



MEMBERS OF ONE
ANOTHER IN CHRIST



15th All-American Council of the
Orthodox Church in America
November 10-13, 2008
Pittsburgh, PA

OFFICIAL MINUTES
Including Attachments

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This report contains the official minutes of the 15th All-American Council held in Pittsburgh, PA from November 10 to 13, 2008.

The report contains the minutes of the seven Plenary Sessions, Power Point slides from each session, agendas, resolutions and the results of the different actions taken during the Council. All the actual reports are available in the packets sent to each delegate and can also be found online at the Orthodox Church in America website at www.OCA.ORG.

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His Eminence Archbishop Dmitri's Address to the All American Council

Brother Hierarchs, V. Rev. and Rev. Clergy, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is in our midst!

Almost four decades have past since Autocephaly was granted to us by the Moscow Patriarchate. From that time – April 10, 1970 until now – the Orthodox Church in America has been a strong proponent of Church growth, evangelism and Orthodox unity, often not realizing its own potential in these areas, but maintaining *a vision* of possibilities for American Orthodoxy.

A concern, however, that many share as we begin the 15th All American Council, is that *this vision* has been temporarily – and perhaps almost unavoidably – set aside by the faithful in the midst of controversy, and that it must be re-established as a priority, to proceed with healing and ultimately our *Great Commission*.

One feels compelled to remind this Body that we are still a nascent Church; a young Church experiencing its first major internal challenge. Some have likened our problems to “growing pains.” Others have equated the current state of affairs with a purification process, testing the foundation upon which we build.

Regardless of explanations we have to admit that the past several years have been difficult, and that through this period a certain immaturity has been exposed. Our metal has been tried and found wanting in many areas. Investigations surrounding the OCA's financial crisis revealed weakness, neglect and matters even worse with regard to Church leadership. Furthermore, the scandal quickly opened a flood gate from which poured – onto a national stage – public comments reflecting doubt and confusion, as well as unfounded rumors and general mudslinging. Tragically, disillusioned people have left the Orthodox Church in America, and some the Orthodox Church altogether.

Furthermore, it has been reported that in parts of our nation, OCA difficulties have been the principal topic for sermons and of conversation during parish council meetings and Sunday coffee hours. Much of this has

negatively impacted Church growth and community life, as outreach, educational, and charitable efforts have given way to the intrigue of Church politics. It would appear that the current financial scandal commands more attention than the scandal of the Cross, provokes a more ready response from us than Christ's words to "*go forth and teach...*"

Great trials, however, frequently bring out the best in people. Recent conditions have given rise also, to examples of dedication and courage. While standing firm in their convictions responsible leaders have emerged in the OCA, "*speaking the Truth in love*" (Ephesians 4). Their guidance has made a positive impact on the Church at large. Their words have been a source of encouragement and clarity. Their faith is a gift from which healing may begin and a proper direction for the Church recovered. I have in mind not only prominent clergy and laymen, but less conspicuous members of the Body as well, whose love for Christ and Orthodoxy never faltered. Their often quiet zeal, their faithfulness to a routine of prayer and to the daily routines of parish life has sent a resounding message to others, directing attention to "*the one thing needful.*" "*For*" their example we are grateful. "*From*" their example we may discern a path that can lead to the rebuilding of trust in the Orthodox Church in America, as well as to a reinforcement of *that vision* which has been a part of the OCA from its inception.

Starting at the grass roots level my strong recommendation – and I am confident that my brother hierarchs agree – is that parishes and missions reconfirm, as priorities, the fundamentals of the Faith. During the past several years constructive, although at times emotional discussions have taken place between Church members addressing the present state of affairs. On the other hand, we have also experienced more than our share of communication amongst the faithful that served no real purpose. It is time now to return and devote ourselves to the basic disciplines of Orthodox Christianity. The chief responsibility for initiating this effort lies with clergy and lay leaders; certainly with those participating in this 15th All American Council. The present difficulties of Church life must not be allowed to consume any further such a high percentage of time and energy when '*the fields that lie before us are white for harvest,*' when we are called to '*run a race set before us,*' '*working out our salvation with fear and trembling.*' We are all aware that tending to the complexities of the OCA's past, present and future administration is a part of that race that we run. We must act and communicate with one another, however, more responsibly than we have.

That having been said, efforts to rebuild trust and deal with specific issues in a responsible manner can only proceed from an understanding of life as given by Christ. Simply put, as Orthodox Christians that is how we do things. Such an approach is rightly discerned through prayer, fasting, and a strong commitment to the life in Christ. "*Love one another, as I have loved you.*" "*Forgive unto seventy times seven.*" It is precisely in difficult times that belief in these words may be demonstrated most forcefully. We must remember that the teachings of Christ appear abstract, in fact impossible, to the unbeliever and to those who are weak in faith. Yet they are concretely expressed in Christ's followers who are tried and tested, becoming lights to the world by God's grace.

My recommendations for the Orthodox Church in America at the Diocesan and National Administration levels are similar. I would add that as with the general membership, the Hierarchs of the OCA must re-examine their consciences and rededicate themselves to the same Christian fundamentals. The relative youth and inexperience of the Orthodox Church in America has been revealed through the actions, and at times, inactivity of the Holy Synod, as much as with any body or council within the Church. The current crisis, as it reflects our leadership, demonstrates that as a Church and as a Synod, we must continually strive to develop spiritually, as well as in our ability to administer more effectively the affairs of the OCA.

The current crisis presents us as well with an opportunity to assess the overall organization of the Orthodox Church in America. For decades a strong central Church administration was the norm, coupled with a growing tension between Syosset and various Dioceses, particularly over the issues of Church management and rising per capita assessments. This conflict has negatively impacted development as people have struggled with the notion of whether the OCA should allow for a centralized power in the Northeast or for stronger, more active Dioceses.

Perhaps the time has arrived for the Church as a whole – and certainly the Holy Synod – to reevaluate and articulate the respective roles and relationships between the Synod of Bishops, the central Church administration and the individual Dioceses. A prevailing belief among many is that the way to strengthen the Orthodox Church in America overall is to allow the respective Dioceses the opportunity and necessary resources to accomplish tasks that can be best performed at the grass roots level. It

makes more sense, for example, to leave the work of evangelism and establishing new missions to the local Bishop and his flock rather than to coordinate such efforts from a thousand miles away in another Diocese. Who better to help bring residents of a specific region into Orthodoxy than those who understand the local customs and mindset of the people? Such an idea has led also to efforts directed towards the development of Diocesan Pastoral Schools. These institutions, working closely with established Seminaries, would be in a unique position to offer courses focused on the peculiar needs and challenges of a given territory.

Much of what has been referred to will undoubtedly constitute topics for consideration and discussion during the 15th All American Council. My prayer is that we will be empowered to address the necessary issues directly, in love, striving to discern the Will of God.

The theme for this gathering is, "*Members of One Another in Christ.*" Many of our actions and words over the past few years have done little to demonstrate this fact, although it can be stressed that even the closest of families have crises to work through. I can think of no better way, however, for us to reaffirm this basic experience of Church life – members of one another in Christ – than to ask forgiveness of one another, to offer forgiveness, and to be resolute in our desire to grow in the Faith and to help bring others to the knowledge of the Truth. Before we can do anything else as a Church we must be willing to move on from this sad but perhaps necessary chapter in our history. We must be willing to let go of the temptation to dwell incessantly on the sins of others. Rather our focus must be directed toward the joy of the Kingdom and the promise of the salvation to come.

May our Lord direct our steps as we begin this All American Council.

15th All-American Council

Plenary Session One

Monday, November 10 – 7:30 PM

Opening Molieben

The 15th All-American Council opened at 7:55 PM with the Service of Prayer at the Opening of Sacred Council. It was presided by Archbishop DMITRI, Locum Tenens of the Metropolitan See and assisted by Protodeacon Kirill Sokolov.

Council Opening

Opened at 8:19 PM with the singing of “*The Grace of the Holy Spirit*” by all those gathered.

Opening Address

Archbishop DMITRI offered opening remarks (see attached)

Session declared open by Archbishop DMITRI at 8:46 PM. Plenary Session One opened.

Welcome by Local Bishop

Bishop TIKHON of Eastern Pennsylvania, Locum Tenens of the Diocese of Western Pennsylvania offered the welcome.

Bishop TIKHON welcomed all on behalf of the Diocese of Western Pennsylvania, the members of the local committee, and Preconciliar Commission, and to the City of Pittsburgh. His Grace offered comments on the current situation by reminding the gathered that though we are sorrowful, we are yet open to receiving the grace of God. He asked that grace be with us in our deliberations, fellowship, and sharing this week as we offer our love and support to one another and make decisions together, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. He also asked that the All-American Council bear fruit to the glory of Almighty God, the Mother of God, and the grace of the saints whose relics were present.

Appointment of Organizational Team

Archpriest Alexander Garklavs, Chancellor, presented names on behalf of the Preconciliar Commission. (See attached)

Archpriest Andrew Clements of St. Nicholas Church, Mentor, OH seconded. Slate of officers passed.

Archpriest Paul Jannakos of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Fenton, MI is appointed Clergy Chair and John Kozey III of St. Andrew’s Church, Dix Hills, NY is appointed the Lay Chair.

Acceptance of Agenda

Fr. Paul Jannakos asked for a motion to accept the Agenda for the Council.

Motion by Archpriest Alexander Webster, Military Chaplain, made an amendment to revise the agenda stating that any discussion and voting on any OCA Statute changes be deferred to the Sixth Plenary Session after election of the Metropolitan.

Seconded by Archpriest John Udics, Assumption of the Holy Virgin Church, Philadelphia, PA.

Fr. Alexander stated that the changes being proposed followed the retirement of Metropolitan HERMAN. He also commented that it is highly irregular to change the rules after the vacancy had occurred.

Fr. Alexander Garklavs disagreed with Fr. Alexander's recollection. Sixty days are necessary for Statute changes. Archpriest Michael Meerson of Christ the Savior Church, New York, NY stated that the All-American Council is the supreme authority of the Church. The Holy Synod noted that the Statute state that the All-American Council is "the highest legislative and administrative authority." But they also noted that the Canons supersede the Statute. Therefore, the All-American Council can decide this issue. Vote was difficult to perceive, tellers called upon to complete the count.

Credentials were called for and received prior to the vote.

Vote Outcome by voting card: Motion carried: 222 yes, 146 no.

Chair again asked to approve the amended agenda.

Question by Archpriest Theodore Boback of St. Andrew Church in Baltimore, MD

Fr Theodore asked about a motion regarding IOCC and OCMC videos.

Answer (Fr. Jannakos): Fr. Jannakos stated that the videos would not be shown in plenary session.

Once again motion to approve revised agenda:

Motion by Priest Stephen Freeman, St. Anne Church in Knoxville, TN to approve agenda.

Seconded by Kitty Mabus, Protection of the Holy Virgin Church, Royalton IL.

Revised agenda passed.

Credentials

Registered: Number registered not available at this time.

Hierarchs	10
Clergy Delegates	263
Lay Delegates	269
Observers	96
Total Present	638

Total Voting **542**

Town Hall Questions

Bishop NIKON, Chair of Preconciliar Commission offered comments on behalf of the Holy Synod. The Commission desired that the whole Church participate in preparing for the Council. Discussions were held, a blog was established, and a conflict resolution expert was brought in to advise the Commission. The expert assisted in bringing forward the idea of the Town Hall Meetings to be held across the United States. Clergy and laity were gathered together with the hierarchs at the Town Hall Meetings. The perception that came forth was that the hierarchs did not hear the pain nor understood the concerns of the Church. The idea for the Meetings was to have every hierarchy present at these meetings, but financially this was not possible. At least one or two hierarchs were present for each meeting, and a listing of items discussed was presented to them. His Grace referred to a sermon by Fr. Michael Matsko that stressed that “Our churches are the bastions of Orthodoxy in our country.” His Grace also stated that we have to work together to patch the walls around our Orthodox spirituality and evangelization in this land. We have no other choice. He has reviewed the minutes of these meetings. He reiterated that it is here at this Council that we will begin to restore and reconstitute our Church, and it is here that we will restore our mission in America.

A table discussion followed: Fr. Alexander Garklavs directed that each table take twenty minutes to develop two questions to be placed before the Holy Synod of Bishops tomorrow, or at this session if they wished to begin discussing and responding to them.

Other Introductions

Fr. Paul Jannakos gave over the chair to John Kozey, Lay Vice Chair, who was met by a standing ovation.

He introduced the Priest Alexander Lebedeff, Secretary of Inter-Orthodox Relations for The Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia (ROCOR). He gave greetings from Metropolitan HILARION. The text stated that after eighty years of separation, communion has been restored between the Russian Orthodox Church and ROCOR. (This was met by applause.) The text further stated that this is an example of our Lord’s presence, “that they may be one as We are one.” The text finished by stating that this is a step toward Orthodox unity in this land, fulfilling our mission here since we share a common heritage with the OCA in our service in the new

world to preserve the great tradition of the Russian Orthodox Church, and to evangelize the people in this land.

Discussion Questions/Resolutions

Mr. John Kozey called Fr. John Erickson, chair of the Resolution Committee, to review the resolutions submission process.

He stated that All-American Councils have always had a procedure for resolutions. The current process for resolutions for this All-American Council began at the time of the Preconciliar Commission when it was agreed to expand the discussions. Submissions were reviewed from Dioceses, Stavropegial institutions, and others.

The new system for resolutions procedures now includes having a Resolutions Form in Delegate materials. New resolutions should be placed on these forms and forwarded to Resolution Committee members. Upon review by them and the Holy Synod, resolutions will be raised during appropriate sessions. Copies will be distributed at that time. A copy must be forwarded to the Secretariat for the record. Resolution Committee Members were asked to stand again to be recognized. (Names on Organization Listing) Statute amendments received this week cannot be acted upon at this council.

Questions Submitted from Table Discussion

The hierarchs decided to begin responding to questions raised by the table discussion.

Do the members of the Holy Synod talk to each other? Bishop BENJAMIN responded by saying that Holy Synod members do talk with each other. Bishop BENJAMIN stated that over the past year and half, Holy Synod members developed close cordial relationships.

Why don't bishops sit with delegates at the All-American Council? Bishop BENJAMIN stated that for the first time bishops will sit with delegates during some sessions. He went on to say that there is not one bishop who is not loved in his Diocese, and "there is not one priest in my Diocese that I do not trust." In some sessions bishops meet with their clergy, laity, and in other sessions the bishops meet together. The All-American Council itself makes the OCA into one huge Diocese. He stated that there is no reflection of the Diocesan nature of the Church here in the All-American Council. He also stated that there is a tension in our Church between the Dioceses and the Central Administration. This is reflected in the role of the Metropolitan. There was a discussion on the Metropolitan's role.

Will the Holy Synod take further steps to more vigorously examine qualifications and backgrounds of those being considered for Episcopal candidates? Bishop NIKON responded to the next question. Bishop NIKON stated yes, there is a procedure. The Holy Synod has also recently added that psychological tests must be taken. They are then interviewed by two hierarchs, and eventually met by all the hierarchs of the Holy Synod.

Will the Holy Synod and central administration admit the full extent of sinfulness for what has occurred and ask forgiveness for it? Bishop NIKON responded by stating that no one can be forced to ask for forgiveness. The Holy Synod has asked forgiveness collectively throughout the Church and individually in respective Dioceses for forgiveness. He also stated that forgiveness is not always for particular sins. Indifference is also a sin, and we have all fallen short.

It was decided to continue the questions tomorrow.

Housekeeping

Fr. Eric Tosi, Secretary, spoke about Nominations Procedures.

The elected offices will include:

Metropolitan Council: clergy and lay

Auditors: clergy and lay

Pension Board: clergy and lay

Compline was offered following the session.

Liturgy will be celebrated at 7:00 AM.

The Session concluded at 10:13 PM with the singing of “*It is Truly Meet.*”

Order	Event	Person
1.	Opening Moleben	Archbishop Dmitri/Protodeacon Kirill
2.	Council Opening Address Council Welcome	Archbishop Dmitri Bishop Tikhon
3.	Appointment of Organizational Teams	Vice-Chairs
4.	Acceptance of Agenda	Vice-Chairs
5.	Town Hall Questions	Bishop Nikon
6.	Amendment proposal	Vice-Chairs
7.	Discussion/Questions/resolutions	Vice Chairs
8.	Housekeeping	Fr. Eric
9.	Close session	Vice-Chairs

Organization Teams at the Council

*** = Registered**

Clergy Chair and Lay Chair

Name	Position	Accepted
Archpriest Paul Jannakos *	Clergy Vice-Chairperson	*
John Kozey *	Lay Vice-Chairperson	*

Council Secretariat

Name	Position	Accepted
Lisa Morris *	Chairperson	*
Priest Steven Voytovich *		*
Archpriest Basil Zebrun *		*
Priest David Cowan *		*
Priest Peter Tobias *		*
Dorothy Nowik *		*

Parliamentary Procedures

Name	Position	Accepted
Archpriest Joseph Hirsch *	Chairperson	*
Archpriest John Reeves *		*
Archpriest Chad Hatfield *		*
Walter Aleesevich *		*
Alexander Skirpan *		*

Tellers

Name	Position	Accepted
Archpriest John Memorich *	Chairperson	*
Archpriest John Dunlop *		*
Archpriest David Shewczyk *		*
Archpriest Steven Soot *		*
Priest John Hainsworth		*
Priest Marcus Burch *		*
Priest Dennis Buck *		*
Elena Silk *		*
Peter Eagler *		*
Dr. David Ford *		*
Dn Christopher Westrate *		*
Michael Pasonick *		*
Faith Johnson *		*

Credentials

Name	Position	Accepted
Archpriest Daniel Kovalek *	Chairperson	*
Priest John Parker *		*
Priest David Subu *		*
Anthony Kasmer *		*
Terry Bilas *		*
Lydia Scratch *		*
Gregory Sulich *		*
Jerry Wilson *	Consultant	*

Nominations

Name	Position	Accepted
Archpriest Ian MacKinnon *	Chairperson	*
Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon *		*
Archpriest Thomas Soroka		*
Archpriest Ted Pisarchuk *		*
Archpriest John Onofrey *		*
Dr. Evangelia Amirali *		*
Anthony Kasmer *		*
Stephen Petren *		*

Resolutions

Name	Position	Accepted
Archpriest John Erickson *	Chairperson	*
Archpriest Michael Dahulich *		*
Archpriest John Shimchuk *		*
Priest Alexander Rental *		*
Gregory Nescott *		*
Mother Christophora *		*
Larry Skvir *		*
Michelle Jannakos *		*

Press and Information

Name	Position	Accepted
Archpriest Andrew Jarmus *	Chairperson	*
Archpriest John Matusiak *		*
Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky *		*
Igumen Patrick Carpenter *		*
Dn Kirill Sokolov *		*
David Goa *		*

15th All-American Council

Plenary Session Two

Tuesday, November 11 – 10:30 AM

Session Opening

The Second Plenary Session opened at 11:10 AM with the singing of “*The Grace of the Holy Spirit.*”

Rest of Archpriest Stephen Karaffa

Archpriest Alexander Garklavs announced that Archpriest Stephen Karaffa, who was present at the ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL, rested this morning. He had a heart attack this morning after Divine Liturgy and the EMT were called. Archbishop JOB was present with him as he rested. The entire body sang “Memory Eternal” and comments were made.

Guest Hierarchy

Archpriest Eric Tosi welcomed His Grace, Bishop MARK of Toledo and the Midwest Diocese of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

Introduction

Mr. John Kozey, Lay Vice-Chair, stated that this Second Plenary Session of the 15th ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL will address the Preliminary Report of the Special Investigating Committee (SIC Report). The currently published report is the Preliminary Report which did not include the footnotes and references. He announced that the finalized report is completed and should be ready shortly. He introduced the session by stating that the questions the Church must ask are basically what can the Church learn from all this and how are the Church going to move forward. He also reminded the assembly to take away that which is positive so the Church can grow and prosper.

Point of Information

Archpriest John Jillions, member of the Pre-Conciliar Commission and priest of Annunciation Cathedral, Ottawa, ON, Canada asked when the questions submitted to the Holy Synod from Session One’s table discussions would be answered by the Holy Synod. Bishop BENJAMIN responded that the Holy Synod had just received those questions as a group and looked at them briefly this morning. Some questions will be answered as part of today’s session on the SIC report. Others will be addressed after the Synod has had time to reflect and prepare.

Special Investigative Committee Report

Mr. Kozey then turned the podium over to Bishop BENJAMIN, who reviewed the Preliminary Report of the SIC.

Bishop BENJAMIN began by thanking the members of the SIC: Archpriest John Tkachuk; Archpriest Philip Reese, Dr. Faith Skordinski, and Dr. Dmitri Solodow; and two consultants, Ms. Julia Azrael, Esq., and Subdeacon Bernard Wilson, retired Chief of Airport Police of Los Angeles International Airport. They basically spent a year's time and thousands of hours of work, unpaid, meeting together, and examining documents. His Grace mentioned a rumor that the SIC Report had been examined and edited by the Central Church Administration before its release. This is not true.

His Grace reviewed the history of the Committee. The SIC was established by Joint Resolution of the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council. It utilized the work of the Special Commission, which was the first Commission set up under chairmanship of Archbishop JOB. The work of that first Commission was groundbreaking; and it provided the foundation for the work of the SIC. Most of that information was concerned with the operations of the Chancery then led by the former Chancellor Robert S. Kondratich. The present SIC began its work in October, 2007, and released its preliminary document (the SIC Report) in September, 2008. The Report is based upon 44 interviews, and more than 10,000 pages of reviewed documents, and about 4000 hours of collective work. Also important was the work of Proskauer Rose legal firm.

The Report was read and approved at the September 3, 2008 Joint Session of the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council. Despite rumors to the contrary, no one from the Administration or Holy Synod saw the Report prior to its release. The Report was released on line that day on www.OCA.org. Resolutions based on the recommendations from the Report were also approved at that same Joint Session. The Holy Synod at their October 2008 meeting confirmed these resolutions.

Bishop BENJAMIN emphasized that he personally appointed the SIC members without interference from the Holy Synod or the Metropolitan Council. He reiterated that no one (not Metropolitan HERMAN, any member of the Holy Synod, nor the Metropolitan Council) told His Grace who was going to be on the SIC. His Grace chose the members on the basis of who on the Metropolitan Council he believed would work well together. Only Bishop BENJAMIN and Dr. Skordinski were members of the first Special Commission. The two consultants gave valuable help with the investigative method, legal advice, and the organization of material. The members of the SIC never had any experience with any investigation of this type and so they sought and received help from these consultants.

He outlined the procedures for decisions of the SIC. The SIC's decisions were made generally by consensus and mutual agreement. Any necessary votes were taken among the four lay and clergy members of the SIC. His Grace only voted to break a tie.

His Grace outlined the history of the meetings. The SIC met 20 times: seven meetings in person (six times at the OCA Chancery and one meeting on the West Coast) and 13 conference calls. Interviews were made both in person and by using conference calls. The SIC Report as currently circulated has been changed slightly and will be available on the OCA web site, hopefully today, with the approval of the Metropolitan Council with the blessing of the Holy Synod. Footnotes have been added; some corrections were made; otherwise there are no significant changes. The SIC's concern in releasing the Preliminary Report was to get the main body of the report out to the faithful as soon as possible and before the ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL, because it felt it a pastoral necessity for the Church as a whole.

His Grace listed the sources utilized which included:

- Minutes of the Holy Synod, Metropolitan Council, and the Administrative Committee from 1989-present;
- OCA Treasurers' Reports and documents
- Material from the Spiritual Trial of Robert Kondratick
- Records from St. Catherine's Representation Church in Moscow
- OCA general ledger from 1989-2006
- Proskauer Rose's report
- The report of the former Special Commission, which focused mainly on Robert Kondratick
- The SIC also viewed and tried to examine closely a video tape that was made at St. Catherine's Church in Moscow; looked at online databases; employed a private investigator, and looked at four Bankers' Boxes of invoices.
- The SIC also had some, but very limited, contact with the FBI, which was and may still be looking into the issues concerning the SIC Report.

His Grace presented the methodology that was utilized for the Report. He emphasized that this was an administrative investigation, not a forensic audit or a criminal investigation. There are various kinds of investigations which have varying standards of proof: in a criminal trial, conclusions must be beyond a shadow of doubt. He stated that the goal was intended to produce information that could be used internally by the OCA to determine potential existence of misconduct, malfeasance, and organizational failures. The standard of proof that was used is the standard for an administrative investigation, the preponderance of the evidence. One difficulty the SIC encountered was the lack of subpoena power. They could only compel one person, an employee, to be interviewed. One person declined to be interviewed. However, there were a great number of persons involved. Some witnesses were no longer employed by the OCA; others still maintained positions of responsibility in its administration and leadership. There were legal concerns and priest-penitent concerns. His Grace noted that this is, first of all, the Church – it is not merely a non-profit organization. All of these factors had to be balanced against its desire to be mindful of the need of the Church at large for closure and resolution.

His Grace presented the outline of the SIC Report. The SIC Report is structured in six sections:

1. Executive Summary
2. Background
3. Details
4. Timeline, which Bishop BENJAMIN feels is one of the most revealing sections of the Report
5. Recommendations
6. Appendices

The Report gave findings on the actions of particular persons: Metropolitan THEODOSIUS; Metropolitan HERMAN; the Holy Synod; the Metropolitan Council; the Treasurers of the OCA; the Comptroller; and the former Chancellor, Robert S. Kondratick. Bishop BENJAMIN read from those portions of the report. He referred the ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL to SIC Report (Preliminary), pp. 1-3.

His Grace addressed the recommendations of the Report. Bishop BENJAMIN said that the Recommendations put forth in the SIC Report will be addressed at the next Plenary Session (Session Three).

After reviewing these portions of the Report, Bishop BENJAMIN offered personal reflections on the experience of conducting the work of the SIC. His Grace commented that in his view, there is no other Orthodox Church in the world that could look at itself and its leadership with the kind of scrutiny that we have done and are continuing to do. He commented that our autocephaly is a gift which we may have used, or misused, at times, but we can learn from our mistakes; and His Grace believes that that is what we are trying to do.

He expressed that this investigation has been the most painful and soul-wrenching thing he has ever done in his life. He expressed his sympathy for the suffering endured by the laity and clergy. He reminded the ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL that we are all human beings, even bishops, and that we ask forgiveness of each other. He closed by reminding the Council that we are the Church of Christ and as such we are greater than the sum total of our fallen parts. He also noted that there are various levels of accountability concerning our difficulties.

Questions from the floor followed.

Question by Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Falls Church, VA (OCA Romanian Diocese):

A 13-page legal memo was provided to the Metropolitan Council, which indicated the OCA was in violation of IRS tax-exempt regulations regarding "Excess Benefits" and funds received from high-level administrators. Why did this information not appear in the Metropolitan Council minutes or the SIC Report?

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): The focus of the SIC investigation was on the situation itself. The Metropolitan Council according to Best Practice implementations is

addressing those questions of excess benefits. It is a work in progress. The purpose of our report was to find out what happened and why. The legal memo referenced here could not be verified.

Question by Dr. Paul Meyendorff, Three Hierarchs Chapel, St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY:

I agree with your optimism. This could be a high point for the OCA, not our lowest. Issues hinted at in the SIC Report include a \$30,000 payment to Wayne Silva which point at possible other types of impropriety. Are there plans to follow up leads on this issue?

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): We did follow up on that, but we have no idea what the \$30,000 check was for, because attempts to contact that person were unsuccessful. We are not even certain that the Wayne Silva we attempted to contact was the right person. We cannot compel testimony.

Question by Archpriest Theodore Bobosh, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Dayton, OH:

I have heard comments that there is no Proskauer Rose report as such. Does a report exist? Has the Holy Synod received everything from Proskauer Rose, and are they going to pursue that?

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): There is a report. All the members of Holy Synod have seen it, and the Metropolitan Council has looked at it. It is part of the Appendices from the first report of the Special Commission. Mysteriously, one copy seems to have disappeared.

Question by Priest David Garretson, Ss. Peter & Paul Church, South River, NJ:

From my experience, Proskauer Rose does excellent work. There will not be a "report" as such – that is how these things are done. A collection of documents is provided, however. We are fortunate to have had them assist us in this investigation.

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): There is always a tension between lawyers and the Church. Our main focus is on the salvation of our members. We need to ask forgiveness of God and each other, not tear each other apart.

Question by Priest Paul Gassios, St. George Cathedral, Rossford, OH:

Is it true that Protodeacon Eric Wheeler's report as released publicly was edited from what the Holy Synod saw? If so, how was it different? How do these differences figure in to what you investigated?

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): Our report began with Protodeacon Wheeler’s “Call to Accountability”. It was an underlying theme. We interviewed him three or four times, and he was a very useful witness. But we can only report on the facts we could prove.

Question by Mark Stokoe, Member, Metropolitan Council; St. Paul the Apostle Church, Dayton, OH:

You didn’t answer the question. I published “A Call to Accountability”. Did the Holy Synod receive a different version?

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): I received a full report. What we published was our report. Protodeacon Wheeler’s report was in general very good, but there were things we could not substantiate.

Question by Archpriest Thomas Mueller, Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church, Milwaukee, WI:

Other than the FBI, are there other civil investigations that are pending or threatened? Since we now have a Federal Attorney on the Metropolitan Council, can you give an update on these issues?

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): There are [other civil investigations]. We don’t know whether the FBI is still investigating, and we have heard nothing from the IRS. There is a lawsuit against OCA by the Kondraticks for recovery of \$250,000 that they believe they are owed on the Martin Drive house. There is also a suit filed against Fr. Jarmus and Dr. Faith Skordinski by Robert Kondratick for defaming his name in the Spiritual Trial. I do not know if there are others.

Clarification by Gregory Nescott, Member, Metropolitan Council, St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park, PA:

[Mr. Nescott is the Federal Attorney referred to above.] The Church has counterclaimed the original suit filed by the Kondraticks. The last suit you named has been filed.

Two important clarifications regarding Proskauer Rose:

First, they did not do a “report”. They gave us an 8-page summary; which is outlined on the SIC report and the original Special Commission report. The “binder” they gave us contains 700 pages of documents – invoices, etc. – which have been partly published, not all. Second, our new legal counsel, Thaddeus Wojcik, is working with us to secure all the documents from Proskauer Rose.

Question by Rebecca Matovic, St. Mary Magdalen Church, New York, NY:

What do you believe the total amount of misused and diverted money amounts to?

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): I don't think we know the full extent. It is important to note that some of the missing money could have been correctly disbursed – we just do not know because there was no recordkeeping. It would be honest to say the amount is a million dollars and up.

Question by Stephen Schumacher, St. Herman of Alaska Mission, Port Townsend, WA:

Were documents destroyed? To what extent?

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): We do know that there was an active shredder going at the Chancery. This is where we can get taken advantage of by trying to act in a Christian (that is, trusting) manner.

Question by Anthony Kasmer, St. Vladimir's Church, Trenton, NJ:

What happened to the cash that was received for 9/11, the Christmas Stocking project, and other charities?

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): We know the money was deposited into bank accounts. We don't know how it was disbursed.

Comment by Archpriest Michael Meerson, Christ the Savior Church, New York, NY:

[Fr. Meerson related a conversation with a priest in Europe concerning funds.]

Question by Archpriest Chad Hatfield, Chancellor, St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY:

If money laundering in Russia is involved, we must assume our Department of External Affairs is involved. Is this true?

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): Gifts were exchanged; cash transactions were necessary in many cases, but there was no documentation. By the end of the year, External Affairs expenses would be 5 to 10 times the budgeted amount.

Comment by Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky, Our Lady of Kazan Church, Sea Cliff, NY; Director of External Affairs, OCA:

We trusted that budgeting was taken care of by the Metropolitan and the Chancery staff. I would go to the former Chancellor and state the need for a delegation to travel, and if it was possible, the trip would be approved, and if it was not possible, the trip would not be approved. Without exception, for years, External Affairs personnel did not have involvement in the budgeting process.

[Fr. Leonid further commented on the impossibility of using checks in Russia and offered examples from his experiences on situations where cash donations were the only means of disbursing funds for charity in Russia. This was experienced by humanitarian agencies, news bureaus, and other entities making similar transactions. He indicated concern over the lack of documentation within the OCA of how these funds were disbursed.]

Bishop BENJAMIN affirmed the frequent necessity of cash transactions overseas and the lack of documentation within the OCA's records.

Question by Archpriest John Reeves, former member of Special Commission, Holy Trinity Church, State College, PA:

I commend the work of the SIC for its thoroughness, especially given the constraints it faced. How has the Holy Synod chosen to respond specifically to address these issues where Bishops have been named as having dropped the ball? I think there could be far-ranging implications for the election of the Primate tomorrow.

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): There is an ecclesiology issue that will be expounded later on. Bishops are accountable to each other and to all bishops in the world. Bishops have authority within their own Diocese. The question is whether and how bishops respond to brother bishops acting in their own Diocese when they don't agree. Bishop BENJAMIN added that there is a different spirit among the Holy Synod. We do not terrorize one another or our flocks. Mutual accountability out of love and the image of Christ in one another is how we should interact. We have developed relationships to be able to interact in this way. Our conciliarity is almost unparalleled in the world. The internet world has made our job easier in some respects, more difficult in others. Such an open culture tends to make us more closed. We have to dare to love one another.

Archbishop Nathaniel commented that when he visited Moscow with Metropolitan HERMAN, Archbishop SERAPHIM, and Bishop NIKON, Fr. Zacchaeus approached them and stated he thought there was a problem with the funds going to orphans. Contrary to the SIC Report, they did notify Metropolitan HERMAN of this. His Eminence further stated that he is the 2nd oldest bishop on the Holy Synod and can say that they did have respect and love for one another and that this is not something new.

Question by Archpriest Dusan Koprivica, St. Demetrius Church, Jackson, MI:

Archbishop JOB has been a voice crying in the wilderness. Can we have answer to his question, "Are the allegations true, or are they false?"

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): I think the SIC report says a qualified "Yes."

Comment by Priest Christopher Wojcik, Holy Trinity Church, Clayton WI:

I appreciate Your Grace's words recently, especially regarding the tenor of the Holy Synod. For those of us who are cautious, we'll need to see that dynamic to know it exists. That will be tested – I think there's a test at the gates – to hold one another accountable.

Earlier in your talk, you quoted a priest as saying, "Thank God it's only about money." You appeared to agree. I'd like you to retract that statement. It's about integrity, truth, accountability, broken trust, broken hearts, losing catechumens, the failure to hear direct apologies, a lot of excuses being made, people in high places saying they didn't drop the ball because they made one phone call. I hope your words about episcopal accountability are true.

Credentials Report

Archpriest Daniel Kovalak, Chair of the Credentials Committee, gave the following report:

Total Registration to date:

Clergy Delegates	314
Lay Delegates	316
Observers	214
Retired Clergy	9
Guests	23
Total	776

Current Session:

Hierarchs	11
Clergy	292
Lay Delegates	300
Retired Clergy	9
Observers	96
Total	708

Update from Resolutions Committee

Archpriest John Erickson, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, commented that the Committee has received a total of five resolutions, four of them in advance of the All-American Council. Of those four, three are from the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, and one is from the Diocese of Western Pennsylvania. Yesterday evening a fifth resolution was received from the Diocese of New England.

Fr. Erickson stated that these Resolutions will be considered as follows:

- Resolution No. 2 from Eastern Pennsylvania, at this afternoon's Plenary Session 3
- Resolutions No. 1 and 3 from Eastern Pennsylvania, at this evening's Plenary Session 4
- Resolutions from Western Pennsylvania and New England, at Plenary Session 6, on Wednesday afternoon.

Fr. Erickson asked members of the Resolutions Committee to stand up.

Request from Bishop TIKHON

Bishop TIKHON asked that, while he acknowledged the gravity of the topic of the session, he felt that more than a "Memory Eternal" was in order for the newly departed Fr. Stephen Karaffa. He was informed that a Memorial Service would be celebrated at the beginning of the next session.

Nominations Update

Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Chair of the Nominations Committee, stated that the deadline for submitting nominations is 8:00 pm this evening. Nominations are being sought for Metropolitan Council, Pension Board, and Audit Committee.

Housekeeping

Fr. Eric G. Tosi announced that a box of tea lights from Ss. Mary and Martha Monastery, and a set of deacon's vestments, are missing. The next plenary session (Session 3) will be at 2:30pm.

Closing. The Session closed at 1:00 PM with the singing of "*It Is Truly Meet.*"

Order	Event	Person
1.	Council Opening	Vice-Chairs
2.	SIC Report	Bishop Benjamin
3.	Discussion/Questions	Vice Chairs
4.	Resolutions	Vice Chairs
5.	Housekeeping	Fr. Eric
6.	Close session	Vice-Chairs

15TH All-American Council

Plenary Session Three

Tuesday, November 11 – 2:00 PM

Session Opening

The session opened at 2:50 PM with “*The Grace of the Holy Spirit*” at 2:50 PM followed by a Memorial Service for Archpriest Stephen Karaffa.

Archpriest Emilian Hutnyan of St. Andrew’s Church, Maple Heights, OH shared, of his father-in-law, Archpriest Stephen Karaffa, that as he approached to receive communion this morning, he asked forgiveness of his delegate. Due to the crisis as pastor of Archangel Michael Church, his heart was broken. Archbishop JOB attempted to pray the Litya by his side.

Reading by Alex Liberovsky, OCA Archivist, reading from Ephesians 4:17-24

Archpriest Paul Jannakos, clergy chair, then asked all to recognize our military chaplains and veterans which the delegates showed with loud applause

Report on the Recommendations of the Special Investigative Committee

The report was given by members of the SIC. Dr. Dmitri Solodow stated first, “Part of the task of the SIC was to make recommendations to avoid the same failures in the future.” Dr. Solodow then read the immediate and long-term recommendations. (See attached Power Point)

Question by Protodeacon Peter Danilchik, Protection of Holy Mother of God Church, Falls Church, VA:

Protodeacon Danilchick asked if this All-American Council will establish members of the strategic committee.

Answer (Dr. Solodow): No. The resolution will be addressed this week to create committee without establishing membership.

Question by Archpriest John Udics Assumption of the Holy Virgin Philadelphia, PA:

Fr. Udics asked if he heard Dr. Solodow say “former Protodeacon Wheeler?”

Answer (Dr. Solodow): Dr Solodow said if he did he misspoke.

Question by Peter Eagler Holy Apostles Church Saddlebrook, NJ:

Mr. Eagler asked is the Audit of NY/DC completed?

Answer (Fr. Eric Tosi): Answered that the process has not started yet.

Question by Dr. David Ford, St. Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA:

Dr. Ford asked if any disciplinary measures were taken regarding Metropolitan HERMAN.

Answer (Dr. Solodow): Dr. Solodow stated that the Holy Synod asked for Metropolitan HERMAN's retirement

Dr. Solodow continued by stating that it's been said accurately that the SIC report can only be done in our OCA. Let me expand on this. Report is not quite yet a blessing. It's a possibility. Promises of SIC report need to become a reality. Then it's a blessing.

Question by Dr. Jeff Zdarle, St. Matthew Church Green Bay, WI:

Dr. Zdarle asked about the audit of St. Tikhon's accounts.

Answer (Bishop TIKHON): His Grace replied that seminary has been audited during the past five years. The audit of the monastery and bookstore is underway.

Further questions were asked about most recent loan taken in July and His Grace stated that the loan is consolidation of previous loans. There is no connection of this loan to the current crisis.

Bishop BENJAMIN added that some disentanglement is still underway for portions of the seminary and monastery as there has been no consistency. Bishop TIKHON added that he requested a title search regarding the land and properties of St. Tikhon's. It will take time to sort out all these dimensions.

Fr. Yaroslav Sudick, Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers, NY made the point that the current STS loan is the same loan from the 100th anniversary except at a lower rate.

Question by Archpriest Theodore Bobosh, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Dayton, OH:

Fr. Bobash asked what actions did SIC or Holy Synod think needed to be taken against Metropolitans THEODOSIUS and HERMAN because retirement and being consigned to a home parish is not a disciplinary action in some opinions.

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): His Grace answered that the deliberations of Holy Synod are private. His Grace then gave his opinion that if you are Metropolitan of the OCA and asked to retire due to failure, it is serious. However, these are people, Orthodox Christians. These are men whom we are called to love for their salvation.

Question by Archpriest Samuel Kedala of Holy Spirit Church Wantage, NJ:

Fr Kedala asked what was the basis for the audit of Diocese of N.Y. and D.C.

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): His Grace answered there is some confusion about the request for the audit. “The committee is recommending audit to assure your Diocese that things were done correctly.”

Comment by Al Fundas of St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, Jamaica Estates, NY and former member of SVS board:

Mr. Fundas added that SVS have been doing proper audits since 1963.

Comment by Avangelia Amirali, Sign of the Theotokos, Montréal, QB, Canada:

Ms Amirali stated that she was hoping to hear recommendations regarding formation and support of those chosen to be our priests and bishops to help us not find ourselves in a similar crisis situation again.

Comment by Archpriest John Udics, Assumption of Holy Virgin Philadelphia, PA:

Fr. Udics stated that it made him angry when someone asked yesterday when Holy Synod would confess to all their offenses. He felt that the person was rude and that it is not appropriate for anyone to address the All-American Council or Holy Synod with rudeness and anger. He reminded the Council that if the intention is to come to microphone angrily then take a breath first.

Comment by Rebecca Matovic, St. Mary Magdalene, NY:

Ms Matovic made two points. Firstly that no one from Diocese thinks it’s a mystery to be audited since everyone had to re-pay assessments that went missing, and secondly there’s a sobriety and seriousness to this council. She hoped that it will continue. She opined about patting ourselves on the back for being the only Church that could be this honest lest we forget what’s happened.

Archpriest Joseph Lickwar, Ss. Peter and Paul Jersey City, NJ and Chancellor of the Diocese of Washington and New York corrected Ms. Matovic’s point by stating that paying on obligations is not repaying.

Question by Elizabeth Frase from All Saints Church, Columbus, OH:

Matushka Frase asked what, if anything, is going to be done about clergy punished during Bob Kondratick time as chancellor.

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): His Grace responded by saying he's not aware of any such clergy. If Holy Synod needs to review particular case then write a formal petition to Holy Synod

Question by Archpriest Andrew Yavornitzky, St. Mark Church, Rochester MI:

Fr. Yavornitzky stated that a lot of wounds were opened by this crisis and much hurt. Did SIC consider this when it prescribed its disciplinary actions?

Answer (Bishop BENJAMIN): His Grace answered by asking, "What do you think? We are your pastors. Of course we considered the feelings of the faithful."

Fr. Paul Jannakos reminded delegates that discussions must be germane, brief (3 minutes), respectful, and that people must be open minded, forthright, charitable, and speak truth in love.

Credentials Report

Hierarchs	11
Clergy Delegates	281
Lay Delegates	298
Retired Clergy	6
Observers	109
Total Voting:	590
Total Present:	705

Resolutions

Fr. John Erickson presented the first set of resolutions. He stated that that resolution#2 (*see attached text*) is related to Church life and concerned with revision of OCA Statute. It was submitted by Eastern Pennsylvania. The SIC report recommended that a strategic planning committee take up many items included in Resolution 2. Fr. John then moved that we revise it so we don't end up with two committees doing the same thing and asked if Bp. TIKHON would agree to amending Resolution" Bp. TIKHON agreed to amend the resolution.

The following text shows the original text lined out with the revised text appended:

Request that synod of bishops of OCA through its own deliberations ~~of the previously constituted Committee on Statutes Revisions~~ either through a committee to revise the statutes or through proposed strategic planning committee provide the guidance to the church for the next triennium in the area of statutes revision.

Motion to accept: Archpriest John Erickson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY

Seconded by Archpriest Ernesto Rios of St. James Church, Port St. Lucie, FL

Resolution passed with one opposed.

Comment by Priest Alexander Rentel, St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY and Resolution Committee member:

Fr. Rentel asked the All-American Council for straw poll to see if delegates would be in favor of amending the Statute giving authority to the Metropolitan Council to select members to the OCA's internal auditing committee.

He stated that if we are in favor of the amendment then we don't have to identify nominees. If so, the Metropolitan Council, chaired by new Metropolitan, will nominate members at 7th session.

Comment by Archpriest Basil Rhodes, Saratoga, CA:

Fr. Rhodes strongly urged All-American Council not to take the poll. Discussion is wise whenever we want to take decision making power out of hands of many and give it to the few. No straw poll was taken.

Question by Protodeacon Peter Danilchik, Protection of Holy Mother of God Church, Falls Church, VA:

Protodeacon Danilchick asked for explanation of different levels of auditing.

Answer by Archpriest Alexander Garklavs: Fr. Garklavs answered that this is an important distinction to make. There are three levels: the audit committee we are referring to in this amendment is our internal one; then there is the independent CPA audit, and finally, there's the Metropolitan Council audit committee.

Nominations

Archpriest Ian MacKinnon stated that deadline for nominees is pushed back to noon tomorrow

Housekeeping

Fr. Eric Tosi communicated housekeeping, reminders, and announcements.

Session closed by Fr. Paul Jannakos at 4:29 PM with "*It is Truly Meet.*"

Order	Event	Person
1.	Council Opening	Vice-Chairs
2.	IOCC video	Fr. Andrew
3.	SIC Report	Bishop Benjamin
4.	Discussion/Questions	Vice Chairs
5.	Resolutions	Vice Chairs
6.	Housekeeping	Fr. Eric
7.	Close session	Vice-Chairs

15th All-American Council

Plenary Session Four

Tuesday, November 11 – 7:30 PM

Session Opening

The Session opened at 7:34 PM with the singing of “*The Grace of the Holy Spirit.*”

Protodeacon Sergei Kapral read from the Second Letter from Paul to Timothy (II Tim. 2:19-26)

Lay Vice Chair John Kozey mentioned that there was an open letter from Archbishop SERAPHIM on the table.

“American Destiny” video was shown.

Chancellor’s Report (See attached Power Point)

Archpriest Alexander Garklavs stated that we are all very new to our respective tasks arriving at a very tough time. Adjustments are being made now and for the future due to our jobs’ descriptions, so much is going on that we could not do all of the tasks in the description. There are about eight full time employees and four officers; all are overburdened over the course of a day, but much is accomplished. My job description is to deal with pastoral-type issues, parish priests, seminaries, pastoral care, seminary care, support resources, intercession for parish priests. Not much of it is accomplished due to other urgent legal matters. The legal issues noted in the report, those who know those issues are well informed. He continued that we can’t go into detail about the past Chancellor. Other legal issues are pending and lawyers have been retained and are costing you dollars. In some matters, the Church is defending itself, hoping to escape unscathed. He stated that questions can be asked later. Regarding pastoral issues, ongoing success of the seminary intern program, pledging money and support for the seminary intern programs thanks is giving to Fr. Steven Voytovich who is now the chairman of the Internship Program. Seminaries have started intern programs necessary to graduate; if you’ll support this, we will continue. Those involved would be older men, those from other religions, choir directors, Sunday School teachers, and all needing mentors. This year, we sent some seminarians out, and next summer we will send out more. The diaconal program has been helped by Fr. Martin Kraus. The curriculum needs updating. We find men who cannot go to the seminary but have extensive religious training, and we need to help them. It is necessary to give them the blessing and expand the Church.

Fr. Alexander commented on the pastoral vision of the OCA. The Orthodox Church in America has been thus far chosen by God to be a pastoral church. We have not yet developed a strong monastic presence, but pray to do so. The OCA is a representation of

Diocesan parishes. The crises we have sustained and are recovering from have affected the Holy Synod with regard to integrity, finances, etc. The real pain of the crisis has affected our parishes, our priests, and our parishioners. Trust has been compromised. Priests lost respect for hierarchs. Parishes lost respect for priests. We must talk and rebuild. It is a unique challenge in a secular high-tech culture. Crisis of today at this time: the gates of hell won't prevail against the Church. If we work together, we will survive." The OCA as we have received it is a great treasure to restore. We know that with God all things are possible and that we are One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

Secretary's Report (See attached Power Point)

Archpriest Eric G. Tosi stated that he did not expect the level of work that awaited me and I actually miss the peace and quiet of Las Vegas. I am humbled to be the Orthodox Church in America's secretary. The officers' positions have been redefined and divided the responsibilities. I started in July 2008. We have not always had the full staff. We came at different times. We are asking for your support. We are there for you. We serve your calls for help regarding pensions and other things. Thanks to the task force, which has worked for 2 years and met 22 times – a staff of 29 was dropped to 22, and is now down to 11 full-time employees and 4 part-time employees. This equaled a \$500,000 savings. Each one has a job description, a salary description, a handbook, policy procedures, and all files are audited. Many procedures were prepared by the Metropolitan Council and I came in to put them into place. There are internal staff meetings, different plans, more meetings, and all must be organized. Regarding estate management about the chancery, some of the information is right and some of it is wrong. The building has been inspected and is in excellent shape. Operation costs are down to \$14,000 a month. Any work needed is just cosmetic. We looked at the sales potential. This is the infant phase to figure the best way to use the property.

Fr. Eric further commented on the work of the Archives as they tell our story. We must preserve them and make them available for all to use.

Fr. Eric also commented on legal issues that are being worked on and new ones that need to be completed such as maintaining the 501 © 3 status. This is part of the multiple tasks that are the job of the secretary.

Director of Ministries and Communication Report (See attached Power Point)

Archpriest Andrew Jarmus stated that he is in charge of the newly created Department of Ministries and Communication. The goal was to give ministry a chance. The call is to heal and to comfort. Later, communication was added. I have been in this position 15-16 months, mostly for communication. There was a call for timely communication. We had two full-time staff positions responsible for communication and now there is one. I really try to allow the department chairs to do their thing, and my responsibility is to help them do their work and be their support. All four of us are here to serve the Church. I

communicate via e-mail and calls, but it's best in person. I help to find resources for special situations.

Fr. Andrew commented on communications. Communications is not only the OCA magazine but it falls under my leadership and Fr. John Matusiak has done a fine job. It is printed 6 times a year with 25,000 receiving it around the world. We also have an exchange list by which we send our magazine and receive magazines from others. The OCA.org website receives 500,000 hits a month. There are 40-50 new postings per month about music, news, press and news releases. Receiving photos for the website and finding the best ones to post is a long task. We also print the Desk Calendar and the Sourcebook. Hopefully, the calendar will be ready for you to take home. The Metropolitan Council has agreed that there would be only two appeals per year. One is the Mission Planting Grant Appeal and the Seminary Internship Appeal. The OCA website is transitioning to a new site and being upgraded with better security, more functional software which will allow posting remotely. In this way, we can do postings more quickly and efficiently. The OCA site now looks like a flow chart but you must dig for music or other information. We're trying to make it more user-friendly and accessible. For future projects, we want a more interactive website and more media partnerships such as Ancient Faith Radio. They are posting to their site and the OCA website under the All-American Council. We want more audio and video features. Over the next three years we want to decide what is the best role for ministry. Thanks to Archpriest John Matusiak and Protodeacon Kirill Sokolov who are both very technically capable. I am new to the OCA and there is no other place I would rather be. God brought us here to plant his church. I thank God I am part of the OCA to fulfill our destiny and to plant and grow at this time to these people."

Credentials

Registered

Clergy delegates	325
Lay delegates	321
Observers	123
Retired clergy	9
Visitors	25
Total	803

Session

Hierarchs	11
Clergy delegates	226
Lay delegates	246
Observers	53
Total	536

Questions and Answers

Question by Priest David Garretson, St. Peter and Paul Church, South River, NJ

Fr. Garretson asked why didn't we contact the existing legal committee already on board from the All-American Council in Toronto, Canada? The committee was named, never met, and was never contacted.

Answer (Fr. Garklavs): The website is being updated and there were many transitions over past years. For legal matters, we turned to the Metropolitan Council and followed the protocol to have Metropolitan Council follow up legal matters.

Fr. Garretson followed by stating that not during your tenure, but during the All-American Council in Canada, the legal committee was named but never contacted.

Fr. Garklavs noted there were new committees formed and new people were put in place.

Fr. Garretson continued that he had never seen a corruption case where the organization sues the individual. Chance of winning is next to nil. Regarding the Kondratick cases, you will never get recovery and spend thousands of dollars for nothing. He asked the question as to what is the goal of this action? What is the opinion of the litigator and the potential monetary recovery?

Gregory Nescott (Legal Committee member) responded by stating that litigations were not triggered by the OCA or the Metropolitan Council or the Holy Synod. All ramifications were considered because we knew there were misappropriations. With 20/20 hindsight, legal dollars are piling up, and they will continue. This is not the time or the place to discuss this. There is a \$25,000,000 lawsuit against two individuals and the Church. All the suits the Church is facing were started over previous years. We are hoping that new ones won't start.

Fr. Garretson concluded by asking what is the legal budget and what is the expectation of recovery? In his experience it's never cost effective regarding fees and recovery.

Motion: That the All-American Council directs the Metropolitan Council to file a motion to dismiss without prejudice our lawsuit filed against Robert Kondratick.

Motion by Archpriest David Garretson, Ss Peter and Paul Church, South River, NJ

Seconded by Sophocles Frangakis, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Las Vegas, NV

Greg Nescott spoke on the motion, indicating that it is highly inadvisable to vote on this at this point. We should wait for Thaddeus Wojcik, legal counsel for the OCA. The Metropolitan Council can take a closer look at this motion.

Parliamentary interruption by Archpriest Joseph Hirsch, Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Denver, CO and Chair of the Parliamentary Team. Fr. Hirsch stated that this competency is under the Metropolitan Council. It appears that this motion, arising unexpectedly takes

away their competency. This item arose unexpectedly and we would have to amend the Statute; it has not had the required 60 days notice before the motion. He referred to Article 3, section 1, Article 5, 41 and he ruled the motion out of order.

Discussion ensued on the ruling. The Lay Chair of the Council, John Kozey ruled that the motion is in order and stands. Archpriest George Johnson, St. John the Baptist Church, Johnstown, PA stated that it is up to the chair to decide if this is a parliamentary inaccuracy and the chair ruled in favor of Fr. David Garretson.

The motion was seconded by Bede Colvin, Holy Resurrection Church, Tacoma WA.

The Parliamentarian appealed the rule. An attempt was made to table the motion until tomorrow, seconded by Fr. George Johnson. Peter Eagler, Holy Apostles Church, Saddlebrook, NJ said tabling the vote is not possible as there has to be a rule on the substantiality of the motion. The speaker's motion is out of order. The voice vote on the appeal failed and then a card vote was called for. Archpriest Theodore Boback, St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Baltimore, MD requested a rising vote to accommodate those who did not bring their voting cards. The motion to overrule the chair passed with 296 votes.

Question by Michelle Anne Ostis, St. Cyril of Jerusalem Mission, Woodland, TX.

She asked the name of the speaker following Vespers tonight?

Answer (John Kozey): Archimandrite Meletios Webber, of St. John of Shanghai Monastery.

Question by Stephen Schumacher, St. Herman of Alaska Mission, Port Townsend, WA.

Mr. Shumacher asked about the situation in Alaska, to include the status of Bishop NIKOLAI's retirement.

Answer (Fr. Garklavs): Fr. Alexander responded that Bishop BENJAMIN could better answer that question but that he was unavailable. Fr Garklavs' involvement has to do with a pending legal matter that has now been addressed to the Holy Synod. Negotiations are in progress. This person's attorney has appealed to the Holy Synod.

Question by Deacon Patrick Donovan, Holy Trinity Church, Springfield, VT.

Dn. Donovan asked that on page 7 of the Officer's Report there is a performance review and who is to do them?

Answer (Fr. Tosi): Fr. Tosi replied the four officers are evaluated by the Metropolitan and each other.

Dn Donovan asked about the deaconate vocations program and why not use the St. Stephen's Program?

Fr. Garklavs answered it has been proposed and is under consideration.

Dn Donovan finally asked that on page 24 of the Officers' Report regarding the sale of the chancery property "Westwood Estate," consider the debt service on the loan and net equity, there are 11 people in 8,000 square feet is a lot of space and not logical.

Fr. Tosi answered that all aspects are being considered and the report is not complete, it is being worked on.

Question by Priest Jonathan Ivanoff, St. John the Theologian Church, Shirley, NY.

I applaud the new tone and request to know the census that is being reported.

Answer (Fr. Tosi): Fr. Tosi replied that the number is dependent on the reports of the parishes, finally stating that we are about 24 to 25 thousand strong in voting membership. This does not include Canada, Mexico, or the non-territorial Dioceses.

Question by Priest Thomas Moore St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Springfield, MI.

Fr. Moore requested information on the application of equality in discipline for all involved in the past relating to the precedent that have been set.

Answer (Fr. Garklavs): Fr. Garklavs answered that only bishops can discipline bishops, in terms of competency, a parish cannot discipline a priest only a bishop can.

Question by Archpriest John Jillions, Annunciation Cathedral, Ottawa, ON, Canada.

Fr. Jillions asked what happened to the questions of the Town Hall. Bishop BENJAMIN had earlier said the questions would be answered.

Motion to include questions and answers at the end of the session by Fr. Jillions.
Seconded by Joseph Gibson.

The motion passed by voice vote.

Answer (Bishop NIKON): His Grace answered we will address the issues once we have had time to review the questions. The bishops have yet to receive the questions. The bishops have requested the originals of the questions rather than the printed compilation.

Comment by Dr. Faith Skordinski, St. Mark Church, Bethesda, MD.

Dr. Skordinski stated she was disgusted by the bishops not answering Fr. Andrew's question regarding discipline.

Answer (Holy Synod): The Holy Synod replied that Bishop JONAH will answer these shortly.

Question by Priest Daniel Mathewson, St. Mary Church, Coaldale, PA.

Is there a communication problems between Department of Christian Education and Orthodox Christian Publications Center?

Answer (Fr. Jarmus): We are clarifying issues through the Chancery not departments. So everyone will have a clear vision.

Fr. Alexander Garklavs noted the hard work of and gave thanks for the support staff at the Chancery. He named Helen Detke, Greg Sulich, Alex Liberovsky, and Peter Ilchuk, who is leaving January 1, 2009.

Bishop SERAPHIM added the comment that he commuted to Syosset every week since September. I watched the staff working. I saw what they do. No eight hour days—more like 10-12 and weekends and evenings—working extra hard to take care of our church. They are very dedicated and are high quality Christians.

Response to Questions Posed to Holy Synod

Bishop JONAH was asked by the Holy Synod to respond to the questions. These are his abbreviated comments.

“We delayed answering these questions so we could give them more serious consideration. I will try to set out some theological principles that underline these questions. Let's look at them together. What I see in these questions is a plea from the Church for teaching. What is the ecclesiology of the Church? We must separate our OCA from cultural preconceptions of how organizations operate. We are a hierarchal church. Our leadership is underlined by a theological principle, the principle of synergy, of cooperation. The old days are over. Priests and bishops can't just do what they want just because they want to. Obedience is cooperation out of love and respect. Monasticism is the sacrament of obedience. On a broader level, our whole life in this Church together is a life of synergy, of voluntary cooperation and obedience to Christ and the Gospel. The Gospel has to be first and foremost, the canon by which we measure ourselves. So when we look at our ecclesiology, to see what the Church is and can be, it is always in the process of becoming, of entering into Divine synergy, which is nothing else than the process of deification, as one body, with one spirit, one heart, one mind. Otherwise our Eucharist is a sham, and we are alienated from Christ. We need to work out disagreements so we can enter into that mutual obedience and submission in love and respect. With this as our basic principle, how do we look at some of these questions? I've been consecrated a bishop for ten days. I'm rather new to this august group of

bishops, each one of whom I profoundly respect. And I see each one in their own uniqueness, with the gifts they have to offer.

The old days are over. Priests and bishops can't just do what they want just because they want to. There has to be voluntary cooperation. Obedience is cooperation out of love and respect. When the love and respect breaks down, anger and jealousy and revenge enter. If it's not about obedience to Jesus Christ, what are we doing here? When we look at what the Church can be, we must be of one mind, one heard, one body. Our synergy is through communion. We as Orthodox love to fight. But we must work it out with love and respect. I profoundly respect each bishop of the Holy Synod."

Question on Bishop Leadership

Answer by Bishop JONAH. "Leadership rather follows from what is communion from love and respect. A culture of intimidation, alien to Christ, has prevailed and still prevails in certain sectors of the Orthodox Church. This demon needs to be exorcised. Intimidation and fear are never appropriate. Now that doesn't mean that you are not going to get a rebuke. What father does not rebuke His children out of love? God chastises those whom He loves. But for our life in the Church to be controlled by fear and intimidation, and I've had plenty of it, I resolved that never would I allow myself to fall into that. Power corrupts, and that power needs to be renounced. We need to be able to speak our minds but do so in a sober way.

The SIC Report, if you look at it a certain way, basically stated that the last two Metropolitans were corrupt, that they abrogated their responsibility of leadership on all levels. So is it a wonder that the Holy Synod, being leaderless, operated as it did? There was a fear within the walls of Syosset that has been removed. Thank God. The bishops attend to their own Dioceses. We all know in our Dioceses how much we love and respect each bishop. The Church was looted. This is an expensive lesson. I don't think that in any way, shape, or form, a new Metropolitan elected from this Holy Synod will let down the confidence of the Church in knowing that we are operating in an atmosphere of love, respect, and hoped. Yes, we were betrayed. It is over. Let it be in the past so that we can heal. If we maintain resentment in our souls, whatever the form, it is a cancer that will eat away our souls and destroy us and our relationships. We can build a community of love and respect. Each priest probably has dozens or hundreds of people who are looking to him, and his authority is based, is founded, on that responsibility to convey the Gospel, 95% by action and 5% by your words. Authority is responsibility. Authority is accountability. It is not power."

Question on whether the Holy Synod was Leaderless.

Answer by Bishop JONAH. "Yes, for 30 years. Hierarchy is about responsibility. We are the only Orthodox Church not under a State. So the Church is our responsibility. What will you do with your responsibility?"

One of the hardest things in my ministry was the death of a 22-year-old brother, river rafting on the spring thaw, thinking as a 22-year-old that you are immortal. As his spiritual father, I knew after his death that I was standing before God at the judgment, pleading for his soul. As priests you have the same responsibility, to stand before the throne of God with those who have been entrusted to you. Think of the similar responsibility of the bishops. We all need to come together in love and respect – put aside the anger and bitterness – and recognize together the awesome responsibility before us. How do we establish trust? We have to choose to love; we have to choose to forgive. This is the only way if we are Christians.”

Bishop NIKON also responded. “We have great quality in the members of the Holy Synod. We may have fallen short. The perception is that the bishop is the leader. He has Diocese and laity. We share ways to reestablish trust. It has to be earned. It takes time to build it. I don’t know any member who does not love their flock, their Diocese. It’s our turn to reach out to others. We have to make sure we are on Christ’s side.”

Archbishop NATHANIEL offered clarification regarding the Romanian Archdiocese.

“In 1970 they reaffirmed it wanted to be part of OCA as from 1970 to 1990, the Church was under siege from abroad. Archbishop Valarian suffered to keep the ROC out of the hands of those abroad. In 1984, I was elected to the Holy Synod and from 1984 to 1990, I was aware of pressures from abroad; to concelebrate with the Romanian Archdiocese; effort to reconcile with the sharing of the sacraments. With the immigration of many faithful and clergy, perhaps it was time to reconcile as brethren with the OCA. The question was asked in the last 5 years, was there any possibility of the two Dioceses to become one? Can something be done, unique to the ‘American Way’? Documents were prepared that was a proposal from Archdiocese and Episcopate without become autocephalous. Term “maximal autonomy” was born. A Statute was being prepared that were not subject to Synod of Romania. It’s been presented and being hammered out.

Some bishops liked the proposal, some didn’t, some said ‘let’s wait and see what happens.’ Nothing was hidden by me. It is a proposal not proposed. Does it help Orthodox unity in Romania? In time, other jurisdictions would see they were welcome into the OCA. That was the hope of Orthodox Church of Russian in 1970 and the hope today. If the other mother churches don’t give their daughter churches the blessing to enter the OCA, maybe Metropolis’ will work together. The OCA has many converts to the church and many English speaking parishes.”

Bishop TIKHON offered some final comments.

“I’m the quiet Bishop. Many things are a paradox. My Diocese is a paradox. It seems to me that we are attempting to resolve the paradox rather than looking to the light to resolving the paradox. Let’s seek the light.”

The session closed at 11:25 PM with “*It is Truly Meet.*”

Order	Event	Person
1.	Council Opening	Vice-Chairs
2.	American Destiny video	Fr. Andrew
3.	Officers Report	Officers
4.	Discussion/Questions	Vice Chairs
5.	Resolutions	Vice Chairs
6.	Housekeeping	Fr. Eric
7.	Close session	Vice-Chairs

15th All-American Council

Plenary Session Five

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 – 10:30 AM

Session Opening

The Session opened at 10:48 AM with the singing of “*The Grace of the Holy Spirit.*”

A Scripture lesson from The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews, was read by Polly Walker, (Hebrews 13:7-17).

Archpriest Alexander Garklavs introduced Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky of the Department of External Affairs.

Father Leonid read a series of letters of greetings to His Eminence DMITRI, Archbishop of Dallas and the South, *Locum Tenens* of the Metropolitan See, and to all the faithful gathered for the 15th All American Council, from various heads of Churches:

His Holiness, ALEKSY, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia;
His Holiness, ILIA II, Catholicos and Patriarch of All Georgia;
His Holiness, PAVLE, Patriarch of Serbia;
His Beatitude, ANASTASIOS, Archbishop of Tirana and All Albania;
His Beatitude, SAWA, Metropolitan of Warsaw and All Poland;
His Beatitude, KRYSTOF, Metropolitan of the Czech Lands and Slovakia;
His Beatitude, LEO, Archbishop of Kirelia and All Finland.

After the reading of the letters Archpriest Paul Jannakos stated that the Council must proceed with the election of a new Metropolitan.

Declaration of Vacancy

His Eminence, Archbishop DMITRI read the official statement of vacancy for the Metropolitan See. He turned the chair over to Fr. Garklavs for the election.

At 11:07 AM, Archpriest Alexander Garklavs asked that the doors be sealed so that voting for the Metropolitan could begin.

Credentials

Archpriest Daniel Kovalak, Holy Cross Church, Williamsport, PA and Chair of the Credentials Committee, announced that the following were present:

Hierarchs	10
Clergy Delegates	310
Lay Delegates	325
Retired Clergy	7
Observers	119
Guests	22
Total	793

Of those present, 645 were eligible to vote.

For the first ballot 432 represented the 2/3 count needed to present a candidate to the Holy Synod.

Presentation of Procedures

Archpriest Alexander Rentel, St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY and Chair of the Canons Commission was called upon by Fr. Garklavs to read from the Statute of The Orthodox Church in America, Article 4, Section 4, dealing with the election of a Metropolitan. Fr. Rental read from the section and asked for any questions. There were none.

Archpriest John Memorich, Archangel Michael Church, Broadview Heights, OH and chair of the Teller Committee discussed actual voting procedures and reminded everyone of a few points regarding the election:

- Tellers were only issuing ballots to those with green and orange badges;
- Prior to voting participants should make the sign of the Cross;
- Please print name legibly, in English only;
- There will be no great concern about proper spelling;
- When voting for a standing hierarch, use the proper name and title for each candidate;
- When voting for a monastic use his last name or the name of the monastery to which he is attached;
- Do not write anything inappropriate that will discredit the voting;
- Have patience with the tellers, as the count will take time.

First Ballot

Ballots were passed out by the tellers for the First Ballot, at 11:15 AM.

At 11:26 AM tellers proceeded to the tellers' room for a ballot count, as the faithful began to sing hymns to the Holy Spirit and to the North American Saints.

Archpriest Alexander Garklavs read a passage to the faithful from the 1st Epistle of the Holy Apostle John.

The tellers returned with the results of the First Ballot. The results were read by Archpriest John Memorich at 12:23 PM. Results were as follows:

Archbishop DMITRI	10
Archbishop NATHANIEL	9
Archbishop JOB	212
Archbishop SERAPHIM	33
Bishop NIKON	5
Bishop TIKHON	27
Bishop BENJAMIN	75
Bishop IRINEU	0
Bishop ALEJO	0
Bishop JONAH	233
Bishop BASIL (Essey)	6
Archpriest Michael Dahulich	16
Igumen Alexander (Golitzin)	5
Hieromonk Callinic (Berger)	1
Archimandrite Zacchaeus (Wood)	1
Bishop HILARION of Vienna	2
Archbishop LAZAR (Puhalo)	2
Archpriest Basil Summer	1
Archimandrite Zacharias St. John's Monastery, England	1
Archimandrite Meletios (Webber)	2
Archpriest Dennis Bradley	1
Number of uncast votes:	3
Total:	645
Needed for 2/3:	430

Archpriest Alexander Garklavs stated that since no candidate received 2/3 of the votes, a Second Ballot would be taken.

Second Ballot

The second ballot was passed out at 12:28 PM, taken up at 12:37 PM by the tellers to the tellers' room, and with the blessing of the Holy Synod the doors were "unsealed" for participants to take a small break.

At 12:51 PM the Akathist for the North American Saints was celebrated.

The Akathist ended at 1:42 PM, at which time the tellers returned with the results of the Second Ballot.

The results were read by Archpriest John Memorich at 1:45 PM. The results were as follows:

Archbishop DMITRI	35
Archbishop NATHANIEL	9
Archbishop JOB	364
Archbishop SERAPHIM	42
Bishop NIKON	19
Bishop TIKHON	75
Bishop BENJAMIN	140
Bishop IRINEU	3
Bishop ALEJO	3
Bishop JONAH	473
Bishop BASIL (Essey)	22
Monk Stavros (Lever)	2
Archpriest Michael Dahulich	31
Igumen Alexander (Golitzin)	6
Archpriest David Mahaffey	2
Archbishop LAZAR (Puhalo)	3
Archbishop Nikiphoros	1
Archpriest Basil Summer	6
Igumen Patrick (Carpenter)	2
Bishop MARK of Toledo	1
Archimandrite Juvenaly (Repass)	1
Archpriest Oleg Kirilov	4
Archimandrite Zacharias	
St. John's Monastery, England	2
Archimandrite Meletios (Webber)	16
Archpriest Dennis Bradley	2
Metropolitan HILARION (ROCOR)	2
Bishop Hilarion of Vienna	2
Archpriest Dennis Pihach	2
Archimandrite Vladimir (Wendling)	1
Archpriest David Brum	1
Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon	1
Priest David Mezynski	1
Number of uncast votes:	12
Invalid Votes:	4
Total:	1290

His Eminence Archbishop JOB and His Grace Bishop JONAH received the top two votes. Their names were submitted to the Holy Synod of Bishops for approval, and for one to be elected as the Metropolitan for All-America and Canada for the Orthodox Church in America.

Holy Synod Vote

The Holy Synod retired to the sanctuary to vote for the new Metropolitan. As the Bishops deliberated the faithful sang.

The results of the Canonical Election by the Holy Synod were received at 2:10 PM and announced by His Eminence Archbishop DMITRI. His Grace Bishop JONAH of Ft. Worth had been elected as His Beatitude JONAH, Archbishop of Washington and New York, Metropolitan of All America and Canada.

Vesting and Installation of the new Metropolitan

The faithful sang *Eis Polla Eti, Despota*, and then the Diptychs were intoned by Protodeacon Kirill Sokolov.

His Eminence Archbishop DMITRI, as senior hierarch, then presented words of encouragement to the newly elected Metropolitan. The Archbishop stated that he was full of joy at this election, for it struck him at (then) Bishop JONAH's consecration just eleven days ago, that the Lord had other plans for him. He said that he hoped that His Beatitude would accept from him as a brother, a thought that had crossed the Archbishop's mind regarding one of the last chapters in St. John's Gospel. In one of their last encounters prior to the Crucifixion, Jesus took St. Peter aside and asked, "*Lovest thou Me?*" The Gospel says that when He asked this a third time St. Peter was grieved. His Eminence stressed that in a sense all hierarchs are asked this question all the time. But, he said, there is another expression that is used, "*Lovest thou Me more than these?*" These questions were preparing St. Peter for a martyr's death. His Eminence stated that he was predicting a kind of martyrdom for Metropolitan JONAH, the kind that results from loving Christ with all of one's heart, mind, and soul. This love will be contagious and we all in the Church will pick up on it.

The Archbishop then exhorted the new Metropolitan to take these words given to St. Peter as his own, and not to worry about anyone else: just follow Christ. Finally, His Eminence stated that all of the bishops and the entire Church wish His Beatitude the greatest "success" carrying out the expectations of the Church.

His Beatitude Metropolitan JONAH then shared some of his own thoughts, saying that he was only consecrated eleven days ago. He emphasized that he is counting on the love and patience of all. St. Paul tells us that it is not just the rich and the talented that are the servants of Christ, but the weak and poor. Only Christ's glory is important. We must strive to work together with one heart and mind for Christ: nothing else matters. The Metropolitan then stressed that we must work in synergy with the Holy Spirit so that the Orthodox Church can become a safe harbor for those in pain, for the salvation of souls. The Christian life, he stressed, is about reaching out and putting away anything self-serving, and strive for Orthodox unity, not by any self-serving agendas, but by love. This is our task; this is our goal. We must keep going and never let anything get in our way or stop us.

Finally, the Metropolitan stated that our Church has had a difficult period, but we can put it together better than it was. It is a new day. He asked us to keep him in our prayers - and not only at the services - as he will keep us in his prayers.

At the end of the election, all Council participants approached the cathedra to receive a blessing from the new Metropolitan.

The session and service ended at 2:49 PM with prayers.

Order	Event	Person
1.	Session Opens	Archbishop DMITRI
2.	Declaration of vacancy	Archbishop SERAPHIM
3.	Appointment of Vice-Chairman for special session	Fr Alexander appointed
4.	Reading of Statute of Election	Fr. John Erickson
5.	Report of the credentials chair	Fr. Daniel Kovalek
6.	Ballots passed out	Fr. John Memorich
7.	Election	Fr. Alexander
8.	Report of 1 st Ballot	Fr. John Memorich
9.	Declaration of results of 1 st ballot	Fr. Alexander
10.	Election 2 nd ballot	Fr. John Memorich
11.	Report of 2 nd Ballot	Fr. John Memorich
12.	Declaration of the results of 2 nd ballot	Fr. Alexander
13.	Election by Bishops	AB Dmitri
14.	Declaration of new Metropolitan	Archbishop Dmitri
15.	Install new Metropolitan	AB Dmitri and Dn Kirill
16.	Close Special Session	Vice-Chairs

15th All-American Council

Plenary Session Six

Wednesday, November 12 – 4:00 PM

Session Opening

The Session opened at 4:20 PM with the singing of “*The Grace of the Holy Spirit*”.

A passage from 1 John 2 was read to the assembled by Mark Stokoe.

Special Guest

John Kozey introduced Thaddeus Wojcik, General Counsel of the OCA, who will join the session.

Introduction of the Financial Report

Priest Michael Tassos, the Treasurer of the OCA, was introduced. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to make this presentation and introduced Mr. John Barrone from the CPA firm of Weiser, LLP, the external auditors for the OCA.

External Auditor’s Report

Mr. Barrone commended the Chancery officers and staff for working diligently alongside him during the audit. He explained that the role of an independent auditor (also variously referred to as an “outside” or “external” audit) is to conduct an audit in accordance with standards generally accepted in the U.S., and to give an opinion whether financial statements fairly represent the financial situation of the Church. The auditor is an independent, competent third party. The level of assurance provided by an independent audit cannot be provided internally. Mr. Barrone shared the following important points concerning an independent audit:

- The auditing firm must maintain its independence from the entity it is auditing.
- The audited entity must have the capability to maintain good accounting records and summarize transactions properly into financial transactions.
- Must maintain accounting controls to ensure transactions are appropriately conducted and recorded.
- The selection of Fr. Tassos as Treasurer was instrumental in reconstructing the 2007 financial records of the OCA. Mr. Barrone stated that Weiser, LLP would not have accepted the job had Fr. Michael not been on board.
- An independent audit is not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control or provide an assurance that there are no such deficiencies. Any material

deficiencies the auditors do uncover will be recorded to OCA management within 45 days.

- An independent audit is not designed to provide absolute assurance as to accuracy of an organization's financial statements, because the auditor does not perform a detailed examination of all transactions. There is a small risk that mistakes could exist that are not detected by their testing.

Mr. Barrone stated that the final audit is not yet completed. They do intend to issue a qualified opinion letter on the financial statements of the Church. That means that except for a disclosed matter, the financial statements represent the Church's financial position fairly. The complication is that the inadequacy of financial records prevents them from forming an opinion as to assets' restricted purpose. All not-for-profit organizations are required to record their assets by whether they are donor-restricted or unrestricted in their use. Donor-restricted assets should be classified as either temporarily or permanently restricted. That reporting could not be made based on the initial condition of the Church's records. In view of these items, Mr. Barrone stated that Weiser, LLP intends to issue a qualified opinion letter.

Mr. Barrone presented draft reports onscreen (clearly labeled DRAFT):

- Statement of Financial Position as of 12/31/07, showing the OCA's assets and liabilities owed on that day. Cash & investments comprise just over 18 percent of assets. Net assets show a positive balance of just over \$2 million. Mr. Barrone noted that what cannot be shown here is how much of that balance should be restricted for donor restrictions.
- Statement of Activity, summarizing the financial transactions of the Church for the year ending 12/31 07. It reports all revenue earned and support pledged during the year, then subtracts all expenses incurred. The statement then reconciles the balance of net assets between the beginning and end of the year. In total, the Church reported total support and revenue of about \$3.4 million and expenses of about \$3 million, after adjusting for an estimated annuity payment.
- Breakdown of expenses and programs. The programs showing the largest expenses were the 9/11 Fund; Communications, History & Archives; Holy Synod stipends, and *The Orthodox Church* magazine.
- Statement of Cash Flow. Summarizes uses and sources of cash by operating activities, investment activities (investment assets), and financing activities (financing such as loans). The report shows that the funding of the operating activities & repayment of the financing activities was generally accomplished by sale of investment assets during 2007.
- The independent auditor's full report will be posted on www.OCA.ORG next week.

Mr. Barrone concluded by encouraging the Church should maintain its present attitude about accountability, should continue to stress competence and controls in its accounting dept (he again expressed confidence in Fr. Michael Tassos' leadership), and remain diligent in examining and correcting inadequate accounting records from the past.

Mr. Kozey again introduced Fr. Tassos.

Fr. Tassos stated that Mr. Barrone has agreed to answer questions that may arise from the Council in writing since he has to leave the meeting at this time.

Credentials

Hierarchs	9
Clergy delegates	239
Lay Delegates	266
Observers	76
Total	590

Treasurer's Report (See attached Power Point)

Fr. Tassos presented the Treasurer's Report, noting that it would be a joint report with portions presented by Archpriest Matthew Tate, Chair of the Finance Committee.

Fr. Tassos outlined his job description as Treasurer:

- Serves as Chief Financial Officer of the OCA
- Manages OCA budgeting, expense management and financial accounting activities.
- Oversees all aspects of income development
- Performs a variety of on-going financial activities
- Supports and/or guides and directs the work of the Office of Development and Stewardship
- Performs Other Duties as Assigned

Fr. Matthew Tate, Chair of the Finance Committee, shared some insights from before Fr. Tassos assumed the office of Treasurer. Fr. Tate said that when he first became Chair, in reviewing the 2002 to 2004 budgets, he was shocked to see they ran deficits between \$200,000 and \$1.2 million. At the 2007 budget meeting, he discovered that the money to cover those deficits was documented as coming from the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards and Planned Giving. The next year, that money would not be raised; and deficits would compound.

Fr. Tate continued that the first budget the Metropolitan Council was involved in developing was for 2006. He described we stated trying to put together a budget that year and to try to do so was a Gordian knot. The Metropolitan Council resolved to pay the bills and pass a balanced budget. They have accomplished this each year since 2006. Still, it was not until developing the 2008 budget that they could determine where some monies were being paid out. In 2006 there were significant unusual expenses such as severance pay, hiring expenses, legal expenses, along with a \$700,000 deficit. Auditors were hired only to find it impossible to complete audits because the records were so poor.

In 2006 the OCA took a loan from Honesdale Bank for \$1.7 million, admittedly a controversial move but in Fr. Tate's view unquestionably the right move in order to stop paying bills out of restricted funds and endowments and restore the financial integrity of the OCA. The Committee hoped at that time that the money from the loan would pay off all areas of restricted funds and endowments; more such areas were discovered later and are slowly being paid off.

Going into 2007, Fr. Matthew said, was like turning a ship – sure but slow. Fr. Tassos came aboard and began to piece together what few records existed. Still, much was simply unable to be accounted for – no receipts, no trails.

The OCA also sold the house on Martin Drive and the profit went immediately the principal of the loan. We did not reduce the loan payments despite this, so thankfully now we are paying much more principal. Other owed monies began to be paid out, to outside firms (e.g., accounting expenses), to Church entities (e.g., the Seminaries), and to charitable obligations (e.g., 9/11 relief).

We also had been given almost \$60,000 from the Federal government, going back to the late 1980s, to buy Bibles for Russia. We have mostly fulfilled that commitment.

Coming into 2008, significant costs were incurred for legal services, the SIC's work, and auditing services.

Fr. Matthew acknowledged that in the course of trying to balance the 2008 budget, probably some of those present at the Council had been hurt by cuts in positions and stipends in various areas. He apologized for this but affirmed that those cuts were absolutely necessary.

As we look at 2009, we know we will face legal costs of at least \$150,000, possibly as high as \$300,000. If we lose or settle in the legal actions in which we are involved, the impact could be from significant to catastrophic. Most of our departments are on "life support" and will remain so (pending the outcome of the upcoming Strategic Planning process), with the two exceptions of the Department of Missions and Seminary Internships, reflecting the expressed desire of the last All-American Council. We will need to fund the upcoming Strategic Plan, at least \$50,000, as well as the imminent enthronement of His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH.

There will only be two appeals in 2009, for Mission Planting Grants and for Seminary Internships. There will be no Charity Appeal or Stocking Appeal. Father Tate said he would like to see \$200,000 to \$300,000 for Missions and \$100,000 for Seminary Internships. He promised that this money will be well used. He acknowledged that parishes are saturated with "asks", and the Committee wishes to reduce this burden.

The OCA has been asked [by the faithful] for transparency, and we are getting very close. The budget is posted in detail on www.OCA.org, and the Treasurer is accessible by phone for questions. Everything we do is completely open; we want nothing to hide.

In the future, we will probably move [away from the Head Tax and] into proportional giving. As some Dioceses are in better positions than others to achieve this; we will maintain a partly head-tax, partly proportional-giving system for now.

Fr. Michael Tassos then presented his Treasurer's Report. What has happened to the OCA will have lifelong effects. For the past 2 yrs in particular, the Holy Synod, the Metropolitan Council, the Strategic Task Force, the Special Investigative Committee, and the Central Church Administration have been working hard to uncover what is hidden. What happened in the Administration was not just that money was missing, but a complete and total collapse of a reporting system that will take years to restore.

Fr. Tassos showed condensed balance sheets for 2005, 2006, 2007, and the first six months of 2008. The reports for 2005 and 2006 were done by Lamos Lambrides, LLP, accounting firm; the 2007 report was done by Fr. Tassos and is currently under audit by Weiser. The report for the first half of 2008 was also done by Fr. Tassos. /

Fr. Tassos highlighted a few of the points leading up to the beginning of the OCA's "journey of financial repentance" in 2006. These are published in full in his Treasurer's Report, which appears in full in the All-American Council materials and on www.OCA.org.

- The OCA's financial position in 2005 was bad enough to put us at risk for bankruptcy.
- In 2006 the Honesdale Bank loan was taken out. The substantial increase in cash is related to cash that was held for restricted purposes. Much of this cash could not be used because it is restricted funds, only to be used for restricted purposes.
- Also in 2006 was the attempt to have the accounts audited by Lamos, Lambrides, Moulthrop, LLP, which the firm stated they were unable to do.

How did this happen? Fr. Tassos identified multiple, interrelated root causes, stressing that they all contributed to the crisis:

- Unqualified and untrained staff in positions of authority
- Lax internal controls
- Disconnect between the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council
- Greedy and dishonest individuals
- Severe underfunding of the Central Administration

Since this journey began in 2006, the OCA has:

- Repaid all major creditors
- Paid off all legal expenses to the Proskauer Rose law firm,

- Replenished the restricted checking accounts
- Revised the budget and staffing of the Central Administration
- Engaged a new certified public accounting firm
- Removed all previous accounting staff from the Central Administration and hired both a Treasurer and a Comptroller with significant financial experience

He next showed a breakdown of how the proceeds from the Honesdale loan were used. (see below)

Commerce Bank Line of Credit	\$500,000.00
FOS Endowments	\$42,880.00
Other Endowments - Smith Barney Main Acct.	\$85,000.00
Chechen Relief	\$30,000.00
Medical Assistance for clergy	\$13,000.00
Outstanding All-American Council Expenses	\$140,000.00
Outstanding Invoices	\$287,800.00
Mission Appeal	\$87,560.00
Seminary Appeal	\$151,940.00
Charity Appeal	\$41,750.00
Christmas Stocking Project	\$16,600.00
9/11 Emergency Funds	\$90,590.00
Beslan Relief	\$34,640.00
Florida Hurricane Relief	\$13,920.00
IOCC Appeal	\$3,300.00
Publication Reserve	\$27,500.00
Academic Fellowship Fund	\$52,800.00
Seminary Internship Fund	\$7,960.00
Military Chaplain Reserve	\$270.00
Earmarked Funds: 4 Russian Orphanages	\$25,000.00
Closing Expenses/Miscellaneous Expenses	\$47,490.00
TOTAL	\$1,700,000.00

Additional key points noted by Fr. Tassos:

- Since the time of the CCA staff change, for the past year and a half the OCA has operated with a surplus.
- This All-American Council was planned at one-half the cost of the previous Council.
- In 2007 a revised budget was approved that reduced expenses by more than one-half in some areas.
- Restricted funds have been segregated out from non-restricted
- The previous practice of pre-signing blank checks was discontinued.
- The Financial Edge accounting computer software system was discontinued and QuickBooks was implemented as a strictly interim step toward implementing Black Baud accounting software.

- Fr. Dionysius (Dennis) Swencki was hired as Comptroller.

Fr. Tassos showed a condensed Statement of Activities from 2005 to 6/30/2008 (see Treasurer's Report, p. 35). He added that, at the time he completed this report, the final activities from Weiser, LLP, as shown by Mr. Barrone, were not yet available. Fr. Tassos understands that the gain on the Martin Drive house sale will be reduced and legal fees increased (by about \$20,000) from what was shown. See pp. 33-34 of the Treasurer's Report for a more detailed discussion of the Statement of Condensed Activities.

He continued by showing a Condensed Statement of Cash Flow (Treasurer's Report, p. 36) He anticipated that 2008 will end in a surplus of net assets, despite the deficit in the first line) and hopes that legal expenses will go down the second half of the year.

Fr. Tassos showed a chart of trends of giving to the OCA since 2005, capturing the devastating impact of the lack of trust in the Church's leadership on the faithful's willingness to support the basic ministries of the Church. (See Treasurer's Report, p. 36.) He expressed that if he can accomplish anything as Treasurer, it is to help restore that trust. He asked the Council to spread the word that the new Administration is trying to do the right thing. He outlined numerous steps now in place to ensure that contributions go for the right purposes (see Treasurer's Report, pp. 37-43).

Fr. Tassos wished to respond to the often-asked question of what Issue of 9/11 payments: "How could we have not known where the money was going?"

Money was received in Emergency Relief. But systematically, people in Syosset were told to go to the bank, with a check made out to them, and withdraw cash in the amount of \$9,500 – just short of the mandatory-reporting limit of \$10,000. These were rank-and-file employees following directives from administrators; they were not complicit in a cover-up. One area not fully resolved was the amount of money involved. After the initial payment of 9/11 obligations from the Honesdale loan funds (referenced earlier), a sum of \$151,500 remained that had never been accounted for. At Fr. Tassos' suggestion, the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council have decided to replenish that \$151,000 out of funds in our endowment that may be used for unrestricted purposes. In the next two weeks www.OCA.org will carry an announcement that this has been paid back.

He addressed the question of credit cards held by the OCA. The OCA's credit cards have all been eliminated except for a gasoline card, whose use is tightly controlled and documented.

Excess Benefits. Fr. Tassos has spoken with the FBI and IRS concerning this issue. The Central Church Administration took care to gather all the information they could before approaching these agencies; now, he feels, the time is right to do so, even though doing so would cost more money in auditing and accounting fees.

Treasurer's Concluding Remarks. Fr. Tassos urged the Council members to approach their upcoming decision on the annual "head tax" realistically, with the desire to assure a solid future for the Church rather than making every possible cut.

Father Matthew Tate concluded his portion by adding that the amount designated in 2009 for charity is a line item, not an appeal, because of the cost of making an appeal and the already discussed decline in giving. Also, FOS was suspended because it was not bringing in enough to funds to pay for hiring and paying a new Director.

Internal Auditors Report

John Kozey welcomed Internal Audit Committee Chair Archpriest Paul Suda, and member Archpriest David Mahaffey to give the Committee's Report. That Report is included in the All-American Council materials and on www.OCA.org.

Fr. Mahaffey commended Fr. Tassos' diligence, noting that he had even photocopied cash to be deposited. Minor concerns were related, such as travel expenses. The Committee issued recommendations on less expensive travel options in some cases. One \$5,000 travel expense had to do with an automobile accident in which a Church vehicle was involved; this will be adjusted in the next budget. They commended the use of a petty-cash system in lieu of other credit cards or expecting employees to incur expenses and wait for reimbursement. The petty cash system is well documented and in good order. The Committee is satisfied that the Central Church Administration is following sound financial practices.

Pension Plan Report

The Pension Board's Report was presented by their Chair, Archpriest Michael Westerberg. He reported that Ms. Maureen Ahearn has been hired as the OCA's Pension Administrator. In mid-October of 2006, Mrs. Bette Kondratick resigned as Pension Administrator and Bookkeeper. A new bookkeeper was found quickly but Fr. Westerberg served as temporary Administrator until Mrs. Ahearn was recruited. They have brought greater efficiency and better safeguards to the Pension Plan.

The Plan's chief objective is to provide for clergy and wives who spend a lifetime working to proclaim the Gospel. In researching participation data, Fr. Westerberg determined that approximately 62 percent of our clergy participate, although it may be that close to 75 percent of eligible clergy are participating, since some mission clergy do not make a regular salary and so are not eligible.

Fr. Westerberg urged Pension Plan members (and prospective members) to:

- be sure to know who their beneficiaries are, in case of new children or other family changes

- comply with the new requirement (since the last All-American Council) stipulating that, if they wish to have someone other than their spouse as beneficiary, they must obtain the spouse's notarized signature
- ensure that their parishes (or other Church employers) pay their contributions on time; effective January 2009, any pension contribution more than 45 days late will incur a \$25 late fee.

Fr. Westerberg stressed that it has been the Pension Board's long-standing practice that the Pension Plan books are audited annually by independent auditors. The Board initiated its own inquires as a result of the SIC Report; and Fr. Westerberg initiated a spot-check of past records over past years. As the Pension Board anticipated, all things were found to be in order.

Fr. Westerberg noted that as of November 7, 2008, the Pension Plan was worth \$19,357,798.00. Although the worth of the Plan has dropped as markets have dipped, the worth has increased from 2007. And, though the markets declined 44 percent in October 2007, our pension funds declined 34 percent. In response to concerns resulting from pending legal actions against the Church, Fr. Michael also state that the plan's assets are separate from those of the Church. All Pension Plan assets belong to participants.

John Kozey announced that questions on these Reports will be delayed until tomorrow.

The Formal Dinner tonight has been moved later, to 8:00 PM.

The meeting closed at 6:10 PM with the singing of "*It Is Truly Meet.*"

Order	Event	Person
1.	Council Opening	Vice-Chairs
2.	OCMC video	Fr. Andrew
3.	Treasurers Report Introduction	Fr. Michael
4.	Pension Board	Maureen Ahern
5.	2007 Financial Statements	Fr. Michael
6.	Auditors Report	John Barone of Weiser
7.	Internal Auditors	Fr. Paul Suda
8.	2008 Year to date	Fr. Michael
9.	2009 Assessment	Fr. Michael and Fr. Matthew
10.	Discussion/Questions	Vice Chairs
11.	Resolutions	Vice Chairs
12.	Housekeeping	Fr. Eric
13.	Close session	Vice-Chairs

15th All-American Council

Plenary Session Seven

Thursday, November 13 – 10:30 AM

Session Opening

Session opened at 11:15 AM with the singing of “*The Grace of the Holy Spirit.*”

Archpriest Paul Jannakos, Clergy Chair, asked people to keep to 3-minute rule and be respectful. Fr. Jannakos turned the meeting over to co-chair John Kozey for the Elections.

Preparation for Election

Gregory Nescott, St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park, PA and Metropolitan Council raised point of order. Discussed the tabled amendment to Statute regarding a change that would not necessitate the election of auditors. He suggested taking this up before the election.

John Kozey agreed to look at this. The Parliamentarian stated that the question could be called without debate. Archpriest John Erickson was called to the microphone to read the proposed amendment change (see attached).

Motion to amend the amendment to specify that **all** auditors shall have relevant financial experience by Priest Christopher Wojcik from Holy Trinity Church, Clayton, WI

Seconded by Archpriest John Reeves of Holy Trinity Church, State College, PA.

Motion to amend the proposed amendment carries.

On the proposed change to Statue Article III, Section 15: carried with one opposed.

Fr. Alexander Garklavs informed the Council that the Holy Synod has approved the proposed change to the Statute so there will be no election of auditors.

John Kozey turned the session over to Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Chair of the Nominations Committee for elections. Fr. Ian explained that we vote for 1 clergy and 1 lay delegate to the Metropolitan Council and 1 clergy and 1 lay delegate to Pension Board. Fr. Eric Tosi, Secretary, clarified this. Highest voted gets 6 year term, 2nd highest get 3 year term, third highest is alternate.

Point of Order by Priest Michael Butler, St. Innocent Church, Olmstead Falls, OH.

There is a deacon listed as candidate for Metropolitan Council. He requested clarification on status. The chair stated that deacons run for the Metropolitan Council as lay delegates. Only ordained priests qualify as clergy delegates. Fr. Ian announced corrections to the biographies presented. Fr. Ted Boback of St. Andrew's Church, Baltimore, MD requested clarification on number of positions open for clergy on Metropolitan Council. Fr. Eric stated there are no changes needed. The election stands as planned.

Credentials**Registered Count**

Clergy delegates	326
Lay delegates	324
Observers	125
Retired	9
Guests	26
Total	810

Session

Metropolitan	1
Hierarchs	7
Clergy delegates	223
Lay delegates	244
Observers and guests	71

Total **546 with 475 voting members**

Election of Metropolitan Council and Pension Board

Fr. Ian provided additional corrections to biographies.

John Kozey introduced Archpriest John Memorich, Chair of the Teller Committee who announced candidates to Metropolitan Council. John Kozey then introduced candidates individually.

Question by Archpriest Dennis Rhodes, Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church, Waterbury, CT

Fr Rhodes noted that Fr. Matthew Tate was not included. Fr. MacKinnon clarified that Fr. Tate is currently serving a term on the Diocesan level and will not be a candidate for Metropolitan Council.

John Kozey asked Pension Board candidates to come up and be recognized. Fr. MacKinnon presented a correction to the biographies for the Pension Board candidates. Gary Popovich, Metropolitan Council noted that Fr. Gleb McFatter had to leave and will not be available to come forward.

John Kozey reviewed the ballot. Fr. Alexander Garklavs noted that if you wish to vote for Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, please do so by writing his name in under laity. Please remove his name from the clergy list. Archpriest John Stefaro, St. John the Baptist Church, Campbell, OH noted that there are 4 clergy positions and 1 lay position to fill. The top 2 vote gainers will fill 6-year terms on the Pension Board, the next will fill a 3-year term and the 4th will be a clergy alternate. One lay member will be elected as well.

Point of order by Dr. Paul Meyendorff, St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY

Dr. Meyendorff noted that at the last All-American Council, if there were two openings we voted for two people. Fr. Joseph Hirsch confirmed this and noted that the Statute do not state how this should be determined. The Parliamentarian noted that this is out of order since ballots have already been distributed. The election must proceed.

Priest John Hopko of Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Terryville, CN said Roberts Rules questioned our ability to change the guideline but was called out of order since no motion can be made while voting is going on.

Archpriest Paul Suda of St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park, PA then asked Holy Synod to act on this which was denied. Fr. John Hopko requested a corrected ballot which was ruled out of order. Secretary requested that all motions/points of order cease during the collection of the ballots. Tellers collected ballots.

Motion by Dr. Dmitri Solodow, Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA that ballots be set aside and to create new ballots and re-cast since collected.

Seconded by Archpriest Chad Hatfield of St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY.

Motion carried.

Point of order by Igumen Patrick Carpenter, Holy Assumption of Mary Church, Pittsburgh PA which stated that Holy Canons comes before Roberts Rules. He requested that the Holy Synod make a decision before moving forward.

John Kozey said we are going to recast votes with corrected ballots without discussion on the matter.

Fr. MacKinnon requested instruction on reprinting the ballots. Protodeacon Peter Danilchick will be moved to the laity list. A request was made to list the number of candidates should be voted be placed on the ballot. Instructions will be placed on the

ballot. Fr. Paul Suda requested the ballots be placed on colored paper so that a distinction can be made between the two castings of votes.

Questions and Answers

Meeting was returned to Fr. Jannakos as chair. The session will continue with questions from the last session. Introduced Fr. Michael Tassos, Treasurer for questions.

Question by Archpriest John Dresko, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Las Vegas, NV

Fr. Dresko asked about the first secretary, Paul Bodnar's situation.

Answer (Fr. Tassos): Fr. Tassos stated that when hired, there had been confusion over Mr. Bodnar's immigration status. Any salary to be paid while immigration status was determined would be a loan. Interest terms were not specified. As time went on debt began to mount and with consultation it was determined that he would receive the 6 months severance pay as was promised in his contract (approximately \$50K).

Question by Matushka Katya Vansuch of St. Nicholas Church, Norwich, CT

Matushka Vansuch asked if there will be any discussion of establishing fund to help small older parishes not to have to shut their doors.

Answer (Fr. Tassos): Fr. Tassos stated that no formal discussions have occurred. Assessments are needed first so that something of this sort could be added as a charity line item in OCA budget in the future. Fr. Matthew Tate suggested that Diocesan Metropolitan Council Representative be approached to advocate for this.

Question by Reader Stephen Butcher of Christ the Savior Cathedral, Miami, FL

Reader Butcher expressed concern for \$500K salary and benefits of Central Administration officers. He noted that programs were not being funded as a result.

Answer (Fr. Tassos): Fr. Tassos said salaries and benefits are an ongoing discussion. Fr. Matthew Tate stated that the Syosset area median family income is in the \$95K range. Pension and health care costs are under review because they are very high. He asked for patience as the strategic plan is developed.

Question by Priest John Parker, Holy Ascension Church, Mt. Pleasant, SC.

Fr. Parker stated that it seems silly that chancery housekeeper makes more than most mission priests.

Answer (Fr. Tassos): Fr. Tassos indicated this position is under review, will become a contract position and potentially be outsourced to reduce this cost.

Question by Karen Durkish, Holy Apostles Mission, Mechanicsburg, PA.

Ms. Durkish indicated that she is a CPA and wished to ask about Mr. Barrone's report. Is getting a qualified opinion going to affect the loan status?

Answer (Fr. Tassos): Fr. Tassos indicated that it would not.

Dr. Dimitri Solodow of Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA requested that the discussion continue. Fr. Jannakos requested Metropolitan JONAH rule. Metropolitan JONAH indicated that discussion is closed.

Resolutions

Fr. Jannakos introduced Fr. John Erickson on the resolution regarding the assessment. Fr. John reviewed the resolutions. Resolutions regarding the Strategic Planning in the opinion of the Holy Synod do not need to be brought to the attention of this body.

Resolution #1, three from Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania on admission of responsibility and renewal of church life, in the interest of time Bishop Tikon has indicated his willingness to withdraw these resolutions.

Resolution 4: correction: originated from Western Pennsylvania. The Holy Synod does not wish that this resolution be debated but that attention be turned to the resolution submitted by the Diocese of the West and Diocese of New England and approved for discussion.

Proposed resolution: "Whereas the OCA is painfully aware of the findings of the Special Investigative Committee that egregious and outrageous abuses have occurred over a prolonged period of time in the management of the monetary offerings of the people of God by officers and employees of the OCA and whereas these abuses have not only damaged the image of the holy church and scandalized the faithful but have injured the growth, life and welfare of many of our parish communities by draining essential resources stifling parish programs and inflicting unnecessary poverty and suffering upon the faithful and clergy; and whereas in spite of these abuses and misuses of Church resources, there remain functions which can and properly ought to be performed by the Central Administration of the territorial Church, and whereas the cessation of many of these programs threatens the gradual disintegration and weakening of the autocephalous OCA and a resulting polarization which would be an evil potentially as great in its consequences as has been our recent over-centralization; and whereas we are the autocephalous self-governing Church in America not autocephalous Dioceses and we need the archpastoral leadership of the Metropolitan assisted by his administration as an icon of unity providing pastoring and stewardship to the parishes and Diocese as the Body of Christ with clear goals, boundaries and utmost accountability and whereas the OCA is the most effective agent for executing some of its present programs for the good of the church and whereas the defense of the church from legal threats by those who are demonstrably responsible for the majority of the aforementioned abuses requires for a

time the expenditures of substantial sums of legal fees and whereas the church has acquired a substantial indebtedness in making restitution for past misappropriation of funds and whereas the Statute of the Orthodox church in America gives to All-American Councils the authority to set the rate of assessments to fund the church be it resolved by this 15th All-American Council gathered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, that the annual fair share assessment (head tax) be reduced from \$106 per annum to no less than \$90 per annum with the anticipation that by the end of the ensuing triennium there can be further profound reduction in the annual assessment and be it also resolved that concurrent with the reduction in this annual fair share assessment (head tax) a process be undertaken for the next three years to study the effects of moving away from the head tax system to one of percentage giving at levels necessary to support the appropriate ministries residing in the Diocese and under the Central Church administration and be it further resolved that the reduction of the annual fair share assessment (head tax) set forth above is contingent upon adoption by the All-American Council of the long term recommendation 6 of the SIC report dated September 3, 2008, which reads as follows, “the establishment at the 15th All-American Council of a long term strategic planning committee to review A) the relationship of the Diocese to the Central Church,, B) the appropriate division of responsibilities and funding between the Diocese and the central church, C) the separate and joint roles and responsibilities of the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council in the governance of the Church, D) the role, function structure and funding of the Central Church Administration and its geographic location and e) the development, documentation and implementation of sound business practices, procedures, processes, and practices, the committee will conduct a comprehensive review of the Statute of the OCA and all Holy Synod, Metropolitan Council and Chancery policies to ensure accountability, openness and communication to the church at large. The committee will report to the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council during their spring and fall sessions beginning no later than the spring 2009 sessions and semi-annually thereafter.”

Motion seconded by Priest Innocent Dresdow of Holy Resurrection Cathedral, Kodiak, AK.

Discussion ensued with His Beatitude, Metropolitan JONAH indicating the need to get away from a head tax completely and discussing the successful use of proportional giving in the Diocese of the South and West. The Central Administration will need to be scaled down to fit within a tithe from the Dioceses. He noted that we need to get out of debt and that it would not be useful at this point to cripple the central administration with lower assessments. We need to pull together to a tithe but time is needed.

Motion by Protodeacon Michael Sochka from Holy Transfiguration Chapel, Princeton, NJ to cease consideration of the above resolution.

Seconded by Archpriest John Tkatchuk, Sign of the Theotokos Church, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Motion carried.

Motion by Walter Alesevich, St. Nichols Cathedral, Washington, DC.

Be it resolved by this 15th All-American Council gathered in Pittsburgh that the annual fair share assessment (head tax) be reduced from \$106 per annum to no less than \$90.00 per annum with the anticipation that by the end of the ensuing triennium moving towards proportional giving.

Seconded by Archpriest Jacob Kulp, St. Timothy Church, Toccoa, GA. Discussion ensued.

Archpriest Matthew Tate of Holy Annunciation Church, Milwaukie, OR proposed an amendment to the motion to set the assessment at \$105. Archpriest Michael Oleksa of St. Alexis Mission, Anchorage, AK seconded.

Vote delayed for election to take place.

Election for Metropolitan Council and Pension Board

The second casting of ballots for Metropolitan Council and Pension Board took place. Tellers left to count the ballots.

Resolutions Continued

Fr. Matthew Tate to repeated his motion to set assessment at \$105 and discussion continued. Amendment carried by voice vote. The amended motion was read and carried by voice vote.

Motion by Archpriest Matthew Tate, Holy Annunciation Church, Milwaukie, OR that if a Diocese is able to pay it's assessment by means of proportional giving that it be allowed to do so during the next three years instead of waiting for proportional giving to decided upon at the next All-American Council.

Seconded by Priest Innocent Dresdow of St. Innocent Cathedral, Kodiak, AK. Motion carried by voice vote.

Deacon John Zarras of Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT pledged \$1000 to FOS from the floor.

Report on OCA Health Plan

George Caravakis presented OCA Health Care Plan. (See attached)

Resolutions Continued

Priest David Garretson of Ss Peter and Paul Church, South River, NJ repeated his question from the other day regarding goal, cost, and benefit of suing Robert Kondratich. Discussion ensued. There was no action taken on the matter.

Fr. John Erickson described Resolutions he had received by delegates and the decision on them by the Holy Synod. (See attached)

15th All-American Council expresses deep thanks to the Preconciliar Commission. Unanimously resolved.

1. Dr. David Ford's resolution from St. Tikhon's Seminary, South Canaan, PA. Holy Synod does not feel a vote is needed.
2. Resolution received from Mark Stokoe of St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church, Dayton, OH that All-American Council thank and apologize to Protodeacon Eric Wheeler and family. Seconded by Archpriest Vladimir Berzonsky of Holy Trinity Church, Parma, OH. The resolution was accepted unanimously.

Received but not to be voted on per the Holy Synod:

1. Archpriest John Udics of Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church, Philadelphia, PA that the OCA adopts official flag as its symbol. Holy Synod supports this idea and plans to consider in the future.
2. Archpriest John Udics of Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church, Philadelphia, PA encourages OCA to find benefactors to fund delegates who can't afford to attend All-American Councils. Holy Synod agreed with idea but that it would be resolved at the administrative level.
3. Nick Sidorick of Nativity of the Theotokos Church, Madera, PA request All-American Council refund observers \$100. Holy Synod did not wish this to be brought to floor due to potential conflict of interest.
4. Archpriest Alexander Webster, Military Chaplain and Priest Mark Hodges, Martyr Stephen Mission, Lima, OH resolution regarding homosexuality. Deemed unnecessary by the Holy Synod as already addressed at previous All-American Council.

Received

1. Rebecca Matovic, Mary Magdalen Church, New York, NY resolution recommending apologies for those who were retaliated against for speaking the truth about crisis early on and
2. Greg Nescott of St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park, PA and Dr. Dmitri Solodow of Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA express gratitude to Mark Stokoe.

These two were received but not opened for debate at this time.

Received and approved for consideration

Priest Joshua Frigerio of Holy Ascension Church, Albion, MI regarding OCA withdrawal from the NCC. Discussion ensued which was interrupted by results of the elections.

Results of Metropolitan Council and Pension Board Elections

Metropolitan Council (Clergy)

Fr. Ted Bobash	128
Fr. Michael Butler	57
Fr. John Dresko	86
Fr. David Garretson	153
Fr. Mark Hodges	39
Fr. Paul Jannakos	69
Fr. Thomas Moore	96
Fr. John Pierce	64
Fr. Basil Rhodes	77
Fr. Matthew Searfoorce	46

Metropolitan Council (Lay)

Mary Buletza	134
Pdn Peter Danilchick	178
Michael Dorogh	60
Rebecca Matovic	66
Dr. Paul Meyendorff	139
Lisa Morris	63
Vera Rippert	17
Thomas Sashko	39
Dr. Faith Skordinski	183

Pension Board (Clergy)

Martin Browne	257
John Sedor	324
Gregory Shesko	258

Pension Board (Lay)

Fr. John Adamcio	254
Fr. John Hopko	276
Fr. Gleb McFatter	316
Fr. John Zdinak	335

Elected Positions:

Metropolitan Council Clergy Delegates

Six Year:	Fr. David Garretson
Three Year:	Fr. Theodore Bobosh
Alternate	Fr. Thomas Moore

Metropolitan Council Lay Delegate

6 Year	Dr. Faith Skordinski
3 Year	Protodeacon Peter Danilchick
Alternate	Dr. Paul Meyendorff

Pension Board Clergy Delegate

6 Year	Fr. John Zdinak
6 Year	Gleb McFatter
3 year	Fr. John Hopko
Alternate	Fr. John Adamcio

Pension Board Lay Delegate

6 Year	John Sedore
3 Year	Gregory Shesko
Alternate	Martin Brown

Resolutions Continued

Returned to discussion of above motion. Fr. Jannakos requested a second to the above resolution. Seconded by Deacon Theodosius Onest of St. John the Baptist Church, Canonsburg, PA seconded. Discussion continued.

Metropolitan JONAH pointed out that this is under the purview of the Holy Synod and requested a voice vote on the opinion of the Council. Voice vote showed split.

Question by Archpriest Andrew Yavornitsky of St. Mark Church, Rochester, MI

Fr. Yavornitsky asked if we choose a budget.

Answer (Fr. Tassos): Fr. Tassos stated that this is in the competence of the Metropolitan Council which will decide following the All-American Council. The All-American Council sets the assessment level and the Metropolitan Council sets the budget.

Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, Protection of Virgin Mary Church, Falls Church, VA noted that FOS contributions should be sent directly to Fr. Michael Tassos in the absence of a FOS director.

Alexis Liberovsky, Chancery, Syosset, NY noted that there is an amendment proposal to change the election procedures for Metropolitan is still unresolved. Fr. Alexander Rental read the proposed Statute change and noted that it is put forth without comment.

Seconded by Archpriest John Tkatchuk of the Sign of the Theotokos Church, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Motion by Gregory Nescott, St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Allison Park, PA to table discussion.

Seconded by Archpriest Dennis Rhodes of Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church, Waterbury, CT. Motion carries with opposition.

John Kozey and Fr. Jannakos expressed their deep gratitude for being allowed to chair All-American Council.

Archpriest Chad Hatfield, St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY recognized the delegation from the Diocese of Alaska for their long journey to the 15th All-American Council and their recent stand. The motion was recognized with standing ovation.

Fr. Alexander Garklavs recognized the great work of the Preconciliar Commission. He asked them to stand in order to be acknowledged.

Bishop BEJAMIN suggested we have 16th All-American Council in the Diocese of the West territory, perhaps Denver, CO.

Motion to close the 15th All-American Council by Archpriest Ernesto Rios of St. James Mission, Port St. Lucie, FL.

Second by Igumen Patrick Carpenter of Holy Assumption of Mary Church, Pittsburgh, PA. Motion carried unanimously.

The 15th All-American Council was completed at 2:31 PM with the singing of "*It is Truly Meet.*"

Order	Event	Person
1.	Council Opening	Vice-Chairs
2.	Scripture Reading	
3.	Presentation of Candidates	Fr. Ian MacKinnon
4.	Vote on Candidates	Fr. John Memorich
5.	Orthodox Health Plans presentation	George Caravakis and Fr. Constantine Sitaris
6.	Results of Vote	Fr. Memorich give results
7.	Comments by new Metropolitan	New Metropolitan
8.	New Business	Vice-Chairs
9.	Discussion/Questions	Vice Chairs
10.	Resolutions	Vice Chairs
11.	Induction of Newly elected	Metropolitan
12.	Closing Molieben	Metropolitan



**MEMBERS OF ONE
ANOTHER IN CHRIST**



15th All-American Council of the
Orthodox Church in America
November 10-13, 2008
Pittsburgh, PA

STATUTE AMENDMENTS, RESOLUTIONS AND ELECTION

A RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT
THE STRATEGIC PLANNING RECOMMENDATION
OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

Whereas the Special Investigating Committee (SIC) made the following recommendation:

“The establishment of the 15th AAC of a long-term Strategic Planning Committee to review:

- *the relationship of the dioceses to the Central Church;*
- *the appropriate division of responsibilities and funding between the dioceses and the Central Church;*
- *the separate and joint roles and responsibilities of the HS and MC in the governance of the Church;*
- *the role, functions, structure, and funding of the Central Church Administration and its geographic location;*
- *the development, documentation, and implementation of sound business policies, procedures, processes, and practices.*

The committee will conduct a comprehensive review of The Statute of the Orthodox Church in America and all Holy Synod, Metropolitan Council, and Chancery policies to ensure accountability, openness, and communication to the Church-at-large.

The committee will report to the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council during their Spring and Fall sessions, beginning no later than the Spring sessions, and semi-annually thereafter.”

And Whereas the SIC Report and its Recommendations were approved by the Metropolitan Council and blessed by the Holy Synod at their September 3-5, 2008 Joint Meeting;

Now it be Resolved that the 15th All American Council, meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, from November 10-13, 2008:

- approves the Recommendation creating the Strategic Planning Committee;
- charges the Committee with the tasks specified in the Recommendation, noting that the questions of the future composition of the AAC, the role of the Metropolitan and the revising of the Statute are included in the Committee's charge;

- appoints a Preliminary Committee to begin the Strategic Planning process consisting of:
 1. a member of the Holy Synod, selected by that body
 2. a member of the Central Church Administration, selected by that body
 3. four members of the Metropolitan Council, selected by that body
 4. a lay or clergy member who is an expert in Canon Law

- the Preliminary Committee will meet within 60 days of the conclusion of the AAC to:
 1. formulate an initial work plan and timetable
 2. assign initial responsibilities
 3. determine additional members, specifically to include diocesan and seminary representation

- the Preliminary Committee will present its work at the Spring, 2009 Joint Holy Synod/Metropolitan Council meeting;

- the approved plan and membership will be posted on the OCA website at the conclusion of that meeting, as will progress reports when approved.

Resolution

A Proposed Resolution Submitted by the OCA Diocese of the West and Incorporating Additional Provisions Submitted by the OCA Diocese of New England

Subject of Resolution: Assessments (Fair Share) Reduction

WHEREAS the Orthodox Church in America is painfully aware of the findings of the Special Investigative Committee that egregious and outrageous abuses have occurred over a prolonged period of time in the management of the monetary offerings of the People of God by officers and employees of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA), and

WHEREAS these abuses have not only damaged the image of the Holy Church and scandalized the faithful, but have injured the life, growth, and welfare of many of our parish communities by draining essential resources, stifling parish programs, and inflicting unnecessary poverty and suffering upon the faithful clergy; and

WHEREAS in spite of these abuses and misuses of Church resources there remain functions which can and properly ought to be performed by the central administration of the territorial Church; and

WHEREAS the cessation of many of these programs threatens the gradual disintegration and weakening of the Autocephalous OCA and a resulting polarization which would be an evil potentially as great in its consequences as has been our recent over-centralization; and

WHEREAS we are the Autocephalous self-governing Church in America, not autocephalous dioceses, and we need the archpastoral leadership of the Metropolitan, assisted by his administration as an "icon of unity," providing pastoring and stewardship to the dioceses and parishes as the Body of Christ, with clear goals, boundaries and utmost accountability; and

WHEREAS the OCA is the most effective agent for executing some of its present programs for the good of the Church; and

WHEREAS the defense of the Church from legal threats by those who were demonstrably responsible for the majority of the aforementioned abuses, requires for a time the expenditure of substantial sums of legal fees; and

WHEREAS the Church has acquired a substantial indebtedness in making restitution for past misappropriation of funds; and

WHEREAS the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America gives to All-American Councils the authority to set the rate of assessments to fund the Church:

BE IT RESOLVED, by this 15th All American Council, gathered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, that the annual fair share assessment (Head Tax) be reduced from \$106 per annum to no less than \$90 per annum, with the anticipation that by the end of the ensuing triennium there can be further profound reduction in the annual assessment; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that, concurrent with this reduction in the annual fair share assessment (Head Tax), a process be undertaken, over the next three years, to study the effects of moving away from the Head Tax system to one of percentage giving at levels necessary to support the appropriate ministries residing in the dioceses and under the central church administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the reduction in the annual fair share assessment (Head Tax) set forth above is contingent upon adoption by the All American Council of the Long Term Recommendation 6 of the SIC report dated September 3, 2008; which reads as follows:

“The establishment at the 15th AAC of a long-term strategic planning committee to review: (a) the relationship of the dioceses to the Central Church; (b) the appropriate division of responsibilities and funding between the dioceses and the Central Church; (c) the separate and joint roles and responsibilities of the Holy Synod (HS) and the Metropolitan Council (MC) in the governance of the Church; (d) the role, functions, structure, and funding of the Central Church Administration and its geographic location; and (e) the development, documentation, and implementation of sound business policies, procedures, processes, and practices. The committee will conduct a comprehensive review of *The Statute of the Orthodox Church in America* and all HS, MC, and Chancery policies to ensure accountability, openness, and communication to the Church-at-large. The committee will report to the HS and MC during their spring and fall sessions, beginning no later than the spring 2009 sessions and semi-annually thereafter.”

Resolution

Subject of Resolution: Withdraw from the NCC

Submitted to: 15th All American Council

Submitted by: Priest Joshua Frigerio

WHEREAS the *National Council of Churches* (NCC) no longer seeks to advocate for Christian unity, but rather for political and social agendas antithetical to Orthodox moral standards, especially in the areas of abortion and homosexuality,

WHEREAS the agenda of the NCC does not represent, and can not be reconciled with the vision of the Orthodox Church in America,

WHEREAS Orthodox participation in the NCC has proven to be, not only ineffective in bringing about any change in the NCC, but has served rather as an obstacle in the witness of the Orthodox Church to those who seek her,

WHEREAS our brethren in other Antiochian Archdiocese have already seen this clearly and voted unanimously to withdraw from the NCC,

Be it RESOLVED that this All American Council, meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania this November of 2008, does now withdraw its membership in the National Council of Churches.

Resolution

Subject of Resolution: Thanks Pittsburgh

Submitted by: Resolutions Committee

The 15th All-American Council of The Orthodox Church in America, meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 10-13, 2008, during the 250th anniversary of the city,

EXPRESSES DEEP THANKS to the local AAC Committee, and its co-chairs, Father William Evansky and Matushka Myra Oleynik, for their generosity, time, talent and love for Christ, expressed throughout this Council and during the many months leading up to it.

Resolution

Subject of Resolution: Towards greater Orthodox jurisdictional unity in North America

Submitted to: Resolutions Committee

Submitted by: Dr. David C. Ford, St. Tikhon's Seminary

WHEREAS in the interest of working towards an increased measure of Orthodox jurisdictional unity in North America,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the OCA issue, by the end of this year if this is feasible, a specific invitation to every canonical Orthodox jurisdiction in North America to meet together, through clergy and lay representatives, to consider specific ways to bring about a significant measure of greater jurisdictional unity, with the long-range goal of full jurisdictional unity.

Resolution

Subject of Resolution: Protodeacon Eric Wheeler

Submitted to: Resolutions Committee

Submitted by: Mark Stokoe, Metropolitan Council

While there are many people who have been hurt by this crisis in the OCA, and many who have labored diligently to bring the truth to light, the Holy Synod, clergy and laity of the OCA, gathered in this Council, offer to Protodeacon Eric Wheeler and his family our profound apologies for all they have suffered, and our profound thanks for his courage and persistence in bringing this ~~moral~~ and financial crisis to the attention of the Church, despite the personal cost to both him and his family.

ethical
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 15th All-American Council offer to Protodeacon Eric, his wife Alla, and their children our sincere gratitude, and our prayerful pledge of love and support in the life of Christ's Holy Church.

Resolution

Subject of Resolution: Orthodox Flag

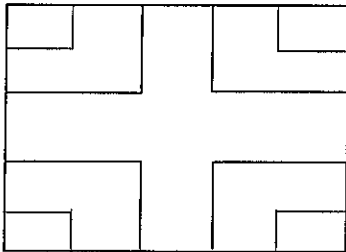
Submitted by: Archpriest John Udics, Assumption of the Virgin, Philadelphia PA

WHEREAS, many Orthodox Churches in the world have flags to identify themselves and to unite their faithful behind their flag, and

WHEREAS according to the old Latin Hymn Vexilla Regis, the flag of the King is the cross of Christ.

WHEREAS a flag for the Orthodox Church in America was designed and presented to Metropolitan Herman, and WHEREAS this flag was accepted for use by the Philadelphia Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood (60 churches) as a flag for not only the Orthodox Church in America, but for all Orthodox Christians in America.

Be it RESOLVED that the aforementioned flag be adopted as the symbol of the Orthodox Church in America.



Blue stripe in center, red stripe outside, on a white background.

(Red, white and blue; each stripe = 1/13 of height of flag)

Resolution

Subject of Resolution: Representative Benefactors

Submitted by: Archpriest John Udics, Assumption of the Virgin, Philadelphia PA

WHEREAS, it is the sacred duty of every clergyman in a parish, and each parish to send a representative to the All American Council and,

WHEREAS, not everybody can afford it, especially those from our monasteries.

Be it RESOLVED that the Orthodox Church in America attempt to find benefactors to fund those who can't afford to attend. (Hotel, meals and travel costs)

Resolution

Subject of Resolution: Observers Fee

Submitted to: 15th All American Council

Submitted by: Nicholas I Sidorick, Nativity of the Theotokos, Madera, PA

WHEREAS the 15th All American Council Committee has charged a fee of \$250.00 for each observer attending the Council.

ACKNOWLEDGING that most observers are spouses of priests, deacons or delegates at the All American Council, and that this fee compounded with the priest/delegate fee could be an unfair burden upon a family.

REQUEST that the 15th All American Council offer a refund of \$100.00 to any observer who has paid their observer fee.

RESOLUTION

Subject: Homosexuality

Submitted To: Resolutions Committee

Submitted By: Frs. Alexander Webster and Mark Hodges

WHEREAS our culture has recently moved in a disturbing direction affirming and even celebrating homosexuality, and

WHEREAS rumors persist concerning homosexual activity among some of the clergy in the Orthodox Church in America,

THEREFORE be it resolved that this All-American Council

Reaffirms wholeheartedly and unequivocally the Statement on Marriage, Family, Sexuality, and the Sanctity of Life, proclaimed by the Holy Synod of Bishops at the 1992 All American Council, particularly the section on homosexuality, which reads:

Created to know God's divinity and power through creation, human beings have refused to acknowledge God, to honor and thank Him, and to obey his divine teachings. Through their rebellion "they became futile in their thinking and their senseless hearts were darkened" (Romans 1:21). Therefore, as the apostle Paul continues to teach, "God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves...their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural, and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in their own persons the due penalty for their error" (Romans 1:26-27).

Homosexual acts, like adulterous and incestuous behavior, are condemned in the law of Moses. Those who do these things, both men and women, are, according to God's law of the old covenant, to be put to death (Leviticus 18:6-23;20:10-21). According to the apostle Paul, those engaging in homosexual acts, with fornicators, adulterers, idolaters, thieves, the greedy, drunkards, revilers and robbers, will not inherit the kingdom of heaven. Christians come from all these categories of evil doers who have, voluntarily and involuntarily, been caught up in the sin of the world. They are those who through their personal repentance and faith in Christ, their baptism and chrismation, and their participation in Holy Communion, have been "washed...sanctified...and made righteous in the name of the Lord Jesus and in the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Orthodox Baptism and Chrismation Service).

Jesus teaches mercy and forgiveness for all sinners, but the Lord does not justify sin. When the Son of God pronounces divine pardon to those caught in evil he always charges the forgiven sinner to "go and sin no more" (John 8:11).

Convinced of these God-revealed truths, we offer the following affirmations and admonitions for the guidance of the faithful:

Homosexuality is to be approached as the result of humanity's rebellion against God, and so against its own nature and well-being. It is not to be taken as a way of living and acting for men and women made in God's image and likeness.

Men and women with homosexual feelings and emotions are to be treated with the understanding, acceptance, love, justice and mercy due to all human beings.

People with homosexual tendencies are to be helped to admit these feelings to themselves and to others who will not reject or harm them. They are to seek assistance in discovering the specific causes of their homosexual orientation, and to work toward overcoming its harmful effects in their lives.

Persons struggling with homosexuality who accept the Orthodox faith and strive to fulfill the Orthodox way of life may be communicants of the Church with everyone else who believes and struggles. Those instructed and counselled in Orthodox Christian doctrine and ascetical life who still want to justify their behavior may not participate in the Church's sacramental mysteries, since to do so would not help, but harm them.

Assistance is to be given to those who deal with persons of homosexual orientation in order to help them with their thoughts, feelings and actions in regard to homosexuality. Such assistance is especially necessary for parents, relatives and friends of persons with homosexual tendencies and feelings. It is certainly necessary for pastors and church workers.

Resolution

Subject of Resolution: Apologies

Submitted to: Resolutions Committee

Submitted by: Rebecca Matovic

ACKNOWLEDGING that a culture of fear and intimidation has characterized our church life for many years, and

RECOGNIZING that during the past three years, in particular, clergy and lay people who spoke publicly, or even privately, asking for issues to be addressed were often subject to rebuke and punitive action, and

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that these members of the Body of Christ, known and unknown, were acting out of love and concern for Christ's Church.

WE OFFER APOLOGIES to those who have suffered harsh words, rebuke, discouragement, rejection and exclusion from the sacraments, and we thank all those who with zeal and diligence sought to bring these matters to light.

Resolution

Subject of Resolution: Mark Stokoe

Submitted to: Resolutions Committee

Submitted by: Gregg Nescott & Dmitri Solodow, Metropolitan Council

WHEREAS, the crisis that has devastated the Orthodox Church in America for the last three years was marked by repeated attempts to suppress the truth in official statements of the Church, and on the OCA website, and

WHEREAS, it must be acknowledged that the internet was used for both good and evil during this time of crisis, with some expressing in respectful terms their heartfelt demands for accountability and revelation of the truth, while others resorted to personal attacks and lies unbecoming Orthodox Christians, and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of OCAnews.org, articles, editorials and reflections appeared that enabled members of the Church to discern the truth of what precipitated this crisis in the OCA, and

WHEREAS, the editor of OCAnews was frequently and unjustly vilified and subjected to personal attacks for his efforts;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 15th All-American Council express their profound gratitude to Mark Stokoe and the OCA News for his determined efforts to assure that the truth be revealed.

Biographies at the 15th All-American Council for Election to Church-Wide Position

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Name: Archpriest Theodore Bobosh Parish: St. Paul the Apostle, Dayton, OH

- Graduate of Ohio State, St. Vladimir's seminary, Fordham University
- Served two previous terms on metropolitan Council
- Ordained as priest 1980
- Priest of St. Paul, Dayton since 1986
- Author of *Questioning God: A Look at Genesis 1-3 and Am I Saved?*
- Former Department of Religious Education Member

Name: Mat. Mary Buletza Parish: Annunciation Church, Brick, NJ

- BS Business/Accounting, Boston University
- MS Taxation, Bentley University
- CPA/Personal Financial Specialist
- Past Parish Council President
- Past Treasurer of Boston Cathedral
- Past Treasurer of National Church Youth Group
- Building Project Chairman
- Member of Best Practices Committee

Name: Fr. Michael Butler Parish: St. Innocent, Olmsted Falls, OH

- Rev. Dr. Michael Butler is Priest St. Innocent Orthodox Church, Olmsted Falls, OH
- Coordinator for the Diocesan Diaconal Vocations Program
- Developing on-line catechetical school for the diocese
- Secretary for Deanery
- V-P of the Greater Cleveland Council of Orthodox Clergy
- President of Olmsted Falls Ministerial Alliance
- PhD in church history & Patristics
- Adjunct professor of religion at Baldwin Wallace College

Name: Protodeacon Peter Danilchick Parish: St. Marys, Falls Church, VA

- Ordained deacon in 1975
- Trustee of St. Vladimir's Seminary
- Principal contributor to "OCA Best Practices for Financial Accountability"
- Former member ICA NY-NJ Diocesan Council and Metropolitan Council of Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, Ecumenical Patriarchate
- Director. PSALM
- Retired Executive, Exxon Mobile (President, Exxon China Petroleum & Petrochemical Company)
- Former chair of Governing Board, International School of Hamburg, Germany
- BS/MS in Electrical Engineering (the Copper Union/Syracuse University)

Name: Michael J. Dorosh Parish: Christ the Savior Church, Chicago, IL

- IBM Global Services, Global Portfolio Manager (10 years): Product development and deployment globally. Experience in conflict management, strategic planning, change management, advise non-profits on technology issues.
- Active member of Christ the Savior parish life
- Tonsured a Reader by Bishop Job 2006
- Lifelong member of the FOCA
- Member of many civic and professional organizations and active in leadership and service

Name: Archpriest John Dresko Parish: St. Paul, Las Vegas, NV

- Rector, St. Mark, Rochester, MI
- Rector, St. Nicholas, Mentor, OH
- Rector, Holy Trinity, New Britain, CT
- Chaplain, USAF
- Rector, St. Paul, Las Vegas, NV
- Director of Stewardship, OCA
- Director of Development, OCA
- Dean, Connecticut Deanery
- Metropolitan Council, OCA
- Preconciliar Commission, OCA

Name: Fr. David F. Garretson Parish: SS. Peter and Paul, South River, NJ

- Rector of SS. Peter and Paul since 1998
- Ordained Deacon 1989
- Attended St. Tikhon's Seminary 1986-87
- Attended St. Vladimir's Seminary 1987-1990
- Co-coordinated legal defense during property litigation
- Trauma response training through OCMC and first response during Hurricane Katrina
- 30 years experience and service as a production manager at theaters throughout US and Canada
- 20 years experience as local president, international representative for stagehands union (IABE, AFL-CIO, CLC) specializing in organization drives, negotiation of contract, employment, law corruption issue resolution
- Co-ordination of litigation, NLRB and arbitration

Name: Fr. Mark Hodges Parish: St. Stephen Mission, Lima, OH

- B.A. Education, MSU
- M. Divinity Counseling Psychology T.E.D.S.
- M. Divinity St. Vladimir's Seminary
- Adjunct Professor Tiffin University
- Public School Teacher
- State R.T. L. Education Board
- Diocesan Council – alternate

Name: V. Rev. Paul Jannakos Parish: St. Mary Magdalen, Bulgarian Archdiocese, Fenton, MI

- B.A. Church Music, Concordia College, Bronxville, NY
- M. Div., St. Vladimir's Seminary, 1983
- Certificate in Liturgical Music, 1979
- Rector, St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN
- Rector, Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Detroit, MI
- Rector, St. Nicholas of Zicha Orthodox Mission, Billings, MT
- Rector, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Burton, MI
- Presently Rector, St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church, Fenton, MI
- Instructor in computer science, Rocky Mtn. College and Henry Ford College
- Member of Midwest Diocesan Council 1992—1994
- Member of Metropolitan Council 1993-1994
- Member Board of Directors Flint Institute of Music 2002-2006
- Member Board of Directors Flint School of performing Arts 2002-2006
- Pursuing Second Masters Degree in Community Counseling and Addiction Studies, University of Detroit

Name: Rebecca A. Matovic Parish: St. Mary Magdalen, New York, NY

- Over 20 years working as a strategist and researcher in communications, consulting, advertising, and public relations.
- Partner at SSTK, a small agency which works with a diverse mix of non-profit, issue advocacy and commercial clients
- B.A. Harvard
- Baptized into the church as a teenager

Name: Paul Meyendorff Parish: Three Hierarchs Chapel, St Vladimir's Seminary

- BA, Trinity College
- M. Div., St Vladimir's Seminary
- PhD, University of Notre Dame
- Professor of Liturgical Theology, St Vladimir's Seminary (1987- present)
- OCA Metropolitan Council 1992-1996
- Member of 6 OCA Preconciliar Commissions
- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at St. Vladimir's Seminary (2002-2007)
- Editor, St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly
- Published 3 books and numerous articles listed on www.svots.edu

Name: Fr. Thomas Moore Parish: Holy Apostles Orthodox Church, W. Col, S. Carolina

- Deacon of Holy Apostles for five years
- Graduated from St. Vladimir's seminary with a Masters of Divinity
- Started a mission in Macon, GA
- Served as priest for 10 years in Columbia
- Previously supervised staff in social services delivery and administration (homeless shelter, prisons, drug rehab centers and a therapeutic high school)

Name: Elizabeth "Lisa" Morris Parish: St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington DC

- Lifetime member of St. Nicholas
- Active at parish level with Sunday School, Sisterhood, Choir, Parish Council and FOCA
- Delegate to Diocesan Assemblies
- Served as Secretariat of Diocesan Assemblies
- Member of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid Committee of OCA
- Member and Secretariat of the Preconciliar Commission of the 15th All-American Council
- Executive Assistant of the Dean of our Primatial Cathedral for 10 years

Name: Archpriest John Pierce Parish: Holy Resurrection, Tacoma, WA

- Graduated 1985 St. Vladimir's Seminary
- Assigned to Holy Trinity Church, Witkeson, WA/ – 1985
- Parish moved to Tacoma, Holy Resurrection – 1995
- Dean of the Pacific Northwest Deanery

Name: Archpriest Basil Rhodes Parish: St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Saratoga, CA

- Priest for over 30 years, 25 years in the same parish
- Dean of the Pacific Central Deanery
- Served on several committees of the central church administration

Name: Vera Rippert Parish: Holy Assumption, Canton, OH

- Daughter of founding members of the Holy Assumption
- Currently in the Ladies Guild and choir
- First woman trustee of the Church Board
- In business for 27 years
- Currently in property management

Name: Thomas E. Sashko Parish: St. Joseph, Wheaton, IL

- Diocese Council
- Midwest Diocese By-laws Committee
- Diocese Court
- Parish Council President – Holy Resurrection – St. Joseph
- Parish Council Treasurer – St. Joseph
- Choir Director – Holy Resurrection

Name: Fr. Matthew Searfoorce Parish: St John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church, Philadelphia , PA

- Rector of St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church
- Metropolitan Council- Clergy Representative
- Public School Teacher
- Human Resource Organizational development consultant

Name: Dr. Faith Skordinski Parish: Saint Mark, Bethesda, MD

- 1958 – Present – Extensive parish experience serving on parish council as president and secretary, Metropolitan Council, special investigating committee, planning, goal setting and anniversary committees
- Member of FOCA since 1972 holding all positions of the executive board
- 28 years of service in the federal government, currently working for the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration
- Doctor of Education – Adult and Continuing Education, Virginia Tech
- Master of Science – Counseling Psychology, Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX
- Bachelor of Science – Business Education, Wilkes university, Wilkes-Barre, PA

Name: V. Rev. Matthew Tate Parish: Annunciation, Milwaurie, OR

- Rector – Annunciation Parish
- Dean of Missions – Diocese of the West
- Chair – Metropolitan Co. Finance Cty

Biographies at the 15th All-American Council for Election to Church-Wide Position

PENSION BOARD

Name: Archpriest John S. Adamcio Parish: Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL

- Parish Priest for 34 years
- St. Tikhon's Seminary (1974)
- Post Doctorate degree in Counseling
- Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the Midwest and various Diocesan and Deanery capacities

Name: Martin Brown Parish: St. Michael the Archangel, Concord, GA

- Certified employee benefits specialist
- Credentialed employee benefits professional with over 35 years in managing benefits and compensation plans.
- Experience in a wide array of benefit plan administration and oversight
- Assisted the OCA through participation in the organization task force to bring order and consistency to the Chancery office

Name: Rev. John Hopko Parish: Saints Cyril & Methodius Church, Terryville, CT

- Pastor of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Terryville CT for the past 8 ½ years
- Worked for the chancery of the OCA form 1992-2000
- 1990 graduate of St. Vladimir's Seminary
- Participated in the Pension Plan since 1992
- Formal Grant Writing Training (1998) Graduated from Northwestern University
- Employer Labor Relations Director – Pension trustee for food industry plan ½ billion dollars
- OCA Pension Board 1992-2005
- Diocesan Council – over 12 years
- Parish Council President

Name: Rev. Gleb M. McFatter Parish: St. Demetrius Mission, Naples, FL

- Priest-in-Charge at St. Demetrius Mission (1995- present)
- Ordained to the Priesthood, 2005
- BSFS (1975), Comparative Economic Systems, Georgetown University, Washington DC
- Certified Public Accountant (1984)
- Certified Financial Planner (1997)
- Formal Grant Writing Training (1998)
- Owns public accounting firm specializing in non-profit organization accounting, private and corporate tax services and financial management consulting
- Compiled workbook and presentations for Clergy Taxation for Diocese of the South.

Name: John Sedor Parish: Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, Livonia, MI

- Graduate of Northwestern University
- Employer Labor Relations Director – Pension trustee for food industry plan
- OCA Pension Board (1992-2008)
- Diocesan Council for over 12 years
- Parish Council president

Name: Gregory Shesko Parish: Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Chelsea, MA

- Parish President
- New England Diocesan Council
- 28 year career in academic administration at Brandeis University (Assistant Provost)
- OCA Pension Board 1996-2002, 2005-2008
- Attended 15 pension board meetings since July, 2005 and actively participated in hiring new Plan Administrator, selected firm to conduct compliance view of the Plan's practices and procedures, and established housing component for clergy retirement

Name: Fr. John Zdinak Parish: St. Theodosius Cathedral, Cleveland, OH

- 10 years Nursing Home Administration
- Parish Priest, St. George Serbian Orthodox Church 1989-1991
- Parish Priest, St. Innocent, Olmsted Falls, OH
- Parish Priest, St. Theodosius, 1999 – present
- Dean Cleveland Deanery
- Chancellor – diocese of the Midwest, 2005 – present