



**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**

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 17th 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 18th 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 16th 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 18th 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 17th All-American Council, which took place in November 2012.

N.2. MOTION GARRETSON/YEOSOCK - To approve moving the 18th 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 18th 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