



**ORTHODOX
CHURCH in
AMERICA**

Metropolitan Council Meeting

Fall 2016

Committees/Departments Reports



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
September 19 to September 22, 2016
Committees/Departments Reports
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**OCA Charity Committee Report
Fall 2016 Metropolitan Council meeting**

Committee members: His Eminence Archbishop Melchizedek, Episcopal liaison, Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor, Melanie Ringa, treasurer, Archpriests John Dunlop, Thomas Moore, Antonio Perdomo, Alexander Kuchta, chair, Maureen Jury, Lisa Mikhalevsky.

There was virtually no income since the spring 2016 report

Ending Balance - January 12, 2016	\$7,355.15
Donations received through July 7, 2016	100.00
Rent assistance to a priest in crisis (August 2016)	1,500.00
Balance of Charity funds	5,955.15

Since the spring meeting, work was completed on an OCA Charity page for oca.org I wrote text for the page which was passed around to members of the committee for their input. I then submitted it to Fr. John Matusiak for punching up. I participated in a conference call with Fr. Tosi, Melanie Ringa, and Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak to clarify goals of a Charity web page in July after which work on the page began in earnest.

There is a link from the OCA's home page to the OCA Charity Committee's page. The presentation is concise with a brief mission statement and information as to how one might donate: directly to the OCA or through a donation mechanism called "Slider", whereby donors can contribute with a credit card. Receipts will be provided online and information about donors will be collected.

While a direct annual appeal is likely the most efficient way to raise funds for charity, I will be interested to see what sort of interest this page will generate, both in terms of donations and requests for help. I still believe that the relationship (i.e. is there a relationship—and what is it?) between our committee and SOCA's appeal for funds for charitable efforts needs to be and will be clarified over time.

I'd like to thank all of the members of the Charity committee for input that they provided early on in this process. I'd also like to thank Fr. Eric, Protodeacon Joseph, and especially those who made the page happen: Fr. John Matusiak, Jessica Fuhrman, and Ryan Platte our OCA's "web guru".

Consider visiting the page and making a donation. It's quick and painless and by giving, you will be providing assistance to those who ask us for it.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Alexander Kuchta

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta, chair

Report of the Ethics Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Fall, 2016

There are no items to report.

Report of the Finance Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Fall, 2016

See Treasurer's Report on Officers' Section

Report of the Human Resources Committee
Fall 2016 Metropolitan Council Meeting

Since the last meeting of the Metropolitan Council in February, our committee has completed a review of the position for the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America (SOCA). The committee also addressed His Beatitude's request for an assistant. Two new positions were created, Secretary to the Metropolitan and Development Director, Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America (SOCA).

At this time in order to work within the budget, the Secretary position is being funded at a .67 FTE (Full Time Employee) and the Development Director at a .33FTE. After careful consideration, Ray Boyd was informed of the need to move in a new direction and Deacon Joseph Matusiak was chosen to fill both the positions of Secretary to the Metropolitan and Development Director SOCA. The HR committee turned our recommendation over to the Finance committee to make an offer to the Archdeacon. It is hoped that within a few years, both will become fully funded full time positions.

Work on the reorganization of the Chancery progresses. Two organizational charts were proposed to His Beatitude. Interviews with Chancery staff are planned for this fall.

Report of the Internal Audit Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Fall, 2016

See Treasurer's report in Officers' section

Metropolitan Council Meeting – September 2016
INTERNAL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
Archpriest Chad Hatfield, Chair

Since the last meeting all three internal auditor positions have been filled and they have been active in their duties. The fourth MC Retreat was organized on the theme of “Leadership” with Pdn. Peter Danilchick and Charles Ajalat as presenting. Both men are recognized experts in Christian Leadership with many years of service in both the OCA and Antiochian Archdiocese.

Report of the Metropolitan Council Legal Committee

Fall Meeting of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America
September 19-22, 2016

Introduction

The Metropolitan Council Legal Committee was created by Resolution of the Metropolitan Council, and blessed by the Holy Synod, at the Spring 2008 Metropolitan Council meeting.¹ That Resolution, which is set forth both in the meeting minutes and in the Metropolitan Council Member Handbook, provides as follows:

“The Metropolitan Council Legal Committee, consisting of at least three to five members, shall between meetings of the Metropolitan Council act for and on behalf of the Metropolitan Council to discharge its legal responsibilities. The Legal Committee shall work in conjunction with the General Counsel and members of the Central Administration. Responsibility for major policy and legal decisions, such as initiation of litigation and settlement of litigation, shall be retained by the Metropolitan Council as a whole. The Legal Committee shall fully and promptly report to the Metropolitan Council its activities and decisions between meetings. The Legal Committee shall act by majority vote. The Legal Committee may act by telephonic meeting or consent evidenced in writing or email, or such other means as means that the Legal Committee shall determine to be useful or appropriate.”

(It is to be noted that, as currently configured, the Legal Committee consists of just two members, rather than the required three to five members.)

¹ 10.4. MOTION – G. Nescott / Fr. M. Searfoorce: Be it resolved, that a Metropolitan Council Legal Committee, consisting of at least three to five members is hereby established. Such committee shall between meetings of the Metropolitan Council act for and on behalf of the Metropolitan Council to discharge its legal responsibilities. The Legal Committee shall work in conjunction with the General Counsel and members of the Central Administration. Responsibility for major policy and legal decisions, such as initiation of litigation and settlement of litigation, shall be retained by the Metropolitan Council as a whole. The Legal Committee shall fully and promptly report to the Metropolitan Council its activities and decisions between meetings, and Be it further resolved, that the Legal Committee shall act by majority vote. The Legal Committee may act by telephonic meeting or consent evidenced in writing or e-mail, or such other means that the Legal Committee shall determine to be useful or appropriate.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.5. MOTION – Fr. M Sherman / W. Peters: That Mr. Gregory Nescott be appointed the Chair of the Metropolitan Council Legal Committee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It has always been the goal of the Legal Committee to use its semi-annual reporting opportunities to ensure that each member of the Metropolitan Council is well-informed regarding matters of current legal interest or concern to the Orthodox Church in America, insofar as these matters reasonably relate to the function and role of the Metropolitan Council in the overall governance of the Church, as that role is defined in the Statute of the OCA.

The OCA Statute

Delegates to the 18th All-American Council overwhelmingly adopted the proposed revisions to the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, in a 473 to 15 vote, during the AAC's Second Plenary Session on Tuesday morning, July 21, 2015. The Revised Statute became effective November 1, 2015. Under the terms of the Revised Statute, the competencies of the Metropolitan Council have been redefined and clarified. Article V, Section 7 of the Revised Statute reads in pertinent part,

“The following matters are within the competence of the Metropolitan Council. The Metropolitan Council shall:

- a. Implement the decisions of the All-American Council and continue the work of the All-American Council between sessions in the areas of its competence;
- b. Assist the Metropolitan and the Holy Synod in implementing decisions within its competence; ...
- k. Initiate, prosecute, and defend all legal matters affecting the interests of the Church ... “

With those competencies in mind, and continuing to follow the mandate given to the Legal Committee in its enabling resolution, the following report presents the current state of various legal issues now confronting the OCA.

1. OCA's Statement of Sincerely Held Religious Beliefs

The final form of the OCA's Statement of Sincerely Held Religions Beliefs ("SHRB") was blessed by the Holy Synod and published on the OCA website on June 23, 2016. The OCA's General Counsel has been fielding questions and providing explanations to both clergy and laity about the purpose of the SHRB.

2. Standing Committee on Canonical Procedure

Chaired by His Grace, Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa, the Committee, composed of Father Alexander Rentel, Father Nicholas Roth, Judge E.R. Lanier and Angela Parks, held its second meeting at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation in Atlanta from August 1 through August 4. The Committee is making good progress in drafting the preliminary Standards, Norms, and Procedures for Ecclesiastical Courts, with a focus on clarity and transparency for all parties involved, while still ensuring fidelity to the Sacred Canons. The Committee is harmonizing its work with other Synodal documents, as well as creating templates and other documents that can be customized easily and used by participants in the Court process. The Committee members will continue their work separately over the next several months and intends to meet together again early next year before Great Lent to finalize the disciplinary procedures.

3. Weigel Estate

We are advised by our Pennsylvania Counsel that the estate has been settled and that a distribution may be anticipated before the end of the year.

4. Moriak Litigation

This case remains in active litigation.

5. Van Duyn Litigation

We have been advised by our insurance counsel that this case has been dismissed.

6. Zubik v. Burwell

The OCA joined this case, more commonly referred to as the "Little Sisters of the Poor" case, as amicus curiae. The United States Supreme Court vacated the

lower court rulings and remanded the case to the respective Circuits to allow the parties to continue to negotiate the terms of an acceptable compromise.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Parks, Chair

Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America
Report to the Metropolitan Council
September 2016

Members:

Chair: Matushka Valerie Zahirsky

Mrs. Veronica Bilas, Matushka Myra Kovalak, Mrs. Daria Petrykowski, Miss Maria Proch, Matushka Alexandra Safchuk, Mrs. Jewelann Stefanar, Matushka Christine Zebrun

Most Current Departmental Offerings (previously described):

- *Saints and the Animals That Served Them*, a 4th in the series of our Activity Books
- North American Saints Resources
- Retreat for Parishes entitled *Orthodox Surprises*
- Workshop for Church School Teachers entitled *Through the Years: Teaching a Single Concept at Various Age Levels*

New Offering

A set of over 100 study and reflection questions has been completed for Volume 3, entitled "Church History", of the revised series of books *The Orthodox Faith* by Father Thomas Hopko. This resource is now available for free download, and we are glad to have heard from parishioners using it that they have found it an enhancement to the book.

Upcoming Offerings and Events

- A set of study and reflection questions for Volume I of the Hopko series, entitled "Doctrine and Scripture", is near completion and will be put on line by mid-September. Questions for the other 2 volumes will follow.
- A Vacation Church School Program is being developed, based on the curriculum created by the Department for the youth program at the All-American Council in 2015. This is planned for the summer of 2017. Components of the curriculum are already being used, for example by Department member Matushka Myra Kovalak during her visit to Alaska to work with church schools.
- A life of Saint Germanos, written on a 5th-grade reading level, has been prepared and sent to the Department of Liturgical Music and Translation to be used in the cooperative project of preparing study units on hymnographers, including activities and singable music. This is the second in the series of materials prepared by our Department for the project; the first was on Saint Cosmas the Melodist and included activities for two age levels.

- Activities for Advent (Christmas Lent) will be available on the Departmental site in early November. Other seasonal activities are also in preparation.
- Department members will attend the fall meeting of the Orthodox Christian Education Commission, and will take part in the series of workshops to be offered by the Commission at various parishes.

Ongoing Work

The Department continues to respond to requests from clergy and church schools to review curriculum and resources, and to make suggestions or answer questions about parish education programs. Classroom set-up and management, finding good materials, and helping teachers to be effective are all part of this effort.

Respectfully submitted,
Matushka Valerie Zahirsky, Chair
Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America

OCA DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND HUMANITARIAN AID (CSHA) SUMMARY REPORT (January 27 – August 29, 2016)

Chair: Donna Karabin

Members: Priest Timothy Yates, Popadija Kitty Vitko, Arlene Kallaur, Diana Pasca, Nancy VanDyken, and eight consultants

Diocesan Ministry Network: Diana Pasca (NY-NJ), Krystal Royer (Bulgarian) Skip Mersereau (WDC), Fr. Timothy Yates (DOS), Fr. David Lowell (West), Vera Proctor (Midwest)

Episcopal Liaison: His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek, Archbishop of Pittsburgh and W. PA

Ministry Focus:

Parish Ministries, Matthew 25 Charitable Outreach, Senior Life, Family Life

[CSHA](#) promotes compassionate and charitable ministries in all levels of OCA life.

DEPARTMENT MEETING

Christian Service Department members have been focused on the review and evaluation of current programs, resource development, communications and future events. In addition to monthly conference calls, four members met for a meeting on May 10, 2016 in Alexandria, VA with travel expenses paid out-of-pocket in order to preserve the limited CSHA budget for ministry purposes. The in-person meeting was productive and morale-building.

COMPASSION IN ACTION: PARISH MINISTRY TRAINING (CiA)

The CiA pilot program at St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church in Fenton, MI (Bulgarian Diocese) is now an established sustainable OCA ministry. Deacon Michael Schlaak and the team of volunteers are spreading the love of Christ through their compassionate presence with suffering people at the Soup Kitchen and Warming Center operated by St. Michael Roman Catholic Church in Flint, MI and other facilities such as hospices, a local veteran's hospital, nursing homes and through individual contact.

Rev. Gabriel Bilas, now rector at St. Mary's, offers the following comments:

"Although I have only been here a short time, I can tell you that many of our parishioners, and especially those who are in the program currently, have the desire to fulfill the calling that our Lord gave us in Matthew 25. There are so many people out there, whether incarcerated, homeless, in hospitals or nursing homes, whose lives are full of stress and disorientation. What this program allows us to do as Orthodox Christians is to go out and provide a gentle presence of Christ in an increasingly chaotic world. Doing so not only helps those individuals in need, but also furthers our own personal spiritual growth, as I am sure many of our CiA members can attest to."

St. John the Wonderworker Church in Atlanta, GA is another parish community considering CiA. Fr. Tom Alessandrone and Fr. Chris Williamson have access to the CiA Development Kit website and are being mentored by Fr. Timothy Yates as the parish goes through the discernment process. A second parish in the Atlanta area expressed interest after hearing about it at the Assembly of the Diocese of the South.

Both CSHA and the Office of Institutional Chaplains who collaborated on CiA envision an expanding *Compassion in Action* program to parishes throughout the OCA. This will be possible only as far as the CiA program is funded sufficiently to enable needed training and mentorship. Funding sources such as the Stewards of the OCA and outside grants offer some hope.

PARISH MINISTRY RESOURCES (PMR)

[Parish Ministry Resources](#), formerly known as the Resource Handbook, is a collection of articles written by clergy and laity on eight themes of parish ministries. The review and updating by the PMR Working Group of the nearly 300 articles is ongoing. New articles have been written, the most recent by Deacon Alexander Smida on the inspiring outreach done by Holy Annunciation Church in Brick Town, NJ. In this manner, the PMR serves as a clearinghouse of information to inspire and guide growing Matthew 25 ministries in the OCA and in the broader internet audience. It also serves as a resource for Family Life, Senior Life and Parish Development to name a few of the themes.

The Archdiocese of Eastern PA requested permission to post PMR articles on their website. The department has long encouraged dioceses and parishes to post and distribute the articles, no permission necessary. In addition to guiding outreach and ministry, they can be used in discussion groups. The Parish Development section can be useful to Parish Councils. Fr. John Jillions referred to it as an "Enormous treasure-trove of parish-tested ministry".

The main sources of PMR articles and stories are clergy and lay men and women in local parishes. We encourage rectors to contact csha@oca.org about possible submissions.

COMMUNICATIONS

[OCA Parish Ministry](#) is CSHA's Facebook page kept active with frequent posts from the PMR and promotional stories on national and international humanitarian agencies, e.g. IOCC, OCMC, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM), Church World Service, FOCUS North America, Orthodox Detroit Outreach, Loaves and Fishes (Atlanta) and others. The July Small Parish Forum (Dioceses of WPA and MW) was also promoted. Scripture verses, writings from the Church Fathers and contemporary authors on works of charity along with icons, photos and graphics are popular. Our reach is growing steadily and we encourage members of the Metropolitan Council and the Holy Synod to visit [OCA Parish Ministry](#).

Writings for the OCA Website news features have been submitted. In April, we were pleased to introduce as part of Family Life ministry a new resource entitled "[Autism and Your Parish](#) Video Series: Free Autism Awareness Month Workshop for Your Parish". The presenter is Maura Oprisko from St. Stephen's Orthodox Church (OCA) in Crawfordsville, IN. In June, donations to OCPM's Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday were encouraged along with links to eight prison ministry articles in the PMR. Also in June, CSHA responded to the request for a ministry article for the Stewards of the OCA Appeal. In this case, CSHA worked with St. Mary Magdalene Church in Fenton, MI to spread the word on effective OCA programs by including personal testimonies from their Compassion in Action ministry. (The article has not yet posted.)

The discussion on Communications at the recent department meeting concluded that while CSHA provides high-value and timeless resources that greatly contribute to the Mission of the OCA, more needs to be done to reach the target audience – laity of every age, seminary families, monastics, clergy and bishops. OCA's IT Manager, Ryan Platte, gave counsel on internet marketing strategies which are under consideration. As step one, CSHA member Nancy Van Dyken is designing a template for MailChimp mass emailing. We are hopeful that we can build, as Ryan says, "a larger and more enthusiastic audience for CSHA releases."

DIOCESAN MINISTRY NETWORK

As noted in the report heading, CSHA has representatives from six OCA dioceses. Popadija Kitty Vitko now oversees the program which is in revitalization mode.

ORTHODOX LIVING WILL – ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

CSHA and the Living Will Task Force released two Advance Directives in November 2015. This great effort by clergy, chaplains, ethics and legal advisors provides resources critical to personal end-of-life decisions regardless of the decade of life in which they occur. The documents are available on the OCA website at the end of a chain of menus and sub-menus. The links are provided here for the convenience of those who recognize their importance to families and will counsel them in planning ahead for medical crises.

- [A Gift for my Loved Ones](#) This package contains everything necessary to know should one become disabled or incapacitated and unable to make decisions on one's own. It includes a Health Care Power of Attorney and Advance Directive for Health Care—Living Will.
- [Another Gift for my Loved Ones](#) This package contains everything necessary to know to arrange a burial and funeral—an Advance Directive for Funeral Care.

The CSHA department urges dioceses and parishes to post the documents on their websites and to encourage clergy and faithful of all ages to become familiar with them, to reflect and pray about personal desires for medical treatment options, end-of-life care, their funeral and burial.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS)

Chicago, IL will be the site of the October CWS meeting. Arlene Kallaur, CSHA member and official OCA Representative to CWS, will attend. She reports that His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon has been invited. The department continues to promote CWS/IOCC programs, e.g. CROP Hunger Walks & Gift of the Heart Kits as part of the longstanding relationship in humanitarian efforts. The CSHA budget covers travel costs for Mrs. Kallaur and the annual OCA donation to CWS.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2017

In development of charitable works, nothing compares to in-person gatherings of ministry-minded people whether in a large Parish Ministry Conference or small retreat setting. Discussions have begun towards events in 2017 that will engage professional and experienced ministry leaders with parish volunteers who feel called to serve others in need. As decisions are made and planning progresses, announcements will be made via the OCA website, the Diocesan Ministry Network, CSHA emails and Facebook news.

The various Matthew 25 outreach and parish ministry programs advocated by CSHA are foundational to authentic Orthodox Christian life and to the growth of the OCA. CSHA looks forward to meeting with the faithful in 2017.

The Department of Continuing Education
Most Rev. Archbishop Nathaniel, Episcopal Liaison
V. Rev. Ian G. Pac-Urar, Director

Course Offerings

This year the Department offers two courses in its five-hour, required “Professional, Legal and Ethical Topics” component. These courses will be available online and on demand to ensure access to all OCA clergy, regardless of location.

1. “Clergy Sexual Misconduct: Pastoral and Ethical Dimensions” is now “live” online for clergy who have not yet attended the Department’s live presentation. The five-hour course is delivered in weekly segments of ten to fifteen minutes, to facilitate on demand viewing.
2. “The Church and the Law” is presently in production and is projected for release in late 2016. This course will satisfy the five-hour requirement for the current year.

Other recordings of live presentations are being uploaded to the Department’s online learning site. These may be viewed to partially satisfy the remaining fifteen hours of continuing education required of clergy each year.

Registration for online courses is open and rolling – there is no set registration date. Courses become available upon registration. In the case of a course delivered in weekly segments, delivery is scheduled according to the student’s individual registration date. Once delivered, a segment may be viewed by that student at any time.

Finances

The Department receives no monies from the general budget of the Orthodox Church in America, but is supported solely by tuition receipts. Costs of production, travel, consultants, presenters and material are paid by the Department from those receipts.

As was approved by the Holy Synod of Bishops in 2012, tuition for the five-hour “Professional, Legal and Ethical Topics” is \$150.00, payable online by credit card or PayPal at the time of enrollment. Tuition is the responsibility of the local parish, as part of its clergy compensation.

Some dioceses have opted to relieve parishes of the tuition burden, by paying for all of their clergy “in bulk.” This, of course, represents a significant expenditure by the diocese. In the current year, the Department will offer a discount to dioceses that have consistently enrolled their clergy in “Professional, Legal and Ethical Topics” for the years 2013 through 2015.

Department of Evangelization
Priest John Parker, Chair
Report for Fall 2016

Planting Grants

St Katherine's in Carlsbad, CA;
St James, Beaufort, SC;
St John the Evangelist, Tempe, AZ;
St Nektarios in Waxahachie, TX;
St Juvenaly and His Companion, Wasilla, AK.

Presently accepting applications (deadline, end of August).

Diocesan Work

- DOW Missions Deanery: served as keynote speaker for three-day retreat, February 9-11, in Oregon.
- Scheduled to speak at the Pittsburgh Cathedral in late October on Nones and Dones.

Grant Retreats

Working towards fall retreats at the Mission Grant Parishes.

Mission School

Taught and participated in Panel Discussions at the Second Mission School, the week of August 21, on Long Island.

Assembly Evangelization Study

Active in evaluating data, preparing report on a study of Evangelization in the US, by invitation of Alexei Krindatch. The draft of my portion of the study is due end of September. Includes participants from GOA and AOCA, and also Fr Eric Tosi.

OCCMC

Attended board meeting May 9-11 in St Augustine, FL.
Declined invitation to serve on the Executive Committee as Secretary.

International

Scheduled to give talks in Joensuu, Finland, September 24-26, 2016, on Missions, Evangelization, and Church Planting from an American perspective.

Correspondence and Conversations

Several long and fruitful discussions with both His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, and His Eminence, Archbishop Michael. Presented both with proposed priorities for the Department of Evangelization, and discussed with them at length various approaches to implementation.

MEDIA

A few essays written for www.oca.org

Website

www.goodnews.oca.org updated periodically. Looking for a content manager.

Ancient Faith Radio

Continuing regular and sporadic podcasts (“Lord Send Me”) on Evangelization and related topics, including interviews.

Orthodox Christian Network (OCN)

Writing has been on hold, but reconvening soon.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

St Katherine’s College

Journal for Seekers/Inquirers, possibly to be published through the College in both digital and print formats. Journal progress is slow, but St Katherine’s still desires to see it come to fruition. Attempting to build a team of writers/contributors.

Anglican Church in North America

Active participation in our ongoing discussions with the Anglican Church in North America, serving under Archbishop MELCHIZEDEK with Fr Chad Hatfield. Met week after Dormition on Long Island, including an afternoon of formal introductions at Syosset.

Non-Orthodox Clergy Conversations

- Met with with an Anglican priest, referred to me through Ancient Faith Radio in Texas, while at enthronement of Bishop Alexander.

Planting Grant Recommendations
Calendar Year 2017
Priest John Parker
Chair, Department of Evangelization

Summary

TOTAL PLANTING GRANT REQUESTED FOR 2017: \$104,000

TOTAL RETURNING: \$80,000

USA: \$80,000

\$20,000	Waxahachie, TX	Diocese of the South
\$20,000	Wasilla, AK	Diocese of Alaska
\$16,000	Tempe, AZ	Diocese of the West
\$16,000	Beaufort, SC	Diocese of the South
\$8,000**	Cardiff, CA	Diocese of the West

(note: this grant is to be divided over January-June 2017 only)

NEW in 2017: \$24,000

USA: \$24,000

\$24,000 ***which parish still TBD with Bishops' input***

Three new grant applications, three returning applications. New applications from:

Diocese of the South: 1

Diocese of the Midwest: 1

Diocese of NY/NJ: 1

Explanation of Recommendations—Returning:

Accept Returning, but graduating in mid-2017:

St Katherine Orthodox Mission Cardiff, CA

Diocese of the West Fr Andrew Cuneo

St Katherine's grant ends in June 2017. They had a staggered start due to Fr Andrew's teaching position at St Katherine's College in the first year.

Accept Returning:

St John the Evangelist Orthodox Church Tempe, AZ

Diocese of the West Fr Andre Paez

St John's Church will enter their third year strongly. Fr Andre is mentored by Fr Jason Foster (DOS, Louisiana). Would enter third year with a blessing.

Accept Returning:

St James Orthodox Church Beaufort, SC

Diocese of the South Fr James Bozeman

Fr James is mentored by Fr Christopher Foley (DOS, NC). The Beaufort mission took a large hit this year with the loss of the top two givers (one moved, one lost his job). However, the mission continues with strong leadership and positive efforts to evangelize and grow. Would enter third year with a blessing.

St Nektarios Waxahachie, TX
Diocese of the South Fr David Bozeman

St Nektarios Mission has a strong foundation, which has been supported and encouraged strongly by the Diocese, whose Cathedral has essentially planted this mission south of Dallas. St Nektarios is a snapshot of a model Planting Grant Mission. We are planning a mentor-visit from Fr Timothy Hojnicky (PA) this fall.

St Juvenaly and His Companion Wasilla, AK
Diocese of Alaska Fr Mikel Bock

St Juvenaly is stable. We are preparing a fall visit from Fr David Rucker (OCA/OCMC, Kodiak AK).

Explanation of Recommendations—New:

****I ask the guidance and input of the Holy Synod to choose between these two****

Both of the following are excellent candidates. The Arkansas parish is far stronger from a numbers perspective—both parishioners and dollars. But If the Arkansas parish is selected, that will make 3 of 5 grants from the Diocese of the South.

Choose between:

St John of Chicago Rogers, AR
Diocese of the South Fr John Wehling

St John's is in a very good position to receive a grant; they have property and a dedicated church building (former Protestant Church), with a large parking lot; they have strong stewardship; honestly, they are a stronger candidate than Annunciation based on size, numbers, and dollars. Presently, Fr John W splits his time between two part-time missions which are stagnating due to lack of full-time clergy presence. St John's is poised to thrive with the ministry of a full-time pastor.

Annunciation of the Virgin Mary St James, MO
Diocese of the Midwest Fr Joel Wilson

Annunciation Mission is a remarkably devoted mission. They have moved from various temporary spaces to the converted garage of the priest's residence. The parishioners have poured in copious amounts of equity, in addition to their financial support to establish a more permanent, beautiful, intentional space for their services.

Annunciation appears to be growing steadily and strongly. Their stewardship and numbers have grown in the past calendar year. I believe they have reached a level of self-support that a grant would establish a strong position for growth. Fr Joel was sent to the Mission School this August, as the clergy representative from the Midwest.

Their basic approach to missionary life, commitment to liturgical services, to beauty, and outreach are marks of a solid mission.

Explanation of Recommendations—Not at this time:

Not At this time:

St Innocent Oneonta, NY
Diocese of NY/NJ Fr Vasil Dubee

St Innocent Mission is in the capable hands of a mission-minded priest—who was the clergy representative to the Mission School from NY/NJ. While St Innocent is not a new mission, the re-establishment of a stable presence there is vital, and is being undertaken capably with a resident priest.

The missionary possibilities are numerous in Oneonta. St Innocent currently receives a sizeable stipend from the Diocese, and the priest is only recently assigned. It will be helpful to see the local stewardship increase in the coming year, and to see a re-application for 2018.

Orthodox Church in America
Department of Liturgical Music and Translations
Report to the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council – Fall 2016

A. Music Downloads

Over the last six years concentrated effort was given to the major feast days: settings of music (in both Common and Kievan Chant) for Vespers, Matins, and the Divine Liturgy have been posted on the website for the feasts of the Theophany, Meeting of the Lord, Annunciation, Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem, Ascension, Pentecost, Transfiguration, Dormition of the Theotokos, Nativity of the Theotokos, Elevation of the Holy Cross, and Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple.

In 2016 we have begun to add music settings in both Common and Kievan Chant for the *propers* of Vespers and the Divine Liturgy for the Saturday of Lazarus, and for selected minor saints, such as St John the Theologian, St Benedict, Holy Apostle James, and St Joseph the Hymnographer. The Penitential Stichera in the eight tones from the Octoechos, sung at the Lenten Sunday evening Vespers that are commonly celebrated in our parishes, were also set and are now available for free downloading from our website.

“The Office for the Burial of a Priest,” posted on the website in 2012, has undergone a number of minor corrections and several stichera at the “last kiss” have been added. This revised edition will be made available for downloading at the end of September. We will continue adding music for the minor feasts of the church and will also begin adding festal stichera in the appointed “model melodies” in both the “You/Your” and “Thee/Thou” format. With the scanning of the music for the feast of the Nativity of Christ, (a booklet published by the Department in 1987) which should be completed in November, there will be more than 6,000 individual pieces of music available on the website of the Orthodox Church in America for free downloading and use by our choirs and their singers.

B. Texts for Liturgical Services

Approximately 200 liturgical services containing the so-called *Propers* of Vespers, pointed to be sung according to the Common Chant, will be posted on the OCA website in 2016. These include services for all feasts and saints that call for a Vigil in the “official” Liturgical Calendar, in addition to the services of the Presanctified Liturgy during Lent and the services of Holy Week. The services are put together by the Chairman, rubric outlines are provided by Archimandrite Juvenaly and the texts are proofread by Dr. Vladimir Morosan. Texts are available in both the TT (Thee/Thou) and the YY (You/Your) form. Last year Hierodeacon Herman (Majkrzak) of St Vladimir’s Seminary assisted in posting texts using the “Thee-Thou” format; this year Dr Vladimir Morosan has assumed this responsibility.

As the postings are in Microsoft Word, the texts can be downloaded and then easily adapted for local and particular use. These texts are not only being used by choir directors and singers, but

many parishes are making them available for non-singers so that worshippers who do not sing in the choir can easily follow the texts as they are being chanted during the services.

C. Electronic Repository

Recently the DLM established an electronic repository for storing and backing up sheet music published on oca.org. All music files on oca.org are created using an application called Finale. Once music files (MUS) are created in Finale, they are then converted to Portable Document Format (PDF) files and made available for download on oca.org. Over the years many people have worked (and still work) for the department setting liturgical music in Finale to make available on the Church's website. In the past, these individuals have been responsible for storing the work they do for the department on their own computers. It is in the department's best interest to have all MUS files created in Finale stored in one location rather than scattered in these individuals' hard drives. This will ensure that they 1) do not get lost over time and 2) will be available to future DLM workers. Essentially, these MUS files are the property of the OCA and it should be the entity that stores and maintains them.

Mr. Ryan Platte set up the repository, which is online and offered by Amazon Web Services. Access to it is limited, and those who have access need a user ID and password. Currently, five people have access: Professor David Drillock, Dr Vladimir Morosan, Deacon Gregory Ealy, John Black, and David Lucs.

D. On-line Course in Choral Conducting

For the fifth consecutive year the on-line course for Beginning Choir Directors is being offered by the Department to interested and beginning choir directors. Beginning September 12, 2016, the course consists of 12 (twelve) weekly sessions, with each session containing both video and textual teaching demonstrations to go along with daily exercises and weekly assignments. Each student meets weekly on-line via the *skype videosystem* with the teacher of the course, who then provides written evaluations to each participant.

The online course of Basic Choral Conducting covers such topics as basic beat patterns and their execution, entries on and off the beat, the specific relationship between text and music in the structure of Orthodox liturgical texts, accented and non-accented syllables, singing in phrases, and the techniques of conducting chant. Music examples are taken from the Orthodox liturgical services and include examples of both metered and unmetered music.

The 2016 course, although originally limited to 12 participants, has 17 registrants. As in the past four years, the course will be taught by Dr David Drillock, professor emeritus of liturgical music at St. Vladimir's Seminary and currently the chairperson of the Orthodox Church in America's Department of Liturgical Music. Dr Mark Pearson, who designed the on-line course format, will provide technical support and program assistance.

Dr Pearson, now retired, was Instructional Technologist and Designer at Earlham College where he managed all aspects of the college's Moodle Learning Management System. Over the summer Mark Pearson worked closely with the OCA web site system administrator, Ryan Platte, both to

update the Moodle Learning Management System (LMS) to the latest version (Pearson) and to implement new server architecture (Platte) which makes the whole LMS snappier and more responsive. In addition, Dr Pearson implemented a new customized theme which will display the course nicely on tablet sized devices (such as iPad).

E. Tutorial for the Study of the Eight Tones

The inauguration of the “Tutorial for the Study of the Eight Tones” in both the Obikhod (Common Chant) and the Kievan “melodies” has proved to be a valuable tool in the teaching of the tones for not only choir directors who have had no formal training in Orthodox liturgical music but also for singers and others who wish to learn how the tones are formally structured.

The scheme of the tutorial is to break down each tone and identify its musical phrases. The sequence for the proper use of the melodic phrases is explained as well as the “formula” (intonation pattern, the recitation pitch of the body of the phrase, and cadence) of the melodic line. All phrases are illustrated with musical and textual examples. Recorded choral demonstrations of the examples for each tone are presented, including full (SATB) choir, and individual lines for soprano, alto, tenor, and bass.

Work continues on Part II of the Tutorial, which is devoted to an analysis of the eight tones for the singing of the Prokeimena. Part II will include 4 part-settings of not only the Resurrection Prokeimena but other prokeimena selected from major feast days and commemorations of saints in order to further demonstrate how the musical setting is adapted to the textual content. In order to provide additional learning tools for our church readers, recorded demonstrations will also include the liturgical interchange among the celebrant, the reader, and the choir in properly executing the Prokeimenon at the Divine Liturgy. As with Part I of the Tutorial, Part II is being written by Dr David Drillock and Deacon Gregory Ealy with Dr Vladimir Moroson providing editorial and musical assistance.

Respectively submitted,

David Drillock, Chairperson
Department of Liturgical Music and Translations
Orthodox Church in America

9/7/16

Department of Pastoral Life

The Department of Pastoral Life continues to work at serving the clergy and clergy families of the Orthodox Church in America. As elaborated below, this service encompasses both direct programs benefitting priests and their families and substantial endeavors of research into the issues they face.

The HOPE (Honoring Orthodox Pastoral Excellence) Program continues to expand. An initiative of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania but one that, from its foundation, has welcomed all nearby Orthodox clergy, this program now has five active groups meeting regularly including one of clergy wives. As this endeavor's growth shows no signs of slowing, we have found that the single most significant obstacle to the formation of new groups is an ample supply of trained facilitators. To remedy this, seventeen individuals are now enrolled in a new online program of the Pastoral Excellence Network of Christian Theological Seminary, the grant-awarding agency whence have come the initial funds to make our own program a success. In addition to completing this online material, our participants and future group facilitators will also attend a one-day session of training at St. Tikhon's Seminary in which current facilitators will be able to share their own successes and engage these new individuals in the work of tailoring the content to the specific needs of Orthodox clergy and clergy wives. Fr. Nicholas Solak, who has been at the helm of this movement from the start, continues to oversee its expansion and is now working to ensure its longevity as a self-supporting program after funds from the Lilly grant have come to an end in two years.

"Discerning Celibacy", an exploration on the needs of the OCA's celibate clergy, was completed earlier this year. A topic heretofore almost entirely unexplored, this paper is the fruit of a series of interviews with our Church's hierarchs. In it are examined both the shared and particular issues of celibate clergy with an eye to the unique demands of those who serve parishes as monastic, widowed and separated, or unmarried priests. After its initial drafting, this document was submitted to a wide array of clergy and specialists for their comment. At this time, we are reflecting upon how best to respond to the findings of this paper and expect to have one or two proposals for the Holy Synod's review.

A similar program of research is now underway and another round of interviews with diocesan bishops now drawing to a close on the issue of pastoral responses to sexual identity issues. At the behest of His Beatitude, the pastoral life department is now examining this often divisive issue. At the fore of this exploration, though, is our attempt to understand why this particular subject seems so often to carry with it such a deep sense of mistrust, often hampering or seeming to prevent outright that open discussion and peer sharing of experience from priest to priest that would seem necessary. In addition to understanding the ways in which OCA clergy deal pastorally with this need, we seek to know, in short, why they seem to fear to talk about it.

The Department is in the early stages of a comprehensive review of clergy compensation practices throughout the Church. After reviewing the various guidelines published by the OCA and those diocesan directives made public, we surmised that there is much need for updating and, rather more importantly, that there appear often to be notable disparities between the practices promulgated in these official documents and those actually employed. Fr. David Lowell is currently engaged in a detailed study of this within his own Diocese of the West the results and process of which, when completed, will be used as both springboard and template for further inquiries elsewhere.

The "Guidelines for Clergy of the Orthodox Church in America" are now nearly twenty years without revision, a situation we are working diligently to remedy. Yet rather than simply

supplying an update to this guide, we are exploring a very different avenue. A grant application for fourteen thousand dollars was submitted this summer to the Louisville Institute, a Lilly Endowment supported organization dedicated to investing in research and tools for clergy. If awarded, these funds will secure a unique opportunity for the Department of Pastoral Life to refashion these “Guidelines”. A representative put forward from each diocese will be charged to conduct interviews and other pertinent research within his own diocese to determine what pastoral practices are actually employed therein and how and why these may depart from those ostensibly normative habits of the current “Guidelines”. After a series of some months’ investigation, these delegates will assemble for a three-day conference, share their findings, and re-draft the “Guidelines” so that it both charts a course of common and advisable practices while reflecting the wealth of diversity our Church hosts.

The Department of Pastoral continues to meet monthly in its executive committee: Bishop Paul, Frs. John Jillions, Nathan Preston, Nicholas Solak, Dennis Rhodes, David Lowell, Gregory Safchuk, and Stephen Evanina. In addition to this, a new online forum was inaugurated this spring. An electronic space allocated to guided reflection and open dialogue on issues the department is exploring, this forum permits a wider variety of voices than a monthly telephone conversation can practically permit. We look forward to utilizing this tool more and more, strengthening our work with a diversity of views and grounding our ideals upon what’s shared from our differences. Those interested in taking part in this forum are encouraged to get in touch with the departmental administrator.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. Nathan Preston

Orthodox Church in America
Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry
Report to Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council
September 2016

Leadership

Chair – Andrew Boyd
Episcopal Liaison – Bishop David
Project Manager – Priest Christopher Rowe
Intern – Emma Solak

Department Membership

A full and updated membership list is available at <https://oca.org/about/departments/youth-young-adult>

Orthodox Christian Fellowship- Our Pan-Orthodox Campus Ministry

We continue to be represented on OCF's board by Deacon Alexander Cadman, who is also our campus Chaplain at Penn State. Additionally, this year, OCF's Student Board is being led by our department's intern, Emma Solak, a student at UPitt and from our Parish in Stroudsburg, PA (Diocese of Eastern PA). Our department continues to contribute substantially in terms of human resources and finances to this imperative ministry on behalf of the OCA, and we encourage both clergy and lay involvement at the local level, and thank the many volunteers who open the doors of our churches to college students throughout our Church.

Syndesmos

Syndesmos is the World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth. This "bond of unity" brought together Orthodox youth movements and seminaries from all over the world regularly for fellowship, education, mission work, and theological reflection. Especially dear to their work was connecting youth in North America and Western Europe to those in traditional Orthodox homelands. Influential members and supports, while they were young adults and after, included Frs. John Meyendorff and Alexander Schmemmann, and John Matusiak, Now Patriarch Kyrill, The late Patriarch Ignatius of Antioch, Archbishop Anastasios of Albania, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Archdiocese, Metropolitan Kallistos, Sophie Kolumzine, Mark Stokoe, and countless others. The OCA has a strong tradition of supporting this organization, often providing interns and staff starting with the recently departed Connie Tarasar, who interned in 1969 and most recently, myself in 2009.

In the economic downturn of 2008-2010, Syndesmos, then based in Greece, slowly began to fall apart, and really struggled to continue with even it's basic mission. Recently, there have been signs of new activity and growth, which we have been supporting. Following on last year's successful festival in Poland, we were again able to partner with several dioceses to send a delegation of five OCA young adults to their recent conference in Slovakia in July.

Local Projects

We are always looking for local, grassroots projects to support whether on the parish, deanary, or diocesan level. Often we are able to offer financial assistance and advice and expertise on youth/young adult ministry. We recently helped a new camping effort in the Diocese of the South with scholarships for attendees and building out local, sustainable funding and likewise a pan-orthodox young adult program in the Cleveland/Akron area.

Continuing Education

Our Department collaborated with Saint Tikhon's Seminary and Monastery to offer clergy/laity continuing education in June around youth ministry featuring Emma Solak and Deacon Jason Ketz from our department leading discussions on campus ministry and scripture respectively. We stand ready to work with dioceses/deaneries/local parishes in continuing education around youth and young adult ministry for clergy and lay people by providing access to speakers, resources, and finances.

Social Media Team

Our social media team continues to meet by teleconference every other week and maintains our department's growing presence on facebook and twitter, as well as our micro-site "Saints You Missed in Sunday School" (missed-saints.org). All of these projects continue to grow and build audience. As we head into the fall, this team is going to be revisiting some of our past google hangouts/webinars to see what content can be re-addressed.

Camping

It seems we've closed out on another successful camping season in the OCA. These ministries are local and are run almost exclusively as labors of love by tireless volunteers. I cannot understate the amount of work that goes into our more than 20 local camps, or the value of the ministry for the youth that attend.

FOCA

I was delighted to attend FOCA's basketball tournament in New Jersey in May and it was great to see this program in action. All of our parishes, even those lacking FOCA chapters, should be taking advantage of their excellent sports programs held every spring/summer as great opportunities for Orthodox youth to gather for fellowship, worship, and friendly competition.

In conjunction with FOCA's 90th Convention in Chicago, we worked with them and the Diocese of the Midwest for the first "OCA Youth Council" bringing youth together for fun, worship, education, fellowship, and time with our Hierarchs. My personal thanks to Marge Kovach, Jackie Justice, and Fr. Ben Tucci for making this program so successful. Our department is looking to future collaboration with FOCA to help fill the need expressed by the youth at the 18th All-American Council for more national youth programs.

Peter the Aleut Grant

Our grant program continues to grow in popularity. In fact, 2015 was its largest year for distributions every. This grant is reserved for youth/young adults trying to attend a qualifying retreat or program, or visit an OCA monastery or seminary to discern a vocation. Clergy and lay leaders may also apply to offset the costs of attending qualifying continuing education in youth ministry. Priest Christopher Rowe (Diocese of the Midwest) and Patrick Pletnikoff (Diocese of Alaska) oversee the grant program with me. We have seen a slight downturn in the number of applications this year, and we are planning a new marketing effort to remind clergy, laity, and youth about the grant opportunities.

Academy of Preachers (AoP)

AoP is an ecumenical group that seeks to identify, network, support and inspire young people in their call to Gospel preaching. I've been involved with this group for the past three years as well often bringing OCA young adults to their national and regional festivals alongside students and faculty from Saint Vladimir's Seminary. These festivals serve as an opportunity for our youth to meet serious and committed Christians like themselves growing into leadership positions in other faith traditions, witness

to the truth of our own tradition, and most importantly they provide a vehicle for our youth to stand up and make a good defense for the hope that is in them. AoP provides a training ground for our youth to, in the words of Metropolitan Leonty, “preach Holy Orthodoxy everywhere, in every place, and to everyone.” In June we hosted a small AoP event in New York City bringing together leaders from the OCA, Coptic Church, and Greek Archdiocese with Pentecostals and Baptists to talk together about youth ministry and preaching.

Episcopal Assembly

I continue to serve as an advisor to the Episcopal Assembly’s Youth Ministry Committee, chaired by His Grace, Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian Archdiocese. I also serve on a special sub-committee dedicated to youth formation issues particular to Orthodoxy in our North American context. All jurisdictional youth directors continue to meet on a quarterly basis and enjoy a strong culture of collaboration even in the face of some challenging inter-jurisdictional politics and positions.

Future Projects

Two future projects we have started working on and planning for are a kind of leadership retreat for young adults as well as a February event for youth in the Washington DC area.

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA)
Report to the Metropolitan Council
September 2016
Respectfully Submitted by President Marge Kovach

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Spiritual Advisor - V. Rev. Theodore Boback

President - Marge Kovach

Vice President - Allison Steffaro

Recording Secretary - Tammy Schultz

Treasurer - Michael Bowan

Immediate Past President - Becky Tesar

OUTREACH

Gifts of Love:

2016 campaign - raised \$10,000 to print Orthodox Christian coloring books in the Yupik and English languages for Alaskan children.

2017 campaign – will benefit the Saint Nicholas Memorial Chapel on the Holy Assumption Parish complex in Kenai, Alaska.

Seminarian Assistance Programs:

Adopt a Seminarian program - provides financial assistance to married seminary students in need throughout the academic year.

St. Nicholas Wish List project - distributes gifts to the children of married seminarian families at STOTS and SVOTS for St. Nicholas Day. Given the logistics, gift cards are collected and distributed to the families at SHOTS.

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

2016 Convention - The FOCA celebrated its 90th National Convention in the Chicago suburb of Rosemont, Illinois on July 22-25. We are thankful that the FOCA's spiritual leader, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, His Grace Bishop Paul, His Grace Bishop David, His Grace Bishop Daniel, and Archpriest John Jillions were able to attend. The traditional schedule of events combined business sessions, social gatherings, Vespers, and Divine Liturgy. Highlights included the presentation of a \$10,000 check to Bishop David from this year's "Gift of Love" campaign, the awarding of four \$1,000 educational scholarships, and the coordination of the first "youth council" held concurrently with the convention.

2017 Convention - Planning is underway for our 91st National Convention, to convene September 1st through the 4th at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

2018 Convention - The FOCA will hold the 92nd National Convention in conjunction with the OCA's 19th AAC provided that the selected dates and location are feasible.

JUNIORS

Fr. Benjamin Tucci does an excellent job leading the FOCA Junior Department as well as coordinating our efforts with the OCA's Department of Youth and Young Adults.

Youth Council:

The Diocese of the Midwest, the OCA's Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry and the FOCA's local convention committee collaborated to host the first "youth council" held in conjunction with the 90th FOCA National Convention in Rosemont, Illinois. FOCA Junior Department Chair Fr. Benjamin Tucci, FOCA Convention Committee member Jackie Justice, and OCA Youth Department Director Andrew Boyd oversaw the youth activities throughout the weekend. Participants joined together for prayer, enjoyed fun outings and interacted with Metropolitan Tikhon and the other bishops.

Junior Olympics:

Each July we bring Orthodox youth together for Junior Olympics, our annual sports camping week, at St. Vladimir's Camp and Retreat Center in Ohio. Record numbers of campers from several states continue to register for the weeklong session under the direction of Dn. Daniel and Mat. Catrina Kovalak. This is an excellent opportunity for youth to get away from daily routines and to grow spiritually while living within this Orthodox community. As the campers have said, camp is a place where they feel comfortable just being who they really are; a place where they don't need to pretend to be somebody or explain themselves.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

National Basketball Tournament	May 2017	Weirton, West Virginia
National Bowling Tournament	May 2017	Baltimore, Maryland
Junior Olympics Summer Camp	July 9-15, 2017	Farmdale, Ohio
National Golf Tournament	August 2017	Alpha, New Jersey
91 st National Convention	September 1-4, 2017	Hershey, Pennsylvania

Thank you for the opportunity to share this update on the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America with you. We humbly ask you to keep the FOCA, its members, and our good works in your prayers.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marge Kovach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Marge Kovach
FOCA President

**Office of Orthodox Church in America Military and Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Chaplaincies Fall Report 2016**

Very Rev. Theodore Boback, Jr. –
Dean/Executive Director OCA Military and VA Chaplaincy
Very Reverend Joseph Gallick -
Assistant Dean/Deputy Director OCA Military and VA Chaplaincy

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, serves as Ecclesiastical Endorser for the US Military and Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplains; His Grace, Bishop Daniel serves as the Episcopal Liaison, His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon, serves as the liaison to the Assembly of Canonical Bishops

Vision

The Orthodox Military Chaplain is an Orthodox Priest in uniform serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplain serves in the Department of Veterans Affairs in a medical center. They are active members of the respective chaplaincy and share a common core of professional responsibilities for worship services, personal counseling, administrative duties, pastoral visitations, cultural activities, humanitarian projects, moral leadership, and appropriate collateral duty assignments.

They in addition to fulfilling the disciplines, dogmas, doctrines of faith and other canonical directives required of all Orthodox Priests, comply with the administrative requirements of their Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agency.

They exercise their priestly mission in three ways: to those of the Orthodox Faith, to those of other faiths, and to those who have no religious affiliation.

Mission

The mission of the OCA's military chaplain is the propagation of the Orthodox Faith; to serve, worship, and love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and to bring spiritual nourishment and enlightenment to thousands of Orthodox military personnel and their families serving their country throughout the world.

The mission of the Veterans Affairs (VA) Chaplains is to counsel and to bring spiritual nourishment through the Holy Sacraments to hundreds of Orthodox veterans in VA Medical Centers throughout the United States of America.

Operation

The Office of Military (VAMC) Chaplaincies currently operates directly under the supervision of the Metropolitan and forms a unique deanery of the Church. According to the Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America (Article XI section 4 a.) The Dean of

Orthodox Military and Veterans Administration Chaplains is appointed by and directly responsible to the Metropolitan.

The Executive Director and Dean of Chaplains is the chief administrator for the Metropolitan in all matters concerning the OCA chaplains in the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and the Veterans Administration. The Executive Director/Dean is the representative of the Metropolitan to the National Conference of Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) and the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC). The Assistant Executive Director works together with the Executive Director. The Executive Director/Dean and the Assistant Executive Director recruit and screen candidates for the chaplaincy, prepare ecclesiastical endorsement for the Metropolitan and maintain contact with all Orthodox chaplains and with the Executive Director of the Armed Services Chaplains Board, Military Chief of Chaplains and the VA National Staff Chaplain and chaplain staff. . They do this through telecommunications, email, correspondence, and by participating in various meetings and site visitations throughout the world. The Executive Director/Dean provides guidance to chaplains serving throughout the world on spiritual matters and ensures that Orthodox personnel, regardless of where they are stationed can freely exercise their religious beliefs. The Executive Director/Dean attends all conferences and executive board committee meetings of the NCMAF and ECVAC.

The Military chaplains from the Orthodox Church in America serve in the United States Armed Forces in the United States, Germany, Korea, Japan, and the Middle East. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplains serve within the United States at VA Hospitals.

Endorser's Conferences:

The annual National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces(NCMAF), the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC) and the Armed Forces Chaplains Board with the three branches Chief of Chaplains will be conducted 9 – 12 January 2017. Additionally, the OCA Office of Military and VA Chaplaincy is a member of the Commission on Ministry in Specialized Settings. Very Reverend Steven Voytovich, Director of the OCA Institutional Chaplaincy Department attends the COMISS meetings.

Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplains Conference – August 2016. The VAMC Conference was held 29 August through 1 September 2016 at Newport News, VA. The training sessions were with Chief and Lead Chaplains of the VAMC and endorsers. **Fr Theodore Boback** attended and participated and **Fr Joseph Martin**, Chief of the VAMC Chaplain Office in Wilkes-Barre attended and participated. It was also the celebration of 70 years of VA Chaplaincy. The theme was Providing for the Spiritual Care Needs of Our Nation's Veterans and their families. The Sessions included: Leaders Developing Leaders; Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation; Free Exercise of religion in VA Facilities;

Suicide Awareness and Suicide Prevention; Managing Conflict; Electronic Workload Documentation; Rural Health and Community Clergy Training Program; Contemporary approaches to Education and Mental Health and Chaplaincy; Chaplaincy Research a resource to Enhance Practice; Chaplain Work in Outpatient clinics and CBOC's; Chaplain Lead PTSD and Moral Injury Groups; There were also breakout sessions to discuss Diversity in Ministry; Clinical Pastoral Education; The warrior to soul mate program; using general post funds to enhance veteran's spiritual and pastoral care as well as district chaplain meetings with the associate directors of the National Chaplain Center. Carolyn Clancy, M.D. the Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Organizational Excellence was the keynote speaker at the Awards Luncheon, which took place on Wednesday. A Memorial Service was conducted on Thursday Morning in remembrance of the deceased VA Chaplains from January 2011 through June 2016. Several pictures were taken during the conference and they will be submitted for an article.

Chaplain Candidate: I attend the Army Chaplain Officer Basic Chaplain Course at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in August. **Deacon Matthew Fuhrman**, who is a seminarian at Saint Tikhon Orthodox Theological Seminary and in the Army Chaplain Candidate Program, graduated from the course. His wife, Matushka Jessica was present at the ceremonies. Pictures were taken and they will be submitted with an article for the OCA website.

Chaplaincy Kits: The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America had a "Gifts of Love" Project for collecting monies for the buying of religious materials and articles to give to our chaplains for service members and veterans. The FOCA had also conducted such a project several years ago. The packets were put together as a service project by the summer campers at the FOCA Saint Vladimir Camp in Ohio this past summer and the kits will be distributed to the chaplains this fall.

Military Chaplains:

Orthodox Military Chaplains perform a full cycle of liturgical services including Vespers, Matins, Divine Liturgy, Feast Days, and services during Advent, Great Lent, the Dormition and Apostles Fasts, Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts and administering the Sacraments of the Church.

Our Orthodox Priests have been deployed in support of the Global War on Terror. Our priests provided worship Services during holy Week and Pascha in tandem with other Orthodox Chaplains from other branches of the services. Others have served with coalition forces for example from Estonia, Georgia, and Romania and others have mentored and have served with the first Orthodox Chaplain in the Canadian Forces since WWII. Others have advised on various issues and concerns such as those who served with the Coast Guard in Alaska where they advised on coastal Alaskan communities which are indigenously Orthodox.

Included among the continued Ministry Concern of our chaplain are:
Spiritual Renewal, Ministry of Present, Readiness, Interfaith and Ecumenical Ministries Programs, outreach programs, service on various boards such as family action; biomedical ethics, advisory councils.

Military and VA Chaplain Personnel Strength

Personnel Statistics have changed through the years and continues to change based on requirements of the United States Armed Forces and the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in fulfilling its missions.

Military Personnel Strength.

Active Duty

United States Air Force

Father Eugene Lahue, Chaplain, Major, USAF

Father Thaddeus Werner Chaplain Captain USAF Joint Base Lackland, San Antonio, TX

United States Army

Father. George Hill, Chaplain (MAJ), USA JAG School

Father Sean Levine, Chaplain (CPT), USA Fort Hood Texas (Family Life Training)

Father George Oanca, Chaplain (CPT), USA Fort Hood Texas

United States Navy

Father Stephen Duesenberry CDR CHC USN Camp Lejeune, NC

Reserve Component

United States Air Force

Father Oliver Herbel Chaplain, Captain, USAFR

United States Army

Father Peter Dubinin, Chaplain (LTC) USAR

Father Danut Palanceau Chaplain (CPT) USAR

Father James Parnell, Chaplain (CPT) USAR

Father James Sizemore Chaplain (MAJ) USAR

United State Navy

Father Herman Kincaid

Retired Military Chaplains

There are over 30 retired Orthodox Priests from the United States Armed Forces with over of them serving within the OCA in various ministries. There is one OCA retired VAMC Chaplain. The retired chaplains have a range of special skills and are an additional asset within our Orthodox Church. Please read the Continuing Education Report within the Strategic Plan as well as the paragraphs above for more information.

Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplains

Father Joseph Martin, VAMC, Wilkes-Barre, PA and Father Sergei C. Bouteneff VAMC Newington, CT serve as the Chief of Chaplain Service at their respective VAMC. Father Philip Reese serves as a full time position at the Miami VAMC recently. We are grateful for their continued ministry.

VA Chaplains might attend training that equips them to perform specific tasks and or to fill certain positions such as Post Traumatic Stress, palliative care, substance abuse; etc.

Nine OCA Priests serve our VAMCs

Father Sergei C. Bouteneff – Newington, CT
Father Igor Burdikoff – Albany, NY
Father Daniel Degyansky – Manhattan, NY
Father John Klembara – Brecksville, OH
Father Joseph Martin – Wilkes-Barre, PA
Father James Parnell – New Haven, CT
Father Philip Reese, Miami, FL
Father Paul Suda – Pittsburgh, PA
Father George York, Pittsburgh, PA

Need for military chaplains

Recruitment of seminarians in the various branches of our US Armed Forces continues to be conducted. Also, discussion with the Holy Synod of Bishops reference the need for chaplains continues.

ENDORISING CONFERENCES

The Orthodox Church in America continues to be an active member and participant in the National Conference of Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) and the Endorser Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC).

The Orthodox Church in America is recognized by each of these organizations and the Military Chief of Chaplains and the VA National Chaplain Center as the endorser for OCA priests. To be considered for the military or veterans affairs medical center chaplaincy, a candidate must first have his Diocesan Bishop's Blessing, then an ecclesiastical endorsement from the Metropolitan, which is prepared by the Dean/Director of the OCA Chaplaincies as well as the candidate must meet the requirements of the United States Armed Forces or the Veterans Affairs Medical Center National Chaplain Office.

**Office of Orthodox Church in America Military and Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Chaplaincies Fall Report 2016**

Very Rev. Theodore Boback, Jr. –
Dean/Executive Director OCA Military and VA Chaplaincy
Very Reverend Joseph Gallick -
Assistant Dean/Deputy Director OCA Military and VA Chaplaincy

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, serves as Ecclesiastical Endorser for the US Military and Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplains; His Grace, Bishop Daniel serves as the Episcopal Liaison, His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon, serves as the liaison to the Assembly of Canonical Bishops

Vision

The Orthodox Military Chaplain is an Orthodox Priest in uniform serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplain serves in the Department of Veterans Affairs in a medical center. They are active members of the respective chaplaincy and share a common core of professional responsibilities for worship services, personal counseling, administrative duties, pastoral visitations, cultural activities, humanitarian projects, moral leadership, and appropriate collateral duty assignments.

They in addition to fulfilling the disciplines, dogmas, doctrines of faith and other canonical directives required of all Orthodox Priests, comply with the administrative requirements of their Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agency.

They exercise their priestly mission in three ways: to those of the Orthodox Faith, to those of other faiths, and to those who have no religious affiliation.

Mission

The mission of the OCA's military chaplain is the propagation of the Orthodox Faith; to serve, worship, and love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and to bring spiritual nourishment and enlightenment to thousands of Orthodox military personnel and their families serving their country throughout the world.

The mission of the Veterans Affairs (VA) Chaplains is to counsel and to bring spiritual nourishment through the Holy Sacraments to hundreds of Orthodox veterans in VA Medical Centers throughout the United States of America.

Operation

The Office of Military (VAMC) Chaplaincies currently operates directly under the supervision of the Metropolitan and forms a unique deanery of the Church. According to the Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America (Article XI section 4 a.) The Dean of

Orthodox Military and Veterans Administration Chaplains is appointed by and directly responsible to the Metropolitan.

The Executive Director and Dean of Chaplains is the chief administrator for the Metropolitan in all matters concerning the OCA chaplains in the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and the Veterans Administration. The Executive Director/Dean is the representative of the Metropolitan to the National Conference of Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) and the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC). The Assistant Executive Director works together with the Executive Director. The Executive Director/Dean and the Assistant Executive Director recruit and screen candidates for the chaplaincy, prepare ecclesiastical endorsement for the Metropolitan and maintain contact with all Orthodox chaplains and with the Executive Director of the Armed Services Chaplains Board, Military Chief of Chaplains and the VA National Staff Chaplain and chaplain staff. . They do this through telecommunications, email, correspondence, and by participating in various meetings and site visitations throughout the world. The Executive Director/Dean provides guidance to chaplains serving throughout the world on spiritual matters and ensures that Orthodox personnel, regardless of where they are stationed can freely exercise their religious beliefs. The Executive Director/Dean attends all conferences and executive board committee meetings of the NCMAF and ECVAC.

The Military chaplains from the Orthodox Church in America serve in the United States Armed Forces in the United States, Germany, Korea, Japan, and the Middle East. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplains serve within the United States at VA Hospitals.

Endorser's Conferences:

The annual National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces(NCMAF), the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC) and the Armed Forces Chaplains Board with the three branches Chief of Chaplains will be conducted 9 – 12 January 2017. Additionally, the OCA Office of Military and VA Chaplaincy is a member of the Commission on Ministry in Specialized Settings. Very Reverend Steven Voytovich, Director of the OCA Institutional Chaplaincy Department attends the COMISS meetings.

Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplains Conference – August 2016. The VAMC Conference was held 29 August through 1 September 2016 at Newport New, VA. The training sessions were with Chief and Lead Chaplains pf the VAMC and endorsers. **Fr Theodore Boback** attended and participated and **Fr Joseph Martin**, Chief of the VAMC Chaplain Office in Wilkes-Barre attended and participated. It was also the celebration of 70 years of VA Chaplaincy. The theme was Providing for the Spiritual Care Needs of Our Nation's Veterans and their families. The Sessions included: Leaders Developing Leaders; Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation; Free Exercise of religion in VA Facilities;

Suicide Awareness and Suicide Prevention; Managing Conflict; Electronic Workload Documentation; Rural Health and Community Clergy Training Program; Contemporary approaches to Education and Mental Health and Chaplaincy; Chaplaincy Research a resource to Enhance Practice; Chaplain Work in Outpatient clinics and CBOC's; Chaplain Lead PTSD and Moral Injury Groups; There were also breakout sessions to discuss Diversity in Ministry; Clinical Pastoral Education; The warrior to soul mate program; using general post funds to enhance veteran's spiritual and pastoral care as well as district chaplain meetings with the associate directors of the National Chaplain Center. Carolyn Clancy, M.D. the Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Organizational Excellence was the keynote speaker at the Awards Luncheon, which took place on Wednesday. A Memorial Service was conducted on Thursday Morning in remembrance of the deceased VA Chaplains from January 2011 through June 2016. Several pictures were taken during the conference and they will be submitted for an article.

Chaplain Candidate: I attend the Army Chaplain Officer Basic Chaplain Course at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in August. **Deacon Matthew Fuhrman**, who is a seminarian at Saint Tikhon Orthodox Theological Seminary and in the Army Chaplain Candidate Program, graduated from the course. His wife, Matushka Jessica was present at the ceremonies. Pictures were taken and they will be submitted with an article for the OCA website.

Chaplaincy Kits: The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America had a "Gifts of Love" Project for collecting monies for the buying of religious materials and articles to give to our chaplains for service members and veterans. The FOCA had also conducted such a project several years ago. The packets were put together as a service project by the summer campers at the FOCA Saint Vladimir Camp in Ohio this past summer and the kits will be distributed to the chaplains this fall.

Military Chaplains:

Orthodox Military Chaplains perform a full cycle of liturgical services including Vespers, Matins, Divine Liturgy, Feast Days, and services during Advent, Great Lent, the Dormition and Apostles Fasts, Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts and administering the Sacraments of the Church.

Our Orthodox Priests have been deployed in support of the Global War on Terror. Our priests provided worship Services during holy Week and Pascha in tandem with other Orthodox Chaplains from other branches of the services. Others have served with coalition forces for example from Estonia, Georgia, and Romania and others have mentored and have served with the first Orthodox Chaplain in the Canadian Forces since WWII. Others have advised on various issues and concerns such as those who served with the Coast Guard in Alaska where they advised on coastal Alaskan communities which are indigenously Orthodox.

Included among the continued Ministry Concern of our chaplain are:
Spiritual Renewal, Ministry of Present, Readiness, Interfaith and Ecumenical Ministries Programs, outreach programs, service on various boards such as family action; biomedical ethics, advisory councils.

Military and VA Chaplain Personnel Strength

Personnel Statistics have changed through the years and continues to change based on requirements of the United States Armed Forces and the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in fulfilling its missions.

Military Personnel Strength.

Active Duty

United States Air Force

Father Eugene Lahue, Chaplain, Major, USAF

Father Thaddeus Werner Chaplain Captain USAF Joint Base Lackland, San Antonio, TX

United States Army

Father. George Hill, Chaplain (MAJ), USA JAG School

Father Sean Levine, Chaplain (CPT), USA Fort Hood Texas (Family Life Training)

Father George Oanca, Chaplain (CPT), USA Fort Hood Texas

United States Navy

Father Stephen Duesenberry CDR CHC USN Camp Lejeune, NC

Reserve Component

United States Air Force

Father Oliver Herbel Chaplain, Captain, USAFR

United States Army

Father Peter Dubinin, Chaplain (LTC) USAR

Father Danut Palanceau Chaplain (CPT) USAR

Father James Parnell, Chaplain (CPT) USAR

Father James Sizemore Chaplain (MAJ) USAR

United State Navy

Father Herman Kincaid

Retired Military Chaplains

There are over 30 retired Orthodox Priests from the United States Armed Forces with over of them serving within the OCA in various ministries. There is one OCA retired VAMC Chaplain. The retired chaplains have a range of special skills and are an additional asset within our Orthodox Church. Please read the Continuing Education Report within the Strategic Plan as well as the paragraphs above for more information.

Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplains

Father Joseph Martin, VAMC, Wilkes-Barre, PA and Father Sergei C. Bouteneff VAMC Newington, CT serve as the Chief of Chaplain Service at their respective VAMC. Father Philip Reese serves as a full time position at the Miami VAMC recently. We are grateful for their continued ministry.

VA Chaplains might attend training that equips them to perform specific tasks and or to fill certain positions such as Post Traumatic Stress, palliative care, substance abuse; etc.

Nine OCA Priests serve our VAMCs

Father Sergei C. Bouteneff – Newington, CT
Father Igor Burdikoff – Albany, NY
Father Daniel Degyansky – Manhattan, NY
Father John Klembara – Brecksville, OH
Father Joseph Martin – Wilkes-Barre, PA
Father James Parnell – New Haven, CT
Father Philip Reese, Miami, FL
Father Paul Suda – Pittsburgh, PA
Father George York, Pittsburgh, PA

Need for military chaplains

Recruitment of seminarians in the various branches of our US Armed Forces continues to be conducted. Also, discussion with the Holy Synod of Bishops reference the need for chaplains continues.

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Fall 2016 Report

[Office of Institutional Chaplaincy]

1 OFFICE MANDATE

The Office of Institutional Chaplaincies supports the ministry of full and part-time hospital, hospice, long-term care, prison, fire, police chaplains, and those in other settings.

The Orthodox Church in America is a member of the Commission for Ministry in Specialized Settings (COMISS Network) and endorses chaplains to serve in specific institutional settings and toward certification with the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC), the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE), and the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP).

Archpriest Steven Voytovich serves as the Office's Director, supporting the formal endorsement process for institutional chaplains and facilitating dialogue among those ministering in a variety of institutional settings.

2. OFFICE MEMBERS & RESOURCE PEOPLE

Chair: V. Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich
Members: V. Rev. John Maxwell, Frs. John Brown, Paul Fetsko, Alexandre Ioukliaevskikh, Michael Medis, Timothy Hasencz, Christopher Stanton, Dn. David Neff, Sarah Byrne, Logan Johnson, Elaine Mayol, Anna Nikitina, Jessica D'Angio, Larisa Waya

Resource People: V. Rev. Theodore Boback
V. Rev. Sergei Bouteneff

Website: www.orthinc.org

3. BUDGET REVIEW

- 2016 Budget: \$6,000 stipend, \$1,350 expenses

4. HIGHLIGHTS AND PROJECTED FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Transitions: we ask for continued prayers for Fr. John Maxwell who continues to battle cancer. Fr. John Brown will be retiring from Federal Correctional Chaplaincy. At present he is the only Federal Corrections Chaplain in the OCA.
- Our Facebook page has been launched, is receiving a number of visitors, and is now included on the OCA's website front page. We are grateful for this visibility.
- So far the efforts to reach out to emergency response chaplains has not netted any responses. Will continue the outreach for yet a little while.
- Have met briefly with several of our chaplains while traveling for other purposes.
- A new credentialing body has been created, Spiritual Care Association (SCA) by The Healthcare Chaplaincy in New York. This body appears to be competing with current credentialing bodies with an eye toward further solidifying engagement in the medical treatment model.
- In representing the OCA at the recent Presbyterian General Assembly held in Portland OR (June) I was able to connect with chaplains among their number, and to share the work that has been done through this office.

Future Developments:

- We will continue to post opportunities for exchange on our www.orthinc.org website during the year.
- With the advent of now two jurisdictions having similar endorsement processes, we need to continue dialogue toward implementation of uniform approach to institutional chaplaincy endorsement.
- A Compassion-in-Action (CiA) implementation is currently underway, with one of our chaplains assisting in this regard.

- Support the Strategic Plan:
 - Our chaplains are assisting with clergy continuing education; seminarian training. Fr. Steven began a dialogue with Fr. Ian, now in charge of continuing education about the ongoing continuing education chaplains are already undertaking (at least 50 hours each year). We hope to come to some kind of understanding so that chaplains are not having to duplicate continuing education in chaplaincy and church settings.
 - Continue to represent our OCA in the greater pastoral care and counseling arena
- Hopefully opportunities will arise to continue the dialogue begun two years ago with our Orthodox Campus Fellowships (OCF) to support their chaplains. Met with youth in Dallas in January 2016.

5. COMMENTS

News updates continue to emerge regarding chaplaincy and the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops. I am very motivated for us (OCA) to be prepared for a real conversation with a real plan, that has been developed. With opportunity allowing, I would like to discuss this plan and any strategy that might be developed around it so that we are not ultimately closed out of active participation in this arena where we have been very active in the greater community.

Another brief comment is offered here for the next opportunity to meet with the Holy Synod. Department structures have included episcopal oversight that is both needful and important. As military and institutional chaplaincy “departments” have returned to “offices”, they have acquired additional episcopal oversight beyond the Metropolitan who continues as the most appropriate endorser for both groups. Though not a complaint, as Archbishop NIKON serves on the chaplaincy office committee of ACOB, it is unclear exactly what this dual episcopal oversight means, and how it should function. Military Chaplaincy has of course been assigned Bishop Daniel. Again, not as a complaint, he orchestrated our entrance into COMISS. It would be wonderful at some point to work toward greater clarity about the roles currently in play, and how we can best work together. A goal in the coming months would be for us to again gather military and institutional chaplaincy communities together as was done in 2006.

It remains meaningful for me to serve in the role of Office Director, and I look forward to supporting our growing number of chaplains serving in a variety of settings. As stated in my previous report regarding our endorsers meeting in January, it became clear to me that my role as seminary dean is not a deficit, but in fact a complementary skillset to my role as endorser. I share this as the clinical training community is taking a renewed look at seminary roles in formation of chaplains, and I am both able to contribute to and benefit from this conversation!

In closing, I ask for your prayers on behalf of the men and women serving as chaplains in our institutional settings, bearing witness to the light of Christ to many who are hungry, sick, incarcerated, and in danger.

Respectfully submitted,



The V. Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich, Director
Office of Institutional Chaplaincies



Pension Office
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pension@oca.org

September 20, 2016

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

On behalf of the OCA Pension Board, I take this opportunity to update you on the status of the Pension Plan as of June 30, 2016

The net time-weighted return for the year to date through June 30, 2016 was -3.47%, which was the result of continued volatility in the markets and the historic decision by British voters to exit the European Union. During the second quarter of 2016, global stocks and bonds generated modestly positive returns despite increased market turbulence, but the Brexit vote shocked global capital markets in June. The balanced global portfolio benchmark that we used for this same period was .96%. The 3 year net time-weighted annualized return was a positive 1.52% compared to the benchmark of 1.94% and the net time-weighted annualized return for the plan since the current strategy was employed on December 1, 2012, was a positive 2.44% compared to the benchmark of 2.06%. The ending market value of plan assets at June 30, 2016 was \$22,897,152.

During the July/August 2016 time frame, the markets have experienced less volatility and this has presented opportunities for investments to be added to the portfolio which will perform well over the long-term despite negative events such as the Brexit vote. The Milliman Risk Strategy put in place during the past two years has performed as expected, protecting the plan in periods of substantial downturn, but also creating a slight drag in returns when markets are performing positively or are particularly volatile.

With regard to participation in the Pension Plan, there are currently 333 active participating members (as of August 31, 2016) and 177 monthly benefits recipients.

The Pension Board was represented at St. Vladimir's (March) and St. Tikhon's (May) Seminaries by plan administrator, Maureen Ahearn. Maureen addressed the graduating classes, giving the details of the Pension Plan and answering the questions presented by the students. It is anticipated that these will be annual events.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priest Gleb McFatter, Chairman

**ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICAN PENSION PLAN
PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENTS – IN SERVICE DISTRIBUTIONS**

The Pension Board of the Orthodox Church in America Pension Plan (“Plan”) hereby recommends the adoption of the following amendments to the Plan, as restated effective January 1, 2016, for the reasons explained below:

1. Provide for deemed retirement for Members upon reaching age 75:

Current Plan Provision: A Member may not commence his/her retirement benefit until “Retirement.” Plan subsection 1.28 currently provides the following definition of “Retirement:” “The termination of employment of a Member on his Normal, Deferred or Disability Retirement Date.” The Board considered the fairness of the Plan as applied to Bishops who generally serve for life; the result is that a Bishop is unlikely to ever receive a benefit from the Plan. As circumstances were reviewed the Board recognized that the same concern also applies to other Clergy and lay members of the Plan.

Proposed Change: The Board recommends amending the Plan to provide that a Retirement also occurs when a Member reaches age 75. The Board has concluded that no Church interest appears to be advanced by requiring long-serving Members to end their service to the OCA in order to commence their retirement benefit. Age 75 has been selected as it appears to be the age at which most Members retire from full-time service.

Recognizing that a Member who continues Employment while receiving a benefit will accrue additional benefit service, the Plan will adjust such Member’s benefit annually.

The proposed change has a cost impact upon the Plan. To the extent that these Members forfeit benefits today and would begin to receive a benefit, there is an added cost. However, the benefit is being funded on the same basis as all other Member benefits. Moreover, even when pay status begins, contributions from both the Member and the Church will continue. An analysis of the cost impact has been prepared by the Plan’s actuary.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Plan Section 1.28 is restated as follows:

1.28 "Retirement" The termination of employment of a Member on his Normal, Deferred or Disability Retirement Date. A Member who has not earlier retired shall be treated as having terminated employment on the first day of the month coincident with or immediately following his seventy-fifth (75th) birthday for the purpose of enabling commencement of a benefit while otherwise remaining Employed (including remaining Employed and having Compensation for purposes of being obligated to contribute to the Plan with respect to such Employment). The Pension received by a Member shall not be

treated as Compensation for purposes of determining contributions due to the Plan or for determining benefit accruals.

Plan Section 5.5 is added as follows:

5.5 If a Participant first becomes eligible to receive additional benefits after attaining Normal Retirement Age, whether as a result of performing additional service or because of a benefit increase through the Plan, the actuarial increase applicable to those additional benefits will be calculated from the date the additional benefits would first have been paid rather than the date on which the Participant attained Normal Retirement Age.

2. Excuse Member Contributions for Members Who Are Eligible for Retirement and Have Reached Age 80

Current Plan Provision: Plan section 3.2 provides for Member Contributions based upon Compensation received without regard to the Member's age. The Board has concluded that for those continuing to work after reaching age seventy-five while receiving a pension benefit from the Plan that no additional Member contributions should be collected; Employer contributions should continue.

Proposed Change: The Board recommends amending the Plan to provide that no contributions are required of any Member who is Employed after reaching age 80 and is receiving a pension benefit from the Plan.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Plan Section 3.2(c) is added as follows:

3.2(c) A Member who is receiving a Pension benefit and continues as an Employee shall not be required to contribute to the Plan as of the first day of the month coincident with or following his reaching age 80. Nonetheless, the Employer Contribution shall continue with respect to any Compensation paid to such Member.

APPROVED: _____ Date: _____