

## **12<sup>th</sup> All-American Council – The Orthodox Church in America**

### **Church-Wide Initiative Proposals**

#### **Expansion of Church Growth and Evangelism Activities**

##### **Proposal Summary**

To train and equip the clergy and laity, through workshops, boot camps and consultations with the intent to arrest the precipitous decline in the reported membership in the Orthodox Church in America over the past 20 years.

##### **Statement of Condition/Problem**

Since its being reactivated at the beginning of 1998, the Office Church Growth and Evangelism has been gratified yet overwhelmed with response to its Church Growth and Turn-Around Ministry Programs. The phenomenon underscores the need for the training and equipping of clergy and laity in the area of Church Growth and Evangelism. Currently, there is a part-time director of Church Growth and Evangelism who also assumes parish priest responsibilities. Approximately 30 churches are involved at various stages in this productive ministry.

##### **Statement of Goal/Objectives**

1. To arrest the precipitous decline in the reported membership in the Orthodox Church in America over the past 20 years.
2. To identify the causes of decline and address them forthrightly to be faithful to our Lord's command to go and make disciples.
3. To provide extended service to those churches requesting and provide adequate funding to meet the needs of those churches requesting assistance in the future.
4. To expand the current staffing and operations of the Office of Church Growth and Evangelism in order to respond systematically to the expressed needs of parishes for the equipping of clergy and laity for purposes of evangelism and the consequent growth of the Church.

##### **Proposal Plan**

The ability to respond to the need for systematically equipping of clergy and laity for evangelism and church growth can be met in the following ways:

1. Enhance a Web page to state the vision and purpose of Church Growth and Evangelism, providing articles, links and scheduling of workshops and seminars.
2. Develop a "zine," or "grow mail" of Church Growth and Evangelism to equip and encourage, through articles and information, testimonials on church growth.
3. Develop an on-line list, "oca-grow", to provide church growth and turn-around dialogue with list members.
4. Expand the Church Growth Boot Camp to provide annual training for clergy involved in church growth and turn-around ministry with appropriate curricula, locations and dates.
5. Develop multi-media to provide state of the art presentation of materials at all workshops and seminars.
6. Establish a Church Growth and Turn Around Ministry Team that would stay in existence until the Orthodox Church in America would have trained lay and clergy leaders in the field both locally and regionally throughout the country.
7. Utilize existing Church gatherings for Church Growth and Evangelism workshops and seminars.

### **Proposal Evaluation**

An evaluation process must be put in place to observe the demonstrated equipment of clergy and laity with the necessary tools to carry out the work and the consequent results. Hits on the Web site will be monitored and workshop and boot camp experiences will be recorded. Finally, parishes who have developed an action plan for church growth and/or turn around ministry will be identified and monitored.

## **Proposal Expenditures**

1. Travel and meeting expenses for workshops and consultations
2. Expenses for staff
3. Costs of production and publications of materials and multi-media resources