



**Minutes of the 2011 Spring Session of the Joint Meeting
of the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council**

**Wednesday, May 4 – Thursday, May 5, 2011
Christ the Savior Church
Diocese of the Midwest Chancery
Chicago, IL**

These draft minutes are subject to approval at a subsequent meeting of the Metropolitan Council.

PARTICIPANTS

HOLY SYNOD

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah
His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel (5/4 only)
His Grace, Bishop Nikon
His Grace, Bishop Tikhon
His Grace, Bishop Benjamin (5/4 only)

His Grace, Bishop Alejo (5/4 only)
His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek (5/4 only)
His Grace, Bishop Michael
His Grace, Bishop Matthias
His Grace, Bishop Mark

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Church Officers

Archpriest Eric Tosi, Secretary

Melanie Ringa, Treasurer

Members elected by the All-American Council

Archpriest Theodore Boback
Priest David Garretson
Archpriest Theodore Bobosh

Eleana Silk (5/4 only)
Protodeacon Peter Danilchick
Dr. Paul Meyendorff (*alternate replacing absent
voting member*)

Diocesan Representatives

Diocese of Alaska

Archpriest Michael Oleksa

Anna Cheryl Andrew

Albanian Archdiocese

Archpriest Joseph Gallick

Bulgarian Diocese

Priest Matthew-Peter Butrie

Protodeacon Michael Myers

Archdiocese of Canada

Igumen Alexander (Pihach)

David Grier

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Archpriest David Mahaffey

David Yeosock

Diocese of the Midwest

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta

Mark Stokoe

Diocese of New England

Priest Robert Dick

Diocese of New York New Jersey

Archpriest John Shimchick

Dr. Paul Witek

Diocese of the South

Priest Gleb McFatter

Diocese of Washington

Priest John Vitko

Rosalie Luster

Diocese of the West

Archpriest David Lowell

Dr. Dmitri Solodow

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Archpriest John Reeves

Gregory J. Nescott

Absent

Dr. Faith Skordinski (elected by the All-American Council)

William Peters (Albanian Archdiocese)

Deacon John Zarras (Diocese of New England)

Judge Ray Lanier (Diocese of the South)

Guests *(for all sessions unless otherwise indicated)*

Archpriest Thomas Moore (Alternate member elected by the All-American Council)

Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko (consultant)

Archpriest Alexander Garklavs (SMPAC)

Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky (consultant)

Archpriest Michael Matsko (SMPAC) – 5/4 only

Archpriest Alexis Vinogradov (Strategic Plan Committee)

Dr. Nikita Eike (SMPAC) – 5/4 only

Alexis Liberovsky (recording secretary for this meeting)

James Spencer, Esq. (SMPAC) – 5/4 only

Michael Strelka (for Audit report only on 5/5)

Thaddeus Wojcik, Esq. (OCA General Counsel)

Wednesday, May 4

Following a Divine Liturgy at 7 AM, the meeting was opened in Christ the Savior Church with prayer led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah at 9:52 AM.

A. Introduction

A.1. Approval of Recording Secretary

Fr. Eric Tosi asked if there were any objections to the OCA Archivist, Alexis Liberovsky, as recording secretary for this meeting. There being no objections, Alexis Liberovsky was approved as recording secretary.

A.2. Appointment of Co-chairs:

Metropolitan Jonah announced that he has asked Bishop Melchisedek (Interim Chancellor) and Fr. Alexander (Pihach) to co-chair the meeting

A.3. Agenda (attached)

Fr. Tosi presented the agenda for the meeting.

A.3.A. MOTION TOSI/GARRETSON – To accept the agenda as presented. CARRIED.

Metropolitan Jonah asked that, due to the scheduled departure of several bishops, the presentation of the Strategic Plan be moved to this afternoon's session.

A.4. Roll Call

Fr. Tosi conducted the roll call and introduced guests present for the meeting.

B. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Fr. Tosi presented the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Metropolitan Council on September 21-23, 2010 for approval.

B.1. MOTION GALLICK/MYERS – To accept the previous minutes as presented. CARRIED.

C. Opening Remarks: Metropolitan Jonah

Metropolitan Jonah spoke of a trying Great Lent with many temptations, but the Resurrection has prevailed. Without temptations, he said, there is no salvation. He stated that he stands together with his brother bishops on a vision of how to work together. The meeting of the Holy Synod was a turning point in their relationship and they have come together in a spirit of unity. An increasingly difficult time occurred at the chancery over several months including a series of temptations and building reciprocal distrust that led to the impossibility of Fr. Alexander Garklavs continuing as chancellor. There was a deep disconnect and a mutual sense of betrayal. Metropolitan Jonah requested Fr. Garklavs' resignation and Fr. Garklavs asked that this request be confirmed by the Holy Synod. In Santa Fe, the Holy Synod requested Fr. Garklavs' resignation. Metropolitan Jonah expressed his own gratitude and that of the Holy Synod to Fr. Garklavs for his work through a very difficult period throughout his years in the position during the end of Metropolitan Herman's primacy and afterwards. Although a working relationship did not develop well between Metropolitan Jonah and Fr. Garklavs, Fr. Garklavs' service is commendable. Metropolitan Jonah also reported that at the Santa Fe meeting of the Holy Synod, he was asked to take a leave of absence for rest and medical evaluation. He stated that, although he did not go to the institution requested by the Holy Synod, he did get solid evaluations and found the leave to be refreshing. He served

mostly at St. Nicholas Cathedral. With the consecration of Bishop Matthias, he resumes his activities as Primate. He announced the results of the just completed Holy Synod meeting and discussed its four policy and procedure resolutions pertaining to administration and governance, in particular the increased role of the Lesser Synod. He noted that, in the revised structure, the Metropolitan is the CEO, while the Chancellor is COO. He also noted that going forward we must discern together how to run the Church more efficiently and to revise the OCA Statute accordingly, if necessary. Over the next six months, he particularly noted the upcoming All-American Council where the Strategic Plan will be considered. He suggested that to ease tensions, the war of words on the internet stop and that the warring websites be shut down. He also mentioned the upcoming Assembly of Orthodox Bishops at the end of May and its important work. He appealed for a refocusing on Christ and a renewed commitment to the Gospel.

An extensive discussion took place concerning the issues raised in the Metropolitan's remarks, during which the Holy Synod presented in detail the four resolutions it had adopted concerning OCA governance going forward. The resolutions, found in the public minutes of the Holy Synod of Bishops posted on the OCA web site, deal with Locum Tenency, the Officers of the Church, the Permanent Lesser Synod, and the Chancellor. It was explained that the newly adopted policies and procedures are an expansion and interpretation of the OCA Statute and are provisional pending possible eventual amendment of the Statute. Metropolitan Jonah acknowledged his shortcomings and personal need for leadership training, which he intends to pursue. Various perspectives were offered on the circumstances surrounding the resignation of Fr. Garklavs as OCA Chancellor. Dr. Solodow inquired as to progress in fulfilling a resolution of the Metropolitan Council a year ago mandating a study on the relationship of the Church's administrative bodies with stavropegial institutions. Metropolitan Jonah explained the complexities in defining various types of stavropegial institutions. A further discussion of this issue ensued.

D. Officers' Reports

D.1. Chancellor

Bishop Melchisedek, Interim Chancellor, delivered an oral report on his activities since assuming his position in February, including both internal and external matters as well as specific issues dealing with the leave of absence of Metropolitan Jonah. He informed the Metropolitan Council that the Holy Synod has requested that he continue as Interim Chancellor for the foreseeable future until the position is permanently filled. He outlined major concerns going forward. In the discussion that ensued, various views on the importance of the OCA maintaining good and appropriate relations with other Orthodox Churches were articulated. Metropolitan Jonah affirmed his unequivocal support of OCA autocephaly as expressed in the Holy Synod's statement on OCA autocephaly issued in December 2010. Several meeting participants stressed the necessity for the OCA to maintain and consistently project the integrity and fullness of its vision.

D.2. Secretary – attached

In addition to his written report, Archpriest Eric Tosi, OCA Secretary, stressed that the relationship of the staff at the OCA chancery is excellent and that there is no toxic environment. He expressed his profound thanks to the staff who have worked through some difficult circumstances. He asked Council members for updated contact information, requested volunteers for the Council's various committees where there are openings. He also reminded members to submit their annual ethics, best practices, whistleblower and oath of office forms. He highlighted the work of the communications staff in preparing for launch of the new OCA website. He spoke of building and grounds maintenance, changes in health insurance and other issues. He mentioned the cooperative spirit that exists among the Church's three officers and the process of transition with Bishop Melchisedek as Interim Chancellor. Melanie Ringa agreed with Fr. Tosi's assessment of the work environment at the Chancery. She lauded the work of the staff as well as the

leadership qualities of Fr. Garklavs during the current turmoil. In response to a question, Fr. Tosi clarified the process for posting on the OCA website. In discussion, Fr. Thomas Hopko shared his views on the need for the OCA to provide appropriate and timely responses to various internet postings. In order to achieve a common understanding of the causes of the breakdown in the working relationship of the Metropolitan and Fr. Garklavs, further discussion took place. A consensus emerged that their working relationship is now irreparable.

Following a short recess at 12:02 pm, the session resumed at 12:18 pm.

E. Committee Reports

E.1. Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee

E.1.A. MOTION GARRETSON/DANILCHICK – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, the members of the Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee [SMPAC] discussed their work, which was presented at the Holy Synod session preceding the joint meeting; including their major findings of serious concerns as to how sexual misconduct allegations were and are being handled. The committee also addressed the need for changes in the leadership's perceptions and actions in order to improve the written policy of the OCA in addressing such sexual abuse issues.

E.1.B. MOTION GARRETSON/GALLICK – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

A discussion on the formulation of a draft resolution concerning Fr. Gregory Jensen status as an advisor to the Metropolitan on matters of sexual misconduct, presented by Fr. David Garretson took place. It was agreed to defer further deliberation and adoption of the resolution to the afternoon session.

E.1.C. MOTION GARRETSON/BP. MELCHISEDEK – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

Further discussion concerning the work of the SMPAC and related issues continued in executive session.

E.1.D. MOTION GALLICK/PIHACH – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

Following a recess at 2:28 pm for lunch and a meeting of the Holy Synod, the afternoon session was called to order at 4:15 pm.

Fr. David Garretson introduced a new version of a resolution concerning Fr. Gregory Jensen.

E.1.E. MOTION GARRETSON/SOLODOW – Whereas the Metropolitan Council as a body heard of the appointment of Fr. Gregory Jensen for the first time at this meeting and desires to implement the recommendations of the Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee regarding professional qualifications, the Metropolitan Council strongly recommends to the Holy Synod the following:

- 1. Effective immediately, Fr. Gregory Jensen is removed from all activity related to the issue of sexual misconduct on behalf of the Metropolitan, the Holy Synod, the Metropolitan Council or any other entity of the Orthodox Church in America;**
- 2. That all funding, direct or in kind, cease immediately;**

3. That all coverage and insurances, including Director's and Officer's coverage for Fr. Gregory Jensen also cease immediately;
4. That all work product, files, electronic media created by or in possession of Fr. Gregory Jensen be returned to the Office of the Interim Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

E.1.F. MOTION SOLODOW/STOKOE – The Metropolitan Council recommends to the Holy Synod that in the future any and all consultants and staff that will be working on the matter of sexual misconduct, be vetted and approved by the Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

An additional resolution proposed by Fr. John Reeves was withdrawn.

E.1.G. MOTION SOLODOW/GALLICK – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

Discussion concerning the work of the SMPAC and related issues continued in executive session.

E.1.H. MOTION GALLICK/DICK – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

E.1.I. MOTION NEScott/OLEKSA – To commend the members of the Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee (SMPAC) for their extraordinary work, for their report that was summarized today and for their presentation of their work. CARRIED.

E.2. Ethics Committee

E.2.A MOTION DICK/MAHAFFEY – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, Fr. Ted Bobosh, Ethics Committee chairman, presented the Committee's report reviewing various ethics complaints that had been received. The Ethics Committee was blessed by the Holy Synod to investigate those ethics complaints and to present a full report.

E.2.B. MOTION GALLICK/LUSTER – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

M. Strategic Plan - attached

Priest John Vitko, Strategic Plan Committee chairman, introduced the newly revised version of the Strategic Plan. A PowerPoint presentation illustrated the methodology of the Strategic Plan Committee, particularly the feedback of ten working groups. He pointed out the major revisions in the new version of the Plan. He highlighted the work of the working group on youth issues as an example of this feedback process. He also provided a brief overview of the other working groups. He explained how deliberation of the plan would be incorporated into the agenda of the 16th All-American Council. He asked for continued feedback from everyone. Discussion by meeting participants centered on the feasibility of implementing the Plan after the 16th All-American Council. Various opinions were expressed on the purpose and direction of the Plan.

M.1. MOTION VITKO/GRIER – that the revised version of the Strategic Plan be posted on the OCA website for continued feedback from the Church, CARRIED.

M.2. MOTION VITKO/SOLODOW – that the approach recommended by the Strategic Plan Committee for integrating deliberation of the Strategic Plan into the agenda of the 16th All-American Council be followed. CARRIED.

M.3. MOTION VITKO/DANILCHICK – that a Post-Conciliar Commission of the 16th All-American Council, which will function as a committee of the Metropolitan Council, be formed to oversee implementation of the Strategic Plan. CARRIED.

F. Metropolitan Council Business

F.1. Charity – attached

Fr. John Reeves, Charity Committee chairman, presented the written report of the Committee.

F.2. Council Development - attached

Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, Council Development Committee chairman, presented the Committee's written report. In response to the questions for discussion presented in the report, Council members agreed that the Council Members' Handbook is very useful. Members of the Council also expressed a desire for another Council retreat. It was further agreed that joint meetings of the Holy Synod or Lesser Synod with the Metropolitan Council are extremely beneficial and are a manifestation of conciliar process in the Church. It was also suggested that in the future the Metropolitan Council should regularly devote half a day to discussion of a particular important issue, not necessarily requiring immediate action.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 6:16 pm.

Thursday, May 5

The morning session was called to order, following prayer, at 9:08 am. Fr. Eric Tosi conducted roll call. He also requested prayers for Deacon John Zarras, who is ill. The members of the Metropolitan Council conveyed their love and prayers to Deacon John. The newly elected members of the Council were asked to introduce themselves.

F.3. Crisis Management

Dr. Dimitri Solodow summarized the confidential Crisis Management Committee report. He reported that Crisis Management training for OCA officers had begun but was not yet completed.

F.3.A MOTION NEScott/DANILCHICK – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, extensive discussion was conducted on failures in the Church to respond adequately to specific critical situations.

F.3.B. MOTION TOSI/GALLICK – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

F.4. Human Resources

Fr. David Garretson, Human Resources Committee chairman, reported that the only matter on which the Committee has been recently consulted was the hiring of an independent contractor for work on the new OCA website. He then presented a resolution from the Committee concerning Fr. Garklavs.

F.4.A. MOTION GARRETSON/GALLICK – The Metropolitan Council recommends the following:

1. That Archpriest Alexander Garklavs remain as a consultant to the Interim Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America for his institutional knowledge and the continuity of the work of the Chancery;
 - a. That Fr. Alexander’s compensation and benefits continue in place until he receives an assignment that is appropriate to the excellence and length of his priestly ministry;
 - b. That after receiving and beginning his new pastoral assignment (i.e. receiving compensation and benefits), the salary and benefits from the Chancery cease; Particular attention is to be paid to ensure the continuity of pension and health care benefits.
2. In addition to above (point 1), Fr. Alexander is to be given a severance package equal to four (4) months’ salary including housing allowance;
 - a. This severance package to be paid as deferred compensation to minimize the tax burden for Fr. Alexander and the impact on the cash flow for the Orthodox Church in America;
 - b. Details of the payment of the severance package to be worked out between the General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America, the Human Resources Committee of the Metropolitan Council, and Fr. Alexander.
3. That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the expenditure of funds to enact this resolution.
4. That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America to draft and execute a document to memorialize this resolution.
5. That this resolution, and the resulting documents, is a response to a unique situation. The adoption of this resolution does not create a past practice, precedent or alteration of existing or future employee policies. **CARRIED WITH THREE ABSTENTIONS.**

F.5. Internal Governance

Mark Stokoe, Internal Governance Committee chairman, presented the Committee’s confidential report pertaining to compliance with OCA Best Practices and Whistleblower Policies. A motion presented by the Committee on this issue was withdrawn.

F.5.A. MOTION BOBACK/BUTRIE – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

Specific critical issues pertaining to compliance with OCA Best Practices and Whistleblower Policies were discussed in executive session.

F.5.B. MOTION MAHAFFEY/LOWELL – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

F.5.C. Internal Audit – attached

Michael Strelka, a member of the Audit Committee of the Metropolitan Council, presented the Committee’s findings and outlined the reporting procedures leading up to the All-American Council. To date, all stavropegial institutions have been examined or have had their external audits examined, with the exception of one institution slated to be audited during the summer. The need for an audit or review of St. Catherine’s Representation Church in Moscow was discussed. The services that the Audit Committee

provides for those institutions that cannot bear the cost of a full professional external audit were clarified. The Metropolitan Council thanked the Internal Audit Committee for its professional work.

Following a short recess at 11:07 am, the session resumed at 11:22 am.

G. Legal Issues

G.1. MOTION GARRETSON/LOWELL – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, Gregory Nescott, Legal Committee chairman, presented the Committee's report, which covered a variety of current and potential legal issues. A lengthy and in-depth discussion ensued on instances of potential liability of the Church.

G.2. MOTION DICK/GALLICK – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

G.3. MOTION STOKOE/GALLICK – To commend the Legal Committee for its tireless work and excellent report. CARRIED.

Following a recess for lunch at 1:00 pm, the afternoon session was called to order at 2:07 pm.

H. Treasurer's Report – attached

Melanie Ringa highlighted her extensive written report. In order to explain the projected expenses for psychological testing for ordination candidates, Fr. Tosi provided information on the vetting process that will be implemented. There were also funds requested for translation of material into Spanish, a mobile application for the website, and the completion of the Feast and Saints portion of the website. In addition to her written report, Melanie noted that the OCA will soon be receiving a bequest of approximately \$110,000 from the estate of a recently deceased individual, who had targeted the proceeds of her annuities for OCA youth ministries. The paperwork for this is in process. The funds will be deposited in an endowment for youth ministries. Melanie Ringa was thanked for her clear presentation of OCA finances.

I. Finance Committee

Fr. Gleb McFatter, Finance Committee chairman, presented a resolution to adjust the 2011 OCA budget by \$78,700 according to the increases outlined in the Treasurer's report.

I.1 MOTION MCFATTER/REEVES – to increase the 2011 budget of the Orthodox Church in America by \$78,700. CARRIED.

Fr. McFatter announced that the Finance Committee will soon be activating an investments subcommittee to oversee investment management of OCA funds with the help of financial professionals. The subcommittee will also be formulating investment policies for the OCA. He envisions that the investment subcommittee will include Melanie Ringa, Protodeacon Peter Danilchick and himself. He also invited any other Council members with expertise in this area to join the subcommittee.

J. Central Church Funding

Melanie Ringa reported on behalf of Fr. Matthew Tate, who heads the ad hoc Subcommittee on Central Church Funding, that meetings have been held with the Dioceses of the West, South, New England and New York/New Jersey to obtain their input based on their own assessment or tithing processes. Other dioceses will be visited in the coming months. A full report will be presented at the next meeting of the

Metropolitan Council. It is projected that at the All-American Council, dioceses will be asked to continue their funding at the current level. In discussion, it was suggested that an educational element needs to become part of the work this subcommittee. Bishop Tikhon stated that tithing would yield lower assessment contributions in his diocese and suggested that tithing may not always be the most prudent funding approach.

Dr. Solodow initiated a discussion on the need to enforce spending only within the limits set by the OCA budget. Various views were offered on administrative mechanisms and policies for such enforcement.

K. Financial Development - attached

Protodeacon Peter Danilchick presented the Financial Development Committee's written report. He announced that David Yeosock has agreed to chair the committee. He asked other Metropolitan Council members to join this committee. A brief discussion on fundraising strategy took place.

Following a short recess at 3:40 pm, the session resumed at 3:58 pm.

L. Pension Board – attached

Bishop Nikon, episcopal moderator of the Pension Board, presented the Board's written report on the Pension Plan. Fr. Gleb McFatter, a Pension Board member, additionally stated that with a benchmark of 7.5% the actual return on the Plan in 2010 was 13.3%. He provided additional positive figures reflecting the good health of the Plan. He then introduced two amendments to the OCA Pension Plan proposed by the Pension Board. The amendments include housing allowance calculation for lay Church employees and a clarification on disability retirement benefits. Fr. McFatter stated that although drafted at the request of St. Vladimir's Seminary, the amendment pertaining to housing income applies to all lay employees of the Church.

L.1 MOTION MCFATTER/KUCHTA – TO AMEND THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA PENSION PLAN TO INCLUDE CERTAIN HOUSING INCOME RECEIVED BY LAY STAFF AT ST. VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AS COMPENSATION FOR BENEFIT COVERAGE:

Plan section 1.12(a)(ii) is amended by adding at the end thereof:

Effective July 1, 2011, for Members (other than Clergy) who are required to accept housing provided by their Employer for its convenience, a Member's Housing Allowance Compensation is that amount excluded from their taxable income pursuant to §119(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

CARRIED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS.

L.2. MOTION MCFATTER/SOLODOW - TO AMEND THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA PENSION PLAN DISABILITY RETIREMENT BENEFIT:

Plan section 4.3 is restated as follows:

4.3 Upon Disability Retirement

Upon Retirement at his Disability Retirement Date, a Member shall be entitled to receive his Accrued Benefit as of such Retirement Date. When a Member who is receiving a Disability Retirement Benefit reaches his Normal Retirement Date, the Disability Retirement Benefit shall end and the Member shall be immediately eligible to receive his Normal Retirement Benefit except that the monthly payments received as the Disability Retirement Benefit shall be counted as monthly payments for the purpose of counting the 120 monthly payments of the Normal Form of Retirement Income. A Member receiving a Disability Retirement Benefit shall apply for his Normal Retirement Benefit within 90 days of becoming eligible for a Normal Retirement Benefit and may elect among the forms of benefit available.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

P. Other Business

Father Alexander Garklavs addressed the hierarchs and Metropolitan Council, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to work with the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council. He expressed his increased admiration for the unique governing structure of the OCA, epitomizing conciliarity, as outlined in its Statute. He offered his love and prayers to Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council for their continued good work for the Church. His comments were followed by a standing ovation.

Fr. Eric Tosi asked for prayers for former Metropolitan Council member John Kozey who is undergoing hip replacement surgery.

O. 16th All-American Council update - attached

Father Tosi presented the written report on progress towards the 16th All-American Council. He reviewed the draft agenda. He announced that most Orthodox parishes in the area would be closed on Sunday, October 30 to allow their faithful to attend the Hierarchical Liturgy before the Council. Several diocesan assemblies and other meetings will take place at the Council site just prior to the Council. Council materials will not be mailed but only posted online. However, it is not yet feasible to do online registration and it will be done as for previous councils. He commended the energetic work of the local organizing committee. In discussion, it was suggested that observers be more fully integrated as participants in the council. It was also recommended that electronic voting be investigated as a means for greater feedback. The Preconciliar Commission will further consider these suggestions.

Melanie Ringa announced that Metropolitan Council member Eleana Silk, who is absent from today's sessions, is quite ill and about to be hospitalized. Melanie departed the meeting to assist Eleana.

Thaddeus Wojcik, OCA General Counsel, reported on the complexities of obtaining tax exemption in the State of Washington in conjunction with the Council.

Fr. Tosi presented the draft agenda for approval.

O.1 MOTION GALLICK/VITKO – to approve the draft agenda of the 16th All-American Council as presented. CARRIED.

A discussion took place on the possibility of hiring an outside parliamentarian for the All-American Council to facilitate proper order and smoother deliberation. The need for training for the clergy and lay vice-chairmen was also suggested. Additionally, the format of the All-American Council's published

minutes was also discussed. These issues are referred to the Preconciliar Commission for further consideration.

N. Web Redesign update – attached

Father Tosi unveiled the new OCA website in a PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed the input, process and complex technical work that has gone into its redesign. He explained various features of the site, which is due to make its debut in June. He answered numerous questions and noted several suggestions from meeting participants.

P. Other Business (*continued*)

Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, delivered an oral report focusing on the following issues and events:

- the aftermath of the Holy Synod retreat in Santa Fe, NM in February 2011 as portrayed on the internet;
- letters sent by Archbishop Nathaniel as OCA Temporary Administrator to the Orthodox Primates worldwide concerning Metropolitan Jonah's leave of absence;
- response of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and the subsequent fact-finding visit to New York of Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev) and Archpriest Nicholas Balashov;
- meeting of Fr. Mark Arey of the Greek Archdiocese with Bishop Melchisedek and Fr. Kishkovsky;
- the recent visit of Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem to Ukraine and his statements there;
- Patriarch Bartholomew's intention to convene in September a synaxis of the Patriarchs of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem along with the Archbishop of Cyprus;
- the most recent Preconciliar meeting in Chambesy;
- OCA relations with the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (ROCOR);
- The forthcoming second meeting of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America in May 2011;
- Fr. Kishkovsky's own activities since resuming a full work schedule after a prolonged period of limited activity due to illness.

The Metropolitan Council thanked Fr. Kishkovsky for his informative report.

Fr. John Reeves introduced a resolution concerning Fr. Alexander Garklavs.

P.1. MOTION REEVES/SOLODOW – The Metropolitan Council wishes to acknowledge the service which Fr Alexander Garklavs has rendered over the years to the Orthodox Church in America with profound gratitude, especially during the past several, difficult years as Chancellor. Furthermore, we ask for God's continued blessing over him, his wife Carol, and his whole family, as he continues priestly ministry in the Orthodox Church in America, for many, many more years. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Dr. Solodow reiterated the need to address the Council's resolution of a year ago mandating a study, in view of possible statute revision, on the relationship of the Church's administrative bodies with stavropegial institutions. Fr. Tosi stated that this would be undertaken in preparation for the upcoming 16th All-American Council.

By consensus, the next meeting of the Metropolitan Council was tentatively scheduled for September 28-29, 2011 in New York.

A discussion took place on the timeline for finding a new chancellor.

- P.2. MOTION DANILCHICK/MYERS – That the Human Resources Committee be delegated to conduct the search for a new chancellor to be completed no later than the next meeting of the Metropolitan Council in September 2011. CARRIED.**
- P.3. MOTION GARRETSON/STOKOE – That the earlier motion of commendation for the Legal Committee adopted in executive session be included in the minutes of this meeting. CARRIED.**
- P.4. MOTION STOKOE/REEVES – To provide appropriate funding for the search for a new chancellor. CARRIED.**
- P.5. MOTION TOSI/PIHACH – To adjourn the meeting. CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 6:13 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary