



**Metropolitan Council Meeting**

**Fall 2013**

**Other Reports**



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council  
September 24 to February 26, 2013  
Other Reports**

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**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council  
September 23 to September 26, 2013**

**Metropolitan Council Agenda**

**Sunday, September 22**

***Arrival and Committees***

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
All Day	Transport	Airports	Chancery Staff

Meal are on own

*If any committees would like to meet this evening, they are free to schedule it themselves*

**Monday, September 23**

***Arrival and Retreat***

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
All Day	Transport	Airports	Chancery Staff
8:00 AM	Breakfast	ENI	ENI
9:00 AM	Transport to Our Lady of Kazan, Sea Cliff for Retreat		
9:30 AM	Retreat Session I	LoK	Fr Solak and Dr Rossi
Noon	Lunch	LoK	Chancery
1:00 PM	Retreat Session II	LoK	Fr Solak and Dr Rossi
5:00 PM	Dinner	LoK	Chancery
7:00 PM	Transport back to ENI		

*Any needed committee meetings can be scheduled for this evening*

**Tuesday, September 24**

***Metropolitan Council***

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
8:00 AM	Breakfast	ENI	ENI
9:00 AM	Metropolitan Council		

	A.	Agenda: Introduction	Fr. John Jillions
	B.	Roll Call/Approval of Minutes	Fr. Eric G. Tosi
	C.	Welcome	Metropolitan Tikhon
	E.	Metropolitan's Report	Metropolitan Tikhon
Noon	Lunch	East Norwich Inn	Chancery Staff
1:00 PM	F.	Chancellor's Report - ORSMA/SMPAC	Fr. John Jillions Cindy Davis
	G.	Secretary's Report - Communication Issues - Archives Issues - Insurance Issues	Fr Eric G. Tosi
	H.	Department Report Evangelization CSHA	Fr. John Parker Donna Karabin
	I.	Work Group on Reorganization	Work Group
6:00 PM		Vespers for St. Sergius of Radonezh	Metropolitan Tikhon
7:00 PM		Dinner and Reception Chancery	Chancery Staff

**Wednesday, September 25**  
***Metropolitan Council***

7:00 AM		Divine Liturgy for St Sergius	Metropolitan Tikhon
9:30 AM		Breakfast Chancery	Chancery Staff
10:30 AM		Metropolitan Council East Norwich Inn	
	J.	Report of the Strategic Plan Committee	Fr. John Vitko
	K.	Report of the Legal Committee - Report by General Counsel	Judge Lanier Thaddeus Wojcik
	L.	Metropolitan Council Committees	
	1.	Report of Charity Committee	PDN Michael Myers
	2.	Report of Crisis Management Team	Fr. Eric G. Tosi

	3.	Report of Ethics Committee		Dr. Paul Meyendorff
	4.	Report of Human Resources		Fr. David Garretson
	5.	Report of Internal Governance		Fr. Chad Hatfield
1:00 PM	Lunch	East Norwich Inn		Chancery Staff
2:00 PM	Metropolitan Council	East Norwich Inn		
	M.	Treasurer's Report -External and Internal Auditor Reports		Melanie Ringa
	N.	Report of Financial Development Committee		David Yeosock
	O.	2014 Budget Presentation		Fr. Gleb McFatter
4:00 PM	Committee Meetings	East Norwich		
	Lesser Synod	Chancery		
6:00 PM	Dinner	East Norwich		Chancery Staff

**Thursday, September 26  
Metropolitan Council**

8:00 AM	Breakfast	East Norwich Inn		Hotel
9:00 AM	Metropolitan Council	East Norwich Inn		
	P.	Pension Board Report		Fr. Gleb McFatter
	Q.	18th AAC Presentation - Date and Place - Theme and Expectations - Preconciliar Commission		Fr. Eric G. Tosi
	R.	Other Business/Committee Meeting Issues		
	S.	Next Meeting and Date		
Noon	Lunch	East Norwich Inn		Chancery Staff
1:00 PM	Projected End of Metropolitan Council Meeting and Departures			

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

**Address of Our Lady of Kazan Church: Willow Shore Ave, Sea Cliff, NY 11579**



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

**Tuesday, February 26 – Thursday, February 28, 2013  
East Norwich Inn, East Norwich, NY**

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

**PARTICIPANTS**

**LESSER SYNOD**

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon  
His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel  
His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon

His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin  
His Grace, Bishop Michael

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

**Church Officers**

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

Archpriest Eric Tosi, *Secretary*

**Members elected by the All-American Council**

Archpriest David Garretson  
*(Wednesday afternoon & Thursday)*  
Archpriest Chad Hatfield

Dr. Paul Meyendorff  
Maureen Jury

**Diocesan Representatives**

**Diocese of Alaska**

Archpriest John Dunlop

Jeremy Pletnikoff

**Albanian Archdiocese**

Archpriest Joseph Gallick

**Bulgarian Diocese**

Hieromonk Stephen (Scott)

Protodeacon Michael Myers  
*(Wednesday & Thursday)*

**Archdiocese of Canada**

*Vacant*

Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko

**Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania**

Priest James Weremedic

David Yeosock

**Diocese of the Midwest**

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta

**Diocese of New England**

Priest Robert Dick

David Zavednak

**Diocese of New York New Jersey**

Archpriest John Shimchick

Janet Van Duyn

**Diocese of the South**

Priest Gleb McFatter

Judge E.R. Lanier

**Diocese of Washington**

Priest John Vitko

Elizabeth Mikhalevsky

**Diocese of the West**

Archpriest David Lowell

Deacon Antony Dyl

**Diocese of Western Pennsylvania**

Archpriest William Evansky

Dr. John Schultz

**Absent**

William Peters (*Albanian Archdiocese*)

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

**Guests** (*for all sessions unless otherwise indicated*)

Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky (*Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations – Tuesday morning, Wednesday afternoon and Thursday*)

Archpriest Ian Pac-Urar (*Director, Department of Continuing Education – Thursday*)

Andrew Boyd (*Chairperson, Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry – Tuesday afternoon*)

Cindy Davis (*Coordinator for the Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations – Tuesday morning*)

Alexis Liberovsky (*recording secretary*)

Gregory J. Nescott (*consultant to Legal Committee*)

Thaddeus Wojcik, Esq. (*OCA General Counsel – all sessions except Tuesday morning*)

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013**

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon celebrated a prayer service at 9:00 AM to open the meeting at the East Norwich Inn.

**A. Agenda: Introduction**

His Beatitude called the meeting to order and welcomed all participants. Fr. John Jillions delivered introductory remarks stressing the new beginning in the life of our Church since the election of Metropolitan Tikhon.

Fr. Eric Tosi presented a change to the agenda, adding a report today on External Affairs by Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky.

**A.1. MOTION GALLICK/VITKO – To accept the addition of the External Affairs report into the agenda for this meeting. CARRIED.**

Fr. Tosi further noted that the reports of the Department of Continuing Education by Fr. Ian Pac-Urar and the Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry by Andrew Boyd were added into the latest distributed draft of the agenda for this meeting.

**A.2. MOTION MIKHALEVSKY/LANIER – To approve the agenda for this meeting as amended. CARRIED.**

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

Fr. Tosi asked for approval for the OCA Archivist, Alexis Liberovsky, to serve as recording secretary for this meeting. There being no objections, Alexis Liberovsky was approved as recording secretary.

Fr. Tosi then conducted the roll call and introduced guests present for this meeting (see participants list). He asked for prayers for Sam D’Fantis who is absent from this meeting due to his recent serious surgery. He then introduced a proposal that Gregory Nescott be appointed as legal consultant to the Metropolitan Council with the right to be in attendance at its meetings.

**B.1. MOTION KUCHTA/MCFATTER – To appoint Gregory Nescott as consultant to the Legal Committee of the Metropolitan Council with the right to attend its meetings. CARRIED.**

Fr. Tosi presented the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Metropolitan Council on September 25-27, 2012 for approval.

**B.2. MOTION GALLICK/LOWELL - To amend the second sentence under item L.1. on page 9 of the minutes of September 25-27, 2012 as follows: “He perceived a crisis regarding crisis management...” CARRIED.**

**B.3. MOTION DICK/ZAVEDNAK – To accept the minutes of September 25-27, 2012 as amended. CARRIED with one abstention (Mikhalevsky – as she was not yet an MC member during that meeting).**

Fr. Tosi asked members of the Council to introduce themselves to the gathering.

**C. Welcome**

Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Frs. David Lowell and Chad Hatfield to lead a discussion towards the more efficient conduct of Metropolitan Council meetings.

**D. Introduction on Meeting Format**

Frs. Lowell and Hatfield introduced discussions conducted within the Council Development Committee and Internal Governance Committee suggesting that the bulk of Metropolitan Council’s work should be done in committees, which would then bring proposals to Metropolitan Council meetings for action. This would facilitate a more efficient structuring of time and resources and would facilitate the Council’s focus



not only on due diligence but also the Church's mission and evangelism. It was also suggested that more interaction should be accomplished through conference calls and that the Council should have more interface with OCA departments. In order to initiate the Council's work in this new format, a time slot for committee meetings has been incorporated into the agenda for this meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

**E. Metropolitan's Report (attached)**

Metropolitan Tikhon delivered his attached report regarding all aspects of his ministry since his election at the 17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council in November 2012. He also provided an update on ongoing discussions with Metropolitan Jonah towards a final resolution of his status and future ministry within the OCA. Specifics of the financial settlement package for Metropolitan Jonah will be presented to the Council for approval later during this meeting. Extensive discussion concerning Metropolitan Jonah's situation and other matters took place. The hierarchs stressed the Holy Synod's pastoral concern for Metropolitan Jonah. In response to questions, the chancellor and hierarchs provided explanation on the development of policies on the transfer of unordained monastics as well as the vetting, nomination and election of episcopal candidates. It was announced that Hieromonk David (Mahaffey) would begin serving as administrator of the Diocese of Alaska on March 1 for at least a year before his possible election by the Holy Synod as diocesan hierarch.

Following a short recess at 10:50 AM, the session resumed at 11:07 AM.

**F. Chancellor's Report (attached)**

Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor, highlighted his attached written report. He stressed the positive atmosphere at the chancery with the presence of Metropolitan Tikhon since his election. He introduced Cindy Davis, newly hired Coordinator for the Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations (ORSMA). He noted that, in addition to coordinating the handling of ongoing cases, a major part of her work would be prevention of sexual misconduct. He additionally summarized other areas of his work as presented in his report. In discussion of the report, it was noted that confusion still exists concerning the roles of ORSMA, SMPAC, Legal Committee, General Counsel and Crisis Management Team in matters of sexual misconduct and hope was expressed that the new ORSMA coordinator would try to clarify this. In discussion of financial development, it was suggested that the acronym FOS no longer be used as an acronym if the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards is revived.

**O. Other Business**

**O.1. External Affairs Report**

Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, delivered an oral report. He noted that the Church's external relations are within the purview of the Metropolitan and are conducted with no paid staff and Bishop Alexander serves as Episcopal moderator. He particularly highlighted the enthronement of Metropolitan Tikhon, which he characterized as a quietly joyful and dignified event. He also reported on OCA participation in the events of the annual March for Life and the enthronement of Metropolitan Antony of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA. He additionally noted participation of an OCA delegation in the enthronement of Patriarch John X of Antioch and the precarious situation of the Church in that region. He reported on recent productive meetings with Archbishop Justinian and Metropolitan Hilarion of ROCOR. It was requested that Fr. Leonid present written reports in the future. The need to train people for future work in the Church's external affairs was suggested in discussion. The hierarchs enthusiastically expressed their profound gratitude to Fr. Leonid for his continuing work.

Following a recess for lunch at 12:15 PM, the afternoon session was called to order at 1:07 PM

**G. Secretary's report (attached)**

Archpriest Eric Tosi, OCA Secretary, highlighted his attached written report. He stressed the importance of the Metropolitan Council's committees and encouraged members to join committees. He reminded the members to sign and submit their Best Practices forms. Among the various issues in his report, he noted the need for a new building for the OCA Archives. Previous studies have researched and discounted the relocation of the OCA Archives to one of the seminaries and other venues. Lisa Mikhalevsky suggested that a committee of experts be appointed to study this including a member of the Metropolitan Council as liaison and Eleana Silk, who has worked on this in the past. Fr. Hatfield suggested that Matthew Garklavs, assistant librarian at St. Vladimir's Seminary, who is a trained archivist, as a more appropriate member for this committee.

**G.1. MOTION MIKHALEVSKY/GALLICK - To establish a committee to study the housing needs of the OCA Archives and develop solutions, and to appoint a liaison from the Metropolitan Council for this committee. CARRIED.**

Lisa Mikhalevsky was asked to be the MC liaison for this committee. Fr. Eric then noted work in communications and called attention to the attached written report on website work by Ryan Platte, Technical Manager. Fr. Eric noted that a contract for the erection of a cell phone tower on the chancery property is nearing completion. He responded to several questions from the Council.

**O. Other Business**

**O.2. Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry (attached)**

Andrew Boyd, Chairperson of the Department, highlighted the attached report. He also reported on more recent developments including OCA involvement in the revitalization of SYNDESMOS, the world fellowship of Orthodox youth, the inauguration of a video blog project and the planning of a youth pilgrimage to Alaska to be led by Metropolitan Tikhon. He also requested the Metropolitan Council's guidance regarding the feasibility of extensive youth activities at the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council. The Holy Synod has mandated this but funding will need to be appropriated. He additionally requested feedback on the Peter the Aleut Grant Program, funded by a bequest. He then outlined youth protection initiatives undertaken by the OCA in cooperation with other jurisdictions, through background checks for youth workers and other measures. The Council encouraged the development of camp protection guidelines and thanked Mr. Boyd for his report.

**H. Treasurer's Report (attached)**

Melanie Ringa highlighted the attached Treasurer's report with a PowerPoint presentation and additional comments. She particularly noted that at its meeting yesterday the Finance Committee discussed use of endowments and suggests that planting grants be funded from the Mission and Evangelism endowment.

**H.1. MOTION VAN DUYN/JURY – To receive the financial report and results for 2012, pending audit, as presented. CARRIED.**

A financial package being offered to Metropolitan Jonah was presented and extensively discussed. It was suggested that eventually revenue from the cell tower could fund this package.

**H.2. MOTION LANIER/DICK - To move into executive session. CARRIED.**

Details concerning the package offered to Metropolitan Jonah were discussed in executive session

**H.3. MOTION LANIER/GALLICK – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.**

**H.4. MOTION LANIER/MCFATTER – To approve a financial package for Metropolitan Jonah, including \$1000 per month until age 65, full medical coverage for three years, assumption by the OCA of amounts owed by Metropolitan Jonah to the Diocese of the South, and moving expenses not to exceed \$25,000. To recommend that the Holy Synod consider the impact on this package should Metropolitan Jonah leave the OCA and that general release and non-disparagement clauses be included in the agreement. CARRIED with 6 opposed (Tosi, Shimchick, Jury, Mikhalevsky, Ringa, Van Duyn).**

Following a short recess at 3:09 PM, the session resumed at 3:26 PM.

**H.5. MOTION RINGA/WEREMEDIC – To approve changes in the 2013 budget including \$38,000 in expenses for the Metropolitan’s enthronement, a decrease of \$108,000 in assessment revenue, the transfer of 2013 planting grant disbursements from operating expenses to endowments, and disbursement of \$10,000 in salary for Metropolitan Jonah for January and February. CARRIED.**

Melanie Ringa presented the attached Internal Auditors’ report. Discussion took place.

**H.6. MOTION HATFIELD/GALLICK – To accept the Internal Auditors’ report for the period of July 2011 to June 2012. CARRIED.**

**J. Financial Development (attached)**

David Yeosock, Chairman of the Financial Development Committee, highlighted its attached report. He noted the committee’s participation in preparing the Evangelization appeal and the solicitation of funds for people from remote dioceses to attend the All-American Council. He stated that the committee strongly suggests the reinvigoration of the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards. He stressed the need for financial stewardship commitment among Council members. Fr. Lowell noted that fundraising is about relationships and that we need to get our story out in order to raise funds for various needs. In further discussion, the need for financial commitment from Council members was reiterated. Pledge forms were distributed. It was stated that appeals could be created through modern technology, without employing paid personnel as in the past. Archbishop Nathaniel suggested that a new name be given to the stewardship organization and that its fundraising focus on a specific need. Discussion ensued. Bishop Michael said that stewardship requires education and example and that new directions in fundraising are needed. He presented a check to Metropolitan Tikhon as a stewardship contribution. The committee will discuss a new name at its meeting on Wednesday. Metropolitan Tikhon stressed the spiritual dimensions of stewardship.

The session adjourned with prayer at 4:12 PM and was followed by the celebration of Great Vespers at Saint Sergius Chapel for the feast of Saint Raphael, Bishop of Brooklyn.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2013**

Following the celebration of a Divine Liturgy at Saint Sergius Chapel at 8:00 AM, the meeting was opened with prayer led by Metropolitan Tikhon at the East Norwich Inn at 10:40 AM. He announced that

Fr. John Shimchick is the new chairperson of the Reorganization Work Group, which will present a short report after the Legal Committee's report and that the report from General Counsel would be presented at a later session.

**K. Legal matters (attached)**

Judge E.R. Lanier, Chairman of the Legal Committee, presented its attached report and noted that this is the first time that the committee's report is available for distribution.

**K.1. MOTION MIKHALEVSKY/MYERS – To move into executive session. CARRIED.**

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

**K.2. MOTION GALLICK/JURY – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.**

Judge Lanier announced that the committee would be recommending to the Holy Synod possible appointees to an ad-hoc working group to update the text of the OCA Statute to conform to all of its adopted amendments.

**I. Reorganization Work Group (attached)**

Fr. John Shimchick distributed and presented the attached report drafted during a meeting the previous evening reviewing the circumstances of the establishment of the work group and outlining its proposed tasks to study the work of the Church, in part through surveys, and to present recommendations on what can be accomplished more productively at the central or local levels. The work group projects to complete its final report by June.

**L. Metropolitan Council Committees**

**L.1. Charity (attached)**

Protodeacon Michael Myers presented the attached report of the Charity Committee.

**L.2. Council Development (attached)**

Fr. David Lowell presented the attached report of the Council Development Committee. He stressed the importance of robust committees in the Council. He reminded everyone to read the Council Handbook, available online, which the Council Development Committee is tasked to update. He announced a retreat for the Council this fall. He suggested that biographies of Council members be posted online. It was suggested that photos of each member be posted also.

**L.3. Ethics**

Dr. Paul Meyendorff mentioned the need to restaff the Committee. He reported that the Committee has received no complaints.

**G. Secretary's Report (continued)**

Noting that by Statute the Metropolitan Council is responsible for implementation of resolutions passed at All-American Councils, Fr. Tosi provided an update on each of the eight resolutions adopted at the 16<sup>th</sup> All-American Council. Regarding the resolution on deaf outreach, Resource Handbook articles have

been published on this issue. This resolution is assigned to the Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid. The resolution on African American outreach has been delegated to the Department of Evangelization. Fr. Jillions suggested that the OCA should commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day by closing the chancery for this holiday. The Statute amendment on membership has been incorporated into the published text of the Statute and no further action is required. The Statute change regarding Metropolitan Council membership is being further studied by the Legal Committee as has already been reported. The resolutions concerning monasticism and the sanctity of marriage are within the purview of the Holy Synod. Discussion of the resolution concerning seminary support took place. Representatives of the seminaries spoke concerning implementation, which is taking place and possible further efforts. It was suggested that the three seminaries issue a joint appeal letter. A wide-ranging discussion concerning further implementation of this resolution took place.

## **L. Metropolitan Council Committees (continued)**

### **L.5. Internal Governance (attached)**

Fr. Hatfield presented the committee's attached report. He noted the antagonistic character of the committee when established. He suggested that due to its changing role, this Committee might perhaps be merged with the Council Development Committee, which will be discussed when the two committees meet following the afternoon session.

Metropolitan Tikhon led an open discussion on the work of the Metropolitan Council and the format of its meetings.

Following a recess for lunch at 12:43 PM, the afternoon session was called to order at 1:49 PM

### **L.4. Human Resources**

Fr. David Garretson presented an oral report, stating that the Committee monitored the procedures implemented in the hiring of the ORSMA coordinator that did in fact conform to established practice. He also stated the Committee was involved in discussions with Metropolitan Jonah concerning his financial package, which has already been approved at this meeting.

### **L.6. Postconciliar (attached)**

Fr. John Vitko highlighted his attached report with a PowerPoint presentation. He noted that implementation of various aspects of the Strategic Plan is particularly appropriate at the deanery level. He requested continued support for the Plan's implementation particularly from diocesan bishops in urging the involvement of their dioceses in the various programs being implemented. Council members shared experiences of various implementation programs. In discussion, it was noted that the Holy Synod has mandated continuing education. The proposed survey to be conducted by Alexei Krindatch was discussed. A decision to provide funding for this survey was deferred pending further study.

## **N. Preliminary Report for the 18th All-American Council (attached)**

Fr. Tosi highlighted the attached report. He asked for the Metropolitan Council's input on the five questions at the end of the report. He presented a recommendation concerning initial appointees to the Preconciliar Commission including the officers, Fr. Myron Manzuk, Peter Ilchuk and Lisa Mikhalevsky.

**N.1. MOTION HATFIELD/VITKO – To approve the recommendation concerning Preconciliar Committee membership as presented and to submit these names for appointment to the Holy Synod. CARRIED.**

The issue of convening the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council in 2014 or postponing it to 2015 was extensively discussed. Fr. Tosi noted that initial planning for a projected Council in 2014 was interrupted by the sudden preparations for the extraordinary 17<sup>th</sup> All-American Council, which took place in November 2012.

**N.2. MOTION GARRETSON/YEOSOCK - To approve moving the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council to 2015 and to submit this recommendation for final decision to the Holy Synod. CARRIED with 5 opposed (Hatfield, Jillions, Jury, Meyendorff, Pletnikoff).**

Fr. Tosi reported that Baltimore, Detroit and Denver are the top locations being considered for the Council. Further extensive discussion concerning the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council took place. It was suggested that the structure of the All-American Council agenda be reformulated to facilitate better time management.

Melanie Ringa announced that, in response to the distributed pledge forms, stewardship pledges from Metropolitan Council members currently stand at \$8,800.

The session adjourned with prayer at 3:30 PM and was followed by committee meetings.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013**

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

**M. Pension Board Report**

Fr. Gleb McFatter, member of the OCA Pension Board, delivered a brief oral report. He particularly noted the financial stability of the Pension Plan and its current excellent investment return of 9.9%.

**O. Other Business**

**O.1. Department of Continuing Education (attached)**

Fr. Ian Pac-Urar highlighted his attached proposal and report with a PowerPoint presentation. He outlined the results of a recent needs assessment survey (also attached) which were then discussed by the meeting. Fr. Ian thanked the hierarchs for their support of the continuing education programs.

**L. Metropolitan Council Committees (continued)**

**L.5. Internal Governance (attached)**

Frs. Hatfield and Lowell presented the outcome of the joint meeting of the Council Development and Internal Governance Committees conducted the previous day and submitted the following resultant motion for consideration.

**L.5.A. MOTION LOWELL/HATFIELD – That the duties of both the Council Development and Internal Governance Committees shall be combined into one committee to be known as the Internal Governance Committee; the Council**

**Members Handbook shall be updated by the Internal Governance Committee to reflect this change. CARRIED.**

**J. Financial Development**

Janet Van Duyn reported that, per discussion at the committee's meeting the previous day, a suggested name for the OCA stewardship organization is St. Innocent Stewards. She provided an update on pledges from Council members, which are now at \$18,550. Further discussion took place concerning an appropriate name for the stewardship organization and several were proposed. A straw poll was conducted on whether the previous name – Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards – should be retained. The results of this poll were inconclusive.

Following a short recess at 10:20 AM, the session resumed at 10:44 AM.

**K. Legal Matters (continued)**

Thaddeus Wojcik delivered an oral report on his tasks as OCA General Counsel including the areas of sexual misconduct, governance, contracts, litigation/disputes, continuing fiduciary education and others. Extensive discussion of various aspects of the report and other legal issues took place.

Mr. Wojcik and Melanie Ringa provided further information on a stipulation of tax payments pertaining to the Wiegel bequest and answered questions.

**K.3. MOTION KUCHTA/MCFATTER – To approve payment out of the OCA's portion of the Wiegel estate of all taxes required under Pennsylvania law for all other beneficiaries under the estate. CARRIED.**

**P. Adjournment**

In concluding remarks, Metropolitan Tikhon expressed his personal thanks to everyone for their prayers and support for his primatial ministry and for their work in church administration. He noted that after years of struggle we are now moving into a period where administration and finances can be put into its true context, which is the Gospel and move forward in a way that is Christ-centered because the world requires this of us. Accountability, trust and best practices are all rooted in the Gospel and we must strive to uphold these principles. He expressed his profound satisfaction with the conduct of this meeting and the reasonable and sober approaches to all issues. He quoted St. Paul: *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers”* (Eph.4:29) and said that all of our work should be used for unity and not division. He expressed hope for greater unity throughout the Church, which we should strive to share with the world, so that we could be an image of Christ, His mercy, His love and His Grace. May He strengthen us.

**P.1. MOTION LANIER/GARRETSON – To adjourn the meeting. CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 11:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,  
Recording Secretary

# **Report for the 18th All-American Council**

## **Archpriest Eric G. Tosi**

### **1. Introduction**

The Holy Synod decided at the Spring 2013 meeting to delay the 18th All American Council until July, 2015 due the need for an extraordinary Council in November 2012 to elect a new Metropolitan. They have this authority in Article III, Section 3 (Periodicity). This allowed for more time to settle and the planning to be much more complete. It is recognized that an All-American Council represents a major expense for parishes and should be should be planned and operated wisely.

Recommendations for a pre-planning committee as well certain proposals of focus and operations were accepted by the Metropolitan Council at their Spring 2013 meeting and confirmed by the Holy Synod. A pre-planning committee consisting of Fr. Eric G. Tosi, Fr. Myron Manzuk, Peter Ilchuk and Lisa Mikhailevsky was established. They have met by phone and members have made some limited trips.

### **2. Preplanning Assumptions**

The Holy Synod has confirmed these preplanning assumptions that were put forth at the last Metropolitan Council meeting. These assumptions are:

A. The Council should be held in the Summer so that there could be more family participation. This is important as part of the negotiations with the potential Council sites. Certain location's costs go up in the summer (i.e. popular vacation destinations) while some go down (i.e. areas where the summer heat is very high).

B. That there should be a "youth" component to the Council. We have had this in the past (most notably at the 14th All-American Council in Toronto). The Youth Department of the OCA has begun plans on how this would be integrated into the next AAC.

C. There were a number of locations that we were exploring prior to the 17th AAC. We once again contracted with Conference Direct to begin the process. There was a widespread RFP that went to first and second tier cities throughout North America. This came back with various bids. This was then revised to the second round of bids that included: Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Detroit, Denver, and Phoenix. A more detailed RFP including an examination into local support and requirements was sent out and two cities came back with acceptable bids: Atlanta and Baltimore. Peter Ilchuk and myself visited Atlanta and Baltimore for final determination on recommendations.



E. At the Annual FOCA convention this year in Cleveland, FOCA reconfirmed their desire to hold their annual convention in conjunction with the AAC. This increases attendance to their own event as well as to the AAC. It also gives FOCA greater exposure and we can draw upon their resources. It also adds to the youth component with their own youth events.

### **3. Decision Points**

A. The first major decision point is the date of the 18th All American Council. Not all of the dates requested are available at all of the hotels (one in Atlanta and two in Baltimore). However based on calendars, fasts, feasts, etc. It is recommended that the 18th AAC be held on from July 18 to July 25, 2015. This would include the FOCA convention which would be held from July 18 to July 20 (a small overlap) and a loading date of Saturday, July 18, 2015.

B. The next major decision is on the location. Involved in this recommendation are many options including local, support, hotel facilities, concessions and price, as well as transportation costs for both delegates and equipment. A major consideration (and consistently articulated to the bidding hotels) was the bottom line. In other words, what was the cost going to be for a parish to send delegates to the AAC. This includes the costs of hotel room, the range of food options in the immediate area, costs of transport to the location, and any possible extra expenses. This also includes a range of family friendly options for the youth component.

After consideration and consultation, it is recommended that Atlanta be chosen as the site of the 18th All American Council. These are the reasons:

i. The hotel costs for Baltimore is very high. They are unwilling, even after major negotiations and concessions, to come down in room price below \$150 a night. It is considered the peak season in Baltimore and so there is not a willingness to accommodate us. One hotel was very unwilling to negotiate dates.

However, Atlanta is definitely willing to accommodate us both in prices and concessions. It is off season for Atlanta (it is hot then) but there are many places connected to the hotel and downtown through walkways. We expect after final negotiations to bring the room price down to at least equal to Seattle if not lower. Food and beverage costs are significantly lower.

ii. Hotel space works better in Atlanta. There are more rooms for our use, the hotel layout is better (concentrated on four floors) and easy access to different dining options. The Baltimore options are good and not undoable but Atlanta is laid out better for our needs. In all three cases, the plenary session/banquet room is smaller than Seattle but not prohibitive.

iii. The transportation costs is low for Atlanta. While some people could drive to Baltimore, the parking costs are high and non-negotiable as the lots are owned by the city. There are a number of airport options for Baltimore which still requires transportation to the hotel at the Inner Harbor. Atlanta is a major hub and there are many cheap flights to one of the country's largest airport. The hotel is a 15 minute drive from the airport or a 15 minute train ride to a building adjacent to the hotel. While Baltimore is an easier drive for equipment to be delivered, it does not preclude Atlanta.

iv. Local support will be trickier in Atlanta as there are not a large number of parishes in the immediate area. Baltimore could have draw on a larger area though it is a small diocese. Atlanta would need to draw on other assets of the Diocese of the South and extend to other states, but it seems to be a workable solution.

v. There are positive youth components in both cities. Baltimore has the Inner Harbor, the National Aquarium, access to Washington DC and Six Flags America, Atlanta does have notable attractions including the Atlanta Aquarium (largest in the world), Stone Mountain, Six Flags Atlanta, the Martin Luther King Jr Center, the CNN tour, etc. So there are plenty of activities for the youth and family in both places.

vi. While the Baltimore parish is in FOCA and can be a valuable asset, FOCA will have the opportunity to present their work to the Church at large and in a region that may not be familiar with it.

C. There will be the need to appoint a Preconciliar Commission. The preplanning committee will now morph into the Preconciliar Committee. The PCC requires an Episcopal chair and it is recommended to nominate His Grace Bishop Mark to this position. Fr. John Jillions and Melanie Ringa as officers of the Church be appointed. Fr Eric will be the Chair of the PCC as per his job description and will be assisted by Fr. Myron as Council Manager and Peter Ilchuk as Logistics Manager. Lisa Mikhailevsky should continue as the Metropolitan Council representative. It is recommended that Becky Tesar as FOCA president be appointed, that the local clergy chair (to be determined) be appointed. Finally, a representative from the Youth Department (perhaps Andrew Boyd) be appointed in order to ensure proper integration of the youth component. This will bring the PCC to ten people which is the normal and functional size. The final appointments are then recommended to the Holy Synod for approval. For more information on the duties and responsibilities of the PCC, refer to Article III, Section 5 of the Statue.

D. There will need to be named a local Clergy and Lay Chairperson. These names are usually drawn upon recommendation of the bishop whose diocese the

AAC is in and drawn from among the local clergy and lay people in proximity of the city. These, in turn, assist in forming the local committees which deal with issues ranging from liturgics to banquet and more. There are normally eight committee all chaired and staffed by local people. Because of the smaller parishes in the region, it is recommended that the PCC work with the Diocese to form these local committees and to chair them based on the recommendations of the diocese. These can be formed in the coming months.

E. The next decision is on the goals for this AAC. Certainly the two major goals are Statute revision and finances of the Church. The need for Statute revision is a long expressed need and was part of the goals of the recent Strategic Plan. There has been much discussion within the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council on certain areas of weakness or need to revision due to the current circumstances of the Church. It is not the intention to destroy the essences of the OCA or the 1918 Council. As such, the Holy Synod will be recreating the Statutes Commission under the chairmanship of Archbishop Nathaniel with a very particular mandate on revisions. Their work will begin soon and will need all the remaining time to be ready with recommendations prior to the AAC.

The Statute revision has immediate effect on the financing of the Church. The current Statute assumes a per person assessment. This will need to be change if new or alternative financing is to be adopted by the Church. Thus there will need to be established a committee to specifically make recommendation on financing for adoption at the next AAC. It is within the purview of the Metropolitan Council to do so in conjunction with such established committees as the Financial Development, Finance and Investment Committees and the Officers of the Church. This, in turn, would need to be put before the Metropolitan Council and Holy Synod for approval. Thus, a plan of action on financing will need to be enacted.

The Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council will also need to consider any other elements that would desire to be integrated into the AAC.

F. In addition, do we want to organize the AAC in a different manner? Currently the AAC operates like a big parish council meeting. We try to fit in many reports and presentations, only to run out of time on the last day. What should we focus on? In the past it was critical for the reports of the Officers be forefront to ensure the Church understood there is proper oversight and that the Church is operating in a correct and ethical manner. We also wanted to ensure that the body of the Council had an opportunity to speak and ask questions of concerns and that there was a level of transparency. This took a considerable amount of time and often led to a monopoly of the time by a few individuals.

There does seem some who believe that the purpose of the AAC is to discuss major moral and ethical issues and issue statements. This, of course, would take a considerable amount of time and debate. If this is the direction then perhaps many

of these issues could be formed into committees which debated prior to the Council and simply bring up recommendations for votes by the AAC. But we must ensure that these issues are within the competence of the AAC.

There are others who believe that the AAC should be primarily social. This presents a whole other way of planning the sessions that would allow for more interaction and less plenary sessions.

What is clear is that whatever the direction, the agenda must reflect the goals of the AAC. There is a considerable cost and time involved and there must be something accomplished that allow people to bring back their parishes to report and know that they have moved the Church forward. There must be a balance of what the Council needs to do and what it would like to do. That is the guidance the PCC needs.

G. The assessment level will need to be established for this AAC. This will be based on a preliminary budget and collected in 2014. It is the initial recommendation that the assessment for the 18th AAC be the same as the 16th AAC in Seattle of \$11 per registered member as a starting point. However a preliminary budget will need to be established before this recommendation can be submitted for approval. This rate worked well for the 16th AAC and money was returned to the diocese. Other rates and fees can be established by the PCC.

#### **4. Conclusion and Action Items**

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

- A. The 18th AAC will be held on July 18 to 25, 2015 at the Hilton Atlanta.
- B. The Preconciliar Committee be formed as recommended with certain names to be named when determined.
- C. Authority is given to discuss with and formulate local chairs and committees as determined by the PCC.
- D. A preliminary budget be established based on the rate of \$11 per person with other fees to be set as recommended. This will be approved at a later meeting.
- E. Are the preliminary goals of the Statute and finance revision acceptable and what other goals and conditions are to be established at this time?
- F. All other operational matters are the purview of the PCC subject to approval by the Metropolitan Council and Holy Synod.

## Does the OCA Still Have a Vision?

Following the Russian Revolution, the old Russian mission to America found itself in a precarious situation. Funds and support from Russia were cut off, and the Metropolia, as it came to be called, found itself isolated not only from the Russian Church, which broke all relations, but also from the other Orthodox Churches. The vision of Archbishop, later Patriarch Tikhon, for a united, autocephalous, local church in America seemed futile.

Yet that vision was never lost. Despite all the trials (including not a few court trials!) and hardships, the leadership of our church never lost hope. Though we became just one jurisdiction among the many that were created in the ensuing years, we never saw ourselves merely as another ethnic group, nor as people living in diaspora. No, we were here to stay, and we wanted to promote Orthodoxy in and for the society in which we lived. We founded seminaries and monasteries, we translated and published service books in English, we sent Orthodox chaplains into the military... We were here to stay, and we had a vision!

So it was that a miracle came to pass in 1970. A totally unexpected opening occurred, which allowed our church to regularize its canonical status vis-a-vis the Church of Russia and, more importantly, become an autocephalous, local church. Our founders understood this to be both a blessing and a tremendous responsibility. We were to be the vehicle that would bring about that long-desired unity. We had a call to look beyond ourselves and to invite all the Orthodox in this land to share in that vision and that joy. We knew that this unity would not easily be achieved, but we saw it as our mission.

This enthusiasm remained strong in the years following our autocephaly. Through our ecclesial vision, through our revived liturgical life, through our seminaries and their leaders, the OCA had a reputation throughout the Orthodox world as a church that did not just look to the past, but to the future. We were attracting many converts. Our liturgical life, renewed through the influence of men like Fr Alexander Schmemmann, was (and remains) a model for many Orthodox churches throughout the world. Our conciliar structures, which involve bishops, clergy, and laity together in church governance, are envied by Orthodox everywhere. So where has this vision gone?

In my numerous trips abroad, I am often asked: "What has happened to the OCA? You were our hope for the future of Orthodoxy!" To this question, there are several answers. On the surface, the problem is simple, ordinary, human sin. We and our leaders succumbed to mundane passions of greed, lust, power... But in doing so, have we not also lost that bright vision of a united church in North America that could witness to the truth of Orthodoxy in a society that so often feels lost? How can we speak of a united church when we ourselves are divided? We find ourselves living in isolation from one another, parish from parish, diocese from diocese, everyone from the "central church" in Syosset. The result is a kind of parochialism at every level: the parish, the diocese, and yes, even at the "central church" in Syosset.

None of these can exist in isolation, precisely because Christ came to break the separation that existed between humanity and God, and also between human beings. To be Christian, to be Orthodox, means to be in communion with both God and with others. In the words of Metropolitan John Zizioulas, to be human is to be **in communion**. The most perfect expression of that communion in this world is the eucharistic communion that we experience in the Orthodox Church, and which is the visible expression of our unity. But this communion needs to be real, and we should all heed the warning of St Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:20 when he tells the divided Christians of Corinth that "It is not the Lord's Supper that you eat." That gift of unity that we receive from God needs to be lived and experienced in everyday life, and at every level of church life.

What is our task as members of the Metropolitan Council? It is certainly to represent our dioceses, but it is also more than that. In fact, our task, together with the Synod of Bishops and the central administration, is to foster that vision that our fathers and mothers in the faith experienced when that miracle was given us in 1970.

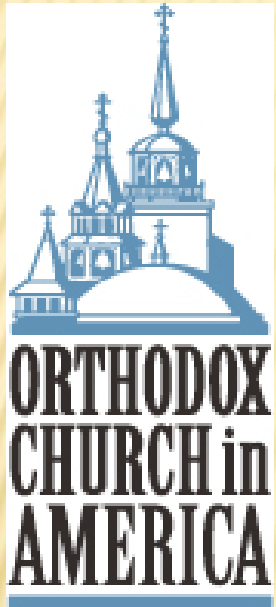
The challenge, and the question we have to ask ourselves, is whether we share that vision and whether we are willing to work for it. That work needs to be done at every level:

- By the individual parishioner whose life is a shining example to others at home, in the workplace, and in society.
- By the parish through its liturgical and social ministry, as well as in its cooperation with other parishes and outreach to the local community.
- By the diocese, led by its bishop, which coordinates and supervises the work of the parishes.
- By the Holy Synod and the central church administration, which coordinate the work of the dioceses, maintain good relations with other Orthodox jurisdictions and churches, and witness to Orthodoxy in the public and ecumenical arenas, both nationally and internationally.

The task is daunting, and it can only be carried out when there is cooperation and a shared vision.

- Do we share that vision?
- Are we willing to work for it?
- What are the practical steps that we, as the Metropolitan Council, need to take at this point?

Paul Meyendorff  
Metropolitan Council Member



# DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE & HUMANITARIAN AID

# **CHRISTIAN SERVICE & HUMANITARIAN AID**

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- ✘ CSHA promotes the involvement of clergy and laity in caring for the needs of others according to the Gospel teachings and Tradition of the Church.**
- ✘ Charitable outreach is at the core of who we are as Orthodox Christians.**
- ✘ Resources are developed for ministry programs by and for people of all ages.**



**The department focuses on:**

**Parish Life**

**Outreach Ministries**

**Senior Life**

**Family Life**



# 2013 PARISH MINISTRIES CONFERENCE



**“Equipping the Saints for  
Worship, Learning & Service”**

**July 10-13, 2013**

**Marymount University**

**Arlington, VA**

**OCA Departments of**

**Christian Education**

**Christian Service & Humanitarian Aid**

**Liturgical Music**

**Youth & Young Adults**

# 2013 CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS



# **CSHA'S CONFERENCE FOCUS**

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## **Matthew 25 Ministries:**

- ❖ **IOCC Worldwide & US Programs**
- ❖ **IOCC Emergency Response Network**
- ❖ **FOCUS North America**
- ❖ **Church World Service Global Ministries**
- ❖ **OCCM Mission Teams**
- ❖ **Parish Prison Ministry**
- ❖ **Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training**
- ❖ **Challenges of Outreach Ministry**
- ❖ **Addictions and Recovery**

# **RESOURCE HANDBOOK FOR MINISTRIES**

**The cornerstone of the work of the Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid.**

**Clergy and laity of any age can use it when searching for information on service projects that match the talents and ministry goals of their parish.**

**There are currently 280 articles categorized under eight ministry themes that extend beyond CSHA:**

- ❖ Theology Of Lay Ministries**
- ❖ Stewardship Education**
- ❖ Parish Development**
- ❖ Community Service**
- ❖ Witness And Mission**
- ❖ Family Life**
- ❖ Youth And College Ministries**
- ❖ Seniors**

# RESOURCE HANDBOOK FOR MINISTRIES

- ❖ New articles in preparation
- ❖ Existing articles featured with current events
  
- ❖ **Resource Handbook Working Group:**
  - Review, edit, update & refresh articles
  - Adds links to resources
  - Uses statistics & analytics of OCA Web Team to determine readers' access and topics of interest

# RESOURCE HANDBOOK FOR MINISTRIES

- ❖ Are there programs in your diocesan parishes that could be highlighted in the Resource Handbook?
- ❖ What topics would you like to see covered in the Resource Handbook?



The image features two hands, one from the top right and one from the bottom left, reaching towards each other. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of blue and yellow light. The text 'COMPASSION IN ACTION:' is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font, positioned in the upper left quadrant. A faint, mirrored reflection of this text is visible directly below it. The overall composition is centered and balanced, with the hands and text being the primary focus.

**COMPASSION IN ACTION:**

**PARISH MINISTRY TRAINING**

# **COMPASSION IN ACTION: PARISH MINISTRY TRAINING**

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## **Definition**

**Faithful are trained and supervised to visit and provide Orthodox Christian care to hurting brothers and sisters in the parish, or to neighbors in the community.**



**The focus of Compassion in Action Ministry is a visit – an attentive Orthodox, caring presence for one who is suffering in some way.**



**To clarify, this ministry of caregiving does not focus on “doing things” for the sufferer (e.g., cleaning the house, helping him/her get into the shower) but, rather, focuses upon the care receiver’s need for an Orthodox person’s presence as the center and sole reason for the visit.**



# AN ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP

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**Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training is a partnership of the clergy and the faithful, that involves them in ministry at critical life junctures of parishioners or neighbors**

# THE DISTINCTIVENESS OF COMPASSION IN ACTION: PARISH MINISTRY TRAINING

## The Example of the Samaritan Woman Encountering Christ (John 4:7-39)



Using the image of the Samaritan Woman (St. Photini), encountering Christ, we can see that in this meeting:

- there is listening and understanding
- ministry occurs
- real need and truth are uncovered
- healing happens
- transformation of life results

Transformation and healing occur  
between specific persons in relationship.

# COMPASSION IN ACTION

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**Participating parishes will have access to the Development Kit website:**

- ❖ **Blessing of Metropolitan Tikhon**
- ❖ **Information about the Parish Ministry Training**
- ❖ **Exercises and activities to begin the process**
- ❖ **Methods for exploring parish's interest level**
- ❖ **Promotional materials and parish helps**
- ❖ **A mentor to help advise**

# AKATHIST TO THE JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW



# CSHA PLANNING FOR 2013-15

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- ❖ Implement Compassion in Action in pilot programs
- ❖ Continue Resource Handbook Working Group
- ❖ Broaden relationships with humanitarian organizations: IOCC, FOCUS, OCPM, CWS
- ❖ Consider conference on “Feeding the Hungry”
- ❖ **NEEDS:**
- ❖ Receive adequate funding
- ❖ Build relationships with dioceses and parishes for mutual benefit and sharing of service ministries
- ❖ Identify Christian Service leaders in all dioceses to establish a viable and interactive ministry network





# **Update on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan Sep., 2013**

# The Strategic Goals are starting to transition into the normal life of the Church

- ▶ To date, good progress against most of the goals
- ▶ They are transitioning in a sustainable way into normal life of the central administration and the dioceses
- ▶ This is further facilitated by a time of relative ‘peace’ throughout the OCA
- ▶ Therefore we recommend that
  - We complete this transition by the 18<sup>th</sup> AAC
  - The the current PoCC remain in place until that time even if some of its members transition off the MC

# Continuing Education

Has “caught on” at all levels:

- ▶ OCA Office of Continuing Education
  - Training on sexual misconduct in 5 dioceses
  - Implementing distance learning tools (Moodle)
  
- ▶ Seminaries
  - Summer institutes at SVS and STS
  
- ▶ Dioceses:
  - WPa webinars on Building Vibrant Parishes
  - Bulgarian Diocese Symposium on Searching for the Sacred

# Diocesan Revitalization

- ▶ Is being actively piloted by two dioceses: Eastern and Western Pennsylvania
- ▶ Both are emphasizing parish development
- ▶ E.PA has established a Revitalization Committee
  - Goal: each parish to work thru a self-examination
  - Implemented a monthly reporting system
- ▶ W.PA working with Joe Kormos on an Archdiocesan Parish Development Ministry
  - Phase 1: build sense of urgency & vision of brighter future
  - Now in Phase 2: specific improvement projects
  - Key questions: do they want it? Can it be sustained?

# Leadership

- ▶ Fundamental premise, is that with large dioceses, it is the deanery where one should develop clergy and lay leadership
- ▶ Being piloted in Diocese of the West
  - Increased number of dioceses from 5 to 6
  - Require all deaneries to meet 2x/yr in addition to Assembly
  - Provide \$1500/yr to each deanery to use how they see fit

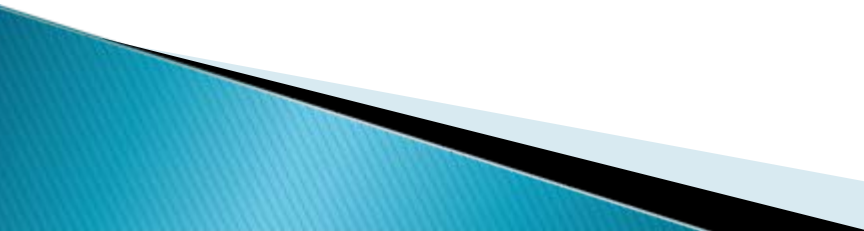
# Management

- ▶ Is developing admin tools and guidelines for voluntary usage by parishes
- ▶ Initial focus is on financial tools, in coordination with the OCA treasurer
  - Excel based Income & Expense Reporting Tool delivered to Melanie
  - Draft set of Parish Auditing Guidelines now in review
- ▶ Coming next: Guidelines for Treasurers; Budget Process Guidelines

# Finance

- ▶ Originally a goal in the SP calling for
  - Transition to percentage giving
  - Developing other sources to fund the church (e.g. a renewed FOS; a major donors program)
- ▶ 16<sup>th</sup> AAC recommended that this goal be transferred to the OCA Finance Committee
- ▶ That Committee is now pursuing many of the same objectives

# Pan-Orthodox Unity

- ▶ Emphasizes grass roots effort to complement the top-down approach of the Assembly of Bishops
  - ▶ Developed a compendium of the many existing pan-Orthodox efforts at city, state and regional levels
  - ▶ Was to developed a “how to guide and FAQ” for those looking to get started BUT the team leader encountered unforeseen time demands and could not continue
  - ▶ This goal is now on an indefinite hold
- 



# Evangelization

- ▶ Focus is on identifying already existing suitable materials NOT on ‘reinventing the wheel’
- ▶ Developed and annotated a selected compendium of 45 existing resources
  - 18 entries on evangelization, 5 on growth & vision; 6 on stewardship; 7 on parish renewals ...
- ▶ These have been provided to Fr. Parker for posting on the Department of Evangelization website
- ▶ All future evangelization activities to be done out of the Department.

# Contemporary Moral Issues


- ▶ Focused on developing an interactive forum for presenting Orthodox teaching on sensitive moral issues and discussing their pastoral implications
- ▶ Developed and piloted the first Holy Conversation in the Diocese of New England
- ▶ Panelist feedback: “The format encouraged personal, deep, and long-lasting discussions ..holds much promise for future OCA conferences”
- ▶ Some administrative glitches that can and should be done better

**Future Holy Conversations depend on Diocesan interest**

# Youth and Young Adults

- ▶ Focus is on social media to complement local and regional youth activities
- ▶ Bring a daily liturgical presence to social media
- ▶ Our Facebook page is quite successful
  - > 1100 likes; “reach” of 5,000 or more
  - New entries (icons, prayers, saints) daily
  - 2 videos in preparation: gossiping; return to paradise
- ▶ Started a twitter feed
  - 2-3 lines from Psalms, 2-3 per day
  - Somewhat slow start
- ▶ Very closely connected with OCA Dept of YYA

# Summary

- ▶ Major progress against most of the goals
  - ▶ Equally important: these are transitioning into the normal life of the Church
  - ▶ The transition should be complete by the 18<sup>th</sup> AAC
  - ▶ Recommend that you keep the current PoCC intact until then
  - ▶ If you are interested in conducting a Holy Conversation please contact me
- 

# OCA Pension Plan Funded Status

## Recent Experience

- 2008 financial crisis increased plan's funding deficit by almost \$10 million
- Plan changes reduced deficit by over \$7 million and produced a projected surplus by 2024
- 2011 investment losses (-4.3% return) and 2012 demographic losses (salary increases) have increased the deficit to over \$10 million, projected to increase in the future

# OCA Pension Plan Funded Status

## Change in Investment Policy

- Asset allocation revised to significantly increase allocation to equities and reduce allocation to bonds
- Milliman Managed Risk Strategy adopted – designed to reduce impact of severe market declines
- Changes in Investment Policy designed to increase the plan's expected return on assets and reduce the plan's funding deficit

# OCA Pension Plan Funded Status

## Proposed Increase in Contributions

- Under 12% contributions, funding deficit is projected to increase to over \$14.5 million by 2030
- Increasing the contribution rate to 14% reduces deficit by \$2.8 million in 2014
- At 14% contribution level, deficit is projected to decline each year, resulting in full funding by 2031
- New contribution rate should be split 6% from participants (no increase) and 8% from employer

# Orthodox Church in America

## Projected Surplus in Dollars (Scenario: 5. 14% Contributions / Funding Policy starting in 2014)

