

Introduction

All of the OCA Church Ministries are under the direct supervision of His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman.

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Glory to Jesus Christ!

The Church Ministries of the Orthodox Church in America exist solely to meet the diverse needs of our dioceses, parishes, and faithful. Focusing on this goal, each department, board, commission, and office has been charged with the responsibility of providing quality resources and services for the building of our Church. Since the 13th All-American Council, the structure of our ministries has been reorganized and realigned to respond to the need for greater accountability, coordination, and efficiency.

These changes have, for the most part, been extremely positive. A quick perusal of the following reports shows the great volume of work that is being accomplished. A more detailed reading reveals the wide breadth, depth, and quality of resources offered. All of this is quite an accomplishment given that most of the church ministry members are volunteers and fulfill many additional roles within their own parishes. Their commitment and dedication are remarkable. The Orthodox Church in America should be grateful for each and every one of these stewards, who give so freely of their time and talents.

Whenever there is change, however, allowances must be made for adjustments and the resolution of unforeseen problems. New procedures, new leadership in many departments, and coordination of more than 200 members has taken time to meld into a cohesive whole. Working in constant communication with the Chancery and with the direction of the Holy Synod of Bishops, many departments have developed quickly, while others are still in the process of rebuilding. This growth process will continue to evolve as external input and internal evaluations take place on a regular basis. With the deliberations of this council on the theme of “Our Church and the Future,” goals for the next triennium and beyond will be established and implemented by each Church ministry.

It is essential that the delegates and observers of this council strive to learn as much as possible about the ministries of our Church and participate in them. Become familiar with what is offered and take full advantage of the resources available through the Church’s web site – www.oca.org – and the tremendous wealth of information that is contained there. Communicate with the appropriate departments to let them know how they could better serve the particular needs of your parish. Not everyone can be actively involved in departmental work, but comments and suggestions for improvement and future efforts are always greatly appreciated.

The majority of the work done by the Church’s departments, boards, commissions, and committees is funded by the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards (FOS). The support provided by members of FOS through voluntary gifts is crucial to offsetting the costs of meetings, research, preparation, and distribution of materials produced by those serving the Church on a voluntary basis. These volunteers in the Church Ministries act as living examples of stewardship of time and talent as they share their expertise with the entire People of God.

Finally, the Church ministries require the constant support of prayer for discernment, wisdom, and strength to fulfill the tasks that have been set forth for them.