing structure, support, and encouragement to strengthen pastoral leadership and ministry in the complexities and stressors of today’s context. They are offered to promote greater spiritual health and wellness to our clergy. Healthy priests and deacons make vitalized parishes. They take greater agency toward their own self-care and the care of their families. They are clergy who mature in their pastoral work through the day-to-day challenges of ministry. They build Christ-centered parishes nurtured through their joy, humility, and creativity. They are thriving leaders who inspire their flocks and support their brother priests and deacons through love and compassion.

Participants experience:

- greater resilience in preserving the joy of ministry and leadership through stressful transitions
- a growing network of caring brother priests and deacons providing mutual support on professional and personal issues
- a thickened sense of brotherhood defeating the morale- and confidence-destroying effects of isolation
- gains in mutual trust and accountability through appropriate sharing of joys and challenges
- opportunities to develop supportive relationships and reduce clergy stress
- discovery of a forum for sharing ideas, struggles, doubts, fears, and knowledge
- a confidential space where they are able to reflect upon work and ministry and how they feel about their role
- a safe forum where they can receive feedback

These Synaxes peer groups are based on three principals.

The Focus is Ministry. The group consists of parish priests and deacons having the shared interest of gaining greater competency and greater skill in the work of parish ministry, especially during these trying and uncertain times. The topics and issues and concerns that bring these groups together functions to create a good and healthy bond among the participants.

The Community is Essential. As parish priests and deacons engage in discussions, activities, sharing, disclosing and so forth ... they build strong and healthy relationships with one another. Trust develops giving members a place where questions, concerns, fears, doubts, and anxieties can be shared. Mutual accountability becomes a way of caring for one another.

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Knowledge is Practice-Based. Peer group members bring knowledge and practice from the field to share with others. This sharing of knowledge and practice becomes refined in the group experience into common wisdom. Skill develops within the group as it helps its members to craft practices that can be used to address specific issues on the growing edges of their ministry. Good, healthy, hopeful pastoral conversations make a difference in parish ministry.

Facilitators

The Office of Pastoral Life has recruited and trained 20 Facilitators to lead these peer groups during the Synaxes. These facilitators, though not compensated for their work, have been strongly effective. In the same exit polls referenced above, 76% of the respondents rated their peer group facilitator as 'excellent' and 24% rated them as 'good' at the first Conference. At the second Conference, 60 respondents rated their peer group facilitator as 'effective' and only 1 rated them as 'not effective'.

The Facilitators have the following characteristics:

- Experienced priests/pastors who love ministry
- Have known enough of the difficulties of church and parish life not to be surprised by the challenges of parish ministry
- Belong to and serve in healthy and vital communities
- Possess deep faithfulness, are theologically inquisitive and articulate pastors
- Emotionally mature men
- Intellectually curious, seeing themselves as learners, eager to continue developing as pastoral leaders
- Respected by their peers
- Have good relationship with and participation in the wider Church
- Generous with their time and energy
- Respond quickly and creatively to new opportunities
- Confident in their own gifts ... but humbly do not see themselves as 'experts.'
- Attentive Listeners
- Good at asking questions and inviting others to explore issues more deeply
- Hold a clear and deeply theological sense of what it means to offer hospitality to others

The Role of the Facilitators

The current role of the Facilitators is mostly limited to the active facilitation of the breakout groups during the Synaxis. They are expected to:

- Attend to the group process
- Listen more than speak
- Ask powerful questions rather than make statements
- Trust the wisdom in the breakout rooms and draw it out through threaded discussions
- Work to help the conversations move more deeply

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OFFICE OF PASTORAL LIFE

This proposal seeks an expanded role of the facilitators in the Clergy Peer Synaxis.

Proposal and Rationale for Providing Stipends for Facilitators

Needless to say, the role of confident and competent facilitators is essential to the success of the Clergy Peer Synaxes. They are the very heart of the peer learning process. In an expanded role, peer group facilitators would be given resources and support to gain greater mastery of facilitator skills. They will become larger contributors to the creative process of carrying out these Synaxes. And they will assume greater opportunities to deepen the bonds of brotherly connection and accountability with the priests and deacons they facilitate. Beyond being present on the day of the Synaxis to facilitate a breakout room, their expanded role will allow a greater offering of their time and talent to this project of the Office of Pastoral Life.

Their expanded role:

- Facilitators will themselves become a part of a peer learning group comprised of other peer facilitators. In their role as facilitator, they will form a community of learners among themselves. They will meet regularly between Synaxes to share their experiences of facilitating with the view to hone skills and share and collect wisdom from each other.
- They will attend periodic formal trainings provided by the Office of Pastoral Life to gain skills and practice in the art of facilitating.
- For the first two gatherings, facilitators were assigned random groups for the breakout sessions. Moving forward, planning will work toward greater consistency between facilitators and peer group members. With consistent groups in place, facilitators will be encouraged to build connection among group members between Synaxes with phone calls and emails.
- With a better understanding of the goals and objectives of this peer learning project, facilitators will be encouraged to take greater agency in planning the structure and activities of their peer groups.
- Their insights and experiences gained while working with their fellow clergy will feed back into the ongoing development of this project.

A cadre of 20 facilitators is needed to achieve a high standard of quality for these Synaxis. These 20 facilitators would be able to accommodate a gathering of between 100 – 125 parish priests and deacons.

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It is proposed that a stipend of \$250.00 be provided to each facilitator for each Synaxis. This would be an annual remuneration of \$1,000.00 per facilitator. The total annual cost for this line item of the Synaxis budget would be \$20,000.00.

Proposal for Further Development of Clergy Peer Synaxis

There is strong possibility and opportunity for further development of the Clergy Peer Synaxis. In March 2021, the fourth Synaxis will mark the annual cycle of this project. As mentioned above, the thrust for these Synaxes was the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. Though our times are uncertain, we are coming to the realization that pastoring through this pandemic will continue for many months to come. Weighing on the minds of many parish priests is the process of rebuilding community and parish activities in the post-pandemic phase. As such, ongoing need for clergy care and support will be necessary. Further Peer Synaxes will be helpful.

While COVID-19 provided the initial impetus, it is noted that for many these Synaxes have transcended beyond the context of pastoring during pandemic. The benefits of collaborative learning, strengthening brotherhood, and expressing doubts, fears, concerns, etc. has proved helpful to mitigate the common stressors and hardships of 21 century pastoring in general. In the September exit poll, 68 of 76 respondents 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' with the statement: "I found this Conference helpful." To the statement: "Through this Conference, I was able to learn from my fellow priests", 66 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed'. And, once again, at that same Conference 70 of the 76 respondents expressed they were interested in doing more peer learning. This, I believe, points to the possibilities and opportunities to further develop these Synaxes of peer learning for our parish clergy.

It is difficult to predict the life-expectancy of a peer learning group. The Thriving in Ministry Program hasn't carried out its work long enough to give a reliable answer to that question. Most of its peer groups have been meeting for less than three years while being recently interrupted by the pandemic. Though it is noted that the original groups from the HOPE program that transitioned to the TiM program continue to run strongly and are now in their 6th, 5th, and 4th years. A well supported, trained, and cohesive cohort of facilitators from the Office of Pastoral Life would likely provide good structure and leadership to grow and develop peer learning groups from these Synaxes that could thrive for several years.

The space between Synaxes can be an area of discussion within the Office of Pastoral Life. *Could/Should these peer groups meet with their facilitators between Synaxes? Beyond facilitating, could/should facilitators make themselves available as peer mentors to group*

PROPOSAL FOR CLERGY PEER SYNAXIS

OFFICE OF PASTORAL LIFE

members outside the context of group gatherings? Could the Synaxes Program provide a foundational structure for a formal mentorship program? While the field of coaching is growing in the wider culture including the specific area of clergy coaching, are concepts and skills from this field valuable to our clergy culture such that our facilitators would benefit from learning and using in the program? I think these questions, and others, are interesting and important.

2021 Budget

Needless to say, development of the Office's Synaxes Program and the expanded role of facilitators would involve budget expenses.

As mentioned, annual remuneration for facilitators is suggested to be \$20,000.00.

I would also suggest hiring an Office of Pastoral Life administrative assistant at a monthly stipend of \$1,000.00. Such an administrative assistant would work directly under the Chair of the Office and have, at least, the following general responsibilities:

- schedule and record monthly meeting minutes of the Office and track follow-up tasks
- manage routine communication for the Office, in particular communications relative to Synaxis gatherings
- provide administrative assistance to the Office Chair on various projects of the Office of Pastoral Life
- work with the treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, issue invoices and such reminders as may be necessary for payment
- ensure timely disbursement of funds to facilitators and others engaged in the work of the Office
- aid in the preparation of any reports which must be submitted to the Holy Synod or Central Church Administration
- plan quarterly Synaxis under the supervision of the Office Chair
- plan possible in-person Synaxis Retreat under the supervision of the Office Chair
- other projects such as administrative support for the clergy wives initiative

2021 Budget

Facilitators	\$20,000
Administrative Assistant	\$12,000
Administrative Costs	\$500.00
IT Support Stipend	\$1,000

PROPOSAL FOR CLERGY PEER SYNAXIS OFFICE OF PASTORAL LIFE

In Christ,
Very Reverend Nicholas J. Solak

**Report of the Acting Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America
2021 Spring Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
February 24, 2021**

OVERVIEW. From the onset, I would like to express my deep gratitude to His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon and Archpriest Alexander Rentel for asking me to join the Chancery team and entrusting me with this important administrative position at the service of our autocephalous Church. It is a great honor and privilege to serve our Orthodox Church in America and to serve alongside the dedicated staff of the Central Administration. I joined the Chancery staff in September 2020 as Executive Assistant, and His Beatitude appointed me Acting Secretary on January 1, 2021. Over the last few months, under the supervision of Fr. Alexander, I have been involved in a number of projects, engaged in the day-to-day operations of the Chancery, and, above all, I have been in the process of learning the work, the dynamics, and the rhythm of the various aspects of Church Administration.

In this report I want to highlight four areas: (1) Information Technology, (2) SMPAC, (3) Archives, and (4) Publications. I will conclude with some notes regarding my eventual relocation.

1. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. Part of the work of the Chancery continues to be executed remotely, both because of the hybrid work environment imposed by the pandemic and a number of Chancery staff live across the United States.

Fr. Alexander has indicated the need to foster and maintain a dexterous office, one in which we can easily work in person, remotely, or on the road. In support of this, we want a system that is a) well organized, b) simple to use, c) easy to maintain and access, and d) allows us the feature of observing at a glance the history of changes/use/additions/subtractions, etc.

On this note, we have identified the need for a more efficient platform for internal communication which will replace the multitude of messaging platforms utilized so far, and that would support document retention and archiving conversations. After consideration, we have selected Slack (slack.com) as the platform for Chancery communication. Slack offers many Internet Relay Chat features, including chat rooms (channels) organized by topic, private groups, and direct messaging. Content—including files, people, and conversations—is all searchable within Slack.

Along the same lines, another item that needed to be addressed was the local Chancery network with its aging shared drive and computer systems that are slow and expensive to maintain. After surveying the needs of the Chancery staff, evaluating different types of solutions and a variety of options within that type of solution, and while considering the future relocation of the Chancery office, it was decided to use Box.com as a shared drive. Box.com is a company that focuses on content management and files sharing. We believe this system will meet our needs well, provide better security, and give us room to grow. There is no long-term

contract with Box, and once the Chancery servers are fully retired, it would be easy to move between cloud providers if need arises. Overall, Box provides us with better performance, security, and functionality for about a tenth of the cost of maintaining and supporting an in-house file-sharing network.

With Box.com we were able to easily create a dedicated folder for the Metropolitan Council where MC members are able to view and download reports and various other documents. This replaces the need to send several emails with multiple attachments before each meeting.

I have spent a considerable amount of time over the last three weeks copying to the Chancery Box account all the files currently held in our physical server. Our next step is to develop an updated document retention policy in the near future.

2. SMPAC. The Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee has met three times over the last few months: October 26, 2020, January 27, 2021, and February 17, 2021. The Committee continues to operate in an advisory capacity providing support on how to improve the content and effectiveness of the Policies, Standards, and Procedures on Sexual Misconduct, reviewing the extent to how the Church's PSPs are implemented and how compliance is ensured.

Much of the discussion in these past three meetings has revolved around compliance. The Committee is also looking to engage new members. A long-time member, Dr Albert Rossi, has recently stepped down. Cindy Heise, who has served as the ORSMA Coordinator for the last eight years, has also asked His Beatitude's blessing to step down from her role. We are extremely thankful to both Dr Rossi and Cindy for their faithful work and dedication over many years.

As the Acting Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America, one of my responsibilities is to oversee PSP compliance for the Stavropegial Institutions. I have spent a substantial amount of time training with Cindy Heise (to whom I am deeply thankful), reviewing policies, and processing criminal history checks for the clergy of the Stavropegial monasteries and seminaries under His Beatitude's omophorion. I have to admit that this has been the most time-demanding task so far. I have had extensive communication with the seminaries, and I am comfortable saying that we are moving in a very positive direction. It is my commitment to bring the Stavropegial Institutions to 100% compliance.

I am thankful to SMPAC for their support, hard work, and the vast experience they bring to the table.

We have also begun the process of updating the various forms found in the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct page on the OCA website, starting with the annual compliance forms for parishes and institutions (new form).

3. ARCHIVES. At its 2020 Fall Meeting, the Metropolitan Council adopted a resolution that tasked the Archives Advisory Committee to: (1) assist with advisory functions in respect to the

relocation process and support the work of the OCA Archivist, Alexis Liberovsky; (2) issue a Request For Proposals (RFP) from interested parties that would provide support and assistance to the OCA Archivist for the curation and storage of the OCA Archives; (3) set up the necessary criteria for the RFP.

The Archives Advisory Committee met November 18, 2020, to discuss the resolution and the overall mission of the Archives. The members of the Committee all agreed that the priority lies on the preservation of and access to the archival treasure. Various other related needs were discussed such as the need for further funding, digitization, and display.

In late January, a group from Miami University in Oxford, OH, led by Dr Scott Kenworthy, approached the Chancellor. His Beatitude, Archpriest Alexander Rentel, and I met for an informal meeting where the group from Miami University expressed interest in pursuing further conversation about the possibility of storing the Archives of the Orthodox Church in America.

A meeting of the Archives Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 7 PM ET, to discuss this preliminary conversation with Miami University and to determine the feasibility of this option.

4. PUBLICATIONS. At the end of 2020, the Chancery published three publications.

In mid-December, and in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the reception of the Tomos of Autocephaly from the Russian Orthodox Church, the Office of the Chancellor published the Updated Diptychs of the Orthodox Church in America (*A Commemorative List of the Departed Servants of Orthodoxy in North America: Diptychs of those who have fallen asleep in the Lord*). This is an updated list of departed clergy, monastics, and prominent laity who have labored in America from the days of the Alaskan mission to the present day. This document features an introduction by His Grace Bishop Alexis of Bethesda, Locum Tenens of Sitka and Alaska, and it is the updated and expanded version of a previous publication of Diptychs published in 2002. Printing cost for this project was \$3,555 for 900 units (\$3.95 per booklet) plus shipping. A copy has been mailed to every parish, monastery, and institution of the Orthodox Church in America.

In mid-December, we also published the annual Desk Calendar. Unlike previous editions, the 2021 Desk Calendar does not include significant diocesan and national events such as diocesan assemblies, seminary commencement dates, Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council meetings, etc. This is primarily due to the ongoing public health crisis that makes the dates of these events difficult to schedule. In order to respond to this challenge, but also to facilitate the communication of the most up-to-date events dates, in early Fall 2020, oca.org was enhanced with a web calendar that features special commemorations and various events from the Central Administration and the Departments of the Orthodox Church in America, as well as events from Dioceses, Seminaries, and other Institutions. Donations received by the three sponsors of the 2021 Desk Calendar totaled \$4,000. Printing cost was \$4,300 for 1850 units (\$2.32 per calendar)

plus shipping. A copy is mailed to each clergy, both active and retired, and widows of the Orthodox Church in America.

Shipping cost for the Diptychs and Desk Calendars totaled \$1468.

The third publication was the Encyclical by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America entitled, *"We Rejoice Even in Tribulation": An Encyclical of Hope*. The Holy Synod offered this work out of love and gratitude to its faithful at the end of this year and as an encouragement for the year to come in light of the past year's pandemic, political polarization, economic anxiety, and civil unrest. Printing cost was \$3247 for 8,000 units plus \$2421 for envelopes, fulfillment, and postage. The cost for the Graphic Designer for this project was \$775. Five (5) copies were mailed to each parish, monastery, institution of the Orthodox Church in America. Each Diocesan office received additional copies to distribute among parishes at the Hierarch's discretion. A copy was also sent to the Metropolitan Council members, to the clergy widows, to the members of the Executive Committee of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, and to Bishops of the Oriental Orthodox Churches in the United States. The Office of the Chancellor has received positive feedback and much gratitude for this publication. We note that the Antiochian Archdiocese has also made the Encyclical available on their website.

All three publications have been made fully available in PDF format on the website. The Encyclical is also available in French and it is currently being translated into Russian and Romanian.

I take this opportunity to apologize, on behalf of the Office of the Chancellor, for the inconvenience caused by the delay in the delivery of the 2021 Desk Calendar and Diptychs. As many of you know, the U.S. Postal Service has experienced an unprecedented backlog causing delays across the country in the months of December and January. Both publications were mailed on December 21 by the printer, and although some received both documents within 10 days, many clergy have been receiving them several weeks later. The shipping was handled by the printer that used USPS Marketing Mail – Flats in order to guarantee bulk prices. While "flats" should take 7-10 days, because of the backlog across the country, this type of mailing became low priority for USPS.

When the Office of the Chancellor announced the publication of the 2021 Desk Calendar, we offered the following statement on the website: "After much consideration, it was decided that this will be the last year that the Desk Calendar is published in the present form. Alternatively, we are considering different types of publications that could be made available at the end of each calendar year. More and more people are now using digital calendars that are making physical planners and calendars obsolete. We understand that there are clergy that have faithfully used the Desk Calendar for many years. We appreciate your support and apologize for any inconvenience." After receiving some feedback, especially by those who have regularly used the Desk Calendar for years, we wish to bring this issue to the Metropolitan Council for consideration. Should we continue to publish the Desk Calendar? If so, should we change the

format and/or include additional and different information? Should it include spiritual texts besides the quotes? How can we solicit new sponsors?

OTHER. I continue to work remotely from Cleveland, OH, where I live with my family and where I am currently assigned as rector of St. Innocent Orthodox Church in Olmsted Falls, OH. After seven years, I expect Archbishop Paul to release me at the end of May 2021 in order to relocate with my family to Long Island and assume full time responsibilities at the Chancery. In the past few months, I have also relinquished some of my pastoral responsibilities in the Greater Cleveland area in order to increasingly focus on my work at the Chancery.

I have traveled a couple of times to the Chancery Office in the past few months and spent a week each time. Although the initial plan was to travel on a monthly basis, the various travel restrictions have not made this feasible.

FINAL AGENDA ITEMS
SPRING SESSION OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
February 24 and March 3, 2021

The Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America will begin meeting in its regular Spring Session, with His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presiding, **Wednesday, February 24, 2021**, and continue on **Wednesday, March 3, 2021**, via teleconference due to the continued public health crisis.

The Metropolitan Council will meet at least twice in the Spring. If the Metropolitan Council is not able to complete its business as indicated on the agenda during the two dates scheduled, His Beatitude will call for another meeting on **Wednesday, March 10, 2021**.

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Wednesday, February 24, 2021

In the course of our meeting on February 24, 2021, after the opening prayer and our normal housekeeping matters (1-5), His Beatitude will offer his report to the Metropolitan Council (6). After this report, Ray Steeb and Gregory Honshul will then update the Metropolitan Council on the sale of the Westwood Property (7). Deacon Peter Ilchuk will then give an update on the plans for the 20th All-American Council (8).

After him, the Pension Plan Administrator, Mr. Michael Stieglitz, will update the Metropolitan Council on the status of the plan. The Metropolitan Council will also have to reconsider the resolution that was put forward at the Spring 2020 Session of the Metropolitan Council to form a joint committee with members of the Holy Synod that would investigate and then seek ways to enforce the synodal mandate for full clergy participation in the Pension Plan (9).

Fr. Nicholas Solak will then present an updated on the Thriving in Ministry program, and be joined by His Grace Bishop Alexis in order to make a proposal for funding a series of Clergy Health Synaxes (10-11).

Finally, Fr. Alessandro Margheritino, Acting Secretary, will make his first report to the Metropolitan Council, and discuss the recent meetings of SMPAC, the Archives Advisory Committee, the different tech upgrades at the Chancery, and review the recent publications of the Orthodox Church in America. Fr. Alessandro will raise the question of the annual desk calendar. The Metropolitan Council will have an opportunity to discuss a) whether we want to continue publishing it, b) ways we might want to amend it, and c) how we might go about finding additional sponsors for it (12).

Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 1:00-3:30 pm EST

1. Opening Prayer
2. Call to Order – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
3. Review of Agenda – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
4. Roll Call – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Fall 2020 Session of the Metropolitan Council
6. Report of the Metropolitan – His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon
7. Property Committee – Ray Steeb and Gregory Honshul
8. 20th All-American Council – Dn. Peter Ilchuk
9. Pension Board – Mr. Michael Stieglitz
10. Thriving in Ministry – Archpriest Nicholas Solak
11. Clergy Health Synaxis Proposal – His Grace Bishop Alexis and Archpriest Nicholas Solak
12. Report of the Acting Secretary – Priest Alessandro Margheritino
13. Concluding Remarks – His Beatitude
14. Prayer – His Beatitude

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Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 1:00-3:30 pm EST

In the course of our meeting on March 3, 2021, we will begin with the opening prayer and our normal housekeeping matters (1-5). After these things, His Beatitude will offer a brief report (6). The Chancellor will then provide his report to the Metropolitan Council (7), followed by the Legal Committee (8).

The Metropolitan Council will then turn to the Report of the Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, Mr. Andrew Smith, which will be divided into six parts: a. Investments (Mr. Michael Crofton, our Investment Advisor from Philadelphia Trust, will join the meeting); b. Current Financials; c. Internal Audit; d. Final report on Stewards Donations; e. Amended 2021 Budget; f. appointment of new internal auditor (9).

Following this portion of the meeting, the Metropolitan Council will hear a report from Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Program Manager for the Departments, on the activities of the Orthodox Church in America (10).

After his report, Metropolitan Council will have an opportunity to raise internal matters and discuss the scheduling of future meetings (11). This meeting will close with concluding remarks of His Beatitude and a closing prayer (12-13).

Agenda – Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 1:00-3:30 pm EST

1. Opening Prayer
2. Call to Order – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
3. Review of Agenda – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
4. Roll Call – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Fall Session of the Metropolitan Council, November 19, 2020
6. Report of the Metropolitan – His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon
7. Report of the Chancellor – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
8. Legal Committee Report – Judge Lanier and David Lane
9. Report of the Treasurer (presentation of a. Investments, b. Financials, c. Internal Audit, d. Final Report on Stewards Donations, e. Amended 2021 Budget, f. Internal Auditor) – Mr. Andrew Smith
10. Department Updates – Archpriest Thomas Soroka
11. Internal Metropolitan Council matters
12. Concluding Remarks – His Beatitude
13. Closing Prayer – His Beatitude



MINUTES
Extraordinary Session of
the Metropolitan Council
of the Orthodox Church in America

Thursday, November 19, 2020
conducted by video conference

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

PARTICIPANTS

CHAIRMAN

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon

CHURCH OFFICERS (*EX OFFICIO*)

Archpriest Alexander Rentel, *Chancellor*

Andrew Smith, Treasurer

MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL

Archpriest Antonio Perdomo

Katherine Vitko

Archpriest Thomas Moore

Lynnell Brunswig

Archpriest Kirill Sokolov

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Diocese of Alaska

Dorothy Chaney

Albanian Archdiocese

Archpriest Dennis Rhodes

Donna Dimitri

Bulgarian Diocese

Priest Gabriel Bilas

Bogdan Popescu

Archdiocese of Canada

Protodeacon Jesse Isaac

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky

Sharon Shingara

Diocese of the Midwest

Archpriest Elijah Mueller

Robert Graban

Diocese of New England

Priest Theophan Whitfield

Evelyn Kreta

Diocese of New York/New Jersey

Archimandrite Joseph (Hoffman)

James P. Kornafel

Diocese of the South

Archpriest Joseph Ciarciaglino

Archdiocese of Washington

Archpriest Valery Shemchuk

Gregory Honshul

Diocese of the West

Archpriest Michael Anderson

David Lane, Esq.

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Priest Nikolai Breckenridge

Ray Steeb

ABSENT

Archpriest David Askoak (*Diocese of Alaska*)

Christopher Lewis (*Diocese of the South*) Mark Linnehan (*Member elected by the All-American Council*)

Mark Petasky (*Archdiocese of Canada*)

GUESTS

Priest Alessandro Margheritino (*Executive Assistant*)

Deacon Peter Ilchuk (*All-American Council Manager*)

Alexis Liberovsky (*Recording Secretary*)

A. Call to Order

Metropolitan Tikhon opened the session with prayer and called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM

B. Agenda: Introduction (attached) & Roll Call

Father Alexander Rentel reviewed the agenda for this special session of the Metropolitan Council and indicated that this meeting has been convened for two issues that require urgent decisions by the Council: the possible postponement of the 20th All-American Council and a purchase offer that has been received on the Westwood property. He then conducted the roll call.

C. Metropolitan's Report

Metropolitan Tikhon presented a brief oral report. He welcomed Matushka Evelyn Kreta, who is the newest member of the Metropolitan Council, representing the Diocese of New England. He provided an update on the serious condition of Archbishop David of Alaska, who was able to join the teleconference meeting of the Holy Synod the previous week for 30 minutes. He stressed that the process of selling Westwood is above all a matter of good stewardship. He indicated that there is no particular rush to finalize a sale and that finances are not necessarily a primary factor. It is a positive move and should be enacted with dignity to bring the Church to a better place. He noted the threefold process of finding new locations for the Chancery, Metropolitan's Residence and Archives. To further the process, a new committee, tentatively called the Landing Committee, will be appointed in order to investigate local factors and possibilities for relocating the OCA Chancery and Metropolitan's Residence to the Washington, DC area.

Fr. Rentel announced that an online portal is being created in order to allow members to more efficiently access documents and reports. He indicated that a hybrid (in person/distance participation) meeting of the Holy Synod will take place on December 3 in Parma, Ohio in order to approve the decisions of this meeting, especially concerning the All-American Council. He noted that November 15 was Stewards Sunday, that over

\$10,000 in donations has been received since October 29 when a new web link went live and that year-to-date contributions total nearly \$85,000. This is due to the efforts of most of the chancery staff after the departure of Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak, former Stewards of the OCA Director.

D. 20th All-American Council (attached)

Deacon Peter Ilchuk, All-American Council Manager, summarized his attached report. He indicated that the Hilton Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, MD is now willing to host a full 20th All-American Council in early July 2022, with precise terms still to be negotiated. Should agreeable terms not be possible in Baltimore, two sites in Dallas, TX are being explored as alternatives. He outlined three options for consideration: to postpone the Council to 2022 in Baltimore, to postpone the Council to 2022 in Dallas or to attempt to convene the Council in July 2021 in Baltimore as originally planned. He suggested that attendance would likely be substantially reduced if the Council convenes in 2021. After lengthy discussion, the following resolution was adopted with the understanding that the Preconciliar Commission would decide on the location after all contract terms are known. Metropolitan Tikhon suggested that some other type of virtual gathering could be held in 2021 instead of the All-American Council.

D.1. MOTION BRUNSWIG/RHODES – To postpone the 20th All-American Council for one year from July 2021 to July 2022. CARRIED with one (1) opposed (SOKOLOV).

Father Rentel indicated that this motion would now be forwarded to the Holy Synod for final approval.

E. Retention of Legal Counsel in New York (attached)

David Lane explained the need to retain legal counsel licensed in New York State to assist the Church in legal issues pertaining to the sale of Westwood and introduced the following motion.

E.1. MOTION LANE/MUELLER - To adopt the following resolution regarding retention of legal counsel in New York:

WHEREAS, General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America has recommended that the Church retain New York admitted legal counsel to assist with legal matters relative to a potential sale of the Chancery property in Oyster Bay Cove, Nassau County, New York; and

WHEREAS, Seth Levine, Esquire, of the Nassau County law firm of Richman & Levine has been recommended to the Church by Frances Mazer, the licensed realtor presently assisting the Church in this regard; and

WHEREAS, General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America concurs in the recommendation of Ms. Mazer;

BE IT NOW RESOLVED by the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America that the Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America be authorized to retain the professional services of Seth Levine, Esquire, on a written retainer agreement at a fee rate not to exceed \$450 per hour and that the Chancellor be further authorized to advance an initial financial retainer to Seth Levine, Esquire, not to exceed the amount of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3000). CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. Property Committee (attached)

Ray Steeb and Gregory Honshul presented an oral report from the Property Committee and elaborated on the attached PowerPoint on potential next steps in conjunction with the offers received on the property. They reported that there have been nine showings of the property and that there is a formal written offer of \$5.5 million from a developer and a verbal offer of \$5 million from an individual who intends to renovate the house. The three possible options are to accept the written offer, to counteroffer or to decline. They further explained various details relating to the offers and the possible sale of Westwood. A straw poll was conducted regarding the three options. There were 25 votes for a counteroffer, 4 votes to decline the offer and no votes to

accept the offer. Extensive discussion took place on all issues and numerous clarifications were presented. To conclude deliberations, Ray Steeb presented the following motion.

- F.1. MOTION STEEB/GRABAN – To adopt the following resolution providing directions to the Property Committee for negotiations toward the sale of the Westwood property:**
- WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America has previously authorized the offering for sale of the Westwood property located in Syosset, New York;**
- WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America has previously engaged the services of a Real Estate Broker to list the said property for sale and otherwise seek a purchaser;**
- WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America has previously established a “Property Committee” to facilitate the said sale and desires that the said Committee engage in negotiations toward that end and recognizing that it is desirable and necessary that said Committee be given both guidance and authority for such anticipated negotiations;**
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America does hereby authorize the Property Committee:**
- 1) To engage in all negotiations on behalf of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America necessary to arrive at a contract for sale of said property;**
 - 2) In furtherance of such negotiations, the Property Committee by majority vote of its members and without prior approval of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America may in the course of such negotiations lower the asking price, demand such terms of sale as it sees fit and otherwise negotiate with a prospective buyer;**
 - 3) Every counteroffer made by the Property Committee shall contain the following caveat in writing; “This counteroffer upon acceptance by the prospective purchaser constitutes a binding contract ONLY if subsequently approved in writing by both the Metropolitan Council and The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America and such written approval has been delivered to the said prospective buyer.”;**
 - 4) The Property Committee may reject, without prior approval of the Metropolitan Council, any offer to purchase that the majority of the committee members deem not in the best interest of the Orthodox Church in America. CARRIED with one (1) abstention (KRETA).**

G. Adjournment

In his closing remarks, Metropolitan Tikhon expressed his gratitude for the work of the Metropolitan Council and requested volunteers for membership in the “Landing Committee” which would also include people from the Archdiocese of Washington. He reported that he has been formulating ideas for a new chancery and would prefer the construction of a new building. Metropolitan Tikhon then declared the Extraordinary Session of the Council adjourned and led the gathering in a closing prayer at 3:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary

Call to Order (February 24, 2021)

This is the first meeting of the regular Spring 2021 Session of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America, which is meeting under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon. We are meeting today, Wednesday, February 24, 2021, and, by the grace of God, plan to continue this session next Wednesday, March 3, 2021. If the Metropolitan Council is not able to complete its business as indicated on the agenda during the two dates scheduled, His Beatitude will call for another meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2021. Our meetings will be held via teleconference due to the continued public health crisis.

I note at the outset today that, thanks to the work of Priest Alessandro Margheritino and Archpriest John Schroedel, all the materials for the Metropolitan Council have been posted and made available in a designated folder for the Metropolitan Council on Box.com. Every member of the Metropolitan Council has been contacted and asked to accept the invitation to join this account and thus have access to all the documents for this meeting. If you are experiencing any difficulties logging on or accessing these materials, please contact Fr. Alessandro. Moving forward, we will continue the use of the virtual folder on Box to post and upload materials for our meetings. I further anticipate that we will begin uploading materials from previous meetings of the Metropolitan Council also.

Review of Agenda (February 24, 2021)

In the course of our meeting today, after the Roll Call, we will be called upon to approve the minutes of the Regular Fall 2020 Session that met on August 27, September 16, September 17, and November 4. In a slight change to the agenda, we will consider the minutes of the Special Session of the Metropolitan Council that was held on November 19, 2020, at our meeting next week, Wednesday, March 3.

After we consider the approval of these minutes, His Beatitude will offer his report to the Metropolitan Council. After this report, Ray Steeb and Gregory Honshul will provide us with an update on the sale of the Westwood Property. Deacon Peter Ilchuk will then give a report on the plans for the 20th All-American Council. After him, the Pension Plan Administrator, Mr. Michael Stieglitz, will update the Metropolitan Council on the status of the plan. The Metropolitan Council will also have to reconsider the resolution that was put forward at the Spring 2020 Session of the Metropolitan Council to petition the

Holy Synod to form a joint committee, made up of members of the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council that would investigate and then seek ways to enforce the synodal mandate for full clergy participation in the Pension Plan. Fr. Nicholas Solak will then present an updated on the Thriving in Ministry program. Fr. Nicholas will then be joined by His Grace Bishop Alexis in order for them to make a proposal for funding a series of Clergy Health Synaxes. Finally, Fr. Alessandro Margheritino, Acting Secretary, will make his first report to the Metropolitan Council, and discuss the recent meetings of SMPAC, the Archives Advisory Committee, the different tech upgrades at the Chancery, and review the recent publications of the Orthodox Church in America. Fr. Alessandro will raise the question of the annual desk calendar. The Metropolitan Council will have an opportunity to discuss a) whether we want to continue publishing it, b) ways we might want to amend it, and c) how we might go about finding additional sponsors for it.

His Beatitude will conclude our meeting today with any concluding remarks he might want to make and then with a prayer.

Please note that for the exclusive purpose of assisting the recording secretary with the taking, we are recording this meeting.

We have met via GoToMeeting and Zoom for almost a year now, and, I expect, we are consequently more used to meeting in this manner. Nevertheless, I want to remind us that everyone should be sure that they will have time to speak and be heard. We can schedule further meetings, if needed, for example. As always, I would only ask that we hold on to questions until a speaker has finished, or I have called for questions. Please use the features available to us in Zoom, and, if needed, use raise your hand, your virtual hand, or use the chat feature.

Roll Call

During our meeting today, we have with us a number of guests: Priest Alessandro Margheritino, Acting Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America; Judge E.R. Lanier, General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America; and Alexis Liberovksy, Archivist of the Orthodox Church in America, who will take minutes of our meeting. During the course of our meeting, we will also be joined by His Grace Bishop Alexis of Bethesda, locum tenens of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska, Archpriest Nicholas Solak, Deacon Peter Ilchuk, Council Manager, and Mr. Michael Stieglitz, Pension Plan Administrator.

[Take Roll Call]

Approval of Minutes – Regular Fall 2020 Session

The minutes of the regular Fall 2020 Session of the Metropolitan Council, which was held August 27, September 16, September 17, and November 4, have been posted online at oca.org, and were distributed via email by Fr. Alessandro on Monday, December 7, 2020. As distributed, are there any corrections?

If there are no (further) corrections, the minutes of the regular Fall 2020 Session of the Metropolitan Council, which was held August 27, September 16, September 17, and November 4, 2020, and which were distributed via email on Monday, December 7, 2020, are approved.

Tentative Agenda – Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 1:00-3:30 pm EST

1. Opening Prayer
2. Call to Order – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
3. Review of Agenda – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
4. Roll Call – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Fall 2020 Session of the Metropolitan Council
6. Report of the Metropolitan – His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon
7. Property Committee – Ray Steeb and Gregory Honshul
8. 20th All-American Council – Dn. Peter Ilchuk
9. Pension Board – Mr. Michael Stieglitz
10. Thriving in Ministry – Archpriest Nicholas Solak
11. Clergy Health Synaxis Proposal – His Grace Bishop Alexis and Archpriest Nicholas Solak
12. Report of the Acting Secretary – Priest Alessandro Margheritino
13. Concluding Remarks – His Beatitude
14. Prayer – His Beatitude

✝ ✝ ✝

Call to Order (March 3, 2021)

This is the second meeting of the regular Spring 2021 Session of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America, which is meeting under the presidency of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon. We are meeting today, Wednesday, March 3, 2021. If we do not complete our work today, by the grace of God, we will meet again next Wednesday, March 10, 2021. We should anticipate at least one further special meeting of the Metropolitan Council later this Spring in order consider the appointment of Priest Alessandro Margheritino as Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America. It is, of course, also possible that His Beatitude might call further meetings this spring to consider the sale of the Westwood Estate, or deal with other issues that might arise out of this meeting, or that might simply arise. Our meetings today are held via teleconference due to the continued public health crisis.

Review of Agenda (March 3, 2021)

In the course of our meeting today, after the Roll Call, we will be called upon to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2020, Special Session of the Metropolitan Council. After these matters, His Beatitude will offer a brief report (6). As Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America I will then provide a report to the Metropolitan Council (7). After I give my report, the Legal Committee of the Metropolitan Council will present their report (8).

The Metropolitan Council will then turn to the Report of the Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, Mr. Andrew Smith. His report will be divided into six parts: a. Investments (Mr. Michael Crofton, our Investment Advisor from Philadelphia Trust, will join the meeting at 1:30p); b. Current Financials; c. Internal Audit; d. Final report on Stewards Donations; and e. Amended 2021 Budget. In a slight change of the agenda that was sent out yesterday, Andrew will call only for *nominations*, and not seek the formal appointment today of new internal auditor (9). Within just the past couple of days, Andrew and I have received from leading members of the Church a nomination for the internal auditor position. Given that we have two now, and maybe more, we wish to consider the matter more carefully. I anticipate we will bring a nomination to the Metropolitan Council for consideration later this Spring.

Following this portion of the meeting, the Metropolitan Council will hear a report from Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Program Manager for the Departments, on the activities of the Orthodox Church in America (10).

After his report, Metropolitan Council will have an opportunity to raise internal matters and discuss the scheduling of future meetings (11). This meeting will close with concluding remarks of His Beatitude and a closing prayer (12-13).

Please note, as usual, that for the exclusive purpose of assisting the recording secretary with the preparation of minutes, I am using the feature in Zoom to record this meeting.

As I noted last week, we have met virtually in many meetings over the past year, and we are consequently more used to this type of meeting. That being said, I want to remind us that everyone should be sure that they will have time to speak and be heard. We can schedule further meetings, as I have already noted, if we are not able to complete our agenda today. Experience has shown that proper “Zoom etiquette” requires that we speak in turn and when called upon. We should be sure to use the chat features, and the feature that allows us to virtually raise our hand. I assure you, however, that you can always raise your hand, and I will call upon you in time. I do ask that we hold onto questions until a speaker has finished, or I have called for questions.

Roll Call (March 3, 2021)

During our meeting today, we have with us a number of guests: Priest Alessandro Margheritino, Acting Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America; Judge E.R. Lanier, General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America; and Alexis Liberovksy, Archivist of the Orthodox Church in America, who will take minutes of our meeting. During the course of our meeting, we will also be joined Susan Wisnewski, our Accounting Manager, and by Mr. Michael Crofton, our investment advisor from Philadelphia Trust.

[Take Roll Call]

Approval of Minutes – November 19, 2021 Special Session

The minutes of the November 19, 2021, Special Session of the Metropolitan Council, have been posted online at oca.org and in the Metropolitan Council folder on Box.com, and were distributed via email by Fr. Alexander on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. As posted and distributed, are there any corrections?

If there are no (further) corrections, the minutes of the November 19, 2021, Special Session of the Metropolitan Council, which have been posted online at oca.org and in the Metropolitan Council folder on Box.com, and were distributed via email by Fr. Alexander on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, are approved.

Agenda – Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 1:00-3:30 pm EST

1. Opening Prayer
2. Call to Order – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
3. Review of Agenda – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
4. Roll Call – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Fall Session of the Metropolitan Council, November 19, 2020
6. Report of the Metropolitan – His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon
7. Report of the Chancellor – Archpriest Alexander Rentel
8. Legal Committee Report – Judge Lanier and David Lane
9. Report of the Treasurer (presentation of a. Investments, b. Financials, c. Internal Audit, d. Final Report on Stewards Donations, e. Amended 2021 Budget, f. Nominations for Internal Auditor) – Mr. Andrew Smith
10. Department Updates – Archpriest Thomas Soroka
11. Internal Metropolitan Council matters
12. Concluding Remarks – His Beatitude
13. Closing Prayer – His Beatitude

Report of the Chancellor

At the outset of my report today, I would note a remark made to me and my family by my mother recently: priests, she said, have difficulty maintaining a balance between work and life. I offer this remark here in order to characterize my work as Chancellor from the last time I made a report to the Metropolitan Council, and, indeed, perhaps over the whole period of the pandemic: it is difficult for me to keep track of everything that my office and I have been involved in. There have been so many things, and, I confess, the time has blurred together. I do want to underscore also that I do not feel that I am specially aggrieved during this time. From what I read and what I see in the news, many

people are feeling this same way. And just to make a further point here, even after this difficult year, I am grateful for the opportunity to work in the Church, something I have aspired to since I was a child.

Since reporting to the Metropolitan Council last, I have continued to assist His Beatitude and the Holy Synod in their work, which has been bound up with routine matters and the special challenges posed by the ongoing public health crisis. Exact descriptions of that work can be found on the numerous news entries found on our website, or in the reports of my colleagues made throughout the meeting of the Metropolitan Council. I can assure the member of the Metropolitan Council that I am involved with everything that has been and will yet be reported.

In the past, much of my job has involved travel, but travel has been limited because of the virus. The two major exceptions have been the funerals for Metropolitan Theodosius of blessed memory in mid-October, and Archbishop David of blessed memory in late-November, early December. Even without travel, I remained involved with life of the Church. I have led or participated in meetings of the Board of Theological Education, the Archives Advisory Committee, various meeting of the Finance and Investment Committee, ORSMA, and SMPAC. I am also a member of the Board of Trustees at St. Tikhon's Seminary and St. Vladimir's Seminary, and have participated in their respective meetings. In terms of external relations, again with travel limited, my activity and the activity of my office has been primarily the drafting and sending and exchange of letters, Nativity greetings, and engaging in regular digital communications both with other jurisdictions in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and with local Orthodox Churches abroad.

With the Chancery offices themselves, I note that we are continuing to work in a hybrid manner, remote and in person, although I am personally drifting to a more in-person schedule. That being said, the Chancery offices has become more virtual with employees scattered across the country. With this structure in mind, as Fr. Alessandro mentioned last week in his report, we have adopted the use of Slack, a communication platform, and Box.com to assist us in this work. Over the course of this year, I will be directing all employees of the Chancery to move their digital files from whatever they are currently using to Box so that we all are using one common platform. I cannot underscore what a huge step these two simple adoptions have been. Slack allows for ease of communication, app integration, and file sharing. Box has allowed us to move everything

off our physical servers that were in the basement and capture, as I say, the files and folders of everyone who works for the Chancery in one virtual place. I am grateful to Fr. Alessandro and Fr. John Schroedel for their work in implementing these two pieces of technology. Beyond gathering all digital files under one virtual architecture, the next step will be the creation of a Wiki-chancery procedure manual. Fr. John Schroedel has set up the initial infrastructure for this Wiki-chancery using a program called bookstackapp.com. Nothing has been written on this platform yet, but I hope to capture all the policies, procedures, even rites and rituals that are used in any way by the Chancery on this app. Once we have noted any of these things, we can then note changes (including the authority that changed anything, and the date and reason for changes) as they occur. I am convinced that the creation and use of this Wiki-chancery will be an enormous step forward in facilitating both a remote and in-person Chancery.

I am happy to report that our far-flung Chancery staff continues to work hard in their labors for the Church. Nevertheless, there are a number of personnel issues that we are addressing:

1. Media. His Beatitude, Fr. Alessandro, and I are eager to move away from our temporary arrangement with Fr. Thomas, Jessica, Dn. John, and Fr. Alessandro, our current media team, and appoint one person, off site, who can oversee and develop a media strategy, and can also serve as the principal drafter of media postings. Fr. Alessandro and I are confident that our current tech team can handle the technical matters, which leaves us with the search for this media person. Once hired, and once a strategy is in place, I hope to turn back to the website and our other media outlets for re-evaluation and renewal. Related to this position and this topic, we have engaged a copy editor who reviews our major postings and internal texts. This person does not work full time or on salary, but is paid for what work we send.

2. Secretary. As mentioned in Fr. Alessandro's report last week, he should be coming aboard full time, in person late this Spring, after his canonical release from His Eminence Archbishop Paul and service in the Diocese of the Midwest.

3. Compliance/Registrar. Fr. Alessandro also mentioned in his report that Ms. Cindy Heise is stepping down from her position as the ORSMA coordinator. Based on her recommendations in part, His Beatitude, Fr. Alessandro, and are considering hiring someone to replace her who would focus on compliance issues in regard to PSPs,

background checks, but also other areas within the Church, i.e., assisting the DVP coordinator with the DVP, registration at the AAC, etc. We do not anticipate this position being full time or in person, unless it were aggregated with other needs at the Chancery.

I have continued to keep the Chancery offices themselves closed to visitors, except for weekly services at St. Sergius Chapel. For these services, we maintain safety protocols and procedures put in place by the Holy Synod for the Church, and His Beatitude for his dioceses and institutions. We have, in fact, had to close down a number of times because of possible exposure to the virus. I am happy to say, however, that, by the grace of God we have not had any infections within the small community.

As before, we no longer retain a full-time housekeeper, but use weekly cleaning service for cleaning. For any events that we do have, which have been few and small, I have asked Susan Wisnewski to take the lead in arranging them

For this semester, I am teaching one class, “Introduction to the Canonical Tradition of the Orthodox Church” on Tuesday afternoons at St. Vladimir’s seminary. On those days that I teach, I typically work from home in the morning, and teach for a few hours in the afternoon.

Looking forward from our meeting today, the Chancery has a flurry of activities surrounding either the Office of the Metropolitan or my own office. Dn. John Thetford and I will accompany His Beatitude to a meeting with His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Archdiocese tomorrow. Tomorrow evening, Fr. Alessandro and I will meet with the Archives Advisory Committee. Next week, we have the first meeting of the so-called Landing Committee, and a further preliminary meeting with officials from Miami University about the possibility of moving the archives there. Finally, there is also a meeting of the Board of Theological Education next week. We are trying to accomplish many things before the beginning of Great Lent.

Finally, I am grateful to my colleagues at the far-flung Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America, which is literally coast-to-coast, North and South, for their collaboration and hard work. Needless to say, I am also grateful to His Beatitude for his leadership and guidance.

Orthodox Church in America

Treasurer's Report

Metropolitan Council – February/March 2021

Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces, Reverend Fathers, brothers and sisters,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

A report on the financial affairs of the church through 2020 into 2021 would be incomplete without discussion of the global coronavirus pandemic, which was only a slight blip on our collective radar in spring 2020 but became a burgeoning threat in the months that followed. I don't wish to belabor this and generally will not throughout this report, but 2020 has been challenging.

But, thank God!

Ultimately, 2020 proved to be a good bit better, financially, than most of us would have anticipated ten or so months ago. The concerns I had about cash flow and the ability to maintain financial operations have not, as yet, been borne out. Indeed, we are (comparatively) quite healthy and have begun 2021 on solid footing. That said, the times remain uncertain and demand continued vigilance on the part of those charged with tending to the financial health of the OCA.

What follows is my update on the finances of the OCA through the end of 2020—with a look ahead at amendments to the 2021 budget. As you review these items in preparation for the Metropolitan Council meeting, please feel free to contact me at asmith@oca.org with any questions.

Fiscal Year 2020 – Preliminary Annual Results

Enclosed as **Attachment A** is the quarter- and year-end Treasurer's Report for 2020 OCA operating activities at 12/31/2020. The report includes:

- Statement of Operating Activity – Unrestricted
- Statement of Operating Activity – Restricted
- Comparative Balance Sheet for 12/31/2020 and 12/31/2019

Please note that this data, while substantively correct, is preliminary and unaudited. We do expect adjustments.

Overall, revenue collection for the year was good (117% of budget), with Diocesan contributions alone coming in 4% higher than expected. Notably, individual giving (primarily through the Stewards of the OCA campaign) exceeded expectations, by nearly 50%. Expenses were well below anticipated (80.11% of overall expense budget) due largely to the curtailment of meetings and travel expenses for most of 2020. Net income was \$670K.

In addition to the annual operating activity (unrestricted revenue and expense), the following endowed fund investment activity is provided, showing a nearly 14.21% increase in value from 12/31/2019 to 12/31/2020:

	Market Val.	Market Val.	Annual
Investment Accounts	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	Rate of Return
Main Endowment Fund, incl Rotko	1,432,835.86	1,660,858.51	15.91%
FOS Endowment Fund	86,866.36	103,981.79	19.70%
St. Andrew Endowment Fund	125,151.65	130,458.48	4.24%
Kavalenko	75,845.71	75,096.89	-0.99%
	1,644,853.87	1,895,298.78	15.23%
OCCIF N/R (Mission Fund)	150,000.00	150,000.00	2.75% interest
Missions Fund	935,809.65	1,084,808.53	15.92%
	1,085,809.65	1,234,808.53	13.72%
	2,806,509.23	3,205,204.20	14.21%

Attachment B (password: 11791) is a report from the Philadelphia Trust Company (PTC) who manages the bulk of the invested funds that correspond to our endowments (all funds, except the Kavalenko Trust and the portion of the Mission Fund invested with OCCIF). Our intention is to have a manager from PTC join us for a portion of the Metropolitan Council meeting to provide a brief update on overall investment performance.

This is provided as information and no action is recommended.

2020 Internal Audit

The Internal Audit Committee of the OCA met in the Fall of 2020 to conduct the annual internal audit. The committee welcomed a new member (Maha Adranly) and utilized a new approach (virtual, in light of the pandemic) in conducting the audit. The committee typically meets in person over the course of several days at the Chancery – an approach that affords the opportunity for a focused effort on the part of both auditors and staff, with staff able to provide quick responses to internal audit requests and questions. This year, the audit was conducted remotely through a number of meetings and many email exchanges over the course of several months. To add to the difficulty, OCA staff had just this year undertaken a change in accounting software and had endured its own workplace challenges due to the pandemic. Upon completing their work, the Internal Audit Committee met with Susan and me and presented a set of recommendations, almost all of which pertained to general ledger matters stemming from the software transition and almost all of which have been resolved in preparation for the 2020 external audit. Any remaining unresolved items will be addressed through changes in 2021 operations.

Attachment C is the Committee’s report. Staff recommends that the Metropolitan Council accept the report of the Internal Audit Committee.

Fiscal Year 2021 – Budget Amendments

At the Fall 2020 Metropolitan Council meeting, staff proposed and the Metropolitan Council adopted a 2021 budget. I noted at the time that I anticipated amendments as Chancery staff learned more about what the OCA could expect budget-wise at the start of 2021.

Since the Fall 2020 meeting, staff has queried dioceses regarding their own anticipated net operating budgets for 2021 and we have arrived at what we hope is a more precise diocesan assessment revenue budget. We also amended expected revenue from fundraising based on 2020 revenue recognized.

Finally, we made adjustments to expense line items based on updated information about anticipated OCA operations in 2021 (e.g., filling of Executive Department position, decrease in payment to the local municipality, increased funding for technology, and seed funding for a new anticipated restricted fund).

Included as **Attachment D** is a budget document that shows the 2021 original budget, 2021 proposed amendments, and the 2021 proposed amended budget in columns D, E, and F, respectively (columns A, B, and C show 2020 budget-to-actual comparisons). The second page includes more detail about the proposed amendments.

Staff recommends that the Metropolitan Council adopt the 2021 budget as amended in **Attachment D**.

All-American Council – Financial Planning

Deacon Peter Ilchuk and I have continued to have discussions about budgetary considerations for the 2020 All-American Council, throughout the broader discussions about the timing of the Council in light of the pandemic. As the decision was made to delay the Council one year, he and I corresponded about the accuracy of the budget adopted by the Metropolitan Council in Spring 2020 when the assumption was that the Council would be held in summer 2021 rather than summer 2022. He and I agree that the budget then adopted is adequate and meets our needs for a delayed Council.

The budget adopted at the spring 2020 Metropolitan Council is as follows. This is provided for informational purposes; no action is requested.

<u>AAC Proportional Support</u>	<u>20th AAC</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>19th AAC \$</u>
Albanian Archdiocese	\$ 3,728.54	1.2%	\$ 2,200.00
Diocese Alaska	\$ 2,804.33	0.9%	\$ 2,200.00
Bulgarian Diocese	\$ 2,589.27	0.9%	\$ 2,200.00
Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western PA	\$ 20,607.33	6.9%	\$ 25,000.00
Diocese of the Midwest	\$ 78,041.27	26.0%	\$ 67,500.00

Archdiocese of Washington DC	\$ 10,319.10	3.4%	\$ 9,000.00
Diocese of the South	\$ 47,483.91	15.8%	\$ 40,700.00
Diocese of the West	\$ 41,680.49	13.9%	\$ 42,000.00
Diocese of New England	\$ 22,861.51	7.6%	\$ 24,000.00
Diocese of New York/New Jersey	\$ 36,647.54	12.2%	\$ 28,900.00
Diocese of Eastern PA	\$ 27,022.45	9.0%	\$ 25,600.00
Romanian Orthodox Episcopate	\$ 6,214.24	2.1%	\$ 5,700.00
Totals	\$ 300,000.00	100.0%	\$ 275,000.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Smith
Treasurer



**ORTHODOX
CHURCH in
AMERICA**

Treasurer's Report

Year End - December 31, 2020

Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces, Reverend Fathers, brothers and sisters,

Greetings in Christ!

2020 has proven to be an unusual and uniquely challenging year, with the coronavirus pandemic significantly altering the operations of the OCA and the central administration of the church. While the full effect on the financial bottom-line that we once expected and planned for didn't materialize during 2020, the need for us to operate nimbly and with fiscal vigilance never waned. Further, few would argue that the macro-economic effects of the pandemic have been fully realized as we enter into 2021. Indeed, we must continue to be attentive to the financial health of the church at all levels.

Attached is the Treasurer's Report for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2020. The report includes the following:

- * Statement of Operating Activity - Unrestricted
- * Statement of Operating Activity - Restricted
- * Comparative Balance Sheet for Dec. 31, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2019

December 31, 2020 represents 12/12ths of the OCA's fiscal year, so the target for operating revenues and is expenses is 100%.

Please note that this data, while substantively correct, is preliminary and unaudited. We do expect additional adjustments.

Revenues

Revenue collection was \$2,124K, including an anticipated annual endowment draw, on an annual budget of \$1,815K (117.02%). Diocesan contributions were at 104.63%.

Expenses

Expenses incurred through Dec were \$1,468K on an annual budget of \$1,815K (80.88%). Many of our normal operating expenses (e.g., travel and lodging) were not incurred due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Net Income

Unrestricted net income is a \$670K (or \$604K, without anticipated endowment draw) surplus through December.

If you have any questions about this report, please don't hesitate to contact me at asmith@oca.org.

In Christ,

Andrew D. Smith
Treasurer

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
Statement of Operating Activity - FY2020 - **Preliminary & Unaudited**
Dec 31, 2020

				Target 100.00%
<i>Unrestricted</i>	A	B	C	D
	CURRENT QUARTER	YEAR TO DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET	% BUDGET USED
1	REVENUE			
2	469,073	1,736,293	1,659,435	104.63%
3	47,276	112,395	75,000	149.86%
4	1,700	8,850	15,000	59.00%
5	1,061	3,872	-	
6	-	-	-	
7	-	-	-	
8	195,959	197,045	-	
9	16,500	66,000	66,000	100.00%
10	731,568	2,124,455	1,815,435	117.02%
11				
12				
13				
14	EXPENSES			
15	118,843	416,758	343,319	121.39%
16	113,515	403,019	543,476	74.16%
17	22,266	92,135	103,505	89.02%
18	12,183	53,077	63,219	83.96%
19	48	1,586	4,400	36.04%
20	39,160	181,586	239,769	75.73%
21	7,804	18,502	56,186	32.93%
22	13,523	26,745	66,300	40.34%
23	3,618	15,626	64,400	24.26%
24	-	12,931	32,450	39.85%
25	14,130	56,530	65,300	86.57%
26	-	-	-	
27	-	-	10,000	0.00%
28	10,000	40,000	40,000	100.00%
29	3,000	6,000	12,000	50.00%
30	-	-	-	
31	5,929	28,772	27,611	104.20%
32	-	-	9,000	0.00%
33	18,000	18,000	18,000	100.00%
34	41,370	83,121	116,500	71.35%
35	423,389	1,454,388	1,815,436	80.11%
36				
37	308,179	670,066	0	

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Statement of Operating Activity - FY2020 - Preliminary & Unaudited

Dec 31, 2020

				Target 100.00%
				D
<i>Temp Restricted</i>	A	B	C	D
	CURRENT QUARTER	YEAR TO DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET	% BUDGET USED
1	REVENUE			
2	-	-	-	
3	-	50,658	-	
4	3,000	4,800	-	
5	273,840	423,574	-	
6	-	-	-	
7	-	-	-	
8	-	-	-	
9	276,840	479,033	-	
10				
11				
12				
13	EXPENSES			
14	Restricted Funds			
15	72	10,788	-	
16	-	-	-	
17	-	-	-	
18	-	-	-	
19	4,235	25,335	-	
20	-	-	-	
21	-	-	-	
22	24,593	69,412	-	
23	28,901	105,535	-	
24				
25	247,939	373,497	-	

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
Balance Sheet - FY2020 - **Preliminary & Unaudited**
Dec 31, 2020

A	B	C	D
	<u>12/31/2020</u>	<u>12/31/2019</u>	DIFFERENCE
1 ASSETS			
2 Cash & Cash Equivalents - Operating	865,924	317,067	548,857
3 Cash & Cash Equivalents - Restricted	638,028	479,716	158,312
4 Petty Cash	853	853	-
5			
6 Accounts Receivable	120,996	235,386	(114,390)
7 Grants Receivable	-	-	-
8 Prepaid Expense	-	-	-
9 Other Current Assets	1,156	3,500	(2,344)
10			
11 Fixed Assets, net of depreciation	313,763	320,744	(6,981)
12 Investments	3,275,975	2,885,308	390,667
13			
14 Total Assets	<u>5,216,695</u>	<u>4,242,574</u>	<u>974,121</u>
15			
16			
17 LIABILITIES			
18 Accounts Payable	43,627	65,514	(21,887)
19 Accrued Expenses	-	40,369	(40,369)
20 Retirement Obligation	37,552	37,552	-
21 Unitrust Liability	106,527	82,136	24,391
22 Payroll Liabilities	(944)	-	(944)
23 Other Liabilities	-	327	(327)
24			
25 Note Payable - PPP Program (CARES Act)	-	-	-
26			
27 Total Liabilities	<u>186,762</u>	<u>225,898</u>	<u>(39,136)</u>
28			
29			
30 NET ASSETS	<u><u>5,029,934</u></u>	<u><u>4,016,676</u></u>	<u><u>1,013,258</u></u>

Investment Presentation for

1/31/2021

Orthodox Church

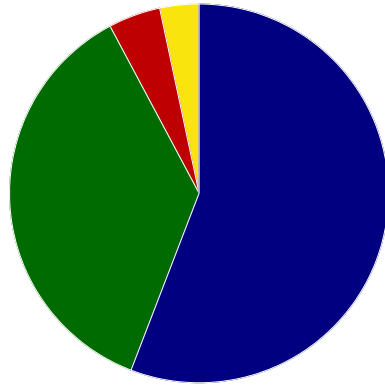
Account AGG000098

Report	Page
Orthodox Church - Consolidated Account Summary.	1
Orthodox Church - Account Summary Report.	2
Orthodox Church - Equity Sector Weightings.	3
Orthodox Church - Holdings Detail.	4
Orthodox Church - Performance Summary.	7

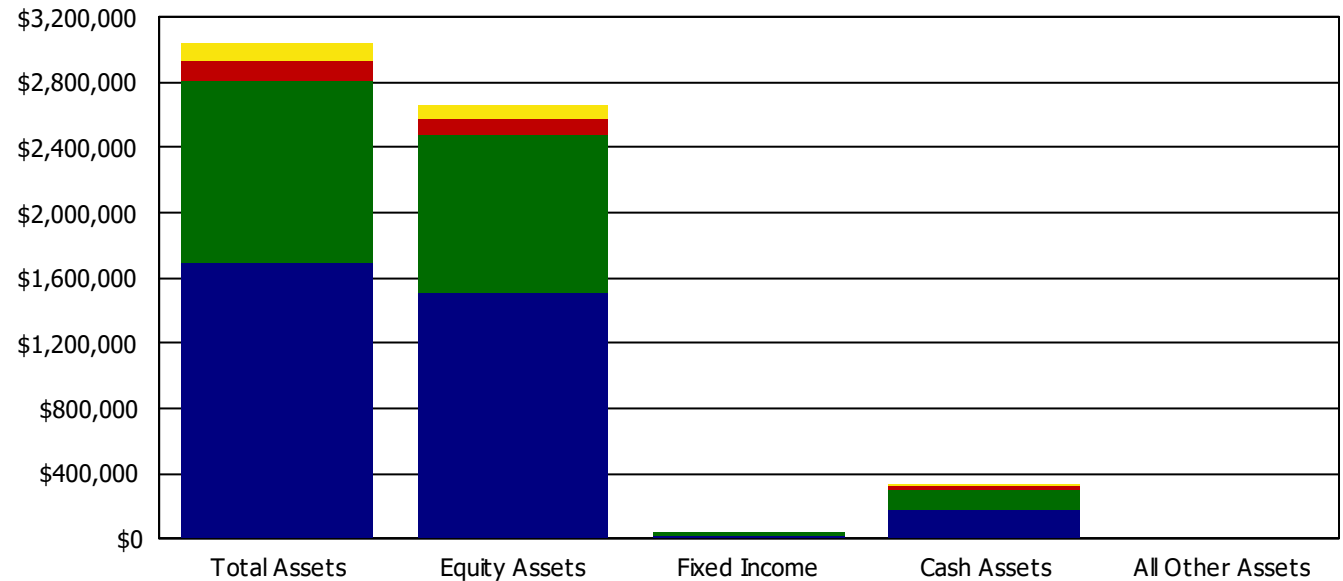
Consolidated Account Summary as of 1/31/2021

Orthodox Church

Sub Account Allocation



Sub-Account Allocation Across Asset Classes



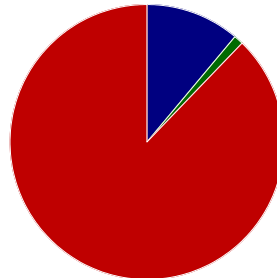
Sub-Account Allocation

Sub-Account	% Total	Total Assets	Equity Assets	Fixed Income	Cash Assets	All Other Assets
Orthodox Church - Main Endowment (PTC944)	55.93	1,698,524.51	1,506,532.98 88.70%	17,652.50 1.04%	174,339.03 10.26%	0.00 0.00%
Orthodox Church - Mission Endowment (PTC947)	36.31	1,102,642.84	966,469.95 87.65%	17,652.50 1.60%	118,520.39 10.75%	0.00 0.00%
Orthodox Church - St. Andrews (PTC945)	4.34	131,694.61	105,157.48 79.85%	3,530.50 2.68%	23,006.63 17.47%	0.00 0.00%
Orthodox Church - Fos Endowment (PTC946)	3.43	104,124.93	84,229.39 80.89%	1,765.25 1.70%	18,130.29 17.41%	0.00 0.00%
Total	100.00%	\$3,036,986.89	\$2,662,389.80	\$40,600.75	\$333,996.34	\$0.00
Percentage of Holdings			87.67%	1.34%	11.00%	0.00%

* Assets not designated as equity, fixed or cash are totaled in other assets; Market values include accruals.

Asset Allocation

Asset Category	Market Value	% Total
Cash & Equivalents	333,996.34	11.0
Fixed Income	40,600.75	1.3
Equity	2,662,389.80	87.7
Total	\$3,036,986.89	100.0%



Account Statistics

Total Market Value	\$3,036,986.89
Total Unrealized Gain/Loss	\$830,094.09
Estimated Annual Income	\$36,469.00
Estimated Portfolio Yield	1.20%

Top 10 Holdings

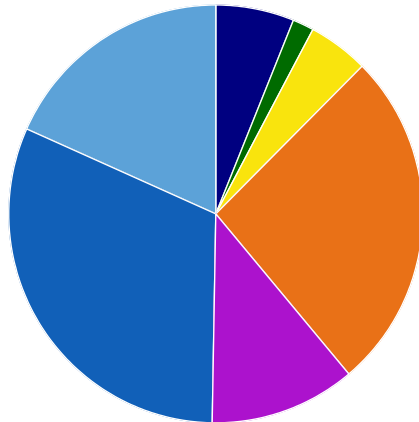
Asset	Units	Price	Tax Cost	Market Value	Gain/Loss	Est. Income	Yield	% Total
SEI DAILY INC TREAS II PT-F	333,993	1.00	333,993.17	333,996.34	3.17	33.40	0.01	11.00
Income Cash	221,815	1.00	221,814.52	221,814.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.30
APPLE INC	1,540	131.96	42,227.99	203,218.40	160,990.41	1,262.80	0.62	6.69
MICROSOFT CORP	825	231.96	57,754.66	191,367.00	133,612.34	1,848.00	0.97	6.30
ABBOTT LABS INC	1,375	123.59	63,087.93	170,555.00	107,467.07	2,475.00	1.45	5.62
VERIZON COMMUNICATIONS	1,875	54.75	92,977.84	103,832.82	10,854.98	4,706.25	4.53	3.42
FIBROGEN INC	2,150	48.18	89,236.83	103,587.00	14,350.17	0.00	0.00	3.41
ALTERYX INC CL A	800	126.05	105,056.80	100,840.00	-4,216.80	0.00	0.00	3.32
ALPHABET INC CL A	55	1,827.36	41,135.56	100,504.80	59,369.24	0.00	0.00	3.31
TWITTER INC	1,925	50.53	46,678.36	97,270.25	50,591.89	0.00	0.00	3.20
Total			\$1,093,963.66	\$1,626,986.13	\$533,022.47	\$10,325.45	0.63%	53.57%

Market values include accruals.

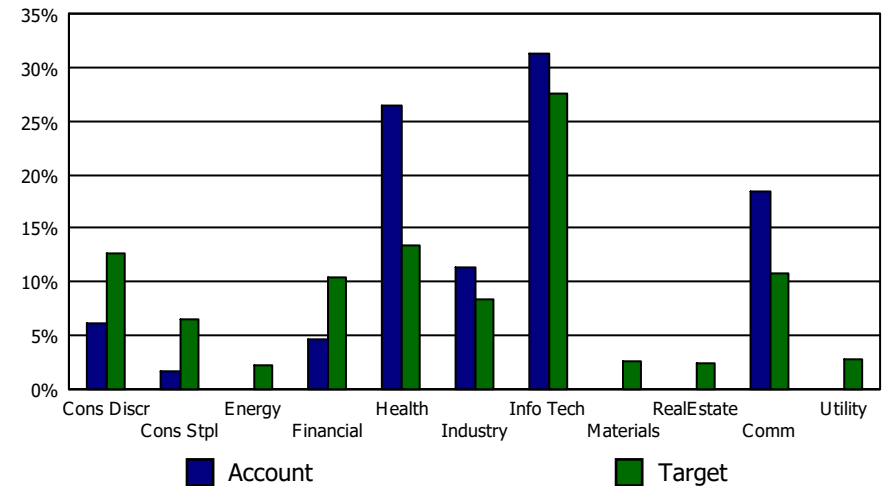
Equity Sector Weightings as of 1/31/2021

Orthodox Church

Sector Allocation



Allocation Comparison



Equity Sector Detail

Equity Category	Market Value	Units	% Total	% Comp	Var %
Consumer Discretionary	158,480.00	7,550	6	13	-7
Consumer Staples	42,892.80	2,560	2	7	-5
Energy	0.00	0	0	2	-2
Financials	122,776.50	7,905	5	10	-6
Health Care	689,248.60	12,970	26	13	13
Industrials	297,284.55	11,560	11	8	3
Information Technology	817,310.38	17,566	31	28	4
Materials	0.00	0	0	3	-3
Real Estate	0.00	0	0	2	-2
Communication Services	481,951.97	12,000	18	11	8
Utilities	0.00	0	0	3	-3
Total	\$2,609,944.80		100%	100%	

* Comparison Account: S&P 500; Market values include accruals.

Holdings Detail as of 1/31/2021

Orthodox Church

Asset	Quantity	Price	Market Value	% Total	Tax Cost	Gain/Loss
Cash & Equivalents						
Cash & Equivalents						
SEI Daily Inc Treas II Pt-f	333,993	1.00	333,996.34	11	333,993.17	3.17
Total Cash & Equivalents			\$333,996.34	11%	\$333,993.17	\$3.17
Uninvested Cash						
Income Cash	221,815	1.00	221,814.52	7	221,814.52	0.00
Principal Cash	-221,815	1.00	-221,814.52	-7	-221,814.52	0.00
Total Uninvested Cash			\$0.00	0%	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Cash & Equivalents			\$333,996.34	11%	\$333,993.17	\$3.17
Fixed Income						
Closed End Fixed Income						
Hancock John Invs TR SH Ben Int	2,300	17.65	40,600.75	1	40,433.77	166.98
Total Closed End Fixed Income			\$40,600.75	1%	\$40,433.77	\$166.98
Total Fixed Income			\$40,600.75	1%	\$40,433.77	\$166.98
Equity						
Consumer Discretionary						
Academy Sports & Outdoors Inc	1,750	21.50	37,625.00	1	28,092.40	9,532.60
Amazon Com Inc	25	3,206.20	80,155.00	3	49,075.00	31,080.00
El Pollo Loco Holdings Inc	2,000	20.35	40,700.00	1	38,757.20	1,942.80
Total Consumer Discretionary			\$158,480.00	5%	\$115,924.60	\$42,555.40
Consumer Staples						
Kraft Heinz CO	1,280	33.51	42,892.80	1	66,469.71	-23,576.91
Total Consumer Staples			\$42,892.80	1%	\$66,469.71	-\$23,576.91
Financials						
Berkshire Hathaway INC-CL B	275	227.87	62,664.25	2	55,314.64	7,349.61
Donegal Group Inc	2,800	13.87	38,836.00	1	42,441.46	-3,605.46

Holdings Detail as of 1/31/2021

Orthodox Church

Asset	Quantity	Price	Market Value	% Total	Tax Cost	Gain/Loss
Equity						
Financials (continued)						
Jefferies Financial Group Inc	55	23.35	1,284.25	0	1,389.55	-105.30
Peapack-gladstone Finl Corp	850	23.52	19,992.00	1	23,526.30	-3,534.30
Total Financials			\$122,776.50	4%	\$122,671.95	\$104.55
Health Care						
Abbott Labs Inc	1,375	123.59	170,555.00	6	63,087.93	107,467.07
Abbvie Inc	600	102.48	62,268.00	2	56,462.76	5,805.24
AMGEN Inc	220	241.43	53,114.60	2	41,601.87	11,512.73
Becton Dickinson & CO	205	261.79	53,666.95	2	48,387.28	5,279.67
Biogen Inc	200	282.61	56,522.00	2	56,212.86	309.14
CVS Health Corp	805	71.65	58,080.75	2	57,946.55	134.20
Fibrogen Inc	2,150	48.18	103,587.00	3	89,236.83	14,350.17
Iqvia Holdings Inc	420	177.80	74,676.00	2	49,933.02	24,742.98
Medtronic PLC	510	111.33	56,778.30	2	44,681.41	12,096.89
Total Health Care			\$689,248.60	23%	\$507,550.51	\$181,698.09
Industrials						
Colfax Corp	1,625	37.12	60,320.00	2	52,243.59	8,076.41
Honeywell International Inc	275	195.37	53,726.75	2	49,796.60	3,930.15
Palo Alto Networks	235	350.75	82,426.25	3	58,362.57	24,063.68
Rackspace Technology Inc	3,265	23.11	75,454.15	2	68,400.78	7,053.37
Raytheon Technologies Corp	380	66.73	25,357.40	1	25,913.56	-556.16
Total Industrials			\$297,284.55	10%	\$254,717.10	\$42,567.45
Information Technology						
Adobe Inc	65	458.77	29,820.05	1	31,829.70	-2,009.65
Alteryx Inc CL A	800	126.05	100,840.00	3	105,056.80	-4,216.80
Apple Inc	1,540	131.96	203,218.40	7	42,227.99	160,990.41
Broadcom Inc	170	450.50	76,585.00	3	51,351.45	25,233.55

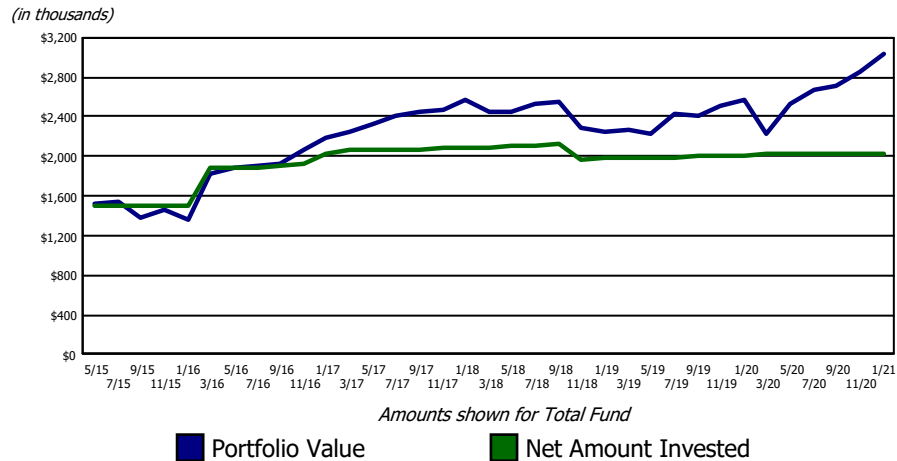
Holdings Detail as of 1/31/2021

Orthodox Church

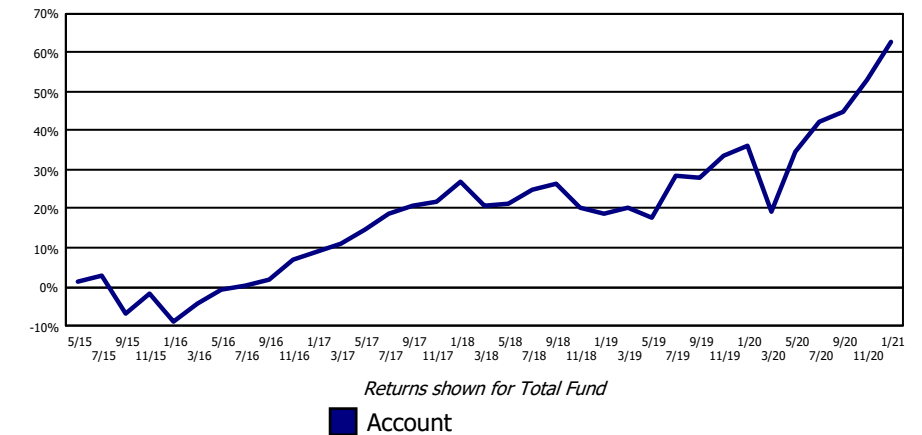
Asset	Quantity	Price	Market Value	% Total	Tax Cost	Gain/Loss
Equity						
Information Technology (continued)						
Commscope Holding CO Inc	4,000	14.69	58,760.00	2	51,322.40	7,437.60
Ii-vi Inc	1,000	84.07	84,070.00	3	36,587.10	47,482.90
L3 Harris Technologies Inc	363	171.51	62,258.13	2	30,342.60	31,915.53
Microsoft Corp	825	231.96	191,367.00	6	57,754.66	133,612.34
NVIDIA Corp	20	519.59	10,391.80	0	1,347.91	9,043.89
Total Information Technology			\$817,310.38	27%	\$407,820.61	\$409,489.77
Communication Services						
Activision Blizzard, Inc	875	91.00	79,625.00	3	48,220.10	31,404.90
Alphabet Inc CL A	55	1,827.36	100,504.80	3	41,135.56	59,369.24
Facebook Inc-a	270	258.33	69,749.10	2	46,177.68	23,571.42
Tripadvisor Inc	1,000	30.97	30,970.00	1	29,411.60	1,558.40
Twitter Inc	1,925	50.53	97,270.25	3	46,678.36	50,591.89
Verizon Communications	1,875	54.75	103,832.82	3	92,977.84	10,854.98
Total Communication Services			\$481,951.97	16%	\$304,601.14	\$177,350.83
Domestic Equity Mutual Funds						
Gabelli Equity TR Inc	8,500	6.17	52,445.00	2	52,710.24	-265.24
Total Domestic Equity Mutual Funds			\$52,445.00	2%	\$52,710.24	\$-265.24
Total Equity			\$2,662,389.80	88%	\$1,832,465.86	\$829,923.94
Total Portfolio			\$3,036,986.89	100%	\$2,206,892.80	\$830,094.09

* Market values include accruals.

Portfolio Growth Since Inception



Cumulative Returns



Return Details

	YTD	2020	Since Inception
Total Fund	2.02%	16.35%	62.46%
Equity	2.27%	23.28%	93.12%
Benchmark - S&P 500	-1.01%	18.40%	99.93%
Fixed Income	2.22%	6.75%	25.76%
Benchmark - Barcap 1-3 Yr Govt/cred	0.03%	3.33%	11.57%
Short Term Cash	0.00%	0.38%	4.46%

* The Inception Date for Total Fund is 5/1/2015; Market values include accruals.

**Orthodox Church in America
Internal Audit Report**

**Reader John Skrobat, chair
Polly Walker
Maha Adranly**

February 28, 2021

**The Holy Synod of Bishops and Metropolitan Council
Orthodox Church in America
PO Box 675
Syosset, NY 11791**

Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces, Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Most Blessed Master, Bless!

The Internal Audit Committee conducted its 2020 audit over the three month period November 2020 through January 2021. We examined account balances as of September 30, 2020 and, due to Corona Virus restrictions, reviewed supporting documentation remotely via drop box, email and numerous virtual meetings.

Financial recordkeeping and management were dramatically impacted by several major factors/events:

- **first full year after/during the reorganization of the Chancery staff**
- **new personnel in all key financial management positions**
- **conversion to new accounting software**
- **appointment of a new independent accountant**
- **transition from face to face financial management within the Chancery to remote/virtual management**
- **Covid Virus and its implications**

Our virtual internal audit was also greatly affected by these “generational changes”. In particular, it appears that the systems conversion from Blackbaud to Quickbooks was not “finalized” in all accounts. Some account balances seem to be a carryover from the old system and need to be appropriately reclassified in the current accounts. We encountered numerous instances where this apparent lack of a final “clean up” and “tie out” left an impression of incompleteness in some of the accounts.

Most importantly, it is absolutely essential that all Quickbooks account balances at December 31, 2020 accurately reflect current financial activity and any necessary adjustments, reclassifications or entries be booked prior to the arrival (face to face or virtual) of our independent auditors. Otherwise, problems will likely arise and potential cost overruns might occur.

Andrew Smith, Treasurer, and Susan Wisnewski, Accounting Manager, have labored under extremely difficult conditions during 2020. Their responses to our inquiries and requests have been prompt and forthcoming. We thank them for their assistance in all aspects of our audit work in partnering with us to perform our audit.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Skrobat". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Reader John Skrobat, chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Polly Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Polly Walker, member

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maha Adranly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Maha Adranly

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

2021 Budget - Summary

Amendments for consideration at Spring 2021 Metropolitan Council meeting

	A	B	Target	D	E	F
			100.00%			
<i>Unrestricted</i>	YTD Actual	BUDGET	% BUDGET	BUDGET	PROPOSED	BUDGET
	12/31/2020	2020	USED	Adopted 2021	AMENDMENTS	Amended 2021
1 REVENUE						
2 Diocesan Assessments	1,736,293	1,659,435	104.63%	1,621,289	62,166	1,683,455 A
3 Individual/Business Contributions	112,395	75,000	149.86%	75,000	25,000	100,000 B
4 Service Fees	8,850	15,000	59.00%	15,000	-	15,000
5 Interest Income/Realized Gains/Losses	3,872	-		-	-	-
6 Appeals	-	-		-	-	-
7 Special Events	-	-		-	-	-
8 Other	197,045	-		-	-	-
9 Release from Restriction - <i>Endowed Funds</i>	66,000	66,000		66,000	-	66,000
10 Release from Restriction - <i>Restricted Funds</i>				33,615		33,615
11 TOTAL REVENUE	2,124,455	1,815,435	117.02%	1,810,904	87,166	1,898,070
12						
13						
14						
15 EXPENSES						
16 Compensation & Benefits						
17 Administration	268,387	234,600	114.40%	221,016	-	221,016
18 Executive	388,424	503,776	77.10%	530,914	55,855	586,769 C
19 Archives	92,135	102,005	90.32%	94,544	-	94,544
20 External Affairs	38,839	41,719	93.10%	42,439	-	42,439
21 Property	35,626	75,444	47.22%	-	-	-
22 ORSMA	24,966	24,426	102.21%	24,426	-	24,426
23 Total Compensation & Benefits	848,377	981,971	86.40%	913,339	55,855	969,194
24						
25 Goods & Services						
26 Administration	148,370	108,719	136.47%	155,019	-	155,019
27 Executive	14,595	39,700	36.76%	55,700	-	55,700
28 Archives	-	1,500	0.00%	1,500	-	1,500
29 External Affairs	14,238	21,500	66.22%	21,500	-	21,500
30 Chapel	1,586	4,400	36.04%	4,400	-	4,400
31 Property, incl depr.	145,961	164,325	88.82%	136,125	(10,695)	125,430 D
32 TOC/Comm	18,502	56,186	32.93%	39,186	10,000	49,186 E
33 Holy Synod	26,745	66,300	40.34%	66,300	-	66,300
34 Metropolitan's Office	15,626	64,400	24.26%	63,400	-	63,400
35 Metropolitan Council	12,931	32,450	39.85%	32,450	-	32,450
36 St. Catherine's	56,530	65,300	86.57%	65,300	-	65,300
37 SOCA	-	-		-	-	-
38 BOT	-	10,000	0.00%	10,000	-	10,000
39 Mission Planting Grants	40,000	40,000	100.00%	68,000	-	68,000
40 Ordination Candidacy	6,000	12,000	50.00%	12,000	-	12,000
41 Canons and Statutes	-	-		-	-	-
42 ORSMA	3,806	3,185	119.50%	3,185	-	3,185
43 Continuing Ed	-	9,000	0.00%	9,000	-	9,000
44 Seminaries	18,000	18,000	100.00%	18,000	-	18,000
45 Departments	83,121	116,500	71.35%	136,500	32,006	168,506 F
46 Total Goods & Services	606,011	833,465	72.71%	897,565	31,311	928,876
47						
48 TOTAL EXPENSES	1,454,388	1,815,436	80.11%	1,810,904	87,166	1,898,070
49						
50 REVENUE OVER/(UNDER) EXPENSES	670,066	(0)		0	(0)	0

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

2021 Budget - Summary

Amendments for consideration at Spring 2021 Metropolitan Council meeting

- A** Increase in expected Diocesan contributions based on updated information from Diocesan treasurers regarding adopted 2021 budgets.
- B** Increase in expected fundraising based on 2020 results.
- C** True-up of salary and benefits due to the filling on a full-time basis of key Executive department positions.
- D** Payment in-lieu of taxes (PILOT) for Village of Oyster Bay decreased unexpectedly in 2021.
- E** Increase in expected outlay for technology (internet service, cloud-based programs, etc.)
- F** Provide funding for the Clergy Synaxis program (i.e., to provide seed-funding for the restricted fund).

**CURRENT LEGAL MATTERS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA:
A JOINT REPORT OF THE LEGAL COMMITTEE OF THE METROPOLITAN
COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN
AMERICA**

*2021 Spring Session of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America
March 3, 2021*

This Report is submitted to the Metropolitan Council as a joint statement of the Legal Committee of the Metropolitan Council and the General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America. Matters of a purely legal nature have been addressed by this Legal Team since the Fall Sessions of the Metropolitan Council in 2020 but these have been relatively infrequent. This Report is intended primarily as an update of matters addressed previously but with reference to certain new developments.

Current Litigation

Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America v. Duvlea and Holy Trinity Monastery

We are happy to report that this litigation was favorably concluded in favor of the Romanian Episcopate of America by virtue of an Order entered on September 23, 2020, by the Washtenaw County Circuit Court in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We have previously reported that an earlier order of the Michigan Court of Appeals in favor of the ROEA had been submitted for possible review by the Michigan Supreme Court; that Court denied any further review of the Order of the Michigan Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court of Michigan remitted the case to the Trial Court with directions to enter a judgment in favor of the Romanian Episcopate. That Court did so, concluding that the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America holds absolute title to the real property situated at 15143 Sheridan Rd., Clinton, MI, which includes Holy Ascension Romanian Orthodox Monastery. The Court further held that Adrian M. Lupu Leica, Ioan Irineu Duvlea, Sébastien Stefan Dumitrascu, and Dorian Conty have no valid claim or right or title to the property in question. The judgment of the Court of September 23, 2020, is final and binding. In order to effectuate this favorable judgment against Duvlea, the local Michigan attorneys representing the Romanian Episcopate have now initiated a civil procedure to evict the schismatics who remain on the OCA and ROEA property. We anticipate that the Episcopate will be back in possession of its lawful property well before Pascha this year.

Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America v. Gheorghe Carstea and Saint Nicholas and Saint Parascheva Romanian Orthodox Church

As we have reported to the Metropolitan Council on earlier occasions, this litigation is a functional (but not technical) companion case to the ROEA v. Duvlea matter reported upon above. This litigation which centers on issues of possession and control of a parish in Troy, Michigan, will ultimately, we believe, be resolved by the Michigan appellate courts on the same rationale which was applied in the Duvlea proceeding. In an opinion issued on December 21, 2018, the Circuit Court in this matter held that “the dispute here is secular in nature” and denied the Episcopate’s motion for summary disposition of the case based on the legal requirements of Michigan law that the courts defer to prior judgments of

religious bodies in property disputes.. The Episcopate filed an interlocutory appeal of that decision, but the Michigan Court of Appeals and, later, the Michigan Supreme Court both denied consideration of the ROEA appeals at this time, leaving open the possibility to reconsider this issue after the case is fully litigated in the Oakland County Circuit Court. As a result, the matter is now back before the Oakland County Circuit Court. Discovery has been initiated by the parties, the conclusion of which will allow us to go forward with a motion to terminate this litigation on the basis of the ruling of the Michigan Appellate Court in the Duvlea matter.

Potential Litigation in California Courts

Within recent weeks the Episcopate has been alerted to the fact that unknown parties have executed and filed a warranty deed in a California court purporting to transfer the properties of ROEA/OCA parish to a newly incorporated entity in that state, this without the knowledge or consent of the ROEA. OCA GC and the Chair of the MC LC have been active in interviewing potential legal representatives of the ROEA in this matter. We anticipate that litigation in this connection may commence within the next month.

Miscellaneous Matters

OCA General Counsel Liaison with the Committee for Legal Matters of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America

The Committee for Legal Matters of ACOB has been active in support of legal aspects of the Assembly's work for the last several years, but never to the degree experienced since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis in early 2020. Our own Archbishop Michael has now been appointed the Chairman of the ACOB Legal Matters Committee. He stated in his recent Report to the Assembly the following summary of the Legal Committee's activities with regard to the pandemic:

“Compiled and updated a matrix of state and local legal requirements, based on “stay at home” and similar orders, with specific analysis of the ramification of these orders on Orthodox parishes.

°Analyzed state restrictions on Orthodox liturgical practices (such as Communion), and, where necessary, intervened with state and local governments to lobby for accommodations for Orthodox practices under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

°Assisted in the preparation of best practices, model notices, and other documents for the Hierarchs and parishes, and provided reports to the Executive Committee of the Assembly.

°Assisted Hierarchs in situations where other attorneys were attempting to induce Orthodox Hierarchs and jurisdictions to serve as plaintiffs in First Amendment lawsuits.”

The change of administrations within the federal government has resulted in a particularly intense analysis of proposed regulations and programs impacting the life of the Church at the federal and state level.

(a) Disruption of the periodic cycle of meetings, conferences, assemblies, and councils. GC and the Chair of the Legal Committee have provided legal counsel and support in connection with hotel and other arrangements made in connection with the upcoming All-American Council in Baltimore and related issues. Similarly, General Counsel collaborated with officials of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America with respect to their upcoming national convention previously scheduled for 2020. Because of the centrality of the common law and statutory doctrine of *force majeure* as a defense to civil claims arising from the nonperformance of contractual duties, both GC and the MC Legal Chair attended and participated in continuing legal education seminars focused specifically on this doctrine.

(b) Relocation of the Chancery. GC of the OCA and the Chair of the MC LC continue to participate in matters relative to the relocation of the Chancery. The specific focus of legal interest in this matter at the present time is the compliance with New York law for the sale of charitable/eleemosynary properties and measures necessary to support the work of the closing attorney who will handle any potential future sale.

(c) General Counsel collaborated with the Chancellor and with ORSMA on matters falling within the scope of the work of **ORSMA** and **SMPAC**. The Metropolitan has recently established an ad hoc working committee under the leadership of His Grace Bishop Daniel to consider possible revisions to the PSPs and a reconsideration of the work and function of the SMPAC and the ORSMA

(d) At the direction of the Metropolitan, the Chancellor and the GC collaborated in the drafting and conclusion of a Memorandum of Agreement entered into by the Metropolitan, Archbishop Mark of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, and Abbot Sergius of St. Tikhon's Monastery. This MOU addresses a variety of ambiguities and uncertainties which appear in current practice and which are not explicitly addressed by the provisions of the Statute of the OCA regarding Stavropegial Institutions. This instrument has now been adopted by the Metropolitan, the Archbishop, and the Abbot and is now in full force and effect.

Diocesan and Parish Support

General Counsel and the Legal Committee Chair are active in the support of diocesan and parish interests of a wide scope and variety. GC has acted as an informal advisor with respect to active litigation pending against parishes; he has counseled diocesan authorities regarding the feasibility of virtual meetings in lieu of person-to person gatherings at the parish and at the diocesan level; and he has responded to requests for assistance in the interpretation and application of provisions in the OCA Statute; Diocesan Bylaws; and parish charters and bylaws. Analogously, he has provided legal counsel

to seminary officials regarding potential disciplinary measures with respect to seminary students.

General Counsel continues when requested to review and suggest revisions of both parish and diocesan by-laws to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Statute of the OCA as adopted in Atlanta in 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

E. R. Lanier
General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America

D. R. Lane
Chair, Legal Committee of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America

Report of the Project Manager of the Departments of the Orthodox Church in America to the Metropolitan Council

Archpriest Thomas Soroka

March 3, 2021

Your Beatitude, Reverend Fathers, Metropolitan Council Members, and Guests,

As a follow-up to my report of September 17, 2020, I will update you on the progress and production of the various departments. As we continue to develop new ways of doing departmental work, our sole focus will always be providing resources and services which enhance the ministries of parishes and missions.

We are, however, in need of new, talented individuals who are willing to serve within the departments - specifically those who exhibit a high level of productivity and energy for such work. We are looking for creative ideas that are scalable and highly cost-effective. While the possibility exists for future expansion of departmental ministries, we want to use the next year to be a testing ground to prove the value of departmental work. We cannot rest on the laurels of past accomplishments. We must find new ways to support parish and mission ministries in their important work. This is the only purpose for the departments.

The following is an update to the previous September 2020 report: Project status will be either completed, ongoing, or pending.

Department of Liturgical Music and Translations

Phillip Ritchey, Project Lead

- **ONGOING:** Compilation of all available resources and texts that have been used in the past and present under the “Texts for Liturgical Services” section provided in the helpful, but labor-intensive, individual service sheets published on the OCA website. He will be compiling all current texts into a usable online Horologion, Triodion, Pentecostarion, Menaion, Psalter, and other possible resources that we currently possess.
- **ONGOING:** Expansion of Thee/Thou music for the Ochoechos and Menaion
- **NEW ONGOING:** Creation of complete rubrical notes for upcoming Divine Services. The current focus is on the Saturday night/Sunday cycle, but plans include expanding to include other commonly served services for the Great and Vigil-ranked feasts.
- **PENDING:** Posting of basic music for Matins and Vespers.

Vladimir Morosan, Project Lead

- **COMPLETE** (22 students): Basic Sight-Singing and Ear-Training Course for choir directors and singers who may be unfamiliar with basic musical concepts.
- **NEW COMPLETE** (562 total registrations): Four webinars to prepare church musicians for the Pre-Lenten, Lenten, Holy Week, and Paschal Services. Registrants provided with a wealth of information and new music. Webinars are archived on YouTube.
- **PENDING**: Basic Conducting Course which will be held online, beginning Summer or Fall, 2021. This will be revamped from the previous course held by David Drillock.

Department of Evangelization

Fr Thomas Soroka, Project Lead

- **COMPLETE**: Launch, review, and awarding of 2021 Mission Planting Grant Program. Ongoing maintenance of program and coaching of mission parishes and priests.

Melissa Graff, Project Lead

- **ONGOING**: Revision and redesigning of the late Fr John Matusiak's "Tract series" which was sold through OCPC and later acquired by St Vladimir's Seminary Bookstore. Approximately 50 attractive trifold and bifold tracts, professionally designed, will be made freely available for download and use in parishes. (Six tracts completed.)

Fr Joseph Lucas, Project Lead

- **PENDING**: Production of a series of new videos on various topics important to Orthodox Christians. They will have higher production values and will be branded as products of the OCA.

Fr Matthew Markewich, Project Lead

- **PENDING**: A new apologetics website which will feature articles mainly by OCA priests and informed OCA laypersons. The purpose of this site is to provide reliable, well researched materials on a variety of subjects which are currently being addressed online, sometimes by unreliable or questionable persons or sources. This site would be in answer to the growing number of independent voices on the internet which are causing confusion and even rebellion among some.

Frs Antonio Perdomo and Esteban Julio Vasquez

- **PENDING**: A compilation of currently available educational and liturgical resources in the Spanish language and the creation of new resources as needed.

Department of Continuing Education

Fr Ian Pac-Urar, Project Lead/Chairperson

- **ONGOING:** Production of 12 one-hour online seminars or educational forums on a variety of topics relevant to clergy and church workers, beginning in January 2021, called “Third Thursdays.” Speakers have already been scheduled for most of 2021.
- **ONGOING:** Production of six 15 minute high-quality production videos on a pastoral approach to those dealing with Suicide, taught by experts in the field.

Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid

Donna Karabin and Diana Pasca, Project Leads

- **COMPLETED:** Production of links and tags to all current resources in the Department supporting His Beatitude’s “Four Pillars” document.
- **NEW ONGOING:** Additional articles for Parish Ministry Resources.
- **PENDING:** Four live approximately one-hour long webinars on the topics based on “Compassion in Action” with guest speakers to address the topics.

Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry

Fr David Subu, Project Lead

- **COMPLETED:** Coordination of the annual Orthodox Youth Workers Conference, held yearly at the end of January, which was held January 27-29, 2021 online (approximately two to three hours each evening).
- **NEW ONGOING:** Coordination of the OCA’s participation in the Assembly of Bishops “Year of Youth” initiative. Fr David will be the project coordinator for a series of webinars.
- **PENDING:** OCA-specific youth initiatives including a Bible Bowl-type competition leading up to the AAC in 2022.
- **PENDING:** Resource creation for use in parishes to engage youth at various levels.

Department of Christian Education

Frs Alexander Koranda and Jonathan Lincoln; and Catherine Golitzin, Project Leads

- **ONGOING:** Weekly Online Church School for Middle School and High School Students provided openly for any students who wish to join (began Tuesday, September 22 at 7pm ET)

Unassigned Project Lead

- **ONGOING:** Coordination of efforts with the GOA and Antiochian Christian Education leads. (*Fr Thomas Soroka is currently meeting with this group.*)

Valerie Zahirsky, Project Lead

- **PENDING:** Completion of a sixth volume of Saints activity book for children as an online resource.

In addition to these ongoing projects, I continue to coordinate the Catechism Project which is ongoing. Most chapters are currently in the editing phase, though there are three chapters (of 16) that have yet to be submitted. I have also assisted with the social media communications at the Chancery, including arranging for or coordinating video presentations at the behest of His Beatitude. These include interviews with His Beatitude and Project Leads, and coordinating an online Virtual March for Life on January 28, 2021 which has been viewed over 8,100 times.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest Thomas Soroka

Internal Governance Committee
Metropolitan Council
Orthodox Church in America

Report to the Spring 2021 Meeting of the Metropolitan Council

Most Blessed Master, bless!

Your Beatitude, Fr Chancellor, Members of the Metropolitan Council;

The Internal Governance Committee, after being largely inactive during the pandemic shutdown, is currently returning to its review of the OCA Statute, the duties of the Metropolitan Council and its committees, and the directives of the All-American Council.

A preliminary observation is in regard to the Statute; specifically Article V, Section 8: Administrative Committee. Since we no longer expect regular attendance by the Standing Synod at Metropolitan Council meetings, the Metropolitan Council may wish to activate this committee to maintain a strong liaison between the MC and the Standing Synod.

The committee will report in more detail as it progresses in its review, and welcomes further direction from the Council.

Respectfully submitted by

Lynnell Brunswig
Internal Governance Committee chair

Committee Members:

V Rev Elijah Mueller
V Rev Nikolai Breckenridge
V Rev Timothy Hojnicky
V Rev Michael Anderson
V Rev Kirill Sokolov
Donna Dimitri
Lynnell Brunswig, Chair

Metropolitan Council

As of April 2, 2021

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Committee Codes:	
<p>FI = Finance and Investment HR = Ethics and Human Resources IG = Internal Governance</p>	<p>LE = Legal PR = Property TH = Technology</p> <p>Bold/Italic = chairperson</p>