



**ORTHODOX  
CHURCH in  
AMERICA**

**Metropolitan Council Meeting**

**Spring 2018**

**Officers' Reports**



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council  
February 6 to February 8, 2018  
Officers' Reports**

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# METROPOLITAN COUNCIL MEETING

## SPRING 2018

### FEBRUARY 6-8, 2018

**DAY ONE**  
**Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

## REPORT OF METROPOLITAN TIKHON

### WELCOME

I welcome you to the Spring Session of the Metropolitan Council which we are pleased to hold once again at the Roman Catholic Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, here in Huntington. This is the final Metropolitan Council meeting before the XIXth All-American Council which will be held in St. Louis this coming July, so our discussions this week will be particularly crucial in the lead-up to that important gathering in the life of the Orthodox Church in America.

### INTRODUCTIONS AND FAREWELLS

I would like to especially welcome the members of the Standing Synod who are with us this week: His Eminence, **Archbishop Benjamin**, of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West; His Grace, **Bishop Paul**, of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest, who is presently serving as the Chair of the Pre-Conciliar Commission; and, arriving later today, His Eminence, **Archbishop Michael**, of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, who also serves as the Secretary of the Holy Synod

Also joining us this week is His Grace, **Bishop Daniel**, of Santa Rosa, the Auxiliary Bishop and Chancellor for the Diocese of the West and, most recently, Consultant to the Primate in reviewing the overall functioning of the Chancery Office. I will offer a few more comments concerning this later in my Report and His Grace will provide you with an update as well.

We extend a warm welcome to our single new Metropolitan Council Member: **Michael Danchak**, representing the **Diocese of New England**. We look forward to your contributions to the work of this body and to the mission of the Orthodox Church in America. I think it would be helpful, Michael, if you take a few minutes here to introduce yourself and offer some brief thoughts about your background and what you hope to contribute to the work of the Metropolitan Council.

*2-3 minutes allowed for Michael Danchak comments.*

Because this is an All-American Council year, we will be seeing several At-large delegates rotating off the Metropolitan Council at this meeting. Concluding 6-year (in

fact 7-year) terms will be **Fr. Chad Hatfield** and **Maureen Jury**. Fr. Chad has been actively involved in many ways, particularly serving as Chair of the Governance Committee and, in that capacity, organizing and planning several very successful annual retreats at the Fall Metropolitan Council meeting, as well as bringing to our attention themes related to theological education. Maureen has likewise brought an additional perspective from the Diocese of the South, but with strong organizational and planning expertise, which has been helpful to Charity and Finance and Investment Committees and helpful for our reflections on strategic planning.

Concluding 3-year terms as At-large delegates will be **Fr. Thomas Moore** and **Larry Skvir**. Each of them hails from distinct regions of the Orthodox Church in America but both have offered valuable insights and perspectives to this body. Together, they express the potential that our Church possesses to attain a level of cooperation and unity among our dioceses, even as those dioceses function in different contexts and with different challenges. Fr. Thomas has served well on the Charity and the Ethics Committee and Larry on the Finance and Investment Committee.

We will also be losing two diocesan representatives after this meeting. From the Diocese of the South: **Angela Parks**, and from the Diocese of the Midwest, **Fr. Alexander Kuchta**. Unfortunately, Fr. Alexander was unable to make it for this meeting because of a family emergency which necessitated his cancelling of his flights. Nevertheless, I would like the record to reflect our deep thanks for his service on the Metropolitan Council, and in particular, his leadership on the Charity Committee. We will hear later from Angela in her capacity as Chair of the Legal Committee for the Metropolitan Council, but I wanted to emphasize our collective thanks, not only for her work over the past three years, but for her previous contributions as the Church addressed a significant number of difficult issues. Her contributions have been invaluable and, even though she is leaving us as a diocesan representative, it is our expectation that she will nevertheless continue to be available to the Holy Synod and the Church to assist us in addressing legal matters as they arise.

On behalf of the entire Church, I offer my thanks to each of our departing members for your contributions during your term of service on the Metropolitan Council. Several of you will have the opportunity to be re-elected for another term, either from your diocese or at the All-American Council. I think it would be helpful for the members of the Metropolitan Council to have an opportunity to hear brief comments from you, and so I would ask each of you to share your thoughts about your overall experience on the Metropolitan Council, along with any concerns or recommendations you might want us to consider. The At-Large delegates will have the opportunity to present a collective report to the All-American Council in July, but it would nevertheless be good to hear from you as well at this meeting, which I would propose be accomplished on Thursday this week as part of our strategic planning session and open discussion.

#### LONG TERM PLANNING

I mentioned at the outset that this particular meeting of the Metropolitan Council is significant because of its anticipation of the All-American Council. I would like to

emphasize this in terms of the long-term planning for the Orthodox Church in America. Although we will review a number of items related to the planning and structure of the All-American Council, I believe that it is even more important for us to focus on the overarching goals and outcome of the Council over the next few months. Some of these themes are highlighted in the report of the **Chancellor, Fr. John Jillions**, which was included in the preparatory documents for this meeting.

I would like to take a moment and expand on some of those themes here and also allow some time to receive your feedback. As you know, I have been reflecting on articulating a long-term vision for the Orthodox Church in America, in particular through my attention to the **Four Pillars**. I will not be speaking directly about that document this week, although I continue to work on refining what I presented to you at the Fall Session last year. I also have appreciated receiving your comments and suggestions, both at the Fall Session and subsequently. These have been incorporated into my thinking and, in many cases, into the actual text.

What I would like to do today, however, is to provide you with a **timeline** of a trajectory for the long-term planning that is envisioned in the Four Pillars, to include our preparations for, and participation in, the upcoming All-American Council.

Several recent events have provided me with the opportunity to crystallize some of my own thinking in this area. This past weekend, I led the Annual Parish Assembly for the St. Nicholas Cathedral, in Washington, DC, as well as the biannual meeting of the Archdiocesan Council for the Archdiocese of Washington. A few weeks before, the seventh annual **Chancellors and Treasurers meeting** took place, here at the Chancery. All of these events reflect the many levels within which the life of our Church functions. Each level has its unique challenges and each its own contribution to the overall life of the Church.

In this, the imagery used by St Paul in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of his first epistle to the Corinthians relating to of the various parts of the body functioning together as a whole organism is very fitting:

*<sup>12</sup> For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. <sup>13</sup> For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For in fact the body is not one member but many.*

The Orthodox Church in America as a whole should reflect, or strive to reflect, this image of the One Christ, as should specific bodies within the Church such as this Metropolitan Council, the respective Councils and Assemblies of our dioceses, and even the local parish.

OUR IDENTITY AS THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

**Our Treasurer, Melanie Ringa**, will report later on some of the specific issues that were discussed at the recent Chancellors and Treasurers meeting. I want to thank Melanie for her leadership within this unique body, which, as you recall, was initially created to come up with a funding mechanism for the Church that would move us from a per capita system of assessment to a proportional system of stewardship. In addition to her regular work as the Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, Melanie has guided the meeting of the Chancellors and Treasurers for seven years, which have seen that group move from a cautious and guarded gathering to a much more cohesive and cooperative working group. As you know, it was that body that was instrumental in preparing and agreeing to the financial resolution that was almost unanimously adopted at the All-American Council in Atlanta. This year, a tentative consensus was reached on a **funding strategy** for the next triennium. This will be one of the major actions need at the upcoming **All-American Council** in July and we will review that proposal this week.

Even with the positive developments over the past 7 years, and the Chancellors and Treasurers meeting this year was positive and productive overall, it was nevertheless clear to me that there remains a very strong sense of **diocesan self-identity**. This is, of course, very important, and this is more evident when dealing with finances. But at the same time, it seems to me that we really need to focus on finding a way to discover what the common ground is for all the diocese, to uncover what our self-identity is as the Orthodox Church in America. As St Paul warns:

*<sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? <sup>18</sup>But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. <sup>19</sup>And if they were all one member, where would the body be?*

Like the Chancellors and Treasurers meeting, this body, the **Metropolitan Council**, is a key component in arriving at a self-understanding of ourselves as one body by providing us with an opportunity to work together and strive to truly understand ourselves as one body working towards a single goal. I would like to take some time during our meeting this week to hear from you about this and related questions. However, I would like to solicit your input, not as individual representatives, but as **diocesan representatives**. In other words, to ask each of you (as a diocesan team) to convey something constructive from the perspective of your diocese and to address questions such as these:

1. What can your diocese offer to the overall common vision of the Orthodox Church in America?
2. What does your diocese need/want/expect from the Central Administration?
3. What specific departments does your diocese need help with?
4. What are your greatest challenges?
5. What does your diocese want to see as the outcome of the AAC?

These are broad questions that you may not feel prepared to answer today or even this week. I would nevertheless ask you to reflect on them and we will have an opportunity on Thursday to hear from you.

In parallel, it is also crucial that the **Holy Synod**, as the main body that preserves the canonical unity of the Church, set the direction for our long-term planning. I would therefore like to outline the following trajectory:

1. I will complete my work on the Four Pillars document by the end of **February**.
2. I will then forward it to the members of the Holy Synod, for their review and input with the goal of having a final document for publication to the entire Church at the conclusion of the Spring Session of the Holy Synod in **April**.
3. To accomplish this, I will be meeting one-on-one with each of our bishops, beginning in Great Lent, to discuss with them and hear from them directly about their thoughts on the direction the Church should go.
4. The final Holy Synod approved document will be released at the beginning of **May**.
5. The three months leading up to the AAC will be an opportunity for Church-wide reflection on the Four Pillars document, with an opportunity for the Holy Synod to make further reflection at their Retreat in **June**. It will also serve as a preparatory document for the AAC in **July** as well as workbooks for the forums that are being prepared, and which Fr. Eric Tosi will share with us more in detail later in this meeting
6. My further hope is that the Four Pillars will then continue to serve as a framework for the life of our Church for **the next triennium and beyond**.

#### CONSULTANT TO THE PRIMATE

At our last meeting, I spoke of my need to determine, in practical ways, how this Chancery can function in support of my vision and the vision of the Holy Synod. To this end, I made known my request for assistance in the person of a consultant to help me and my office to optimize this work. This Metropolitan Council approved a budget for this and, with blessing of Archbishop Benjamin, I appointed His Grace, Bishop Daniel, to serve in this capacity.

His primary purpose has been to serve as Consultant to the Primate for the specific purpose of assisting me in reviewing the overall functioning of the Chancery Office and presenting some recommendations for improvement and clarification. In addition to meeting with the Human Resources Committee, I would ask His Grace will now provide the Metropolitan Council with an update on the consulting process, as well as observing our work this week.

*His Grace, Bishop Daniel to offer his remarks at this point.*

#### COMMUNICATIONS

St Tikhon wrote in 1905: “We must share our spiritual richness, truth, light, and joy with others who do not have these blessings. And this duty does not only lay upon the pastors and missionaries but on the lay persons as well, since the Church of Christ, according to the wise comparison of the Holy Apostle Paul, is the body, and every member takes part in the life of the body.”<sup>1</sup>

This sharing of the treasures of the Church is our evangelical imperative and one of the ways in which it can most effectively be accomplished is through communication. Presently, we have a solid communications team with **Fr. Eric Tosi, Fr. John Matusiak, Jessica Fuhrman,** and **Ryan Platte** who continue to do their work with zeal with our website, the OCAreview and social media. In an effort to expand our communication outreach, we have engaged an intern, **Andrew Romanov**, for a 3-month period. This was made possible by a generous anonymous donor who was eager to have the Orthodox Church in America begin to formulate a more comprehensive and strategic communications strategy.

The purpose of this internship was to assist the Office of the Metropolitan and the Communications Team in developing and implementing an effective strategy for public relations for the Orthodox Church in America. The duties included the following:

1. Development of a media strategy for the roll-out of my long-term plan, with initial focus on the document: *‘Of What Life Do We Speak’: Four Pillars for the Fulfillment of the Apostolic Work of the Church.*
2. Assist me in the production of video spots for major feast days, Thanksgiving, Nativity and the New Year.
3. Work with the Communications Team and the Ministry Departments to provide technical support and advice as they work to implement the priorities and vision, as established by the Metropolitan.
4. Begin development work on a media / press contacts database to which future Press Releases and other media content can be sent.
5. Assist the Director of Stewards in preparing the Stewards Annual Appeal

Andrew was very helpful in each of these areas. At my request, he drafted a white-paper on social media with a plan for the effective use of social media outlets to promote the voice and work of the Orthodox Church in America amongst its constituencies. Also at my request, he prepared a summary of his work in this intership as well as a proposal for possible video projects for the future. All of these are included in your Metropolitan Council packet and I would ask you to review them and be prepared to discuss them later in this meeting.

#### EXTERNAL RELATIONS

We will hear later this week from **Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky**, the Director of the Department of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, but I would like to highlight

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<sup>1</sup> Instructions and Teachings., page 259.

a few items. I would like to express my thanks to Fr. Leonid for his faithful service in particular as the Interim Dean and Representative at St Catherine's in Moscow, following the untimely death of **Archimandrite Alexander Pihach**, of blessed memory. Fr. Alexander was able to bring St Catherine's to a place of stability and truly paved the way for the process that has led to our very recent appointment of **Fr. Daniel Andreyuk** to that position. I am grateful to His Grace, Bishop David, and the Diocese of Alaska, for their blessing to take Fr. Daniel from his parish assignment in Anchorage. I am confident that he will be successful in this new position and will be a worthy representative of the Orthodox Church in America in Moscow.

I am also grateful to two of my staff, whom I consider to form part of my external relations team: my Secretary and Deacon, **Archdeacon Joseph** and my subdeacon and driver, but also as photographer, and (along with Archdeacon Joseph) liturgical master of ceremonies, **Roman Ostash**, Fr. Joseph and Roman are always on call in the many ways that I require assistance, which is not limited to those practical needs of my office, but applies to the broader work of the Church.

As a lead up to the appointment of Fr. Daniel, several events took place, beginning with my appointment of a special review committee, headed by **His Grace, Bishop Daniel**, and including **Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky, Archpriest Nazarii Polataiko and Melanie Ringa**. This committee was instrumental in paving the way for my introduction of Fr. Daniel during my visit to Moscow for the celebrations of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the enthronement of St. Tikhon of Moscow.

1. More details on the Moscow trip provided
2. Trip to Mexico
  - a. Good relations with Greek and Antiochian Hierarchs
  - b. Gratefulness of Archbishop Alejo for support following earthquake
3. March for Life

#### THANKS

I am grateful for the assistance of the Officers, Fr. John, Fr. Eric and Melanie, and to all the Staff working both at the Chancery and offsite: **Alex Liberovsky, Barry Migyanko, Katherine Linke, Svetlana Radunceva** who faithfully continue their daily support for me, and offer extra diligence during events such as this week's Metropolitan Council meeting.

#### CONCLUSION

I will conclude with a re-statement of my earlier request for your input and I would ask you to consider the questions I outlined above, and to do so with reflection on the words of St Paul, with which I conclude my report:

*<sup>20</sup> But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup> No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be*

*weaker are necessary. <sup>23</sup>And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, <sup>24</sup>but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, <sup>25</sup>that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. <sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.*

**DAY TWO**  
**Wednesday, February 7, 2018**

## HOMILY

St Parthenius; New Hieromartyrs Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev (1918)  
and Archbishop Peter of Voronezh (1929)

1 John 3:21-4:6

Mark 14:43-15:1

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

This week I have been underlining the importance of our cohesiveness and unity as the Orthodox Church in America. As a providential warning we have in today's gospel a picture of the precise opposite: a community broken apart. The betrayer Judas uses a sign of love—a kiss—as the sign of betrayal. The disciples scatter and flee, leaving Jesus alone. We see a hostile collection of lying witnesses. Chief priests and elders mocking and slandering Jesus as a blasphemer and false prophet. Peter the chief apostle denies that he even knows Jesus as our Lord is led away to Pilate and the Cross.

In human terms it looks like the end of our Lord's mission. The epistle reading is equally dark, warning of false prophets making their way into the community, sowing deception and division through the spirit of the antichrist.

Added to this, consider today's commemoration of the new martyrs, Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev—executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918 (almost one hundred years ago today: February 2, 1918) and Archbishop Peter of Voronezh.

Soldiers seized the Kiev Caves Lavra and broke into the churches. Monks were taken out into the courtyard to be stripped and beaten. Five armed soldiers and a sailor came looking for Metropolitan Vladimir. The seventy-year-old hierarch was tortured and choked in his bedroom with the chain of his cross and later taken out and shot. And in the year before his death Metropolitan Vladimir saw his diocese being broken apart by Ukrainian nationalists and Renovationists.

Archbishop Peter of Voronezh was consecrated bishop by Patriarch Tikhon in 1919, and for the next ten years, until his death from typhus in the infamous Solovki prison camp in 1929, he spent much of his time either in prison or contending with schisms caused by the Soviet-backed Renovationists.

All of this is a reminder of how easy it is for the cohesiveness of the Church to be destroyed. And how much ascetic labor is required to keep us together in faithfulness to Christ. We know that the gates of hell will not prevail against the church as a whole. But its survival in any given time or any given place is not a sure thing. We can point to many places in history where the church once flourished but no longer exists. The church's continued life in history requires courageous faithful witnesses. It also requires us to work together to preserve the fullness of the Church.

Fr Thomas Hopko often spoke of the “cross of cooperation.” In that little phrase there is much daily ascetic effort to look to the interests of others, to bear one another's burdens, to overlook, to forgive, to be forbearing, to be courageous and reject fear and back-biting

and slander. These repeated little actions of daily self-sacrifice are the building blocks and mortar of the Temple of the Living God, which is the Church.

We are still in the festal period of the Meeting of the Lord. In many of our parishes, as here in St Sergius chapel, we had the blessing of candles as a reminder of Christ the light of the world, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, a light that cannot be overcome by the darkness. As we heard in the epistle, “this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us....Little children, you are of God ... he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

As we continue to with our meetings this week, may we each commit ourselves once again to carry that indestructible light of Christ in whatever small way we can for the encouragement of others and the building up of our Orthodox Church in America.

Amen.

**DAY THREE**  
**Thursday, February 8, 2018**

## FINAL OBSERVATIONS

As we come to the conclusion of the meeting, I wanted to give the members of the Metropolitan Council an opportunity to offering your thoughts, comments or reflections on any of the issues we have discussed this past week, and in particular your thoughts on the questions I presented to you. Before we do that, I would like to just offer a brief reflection of my own about the past week from my own experience in the Orthodox Church in America.

As you know, in two years, we are going to be marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the glorification of St. Herman, one of the first acts of the newly-established Orthodox Church in America. We are therefore also celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of that autocephaly. The past 50 years cannot easily be characterized with a single adjective, sentence, or paragraph or even book. What can probably be said simply is that it has been a period of forging, of molding, and of formation. There have been successes and trials, but the purpose of all of this process has been the growth and healing of the body we call the Orthodox Church in America.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

**For the Diocesan Representatives:**

1. What can your diocese offer to the overall common vision of the Orthodox Church in America?
2. What does your diocese need/want/expect from the Central Administration?
3. What specific departments does your diocese need help with?
4. What are your greatest challenges?
5. What does your diocese want to see as the outcome of the AAC?

**For the At-Large Representatives:**

1. Any of the above questions
2. What are your impressions from your service on the Metropolitan Council and what would you offer as constructive comments for moving forward?

**For all:**

1. How do we nurture a greater sense of cohesiveness around our shared history and the vision of the Orthodox Church in America?
2. What will help us forge a stronger self of identity as the Orthodox Church in America?
3. Other Comments

**DISCUSSION**

1. What does your diocese need/want/expect from the Central Administration?
  - A. AK: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
    - i. Trying to expand
    - ii. Training at Seminary
    - iii. Transforming Christian Education
    - iv. This is the future of Christian Education
  - B. Joseph Lucas
    - i. Thing in DOS that is visionary: the role of the priest to his parish, who is the truly head of the parish
    - ii. Even EPA parishes in the South grew to appreciate that model
    - iii. Having bylaws structured
  - C. Bob
    - i. Email from Fr. Alexander Kuchta with thoughts
    - ii. Appreciated my speech at the March for Life. Not just antiabortion but pastoral talk.
    - iii. Appreciated my visit with Bishop Paul was touching
      1. Could we do this more with social media (although
    - iv. Educational materials are out of date

D. Lisa

- i. White paper release so they could look at it
- ii. Needs clergy in the next 10-15 years. Need to address clergy pipeline and retired clergy.
- iii. To find solutions

E. Fr. Chad

- i. Bishop from other jurisdictions saying: we need vocations. The tone was not inspiring
- ii. We have to put a very energized positive face on the vocation of students
- iii. Applicants come with enormous amount of debt
- iv. 1% resolution would fund our seminaries
- v. Can't make it mandatory (Archbishop Michael)
- vi. Time to be set aside at All-American Council to speak about this problem and put on a program
- vii. 3 year seminary is the way to go
- viii. WE have to encourage vocations

F. Too many parishes concentrated in one area: need to consider strategic choices of merging or consolidating parishes

G. Melanie Ringa

- i. Suggestion for theme of All-American Council: focus on vocations. I would like to see us refocus
  1. Youth Education (Good Shepherd – it's so good, then make it the main curriculum
  2. Choir Directors and Singers crisis: need to get everyone involved at early level, and teach them to sing. From them the director will arise.
  3. This is a long-term project
  4. We have to put together a plan and it doesn't have to be involved
  5. Start with the children and get them involved.
  6. I would like to see a plan to address this come out of the All-American Council

H. Maureen (At Last)

- i. Institutional history
- ii. Identity crisis: are we a metropolia or diocesan structure
- iii. People lean one way or the other
- iv. Constructive suggestion: our primary mission is to spread the Gospel and expand the mission
- v. Critical that we grow this Church, which happens in the parishes. This is where **formation** takes place, which affects vocations and the keeping of youth in the Church.
- vi. **Need succession planning for our Holy Synod**
- vii. Metropolitan Council members have to raise the new ideas so that people have time to percolate.

I. Fr. Chad

- i. Faithtree.org

1. For teenagers
  2. Apologetics for our time
  3. Van Nuys, CA
  - ii. Internal Governance change was a good change
  - iii. Move from East Norwich was good move
  - iv. Updates on the handbooks
  - v. Retreats
    1. Conflict
    2. Stewardship
    3. Intro to Seminary faculty
    4. Leadership
    5. History of the Orthodox Church in America
  - vi. We are way behind in the Stewards
  - vii. Need for evangelization
  - viii. Strategic Planning: we did it, but there is still a need.
    1. We need a clear united vision for where we are going, with theological education in particular (not just seminaries)
  - ix. Facing positive opportunity with 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of autocephaly.
    1. Have pan-Orthodox conversations
  - x. Department of External Relations
    1. We are not prepared to make a transition in a very clear way.
    2. We need to invite the other bishops as a Crafted invitation from the Holy Synod
    3. Invite bishop from every jurisdiction for All-American Council.
  - xi. All of you need to encourage vocations in your parishes (Archbishop Michael)
- J. Fr. Perdomo
- i. People have to come to church
  - ii. Every year I have 3-4 opportunities for continuing education
    1. They should keep it going
- K. Fr. John Jillions
- i. Need systematic way to address the issues relating to theological education.
  - ii. Seminaries and Metropolitan Council
- L. Bishop Paul
- i. Have a parish life conference with theme of vocations
- M. Archbishop Michael
- i. They know the problems in the priesthood so they don't come
  - ii. We need to trust that if we work with the lord positively and make the sacrifices. You have to take a leap of faith
    1. Crisis in seminaries is a leap of faith.

2. We have to be positive instruments of the Church and have faith that working with Him we will handle the difficulties that come before us.
- iii. Would like to see that with the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council that we are grateful for the Metropolitan Tikhon and the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council. We can do this with God.
- iv.

February 6, 2018

**Metropolitan Council Meeting  
February 6-8, 2018**

**Chancellor's Report**

“The unfortunate reality is that we have too often abandoned our young people and failed to provide them with the nourishment – intellectual, emotional, and spiritual – to help them face the world, let alone find life within the world. The more we ask ourselves: ‘why have our children left the Church?’ the more we confirm that we have failed, not merely to keep them in the Church, but to have meaningfully engaged with them as human persons in the image of Christ. I would suggest that this is because we have simultaneously failed to understand ourselves what it means to be a person in the image and likeness of Christ, what it means to be a Christian, and how to find healing and salvation in Christ.”

Metropolitan Tikhon, *Of What Life Do We Speak?: Four Pillars for the Fulfillment of the Apostolic Work of the Church*

**The All American Council**

As His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon will emphasize in his address to the Metropolitan Council, the focus of this Spring 2018 meeting is the approaching All-American Council in St Louis this July. Thankfully, there are no burning crises to address and this gives us the space to consider broader questions about our life as the Orthodox Church in America.

We are a relatively small Church of about 100,000 faithful spread across three countries and some 700 parishes. Based on reports from the bishops and dioceses—and the meeting of the chancellors and treasurers—it is apparent that dioceses on the whole have a good degree of cohesiveness and unity between bishops, parishes and clergy. What is less apparent is the cohesiveness and unity in the OCA as a whole. That is probably to be expected given our vast territory and the demands of parishes and dioceses. But His Beatitude is especially interested in helping to nurture a greater sense of cohesiveness around our shared history and vision as the Orthodox Church in America. It will be worthwhile to give some thought in parishes, deaneries and dioceses—as well as here at the Metropolitan Council and then at the All American Council—to what steps might be taken at the various levels of church life to strengthen our sense of identity as the Orthodox Church in America.

As you will hear in detail from Fr Eric Tosi, the All American Council will be centered around six forums led by panels of bishops, clergy and laity. These forums are based on His Beatitude's booklet (in the final stages of preparation), *Of What Life Do We Speak?: Four Pillars for the Fulfillment of the Apostolic Work of the Church*. Each forum will consider a very basic question facing us today.

Forum 1: Spiritual Life – How Can We Improve Our Personal Relationship With Christ?

Forum 2: Spiritual Life: - How Can We Better Care for Our Clergy?

Forum 3: Stewardship – How Do We Properly Steward What God Has Entrusted to Us?

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Forum 4: Relation With Others – How Can We More Effectively Communicate And Interact With The World, North America, Non-Orthodox Groups and The Community?

Forum 5: Evangelization – How Can We More Effectively Establish Missions And Revitalize Our Churches?

Forum 6: Evangelization – How Can We More Effectively Reach Our Parishioners?

It is my hope that what will emerge from our discussions at all levels will be the nucleus for an effective process of long-term planning that could be initiated by His Beatitude, the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council. As Protodeacon Peter Danichick has written, such planning

...is an effort by the members of the community to undergo an examination of conscience—to measure themselves as a group, ordained by God to fulfill a particular purpose, as to whether they are in fact fulfilling that purpose. Having done this, they next determine God's will for them and what the Lord wants them to do. Then, they actually go forward and do the Lord's will seriously, with dedication and utmost honesty concerning their own weaknesses and their dependence upon the Lord in everything. They do all this in assembly, involving not only the members of the community but all whose lives are impacted by that community. Finally, the mutually agreed-upon, God directed work is managed and performed carefully and properly, “decently and in good order” (1 Cor 14:40.)

(Peter M. Danilchick, *Thy Will Be Done: Strategic Leadership, Planning and Management for Christians*, SVS Press: 2016, p.19)

### **Social Media and OCA Cohesiveness**

Through the generous funding of an anonymous benefactor Metropolitan Tikhon has had the services of an intern-specialist in social media for the last three months, Andrew Romanov. His Beatitude will report in greater detail on this but you should all have read Andrew's paper, written at the request of Metropolitan Tikhon: “To Adapt in the World, the Orthodox Church in America Should Adapt in Social Technology.” Without getting into the details of the paper, the internship, or future possibilities I was struck by the following paragraph:

An active presence on social media inherently promotes the central and primatial organization of the OCA. The OCA's history of decentralization and diocesan prominence is possibly at odds with generational trends that, in future, will likely demand geographically wider social networks (“networks” being the interpersonal relationships themselves, not platforms such as Facebook) and seek out more prominent and socially-engaged national and international institutions over under-resourced regional and local ones. (p. 3)

This goes to the heart of His Beatitude's concern about the cohesiveness of the OCA.

### **Chancery operations**

In recent months His Beatitude has been working with His Grace, Bishop Daniel to review the operations of the Chancery in order to bring cohesiveness and unity to the work of the Metropolitan's Office. There has been a reorganization of the office space, starting with moving His Beatitude to the central office (formerly the chancellor's office) and reassigning the Officers to new offices on the

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second floor of the chancery. At the same time, a review is underway of all job descriptions, to ensure that work is properly distributed and coordinated, and that His Beatitude has all the information he needs to oversee the life of the OCA. The main point here is to avoid fragmentation. There must be a common vision that is supported and promulgated by everyone at the chancery.

## **Chancellor's Areas of Focus**

### **Department of Pastoral Life**

Bishop Paul is the episcopal moderator, I am the department chair and Fr Nikodhim (Preston) is the administrator. He normally comes to the Chancery on Mondays to oversee progress on a number of initiatives to advance the ministries, collegiality and health of clergy and their families. The executive committee meets monthly by teleconference (in addition to the above this includes Fr Stephen Vernak (EPA), Fr David Lowell (DOW), Fr Dennis Rhodes (Alb), Fr Gregory Safchuk (DC), Fr Nicholas Solak (EPA) and Cindy Heise (in her role as social worker, with special concern for clergy wives and families.) The Department's work and discussions address a number of areas:

- Update of the OCA's *Guidelines for Clergy*
- Clergy peer-learning groups (the HOPE program)
- Clergy wives and families
- Clergy demographic project (clergy retirement)
- "Discerning Celibacy" (a study of pastoral care in relation to celibate clergy)
- Pastoral Care and Sexuality (interviews with members of the Holy Synod)
- Update of the OCA's *Clergy Compensation Guidelines*
- Possible clergy mutual aid fund

Here I would like to highlight two of these, as noted in the minutes of the meeting held November 29, 2017.

#### *HOPE/Clergy Peer Groups*

Results from the autumn facilitator training/refresher session were very positive. Gathering those individuals who serve in this capacity to speak together and share resources became almost a peer group of its own as their discussions soon moved beyond mere training or practical considerations and into frank and open dialogue on the struggles and successes they have had. Participants look forward to gathering again in the new year. The HOPE Program continues to move ahead strongly and with new peer groups still in formation. However, the time has now come to consider more carefully how best to move this from an endeavor sponsored and maintained by the Diocese of E. Pennsylvania and into one that can rise to meet those needs and wishes expressed from throughout the OCA. Frs. Solak and Nikodhim are working out details of this transition, most especially they are working to identify an administrator for the program and possible means to maintain its funding.

#### *Clergy Demographic Project*

Fr. Nikodhim reported that the Holy Synod, at its latest convocation, remains interested in compiling these numbers. He has been at work to simplify this survey and so to make its employment less laborious. He will be ready to proceed in the new year, and the hierarchs have been made aware to expect this questionnaire.

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### *Clergy Mutual Aid Fund*

Fr. Jillions presented this proposal to the Holy Synod, and its members have requested more specifics before proceeding to implementation. In subsequent consideration, he is now weighing whether it might be fit to begin this project in tiers. A fund might be established first for support of widowed clergy wives, donations solicited for this, etc., then additional identified needs and allocated support for such things as medical expenses, funeral costs, and the like. In this way, a mutual aid fund could grow organically and begin to address those concrete issues which all know are present. In so doing, it could provide a much needed sense of solidarity in care of the clergy for each other.

### **Clergy matters**

Conversations with the Metropolitan, Barry Migyanko, Fr Eric Tosi, bishops, seminary staff, chancellors, deans, priests and deacons continue on a daily basis to address a wide range of issues both routine and exceptional. In addition it must be noted that the most recent meeting of diocesan chancellors and treasurers expressed the need for more practical support to be given to priests who are on the front lines of parish ministry: regular review of their compensation packages and pastoral concern for them and their families. One after another the diocesan chancellors also highlighted two common concerns: projected clergy shortages and crushing education debt being carried by many candidates for ordination. The debt is a burden for the priest and his family, but also for the parish. Another issue, "hospice parishes" was also noted. Consideration needs to be given to consolidating parishes. As one chancellor said, "we have more infrastructure than we can use."

### **ORSMA (Office for Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations)**

Cindy Heise's report will give you a picture of ORSMA's current caseload and activities.

### **SMPAC (Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee):**

SMPAC continues to meet monthly via teleconference to review cases and consider policy and procedure questions. SMPAC members include Metropolitan Tikhon (episcopal moderator), Fr John Jillions (chair) Cindy Heise, Fr Eric Tosi, Dr Albert Rossi, Bernard Wilson, Robert Koory, Fr Alexander Garklavs and Pdn Peter Danilchick. The SMPAC report will be presented at the MC meeting and will include the diocesan compliance reports from 2017.

### **Seminaries and Theological Education**

Together with Metropolitan Tikhon, I serve on the boards of St Herman, St Tikhon's and St Vladimir's Seminaries and on the Board of Theological Education (BTE). The BTE members also include His Eminence, Archbishop Michael; His Eminence, Archbishop Irénée; Archpriest John Dunlop (SHS); Archpriest Chad Hatfield (SVS); Archpriest Steven Voytovich (STS). Archpriest Kirill Sokolov, the Director of Diaconal and Late Vocations, serves as the BTE secretary. The BTE reviews applications put forward by bishops of candidates who have come through the Diaconal Vocations Program or some formation program other than an accredited Orthodox seminary. The BTE recommendations are then sent to the Holy Synod for a decision at their Spring or Fall meeting. Fr Kirill's latest BTE report to the Holy Synod in November 2017 highlighted a very promising new development in collaboration with the Orthodox Church of Russia

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At the direction of His Beatitude, I am in conversation with representatives of the Ss. Cyril and Methodius Theological Institute of Postgraduate Studies on ways we can foster cultural and educational exchanges between our Church and the Church of Russia. I will be in communication with representatives of our seminaries on early logistical questions and will be seeking input from the Hierarchs of the Holy Synod on candidates for a potential exchange visit.

Since that time the project has developed more concretely and we are now waiting to finalize details for sending a group of OCA clergy to Russia in June and receiving a group of Russian clergy this August.

*Teaching, publications, presentations*

I continue to be on the sessional faculty of Saint Vladimir's Seminary as Associate Professor of Religion and Culture and teach one hybrid course normally every other year in the Doctor of Ministry program, "Ministry in a Secular Age" (courses are given online plus one-week intensive on campus.)

The first three graduates of this new DMin program received their degrees on the Feast of the Three Hierarchs (1/30/18) on the occasion of the annual Fr Alexander Schmemmann Memorial Lecture. Fr John Parker, the current chair of the OCA's Department of Evangelization, was one of the graduates and did a project titled "Radechesis: A Radical Return to the Roots of Christian Catechism with a Critical Analysis of Pre- and Post-Baptismal Catechesis of Adults in the USA and Canada." His advisor was Fr Chad Hatfield, President of St Vladimir's Seminary.

The DMin program is open to MDiv graduates who have at least three years of pastoral experience (lay or ordained), are currently serving in ministry and are capable of doctoral-level work (for a full description see <https://www.svots.edu/doctor-ministry-d-min>.) A new cohort of students starts every two years. Applications are now being received for the cohort that will start this summer, with anticipated graduation in 2021. Deadline for applying is April 1, 2018.

Related to this, as I reported last time, I was asked to be guest editor of a special issue of the journal *Religions* on "Inward Being and Outward Identity: The Orthodox Churches in the 21st Century." See [http://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special\\_issues/orthodox\\_churches](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/orthodox_churches).

The journal is now complete with some superb articles on a wide range of topics (a number of them by scholars active in the OCA.) The articles are freely accessible on-line and will also be gathered together and published as an e-book. My short introduction to the collection and the table of contents are attached to this report as an appendix.

Other publications and presentations:

- "‘Thicket of Idols’: Alexander Schmemmann's Critique of Orthodoxy" (based on his *Journals*) was accepted by *The Wheel* and will be published sometime this winter. I wrote it with the approaching All American Council in mind, which will have as its theme, "For the Life of the World," the title of Fr Alexander Schmemmann's famous book published in 1963. But Fr Alexander saved his most trenchant observations about real-life Orthodoxy for his posthumously published journals. His critique can be biting, but we ignore it at our peril.

## Chancellor's Report to the Metropolitan Council

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- Keynote Lecture: "Overshadowed by the Spirit: Mary as the Embodiment of Holiness," Eastern Churches Seminar, Cleveland, OH (10/13-14). The annual seminar has been going on for many years and brings together Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Catholics and Roman Catholics in the Cleveland area. I was invited at the suggestion of Fr Alexander Garklavs, former OCA Chancellor. The general theme of the two-day conference was "Saints Known and Unknown."
- Lecture: "Orthodox Americans and the Two Russian Revolutions in 1917," Villanova University, PA (11/16/17). This was based on the article I wrote last year for the *St Vladimir's Theological Quarterly*, based on material in the *Russian Orthodox American Messenger* in the OCA's archives.

### Chancellor's Calendar since the MC Meeting of September 19-22, 2017 (selected events)

#### *September 2017*

23 St Sergius celebration, outdoor Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Chancery  
23-24 Orthodox Vision Foundation (leadership conference), St Vladimir's Seminary  
26 Orthodox Christian Studies Center (Fordham Uni.), David Bentley Hart: "Orthodoxy in America and America's Orthodoxies," [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WU3y\\_h47ByE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WU3y_h47ByE)  
27 Department of Pastoral Life

#### *October*

1 Marriage of Roman and Anna Ostash  
2 St Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church (Jamaica Estates, NY), annual golf fundraiser  
7 Orthodox Education Day  
10 SMPAC meeting  
13-14 Lecture: "Overshadowed by the Spirit: Mary as the Embodiment of Holiness," Eastern Churches Seminar, Cleveland, OH  
19 Baptism of Katrina Furlman, St Tikhon's Monastery Church  
20 Property transfer of St Tikhon's Orphanage, Krisa Law Offices, Carbondale, PA  
22 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Our Lady of Kazan Church, Sea Cliff, NY  
23 Planning re graduate school and clergy exchange programs with Moscow Patriarchate  
25 Meetings with Bishop Daniel  
26 Orthodox Theological Society of America (St Vladimir's Sem.): "Orthodoxy and Politics"  
27 St Tikhon's Seminary Board meeting; funeral for Fr Stephen Mack (Auburn, NY)  
30 Funeral of Matushka Marie Kreta, St Tikhon's Monastery

#### *November*

3 Meeting with Judge ER Lanier  
4 Accompanied Met Tikhon to fundraising dinner for St Sava Serbian Cathedral, NYC  
5 Served at St Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church, Jamaica Estates, NY  
6 Board of Theological Education  
7 External Affairs meeting  
8-10 St Vladimir's Seminary Board  
11 Vespers for consecration of Holy Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church, Brookville, NY  
13-17 Holy Synod meeting

## Chancellor's Report to the Metropolitan Council

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16 Lecture: "Orthodox Americans and the Two Russian Revolutions in 1917," Villanova University, PA  
20 Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA  
29 Department of Pastoral Life  
30 St Andrew: Cardinal Dolan luncheon for Orthodox (representing Met Tikhon with Fr Leonid Kishkovsky), Catholic Archdiocese of New York

### *December*

2 Meeting of SS Cosmas and Damian Board, SS Peter and Paul Church, Jersey City, NJ  
5 SMPAC  
8 Relics of St Tikhon to Holy Protection Cathedral, NYC  
12 Funeral of Anna Dahulich (Binghamton, NY)  
13 Funeral of Fr Alvian and Mat Helen Smirensky (New Skete Monastery, Cambridge NY)  
15-18 Preparing and packing for office move

### *January 2018*

3 Department of Pastoral Life  
4-5 Office move  
9-11 Bishop Daniel  
11 Blessing of Chancery; reception at Russian Consulate (with Bishop Daniel, Fr Leonid Kishkovsky and Alexis Liberovsky), NYC  
23 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Chancellors and Treasurers meeting  
25 Planning meeting: clergy exchange with Moscow Patriarchate  
26 Service of prayer for Fr Daniel and Mat Vera Andrejuk as they departed for St Catherine's Church in Moscow  
28 Divine Liturgy and 1-year Memorial for Mat Juliana Schmemann, Justin Solak and Alexis Troubetzkoy at Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers, NY  
29-30 St Vladimir's Seminary: DMin faculty, feast of Three Hierarchs, DMin commencement, Schmemann Lecture (Dr Scott Kenworthy on St Tikhon)

### *February*

1 Meeting of officers with Metropolitan Tikhon

Respectfully submitted,

Fr John A. Jillions,  
Chancellor  
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**Appendix**

**“Inward Being and Outward Identity: The Orthodox Churches in the 21st Century”**  
**([http://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special\\_issues/orthodox\\_churches](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/orthodox_churches))**

List of Articles

- 1) Razvan Porumb, “Orthodoxy in Engagement with the ‘Outer’ World: The Dynamic of the ‘Inward-Outward’ Cycle.”
- 2) Rico Monge, “‘Neither Victim nor Executioner’: Essential Insights from Secularization Theory for the Revitalization of the Russian Orthodox Church in the Contemporary World.”
- 3) Natalia Naydenova and Yulia Ebzeeva, “Knocking on a Saint’s Door, or a Quest for Holiness in a Post-Secular Society.”
- 4) Paul Ladouceur , “Religious Diversity in Modern Orthodox Thought.”
- 5) Cyril Hovorun, “Ecumenism: Rapprochement Through Co-working.”
- 6) Christina M. Gschwandtner, “Mimesis or Metamorphosis? Eastern Orthodox Liturgical Practice and Its Philosophical Background.”
- 7) Nicholas Denysenko, “Death and Dying in Orthodox Liturgy.”
- 8) Michael Plekon, “The Liturgy of Life: Alexander Schmemmann.”
- 9) Boris Knorre, “The Problem of the Church’s Defensiveness and Reductionism in Fr. Alexander Schmemmann’s Ecclesiology (Based on His Journals)”
- 10) Ionut Untea, “Service and Pro-Existence in the Thought of Romanian Theologian Dumitru Staniloae: A Path for the Orthodox Church Facing the Challenge of Globalization.”
- 11) Elizabeth Theokritoff, “Green Patriarch, Green Patristics: Reclaiming the Deep Ecology of Christian Tradition.”
- 12) Joseph William Black, “Sex, Abortion, Domestic Violence and Other Unmentionables: Orthodox Christian Youth in Kenya and Windows into Their Attitudes about Sex.”
- 13) Mary Ford, “Reflections on Reading the Scriptures as an Orthodox Christian.”
- 14) Kyriacos C. Markides, “The Healing Spirituality of Eastern Orthodoxy: A Personal Journey of Discovery.”

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## **Introduction**

John A. Jillions

As the title indicates, taken together the fourteen papers in this Special Issue of Religions give a broad view of what might be called the inner and outer life of the Orthodox Church, with each of the papers focusing on a particular area of research and reflection.

In recent decades, there has been an explosion of books and articles on the Orthodox Churches, both Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox (the articles in this issue focus on the former.) There is widespread interest in the spiritual life of the Orthodox Church: prayer, worship, theology, saints, art, music, ascetic practices and ways of living, monasticism, and how its self-understanding as a repository of ancient Christian tradition is interwoven and evolving in what Charles Taylor calls the cross-pressures of the secular age.

At the same time, the quarter-century following the collapse of the Soviet Union has seen the Orthodox Church emerge from persecution and martyrdom to rebuild the infrastructure of churches, monasteries and Christian social services decimated by the Communist years. In that process the Orthodox Churches have also become powerful public, political, nationalist and cultural forces in Russia and Eastern Europe. They are now frequently perceived as closely aligned with restrictive government policies, suspicious of democracy, freedom, human rights and minorities. In contrast, Orthodox Christians in the Middle East live a tenuous existence—often shared with Muslims—in the face of war, sectarian violence and official and unofficial duress and persecution. Meanwhile, in areas of emigration and mission in Western Europe, the Americas, Australia, parts of sub-Saharan Africa and other regions outside its traditional homelands Orthodox Christianity is also taking hold as a self-consciously distinct minority religion that is attracting a steady stream of converts while struggling for its identity in a secular environment increasingly hostile to traditional Christianity.

In the midst of these competing global forces, and an Orthodox world dominated by Old World Churches, the leaders of the disparate and often quarrelsome branches of Eastern Orthodoxy, led by Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople as “first among equals,” have been attempting to bring a measure of unity as they seek to remain true to the “faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3) while also confronting the challenges of the 21st century.

An important step in that direction was taken at “The Holy and Great Council” of the Eastern Orthodox Churches which took place on Crete in June 2016 during the week of Pentecost (<https://www.holycouncil.org>). Patriarch Bartholomew presided, and although the Council’s status and authority are disputed by several of the Orthodox Churches which did not send delegations (Antioch, Russia, Georgia, Bulgaria) the fact remains that this council was decades in preparation and was the largest and most diverse council of Eastern Orthodox bishops in many centuries. The agenda was modest and did not attempt to address some of the most pressing issues facing the Orthodox Churches, but it provoked some valuable discussion (see for example Symeonides 2016.) At the very least it demonstrated awareness of questions that the Orthodox must consider and act upon.

The Holy and Great Council has opened our horizon towards the contemporary diverse and multifarious world. It has emphasized our responsibility in place and in time, ever with the perspective of eternity. The Orthodox Church, preserving intact her Sacramental and Soteriological character, is

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sensitive to the pain, the distress and the cry for justice and peace of the peoples of the world. She “proclaims day after day the good tidings of His salvation, announcing His glory among the nations and His wonders among all peoples” (Psalm 95). (Holy and Great Council Message, 12)

How well are Orthodox Churches listening and responding to the changing cultures they are living in? And in these new conditions what does it mean to be faithful to the inner life of the Church, while being engaged “for the life of the world”? These are the main underlying questions the papers here are attempting to address.

One of the particular aims of this collection has been to give readers unfamiliar with Orthodox Christianity a set of articles that are at once both academically rigorous and also convey the inner dimension of the Church. This means that a number of these scholars are participants in as well as observers of Orthodox life, and can therefore attempt to translate for outsiders that mysterious personal dimension that is at the heart of any religion, and without which descriptions are incomplete. As Andrew Louth has written, Christian theology is not simply a matter of learning, “it is tested and manifested in a life that lives close to the mystery of God in Christ...and, so far as it is discerned, awakens in the heart a sense of wondering awe which is the light in which we see light” (Louth, 147.)

\* \* \*

The articles collected here address a range of theoretical issues and contemporary cases that illustrate them.

In “Orthodoxy in Engagement with the ‘Outer’ World: The Dynamic of the ‘Inward-Outward’ Cycle” **Razvan Porumb** looks at the forces that drive Orthodox inner life and its engagement with the secular and ecumenical worlds. **Rico Monge** explores secularization theory and its relation to Russia in “‘Neither Victim nor Executioner’: Essential Insights from Secularization Theory for the Revitalization of the Russian Orthodox Church in the Contemporary World.” The increasing influence of religion on filmmaking in “post-secular” Russia is the subject of “Knocking on a Saint’s Door, or a Quest for Holiness in a Post-Secular Society” by **Natalia Naydenova and Yulia Ebzeeva**.

Two articles look specifically at Orthodox thinking (and action) in relation to other religions and other Christian bodies. **Paul Ladouceur** gives a comprehensive overview and analysis in “Religious Diversity in Modern Orthodox Thought.” In “Ecumenism: Rapprochement Through Co-working to Reconciliation” **Cyril Hovorun** reconsiders the methods of ecumenism and looks at the example of co-working by Christians from different churches during the Ukrainian Maidan (the revolution of 2014) as signaling a more fruitful methodology.

Liturgy is at the heart of Orthodox life. **Christina M. Gschwandtner** examines its philosophical underpinnings in “Mimesis or Metamorphosis? Eastern Orthodox Liturgical Practice and Its Philosophical Background.” She explores how liturgy negotiates imitation and transformation, inner and outer, heavenly and earthly. **Nicholas Denysenko’s** “Death and Dying in Orthodox Liturgy” looks at the ways liturgy shapes the inner and outer lives of worshippers as rehearsal of dying and rising to new life. In “The Liturgy of Life: Alexander Schmemmann” **Michael Plekon** reviews and assesses the life and work of the leading Orthodox liturgical theologian of the 20th century. **Boris Knorre**, of the National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow, looks at Schmemmann’s ecclesiology in light of experience in contemporary Russia: “The Problem of the Church’s

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Defensiveness and Reductionism in Fr. Alexander Schmemmann's Ecclesiology (Based on His Journals).”

Dumitru Staniloae (1903–1993) was the foremost Romanian theologian of the 20th century. He argued that Orthodox emphasis on liturgy needs to be balanced with service to people. **Ionut Untea** considers this in “Service and Pro-Existence in the Thought of Romanian Theologian Dumitru Staniloae: A Path for the Orthodox Church Facing the Challenge of Globalization.”

Two articles address specific contemporary issues: ecology and sexuality. **Elizabeth Theokritoff** surveys Orthodox thinking on the environment in “Green Patriarch, Green Patristics: Reclaiming the Deep Ecology of Christian Tradition.” Orthodox writers are increasingly going deep into the sources of Orthodox thought and practice to consider the spiritual significance of the material universe and the place of human beings within it. **Joseph William Black**, who teaches theology in Kenya, analyzes the results of a survey of some 500 Kenyan youth in “Sex, Abortion, Domestic Violence and Other Unmentionables: Orthodox Christian Youth in Kenya and Windows into Their Attitudes about Sex.”

Two of the contributions bring a more personal dimension to the collection, which is entirely appropriate for an issue dealing with “inward being.” **Mary Ford's** essay, “Reflections on Reading the Scriptures as an Orthodox Christian,” argues that while historical criticism is valuable in an Orthodox context (she teaches New Testament and hermeneutics in an Orthodox seminary), the ultimate purpose of reading Scripture is to become holy, and this “is achieved primarily through living the gospel.”

**Kyriacos C. Markides** reflects on thirty years of field research as a sociologist in “The Healing Spirituality of Eastern Orthodoxy: A Personal Journey of Discovery.” He argues that the spiritual practices of the Christian East may contribute to “the cultivation of the intuitive, spiritual side of human beings that has been repressed over the centuries because of the dominance of rationalism and scientific materialism.”

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ORSMA Report for  
Spring 2018 Metropolitan Council

Executive Session

## MC Meeting February 2018

### Report of the Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee (SMPAC)

**Members:** Metropolitan Tikhon (*ex officio*), Archpriest John Jillions (*ex officio*, Chancellor, Chair), Archpriest Eric Tosi (*ex officio*, Secretary), Archpriest Alexander Garklavs, Protodeacon Peter Danilchick, Mrs. Cindy Heise (*ex officio*, Coordinator, ORSMA, Secretary of SMPAC), Mr. Robert Koory, Esq., Dr. Albert Rossi, Mr. Bernard Wilson (Chief of Police, Retired). Judge E.R. Lanier, OCA General Counsel may also participate in meetings.

#### SMPAC Charter

The Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee (“Committee”) was created by Metropolitan Jonah on January 28, 2010 to work with and assist the Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations (“Office”). The Committee was initially known as the “Sexual Misconduct Allegations Review Committee.” The Charter remained in effect during this time. The Charter was again reviewed and approved by the Holy Synod of Bishops at the Fall 2013 meeting.

#### *Authority, responsibility and supervision*

The Committee is under the authority of the Holy Synod and is chaired by the Chancellor of the Church, who is the day-to-day supervisor of the Office. The Committee operates in an advisory capacity only and does not assume any responsibility for the handling of sexual misconduct allegations, because that responsibility properly belongs to the Diocesan Hierarchs and the Office, according to the revised *Policies, Standards, and Procedures on Sexual Misconduct*. Committee members are appointed by the Holy Synod of Bishops.

#### *Background*

The complexity of sexual misconduct allegations requires a multi-dimensional awareness of issues and skills in various disciplines, so that allegations of misconduct may be considered from several perspectives—spiritual, ethical, legal, clinical as well as pastoral. Overlapping and interrelation between these disciplines can best be addressed by a team approach, such as via a standing advisory committee to assist the Holy Synod of Bishops and the Office.

#### *Duties*

- 1 Provide advice on how to improve both the content and effectiveness of the Church’s revised *Policies, Standards, and Procedures on Sexual Misconduct*.
- 2 Assist in reviews of the extent to which the Church’s revised *Policies, Standards, and Procedures on Sexual Misconduct* are implemented in practice and how compliance with them is ensured.
- 3 Assist in finding and nominating qualified professionals, who would be called on to do investigations when occasions arise.

- 4 Assist in developing increased and improved training for clergy, Church employees, and applicable laypersons to enable a better understanding of their duties under the revised *Policies, Standards and Procedures on Sexual Misconduct*, including their mandatory reporting obligations under various state laws.
- 5 Assist in any other requests for advice made by the Holy Synod of Bishops and the Office.

### **Summary of SMPAC Meetings since September 2017**

#### *October 2017*

- Discussion of the sharing of the Annual Compliance Reports with the Metropolitan Council.
- Case updates

#### *November 2017 (no meeting)*

#### *December 2017*

- Bernard Wilson reported on ORSMA activity while Cindy Heise was on maternity leave.
- Due to financial constraints and decreased reporting, Bernard Wilson will no longer be hired as a contractor in 2018. ORSMA will need to explore options to contract investigators on an as-needed basis.
- Mr. Wilson reported on his presentation of the PSPs at St. Tikhon's Seminary. There were over 50 students and faculty present.
- Fr. John reported on his presentation to the Holy Synod. The HS approved the circulation of the Annual Compliance Report to the Metropolitan Council.
- Case updates

#### *January 2018*

- Discussed the tracking of those tonsured to the minor orders (Reader and Subdeacon). This raised the issue of screening.
- There was discussion about the upcoming All American Council and whether ORSMA and SMPAC issues are on the agenda.
- Compliance will not improve throughout the OCA until it is addressed and reinforced at all levels of church life – parish councils, diocesan councils, deanery meetings, Holy Synod, All American Council.
- Case updates

**Secretary's Report**  
**Archpriest Eric George Tosi**  
**Spring 2018 Metropolitan Council Meeting**  
**February 6 to February 8, 2018**

**1. Overview**

Much of my time will become increasingly dedicated to the upcoming 19<sup>th</sup> All-American Council. Much of the planning has been completed and now the actual execution of those plans will become the focus. This does not, however, mean that other projects will be pushed aside but rather they will be carefully managed in the coming months. As will be reported, there has been significant progress on a variety of issues while there has been some delay on others. I believe the next few months will see many of them come to a fruition.

As always, I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the staff in the Chancery and the Communications Team. They work long hours, are dedicated to the Church and provide endless support to the operations of the Metropolitan, the Officers and the Church. Please remember to express your thanks to them whenever possible.

**2. Human Resources**

The Human Resource Committee of the Metropolitan Council continues its work on the review of the job descriptions and the organizational chart as well as a thorough review of the Employee Handbook. I expect that they shall report on their progress and I assist as requested. His Grace Bishop Daniel has been at the Chancery periodically to conduct interviews and examine the operations.

Due to the current review of the job descriptions with Bishop Daniel with the Chancery employees, it is recommended that the formal annual review be delayed until he completes that process. The time sheets for 2017 have been received and processed and the 2018 time sheets have been issued. Other routine human resource issues are being dealt with on a timely basis.

**3. Administrative Policies**

There are two major policy proposals that I am working on at the request of the General Counsel, Judge E. R. Lanier and in conjunction with the treasurer, Melanie Ringa. The first deals with a comprehensive vendor endorsement policy. The Orthodox Church in America is asked from time to time to endorse a third party for profit or non-profit company. We have to be extremely cautious on this as the New York State "Blue Sky" laws are quite strict and we do not want to put the 501 C 3 status of the OCA in jeopardy. This policy will give clear guidelines as to who the OCA will endorse and under what conditions they will endorse. This is complicated by some long standing relations but we believe this policy will alleviate the concerns and provide the appropriate protection for the Church.

The second policy is on gifts and bequests to the Orthodox Church in America. This policy is intended to establish guidelines as to what conditions and restrictions the Church will place on receiving such gifts. A donation with a specific purpose may be appropriate but there may be untenable conditions or restrictions on that donation. They may also come with certain liabilities which will need to be taken into consideration. For example, a land donation that must have a certain condition met or may have tax and financial liabilities in place may not be acceptable for the Church or a donation for the purpose which is against Church doctrine and teachings may need to be rejected. This policy will establish clear guidelines and process for examining such major donations. It is recommended that the Finance Committee establish an ad-hoc committee to be called upon when such donations come to the Church in which they can review them and make the appropriate recommendations as to whether to accept such donations.

#### **4. Information Technology**

The new chancery database continues to be worked on and refined. There was a major issue that set back the implementation a number of weeks as the computer system that hosted the databased crashed in December. Our IT people were able to restore the system and we moved the database from a separate computer system to a secure cloud system which will mitigate this issue. Barry is working closely with Ryan on the operational side in order to have a more effective report producing procedure in place. We do get requests for information and reports on a regular basis. In conjunction with this, Barry continues to spend a large amount of time going through the database correcting and editing the entries. This is a time consuming project as it seems that each new correction opens up additional corrections. In addition, Barry has worked closely with the dioceses correcting clergy records. He has also instituted some additional links making the search between parish and clergy more efficient. Ryan's IT report is attached but it should be noted that his work is constrained by the budget so projects do take longer than anticipated. Ryan and Melanie are very diligent in keeping this ongoing work on budget.

The next phase is continuing to complete the main database project and have it feed into Raiser's Edge and elsewhere. Barry has begun this process as records are being migrated to the other system. Eventually, the plan is for dioceses and parishes to be able to update their information and generate reports by themselves. This is still for the future.

#### **5. Operations**

I continue to work on Chancery operations. The normal rounds of meetings, planning sessions and simply doing the business of the Church can fill the schedule very quickly. As the Secretary of the Church, my main duties lie in planning, administration and management of the many areas for which I am responsible. It would difficult to recount the many issues that are dealt with on a daily basis but they are handled quickly and efficiently. The 501 C 3 master list continues to be updated and submitted in a timely manner and I continue to work with a number of parishes on their status. One major project in this regard was to ensure that parishes on the Pension Plan are in fact on our

master list according to the Pension Plan policy. I have contacted a number of dioceses and parishes in this regard and am slowly receiving the information. In some cases I have to work closely with the parish priest to work through the procedures and collecting the information needed to be placed on the master list.

We have a few insurance issues relating to legal threats over the past few months. These will be detailed by the General Council and the Legal Committee. I report any potential threats immediately and make contact with our adjusters. For now all the potential threats are reported and the insurance company is ready to act if the threats move from potential to reality.

While I will not go into detail about legal work, as that will be reported separately, I would note that there continues to be strong cooperative effort with the General Counsel and the Legal Committee. There were a few legal issues that were worked through which involved areas as diverse as contracts to threats of legal action.

The new system of background checks seems to be working well and I am pleased with the company, Mobilize My Ministry, which gets reports back to us very quickly. Cindy Heise continues to refine the process and now people can register themselves online easily and quickly.

Due to the generous donation, we are able to reintroduce the Chaplains' Cross for those military chaplains from the Orthodox Church in America who have honorably served in and retired from active service. I have worked closely with the Office of Military Chaplains and His Grace Bishop Daniel to establish a policy for the Cross. I am currently waiting for a contract for the production of 35 crosses and it is expected to review the recipient list at the next Holy Synod meeting and award the crosses beginning at the All-American Council in July.

Other operations include the disbursement of relics, antimimension and chrism from the Chancery repository to diocesan hierarch and parishes with the blessing of His Beatitude. There is a clear system in place and a record of these disbursements.

## **6. Councils and Synods**

The normal course of meetings continues as a primary responsibility. I would remind people that I do try to get request for reports out very early and ask cooperation as we try to get these reports out in a timely manner. There is often much background work that goes into preparing them for dissemination. There has also been much assistance on various projects and matters for dioceses and hierarchs ranging from logistics to specific requests on a host of issues.

Planning for the 19<sup>th</sup> All American Council will be entering its final phases over the next few months. I will be reporting on the AAC in separate report but the most important aspect is to approve and finalize the agenda. Electronic registration for the Council has opened and we are receiving a number of applicants. The Youth program is set and

opened for registration. The agenda will have 6 forums on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. The next major phases will be the reception of reports and the preparation of the delegate handbook. In addition, the final organization for the Council committees and processes will be completed in the coming months.

We continue to hold PCC meetings and I have used conference calls and emails more effectively in order to lower costs. Dn. Peter and I have meet with the local committees in both St. Louis and hold calls with Fr. Timothy Sawchak and Bob Butchko on a regular basis. All the local committees are in operation and all contracts are completed.

## **7. Archives**

The Archives project is stalled due to an issue with the Nassau County Fire Marshall. The plans are complete and need to have the final approval from various County and township officials. I have had a meeting with the local county legislator so that the fire marshal issue can be worked through in a timely manner. The problem is that the fire marshal would like a sprinkler, fire and smoke detector system installed throughout the entire building which would be an exorbitant cost as we would have to run new water lines from the street. We have asked for the fire marshal to come on site to review the modest project and meet with the architects and engineers. He has refused and has not even reviewed the actual plans. We will look for a variance or a phased in time line for this requirement. We have spoken to the town attorney and code enforcement to ensure we can get approval for the project. We cannot move forward until we resolve this issue. Once we resolve this then we can send out the plans for bids and select a contractor and a timeline for the work.

The plan to move the collection into pods is set and a plan established. We cannot do any of this until we have the final approval of the plans but the deaccession of the archives continue. We have cleared a large number of items from the collection and sent them to seminaries and parishes. We must also thank Fr. Daniel and Matushka Tamara Skvir for their dedicated work with Alex in combing through the archives and deaccessioning the holdings.

Alex continues his limited work in the Archives as it remains closed except for critical work.

## **8. Estate Management**

The windows replacement project is now complete at no cost to the OCA due to the warranty. However, there are still six windows, not under warranty, that will need to be replaced due to them being cracked or other problems. The total cost to replace these windows (two offices and the solarium) is around \$6,000 due to their size. There is no money budgeted for this repair. In addition, there is a need for a new front door and chapel door which are in bad repair. Since they are custom doors, it is estimated at \$8,000. Other deferred maintenance issues remain unchanged. It is also strongly recommended that at some point money should be put aside for a new furnace which,

while functioning well even though it is over 25 years old, could be a substantial cost when it does fail.

Outside projects that need to be considered are not as numerous. The cracked and disintegrating driveway near the parking lot needs to be replaced as it is now growing to a large hole. This project including the placement of Belgium blocks to prevent the asphalt from cracking again will cost \$4,500. It should be done this spring to avoid further damage. The driveway and parking lost as a whole will need to be repaved in the future. The additional wings of the roof which need to be shingled is estimated at \$20,000.

The expected pool removal still has not happened due to budgetary issues. We do need to continue to place this at the forefront of any projects due to the liability we can potentially incur. We had a few dead trees removed but recently another branch fell on a car so we need to keep on top of this project. I plan to power wash the building this summer

## **9. Communications**

I continue to thank the great communications team of Fr. John Matusiak, Matushka Jessica Fuhrman and Ryan Platte. Andrew Romanov assisted the team during his internship. We are in daily contact and often plan articles and postings well in advance. I would remind everyone to send us articles and ideas so we can continue to provide the best coverage of the work of the OCA and the Orthodox Church.

The *OCA Review* continues to be published. The annual Desk Calendar was published and sent out. The new Metric Book was scheduled to be published at the end of the year but there was an issue with the publishing quote. It should be published shortly. It should be noted that St. Vladimir's Seminary Press assumed the publishing costs and production and have been very generous in their time on this project. We will receive royalties from the sale. A further note is that then OCA received its annual royalty check from SVS Press for the OCPC titles and it was a very generous check. There should be a reexamination of the titles and perhaps some can be republished.

The new website is in the final stages. We now have the deliverables and Ryan has been working through the final coding of the pages. The team has been editing and arranging the pages for their final form. We expect the new website to go live in the coming months.

A final note is that we need to begin looking into preparing material for the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of autocephaly of the OCA. This could include a re-release of icons of American saints (of which I found some masters of the last printing) as well as updating and republishing the so called "Red Book" and the History of the Orthodox Church in America book.

## **10. Crisis Management**

There have been a few crisis management issues over the past months. Some necessitated the activation of the Team and others were handled on a more localized basis with members of the Legal Team and Bernie Wilson. These issues come forward at different times and they are dealt with in a timely manner. There is always a coordinated effort. Specifics can be spoken about in an executive session as they often deal with very sensitive issues.

## **11. Other**

I had a speaking engagement on evangelism at the Rouman Lecture series at St. George Cathedral in Hartford, CT. I will be attending and speaking at the WCC Forum on Evangelism in Tanzania in March. There are other requests which are being referred to His Beatitude for His Blessing.

I continue to manage and teach the Mentorship program for third year students at St. Vladimir's Seminary.

I also continue to work with the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting and the Religious Relations Committee of the Boy Scouts. I will be the Orthodox Chaplain for the World Jamboree in 2019 and work on the executive committee. I am working closely with DESMOS, the international Orthodox Scouting association to plan the program and services. I was present at the last World Jamboree in Japan and we served hundreds of Orthodox Scouts from around the world. I will be the Chief Chaplain for the Boy Scouts at the next national Jamboree in 2021, a great honor and first for an Orthodox priest. The witness we provide to such events is incredibly important and we need to continue this work. Funding is being slashed for such work and we need to continue to support this ministry.

I am sure I am missing other work that has been done and ask your forgiveness.

## Technology services update

January 2017

Ryan Platte, Technical Manager

### **Website redesign**

Progress toward the redesigned website continues. Our designers developed front-end code and delivered it to us. I have used their electronic design delivery to create a development website where we are building out the new site structure and making improvements. I will be able to port the resulting template code to the live oca.org site when both the design and the systems are ready.

The system work required to bring the oca.org site current is substantial. I have now moved all the other services running on our primary server so that the website is the only service that needs to be migrated. Nearly every aspect of our setup needs updating, and some need deeper changes due to retired tools, so the volume of auditing, preparation, and testing work required makes this a time-consuming process.

### **Email security**

Email security recently became a concern. Multiple parties have attempted to steal access to OCA Google accounts, including the same attackers that stole email from the Democratic National Committee in 2016. We also had scammers “spoof” OCA email, creating a bogus fundraising email that bore our logo and an OCA “From:” address as if it had come from Church email accounts.

To protect us from unauthorized access, OCA email account holders have now enabled multi-factor authentication so that accounts cannot be stolen with just the password. We now check new logins with security codes sent to account holders’ mobile devices. Thanks to everyone’s cooperation we have been able to enforce this policy so that there are no addresses unprotected by this security layer.

To protect against further “spoofing” emails, we have set up DMARC for oca.org email. This provides a voucher with email we send that other parties will not be able to spoof. Since this went into effect, any messages not coming from authorized sources are marked as spam by most email services receiving such messages, including all major email services.

### **Chancery database**

The server housing the Chancery database recently failed, and unfortunately the backup process had failed in an unexpected manner. With Barry’s assistance I recovered the data. There was no data loss other than a few hours of lost changes.

The database application is now running on an industry-standard hosting provider, with backups also being performed using standard tools that are easier to monitor and verify. Further work is required to bring the custom reporting back up on the new hosting. Unfortunately, this emergency disrupted the important work on systems and code to prepare for the redesign. Though several other services have needed backup recoveries that were successful, I need to ensure we do not have a recurrence of such an event. I have begun a review of our backup strategy as a whole to ensure that everything is as we expect for all OCA technology services. I continue to work with Barry and Father Eric to bring the features of the Chancery database into line with the Church's many and detailed information needs.

## **General**

Mr. Paul Kachur continues to do amazing work with the liturgical calendar software he has created. He has produced a new version of his software that applies what he has learned through several years of maintaining the software. After the website redesign, Mr. Kachur and I look forward to bringing his improved software to oca.org, God willing. He is also working to package his excellent work into a form that will make it easier for others to review and maintain the encoded liturgical rules in the future, so that the Church is not dependent on him for this important process. I am very grateful for the valuable work he is providing to the Church.

In addition to these major events, ordinary operations have continued. I have set up new email accounts and mailing lists. I have kept our WordPress sites updated with current software. I have maintained our servers, including dealing with the recently-announced Meltdown and Spectre vulnerabilities that affected nearly every modern computer system. And most joyful of all, I served as the backup content poster when a team member took maternity leave.

**Orthodox Church in America  
Treasurer's Report  
February 2018**

Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces, Reverend Fathers, and members of the Metropolitan Council:

This report presents the preliminary internal financial results for the year ended December 31, 2017, a recap of the first two years on the Proportional Giving formula for Diocesan support along with a proposed formula for the next three/four years (2019-2021/22), an update on Bequests and Mexico Earthquake Funds received in 2017, and a review of St Catherine's Representation Church in Moscow and proposed revised budget for 2018.

**Financial Results for the year ended December 31, 2017 (Exhibits A & B):**

**Preliminary 2017 Financial Results (Exhibits A & B)**

*Exhibit A – Comparative Balance Sheets:* Our balance sheet as of December 31, 2017 shows:

- Total assets of \$3,534,216;
- Total liabilities of \$356,174 (including \$41,000 due to Guide One for distribution to parishes as 2017 loss control bonus, and \$37,000 accrual for 2017 “payment in lieu of tax” to the town of Oyster Bay Cove);
- Net Assets of \$3,178,042.
- Total cash is \$342,912, of which \$33,285 is unrestricted.
- Assessments Receivable of \$259,809 includes November/December assessments of \$161K (all received in Jan/Feb).
- Prepaid Expenses of \$17.1 include 2018 Blackbaud maintenance fees (\$12.3K) and postage machine lease expense (\$3.3K).
- Liabilities include \$200K in payables and accrued expenses, and \$290K in retirement obligation to Matushka Glagolev.
- Our net assets at the beginning of the year were \$2,826,869, and with the net surplus for the year of \$351,173, the balance at December 31, 2017 is \$3,178,042.

*Exhibit B – I Recap Actual versus Budget*

The 2017 budget projected a net surplus across all funds of \$5,360. Our actual result was a surplus of \$351,173, for a positive variance of \$345,823. Please note that the bulk of the surplus is the result of unrealized gains in the endowments. The Operating Fund had a surplus of \$44,574, the Temporarily Restricted Fund had a surplus of \$58,685, and we had a surplus of \$247,914 in the Permanently Restricted funds. Exhibit B is a one-page Recap of the activity for the year. Highlights of the results are as follows:

### **Unrestricted Funds:**

- Revenues – Total revenues exceeded budget by \$120,837, with \$65,730 in assessments; we had \$34,793 in general contributions, including an earmarked donation of \$15,000 for a Communications Intern. Continuing Ed Workshop revenues were under budget by \$7,275, and Other Revenues were \$48,404, including an unrestricted bequest of \$33,011.
- Expenses – Total expenses were over budget by \$4,413, with small variances in each department.
  - External Relations/St Catherine’s expenses include an accrual of \$20,000 for 2017 payroll taxes related to St. Catherine’s personnel.
- Stewards of the OCA:
  - Revenues of \$69,135 include:
    - \$61,092 in Stewards donations;
    - \$8,043 in DVP and Liturgical Music Program fees.
    - Total revenues were under budget by \$44,865.
  - Expenses of \$89,569 were under budget by \$23,351.
- Net Operating Surplus of \$44,574 vs budget of \$300.

### **Restricted Funds:**

- Temporarily Restricted Funds: Total revenues were \$130,577, including bequests of \$75,487 which were placed in this fund and earmarked for a project in 2018 to complete the roof replacement at the Chancery and to renovate the Moscow apartment for our Rector at St. Catherine’s, along with \$11,475 collected for Mexico Earthquake Relief. Expenses of \$71,892 include the required annuity payments, \$23,121 for the annual Mission School, \$16,475 to the Archdiocese of Mexico for Earthquake Relief, and \$21,457 in All-American Council planning expenses.
- Permanently Restricted Funds: We had revenues of \$266,402, distributions and expenses of \$18,488 for a net surplus of \$247,914.

### **2016-2018 Proportional Giving Recap (Exhibit C)**

2017 was the second year of funding according to the formula in the resolution passed at the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council held in July 2015. Our 2017 budget anticipated \$1.732 million in funding from the dioceses; the actual funding for 2017 was \$1.797 million, or \$67K higher than the budget (as a point of reference, the initial projection used in preparation for the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council in Atlanta anticipated 2017 diocesan support of \$1.774 million vs the realized support of \$1.797 million). **Exhibit C** includes the actual giving by diocese for 2016 and 2017 under new formula, along with the 2018 Projection based on the final 2017 Actual. Our 2018 Budget adopted at the September 2017 meeting included \$1.706 million in diocesan support. Based on the 2017 Actual and updates from the diocesan treasurers, the 2018 support will be approximately \$20K higher than the 2018 budget.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Chancellors/Treasurers Meeting was held at the Chancery on January 23, 2018. The main agenda item was formulation of a recommendation to the Metropolitan Council on funding of the Church for the next three/four year period. **Exhibit C** also

includes illustration of proposed funding of the Church for the next triennium (or four years if the All-American Council moves to a four-year cycle as opposed to three-year). At the end of 2018, the territorial dioceses will be funding the central administration at a rate of 46% of diocesan budget, with the dioceses of the South and West at 34%. The recommendation of the Chancellors/Treasurers was to continue decreasing those dioceses at 46% by 2% annually while increasing the dioceses of the South and West by 1% annually. This would result in all territorial dioceses contributing at the annual rate of 38% by the year 2022. Assuming NO GROWTH in the dioceses during the next three/four years, the annual funding of the central administration would continue to decrease by approximately \$32K.

**Bequests and Mexico Earthquake Relief – 2017 (Exhibit D)**

*Exhibit D* shows the Bequests received in 2017; in total we received \$143,248.69 in bequests. Only the final distributions from the Estate of Charles Morse were restricted in purpose. While the others were unrestricted, the Estate of Julia Nazak (\$36,756.18) was placed in the Temporarily Restricted fund in anticipation of Deferred Maintenance on the Chancery Building Roof Replacement this summer; and the Rodney Tkachuk funds represented a bequest from the Estate of Father Alexander Pihach, which was also placed in the Temporarily Restricted Fund for use in renovation of the apartment in Moscow for our Representative serving as the Dean of St. Catherine’s Church in Moscow.

*Exhibit D* also recaps the donations received for Mexico Earthquake Relief and the dates wired to the Archdiocese of Mexico for distribution to parishes in Mexico damaged by the earthquake. In 2017 we received \$11,475 in donations; \$5,000 was donated by a decision of this Council at our September 2017 meeting, for a total of \$16,475. We continue to receive donations in 2018 which will be forwarded to the Archdiocese of Mexico.

**Revised 2018 Budget – St. Catherine’s Representation Church, Moscow (Exhibit E)**

Since the sudden repose of Father Alexander Pihach in October 2016 the position of Rector of St. Catherine’s Representation Church in Moscow has been vacant. The position was recently filled with the appointment of Father Daniel Andrejuk, who started his new position on February 1, 2018. The 2018 Budget included a stipend and travel for a part-time rector. With the appointment of a full time rector, *Exhibit E* details the amended budget, requiring an additional \$21.5K in funding for this position in 2018. This increase in funding for St. Catherine’s would be covered by the anticipated increase in diocesan support based on the updated projections for 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

*Melanie Ringa*

Melanie Ringa  
Treasurer

**Orthodox Church in America**  
**Comparative Balance Sheets**  
As of December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016

**EXHIBIT A**

	<b>Dec 31, 2017</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2016</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<i>Unrestricted</i>		
TD Bank - Operating	\$ 16,933	\$ 92,494
TD Bank - Payroll	\$ 1,594	\$ 699
Astoria Bank- St.Sergius Chapel	\$ 13,806	\$ 16,301
Petty Cash- Chancery Office	\$ 952	\$ 562
	\$ 33,285	\$ 110,056
<i>Temporarily Restricted</i>		
TD Bank- All American Council	\$ 9,415	\$ 3,145
TD Bank - Restricted	\$ 23,532	\$ 28,610
TD Bank- Savings	\$ 276,680	\$ 39,423
	\$ 309,627	\$ 71,178
<b>Total Cash</b>	\$ 342,912	\$ 181,234
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>		
Diocesan Support Receivable	\$ 259,809	\$ 213,523
Pledges Receivable	\$ -	\$ -
Desk Calendar Receivable	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	\$ 259,809	\$ 213,523
<b>Other Current Assets</b>		
Bequest Receivable	\$ -	\$ -
Due from OCA Pension Dept	\$ 14,638	\$ -
Prepaid Expense	\$ 17,154	\$ 14,641
Other	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	\$ 31,792	\$ 14,641
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	\$ 634,513	\$ 409,398
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Plant Fund - Real Estate	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000
Plant Fund Building & Improve	\$ 552,108	\$ 531,783
Plant Fund Furniture & Equip	\$ 55,399	\$ 55,399
Plant Fund Auto & Garden Equip	\$ 58,922	\$ 96,172
Plant Fund Computer Equip	\$ 42,517	\$ 27,602
Plant Fund Software	\$ 33,000	\$ 33,000
Plant Fund Chapel Equip & Furn	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Accum Deprec Bld & Improvements	\$ (381,858)	\$ (368,182)
Accum Deprec Furn & Equip	\$ (33,084)	\$ (29,897)
Accum Deprec Auto & Garden Equi	\$ (58,921)	\$ (96,171)
Accum Deprec Computer Equip	\$ (31,331)	\$ (27,603)
Accum Deprec Computer Software	\$ (33,000)	\$ (33,000)
Accum Deprec Chapel Equip & Fur	\$ (25,000)	\$ (25,000)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	\$ 248,752	\$ 234,103

**Orthodox Church in America**  
**Comparative Balance Sheets**  
As of December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016

**EXHIBIT A**

	<b>Dec 31, 2017</b>	<b>Dec 31, 2016</b>
<b>Restricted Investments and Trusts</b>		
FOS Endowment -Phila Trust Co	\$ 80,297	\$ 74,155
J McGuireTrust - Wells Fargo Advisors	\$ -	\$ 210,663
Kavalenko Nimcrut-Wells Fargo Advisors	\$ 77,679	\$ 76,107
St. Andrew's Endowment - Phila Trust Co	\$ 115,533	\$ 112,569
Main Endowment - Phila Trust Co	\$ 1,303,866	\$ 1,072,038
HVIZD Annuity	\$ 83,362	\$ 83,362
Mission Endowment - Phila Trust Co	\$ 990,214	\$ 851,711
<b>Total Restricted Investments and Trusts</b>	\$ 2,650,951	\$ 2,480,605
 <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 3,534,216</b>	<b>\$ 3,124,106</b>
 <b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued Expenses	\$ 200,041	\$ 132,340
Deferred Revenue	\$ -	\$ -
Auto loan - Chase Auto Finance	\$ -	\$ 1,764
Accrued endowment distributions	\$ -	\$ -
Retirement Obligation	\$ 29,237	\$ 40,637
Other (Loan Payable to Diocese of theSouth)	\$ -	\$ -
Reserves for Archives	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	\$ 229,278	\$ 174,741
 <b>Long Term Liabilities</b>		
<b>Deferred Compensation and annuities</b>		
Hvizd Annuity liability	\$ 72,868	\$ 72,868
Deferred revenue	\$ 4,727	\$ 327
Unitrust Liab reserves	\$ 49,301	\$ 49,301
<b>Total Deferred compensation and annuities</b>	\$ 126,896	\$ 122,496
 <b>Total Liabilities</b>	\$ 356,174	\$ 297,237
 <b>Equity</b>		
Unrestricted Net Assets, 12/31/15	\$ 88,557	\$ 88,557
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets, 12/31/15	\$ 1,429,257	\$ 1,429,257
Permanently Restricted Net Assets, 12/31/15	\$ 1,029,446	\$ 1,029,446
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	\$ 2,547,260	\$ 2,547,260
<b>Current Year Activity - 2017</b>	\$ 351,173	\$ -
<b>Current Year Activity - 2016</b>	\$ 279,609	\$ 279,609
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	\$ 3,178,042	\$ 2,826,869
<b>Total Equity</b>	\$ 3,178,042	\$ 2,826,869
 <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 3,534,216</b>	<b>\$ 3,124,106</b>

**Orthodox Church in America**  
**Comparative Balance Sheets**  
As of December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016

**EXHIBIT A**

	<u>Dec 31, 2017</u>	<u>Dec 31, 2016</u>
	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Unrestricted Surplus/(Deficit) - 2016</b>	\$ 37,925	\$ 37,925
<b>Temp Restricted Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	\$ 239,779	\$ 239,779
<b>Perm Restricted Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	\$ 1,905	\$ 1,905
	<u>\$ 279,609</u>	<u>\$ 279,609</u>
<b>Unrestricted Surplus/(Deficit) - 2017</b>	\$ 44,574	\$ -
<b>Temp Restricted Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	\$ 58,685	\$ -
<b>Perm Restricted Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	\$ 247,914	\$ -
	<u>\$ 351,173</u>	<u>\$ -</u>







<b>Orthodox Church in America</b>					<b>Exhibit D</b>
<b>Bequests and Mexico Earthquake Relief Funds</b>					<b><u>Purpose</u></b>
Bequest	Estate of Charles Csernica	3/28/2017	\$ 33,011.26	Unrestricted	
Bequest	Estate of Julia Nazak	12/12/2017	\$ 35,756.18	Unrestricted	
Bequest	Estate of Julia Nazak	12/31/2017	\$ 1,000.00	Unrestricted	
Bequest	Jackson Life Insurance - Larissa Kondratich Life Ins	11/7/2017	\$ 1,851.25	Unrestricted	
Bequest	Estate of Charles Morse	2/1/2017	\$ 25,000.00	Missions Bequest	
Bequest	Estate of Charles Morse	10/3/2018	\$ 9,750.00	Missions Bequest	
Bequest	Rodney Tkachuk Prof Corp - Estate of Dennis Pihach	6/27/2017	\$ 36,880.00	Unrestricted	
<b>Total Bequests Received - 2017</b>			<b>\$ 143,248.69</b>		
<b>Mexico Earthquake Relief:</b>					
	Donations Received		\$ 11,475.00		
	OCA Donation		\$ 5,000.00		
<b>Total Donations Received</b>			<b>\$ 16,475.00</b>		
<b>Funds Wired to Archdiocese of Mexico:</b>					
		9/25/2017	\$ (3,000.00)		
		10/24/2017	\$ (6,590.00)		
		1/2/2018	\$ (6,885.00)		
<b>Total Donations Wired</b>			<b>\$ (16,475.00)</b>		

	<b>Orthodox Church in America</b>	<b>Exhibit E</b>
	<b>St. Catherine's Representation Church - Moscow</b>	
	<b>Proposed Revision to 2018 Budget</b>	
	<b>Revised 1/31/18</b>	
	St Catherine's (11 mos in 2018)	\$ 45,833.33
	Pension	\$ 3,666.67
	Life/Disability	\$ 600.00
		\$ 50,100.00
	Medical/Dental Supplement for Family	\$ 5,500.00
		\$ 55,600.00
	Less: 2018 Budget for Representative	\$ (45,600.00)
	Addition to Budget Annualy	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
	Airfare for family to Russia	\$ 3,500.00
	Apartment Rental in Moscow - 4 months	<b>\$ 8,000.00</b>
	<b>Total Addition to 2018 Budget</b>	<b>\$ 21,500.00</b>

**Orthodox Church in America  
Proposal for Deferred Maintenance**

<b>Exhibit F</b>
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Savings account Balance , 2/6/18	\$ 289,896.00
Less: Archives Fund Balance	\$ (176,000.00)
Less: Pihach Estate for St Catherine's	\$ (36,880.00)
Less: Alaska Tithe from Land Sale	\$ (30,204.00) **
<b>Balance available for Deferred Maintenance</b>	<b>\$ 46,812.00</b>
<b><u>Proposed Projects:</u></b>	
- Replace Windows	\$ 6,000.00
- Replace Front Door	\$ 8,000.00
- Replace Roof	\$ 20,000.00
- Repair the Driveway	\$ 4,500.00
<b>Total Proposed Renovations</b>	<b>\$ 38,500.00</b>
<b>Balance Remaining for Future Maintenance</b>	<b>\$ 8,312.00</b>

\*\* This is unrestricted but in addition to their regular annual 10% tithe of \$21,000.

OCA ENDOWMENT FUNDS W/PHILADELPHIA TRUST COMPANY

	6/30/2016	9/14/2016	12/31/2016	Jan.	Feb.	3/23/2017	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 2018
#944 - MAIN ENDOWMENT	\$938	\$956	\$1,072	\$1,165	\$1,188	\$1,165	\$1,180	\$1,206	\$1,223	\$1,261	\$1,262	\$1,246	\$1,281	\$1,277	\$1,293	\$1,304	\$1,337
Growth - Period to Period		(+18)	(+116)	(+93)	(+23)	(-23)	(+15)	(+26)	(+17)	(+38)	(+1)	(-16)	(+35)	(-4)	(+16)	(+11)	(+33)
Growth - Cumulative Since 6/30/16		(+18)	(+134)	(+227)	(+250)	(+227)	(+242)	(+268)	(+285)	(+323)	(+324)	(+308)	(+343)	(+339)	(+355)	(+366)	(+399)
#945 - ST. ANDREW'S ENDOWMENT	\$99	\$99	\$113	\$111	\$114	\$112	\$113	\$115	\$109	\$111	\$112	\$111	\$114	\$114	\$115	\$116	\$119
Growth - Period to Period		(+0)	(+14)	(-2)	(+3)	(-2)	(+1)	(+2)	(-6)	(+2)	(+1)	(-1)	(+3)	(+0)	(+1)	(+1)	(+3)
Growth - Cumulative Since 6/30/16		(+0)	(+14)	(+12)	(+15)	(+13)	(+14)	(+16)	(+10)	(+12)	(+13)	(+12)	(+15)	(+15)	(+16)	(+17)	(+20)
#946 - FOS ENDOWMENT	\$66	\$66	\$74	\$73	\$75	\$74	\$75	\$76	\$76	\$78	\$79	\$78	\$80	\$79	\$80	\$80	\$83
Growth - Period to Period		(+0)	(+8)	(-1)	(+2)	(-1)	(+1)	(+0)	(+0)	(+2)	(+1)	(-1)	(+2)	(-1)	(+1)	(+0)	(+3)
Growth - Cumulative Since 6/30/16		(+0)	(+8)	(+7)	(+9)	(+8)	(+9)	(+10)	(+10)	(+12)	(+13)	(+12)	(+14)	(+13)	(+14)	(+14)	(+17)
#947 - MISSION ENDOWMENT	\$744	\$761	\$852	\$843	\$894	\$878	\$888	\$903	\$915	\$939	\$948	\$941	\$964	\$974	\$982	\$990	1,024
Growth - Period to Period		(+17)	(+91)	(-9)	(+51)	(-16)	(+10)	(+15)	(+12)	(+24)	(+9)	(-7)	(+23)	(+10)	(+8)	(+8)	(+34)
Growth - Cumulative Since 6/30/16		(+17)	(+108)	(+99)	(+150)	(+134)	(+144)	(+159)	(+171)	(+195)	(+204)	(+197)	(+220)	(+230)	(+238)	(+246)	(+280)
Total Cumulative Gains Since 6/30/16		(+35)	(+264)	(+345)	(+424)	(+382)	(+409)	(+453)	(+476)	(+542)	(+554)	(+529)	(+592)	(+597)	(+623)	(+643)	(+716)