

12th All-American Council – The Orthodox Church in America

Official Minutes – Sixth Plenary Session

Thursday, July 29, 1999

1. The Session opened with the singing of "The Grace of the Holy Spirit." Matushka Anastasia Molodyko-Harris read from the Scriptures.
2. Archbishop MARK of Kashin, Administrator of the Moscow Patriarchal Parishes in Canada, greeted the Council.
3. Bishop SERAPHIM, Secretary of the Holy Synod, announced that the Minutes of the Fifth Plenary Session were approved with corrections.
4. Dr. Alice Woog distributed the biographical information sheets of candidates for Church-wide offices.
5. Mr. Joseph Kormos and Dr. Alice Woog introduced the 5 Proposals on Church-wide Initiatives and conducted extensive discussion. The initiatives are:
 - o Expansion of Church Growth and Evangelism Activities
 - o Parish Education Programs
 - o Pastoral Continuing Education Seminars
 - o Seminarian Summer Internship Programs
 - o Expansion of Witness and Communication Ministries
6. Fr. William Evansky presented the report of the Credentials Committee:

a. **Registrations at the Council:**

Bishops	11
Bishops	2
Clergy Delegates	277
Lay Delegates	267
Observers	436
<i>Total</i>	993

b. **Plenary Session #5:**

Bishops	11
Guest Bishops	2
Clergy Delegates	237
Lay Delegates	233
Observers	151
<i>Total</i>	634

7. A ballot was taken on the [Proposals for Church-Wide Initiatives](#).

On the first ballot, no single initiative received a majority of the votes; however, the initiatives on *Parish Education* and *Seminarian Summer Internships* received the highest totals.

8. Fr. John Abdullah, representing the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese in North America and Metropolitan Philip, was introduced.
9. A second ballot was taken on the two Church-wide Initiatives which had received the highest number of votes in the first ballot.

The [*Initiative on Seminarian Summer Internships*](#) was the winner.

Fr. John Dresko moved, seconded by Fr. Thaddeus Wojcik, that the *Initiative on Seminarian Summer Internships* be accepted by acclamation. The Motion passed unanimously.

10. At this point, a number of people stood to pledge money toward the initiative on behalf of their parishes or themselves. Pledges totaled \$75,100 in annual gifts and \$18,500 in one-time gifts.
11. Fr. Robert Kondratick announced that, if enough money could be raised, both of the two initiatives could be funded.
12. Session adjourned at 1:05 PM.