



**Metropolitan Council Meeting
Spring 2012
Other Reports**



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
February 21 to February 23, 2012
Other Reports**

Table of Contents

1.	Proposed Agenda	Archpriest Eric G. Tosi
2.	Minutes from Fall 2011 Meeting	Archpriest Eric G. Tosi
3.	AAC After Actions Report	Archpriest Eric G. Tosi
4.	AAC Resolutions	Archpriest Eric G. Tosi
5.	Post Council and Strategic Plan Results	Priest John Vitko
6.	OCA Wonderblog	Andrew Boyd
7.	Minutes from Department Chair Meeting	Archpriest John Jillions
8.	Minutes from Chancellors/Treasurers Meeting	Melanie Ringa



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
February 21 to February 23, 2012**

Metropolitan Council Agenda

Tuesday, February 21

Arrival/Meetings

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
All Day	Transport	Airports	Chancery Staff
All Day	Lesser Synod	Chancery	Lesser Synod
Noon	Strategic Plan Comm	Chancery	Fr. John Vitko
Noon	Other Committee	Chancery	Committee Chair
2:00 PM	SMPAC	Chancery	Fr. John Jillions
5:00 PM	Dinner	East Norwich	Chancery
6:00 PM	New Member Orientation	East Norwich	Fr Eric. G. Tosi Dr. Dimitri Solodow Thaddeus Wojcik
7:00 PM	Metropolitan Council		
	A. Opening Molieben		Metropolitan Jonah
	B. Agenda: Introduction		Fr. Eric G. Tosi
	C. Approval of Previous MC Minutes		Fr. Eric G. Tosi
	D. Opening Remarks		Metropolitan JONAH
	E. Chancellor Report		Fr. John Jillions
	F. SMPAC		Fr. John Jillions
	- Report on Decision of Lesser Synod		
	- Report on Revised Policies		
	- Ongoing Issues		

Wednesday, February 22

Metropolitan Council

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
8:00 AM	Breakfast	East Norwich Inn	Hotel

9:00 AM	Metropolitan Council		
	F.	6 th Hour	Fr. John Jillions
	G.	Secretary Report	Fr. Eric G. Tosi
	H.	AAC Wrap-up	Fr. Eric G. Tosi
	I.	Post AAC Committee	Fr. John Vitko
Noon	Lunch	East Norwich Inn	Chancery Staff
1:00 PM	Metropolitan Council East Norwich Inn		
	J.	Metropolitan Council Committees	Metropolitan JONAH
	1.	Report of Charity - Update on Requests	Fr. John Reeves
	2.	Report of Council Development - Report on work that needs to move forward	Open
	3.	Report of Crisis Management - Crisis Management Response Team	Dr. Dimitri Solodow
	4.	Report of Ethics - Results of Investigations	Fr. David Mahaffey
	5.	Report of Human Resource	Fr. David Garretson
	6.	Report of Internal Governance - Triennial review of Best Practices - Appointment of Internal Auditors	Dr. Dmitri Solodow
	K.	Legal Issues - Statute Issue from AAC - Current Issues - Update on Ongoing Issues	Legal Committee
5:00 PM	Dinner	East Norwich Inn	Chancery Staff
6:00 PM	Issues continued from afternoon if needed		
Thursday, February 23			
<i>Metropolitan Council</i>			
7:30 AM	Divine Liturgy	Chancery	Chancery
9:00 AM	Breakfast	Chancery	Chancery

10:00 AM	Metropolitan Council	East Norwich Inn	
	L.	Finance Report - <i>Review of 2010 Statement</i> - <i>External Audit Report</i>	Melanie Ringa
	M.	Report of Finance Committee - 2012 Budget Changes	Fr. Gleb McFatter
	N.	Report of Finance Development	David Yeosock
	O.	Results of Chancellor/Treasurers Meeting	Melanie Ringa
	P.	Pension Board Report	Fr. Gleb McFatter
1:00 PM	Lunch	East Norwich Inn	Chancery Staff
2:00 PM	Metropolitan Council	East Norwich Inn	
	Q.	Report on Departments	Fr. John Jillions/Fr Eric G. Tosi
	R.	Other Business	
5:00 PM	Projected End of Meeting and Departures		



**Minutes
of the Joint Meeting of the Lesser Synod
and the 2011 Fall Session of
the Metropolitan Council**

**Wednesday, September 28 – Thursday, September 29, 2011
East Norwich Inn, East Norwich, NY**

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

PARTICIPANTS

LESSER SYNOD

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

His Grace, Bishop Benjamin
His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek
(*Interim Chancellor*)

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Church Officers

Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, *Secretary*

Melanie Ringa, *Treasurer*

Members elected by the All-American Council

Archpriest Theodore Boback
Priest David Garretson
Archpriest Theodore Bobosh

Protodeacon Peter Danilchick
Dr. Paul Meyendorff

Diocesan Representatives

Diocese of Alaska

Archpriest Michael Oleksa

Anna Cheryl Andrew

Albanian Archdiocese

Archpriest Joseph Gallick

William Peters

Bulgarian Diocese

Priest Matthew-Peter Butrie

Protodeacon Michael Myers

Archdiocese of Canada

Archimandrite Alexander (Pihach)

David Grier

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Archpriest David Mahaffey

David Yeosock

Diocese of the Midwest

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta

Diocese of New England

Priest Robert Dick

Deacon John Zarras

Diocese of New York New Jersey

Archpriest John Shimchick

Dr. Paul Witek

Diocese of the South

Priest Gleb McFatter

Judge Ray Lanier (9/28 only)

Diocese of Washington

Priest John Vitko

Diocese of the West

Archpriest David Lowell

Dr. Dmitri Solodow

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Gregory J. Nescott

Absent

- Eleana Silk (elected by the All-American Council)
- Sam D’Fantis (Diocese of the Midwest)
- Rosalie Luster (Diocese of Washington)
- Archpriest John Reeves (Diocese of Western Pennsylvania)

Guests *(for all sessions unless otherwise indicated)*

- Archpriest Thomas Moore (alternate member elected by the All-American Council)
- Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko (consultant)
- Archpriest Alexander Garklavs (SMPAC)
- Archpriest Matthew Tate (consultant – 9/28 only, until afternoon recess)
- Maureen Ahearn (Pension Board report only)
- Valerie Jones (external audit report only)
- Alexis Liberovsky (recording secretary for this meeting)
- John Sedor (Pension Board report only)
- Robert Taylor (external audit report only)
- Thaddeus Wojcik, Esq. (OCA General Counsel)

Wednesday, September 28

The meeting was opened with prayer led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah at the East Norwich Inn at 9:15 AM.

A. Introduction

A.1. Roll Call

Fr. Eric Tosi conducted the roll call and introduced guests present for the meeting. He also announced that yesterday, Dr. Faith Skordinski had submitted a letter of her resignation from the Metropolitan Council, due to her increased job-related commitments. As the lay alternate, Dr. Paul Meyendorff will serve the remainder of Dr. Skordinski’s term.

A.2. Appointment of Co-chair:

Fr. Tosi announced that Metropolitan Jonah has asked Fr. David Mahaffey to co-chair the meeting

A.3. Approval of Recording Secretary

Fr. Tosi asked if there were any objections to the OCA Archivist, Alexis Liberovsky, serving as recording secretary for this meeting. There being no objections, Alexis Liberovsky was approved as recording secretary.

B. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Fr. Tosi presented the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Metropolitan Council on May 4-5, 2011 for approval.

B.1. MOTION GALLICK/BOBACK – To accept the previous minutes as presented. CARRIED.

A. Introduction

A.4. Agenda (attached)

Fr. Tosi presented the agenda for the meeting. It was requested that reports on Special Investigating Committee (SIC) follow-up and Metropolitan Council stewardship be added to the agenda. It was suggested that these reports could be incorporated into the agenda as items F.8 and F.9, respectively.

A.4.A. MOTION VITKO/OLEKSA – To accept the revised agenda with the addition of requested reports. CARRIED.

C. Opening Remarks: Metropolitan Jonah

Metropolitan Jonah spoke of the upcoming All-American Council as a great event in the life of our Church where we can come together as a community in Christ to build a vision for the future. He also spoke of the recent bitter church politics and infighting that have weakened the Church immeasurably. This must be put aside as we must learn to agree to disagree and tolerate one another's opinions in order to build up the Body of Christ. We must repent of anger, bitterness and judgment. Let us turn to Christ and do His will. He commended the Preconciliar Commission and the Strategic Plan Committee for their hard work in formulating proposals that will strengthen the OCA and its witness. He discussed the assessment funding proposals submitted for consideration at the All-American Council and broader issues of funding at all levels of the Church. He addressed the issue of a united autocephalous Orthodoxy as the ultimate canonical solution for the Church in North America, which will take a long time to achieve. He spoke of the role being played by the Episcopal Assembly in this process. He reflected on the accountability and responsibility that autocephaly entails for the OCA. He discussed the OCA's relationships with sister Churches and the last minute cancellation of his visit to the Church of the Czech Lands and Slovakia due to the repose of Archbishop Dmitri. He particularly mentioned the recent concelebration with Metropolitan Hilarion of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR) that has sealed our reconciliation. He alluded to warm personal relations with the chief hierarchs in America of the Moscow Patriarchate, the Greek and Antiochian Archdioceses. He outlined the current problems with the OCA representative in Moscow. Finally, he commended the ongoing work of the SMPAC, as well as the Human Resources Committee of the Metropolitan Council in the search for a new chancellor.

A discussion of issues raised in the Metropolitan's report and related matters took place.

C.1. MOTION GARRETSON/WITEK – To receive the Metropolitan's report. CARRIED.

D. Officers' Reports

D.1. Chancellor – attached (report to the 16th All-American Council)

Bishop Melchisedek, Interim Chancellor, responded to questions concerning his written report. Fr. Tosi expressed gratitude to Bishop Melchisedek for his almost weekly travel from Pittsburgh to New York to fulfill his responsibilities as Interim Chancellor. Bishop Melchisedek stated that the Holy Synod is functioning according to its resolutions on operations and procedure that were adopted in May. He outlined how this has occurred in specific situations.

D.2. Secretary – attached (report to the 16th All-American Council)

In addition to his written report, Archpriest Eric Tosi, OCA Secretary, spoke of the readjustment of responsibilities among the chancery staff. He highlighted the launch of the new OCA website and its further upgrades that are still in process. He stated that the chancery strives to connect the Church together. He indicated the main facets of preparation for the All-American Council, which will be detailed later in this meeting. He announced that by decision of the Metropolitan, Monk James (Stevens), who has enrolled at St. Vladimir's Seminary, has been replaced as the Metropolitan's personal assistant by Reader Michael Zachariades. Father Tosi outlined the maintenance and improvements of the chancery building that are currently being undertaken. A discussion of several personnel issues took place. A consensus emerged that established procedure must be followed to include the Human Resources Committee in personnel matters. The Metropolitan stated that he would work with the Human Resources Committee to formalize job descriptions for his personal secretary and driver/personal assistant.

D.1-2.A. MOTION GALLICK/KUCHTA – To accept the reports of the Chancellor and the Secretary. CARRIED.

E. Sexual Misconduct Committee

E.1. MOTION SOLODOW/MYERS – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, Protodeacon Peter Danilchick presented a report and led an extensive discussion on various issues pertaining to sexual misconduct including the ongoing work of the Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee [SMPAC].

E.2. MOTION GALLICK/VITKO – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

Following a recess for lunch at 12:03 PM, the afternoon session was called to order at 1:00 PM.

F. Metropolitan Council Committees

F.1. Crisis Management (attached)

Dr. Dmitri Solodow, chairman of the Crisis Management Committee, outlined the history of the establishment of the Committee, its purposes and actions. He also presented a detailed analysis report from Subdeacon Bernard Wilson, Committee consultant. An extensive discussion ensued as to whether the report of the Committee including the appended analysis report by Bernie Wilson should be published among reports to the All-American Council.

F.1.A. MOTION DANILCHIK/BOBOSH – To include the appended analysis report by Bernie Wilson with the general Crisis Management report among published reports submitted to the All-American Council. CARRIED by a vote of 16 for, 7 against and 1 abstention.

L. 2012 Budget Presentation

Fr. Matthew Tate (Finance/Investment Committee Consultant) delivered an oral report on his visits with Melanie Ringa to various dioceses in order to meet with diocesan treasurers, to learn of their particular funding methods and to discuss various other financial issues. He reminded the council that such visits have been occurring for several years with the blessing of the Holy Synod and the approval of the Metropolitan Council. Since the spring of 2010, these visits are within the purview of a special subcommittee of the Finance Committee of the Metropolitan Council. He stated that these meetings were fruitful and suggested that they should continue. He then reviewed fair share funding proposals at previous All-American Councils and discussed various budgetary considerations in conjunction with funding proposals submitted for consideration at the 16th All-American Council. A lengthy discussion ensued. It was pointed out that unanimity among the Holy and Metropolitan Council on funding issues is essential going forward. A resolution proposed at this session was deferred to the later session on budget consideration.

L.1. MOTION SHIMCHICK/PIHACH – To endorse for the next two years an annual meeting of all diocesan treasurers and other senior diocesan officials with the OCA Treasurer in order to facilitate an ongoing discussion on funding. CARRIED.

Fr. Tate additionally suggested that an analysis report with recommendations be undertaken on the Church's declining membership. Various views were expressed on who should undertake this and methodology to be utilized.

Following a short recess at 3:00 PM, the session resumed at 3:25 PM.

F. Metropolitan Council Committees

F.2. Ethics

F.2.A. MOTION BOBACK/DICK – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, Fr. Ted Bobosh, Ethics Committee chairman, presented the Committee's confidential report concerning several ethics complaints and investigation reports that had been forwarded by the Committee to the Holy Synod for further action.

F.2.B. MOTION MEYENDORFF/GARRETSON – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

F.2.C. MOTION SOLODOW/YEOSOCK – To accept the report of the Ethics Committee. CARRIED.

F.3. Charity – attached report to the 16th All-American Council

In the absence of Father John Reeves, Protodeacon Michael Myers presented the attached report of the Charity Committee and answered questions.

F.3.A. MOTION GALLICK/SOLODOW – To accept the report of the Charity Committee. CARRIED.

F.4. Council Development - attached report to the 16th All-American Council

Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, Council Development Committee chairman, presented the Committee's attached written report. Bishop Tikhon suggested that in the future an extended focused discussion of

national/diocesan church issues be undertaken together by the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council. The Council Development Committee report was accepted with thanks.

F.5. Human Resources

F.5.A. MOTION KUCHTA/BOBACK – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, Fr. David Garretson, Human Resources Committee chairman, presented the Committee's confidential report concerning the search for a new chancellor and other matters.

F.5.B. MOTION GALLICK/BUTRIE – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

F.6. Internal Governance

F.6.A. MOTION DANILCHICK/VITKO – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, Dr. Dmitri Solodow reported on policies and procedures pertaining to the Church's internal governance. An extensive discussion ensued.

F.6.B. MOTION GALLICK/BUTRIE – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

F.7. Strategic Plan - attached

Priest John Vitko, Strategic Plan Committee chairman, provided an update on the Committee's work in preparation for the 16th All-American Council and the structure of the Plan's presentation during the council. A PowerPoint presentation provided illustration for the report and the methodology of the Strategic Plan Committee's work. He noted that the first choice of working group for every council participant would be honored. He also indicated that parish development was by far the top choice of working groups. Fr. John additionally spoke of interactions with the Preconciliar Commission in the course of joint work to integrate deliberation of the Strategic Plan into the agenda for the All-American Council. He likewise provided an overview of the anticipated implementation of the Plan following the Council. Funding considerations in conjunction with the plan's implementation were discussed.

Following a recess for dinner at 5:13 PM, the evening session was called to order at 6:14 PM.

F.5. Human Resources (continued)

F.5.C. MOTION DICK/BUTRIE – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, Fr. David Garretson, Human Resources Committee chairman, reported on additional issues in the Committee's work.

F.5.D. MOTION NESCOTT/KUCHTA – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

F.5.E. MOTION SOLODOW/DANILCHICK – To accept the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee and to forward the name of Archpriest John Jillions to the Holy Synod for consideration for appointment to the position of Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. Legal Issues

G.1. MOTION GALLICK/WITEK – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

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

G.2. MOTION MYERS/GALLICK – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

G.3. MOTION GARRETSON/SOLODOW – On the basis of matters heard in executive session, to direct the OCA General Counsel, Thaddeus Wojcik, to send appropriate letters to secure OCA work product and to defend the interests of the Orthodox Church in America regarding said work product. CARRIED.

G.4. MOTION GARRETSON/PIHACH – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

Discussion of legal matters continued in executive session.

G.5. MOTION GALLICK /MYERS – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

G.6. MOTION SOLODOW/BUTRIE – To adjourn the evening session. CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:38 PM.

Thursday, September 29

The morning session was called to order, following prayer, at 9:08 AM.

J. Finance Report - attached

Melanie Ringa introduced Robert Taylor and Valerie Jones of Lambrides, Lamos, Taylor LLP, the external auditors for the Orthodox Church in America. She provided some background on the work that is done with the external auditors, particularly Ms. Jones, our account manger. She commented on the attached preliminary reports for 2010, which were explained in greater detail by Mr. Taylor, who along with Melanie answered numerous questions from the Council. New government legislation concerning the handling of endowments was noted. It was stated that this was the first clean audit since 1998. The external audit firm expects to issue an unqualified opinion before the All-American Council.

J.1. MOTION TOSI/OLEKSA – To accept the external audit reports. CARRIED.

F. Metropolitan Council Committees (continued)

F.9. Metropolitan Council Stewardship – attached report to the 16th All-American Council

Protodeacon Peter Danilchick presented a draft overview report from the Metropolitan Council to the upcoming All-American Council, which aims to show the Metropolitan Council's stewardship of its responsibilities as the body that is charged to implement the decisions of the All-American Council. In lengthy and wide-ranging discussion, many revisions to the draft report were suggested. It was noted that the Metropolitan Council's credibility would be judged on the basis of this report. It was agreed that a final draft based on suggestions for revision would be further reviewed at this afternoon's session. Protodeacon Peter was thanked for his work on this report.

M. Pension Board Report

John Sedor, Pension Board Chairman, delivered the Board's report focused on efficient communication regarding the Pension Plan so that questions could be properly answered and alleviate problems. Maureen Ahearn, Pension Plan Administrator, was also present. Mr. Sedor answered several questions from the Metropolitan Council and was thanked for his report.

Following a short recess at 10:53 AM, the session resumed at 11:19 AM.

Dr. Dmitri Solodow initiated a brief discussion concerning a regrettable leak on the internet concerning the search for a new chancellor. Fr. David Garretson provided some background information on the search process.

F. Metropolitan Council Committees (continued)

F.8. Special Investigating Committee (SIC) implementation – attached report to the 16th All-American Council

Dr. Dmitri Solodow presented the attached report concerning implementation of the Special Investigating Committee's recommendations. An extensive discussion of various issues raised in the report took place, particularly concerning internet communication in general and the possibility of interactive communication on the OCA website or related church media.

F.8.A. MOTION GALLICK/DANILCHICK – To accept the SIC implementation report. CARRIED.

I. 16th All-American Council update

Fr. Eric Tosi updated the Metropolitan Council on various aspects of preparation for the upcoming All-American Council, which is proceeding smoothly and in a timely manner. Discussion took place and Fr. Eric answered numerous questions. He reported on registered delegate representation to date according to diocesan affiliation. It was particularly noted with satisfaction that the Diocese of Alaska will be represented in greater numbers than at any previous All-American Council. Fr. Eric was thanked for his informative report.

Following a recess for lunch at 12:21 PM, the afternoon session was called to order at 1:05 PM.

K. Finance/Investment Committee Report – attached

Melanie Ringa presented the current year's financial reports through June 2011 and answered questions from Council members.

L. 2012 Budget Presentation & Approval (continued)

Melanie Ringa presented proposals for the 2012 budget at various levels of per capita assessment. A long discussion took place on budget presentation at the upcoming All-American Council. It was suggested that budget planning for staffing for the Metropolitan's office with consideration of his dual role as Primate and diocesan bishop of Washington DC be developed in conjunction with job descriptions formulated by the Human Resources Committee in consultation with Metropolitan Jonah. Various other details of the budget and related matters were reviewed and discussed at length.

L.1. MOTION SOLODOW/VITKO – To approve the budget at the \$105 per capita assessment level as amended. CARRIED by a vote of 20 for, 3 against, no abstentions.

- L.2. MOTION VITKO/SOLODOW – That the Finance Committee prepare excursions around the budget at \$50, \$90 and \$125 per capita assessment levels. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

K. Finance/Investment Committee Report

Fr. Gleb McFatter, Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided an update on the Investments Subcommittee. Having begun to gather information for its work, the subcommittee is projected to meet after the All-American Council to begin formulation of the investments policy for the OCA, which will be presented for approval at the next meeting of the Metropolitan Council.

H. Internal Auditors Report – attached

In the absence of Deacon Martin Watt, chairman of the Audit Committee, Fr. Gleb McFatter presented the Committee's attached report, which indicated no irregularities in financial reporting. In discussion of the report, various views were expressed on the viability of our current "head tax" system of funding.

- H.1. MOTION GARRETSON/NESCOTT - To receive the report of the Audit Committee. CARRIED.**

F. Metropolitan Council Committees (continued)

F.9. Metropolitan Council Stewardship (continued)

Protodeacon Peter Danilchick presented a new draft, substantially revised per earlier discussion, of the overview report from the Metropolitan Council to the upcoming All-American Council.

- F.9.A. MOTION GRIER/OLEKSA – To accept the revised draft of the overview report of the Metropolitan Council to the 16th All-American Council. CARRIED.**

N. Other Business

Gregory Nescott introduced the following motion of gratitude.

- N.1. MOTION NESCOTT/MYERS – To express thanks to Dr. Faith Skordinski and Mark Stokoe for their tireless and principled service to the Orthodox Church in America during their years of service on the Metropolitan Council. CARRIED with 1 abstention.**

It was also noted that Rosalie Luster has moved to Canada and Dr. Paul Witek has moved to Eastern Pennsylvania and they will henceforth no longer be representing their current dioceses on the Metropolitan Council. Additionally, the terms of Frs. Boback and Bobosh, Protodeacon Danilchick, Deacon Zarras and Mr. Grier are expiring after this meeting, although some of them could be reelected. The Metropolitan Council expressed its gratitude to these outgoing members. Protodeacon Danilchick suggested that current and outgoing members of the Council provide mentoring to new incoming members.

Fr. John Vitko initiated a discussion to reconsider the decision concerning publication of the Crisis Management report and its appendix.

- N.2. MOTION NESCOTT/MYERS – To defer release of the Crisis Management report and its appendix until after the Holy Synod meeting next week and to revise it accordingly based on actions taken by the Holy Synod. If the Holy Synod takes no action on the matters in question, to release the report with its appendix as currently drafted. CARRIED with 2 votes against and 1 abstention.**

N.3. MOTION BOBACK/MEYENDORFF – To move into executive session, CARRIED.

In executive session, Thaddeus Wojcik, OCA General Counsel, provided additional updates on several legal matters.

N.4 MOTION NEScott/MCFATTER – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

Fr. David Lowell initiated discussion on staffing of the Metropolitan's office.

N.5. MOTION DANILCHICK/OLEKSA – To authorize the Human Resources Committee to work with His Beatitude to assess his needs for support and services and to develop effective staffing organization to meet those needs and then to provide that information to the Finance Committee for appropriate budgetary consideration by the end of the calendar year 2011. CARRIED.

In closing remarks, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah expressed his thanks to the Metropolitan Council, especially its outgoing members, and all of the committees for their tremendous hard work. He stated that it is important to remember that we are all on the same team working towards the same goal – to serve Jesus Christ and His Church. Reiterating his gratitude, both from himself personally and on behalf of the entire Church, he encouraged outgoing members to continue their work for the Church in whatever capacity they may be called to do so.

N.6. MOTION GARRETSON/BOBOSH – To adjourn the meeting. CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 3:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary



**Minutes
of the Joint Meeting
of the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council
at the 16th All-American Council**

**Monday, October 31, 2011
Hyatt Regency Bellevue, Bellevue, WA**

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

PARTICIPANTS

HOLY SYNOD

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah
His Grace, Bishop Tikhon
His Grace, Bishop Benjamin
His Grace, Bishop Alejo
His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek

His Grace, Bishop Michael
His Grace, Bishop Matthias
His Grace, Bishop Mark
His, Grace, Bishop Irénée

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Church Officers

Archpriest John Jillions, *Chancellor*
Archpriest Eric Tosi, *Secretary*

Melanie Ringa, *Treasurer*

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Protodeacon Michael Myers

Archdiocese of Canada

Archimandrite Alexander (Pihach)

Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Archpriest David Mahaffey

Diocese of the Midwest

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta

Sam D’Fantis

Diocese of New England

Priest Robert Dick

Deacon John Zarras

Diocese of New York New Jersey

Archpriest John Shimchick

Janet Van Duyn

Diocese of the South

Priest Gleb McFatter

Judge Ray Lanier (9/28 only)

Diocese of Washington

Priest John Vitko

Rosalie Luster

Diocese of the West

Archpriest David Lowell

Dr. Dmitri Solodow

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Archpriest John Reeves

Gregory J. Nescott

Absent

Eleana Silk (elected by the All-American Council)

Archpriest Michael Oleksa (Diocese of Alaska)

William Peters (Albanian Archdiocese)

David Yeosock (Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania)

Guests (*for all sessions unless otherwise indicated*)

Archpriest Thomas Moore (alternate member elected by the All-American Council)

Archpriest Alexander Garklavs (SMPAC)

Alexis Liberovsky (recording secretary for this meeting)

Archdeacon Kirill Sokolov

Thaddeus Wojcik, Esq. (OCA General Counsel)

Wednesday, September 28

The meeting was opened with prayer led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah at 5:00 PM.

A. Introduction

Fr. John Jillions introduced himself as the new OCA Chancellor and asked Metropolitan Jonah for his opening remarks. His Beatitude welcomed everyone to Seattle and expressed his hopes for a productive All-American Council to discern the will of God for the Church’s life over the next several years and to listen to that “still small voice” as stated by Matushka Juliana Schmemann.

B. AAC agenda changes

Fr. Eric Tosi explained the agenda changes for the All-American Council that will be proposed at the opening plenary session. There will be a proposal to change the order of finance reports during Session IV. It is also proposed that the department reports be moved to session VIII, questions on the

Metropolitan Council report and Committee reports to Session VII. Proposed additions to the agenda include brief presentations on Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry in Session VII, Focus North America in Session VIII and a video of Matushka Juliana Schmemmann's message to the Council at the beginning of Session II.

Dr. Dmitri Solodow and others objected to moving questions on the Metropolitan Council report and Committee reports to Session VII. Extensive discussion took place concerning this agenda change as well as moving Department reports to Session VIII. Objections centered on the inadvisability of having such items late in the council proceedings and that they must be tied in with discussion on finances.

B.1. MOTION DANILCHICK/SOLODOW – To approve the transfer of the Department reports to Session VIII, but to utilize the vacated time space in Session IV for the Metropolitan Council Stewardship report and Committee reports as well as questions. CARRIED.

C. Roll Call

Fr. John Jillions conducted roll call.

D. Treasurer Update

Discussion took place concerning presentation of the budget to the All-American Council including the budget excursions at various assessment levels. Dr. Solodow pointed that the financial difficulties of a diocese require action. Bishop Benjamin announced that the Holy Synod plans to make financial development a key area of its focus in the coming triennium. It was stated that the Metropolitan Council does not have the statutory competence to act in diocesan financial matters. Fr. Jillions stated that this and other issues would require hard work together. He relayed his brief experience in observing the Holy Synod's intense work since assuming the chancellor's position.

E. Statute amendment update

Judge Ray Lanier and Thaddeus Wojcik provided an update on the proposed amendment on term limits of Metropolitan Council members. Archival research has revealed that a Statute amendment on this was adopted at the 4th All-American Council in 1975 but never incorporated into subsequent published texts of the Statute. Therefore, the proposed amendment on this issue for the 16th All-American Council has been withdrawn. In order to confirm the previous Statute amendment in 1975, a resolution to ratify that Statute amendment will be presented to this Council.

F. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary

After Action Report for 16th All-American Council

Archpriest Eric G. Tosi

Introduction

It is hard to believe that two years' worth of work has concluded. The many hours and innumerable emails and conference calls and the meetings with both the Preconciliar Commission and the Local Committee bore much fruit. All groups worked very well together and we proved that an All-American Council could be done on budget and without drama. Many thanks must go to the many volunteers who worked to bring this together. We especially thank the leadership and guidance of His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN as local hosting bishop.

The attendance of the Council was average compared to ones in the past. There were 299 Clergy delegates and 264 Lay Delegates for a total of 563 delegates. There were 97 Observers, 3 Retired Clergy and 25 Guests. This was a total of 688 participants at the 16th All-American Council. We also had, however, unprecedented participation of close to 50 delegates from Alaska, another first for an AAC. We were especially blessed to have the holy Sitka Mother of God icon's presence during the sessions.

We did fill our hotel block and even had Conference Direct contract two overflow hotels. With the exception of a few issues, our overall relations with the hotel were excellent and they provided some wonderful unexpected benefits. I held a number of meetings with them prior to and at the AAC which greatly assisted in the operation. They knew what to expect and fulfilled our own expectations. There were some challenges in the initial planning but all were resolved fairly and amiably. It was a great facility and met our needs exactly.

Some Notable Points

There were some changes from the last AAC, which definitely contributed to the smoother functioning of the Council. First was the integration and alignment of the Chancery, PCC and the Local Committee. In the past these were kept separate and often there was not adequate cross communication. By adding the Local Committee Chair to the PCC, we were able to ensure that decisions were flowing in a timely and authoritative manner. Also critical was including the chair of the Strategic Plan in the planning of the AAC since the Working Groups were foundational to this Council. We recommend keeping this process.

The PCC was put together to have both experienced and new members. This greatly assisted in not only keeping the institutional memory intact but brought some new ideas which allowed for the continuation of more creative solutions. While sometimes there was some questions between what was done in the past and what should be done for the future, in the end they were resolved cooperatively.

Another critical factor was to begin the process early. We began the planning close to two years ahead of the AAC, which allowed us time to find a proper location and to begin much of the early planning. While during the course of the two years, situations and initiatives fluctuated, the early start meant that we could address them in a timely and efficient manner.

It was decided to split the Council Manager position. Fr. Myron Manzuk remained the Council Manager responsible for many details such as room management and functioning. Peter Ilchuk was appointed Logistics Manager, which allowed him to concentrate on technical aspects of the Council such as stage, lighting and shipping. This ensured that the Local Committee knew exactly whom to address with different challenges. I remained overall responsible for the Council and was able to supervise the different pieces, knowing that each would be addressed in a timely and efficient manner. As indicated by the success of the Council, this division of management responsibility regarding the not-so-visible background planning, oversight and problem solving – particularly during the Council - was proficiently executed and by their own admission, they worked well together.

The Local Committee was exemplary in how they conducted the operations. We benefited from a strong local camaraderie in the Seattle area and this was reflected in their work. An executive committee of Fr. Myron Manzuk, Fr. John Pierce, Peter Ilchuk, Michelle Mewhinny-Angel, Lynnell Brunswig and I kept the work on task and clearly outlined. They, in turn, remained in contact with the different local committees and followed up on assigned tasks. They were able to recruit over 70 volunteers who worked on the different aspects of the Council. Because we had an early start, we ensured that we had plenty of help. They have also looked at previous committee guidelines and are providing recommendations for further clarity and ease of implementation. As in the past, we also divided some committees' work so that there was not too much resting on each committee (for example adding a Food and Beverage Committee, a Banquet Committee, even a Signage Committee). One additional note, thanks to the work of the Local Committee and their local contacts, there was a large number of donations that were received that kept the costs down. For example the computers, printers and supplies were donated which meant we did not have to rent or ship these items across the country. However, a local trucking company did donate their services to ship the other necessary items to and from Seattle. (We filled an entire truck at a great cost saving). In addition, a local limousine company provided free VIP airport pick-up and drop-off, transportation for the Holy Synod's outing on Sunday, and the iconostasis, icons and the liturgical tables and covers were made available to us at a minimal expense.

A team effort on finances was especially critical. We worked with a budget, kept a close account of it, and made decisions based on it. As such, we came in "on budget". Our costs were not substantially different from the 15th AAC in Pittsburgh because of our diligence. In addition, our Exhibit Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Berg, did a great job and we had higher than expected revenue since we contracted out all of the available space. However, we did raise the assessment level in expectation of higher costs which gave us a somewhat comfortable cushion in planning. We also cut some expenses which were considered cost prohibitive such as the continental breakfasts after the Liturgy. As such, we had a surplus of over \$78,000 that will be returned to the Dioceses, truly a first for an AAC! A complete financial report is attached and will be addressed by the Treasurer.

We also had unprecedented media coverage of the Council with a cooperative effort with Ancient Faith Radio. Each session was broadcast and posted with the exception of the final session which had technical difficulties. (Once we receive the video, we will try to extract an audio for posting). Many people listened to the broadcast and were thankful to follow the proceedings. We received many emails thanking us for this. We also posted daily, thanks to the

wonderful web team, updates and decisions of the Council. The prudent use of audio/visual technology allowed for greater transparency, participation and enthusiasm within the Church. We are looking at ways to develop this further.

I think it is important to note that all statutory requirements for the AAC were met on time and reports were disseminated via the website. This is important because of the cost savings involved by doing more electronically. Everyone who has internet had access to the reports and the final minutes, which significantly minimized report printing costs. (This represented a cost savings of close to \$30,000.) We are going to look at ways of registering electronically for the next AAC as well.

Another notable change was the hiring of a professional parliamentarian. This was an excellent move, keeping the procedures unbiased and informed. It was well worth the cost. In addition, it is notable to mention the exceptionally fine work done by the Clergy and Lay Chair. Fr. Ian Pac-Urar and Judges E.R. Lanier proved to be excellent and kept the meetings moving with grace and dignity (and a bit of humor).

The Liturgical aspect of the AAC could not have been better. All the services were well attended, well managed and well received. They were inclusive of the OCA and formed the center of the AAC as planned. The work behind the scenes was well organized and in keeping with the spirit that we are a charitable organization, the collections from the liturgical services (\$6000) were donated to the Martha and Mary House for at-risk pregnancies in California.

Some Notable Challenges

Perhaps the most glaring challenge was the time management of the Council. As in planning any meeting, there will be changes during the course of the meeting which affect the timeline. This Council had some major challenges coming in and there were times when it could have gone off course. It is very difficult to control these and still allow for full and complete discussion on critical issues. The major issue was that we reallocated three sessions (half of two sessions and two complete sessions) to the Strategic Plan. Therefore we had to fit a lot of reporting and discussion in a shortened agenda. Therefore, some discussions on resolutions were not as complete as preferred and some critical reports of Committees, Departments and relevant operations were rushed. Some of their work needs to be better-highlighted and more time given for discussion. The PCC agonized over the agenda, tried to find a balance, and even then, changes at the AAC itself challenged us more. It was handled satisfactorily, but it could have been orchestrated better.

Overall, the committee work at the AAC worked well. We had good team leaders and we again mixed experienced with new people. There needs, however, to be more refinement on two particular committees. The first is the Nominations Committee. While we cannot nominate someone to a Church-wide position unless they are actually present, it would be helpful if we could get acquire names of interested people beforehand and have prepared. Note that some nominations (such as the lay representative to the Pension Board) were difficult to fill. Of course, the whole Statute issue regarding the term of office on the Metropolitan Council was an unexpected twist. Many late hours were spent trying to unravel this; however, the committee could not see any other way to untangle it and then to present the issue to the AAC.

The other committee challenge was the Resolution Committee. It is always a challenge to get the resolutions in and vetted by the committee on a timely basis. There were some resolutions that were not properly presented because of vetting process. We did follow the proper procedure. However, the real challenge came in presenting them and giving time for discussion on the floor. This is always going to be difficult because some people will always feel their issue is the most important and, consequently, certain resolutions can come to dominate the proceedings. There needs to be a better balance achieved and perhaps the resolutions need to be organized in a more efficient manner. The Committee did an excellent job wading through the many challenges. The final problem was the final set of resolutions during the last plenary session that were shortened due to us having to vacate the plenary session ballroom. I will explore a more proficient manner with the Committee.

Still another Council weak point were the Teller's Committee, it seems that we will need to do a better job with orientation and guidelines following their appointment after the first Plenary Session.

Because of the complex nature of this kind of Council with working groups and break out sessions, there were again some other problems regarding time management. Based on the circumstances, I believe the problems were handled well and the breakout sessions were productive but there needs to be a more resourceful way of handling them. I also think we should continue the session's structure at future Councils because it allows for a more in-depth discussion among delegates who have specific interests. But it requires a lot of logistical coordination and there were too many last minute changes.

There was much interest in additional presentations but the agenda did not allow for it. We did fit in department workshops and receptions. These were decently attended, although having them in the evening was not ideal due to the preceding full day plenary and break-out sessions. This will need to be re-examined for a better approach of ensuring that all the departments have an opportunity to offer workshops and that every interested group can host receptions. We incorporated much in a limited time period.

We should have had more seminarians to assist behind the scenes. They performed well although having clergy seminarians does create some difficulty. We do need a seminarian supervisor at next AAC (we did not at this one due to costs) who can keep them organized and on task and insure that their site arrivals and departures are based on Council needs and not their personal convenience. We probably should increase the number from two from each seminary to three.

Finally, we had some real challenges with VIPs. While notice and invitations were sent out far in advance, in some cases, we did not receive notification until the last minute. This caused logistical problems with hotel rooms and seating at the formal dinner. We could have some better planning for the formal dinner but the program did go fairly smooth. Perhaps, we should consider an electronic seating method which will allow people to select their own seating and ticketing.

Conclusion

I am very grateful for all the hard work that was done for this AAC. I have only praise for the PCC, Local Committee, AAC Committees and Chancery staff. All the work was done with joy and the many long hours were well worth it. This has been my second AAC as Secretary with overall responsibility and I have been honored to work with the people in each of them.

Now comes the time to begin again. It is notable that we have examined the possibility of holding an AAC at a location other than a hotel. We have explored and it was not cost effective in terms of price and amenities. We will continue to look at this option. There are two recommendations as we begin the process this summer. First is to move the AAC to the summer so there can be youth and family involvement with a corresponding youth program. We chose the date for this Council based on the scheduling expediency and availability of the Alaskan clergy. However, there has been much discussion to move the AAC to a time when it can more inclusive. The second is the location. We are always limited as to our location selection, which is always based on the size and availability of hotels that can meet our needs, locations that are cost-efficient and accessible, and that there are sufficient local parishes that can be utilized for volunteers to fill a local committee. In addition, we try to move them to different regions of the country. As such, I would recommend beginning the search in the Baltimore area, the Cleveland area, parts of the Midwest, New York/New Jersey and certain locations in the South. We do have a site selection and contract-negotiating company, Conference Direct, who puts a site list together, based on our requirements, and then presents us with viable options; the sites are then prioritized and followed up by us with evaluation trips to determine what sites are workable. I will begin this process in the summer so we can be ready for 2014.

**16th All American Council
Actual vs Budget
as of December 31, 2011**

	<u>PCC 2010/11</u>	<u>Projected AAC 2011</u>	<u>Budget Total 2011</u>	<u>Actual 16th AAC As of 12/31/11</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Revenues:					
Total Special Assessment	\$ -	\$ 242,000.00	\$ 242,000.00	\$ 247,056.00	\$ 5,056.00
Direct Public Support	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 2,756.00	\$ 2,756.00
Appeals	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Observer Fees	\$ -	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 41,438.00	\$ 17,438.00
Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Special Events Income	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 23,965.00	\$ 13,965.00
Total Revenues	\$ -	\$ 276,000.00	\$ 276,000.00	\$ 315,215.00	\$ 39,215.00
Expenses:					
Bank Fees	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 158.17	\$ 58.17
Food - PCC	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 214.68	\$ (35.32)
Flowers/Candles/Lit Items	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 584.05	\$ (415.95)
Copying	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ (500.00)
Outside Contract Services	\$ -	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 69,716.00	\$ (7,284.00)
Postage and Mailing	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,990.72	\$ (9.28)
Printing/Copying	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,996.00	\$ (1,004.00)
Supplies	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 700.00	\$ (1,300.00)
Telecommunications	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ (500.00)
Conference, meetings	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	\$ (1,200.00)
Travel	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 47,144.51	\$ 9,144.51
Lodging	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 18,877.35	\$ (31,122.65)
Meals	\$ -	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 88,000.00	\$ 84,712.86	\$ (3,287.14)
Stipends	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Auto - Gas, Shipping	\$ -	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 10,858.95	\$ (3,141.05)
Travel & Meetings-Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Admin Expense	\$ -	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 250.00
Total Expenses	\$ 25,950.00	\$ 261,150.00	\$ 287,100.00	\$ 247,953.29	\$ (39,146.71)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (25,950.00)	\$ 14,850.00	\$ (11,100.00)	\$ 67,261.71	\$ 78,361.71

Proposed Use of Surplus Funds:

The surplus resulted from the overwhelming participation of the vendors (\$14K), and the observers (\$17K), as well as the diligence of the PCC in adhering to and negotiating expenses to come in BELOW our budget (\$39K).

We propose distributing \$60K of the surplus back to the Dioceses, based on their assessment contributions. The distribution would be as fol

Diocese of Alaska	\$ 252.24
Diocese of Washington	\$ 2,732.72
Diocese of West	\$ 7,013.91
Diocese of South	\$ 6,747.80
Diocese of New England	\$ 5,063.63
Diocese of New York	\$ 9,476.74
Diocese of Eastern PA	\$ 7,746.40
Diocese of Western PA	\$ 5,892.47
Diocese of the Midwest	\$ 13,456.51
Bulgarian Archdiocese	\$ 1,617.59
Totals	\$ 60,000.00

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS - PLENARY SESSION II - NOVEMBER 1, 2011

1. DEAF OUTREACH RESOLUTION

Submitted by St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington DC, and reviewed by the Resolutions Committee September - October 2011

WHEREAS we are called to spread the Word of God in many tongues (1 Cor. 14:9), yet the languages of a specific group of people throughout North America, namely, the deaf community, have been underrepresented,

WHEREAS members of the deaf community, most of whom use sign language as their primary mode of communication, find it virtually impossible to enter into the liturgical fullness of the church,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Holy Synod be requested to explore the creation of a deaf outreach ministry to help every level of the Orthodox Church in America more effectively meet the specific needs of the deaf community.

3. OUTREACH TO AFRICAN AMERICANS

Submitted by Fr Moses Berry, with the consent of the Resolutions Committee, July 31, 2011

WHEREAS there are deep resonances between the faith of the early Church and the heartfelt Christianity born out of the American slaves' experience, especially characterized by the "sad joyfulness" common to the Desert Fathers and Mothers and to the suffering, underground church of the African American slaves, and

WHEREAS African Americans have been and are still significantly under-represented in the Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Orthodox Church in America,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Orthodox Church in America, at every level of church life, promote and encourage education about the shared heritage of Black and White Americans and the necessity for increased efforts to evangelize the African American community.

PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT - PLENARY SESSION VI - NOVEMBER 3, 2011

PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT I

Rationale

The following proposal seeks to amend Article X.5.b of the Statute. The amendment attempts to clarify the following: someone may be considered a parishioner in good standing, even if he or she confesses to a priest other the parish priest. Confession outside of their parish must be done with the blessing of the parish priest.

The rationale for this proposal concerns the statutory requirement that the member confess "in his home parish" annually. As is known, it is common for some parishioners to confess to a priest at another parish. In addition, family members of a priest confess to other priests. Under current OCA Statute, people who confess elsewhere, including priests' wives and children, are not technically "voting members" and should not vote at parish meetings. If the OCA or one of its parishes becomes involved in legal action which hinges in part on a vote, this definitional inconsistency could become a problem. The idea of any amendment would be simply to conform the statute to the existing practice in the OCA.

Current Statute: Article X.5 Parishioners

Parishioners are those who, by virtue of their Baptism and Chrismation, are members of the Body of Christ and strive to live in accordance with their high calling (Eph. 4:1) as Orthodox Christians. No one can be a member of the parish if he openly betrays the teaching of the Orthodox Church, or if he leads a life or acts in a manner condemned by the Holy Canons as incompatible with the name of Orthodox Christian.

A "voting member" of the parish is a member [as defined in Article X, Section 5(a)] at least eighteen years of age, who partakes of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion in his home parish at least once a year; has belonged to the parish for a period as may be fixed by the parish; and regularly fulfills such financial obligations as may be established by the All-American Councils, Diocesan Assemblies, and parish.

Proposed Amendment

A "voting member" of the parish is a member [as defined in Article X, Section 5(a)] at least eighteen years of age, who receives the Sacrament of Confession at least once a year in his home parish or, with the permission of the parish priest, elsewhere; who receives Holy Communion at least once a year in his home parish; has belonged to the parish for a period as may be fixed by the parish; and regularly fulfills such financial obligations as may be established by the All-American Councils, Diocesan Assemblies, and parish.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION PLENARY SESSION 6
REGARDING 1975 STATUTE AMENDMENTS
SUBMITTED BY THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ON
ADVICE OF OCA LEGAL COUNSEL FOR
CONSIDERATION AT THE 16TH ALL-AMERICAN
COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2, 2011

BACKGROUND:

- 1) In 1975, the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America was properly amended by the 4th All-American Council. This Amendment provided for staggered terms of Metropolitan Council members who are elected by All-American Councils. These terms are to be held by three classes of members where the periodicity of All-American Councils is biennial, and two classes where the periodicity is triennial. However, the text of the Amendment was not incorporated into official, published versions of the Statute.
- 2) In 1977, although the Statute still provided for biennial All-American Councils, the 5th All-American Council resolved that the 6th All-American Council would be held three years later to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the Church's autocephaly. In 1980, the 6th All-American Council properly amended the Statute to provide for triennial All-American Councils. The text of the Amendment passed by the 6th All-American Council was incorporated into official, published versions of the Statute, but the text of the Amendment passed by the 4th All-American Council was still not.
- 3) In order to ensure that official publications of the Statute are updated, and to assure an understandable historical record for future generations of the Church, this 16th All-American Council makes the following resolutions, and requests the Holy Synod to approve and bless the same.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLVED, that all officially published versions of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America shall have incorporated therein all amendments to the Statute previously adopted by All-American Councils up to and including this 16th All-American Council, and

RESOLVED, that the officers of the Orthodox Church in America and appropriate members of the Metropolitan Council are hereby directed to ensure that all official publications of the Statute are updated in accordance with the preceding Resolution, and in doing so they are to consult with the Church's archivist and with legal and canonical advisors with relevant expertise. Once the Statute is so updated, the Secretary shall notify the Church at large by means of posting an appropriate statement on the Church's website, and by any notifications to the Holy Synod as may be proper, and

RESOLVED, for the avoidance of any doubt, that the 16th All-American Council hereby confirms and ratifies the decisions and resolutions of the 4th, 5th and 6th All-American Councils, and of all prior Metropolitan Councils (to the extent such decisions and resolutions were both canonical and lawful), without regard to any questions of periodicity, or of the length or number of terms of any individual generally understood as serving on the Metropolitan Council at the time these decisions and resolutions were made. For these purposes, an individual was generally understood as serving on the Metropolitan Council at the time of any such decision or resolution if her or his name was recorded in the minutes of the Metropolitan Council as a member.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS - PLENARY SESSION VI - NOVEMBER 3, 2011

AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION 4

"Be it resolved that the 16th All-American Council fix the CCA fair share assessment for each of the participating dioceses at an amount of \$105.00 per capita of the census of the participating dioceses for 2012, and then reduce the assessment proportionately from that point forward."

5. MONASTERY RESOLUTION

Submitted by St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington DC, and reviewed by the Resolutions Committee September - October 2011

WHEREAS pilgrimages to monasteries have been an important part of Orthodox spirituality since the early days of monasticism; and

WHEREAS there is a relative scarcity of monasteries in North America as compared to traditional Orthodox lands;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Holy Synod be requested to explore whether and in what manner to promote education in the parishes about the history, importance, and ideals of monasticism within Orthodoxy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Orthodox Church in America, at every level of church life, promote and encourage the establishment of monasteries, with a goal of having men's and women's monasteries reasonably accessible to every parish; and to cooperate in monasticism with other Orthodox jurisdictions in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

6. SEMINARY SUPPORT RESOLUTION

Submitted by St Vladimir's Seminary, with unanimous approval of the SVOTS Board of Trustees, May 2011

WHEREAS the Orthodox Church in America no longer supports the seminaries of the OCA through a special appeal or as a line item in the budget, and

WHEREAS the three seminaries of the OCA are the primary institutions for the formation of future priests and centers for theological education for both clergy and lay leadership,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this All-American Council encourages each OCA parish and mission to support the seminary of its choice through a sacrificial gift of 1% minimum of its annual operating budget.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS - PLENARY SESSION VIII – NOVEMBER 4, 2011

7. SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE

Submitted by St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington DC, and reviewed by the Resolutions Committee September - October 2011

WHEREAS the Metropolitan of the OCA was among the hierarchs of SCOBA who adopted the 2003 Statement on Moral Crisis in Our Nation, Whereas we live in a society in which, ever increasingly, divorce is common, marital infidelity is common, pornography is common, abstinence before marriage is rare, and “marriage” is being redefined to include same-sex partnerships,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Sixteenth All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America re-affirms the 2003 SCOBA Statement on Moral Crisis in Our Nation, viz:

The Orthodox Christian teaching on marriage and sexuality, firmly grounded in Holy Scripture, 2000 years of church tradition, and canon law, holds that marriage consists in the conjugal union of a man and a woman, and that authentic marriage is blessed by God as a sacrament of the Church. Neither Scripture nor Holy Tradition blesses or sanctions such a union between persons of the same sex.

Holy Scripture attests that God creates man and woman in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:27-31), that those called to do so might enjoy a conjugal union that ideally leads to procreation. While not every marriage is blessed with the birth of children, every such union exists to create of a man and a woman a new reality of “one flesh.” This can only involve a relationship based on gender complementarity. “God made them male and female... So they are no longer two but one flesh” (Mark 10:6-8).

The union between a man and a woman in the Sacrament of Marriage reflects the union between Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:21-33). As such, marriage is necessarily monogamous and heterosexual. Within this union, sexual relations between a husband and wife are to be cherished and protected as a sacred expression of their love that has been blessed by God. Such was God’s plan for His human creatures from the very beginning. Today, however, this divine purpose is increasingly questioned, challenged or denied, even within some faith communities, as social and political pressures work to normalize, legalize and even sanctify same-sex unions.

The Orthodox Church cannot and will not bless same-sex unions. Whereas marriage between a man and a woman is a sacred institution ordained by God, homosexual union is not. Like adultery and fornication, homosexual acts are condemned by

Scripture (Rom 1:24-27; 1 Cor 6:10; 1 Tim 1:10). This being said, however, we must stress that persons with a homosexual orientation are to be cared for with the same mercy and love that is bestowed by our Lord Jesus Christ upon all of humanity. All persons are called by God to grow spiritually and morally toward holiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Holy Synod be requested to explore the designation of a day in the Church calendar to annually commemorate the sanctity of marriage, so that the faithful, both married and unmarried, may be exhorted to live chastely.

9. THANKS TO SEATTLE HOSTS

Submitted by Justin Nescott For consideration at the 16th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America November 5, 2011

BE IT RESOLVED that the 16th All-American Council express its deepest gratitude to the Seattle organizing committee, its co-chairs Fr. John Pierce and Lynell Brunswig, and to our host hierarch, His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN, for their excellent and tireless efforts in planning and executing this historic council, the first to be held in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.

Report to the Metropolitan Council of the Post-Conciliar Committee (PoCC) – Feb. 1, 2012

Per the direction of the 16th All American Council (AAC), the Strategic Planning Committee of the Metropolitan Council has completed its work and was replaced with a new committee, the Post Conciliar Committee (PoCC), charged with overseeing and facilitating the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

In this, the initial report of the PoCC, we summarize the principal outcomes of the AAC as they relate to the Strategic Plan and the resulting initial steps toward the implementation of that Plan.

The AAC and the Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan for the Orthodox Church in America was a major focus of the 16th All American Council. At the heart of these activities were two three-hour Workshops around each of the 10 major goals of the Plan in which the participants could (a) refine/evolve the plan; and (b) identify early implementation steps that they, networked together, could take to make the plan a reality. About 500 people participated in these Workshops. By all accounts these Workshops were very successful. The participants felt they had a real chance to input and that their voices and ideas were heard. Collectively, they identified between 30 and 40 potential initial projects that were doable and would bring substantial tangible benefit to the average parishioner and parish.

In a “sense of the Council” vote near the end of the AAC, the AAC overwhelmingly approved (hundreds of ‘green cards’ vs. ten or fewer ‘red cards’):

1. Proceeding with implementing the general directions given in the Strategic Plan
2. Forming a Post-Conciliar Committee (PoCC) to oversee and facilitate the implementation of that Plan; and
3. Urging the Metropolitan Council to pursue novel funding sources for funding the implementation of the Plan.

Initial Steps Taken to Begin Implementation of the Strategic Plan

Since the conclusion of the All American Council in November, 2011, we have taken the following steps toward beginning the implementation of the Strategic Plan:

1. The Strategic Plan has been revised to reflect the inputs from the AAC and posted on oca.org.

2. A Post-Conciliar Committee (PoCC) of Metropolitan Council members has been formed to provide oversight and facilitation of the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The PoCC is solely responsible for oversight. They are not responsible for the actual implementation – that is the responsibility of the implementation teams.
3. Implementation Teams have been established for eight of the ten goals. These teams are responsible for the actual implementation. The remaining two goals have been transferred to other, more appropriate committees: the Funding Goal to the Finance Committee and the Theological Education Goal to the Board of Theological Education.
4. The Implementation Teams have begun developing their implementation plans – objectives, milestones, required resources, roles of parish/deanery/diocese/central admin – and will present these for discussion, revision and approval at the February 2012 Metropolitan Council meeting.

Not surprisingly, as with all volunteer programs, staffing is an issue. People support the goals and projects but often find themselves ‘too overwhelmed’ to commit themselves. Some also, based on past experience, are concerned that the ‘resources’ won’t be there to implement the programs. A strong show of commitment from the Metropolitan Council and the Holy Synod would contribute significantly in addressing these issues.

Composition of the PoCC and of the Implementation Team Leads

At present, the PoCC members are: Fr. Robert Dick, II, Fr. John Dunlop, Fr. Chad Hatfield, Fr. David Lowell, Fr. David Mahaffey, Pdn. Michael Myers, Fr. John Reeves, Fr. John Shimchick, Fr. John Vitko (chair) and Judge Ray Lanier. His Grace, Bishop Michael is the Holy Synod liaison and Fr. John Jillions and Fr. Eric Tosi are the Chancery liaisons. Fr. Alexis Vinogradov is a consultant.

Where possible, we have tried to have individual PoCC members act as coordinators for each of the goals. The corresponding PoCC Coordinator and Implementation Team leader for each goal is given below.

GOAL	PoCC Coordinator	Implementation Team Lead
Contemporary Issues	Pdn. Michael Myers	Fr. Caleb Abetti
Continuing Education	Fr. Chad Hatfield	Fr. Ian Pac-Urar
Diocesan Revitalization	Fr. John Shimchick	Donna Karabin
Evangelization	Fr. John Reeves	Fr. John Reeves
Inter-Orthodox Relations	Ray Lanier	Mat. Wendy Cwilinski
Leadership & Management	Fr. David Lowell	Fr. David Lowell
Parish Development	Fr. John Vitko (Acting)	TBD

Youth and Young Adults	Fr. John Vitko	Fr. Christopher Rowe

Our initial team leader for Parish Development, Dr. Dmitri Solodow, needed to step down because of time commitments and we are currently in the process of searching for an appropriate team lead.

This report is respectfully submitted by

Fr. John Vitko,
Chair, Post-Conciliar Committee of the Metropolitan Council

The role of the Post-Conciliar Committee (PoCC) is to provide oversight and coaching to the Implementation Teams (ITs) actually implementing the Strategic Plan. Each of the eight major goals in the plan has a PoCC Coordinator and an Implementation Leader and Team associated with it. The role of the PoCC Coordinator is:

1. **To provide oversight of the implementation:** periodically check in with the Implementation Team leader to see that the implementation team actually develops a plan, that it seems to make sense, that it is communicated in an effective way, and that they are making reasonable progress in implementing it. If you think that for some reason the plan is going in the wrong direction work with the Implementation Team leader to resolve this.
2. **To provide nudging where needed:** periodically check in with the Implementation Team leader to see whether the projects are on track? if not, why not? and what can be done about it?
3. **To help overcome barriers:** the Implementation Team leader and team will undoubtedly encounter barriers -- all programs and projects do. It is always helpful to have a well connected, experienced, champion of the program, i.e. the PoCC member, who can help them overcome barriers -- whether in communication, funding, 'politics', relating to the MC and HS, etc.
4. **To provide encouragement when needed:** all programs/projects hit low points. It is nice to have a champion who reminds you that what you are doing is important and reminds you that all programs hit snags and that all we need do is our best and God will do the rest.
5. **To be the liaison and champion with the MC for your goal:** It is only at this first MC meeting that I see the Implementation Team leads presenting their programs. In most of the cases, it will be the PoCC member representing the program to the MC. As such the PoCC is responsible for (a) making the best case for the goal to the MC; and (b) for taking the feedback back from the MC to the PoCC and helping to address any issues/concerns/suggestions they may have offered.

“Wonder” 2011 Report

Note: This document was created for the administration of the Orthodox Church in America and is intended for internal use only.

Objectives and Mission

The mission of Wonder initially was to provide our Youth “a good defense” for their faith and hope in this world, and to provide content for pastors and youth workers to use in discussions and youth groups. In our original proposal we identified four key objectives for this project:

1. Provide topical and interesting articles and essays about the faith.
This objective we have met and perhaps even surpassed. We provide a range of articles on any given topic from the theological and academic to the personal and practical. We are also able to engage a variety of volunteer authors that includes professors, clergy, monastics, college students, and youth workers. For a complete list of all articles, themes, and authors, please see Appendix 2:2011 Content Summary).
2. Provide interactive, multimedia presentations on Orthodox topics
While our blog allows for sharing, reposting, commenting, and submissions (We are rather interactive), we have made only limited use multimedia aspects and it is something we need to improve upon (See Appendix 1: Upgrade Proposal)
3. Keep in Contact with our Youth
This was an original objective of the blog, and it is achieved through the blog’s existence, regular updates, and the managing editor reaching out to specific youth for contributions and opinions. It could be more fully realized through certain upgrades (See Appendix 1)
4. Give our Youth a place to express themselves creatively within the context of their faith.
Though some Youth of our Church do contribute to “Wonder”, this objective remains largely unmet. We are open to suggestions along these lines, and we are thinking about hosting an on-line, youtube-based Oratorical festival for our Youth.

The Greater Mission

How does our project fit into the greater mission of the Orthodox Church in America and the Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries? There are two specific aspects of the OCA’s Missions statement that we fulfill. Part of the OCA’s mission is “To preach, in accordance with God’s will, the fullness of the gospel of the Kingdom to the peoples of North America and to invite them to become members of the Orthodox Church.” We preach in a

unique place in cyberspace, and attempt to enter into the lives of people in a way that other ministries are not able to. We preach the fullness of the gospel both to our youth, to our members, and to the greater public.

The mission statement concludes with a call “To witness to the truth, and by God’s grace and in the power of the Holy Spirit, to reveal Christ’s way of sanctification and eternal salvation to all.” The articles that we publish through the blog, and the very task of publishing them witness to the truth, and help to point all towards the salvation of Christ, through all means some might be saved.

The mission of the OCA’s Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries is: “to foster the ongoing growth and integration of Youth into the life and ministry of the Orthodox Church through Fellowship, Worship, Service, and Education.” “Wonder” accomplishes this in the following ways:

- Education through posting of essays and articles
- Education through enabling discussion
- Fellowship through sharing of articles, commenting, and sharing of stories
- Service through the exchange of practical tips for ministry efforts
- Service by offering youth the chance to submit articles, the chance to serve a Church-Wide ministry
- Integrates youth with a ministry effort, and puts them alongside authors who are experts in their fields
- Challenges preconceived notions about Christianity in general and Orthodox in particular

“Wonder” clearly supports the both the greater mission of the Department and of the whole Church. We are always open to hearing ways in which our resources can be better used, or used differently, to further the mission of Orthodox Church in America.

Current Cost

Costs for Producing “Wonder” in 2011:

- Domain registration and mapping = \$17.00*
- “No Ads” feature on Wordpress = \$29.97*
- Editor’s Stipend (\$250/Month) = \$3000

* In 2010 and 2011 these costs were covered by the Managing Editor

Issues

The Following Issues were published in 2011. For a full list of articles, authors, and contributors please see Appendix 2.

Month	Topic
January	Water and the Spirit
February	Preparing for Great Lent
March	The Oriental Church
April	Christianity and Partisan Politics
May	Faith and the Creative Process
June	Experiences of Campus Ministry
July	Stories from Church Camp
August	The Mission of Orthodox Youth in North America
September	Icon, Image, and Modern Culture
October	Christians in the Workplace
November	Romance and Dating
December	Our Consumer Culture

Marketing

We are very grateful for the free marketing we receive every month from the press releases on the OCA website. The OCA website is the second largest refer to our blog. The web team is always quick to respond to our requests and needs. We are thankful for the work that they do, and the service they provide to us.

The largest referrer to our site is individuals sharing links on facebook. In an effort to encourage more individuals to “share” links to our blog on facebook, we would like to begin a simple marketing campaign. Facebook offers relatively cheap, targeted ads in a very simple interface. In addition, Facebook only charges when a user “clicks through” an ad to our site, not just for displaying the ad. We request a budget of \$300 to develop a Facebook add on a trial basis. In addition, we request a budget of \$200 to develop “Wonder” “business card” ads that could be handed out at conferences, retreats, OCF events, and when Church officials make parish visits. This would be a total marketing budget of \$500. It is presently \$0.

Copyright Issue

Certain Russian websites have been republishing our original content without our expresses permission. This is in clear violation of our “House Rules” as stated on the “Wonder” webpage. The main offending website is “Pravmir.com”, which cherry-picks articles almost every month to republish. They include a small reference to us at the end of each article. We would like direction and guidance on this issue, which we are not quite sure how to handle. On the one hand, they do direct some traffic to our blog, and their use of our content is flattering. On the other, the way they present it makes it look like they created it, and they are asking for donations on Paypal. Also, our volunteer authors are often surprised to see their work appear in

other places. We do not object to sites reposting our work, we just prefer that it is done with our expressed permission and in a way that highlights “Wonder”. Here are some links to sample posts:

<http://www.pravmir.com/the-poverty-of-loneliness/>

<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/english/50500.htm>

<http://www.pravmir.com/there-is-something-different-about-you/>

<http://www.pravmir.com/join-the-family-that-is-waiting-for-you/>

Upgrade

Now that “Wonder” has demonstrated its ability to deliver good, original content in a reliable way, we would like to upgrade certain aspects of the site. Specific details and costs are listed in Appendix 1. We noticed that in the list of Endowment Funds published in the Treasurer’s Report for the All-American Council, there was a fund titled “Youth Ministries Publications” with a reported balance of \$58, 512.41. We would like to use a small portion of this fund to cover any expenditures associated with an upgrade. We would like to know the procedures for accessing these funds, if they can indeed be accessed. A full proposal for this upgrade, complete with projected budget, is attached in Appendix 1.

Metrics

* Measured in Unique “Hits”

	2010	2011 Goal	2011	2012 Goal
Busiest Day*	434	600	1,472	2,000
Daily Average*	44	100	99	200
Posts	47	65	75	80
Issues Published	7	12	12	13
Comments	40	200	106	200
Subscribers	59	300	132	250
Total Views*	15, 897	50,000	35,955	50,000

Conclusion

We are thankful to the Church for giving us the opportunity to engage in this ministry. We are thankful for the many volunteers that offer their time and talent to create great content for “Wonder”. With excitement we look forward to a year of continued growth so that we may better serve both the mission of the Youth Department and the Orthodox Church in America. We are always open to suggestions for areas that need improvement, and for help implementing those improvements.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew A. Boyd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Andrew A. Boyd
Managing Editor, “Wonder” Blog
Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries
Orthodox Church in America

Appendix 1: Upgrade Proposal

Appendix 2: 2011 Content Summary

2011 Wonder Content Summary

January-Water and the Spirit

The Nature of Water Is Sanctified

A spiritual look at the scientific uniqueness of Water by Mr. William Kopcha, Chemistry Grad Student at the University of Connecticut

Blessing Water, Homes, Fire-Engines, and Beehives

A Reflection on why we bless things by Fr. Steven Belonick, St. Vladimir's Seminary

Water; Creation and Conservation

Tips for water conservation in the dorm and why it matters by Mr. David Wanik, Environmental Science student at the University of Connecticut

Meeting Christ at the Well on Theophany

Theological reflection on the Samaritan Woman and Christ's baptism by Ms. Mariya Simakova, ThM student at St. Vladimir's Seminary (Currently a PhD student at University of Toronto)

February- Preparing for Great Lent

"Chocolat" and the Great Fast

A movie review of "Chocolat" with a focus on how it related to fasting by Harry W. Reineke, a young adult from St. Joseph's Church, Wheaton, IL.

Fasting From Guilt

A reflection by Luke Beecham (Department Chair) on letting go of guilt during the fasts. This was a very popular article and was used by several discussion groups both in OCF chapters and in parish settings.

A Facebook Lenten Journey

A tongue-and-cheek fake facebook page for Lent. Content written by Dr. Kate Behr (Professor of Literature, Concordia College), design by Luke Beecham

Fasting and Forgiveness

Republished (with permission) sermon of Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

Nourishing our Bodies during Great Lent

Tips for eating healthy in the dining hall during Great Lent by Chris Masterjohn, PhD Candidate in Nutrition at the University of Connecticut. This was also a very popular article and is often linked to by other sites and blogs.

March- The Oriental Churches

Christians in Egypt

History of Christianity in Egypt in the light of the current revolution. Written by Samuel Williams, a student at Holy Cross Seminary, who has traveled extensively in Egypt and Palestine

The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church in India

A brief introduction to this Church written by an Indian priestmonk (Fr. Samji George) who left the IT industry to become a monk.

Some Thoughts on The Armenian Church

Reflection on Armenian Christianity and Liturgy from Deacon Ryan Tellelian, and alumnus of St. Vladimir's and St. Nersess Seminaries

A Larger Orthodoxy

Written by Dr. Peter Bouteneff, Systematics professor at St. Vladimir's Seminary, this article talks about recent developments in the Oriental-Eastern Dialogue.

April – Christianity and Partisan Politics

On the Essence of True Morality

An article written by Archbishop Lazar (Puhalo), which exhorts readers to focus on our own personal morality and salvation in the vein of St. Seraphim of Sarov.

Orthodoxy and Political Conservatism

A critical look at the political “right” and where it matches up with our beliefs and where it doesn't. It is written by Scott Allen Miller, a Fox News Radio commentator.

Orthodoxy and the Political Left

A mirror to the previous article, though many have argued that this article is not critical enough. Father John Culbreath-Frazier is the author

The Problem of Partisanship

Dr. David Wagschal, professor of history and canon law at St. Vladimir's Seminary, looks at how the Church and State have interacted historically, and the lessons we can learn from that

May- Faith and the Creative Process

The Community of Joy

Reflection by Khouria Krista West, a priest's wife and a vestment maker, and the unique artistic work that she does. This was a very popular article and was reused with our permission for an Ancient Faith Radio podcast.

Mediocrity Revisited: The Sacred, The Secular, and The Artist's Soul

An article by Father Joel Weir, recent graduate from St. Tikhon's Seminary, and formerly a singer/songwriter on being an artist and living a life of faith

"Beauty is Truth, Truth Beauty"

By Christopher Burkett, a lay-person of the OCA and well-known photographer, this article is reprinted from "Jacob's Well" the newsletter of the Diocese of New York/New Jersey.

Man as Priest of Creation

This article focuses on offering up our artistic talents to God. It is written by Fr. Chris Foley, formerly a member of a rock-band, now a priest in the Diocese of the South. This was a very popular article

Wholeness and the Artistic Life

An interview with Olga Poloukhine about her struggle to be an artist in New York City and live as an Orthodox Christian, and her eventually turn towards iconography

June-Experiences of Campus Ministry

The University of the Highest Form of Love

A reflection on the power of campus ministry by Dr. Demetra Perlegas, a recent OCF-Alum and an instructor in anatomy.

Doing the Right Things

An extremely helpful article on mistakes made during the first year of a campus ministry effort by Deacon Alexander Cadman in State College, PA.

Mysterious Ways, The Lord Working in my Campus Life

A just graduated college student talks about the experience and lessons he learned running a campus ministry effort at the University of Connecticut. The author is Mr. Michael Andrzejewski from the OCA parish in Hartford, CT.

The Crossroads of Athens and Jerusalem, A Reflection on Campus Ministry

Protodeacon Michael Sochka reflects on his long-life of serving campus ministry efforts initially at Yale University and now at Princeton.

July-Stories from Church Camp

Planting the Seed

A reflection on the importance of camping ministry from William Kopcha, a graduate student who has served as both a counselor and a camper.

Not Just for Kids, My Camping Experience in Retrospect

Mrs. Tatiana Lapchuk Hoff shares not only what she learned in camp as a kid, but what she was able to learn when she returned as a counselor and leader.

Join the Family that is Waiting for You

Ms. Kimberly Metz shares the renewed experience of the ministries associated with St. Tikhon's Summer Camp in Pennsylvania

Why Church Camp?

Luke Beecham, the director of the OCA's Youth Department, attempts to answer that question and calls all camping ministries to a new level of education and care for the Church's youth.

August- The Mission of Orthodox Youth in America

Our Mission

Mr. Andrew Boyd, the managing editor of "Wonder", relates our mission as Orthodox youth via a story from his time in college.

Spiritual Life in the Technological Age

Archbishop Demetrios (Traketellis) wrote this amazingly prophetic article in 1969. It is reprinted here with permission.

The Mission of Orthodox Youth

Father Alexander Schmemmann's address to a group of Orthodox college students in 1969 outlines his vision for Youth in this country. It is reprinted with permission.

You, the Church, and the World

In this article Fr. Robert Stephanopoulos talks about the unique challenges of being a Orthodox young person in this country. It is reprinted with permission.

September-Icon, Image, and Modern Culture (Our Most Popular Issue Yet)

Iconography and Pornography-Two Competing Worldviews

Deacon Evan Freeman, a ThM student, iconographer, and aspiring art historian examines the worldviews created by the iconography of our Church and the pornography of our culture

Thy Holy Face

A reflection on the work of iconographer Gregory Kruge and the Image of Christ "Not Made by Hands" by Fr. Andrew Tregubov, a parish priest and iconographer.

In Memory of Her: The Woman as a Meaningful Pursuit

Andreea Balan, a youth director at an Antiochian parish in Texas speaks about how woman are viewed in today's society, and what the Church teaches about it.

Accidental Iconoclasm

Father John Hopko, a parish priest in Connecticut, reflects on how icons are used and misused, and calls us all to treat them with the proper respect.

October-Christians in the Workplace (This was also a very popular issue)

Who is Amy?

A reflection by Amy Bozeman, a Deacon's wife and nurse as she struggles to find her identity as a Christian in her workplace.

There is Something Different About You

Protodeacon Peter Danilchick speaks about his life as a servant at God's table and as a corporate executive.

Growing as a Christian in the Heart of Wall Street

A Christian working in a financial services firm attempts to find Christ and grow in his faith in that environment. This article was written by Mr. Jeffrey Hoff, who is a part-time student at St. Vladimir's Seminary.

Be Seen and Then Heard

Fr. Sean Levine, an Army Chaplain and OCA priest, learns from his attempts to be a Christian in his always changing workplace.

November- Romance and Dating

The Poverty of Loneliness

Monk Silouan from the OCA's monastery in New Mexico addresses the loneliness of American culture, and the similarities and differences between dating and monastic life.

Our Relationship with Christ

An anonymous Orthodox college student shares his experiences with dating and what spiritual lessons he was taught.

Single Patience

A tongue-and-cheek reflection on Christian dating peppered with real and thoughtful advice. It is a passage from a book *Heaven Help the Single Christian* by OCA lay-person Thomas Eric Rutherford.

The Paradox of Crucified Love as the Pattern of Human Love

Andreea Balan reflects on dating and romance in the light of the love of Christ on the Cross.

December- Our Consumer Culture

Mo' Money, Mo' Problems: Faith in a Consumerist Society

This is a portion of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah's recent address to the American Enterprise Institute

The Manger and the Mall

Father Joel Weir reflects on the specific consumer drives of the Christmas season, and offers some practical advice to Christians trying to avoid them.

Our Greatest Gift is on the Tree

Deacon David Wooten examines the ever-popular "Prosperity Gospel" in light of Christ's crucifixion, which he points to as our ultimate gift.

The Life of the World Revisited: Christmas—Not Material Enough

Ms. Andreea Balan explores the theological ramifications of our consumer culture, and the desire to live in a world of our own construction.

Wonder Upgrade Proposal

Need

“Wonder” is a monthly publication of the Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries of the Orthodox Church in America. Publication began in March 2010. It exists as a simple stand alone blog and article archive (ocawonder.com). We currently publish 4-5 articles, once a month, on a particular theme. Themes have ranged from “Romance and Dating”, to “Engaging Modern Atheism”, to “Icon, Image, and Modern Culture”. This blog is particularly geared for young adults and college students, and those who minister to them. It is our hope that this blog will help provide a “good defense” for our faith, hope and love. These articles are published to spur discussion, both online and off, and provide material for those engaged in campus and young adult ministry. Currently, the blog is very strong in content, but very simple, and obviously amateurish in design. Now that we have proved that we can deliver strong and reliable content, we feel it is time to focus on the technological and design aspects of the blog.

Logo and Design Aspects

We had an initial masthead done “on the cheap” and it looked that way. In fact, we got many, many negative comments about it. We had it revised, and that made it look worse. Currently we just have a picture of Spruce Island with “Wonder” in the wordpress font and style. We would like to have simple, professional designed logo and masthead that match an over-arching design scheme.

.pdf Archive

In an effort to make our content more usable “in the field”, we would like to turn all of our articles into .pdf and attach discussion questions to them. We have already begun the process, we just need a place to put them, and perhaps a search function for them, or a creative way of accessing them.

Migration from Wordpress.com to Wordpress.org

We are currently hosted by wordpress.com for about \$50 a year. This allows for our very basic set up and for easy uploading of new articles, monitoring of comments, and tracking of statistics. We would like to shift to wordpress.org, which would allow for more complicated and unique design (.com must use one of their “canned” designs), “plugins” that would make easy ipod, ipad, and android apps, as well as better copy-right protections. This shift would necessitate hosting the blog either on the OCA’s server or a pay server (for about \$7-\$12 a month). More detailed information on this can be found here: <http://en.support.wordpress.com/com-vs-org/>. Wordpress.org would open “Wonder” up to a whole new level of creative and technical possibilities.

Estimated Costs based on Industry Standard of \$80 an hour:

Logo (5-6 hours): \$480

Web Design (12-14 hours for a simple, custom design): \$1,120

Construction of .pdf archive (5 hours): \$400

Migration to wordpress.org (2-3 hours): \$240

Server Costs (\$12 a month for 12 months): \$144

Plugin and Formatting for mobile viewing (4-5 hours): \$400

Total Estimated Cost: \$2,704

Proposed Partnership with Altec Design

The Co-Owner of Altec Design (URL), a small web design firm in Saint Louis, Missouri, has offered to partner with us in this project. He is very interested in working with a Church project and has an already existing working relationship with the Managing Editor of “Wonder”. He has proposed the following:

Estimated Costs based on discounted rate of \$45 an hour:

Logo (5-6 hours): \$270

Web Design (12-14 hours for a simple, custom design): \$630

Construction of .pdf archive (5 hours): \$225

Migration to wordpress.org (2-3 hours): Free

Server Costs (\$12 a month for 12 months): Free (Hosted on his company’s server)

Plugin and Formatting for mobile viewing (4-5 hours): \$225

Total Estimated Cost: \$1,350

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSONS OF THE
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2012**

Participants

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah

OCA Officers

Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor

Archpriest Eric Tosi, Secretary

Melanie Ringa, Treasurer

Department chairpersons/representatives

Christian Education – Valerie Zahirsky

Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid - Donna Karabin

Evangelization – Priest John Parker

Institutional Chaplaincies - Archpriest Steven Voytovich

Liturgical Music and Translations - David Drillock

Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry - Luke Beecham, Andrew Boyd

External Affairs and Interchurch Relations – Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky

History and Archives – Alexis Liberovsky

Others in attendance

:

Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak – Projects Manager/Secretary to the Metropolitan

The meeting was preceded by a prayer service celebrated at 10:00 AM by Fr. John Jillions in St. Sergius Chapel.

A. The meeting was opened at 10:20 AM with an introduction by Fr. John Jillions. He reviewed the agenda for the meeting. He then suggested that our ministries should be thought about in terms of the various levels at which they can or should be accomplished:

- Episcopal Assembly
- OCA
- Diocese
- Parish

He also stated that a goal is to discern:

- what must be done
- what should be done
- what would be nice to do

- B.** Fr. Eric Tosi, Secretary and Melanie Ringa, Treasurer, introduced themselves with brief remarks.

Metropolitan Jonah arrived at the meeting and addressed his introductory remarks to the meeting. He expressed his gratitude for the work of the departments, which is a labor love that is selflessly accomplished. He lauded the solid projects brought to fruition by departments that are equipping the faithful for ministry.

- C.** Fr. Eric Tosi delivered a presentation. He stated that the works of the departments are summarized in five “As”: administrative, accountability, advocacy, All-American Council decisions and alignment with the Strategic Plan. He noted that the work of the Chancery involves administration and coordination as well as accountability to the Holy Synod. He highlighted the role of the Chancery as advocates for the work of the departments. In order to facilitate this advocacy, reports are requested from the departments. To further expand this reporting process, department heads will be brought in to address the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council beginning this fall. An important aspect is inter-departmental cooperation and coordination. In the past, this was facilitated through regular conference calls among department heads. Michelle Jannakos facilitated such conference calls and other interdepartmental coordination. The possibility of her resuming this work is being explored.

Fr. Eric then turned the meeting’s attention to two key documents, the minutes of the recent 16th All-American Council and the Strategic Plan. He asked the meeting’s participants to think about their role in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and to provide ongoing input for the Plan, which continues to be a flexible document. He asked that everyone read the minutes of the 16th All-American Council and consider their participation in the implementation of its mandates. For example, the resolution on outreach to African Americans is clearly the domain of the Department of Evangelization.

Fr. Eric also noted that the OCA website is the now the main outreach tool for departments. He introduced Virginia Nieuwsma, the OCA website editor, who will speak later in the meeting.

- D.** Melanie Ringa provided a financial overview particularly as it relates to departmental work. She noted that departmental has continued with little or no money. After several years when stipends for department heads had been eliminated, small stipends were reinstated last year. She noted that there was a surplus from All-American Council, which will be proportionately refunded to the dioceses. Income from vendors doubled expectations and expenses were kept low. She also noted that the surplus for the general budget in 2011 currently stands at approximately \$50,000. In view of the AAC resolution on assessments, Bishop Michael has volunteered to assist with church-wide appeals and fundraising, which will soon be launched. A productive initial meeting of Bishop Michael with OCA officers took place recently. She additionally noted that financial recordkeeping and reporting has become much easier

using the Blackbaud software. The meeting participants thanked Melanie for her unfailing responsiveness in all financial matters.

Metropolitan Jonah discussed his views of the potential outreach work of various departments, which allows the faithful to experience Church life at a broader level.

E. Virginia Nieuwsma presented the history, development and current functioning of the new OCA website. She pointed out the various aspects of the site and the people who should be addressed in each facet. Soft news and features are to be sent to her, news items are managed by Fr. John Matusiak and technical matters by Ryan Platte. Virginia requested that the web team be notified of upcoming departmental projects in order to schedule appropriate postings. The existence of some separate departmental websites was discussed. Meeting participants did not see this as a problem and agreed to closer coordination with the OCA web team. The possibility of more interactive features on the OCA website was also discussed.

F. Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky presented an oral report on External Affairs and Inter-Church Relations. He stated that this work consists of witnessing to the faith but also to the OCA. He stressed the importance of the OCA's unique position as an unhyphenated church, not having an additional ethnic designation. He stated that we need to pursue our mission and mandate without arrogance and hostility, but in humility. He outlined the various venues of the OCA's activity in External Affairs and Inter-Church relations in North America and throughout the world in contacts with other Orthodox churches and in the ecumenical arena. He particularly highlighted the work of the Episcopal Assembly. He stated that our participation in ecumenical organizations like the World Council of Churches (WCC) provides unique opportunities for contact with other Orthodox Churches that may otherwise not be possible.

All participants in the meeting briefly introduced themselves. The meeting recessed for lunch at 11:49 AM.

The meeting resumed at 1:10 pm with presentations by each department

G.1. Christian Education

Valerie Zahirsky, chairperson, highlighted her written report. The department's relationship with the Orthodox Christian Education Commission (OCEC) was discussed. Valerie highlighted the upcoming Parish Ministries Conference to be held in summer 2012 in cooperation with the Department of Christian Service & Humanitarian aid and the Department of Liturgical Music. Fr. Jillions suggested Family Life weekends in dioceses. A training component in the department's work was suggested. The creation of a Department of Family Life was also suggested.

G.2. Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid

Donna Karabin, Chairperson, highlighted the department's work including the Compassion in Action (CIA): Parish Ministry Training program and the Resource Handbook, a cornerstone of the department's work for three decades. She also mentioned its cooperative partnership with humanitarian organizations like IOCC and FOCUS North America. New approaches and formats using internet technology and updating of the Resource Handbook were discussed.

G.3. Evangelization

Fr. John Parker, newly appointed department Chair, outlined his vision of the Department's work. He stated that currently, parish planting grants have been the department's major work. Fr. Parker sees the following major core tasks at hand:

- planting missions
- strengthening parishes
- revitalizing parishes

Additionally, outreach should be made to groups wishing to become Orthodox. Dialogue should be established with interested groups.

The department's outreach focus should be three pronged:

- to the non-churched
- to the un-churched
- to the de-churched

Internet technology should be utilized. An immediate project will be a department website or blog. Fr. Parker suggested that every diocese should appoint the following:

- a mission coordinator
- parish revitalization director
- parish strength director
- Spanish-speaking representative.

Fr. Tosi stated that the African-American outreach resolution from the 16th All-American Council should be handled by the Department of Evangelization.

Street preaching was suggested as another mode of outreach.

Fr. Jillions stated the Church is currently missing the vital ministry of evangelists. We are well sacramentalized but not well catechized.

G.4. Institutional Chaplains

Fr. Steven Voytovich, Chairperson, summarized his written report. He noted some overlap of the department's work with Veteran's Administration and Military Chaplaincy. He mentioned his participation in the meeting the previous week of the Commission for Ministry in Specialized Settings (COMISS) network. He was elected chair of the Association of Religious endorsing Bodies (AREB). He highlighted Bishop Michael's visit to a ministry venue last September. A clinical training connection exists

with the military chaplaincy. He noted the department's connection to implementation of the OCA Strategic Plan particularly through assisting with continuing clergy education and seminarian internship. He commented on the complex issue of endorsement, which is currently through Metropolitan Jonah. Endorsement through the Assembly of Bishops will be explored.

G.5. Liturgical Music and Translations

David Drillock, Chairperson, provided an overview of the department's work. Its basic tasks are to provide basic liturgical music and to educate choir directors and singers. He noted that in the past decade, thousands of liturgical items and musical have been posted on the OCA website for free download. He spoke extensively on the development of an online program in Orthodox liturgical music to train choir directors and singers, which will begin in this year. It will be conducted through Skype and other internet media. The department's participation in the Strategic Plan will include the development of expanded rubrics for approval by the Holy Synod.

G.6. Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry

Luke Beecham summarized his written report. He highlighted various initiatives and events, particularly participation in the Cornerstone Music Festival. An important current concern is to ensure compliance with all risk management policies for all youth workers church-wide and the development of effective best practices for youth work. The department plans to develop "interaction with elders" as a youth activity. The department is eager to implement the mandates of the Strategic Plan related to youth ministry.

Andrew Boyd, editor of the Wonder Blog, summarized his extensive written report (attached), which is an online outreach to youth to keep them connected to the Church and well grounded in the faith. Resources for pastors and youth workers are also provided. The further development of the "Wonder Blog" was discussed as well the use of various internet and electronic media in youth ministry.

Expanding the youth and young adults section on the OCA website and a YouTube speaking project for youth were also discussed

G.7. History and Archives

Alexis Liberovsky, OCA Archivist, provided a summary of his work including cultivation of the ongoing development of the historical legacy and vision of the Orthodox Church in America as an essential element of the Church's mission, management of the OCA Archives, providing reference and documentary research support to chancery staff, and administrative bodies of the Church, providing resources to researchers and inquirers throughout the world, providing consultant services to dioceses and parishes in managing their own historical records, the archivist's lectures and presentations in parishes, fosters historical knowledge and awareness throughout the Church., an oral history project begun at the 16th All-American Council, publication of historical material on the OCA website and elsewhere. The Office of History and Archives will continue its input to the Strategic Plan

by providing resources and reference that stress our common historical identity. It was suggested that the article on parish archives in the OCA Resource Handbook be updated.

H. Discussion

A discussion ensued on the departmental presentation at the meeting of diocesan chancellors and treasurers the following day: The following points were stressed during this discussion:

- abundance of our available resources for the whole Church
- the need to overcome geography and demographics (we are small and spread out)
- our common identity
- the need for a mutual relationship as opposed to “I” give you this
- the need for coordination and cooperation
- who do we address and work with
- the need to build up one another
- departments are promoters and cheerleaders
- the need to promote Orthodox identity in society
- to stress the Catholicity of the Church
- the need to counter the paradigm “the OCA is the problem, the diocese is the solution”

The meeting was closed with prayer at 6 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky
Recording Secretary for the meeting

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE OFFICERS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
WITH DIOCESAN CHANCELLORS AND TREASURERS
JANUARY 17-18, 2012
OCA CHANCERY, OYSTER BAY COVE (SYOSSET), NY**

Participants

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah

OCA Officers

Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor

Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, Secretary

Melanie Ringa, Treasurer

Diocesan Chancellors and Treasurers

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania Archpriest John Kowalczyk, Chancellor
Priest Raymond Martin Browne, Treasurer

Diocese of Midwest Archpriest John Zdinak, Chancellor

Diocese of New England Mr. John Skrobat, Treasurer

Diocese of New York & New Jersey Archpriest Joseph Lickwar, Chancellor
Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton, Treasurer

Diocese of South Archpriest Marcus Burch, Chancellor
Milos Konjevich, Treasurer

Archdiocese of Washington Archpriest Gregory Safchuk, Chancellor
Michael Hydock, Treasurer

Diocese of West Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Chancellor
Mary Caetta, Treasurer

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania Archpriest Paul Ziatyk, Chancellor
Archpriest Dennis Hendershot, Treasurer

Department chairpersons/representatives (Tuesday morning session only)

Christian Education – Valerie Zahirsky

Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid - Donna Karabin

Evangelization – Priest John Parker

Institutional Chaplaincies - Archpriest Steven Voytovich

Liturgical Music and Translations - David Drillock

Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry - Luke Beecham
External Affairs and Interchurch Relations – Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky

Others present throughout the meeting

Priest Gleb McFatter, Chair - Finance/Investment Committee of the Metropolitan Council
Alexis Liberovsky, OCA Archivist, Director – Office of History & Archives (recording secretary for the meeting)

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Following the celebration of a prayer service by Fr. John Jillions in St. Sergius Chapel at 9:00 AM, the meeting was convened

A. Introduction

Metropolitan Jonah delivered introductory remarks. He underscored the importance of the autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America. He also stressed the necessity to preach Jesus Christ forcefully and to maintain the integrity of our Gospel message. We must discern what we need to do to be faithful to Christ and the Church in order to reveal the Faith to society. He also shared some observations on the on work of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, which may eventually compel us to let go of many of our established ecclesial structures.

B. Introduction of Officers

Fr. John Jillions, OCA Chancellor, stated that the goal of the previous day's meeting and this meeting is, in part, a process of building one another up. He announced that the tone and substance of the previous day's meeting of department heads would be conveyed by Fr. John Parker in a later presentation today. Fr. John introduced the other officers – Fr. Eric Tosi, Secretary and Melanie Ringa, treasurer, along with senior staff members – Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, and Alexis Liberovsky, OCA Archivist.

He suggested that a goal of this week's meetings is to discern our various ministries in terms of what level they can or should be accomplished:

- Episcopal Assembly
- OCA
- Diocese
- Deanery
- Parish

And to prioritize what we do in terms of:

- what must be done
- what should be done
- what would be nice to do

All participants in the meeting were asked to introduce themselves.

C. Introduction of AAC

Fr. Eric Tosi stated that in terms of administration, a goal of this meeting is to achieve better understanding of “what you do, what we do” in terms of the tasks and activities of the central administration and the dioceses. A central issue in this is our mutual accountability, which is crucial to our relationships. Problems arise with the circulation of both information and misinformation and the ability to discern what is accurate. Another goal of this meeting is the appropriate alignment of our resources.

Fr. Eric then spoke of the two documents emanating from the recent 16th All-American Council. The Strategic Plan, which was approved by the Council, but will continue to evolve and the minutes of the council, whose decisions and resolutions are a mandate that must be fulfilled.

D. Department Introduction and Coordination

Fr. John Parker summarized ideas presented at the previous day’s meeting of department heads. He said that at the meeting of department head, it was emphasized that that our cornerstone is Jesus Christ. We have an abundance of resources that are available to the Church. We must strive to make them more easily available to those who are trying to find them. The role of the departments is coordination and to be promoters and cheerleaders. There is an identity crisis in the Church – hyphenated Orthodoxy. We need to overcome this by shaping our common identity. A wonderful outreach tool is the OCA website. Diocesan and parish websites should be improved to provide better outreach.

Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky outlined the work of External Affairs and Inter-Church Relations. He stated that this work consists of witnessing to the faith but also to the OCA. He stressed the importance of the OCA’s unique position as an unhyphenated church, not having an additional ethnic designation. He outlined the various venues of the OCA’s activity in External Affairs and Inter-Church relations in North America and throughout the world in contacts with other Orthodox churches and in the ecumenical arena. He particularly highlighted the work of the Episcopal Assembly, which is likely to be a long road to unity. He noted that the Tomos of Autocephaly mandates maintaining relations with other churches and religious bodies.

Valery Zahirsky summarized the written report of the Department of Christian Education. She particularly noted the publication of bulletin inserts and other material on the OCA website, the revision of the Orthodox Handbook by Fr. Thomas Hopko and the department’s role as a central clearinghouse for educational material.

Donna Karabin, Chairperson, highlighted the work of the Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid including the Compassion in Action (CIA): Parish Ministry Training program and the Resource Handbook, a cornerstone of the department’s work for three decades. She also mentioned its cooperative partnership with humanitarian organizations like IOCC and FOCUS North America.

Fr. John Parker, newly appointed department Chair, outlined his vision for the Department of Evangelization. He stated that we need to revive a missionary and evangelistic mindset. In addition to our internal missionary work, outreach to non-Christian groups should be considered. The right mindset and resources are needed to accomplish this.

Fr. Parker spoke the following major current core tasks of the department:

- planting missions
- strengthening parishes
- revitalizing parishes

The department's outreach focus should be three pronged:

- to the non-churched
- to the un-churched
- to the de-churched

Fr. Parker suggested that every diocese should appoint the following:

- a mission coordinator
- parish revitalization director
- parish strength director
- Spanish-speaking representative.

He asked that lists be compiled of cities in each deanery where churches can be planted. The department will also seek to foster missionary vocations.

Fr. Steven Voytovich summarized the written report of the Department of Institutional Chaplaincies. He noted the department's connection to implementation of the OCA Strategic Plan particularly through assisting with continuing clergy education and seminarian internship. He commented on the complex issue of endorsement, which is currently through Metropolitan Jonah. Endorsement through the Assembly of Bishops will be explored.

David Drillock provided an overview of the work of the Department Liturgical Music and Translations. Its basic tasks are to provide basic liturgical music and to educate choir directors and singers. He noted that in the past decade, thousands of liturgical texts and music have been posted on the OCA website for free download. He spoke extensively on a tutorial for the tones, which will soon be posted online as well as the development of an online program in Orthodox liturgical music to train choir directors and singers, which will begin in this year. It will be conducted through Skype and other internet media.

Luke Beecham summarized his written report on the Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry. He highlighted various initiatives and events. He stressed the importance of networking in dioceses, deaneries and parishes to bring together people who are doing youth work. An important current concern is to ensure compliance with all risk management policies for all youth workers church-wide and the development of effective best practices for youth work. He noted the "Wonder Blog" and other online

resources of the department. The department's ongoing collaboration with other jurisdictions will be further developed.

Alexis Liberovsky, OCA Archivist, provided a summary of the work of the Office of History and Archives including cultivation of the ongoing development of the historical legacy and vision of the Orthodox Church in America as an essential element of the Church's mission, management of the OCA Archives, providing reference and documentary research support to chancery staff, and administrative bodies of the Church, providing resources to researchers and inquirers throughout the world, providing consultant services to dioceses and parishes in managing their own historical records, the archivist's lectures and presentations in parishes, fosters historical knowledge and awareness throughout the Church., an oral history project begun at the 16th All-American Council, publication of historical material on the OCA website and elsewhere. The Office of History and Archives will continue to foster the development of our common historical identity.

Virginia Nieuwsma presented the history, development and current functioning of the new OCA website. She welcomed a closer collaborative relationship with diocesan websites and encouraged dioceses, deaneries and parishes to send items for posting to the OCA website, which will foster ecclesial unity, and a more coordinated online presence. Various internet issues were discussed.

Metropolitan Jonah made general comments on departmental work. He stated that the departments assist in the development of dioceses, as each department has a diocesan impact. Syosset is not trying to control the Church but, through the departments, to equip, empower, enable and enfranchise those engaged in various ministries locally. He noted the importance of lay leadership in many ministries. He stressed that the departments seek to provide support and coordination from the center as well as to foster development of creativity.

It was noted that the OCA budget provided \$101,000 in 2011 and that \$150,000 is budgeted for 2012.

A wide-ranging discussion on the department reports and other matters ensued.

- Milos Konjevich stressed the need for a bishop for the Diocese of the South.
- Mary Caetta stressed that the internet is a valuable evangelization tool and that the OCA website is crucial as a vehicle for church unity. She noted the need for policies and procedures in regard to risk management and 501(c)3 certification
- Fr. Eric Tosi stated that compliance to sexual misconduct is a major concern and is carefully monitored
- the need for short bullet point outlines of each department's work was requested
- Fr. Dennis Hendershot noted the need for more discussion and guidance on interfaith relations
- he also stressed the necessity of accountability and not just good will.
- Fr. John Parker requested a list of the email addresses of all diocesan chancellors in order to facilitate communications from departments
- Fr. Tosi noted the importance of prioritizing our ministries

- Fr. Marcus Burch noted that we are fighting for fewer dollars, a trend that needs to be reversed.
- He stated that good communication is an important aspect in growing the Church. One on one encounters are especially crucial in this.
- he noted that since 2000, approximately one-third of the funding for the Diocese of the South comes from parishes
- Fr. Parker suggested a goal of founding and reviving one parish in every deanery each year
- Fr. Raymond Martin Browne stressed the need for everyone to learn the unique and distinct contours of each diocese because they are very diverse.
- Fr. Voytovich requested bullet point information on each diocese
- Fr. Kishkovsky stated that he has been told that OCA clergy are the most parish oriented (inward look) which inhibits reaching out
- Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton spoke of discussions during the 16th All-American Council and the need to work towards solutions together
- Fr. Paul Ziatyk suggest that ability of clergy to reach out is often related to income issues

Following a short lunch break, the meeting resumed at 1:10 PM.

E. Introduction of funding initiative from the All-American Council

Melanie Ringa reviewed the notes from the funding workshop at the 16th All American Council. The major objective of this entire process is to grow the Church. Educational programs will be needed to facilitate understanding in the transition to proportional giving.

F. Discussion of initiative

It was decided to postpone discussion to later in the meeting after diocesan presentations have been heard.

G. Diocesan Presentations

1. Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Fr. John Kowalczyk, diocesan Chancellor, summarized the present state of the diocese. It has 37 parishes. \$72,000 is paid in salaries. The diocese is currently focused on revitalization. There are currently four departments in the diocese. There is a need to work more effectively together with OCA departments. Two national institutions within the diocese to which the diocese contributes heavily. The diocese is trying to foster a sense of shared responsibility and to provide energy to its constituency especially struggling parishes. There are pockets of growth in the southern part of the diocese. It is projected that the diocesan center will eventually move to Philadelphia. Diocesan Council meetings are now held throughout the diocese. There are parishes that have been neglected throughout its 50-year history. The Catasauqua parish is an example of a revitalization project. We are striving to redefine ourselves as a strong diocese.

Fr. Martin Browne, diocesan treasurer, stated that the diocesan budget is \$452,000 of which \$306,000 is paid in assessments. It has 36 parishes and 1 mission. Two parishes and one mission tithe. In 2010, the diocese voted to go to proportional giving by 2018. Parishes are supposed to provide annual reports to the diocese. Changes in mentalities through education are needed to press forward. Clergy earn \$18,000 to \$26,000 per year with most on the lower end. Some clergy are on public assistance. Few clergy have outside jobs. Many parishes are in economically challenged areas. The diocesan assessment is \$50. We are scraping for every penny. There is an attitude of minimalism, but people can afford to give more. Education, discussion and discernment are needed to overcome this

2. Diocese of the Midwest

Fr. John Zdinak, diocesan chancellor, stated that the diocese covers 13 states and has 77 parishes. 55% of its budget is paid in OCA assessments. The assessment is still by head tax. Financial information from parishes is mandated but not enforced. Parishes still fudge their numbers. The diocese is working to promote stewardship and tithing. The diocesan assessment is \$87. \$100,000 is budgeted for parish healthy ministry. Resources to help parishes revive are provided and mission parish health is also monitored. Clergy morale is perhaps the best in the OCA. There has been a concerted effort to improve clergy salaries.

3. Diocese of New England

John Skrobat, diocesan Treasurer, presented a written report on the financial state of the diocese. The budget includes several mission allocations. Five of 27 parishes are in the red. The assessment system is entirely through dues. There is no tithing. Every pastor has supplemental outside income. The biggest need in the diocese is parish revitalization.

In discussion, Milos Konjevich stressed that percentage giving makes much more sense than a head tax.

Fr. Browne mentioned the influence of economic dynamics. In eastern Pennsylvania, a decline has been felt since the shutdown of the coal industry there 50 years ago.

Metropolitan Jonah remarked that parishes are ministries with a life cycle. The diocese is the basic unit of the Church. Parishes often have to die to be resurrected again. The catholicity of the Church's mission and vision must be maintained.

The meeting resumed after a brief break.

4. Diocese of New York/New Jersey

Fr. Joseph Lickwar, diocesan chancellor, briefly outlined the current state of the diocese. He highlighted new initiatives undertaken by Bishop Michael since becoming diocesan hierarch in 2010, including the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program. The

diocese currently has 50 parishes, 2 missions, 2 prospective missions and 2 chapels. Only one parish is beginning to tithe.

Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton, diocesan Treasurer, stated that the diocese is funded through its \$40 per capita assessment. Additionally, support for mission parishes, seminarians and existing struggling parishes is now funded by the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program established by Bishop Michael. It received over \$100,000 in 2011. 71% of diocesan budget is paid in OCA assessments. There exists a \$166,000 debt of parishes who owe back assessments. Assessments are based exclusively on head tax. Assessments were not increased in the 2012 budget. \$141,000 in diocesan assessment income would be generated if everyone paid. There are 8 parishes with less than 25 members and 12 parishes with 26-50 members. The largest parish has 173 members. She commented that a grave spiritual issue exists, as membership numbers are manipulated. Major reeducation on this is sorely needed

In discussion, Fr. Tosi stated that a new sustainable system of financial support is needed. Mary responded that a switch to a new system now would not be an end-all, but a beginning towards viable financial support.

Metropolitan Jonah remarked that this impasse is unsustainable. We must think of ways to get people to invest in the Church. He said that he is awed by the sacrifices in serving by so many clergy. Many factors figure into our financial situation. People are afraid to spend because of uncertainty about the future. We need to give people a greater sense of security.

Fr. Tosi said that we need to devise ways to educate people on these issues with a sense that ultimate goal in this is not money.

Fr. Kowalczyk commented that we need a new mentality and a renewal of heart and spirit.

Fr. Jillions said that we should think about why people are not coming to our churches. We need humility to address needs that are not being met. A different kind of thinking about spiritual life is also needed.

Fr. Tosi commented that the sense of community in our church in previous generations has been lost.

Metropolitan Jonah remarked that that there can be no commuter community in the Church. We need to recover real Koinonia. Liturgy is not a ritual but a reflection of the community. Community life is based on commitment to Jesus Christ. Orthodoxy, as in this, is often countercultural.

Matushka Breton said that we need to soften people's hearts by talking to them, to enrich community life but not replace the liturgy with activities, events, etc.

Fr. Browne stressed the importance of how we present ourselves. We have to say what we're for not what we're against. We shouldn't talk about being the ancient faith or an autocephalous Church. We must bring healing to a wounded world.

Fr. Tosi said we that we often don't understand how to engage the surrounding culture.

Metropolitan Jonah stressed that we need to commit ourselves fully to the community of the Church.

5. Diocese of the South

Fr. Marcus Burch, diocesan chancellor, said that diocese had a vision of tithing from its founding in 1978. Parishes support themselves through tithing. The diocese has moved from a hybrid system of parishes tithing to the diocese and the payment OCA assessments. The assessments on parishes were eliminated in 2005. The completion of the Dallas Cathedral in 2001 was a turning point for the diocese. From 2001 to 2006, more than 20 new missions were planted. 25% of diocesan budget goes to diocesan development for missions, etc. This was a vision of Archbishop Dmitri that has been implemented by Milos Konjevic. The Diocese has parish planting grants, seminarian assistance and a parish debt loan program. The diocese is developing compensation guidelines for its clergy.

Milos Konjevich, diocesan treasurer, suggested that risks must be taken unafraid. The diocese hit its stride financially in 2006 when assessments were completely dropped and tithing was fully implemented. He said that secular thinking has no place in the Church. There must be no fear and an emphasis on growth. He explained the diocesan Managed Debt Program (MDP), which serves to reduce monthly mortgage payments for parishes in order to free up cash for ongoing obligations and emerging developmental needs.

Melanie Ringa commented that trust is a large component of the MDP, but that it is a risky but exciting initiative.

Following a dinner break, the meeting resumed.

6. Archdiocese of Washington

Fr. Gregory Safchuk, diocesan chancellor, said that the diocese has eight parishes and four missions with 950 members. Initially established in 1981, the diocese was merged with New York/New Jersey in 2005-2009. Since its reestablishment as a separate entity, it has reincorporated. Clergy morale in the diocese is excellent.

Michael Hydock, diocesan treasurer, provided information on diocesan finances. The diocese functions on per capita assessment system of support.

7. Diocese of the West

Fr. Ian MacKinnon, diocesan chancellor reviewed the history and present state of the diocese. He noted that since 1987 under Bishops Tikhon and Benjamin there has been an emphasis on mission and liturgical renewal. The number of parishes and monastic communities in the diocese has doubled during this period.

Mary Caetta, diocesan treasurer, stated that diocese does receive some financial reports from every parish. The diocese is on a system on a partial system of proportional giving and this is gradually moving forward. The diocese will take a hit when it is fully transitioned to proportional giving. Support is provided to missions and seminarians. Diocesan percentage brings in more every year. Parishes are anxious about their mortgages.

Fr. Burch commented that parishes should not be punished for growing.

8. Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Fr. Paul Ziatyk, diocesan chancellor, noted that the diocese was founded in 1916. It has 44 parishes. He noted that there is an unfortunate overemphasis on fundraising. The diocese has a late vocation program, a Lenten lecture series, a youth department and an annual diocesan family day.

Fr. Dennis Hendershot, diocesan treasurer, commended Fr. Ziatyk for keeping the diocese going for many years. The diocese survives due to a one million dollar inheritance from Archbishop Kyrill. In 2000, the diocese had 3200 members, while in 2012, it is 2100 members. This decrease is due in part to underreporting by parishes. Four parishes have been closed. The diocese has a new mission, which is an offshoot of Holy Trinity Church in State College, PA. 8 of the 44 diocesan parishes have less than 10 members. Only 3 parishes have over 100 members. The diocese has many older clergy, some serving more than one parish. Diocesan assessments remain at \$28 per capita. Property improvements have recently been made at the diocesan center. The 2012 budget is \$195,000 – only 30% is covered by assessments. Other funding comes from an annual appeal, a stewardship project, the diocesan assembly and the annual diocesan family day. The yield on investments is \$54,000. Annual grants from the diocese include \$1000 each to IOCC, FOCUS and OCMC and \$2000 to a food pantry. \$5000 is designated for missions in the budget. The old cathedral has been leased to FOCUS for \$1/year. The diocese operates entirely on a per capita dues system, with the exception of the parish in State College. The diocese is very much struggling. The bishop is in favor of a transition to proportional giving but this will require a change in mentality. Financial summaries are required from diocesan parishes. Whether the OCA switches to a system of proportional giving or not, the diocesan contribution from Western PA won't change. A fund for seminarian support is being built up. The diocese also plans to establish regular support of seminaries in the future.

The meeting was adjourned for the evening at 7:40

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in St. Sergius Chapel at 7:30 AM, the meeting reconvened at 9:35 AM

H. Presentation of Assessment Alternatives

Melanie Ringa introduced Mary Caetta for a brief preliminary presentation of several financial issues. Parishes should be assisted with bookkeeping, if needed. Bookkeeping practices should be standardized. Bishops should insist that parishes provide their financial statements to their diocese. Parish contributions to charities are a must, with an emphasis on local charities as a witness to the community. In transitioning to proportional giving, percentage will gradually increase over head tax. Parishes should not give more than 10% in assessments. The ultimate goal is that the dioceses will be able to help parishes.

Fr. Tosi discussed the work involved in maintaining the listing of parishes on the OCA 501(c)3 roster. While some parishes do have their own 501(c)3 exemption, this disconnects that parish from the OCA. This also has legal, financial and canonical ramifications.

Melanie Ringa read the 16th All-American Council resolution on assessments. Discussion ensued on the understanding of the resolution.

I. Discussion

Fr. Zdinak announced that at its Assembly just before the 16th All-American Council, the Diocese of the Midwest decided that if the Council resolved to lower OCA Assessments, the Diocese would hold the difference of its contributions in escrow, pending a final resolution of the issue.

Matushka Mary Breton noted that it was never intended to reduce the central administration but only to establish alternate funding. Several methods were suggested.

Melanie Ringa noted the recent meeting with Bishop Michael to discuss funding alternative funding.

Fr. Jillions noted that the Diocese of the West suggested that FOS not be restarted. Bishop Michael has suggested project based funding appeals.

Milos Konjevich suggested that there should not be competition with parishes for the same money.

Fr. Kowalczyk noted that both the central administration and dioceses want to revive struggling communities. Top down sensitivity is needed in funding issues.

Fr. Zdinak suggested that problems lie at the grassroots level concerning funding.

Matushka Mary Breton presented alternative funding approaches. A focus on collective strengths is required. A project needs to be selected and focused on. There needs to be single-mindedness in pursuing it and doing what it takes to achieve it.

Metropolitan Jonah said that creativity is needed to resolve hard issues. He mentioned that the OCA budget has been cut 40% in the last 5 years with a reduction in staff of 60-70%.

Fr. Jillions suggested that the good project we need to pursue is the OCA.

Metropolitan Jonah commented that the OCA is a whole. It is not Syosset. It is the parishes and the babushki there. Funding should be thought of in terms of an inverted pyramid.

Fr. Zdinak asked what is necessary for the central administration to exist. We need a definition of the central church administration.

Fr. Hendershot asked how the difference could be made up if assessment is reduced.

Fr. Tosi suggested that a task force be created to examine this issue.

Matushka Mary Breton suggested that reducing the Honesdale loan would be a step in the right direction. The process of moving away from head tax must be carefully developed.

It was agreed that each diocese should develop its own funding proposal plan. The contributions of the ethnic dioceses were discussed.

Metropolitan Jonah suggested that an initial step in the move towards percentage giving the diocesan contributions should be no more than 50% of their revenue.

Fr. Jillions suggested a gradual reallocation of reducing diocesan contributions each year.

Metropolitan Jonah suggested that funding issues be considered in terms of what will create the greatest growth in parishes. There should be a return to parishes in terms of services provided.

Fr. Browne suggested that the central administration needs to, without modesty, project the message of what it can do.

As it was stated that the OCA budget for the following year is usually drafted in July, Matushka Mary Breton suggested that dioceses should provide their head tax and percentage figures to the OCA treasurer by July of each year.

Metropolitan Jonah stated that that neither trickle up nor trickle down economics will not work for us in our revenue schemes.

As the OCA budget is more than all diocesan budgets put together, a crucial concern is to foster growth in parishes.

It was stated that much work in the OCA administration is contributed on a volunteer basis. For example, the work of the Sexual misconduct Policy Advisory Committee (SMPAC) members amounts to approximately \$1.5 million in man-hours.

After a lunch break at noon, the meeting resumed at 1 PM.

Mary Caetta presented for discussion a draft statement from this meeting. Melanie Ringa presented four action points for follow-up after this meeting. A discussion of both of these documents followed.

Fr. Jillions stated that assessment should be reduced and proportional giving by diocese should be gradually introduced.

Fr. Burch suggested that our bishops need to buy in and collectively support any new funding plans. It was suggested that chancellors should participate in Holy Synod meetings to facilitate discussion of such issues.

Mary Caetta stressed that accountability to each other is absolutely necessary.

It was suggested that a follow-up meeting of diocesan chancellors and treasures take place in a year. It was agreed to commit to continuing work together on issues broached at this meeting and to meet again as needed.

Melanie Ringa and Fr. Gleb McFatter made closing remarks on the usefulness of this meeting and thanking those who came to participate.

Fr. Burch stated that the Diocese of the South would seek to develop ways of increasing its funding contributions.

Metropolitan Jonah thanked all who participated in the meeting and spoke of the value and importance of the discussions. He said that priorities should be growth in parishes as well as growth in all other areas of the life of the Church.

By consensus, the following statement, into which are incorporated the action items presented and discussed earlier, was adopted:

The Chancellors and Treasurers can see all of the hard work and dedication of the Central Administration and various departments of the Orthodox Church in America and express their full support of the Chancery staff.

We learned:

Dioceses pass through from 40% to 71% of their total income to the OCA.

Two dioceses do a form of percentage giving from the parishes to support the dioceses. One diocese does not do a per capita count to determine the dollar amount to send to the OCA.

The current system of revenue is dysfunctional and will not support the OCA in the future.

Agreed:

The OCA Central Administration is currently doing a commendable job with the current resources.

Past financial difficulties are still being paid for and have a significant impact on the budget.

The All-American Council resolution on proportionally reducing the assessment in the next triennium still referenced a per capita approach to decreasing the Central Church Assessment.

Moving away from a per capita assessment will be a challenge for some dioceses.

Action:

The OCA Treasurer will refine the 2013 assessment formula based on Diocesan projections to reduce the assessments and introduce proportional giving.

Dioceses will pursue collecting parish financial data for their own use.

The Diocese of the West and the Diocese of the South will make proposals as to the percentage of their budgets they will contribute to the OCA to fund the OCA at the current dollar level for 2013.

We hope that any funds returned from the Central Church Assessment to the Dioceses by lowering the assessment will be invested by each Diocese in its parishes and missions to promote growth.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky
Recording Secretary