

**MINUTES**  
**Of the Joint Meeting of the Standing Synod and the**  
**2017 Fall Session of the Metropolitan Council**

**Tuesday, September 19 – Friday, September 22, 2017**  
**Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington, NY**

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

**PARTICIPANTS**

**STANDING SYNOD**

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon  
His Eminence, Archbishop Michael

His Grace, Bishop Paul

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

**CHURCH OFFICERS**

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

Archpriest Eric Tosi, *Secretary*

**MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ALL AMERICAN COUNCIL**

Archpriest Chad Hatfield  
Archpriest Antonio Perdomo  
Archpriest Thomas Moore

Maureen Jury  
Katherine Vitko  
Larry Skvir

**DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES**

**Diocese of Alaska**

Subdeacon Patrick Pletnikoff

**Albanian Diocese**

Archpriest Dennis Rhodes

**Bulgarian Diocese**

Priest Martin Watt

**Archdiocese of Canada**

Dn. Nicholas Svetlovsky

Mark Petasky

**Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania**

Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky

Susan Grancey Schlasta

**Diocese of the Midwest**

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta

Robert Graban

**Diocese of New England**

Priest James Parnell

David Zavednak

**Diocese of New York and New Jersey**

Igumen Joseph (Hoffman)

James P. Kornafel

**Diocese of the South**

Priest Joseph Lucas

**Archdiocese of Washington**

Priest Valery Shemchuk

Elizabeth Mikhalevsky

**Diocese of the West**

Archpriest John J. Dresko

David R. Lane, Esq.

**Diocese of Western Pennsylvania**

Priest Nikolai Brekenridge

**Absent**

Archbishop Benjamin (*Standing Synod*)

Archpriest John Dunlop (*Diocese of Alaska*)

Donna Dimitri (*Albanian Archdiocese*)

Martin Myers (*Bulgarian Diocese*)

Archpriest Anatoliy Melynk (*Archdiocese of Canada*)

Angela Parks, Esq. (*Diocese of the South*)

Dr. John Schultz (*Diocese of Western Pennsylvania*)

**Guests**

Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky

Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak

Judge E.R. Lanier (*OCA General Counsel*) *all sessions*

Priest John Parker

Nathan Jacobs

Sarah Werner

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2017**

Divine Liturgy was served at St. Sergius Chapel, Syosset, NY by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, at 8:00 a.m.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon called the meeting of the Metropolitan Council to order at 11:05 a.m. "O HEAVENLY KING" as sung.

Fr. Eric Tosi announced changes to the agenda. **All reports are to be found in the accompanying packets.**

**A. Agenda**

Frs. John Jillions and Eric Tosi indicated minor clarifications to the agenda, as to its presenters, and the sequence of agenda items.

Fr. Eric Tosi called for a motion to accept the amended agenda.

**MOTION KUCHTA/RHODES – To approve the agenda for this meeting as presented. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. Roll Call/Approval of minutes of previous meeting**

Fr. Eric Tosi conducted the roll call and announced guests that would be present at various points during this meeting. (See participants list). Fr. Eric noted the absence of Abp. Benjamin due to illness as well as Fr. John Dunlop, Donna Dimitri and Angela Parks. Fr. Eric Tosi called for acceptance of Igumen Joseph as recording secretary—NO OPPOSITION. Fr. Eric presented the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Metropolitan Council, February 21-22, 2017 for approval.

**MOTION HATFIELD/ZAVEDNAK -- To accept the previous meeting minutes of February 21-22, 2017 as presented. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C.** A letter from Abp. Alejo to the Faithful of Mexico was read by Fr. Antonio Perdomo. They are still determining their needs and will report back. Discussion followed regarding the best way to help the Diocese of Mexico. It was decided to postpone the discussion until the next day when we would have more information on the situation in Mexico.

**D. Metropolitan's Report**

Met. Tikhon welcomed everyone to the fall session of the Metropolitan Council meeting. MET. TIKHON welcomed new M.C. members, Mark Lopasky, Archdiocese of Canada; and David Lane, Diocese of the West. MET. TIKHON then thanked Alex Liberovsky for the retreat address on the history of the Orthodox Church in America and Her autocephaly. H.B also thanked Fr. Daniel and Mat. Hubiak, Fr. John and Mat. Nehrebecki, and Dr. and Mrs., Constantine Kallur who were present at the granting of autocephaly and spoke. Finally, MET. TIKHON thanked the OCA Officers and staff for their continued work. He also asked for prayers for Fr. Leonid who is recovering from surgery. Met. Tikhon thanked Judge E.R. Lanier, who had worked with Angela Parks on many important issues, and for their “even, calm, and precise handling of affairs.”

Met. Tikhon spoke of the last five years being an initiation, and he continues to proceed with his Four Pillars as his vision for the Church. Met. Tikhon will provide his Four Pillars to the OCA faithful in a comprehensive way, as requested by the Holy Synod of Bishops. Draft copies of the Four Pillars were distributed to the Metropolitan Council and Met. Tikhon would appreciate feedback, as he will soon prepare the booklet in its final form.

Met. Tikhon commended the Pastoral Life Department for their pastoral work and commented that the health of our clergy is paramount. Clergy salaries continue to be an important issue.

Met. Tikhon reported that, while he is the Metropolitan, he also has responsibility for a diocese and that his diocese had their annual assembly the past Saturday in Washington D.C.

Met. Tikhon spoke about support for the wives of clergy and the development of not only clergy vocations but monastic vocations, as well.

Met. Tikhon mentioned the ongoing work with the OCA archives and is pleased with its progress.

Regarding external relations, MET. TIKHON related the recent conference on the persecution of Christians held in Washington DC by the Billy Graham Foundation. He also noted his attendance at the Bose Conference in Italy where Dr. Paul Meyendorff was a presenter on the topic of Orthodox Spirituality. He attended Divine Liturgy at the monastery in Bose at which Pat. Bartholomew and Pat. Theodoros were also present. Met. Tikhon had occasion for cordial conversation with both Patriarchs. The Pat. Of Alexandria thanked Met. Tikhon for all the help the OCA had provided to the Church in Africa. A number of laudatory remarks were made concerning the OCA.

Regarding other work, MET. TIKHON reported that David Lucs is the new appointed Head of the Youth Department of the OCA. Much work has already been accomplished under the oversight of Bp. David. A meeting will be Held in the next week or two for review and evaluation.

Met. Tikhon closed his report with thanks to everyone for their support and answered a number of questions.

Abp. Michael remarked that only a handful of parishes are recognized as centers of Orthodox unity and that a survey done by the Assembly of Bishops indicated that OCA pan Orthodox cooperation is the best. Abp. Michael is the Treasurer of the AOB and, as such, is part of the Executive Committee; this is significant in OCA "recognition."

The meeting broke for lunch at 12:27 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

#### **E. Chancellor's Report, Fr. John Jillions**

Bernie Wilson's flight was cancelled. Cindy Heise and Bernie Wilson will be connected via a video conference call with the Metropolitan Council at 2 p.m.

#### **F. Pastoral Life Report, Fr. Nathan Preston**

The committee meets monthly.

Current projects:

1. Revision of Guidelines for Clergy. Fr. Krill Sokolov is heading up this project.
2. Clergy Wives and Their Needs. Cindy Heise is heading up this project.
3. Clergy Projection Project. A survey is being taken of diocesan hierarchs regarding their needs for clergy. The clergy pension plan statistics will be evaluated to determine when clergy will be retiring and what are their needs.
4. Clergy Peer Groups. A paid leader facilitates the meetings.
5. Sexual Identity. Societal norms are deteriorating.
6. Clergy Mutual Aid in the OCA. Clergy of the Diocese of the West are being surveyed regarding their preparation for retirement.
7. Clergy Compensation in the OCA. Clergy in the Diocese of the West are being survey regarding their preparation for retirement.
8. Discerning Celibacy. Celibate clergy serving in parishes.

Questions were entertained.

Fr. Nathan was thanked for his report.

#### **G. ORSMA Report, Fr. John Jillions**

Fr. John commented that Cindy Heise is doing a fantastic job. Cindy Heise and Bernie Wilson made a presentation on the work of ORSAMA.

Each Diocese is being integrated into the background check process. A report was distributed.

ORSMA simply investigates complaints. The findings are given to the diocesan hierarch to determine whether or not there is a case for Church discipline.

If clergy are in crisis there is a protocol in place.

Question for Bernie Wilson and Cindy Heise were entertained.

In answer to a question, Cindy reported that once a case is closed and forwarded to the diocesan hierarch ORSMA has no control. The time in which a case is presented to a spiritual court depends on different manners of handling clergy, counseling, etc.

A Metropolitan Council member remarked that in many cases victims are left without resolution for too long.

Abp. Michael remarked that when someone requests to be deposed it takes time to get a spiritual court together and then deposition does not happen until the matter can be brought to the Holy Synod for actual deposition.

## **H. SMPAC Report**

A clarification was made in which it was explained that ORSMA investigates; SMPAC makes recommendations to the Holy Synod on policy. SMPAC is also charged with compliance of background checks.

Questions were entertained.

Cindy reported there are currently four open cases. Fr. John Jillions reported that there would, possibly, be more spiritual courts.

Bernie remarked that not all clergy under investigation are under suspension.

Cindy reported that there are currently thirty-one clergy on the crisis protocol list but since diocesan hierarchs are not required to report on the status it is impossible to how long an average case lasts.

Cindy reported that the Clergy in Crisis protocol model is not possible as each one is specific to any one clergyman but typically includes counseling, drug, and alcohol treatment, as drawn up between each one and his diocesan hierarch.

Met. Tikhon addressed how the Clergy in Crisis protocol works. Abp. Michael remarked that some cases could be dealt with within a year; others, such as drug or alcohol abuse could take longer.

The Finance Committee inquired about the nature of the work of Bernie Wilson as an investigator entails. Fr. John Jillions replied that there are fewer investigations and that Cindy's work is primarily more about prevention now.

Judge Lanier concluded the report by stating there is coordination between ORSMA, SMPAC and him.

## **I. Return to Fr. John Jillions and the Chancellor's Report**

Fr. John highlighted the work of Barry Migyanko, the three seminaries, and various calendar issues. Fr. John then entertained question on the Chancellor's Report.

There was a question in regards to a donation for the exploration of combining the seminaries and why this did not move forward. Fr. Chad Hatfield reported that the gift of \$1 million was offered by a donor to start the study of merger possibilities but was redirected when one seminary declined the offer..

Fr. John Jillions was asked about the Amsterdam Conference, why he attended it, and what benefit was it to the OCA.

Met. Tikhon remarked that there are many complex sexual issues and proposed that a Bioethics Committee be established to provide answers to questions such as what is a person and how do we love God. He continued that we have to know what to say within the Tradition of the Church.

Bp. Paul remarked parents are coming to him with issues of children's sexual/gender identity. He asked how we are to deal with those not living according to the teaching of the Church and that talking about how to pastorally address these situations doesn't mean abandoning the Tradition of the Church.

Fr. Chad Hatfield remarked that St. Vladimir's Seminary adopted a statement affirming the Traditional teaching of the Church.

After additional discussion, Met. Tikhon remarked that we have failed, for a long time, to address the bigger issue and posed a question of what is our missionary vision.

Abp. Michael remarked that is important to discuss these issues but, in secret, is not a good thing and that if it cannot be done openly it probably shouldn't be done. Additionally, we must think carefully about who is sent to represent the OCA. As the youngest autocephalous Church, we do not need to be seen as those deviating from the Orthodox Church.

Met. Tikhon announced a 15-minute break at 3:25 p.m.

Met. Tikhon reconvened at 3:45 p.m.

## **J. Secretary's Report, Fr. Eric G. Tosi**

Fr. Eric Tosi reported that the roof of the chancery has been replaced.

The Metric Book Project has been set back with the death of Protodeacon Gregory Hatrak, but is soon to be completed.

A Chaplain's Cross, a pectoral cross given, upon retirement, to military chaplain's that have served on active duty, will, once again be awarded. There are twenty-four chaplain's eligible to receive this cross. The mold has been made to replicate a previous chaplain's cross design. \$18,000 is needed to pay for the chaplain's crosses that will be awarded as gifts from the OCA. A donor has agreed to pay for the new crosses.

New windows are on order for those that need to be replaced in the chancery.

The third Mission School was held in August and remarks were made by both a student and a teacher, Dn. Nicholas Svetlovsky and Fr. Timothy Hojnicky. They both advocated for its continuance. Fr. Eric commented that there should be Basic and Advanced courses. Melanie Ringa commented that the Mission School is funded for three years and that the Finance Committee must find money to cover this funding. There will be an evaluation before deciding whether or not to continue the Mission School.

The new OCA website is being developed. It will present a “cleaner” homepage and be easier and quicker to navigate thanks to an updated search engine. Fr. Eric hopes to have the new site up and running by the new year.

Reporting on the progress of housing the OCA archives, Fr. Eric reported on the architectural plans which are almost finalized. He went through the plan and noted some changes that will need to be made to comply with code. Other concerns for the archives are a special fire suppressant, waterproof dry wall, and climate control. After final approval by the City, a bidding process will be initiated with contractors. Mr. Alex Liberovsky is working on the archives and cleaning-up things. The existing archives will be moved to pods in the chancery parking lot. A plan is being developed for removing and replacing the archives in logical order. Lisa mentioned that not having had a clear policy on what is accepted for the archives there are a lot of materials yet to be gone through. Fr. Eric announced the archives are closed until further notice. In answer to Bp. Paul’s question, Fr. Eric remarked that if we can demonstrate that what we have is being taken well care of there a funds/grants available for other projects. There was a discussion on archival policy. Fr. Eric remarked that we have an outline of what must be archived and for how long.

Fr. Eric presented a Travel Policy and Credit Card Policy.

**MOTION: DRESKO/WATT -- To accept the credit card policy. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Continuing, Fr. Eric suggested, on the recommendation of the Internal Auditors, that the Metropolitan Council propose to change the OCA Statute section on Internal Auditors from semi-annual auditing to annual auditing.

**MOTION: HATFIELD/JURY – To stop semi-audit and have only an annual audit. (The proper wording of the amendment, Part 5, Section (of the current statute will be supplied by the Treasurer.) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

This will be sent to the Statue Committee.

**MOTION: MIKHALEVSKY/WATT -- To stagger the terms of the auditors. (Proper wording to be secured from the Treasurer.)**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Fr. Eric reported on the progress of the All American Council and noted which contracts have been signed and which are still in need. A guest speaker has not yet been identified. Collections from all of the services will be given to Focus North America. Fr. John Zdinack will be the clergy chair and David Zavednak the lay chair. On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon workshops on fifteen areas of Church life will be led by bishops who will choose a panel to facilitate it. A \$10,000 donation has been received from a local Orthodox community for the Youth Program. Retired clergy and their wives will not be charged for registration. Fr. John Perich will set-up an OCA museum. Divine Liturgy will be offered daily and an Akathist will be offered early in the morning. The Sitka Icon, a copy of the Tikhvin icon and the St. Anna icon will be present at the AAC.

There was a discussion led by Katherine Vitko suggested that each bishop on the Holy Synod should work with his own diocese to solicit financial assistance for delegates from Alaska and Mexico. Fr. John Jillions suggested the

registration fee be raised to cover this. Melanie Ringa said details of how many delegates and the costs involved would need to be known to determine the additional amount for the registration. Fr. Eric asked Sdn. Patrick to ascertain this for Alaska and Fr. Anthony Perdomo to do the same for Mexico.

Fr. Eric asked for recommendation by the MC of the ACC Agenda to be presented to the Holy Synod.

**MOTION: RHODES/PARNELL – To accept to AAC Agenda. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**K. Legal Report, Judge E. R. Lanier**

**MOTION: BRECKENRIDGE/JURY – To go into executive session. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION: ZAVEDNAK/GRABAN – To leave executive session. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Discussion was held on legal issues of parishes bringing lawsuits against their diocese and/or the OCA.

Discussion was held on model Parish Council Bylaws.

Met. Tikhon concluded the session at 6:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017**

Met. Tikhon called the session to order at 9:10 a.m.

**L. Charity Report, Fr. Alexander Kuchta**

**MOTION: LANE/PERDOMO - To accept the Charity Committee report and their expenditures.  
Yays 15, Nays 7, Abstentions 4**

Fr. Marty asked a question concerning the attendance at meetings not in person. David Lane responded that all members must be present at an in person, duly notified meeting. Fr. Eric Tosi commented that email voting has been done before and can be set up easily but according to NY State law, email votes must be unanimous. Maureen questioned if everyone has to be present and do Episcopal liaisons have voting rights on the committee. Judge Lanier answered that, in his understanding, they do not.

Met. Tikhon called for a 15-minute break at 10:50 a.m.

Met. Tikhon resumed the session at 11:20 a.m.

**M. Ethics Report, Fr. Thomas Moore**

An ethics charge was investigated and dismissed, No other report.

**N. Human Resources Report, Elizabeth Mikhalevsky**

The committee is working on job descriptions and they have been submitted to Met. Tikhon. The committee will take up work on the integration of the Employee Handbook with HR policies. Additional issues to be addressed are working at home and leave policies.



There were no questions.

**O. Internal Governance Report, Fr. Chad Hatfield**

No Report

**P. Treasurer's Report, Melanie Ringa**

Currently there is an operating surplus of \$267,000. Diocesan support is over by \$13,000. Our current expenses are under budget by \$41,000, primarily because there is no representative in Moscow at this time. The report ran through the end of July 2017.

Reporting on the Archive Funds, she noted it is invested in TD Bank.

**Q. Budget**

From the ORSMA Office, Bernie Wilson, has been under contract for \$36,000. They are looking at ways to reduce expenses. Cindy Heise will be going under her husband's medical insurance saving another \$10,000. Met. Tikhon has requested a consultant; \$8600 is budgeted for 3 months for this position. Melanie estimates there will be a \$42,000 surplus.

Fr. John Parker is asking only for \$100,000 for planting grants, saving us more. \$75,000 will come from the operating budget and \$25,000 from the funds of the Mission Dept.

Metropolitan Tikhon commented that the Holy Synod would decide, next session, whether or not to continue the Mission School.

In answer to a question about All American Council funds in the budget, Melanie stated that there is a separate account for the AAC through which everything is run that is related to the AAC.

Melanie reported that she is going to conduct an internal audit of St. Catherine's Representation Church in Moscow, as there have been allegations of abuse. Two-thirds of the income at St. Catherine's comes from renters who rent use of space on the property. The cost of an external audit would be \$3,000-\$5,000. The rector's salary of \$60,000 is the responsibility of the OCA.

**MOTION: DRESKO/GRABAN –To accept the budget. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Met. Tikhon announced a 10-minute break at 11:55 a.m.

Met. Tikhon resumed the session at 12:05 p.m.

**R. A Presentation of 5 SEES Grant Proposal was made by Dr. Nathan Jacobs and Sarah Werner.**

A documentary series of films is proposed to attract NONES to the Church. 5 SEES produced the film "Becoming Truly Human." A brief presentation was given of what would be produced, the timetable, and the funds needed.

Bp. Paul asked who, from the Church, is supporting this. They gave a list of supporters both inside and outside the Church.

Met Tikhon and Bp. Paul inquired about the progress of the project; scripts, etc. Nathan and Sarah are involved in the writing, editing and directing.

After much discussion Metropolitan Tikhon asked what the OCA gets in return for a \$100,000 investment in the film. Nathan answered that the OCA would have its logo pictured and be listed in the credits.

Met. Tikhon thanked Nathan and Sarah for their presentation.

Met. Tikhon concluded the session at 12:50 p.m.

Met. Tikhon called the afternoon session to order at 2:10 p.m.

#### **S. Finance and Investment Committee Report, Fr. John Dresko**

Fr. John reported that his committee discussed future investment policies. Fr. John thanked Melanie for her outstanding work.

In response to Metropolitan Tikhon's inquiry, Fr. Antonio Perdomo gave an up-to-date report on the situation in Mexico following the earthquake there. The cathedral is being used to house people that have lost their homes. Attempts are being made to reunite children with parents. Abp. Alejo was thankful for everyone's prayers.

**MOTION: ZAVEDNAK/RINGA –To send \$5000 from the operating budget to assist the Diocese of Mexico. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **T. External Affairs Report, Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky**

Fr. Leonid thanked everyone for their prayers during his recuperation from recent surgery.

Met. Tikhon informed Fr. Leonid that Pat. Kirill has inquired about the situation in Ukraine for the OCA perspective. Fr. Leonid outlined the various reports on world Orthodoxy.

St. Catherine's Church, Moscow. After the death of Archimandrite Alexander (Pihach), Fr. Leonid was appointed temporary administrator and he is in regular contact with the priests there at St. Catherine's. An audit is needed. Melanie Ringa is in charge of an audit at St. Catherine's. Bp. Daniel, Fr. Nazari Polataiko and Melanie will travel to Moscow for the audit. St. Catherine's needs and "on the ground" representative from the OCA. The process is underway to identify a priest for this role.

The Lausanne Orthodox Initiative held a meeting in Cambridge, UK, and a 4 members of the OCA were present and spoke. This is the fourth meeting between Orthodox and evangelicals representatives in dialogue.

World Council of Churches. Dr. Paul Meyendorff is the OCA representative in these very important ecumenical dialogues. A meeting is scheduled next year in Tanzania on evangelism.

National Council of Churches. A recent delegation to Lebanon, Egypt, Israel, and Palestine was organized by the Orthodox. Former OCA employee Anthony Kieropoulos participated.

Christian Churches Together. A meeting is currently being held in southern California. Protodeacon Sergei Kapral is representing the OCA.

Fr. Leonid commented on ecumenical bodies like the NCC do not have a full spectrum of Christians at the table; there are too many Protestant denominations but the goal is to have a diverse representation and to issue only full consensus statements.

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. Patriarch Bartholomew is anxious for the dialogue with the OCA. The GOA and OCA have named their participants as better relations are sought.

Metropolitan Tikhon thank Fr. Leonid or his report. Abp. Michael thanks for Leonid for all his work in the Church.

Metropolitan Tikhon called for the close of the session at 4:10 p.m. and announced that the next session would begin in the morning at 9:00 a.m.

“It is Truly Meet” was sung by all.

#### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2017**

Metropolitan Tikhon called the session to order at 9:10 a.m.

“O Heavenly King” was sung by all.

The items to be covered in this final session are:

#### **U. The Pension Report, Fr. Eric Tosi as requested by the Pension Board.**

Fr. Eric Tosi read the Pension Report.

Melanie Ringa suggested any questions about the Pension Plan be emailed to the Pension Office and the Pension Board meets quarterly.

Fr. John Dresko mentioned that, according to Fr. Matthew Tate, the Pension Plan is not as underfunded as it might be. Recruiting more participants and better market results should stabilize the Plan.

Fr. Eric asked for a motion to accept the Pension Report.

**MOTION; HOJNICKI/JURY –To accept the Pension report. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **V. Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America, Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak**

An overview of the progress of SOCA was given. It was reported, that since 2004, the OCA has given away more than \$1,000,000 to mission parishes. Adn. Joseph spoke about various strategies for fundraising.

It was noted that Abp. Alejo has asked that no special appeal be made at this time for the Diocese of Mexico. He will notify the OCA of any needs that may arise. It was decided that \$5000 will be sent through the treasurer’s office to the Diocese of Mexico.

Fr. Timothy Hojnicky reported that not only the OCA is using our OCA online resources. Fr. Eric commented that the stats on the OCA website indicate that some 120 countries have “hit” our website, and that there is a high number of return users.

Bp. Paul noted that the more concrete we are in showing where money is used the more successful we will be in soliciting donations.

Met. Tikhon commented that, lacking from his “Four Pillars” are concrete facts of what is already being done in the OCA.

Melanie Ringa commented that there are no special appeals to fund departments; they are funded from the general operating budget but if, in the future, departments could be funded by the Stewards that would be great.

In answer to a question, Adn. Joseph informed the Metropolitan Council that the current Stewards email list is about 200+, and that an appeal is needed.

Elizabeth Mikhalevsky asked if there is 100% participation in the Stewards by the Metropolitan Council, and suggested that new members of the Metropolitan Council be encouraged to donate at least \$300 a year.

Met. Tikhon remarked that all members of the Metropolitan Council are ambassadors of the OCA. He encourages his parishes to give a donation to the Stewards in place of a stipend to him, personally.

Finally, Adn. Joseph commented that the departments of the OCA are very important and that pooling of resources is necessary.

There were no additional questions. Met. Tikhon thanks Adn. Joseph for his report.

Met. Tikhon announced a short break.

## **W. Department of Evangelization Report, Fr. John Parker**

Fr. John thanked the Metropolitan Council for funding the planting grants and willingness to budget two grants this year.

Current Planting Grants which are to continue are Annunciation Mission, Rolla, MO, St. Nektarios Mission, Waxahachie, TX, and St. Juvenaly Mission in Wasilla, AK. Two new grants are asked for St. John of Chicago Mission in Rogers, AR and St. Nikolai Mission in Louisville, OH.

Fr. John gave some formal observations on his work and outlined some of the projects he has been involved in over the past year.

Fr. Eric reminded the MC that planting grants are for three years with the purpose is to support a full time resident priest who can transition it to self-supporting status.

Fr. Thomas Moore suggested that every parish put money each month in their budget for a deanery fund for interns.

David Lane remarked that OCCIF has a plan for loans to parishes.

Met. Tikhon thanked Fr. John for his report.

Metropolitan Tikhon asked if there were any more questions or comments.

**X. There was some discussion of the 5 SEES presentation.**

**MOTION: DRESKO/JURY -- To send 5 SEES a letter thanking them for their presentation but that, at this point, we cannot provide any funds. CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.**

The dates for the Metropolitan Council meetings for 2018 were set for February 6 to 8, 2018 and September 18 to 21, 2018.

Metropolitan Tikhon thanked everyone for a good and productive meeting.

**MOTION: LANE/PARNELL – To adjourn. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Met. Tikhon adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

“It Is Truly Meet” was sung by all.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Very Rev. Igumen Joseph (Hoffman), Secretary pro tem**