

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

Official Minutes – Third Plenary Session

Tuesday AM, July 27, 1999

1. The session opened at 9:40am with Ms Daria York reading the scriptures from St Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians
2. His Grace, Bishop Seraphim presented the Holy Synod report: the minutes from the previous two sessions were approved as corrected.
3. Fr Robert Kondratich presented the [report of the Chancellor](#).
4. At 10:22 AM, a 15 minute break was given.
5. The session resumed with the report of the Credentials committee:

a. **Total Registered**

Bishops	13
Clergy Delegates	266
Lay Delegates	260
Observers	409
<i>Total</i>	948

b. **Plenary Session II, (Monday PM)**

Bishops	12
Clergy Delegates	232
Lay Delegates	236
Observers	158
<i>Total</i>	638

c. **Plenary Session III, (Tuesday AM)**

Bishops	11
Clergy Delegates	240
Lay Delegates	239
Observers	147
<i>Total</i>	637

6. Protodeacon Eric Wheeler presented the [report of the Treasurer](#) in which he summarized the contents of his previously distributed report and *Our Mission and Vision: Building a Commitment for the 21st Century*.
7. Questions and Comments ensued regarding the report of the Treasurer.
8. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius made his Introduction to the **Funding Proposal**.
9. Protodeacon Eric Wheeler presented the proposal.

10. Mr. Gregory Hostelley, an independent CPA consultant, presented his report.
11. The proposal was moved by Fr. Eugene Vansuch and seconded by Mr Peter Garmond as follows:

### **Proposed Resolution on a Fair-Share System of Financial Support**

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to give freely in proportion to what we have received. The per capita system of financial support, unfortunately, has never provided the support needed to accomplish the numerous demands placed on the Central Church Administration in providing adequate resources needed by our clergy and faithful. While the per capita system of financial support has provided the Orthodox Church in America with a maintenance budget over the years, the time has now come to move towards a "more stewardly" approach to supporting the Orthodox Church in America.

Therefore, the 12th All-American Council resolves to move towards a system of fair-share giving by taking the following steps:

1. Establish the per capita rate for the year 2000 at \$60.00.
2. Establish the parish minimal financial support for the year 2000 as the established per capita rate times the greater of: (1) the reported membership for 2000; or, (2) the reported membership for 1999.
3. Establish the parish minimal financial support for the years 2001 and 2002 as the per capita rate, adjusted annually by the federal Consumer Price Index (CPI), times the greater of: (1) the reported parish membership for the given year; or, (2) the reported membership for 1999,
4. Establish for the year 2000 a standard format for reporting parish operating budgets.
5. Parishes will forward their financial reports and the standard form for reporting the parish operating budget to the Office of the Treasurer no later than March 1st of each year.
6. Establish a clear understanding of parish membership as defined in Article X, Section 6 of the Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America.
7. Incorporate all parishes of the Orthodox Church in America into a fair-share system of support of the Church by 2008, according to the following plan:
  - The administrative bodies of the Church (Central Church Administration, Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council) at its Spring Sessions in 2002 shall review, propose and adopt an expenditure side of a budget for 2003, based on the current needs of the Church Administration and the proposed work of the Ministry Units of the Orthodox Church in America.
  - The Office of the Treasurer will apply the proposed income from FOS, Planned Gifts, Endowment Funds, and Miscellaneous Contributions to the approved expenditure budget.
  - The remainder of income needed to balance the operating budget will be fair-shared out to the parishes currently supporting the Church through the per capita system based upon a fair-share system of support approved by the 13th All-American Council.
  - The minimal financial support is to be established as a line item in the annual operating budget of the parish, and each parish

shall remit one-twelfth of the assessment to the diocesan office by the 15th of every month.

- The diocese has the responsibility of forwarding, from the diocesan treasury, one-twelfth the total of the diocesan fair share to the central administration by the last day of the month. The diocese remains responsible for collecting the non-delinquent and delinquent assessments from the individual parishes within its jurisdiction.
- The Metropolitan Council is authorized to make such additional regulations regarding the computation and reporting of the assessments, on the recommendation of the Central Church Administration, as may be necessary for the efficient collection of the funds due, and for the solvency and financial stability of the Orthodox Church in America

8. Fr Basil Carpenter moved to separate the resolution into parts; seconded by Matushka Terry Smith.

9. After considerable discussion, the motion was overruled by the Chair. Upon appeal by Fr Carpenter, the motion was defeated.

10. Matushka Terry Smith moved to amend item 5 of the Resolution to eliminate the words "to the Office of the Treasurer" and replace them with "to the Diocese." Amendment was seconded by Mr Eugene Brown. Amendment passed.

11. Fr Paul Yerger moved to amend item 2 to add the words "or 7% of the total parish income" at the end. Motion seconded by Fr Mark Hodges. Amendment defeated.

12. Session adjourned at 1:12 PM.