



**ORTHODOX
CHURCH in
AMERICA**

Metropolitan Council Meeting

Fall 2015

Other Reports



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
September 21 to September 24, 2015
Other Reports**

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Meeting of the Metropolitan Council September 21 to September 24, 2015

Metropolitan Council Agenda

All housing, meals and meeting are at Seminary of the Immaculate Conception located at 440 W. Neck Road, Huntington, NY 11743 (about 15 minutes west of the Chancery) Phone: (631)423-0483.

Friday, September 18

Arrival for those coming to St. Sergius celebration

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
All Day	Transport	Airports	Chancery Staff

Participants will be roomed at the East Norwich Inn from Friday to Sunday when they will be transferred to Immaculate Conception Seminary. Meals are on their own but transport is provided to and from the airport as well as to and from St. Sergius Chapel.

Saturday, September 19

St. Sergius celebration

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
10:00 AM	Hierarchical Liturgy	Chancery	Chancery Staff
5:00 PM	Great Vespers	Chancery	Chancery Staff

A luncheon follows the Hierarchical Liturgy.

Sunday, September 20

Arrival Day

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy	Chancery	Chancery Staff
All Day	Transport	Airports	Chancery Staff

Transport to and from the airport to the Seminary as well as transport from the East Norwich Inn to the Seminary

Monday, September 21

Arrival and Retreat: Archpriest John Behr “Becoming Human” and Dr. Mary Ford on “Proper Interpretation on the Book of Revelations”

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
All Day	Transport	Airports	Chancery Staff
8:00 AM	Breakfast	IMC	IMC
9:30 AM	Retreat Session I	IMC	Dr. Mary Ford
12:30 PM	Lunch	IMC	IMC
1:30 PM	Retreat Session II	IMC	Fr John Behr
5:30 PM	Dinner	IMC	IMC
7:00 PM	Reception at IMC		

Any needed committee meetings can be scheduled for this evening

Tuesday, September 22

Metropolitan Council

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
8:00 AM	Breakfast	IMC	IMC
9:00 AM	Metropolitan Council		
	A. Agenda: Introduction		Fr. John Jillions
	B. Roll Call/Approval of Minutes		Fr. Eric G. Tosi
	C. Welcome - New Members		Metropolitan Tikhon
	D. Metropolitan's Report		Metropolitan Tikhon
	E. Strategic Planning Session I - Vision for the next Triennium - Metropolitan's Four (Six) Pillars and integration into the work of the MC and the life of the Church - Major goals to be accomplished for the next Triennium		Metropolitan Tikhon

12:30 PM	Lunch	IMC	IMC
1:30 PM	F.	Pension Plan Report - Decision on Retired Clergy Plan	Maureen Ahern
	G.	Chancellor's Report - ORSMA	Fr. John Jillions Cindy Davis
	H.	Secretary's Report - Planting Grant - AAC Review	Fr Eric G. Tosi
	I.	External Affairs	Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky
	J.	Legal Report - GC Search - MC Legal Committee - OCA Legal Committee	Angela Parks, esq.
5:30 PM	Dinner	IMC	IMC
7:00 PM	New Member Orientation		MC Leadership

Wednesday, September 23
Metropolitan Council

7:30 AM	Transport to St. Sergius Chapel		Chancery
8:00 AM	Divine Liturgy for Conception of John the Baptist		Metropolitan Tikhon
9:30 AM	Breakfast	Chancery	Chancery Staff
10:30 AM	Transport to IMC		Chancery
11:00 AM	Metropolitan Council	IMC	
	K.	Stewards of the OCA report	Ray Boyd
	L.	Internal Auditors Selection	Fr. Chad Hatfield
	M.	Committee Updates	Committee Chairs
	N.	Strategic Planning Session II - MC Committee Reorganization - Department Reorganization - Alignment with the work in the Church and Dioceses	Metropolitan Tikhon

12:30 PM	Lunch	IMC	IMC
1:30 PM	Metropolitan Council	IMC	
	O.	New Statute Implementation	Fr. Alexander Rentel
	P.	Treasurer's Report -External and Internal Auditor Reports	Melanie Ringa
	Q.	Report of Financial Development Committee	David Yeosock
	R.	2016 Budget Presentation	TBA
	S.	Strategic Planning Session III - The Work of the Church and Budgetary Issues - Implementation and Considerations of new Finance plan - Considerations for Future Work - Prioritizing the budget for External/Interchurch work	Metropolitan Tikhon
5:30 PM	Dinner	IMC	IMC

Thursday, September 24
Metropolitan Council

8:00 AM	Breakfast	IMC	IMC
9:00 AM	Metropolitan Council	IMC	
	T.	Strategic Planning Session IV - Prioritizing major goals and processes - Implementation outline - Presentation of final planning plan	Metropolitan Tikhon
	U.	Open Discussion	Metropolitan Tikhon
	V.	Other Business/Committee Meeting Issues	
	W.	Next Meeting and Dates established	
12:30 PM	Lunch	IMC	IMC

Transportation to the airports all day



**MINUTES
of the Joint Meeting of the Lesser Synod
and the 2015 Spring Session of
the Metropolitan Council**

**Tuesday, February 10 – Thursday, February 12, 2015
Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington, NY**

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

PARTICIPANTS

LESSER SYNOD

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon
His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek

His Grace, Bishop Mark

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

CHURCH OFFICERS

Archpriest John Jillions, *Chancellor*
Melanie Ringa, *Treasurer*

Archpriest Eric Tosi, *Secretary*

MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL

Archpriest David Garretson (*except Tuesday*)
Archpriest Chad Hatfield
(*except Tuesday morning*)

Dr. Paul Meyendorff (*except Tuesday morning*)
Maureen Jury

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Diocese of Alaska

Archpriest John Dunlop

Patrick Pletnikoff

Albanian Archdiocese

Archpriest Joseph Gallick
(*except Wednesday evening & Thursday*)

Donna Dimitri (*except Tuesday*)

Bulgarian Diocese

Protodeacon Michael Myers
(*except Tuesday morning*)

Archdiocese of Canada

Archpriest Anatoliy Melnyk

Deacon Justin Mitchell

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Priest James Weremedic

David Yeosock

Diocese of the Midwest

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta

Diocese of New England

Archpriest Robert Dick
(*except Wednesday evening & Thursday*)

David Zavednak (*Tuesday only*)

Diocese of New York/New Jersey

Archpriest John Shimchick (*except Tuesday morning*)

Janet Van Duyn
(*except Wednesday evening & Thursday*)

Diocese of the South

Priest Gleb McFatter

Judge E.R. Lanier

Diocese of Washington

Priest John Vitko (*Tuesday only*)

Elizabeth Mikhalevsky

Diocese of the West

Archpriest John Dresko (*except Thursday*)

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Archpriest William Evansky

Dr. John Schultz

ABSENT

Priest Robert Royer (*Bulgarian Diocese*)
Sam D’Fantis (*Diocese of the Midwest*)
Deacon Antony Dyl (*Diocese of the West*)

GUESTS (*for all sessions unless otherwise indicated*)

Archpriest Theodore Boback (*Spiritual Advisor, Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America – Wednesday afternoon & evening & Thursday*)
Archpriest John Erickson (*Archives Advisory Committee – Tuesday morning*)
Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky (*Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations – Thursday*)
Archpriest Alexander Rentel (*Secretary, Statute Revision Task Force – Wednesday morning*)
Maureen Ahearn (*Pension Plan Administrator - Thursday*)
Alexis Liberovsky (*recording secretary*)
Gregory J. Nescott, Esq. (*legal consultant*)
Ryan Platte (*Technical Manager of the OCA website – Tuesday afternoon*)
Warren Rivetz (*advisor to the OCA Pension Board - Thursday*)
Dr. Albert S. Rossi (*SMPAC – Tuesday afternoon*)
Basil Russin (*Vice President, Russian Brotherhood Organization – Thursday*)
Gregory Shesko (*Archives Advisory Committee – Tuesday morning*)
Matushka Tamara Skvir (*Archives Advisory Committee – Tuesday morning*)
Alexis Troubetzkoy (*Chairman, Archives Advisory Committee – Tuesday morning*)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon celebrated a prayer service at 9:04 AM to open the meeting at the Immaculate Conception Seminary.

A. Agenda: Introduction

The meeting was then called to order. Fr. Eric Tosi requested approval of changes to the agenda in that the Archives Advisory Committee presentation and the Strategic Plan Post-Conciliar Committee report would follow the Metropolitan's report.

A.1. MOTION MIKHALEVSKY/VITKO – To approve the agenda for this meeting as amended. CARRIED.

B. Roll Call/Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting (attached)

Fr. Tosi then conducted the roll call, introduced guests present for this session, and announced others who would be present at various points during this meeting (see participants list). He requested approval of Alexis Liberovsky as recording secretary for the meeting.

B.1. MOTION GALLICK/VITKO – To approve Alexis Liberovsky as recording secretary. CARRIED.

He presented the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Metropolitan Council on September 23-25, 2014 for approval. Fr. Joseph Gallick suggested a revision as follows on page 8 in section S.1: "He appealed for qualified priests to consider serving as chaplains." Archpriest John Jillions requested a revision on page 4 in section F as follows: "Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor, presented his attached written report...". He further requested that his report be included with the publicly posted reports from this meeting as indicated in the minutes. It was also suggested that the concluding sentence (now incomplete) of Section F.1 on page 8 be revised as follows: "Questions and discussion ensued."

B.2. MOTION LANIER/DICK -- To accept the previous meeting minutes of September 23-25, 2014 as amended. CARRIED.

E. Metropolitan's Report (attached)

Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed everyone and presented his attached written report. He noted the presence at this meeting of the new members of the Lesser Synod: Archbishop Melchisedek and Bishop Mark. Bishop Michael is unable to attend due to speaking engagement in California. He highlighted the importance of the upcoming 18th All-American Council and acknowledged with gratitude the productive work in preparation for the Council of the Preconciliar Commission, the Local Organizing Committee, the Statute Revision Task Force and Melanie Ringa, who is preparing a resolution on church funding for presentation to the Council. In reflecting on the theme of the All-American Council, he suggested a focus in three areas for expanding the Apostolic work of the Church: 1) Missions and Evangelism, 2) Clergy Health and 3) the strengthening of our institutions, particularly Monasteries and Seminaries. He then noted the importance of the archives in preserving the church's legacy as an inspiration and vehicle in our mission moving forward. He invited the Archives Advisory Committee to present its report.

G.2. Archives Advisory Committee (attached)

To update the written report of the Committee submitted to the Metropolitan Council in advance of its meeting, Mr. Alexis Troubetzkoy, Chairman of the Committee, addressed the Council to summarize the accomplishments of the Committee's meeting during the preceding two days. This was supplemented with a PowerPoint presentation. He concluded with an appeal for guidance from the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council in finding the proper solution for the future housing of the OCA Archives. Committee members in attendance answered questions from the Council and discussion ensued.

Following a short recess at 10:56 AM, the session resumed at 11:09 AM.

E. Metropolitan's Report (continued)

As he began discussion of the work of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America and OCA participation in it, Metropolitan Tikhon indicated the importance of our archives and the historical legacy documented within them are for the work of unity among all Orthodox in America. He noted the *Preliminary Response of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America to the Proposals for Canonical Restructuring* issued last fall and invited input from the Metropolitan Council to a draft text for a fuller response, which he will distribute. His Beatitude then reported on his recent productive visits to the Patriarchates of Constantinople and Moscow as well as his concelebration and meeting with Patriarch John of Antioch in the US. Extensive discussion on all of these issues ensued.

Following a recess for lunch at 12:31 PM, the afternoon session was called to order at 1:33 PM.

Metropolitan Tikhon concluded his report by asking for special prayers for the Archdiocese of Canada, Archbishop Seraphim, and the victims in his case. He also noted that with recent elections and ordinations of bishops, all diocesan sees of the OCA except the South have been filled. Finally, he thanked the Metropolitan Council, the Church officers and the staff for their hard work and offered a reflection to guide us into Great Lent from the text of the penitential troparia sung beginning on the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee.

L. Strategic Plan Post-Conciliar Committee (attached)

Fr. John Vitko highlighted his attached report with a PowerPoint presentation. He noted that this would be the final report from the Committee as its mandate to implement the Strategic Plan adopted at the 16th All-American Council is ending and the Committee will be disbanded. He expressed satisfaction that almost all the goals envisioned at the 16th All-American Council have been fulfilled and that many activities, such as continuing education for clergy, related to the Strategic plan are now part of normal church life. He then answered questions from meeting participants and discussion ensued.

F. Chancellor's Report (attached)

Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor, summarized his attached written report. He thanked His Beatitude and the other officers for a productive environment at the chancery. He focused on pastoral issues and announced that Fr. Nathan Preston has begun to revive the work of the Department of Pastoral Life and Ministry. He also highlighted his participation in the Committee for Pastoral Practice of the Assembly of Bishops and noted the wide divergence of pastoral practices among the jurisdictions in the Assembly.

F.1. ORSMA

In the absence of Cindy Heise, Fr. Jillions highlighted her confidential report from the Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations (ORSMA), which included case statistics, coordinator activities, ORSMA statistics analysis and goals for 2015. Questions and discussion ensued. It was noted that background checks for parish council members and other parish leadership positions have been recommended but not mandated for many years.

F.2. SMPAC (attached)

Dr. Albert S. Rossi presented the attached written report from the Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee (SMPAC).

F.2.A MOTION LANIER/KUCHTA – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

Confidential matters pertaining to sexual misconduct and related issues were discussed in executive session.

F.2.B. MOTION MITCHELL/GALLICK – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

Further discussion ensued concerning background checks and other matters.

Following a short recess at 3:27 PM, the session resumed at 3:44 PM.

G. Secretary’s report (attached)

Archpriest Eric Tosi, OCA Secretary, summarized his attached written report. He also presented a proposal on a printed Orthodox Journal as a lead to the All-American Council.

G.2. IT report (attached)

Fr. Tosi introduced Ryan Platte, Technical Manager of the OCA website, who presented his attached report on management of the OCA website and other computer issues at the OCA chancery.

H. 18th All-American Council (attached)

Fr. Tosi delivered his attached report on the upcoming 18th All-American Council, which included a draft agenda and details of local organization and arrangements in preparation for the Council. He reported that the Preconciliar Commission is recommending the nomination of Archpriest Peter Baktis and Judge E.R. Lanier as vice-chairmen of the 18th All-American Council

H.1. MOTION MIKHALEVSKY/WEREMEDIC – to accept the nomination of Archpriest Peter Baktis and Judge E.R. Lanier as vice-chairmen of the 18th All-American Council. CARRIED.

I. Legal matters (attached)

Judge E.R. Lanier, Chairman of the Legal Committee, presented its attached report. He noted that a search for a new General Counsel for the OCA is underway. He also reported that the OCA is not subject to any litigation against it at the present time. He noted the significance of the court ruling the previous week allowing the Diocese of South Carolina to secede with its assets from the Episcopal Church. He then presented background information on land tracts in South Canaan, PA belonging to the long defunct St. Tikhon’s Orphanage and the need to transfer ownership of these properties in order to dissolve the orphanage corporation. As St. Tikhon’s is under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan, all parties involved in the land transfer have requested a resolution of the Metropolitan Council to finalize the transactions. Once all formalities have been completed, the Orphanage Corporation and its Board will be dissolved. A vote on the resolution was deferred until the following morning so that copies of the resolution could be distributed to all Metropolitan Council members.

Gregory Nescott noted that Judge Lanier’s term on the Metropolitan Council is expiring and reflected on his invaluable and selfless work for the Church. He suggested that Judge Lanier be appointed to replace him as a special legal consultant to the Metropolitan Council.

I.1. MOTION METROPOLITAN TIKHON/JURY – To wholeheartedly express profound gratitude to Judge E.R. Lanier for his extraordinary and dedicated work for the church over many years, including most recently as chairman of the Metropolitan Council’s Legal Committee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (with 1 abstention – Lanier).

The session was adjourned with prayer at 6:03 PM.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015

Following the celebration of a Divine Liturgy at Saint Sergius Chapel at 8:00 AM, the meeting was opened with prayer led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon at the Immaculate Conception Seminary at 10:55 AM.

Legal matters continued with presentation of the resolution on St. Tikhon's Orphanage land transfers in South Canaan, PA.

L.2. MOTION DRESKO/MYERS - The Orthodox Church in America (OCA) has no monetary or proprietary interest in real estate and improvements located in South Canaan, Wayne County, Pennsylvania, currently titled in the name of ST. TIKHON RUSSIAN ORTHODOX ORPHANAGE, a/k/a ST. TIKON' RUSSIAN ORTHODOX ORPHANAGE, a/k/a ST. TIKHON' RUSSIAN ORTHODOX ORPHANAGE, a Pennsylvania Non-Profit Corporation, South Canaan, County of Wayne, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (The Orphanage.) This property is the same premises conveyed to St. Tikhon Russian Orthodox Orphanage, by way of Deed of Metropolitan Theophilus N. Pashkovsky, which Deed was executed on July 18, 1940 and is recorded in the Wayne County Recorder of Deeds Office to Deed Book 147, Page 460 on September 26, 1940. The premises is also described in Deed of St. Tikhon's Russian Monastery Cemetery Association to St. Tikhon Russian Orthodox Orphanage, which Deed was executed on July 18, 1940 and is recorded in the Wayne County Recorder of Deeds Office to Deed Book 147, Page 461 on September 26, 1940. It consists, in total, of 7.374 acres, more or less;

Be it further resolved that in accordance with the Statute of The Orthodox Church in America, including, but not necessarily limited to, Article V, Section 4g, we hereby approve now and forever after the transfer of said lands as follows:

- 1.933 acres of land more or less, identified as "LOT 1" on a minor subdivision map of lands of St. Tikhon Orthodox Orphanage dated April 5, 2013 and recorded to Wayne County Map Book 118, Page 117, PIN# 24-0-0271-0040.0002, to be transferred for the sum of ONE (\$1.00) DOLLAR to THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA, of 144 St. Tikhon's Road, Waymart, County of Wayne and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 18472, and**
- 5.441 acres of land more or less, identified as "REMAINING LAND OF ORPHANAGE PARCEL D.B. 147, P. 461" on a minor subdivision map of lands of St. Tikhon Orthodox Orphanage dated April 5, 2013 and recorded to Wayne County Map Book 118, Page 117, PIN# 24-0-0271-0040.0003, to be transferred for the sum of ONE (\$1.00) DOLLAR to ST. TIKHONS GREEK RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH, a Pennsylvania Non-profit Corporation, D/B/A ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY, of 175 St. Tikhon's Road, Waymart, County of Wayne and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 18472,**

The subdivision of the Orphanage property into these two parcels is further approved;

Furthermore, the OCA approves the lease to St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary of the former Orphanage Building located on the parcel that is to be transferred to St. Tikhon's Monastery for \$1.00 for a term of 99 years from a beginning date to be established by the parties thereto;

We further approve and authorize the responsible authority(ies) for each of the aforementioned entities to execute any and all documents and take any and all actions now and after today's date for all time, to accomplish the same. CARRIED with 4 abstentions (due to possible conflict of interest as members of St. Tikhon's Orphanage Board): Metropolitan Tikhon, Fr. John Jillions, Judge E.R. Lanier, David Yeosock.

K. Statute Revision Task Force

Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Secretary of the Statute Revision Task Force, presented an oral report on the work of the Task Force since last fall. He highlighted some of the new elements in the revised statute and explained the reasoning behind them. He noted that once review of the draft text by a legislative editor, which is currently underway, is completed, the blessing of the Holy Synod will be requested to disseminate and post it online for public comment, which is likely to occur next week. He encouraged church-wide discussion of the draft text and organization of town hall meetings locally for such discussion. Questions and discussion ensued.

J. Reorganization Committee (attached)

Archpriest John Shimchick, chairperson of the Committee, presented its attached report. Fr. Eric Tosi presented a detailed Department Reorganization Proposal. Extensive discussion ensued.

M. Metropolitan Council Committees

M.1. Charity (attached)

Protodeacon Michael Myers summarized the Charity Committee's attached written report.

M.2. Crisis Management Team

Fr. Eric Tosi indicated that Crisis Management issues were presented in his Secretary's Report.

M.3. Ethics

Dr. Paul Meyendorff, Committee Chairman, indicated that the Committee has nothing to report at this time.

M.4. Human Resources

Archpriest David Garretson, Committee Chairman, indicated that the Committee has nothing to report at this time.

M.5. Internal Governance (attached)

Archpriest Chad Hatfield highlighted the committee's attached report. He reiterated that the Metropolitan Council Members Handbook would be updated once the revised Statute is adopted.

Following a recess for lunch at 12:33 PM, the afternoon session was called to order at 1:33 PM.

N. Treasurer's Report (attached)

Melanie Ringa presented the attached Treasurer's report and additional material. She noted that preliminary financials for 2014 indicate a net surplus of \$32,000. She then highlighted the budget for the 18th All-American Council. Melanie then reported on her visits to dioceses and the recent diocesan chancellors and treasurers meeting and discussions there of statute revision pertaining to funding of the OCA. She indicated

that the Finance Committee prepared the church funding provisions for the revised Statute, which remove “per capita” language in the article on the parish. A lengthy discussion ensued concerning proportional giving and the formulation of an appropriate resolution for presentation to the upcoming All-American Council. The question was asked as to why the non-territorial dioceses were not included in the funding resolution being discussed. Melanie and His Beatitude explained that the non-territorial dioceses funding arrangements were subject to separate agreements, not by the OCA Statute.

Following a short recess at 3:47 PM, the session resumed at 4:10 PM.

The following resolution was discussed. Several amendments were made but not accepted. The original resolution was submitted to a vote by the Metropolitan Council and defeated.

- N.1. MOTION - JURY/DRESKO – The Metropolitan Council recommends the following resolution for adoption by the 18th All-American Council: “In order to facilitate the transition of the dioceses to a proportional funding model, while supporting the work of the national church, the Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America shall come to an agreement with each diocese on a funding methodology. The funding level shall not fall below the 2015 assessment. The target range for contributions will be the greater of the 2015 baseline or 33% of diocesan revenue.” DEFEATED (0 votes in favor, 2 abstentions: Jury, Myers).**

After further discussion, the following resolution was discussed, later amended but finally withdrawn.

- N.2. MOTION – DRESKO/HATFIELD – The Metropolitan Council recommends the following resolution for adoption by the 18th All-American Council: “In order to facilitate the transition of the dioceses to a proportional funding model, while supporting the work of the national church, each territorial diocese of the OCA shall remit annually financial support of the work of the central administration in an amount no less than the greater of 1) an amount equal to the 2015 assessment amount, with an allowance of a 4% decrease in cases of diocesan need; OR 2) 33% of annual diocesan revenue.**

It was agreed that a drafting group should reformulate the resolution for presentation during that evening’s session.

Following a recess for dinner at 5:18 PM, the evening session was called to order at 6:33 PM.

The drafting group presented the following resolution, which was discussed and adopted.

- N.3. MOTION – DRESKO/HATFIELD – The Metropolitan Council recommends the following resolution for adoption by the 18th All-American Council: “In order to facilitate the transition of the dioceses to a proportional funding model, while supporting the work of the national church, for the budget years 2016, 2017 and 2018, each diocese of the Orthodox Church in America shall annually remit its diocesan financial obligation for the work of the central administration in an amount no less than the greater of 1) the 2015 assessment, with a 4% decrease permissible in cases of diocesan need as determined by the Metropolitan Council with the approval of the Holy Synod of Bishops; or 2) 33% of total annual diocesan revenue.” CARRIED with 1 vote opposed (Mitchell) and 1 abstention (Myers).**

It was suggested that the resolution be presented to the All-American Council with explanatory background information.

O. Financial Development Committee

David Yeosock, Chairman of the Financial Development Committee, presented a brief oral report on upcoming projects in this area, particularly in conjunction with the upcoming All-American Council.

P. Finance/Investment Committee

Priest Gleb McFatter, chairman of the Finance/Investment Committee, presented a brief oral report concerning the transfer of the investment portfolio of the Orthodox Church in America to the Philadelphia Trust Company. Melanie Ringa thanked the Finance Committee for its hard work, particularly in formulating financial provisions within the revised OCA Statute. She noted that Fr. McFatter's term on the Metropolitan Council is expiring. The Council expressed warm appreciation for his work as chairman of the Finance Committee.

Q. Open Discussion

At the request of Metropolitan Council members, open discussion took place on three topics.

- The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America

Metropolitan Tikhon distributed for discussion a draft text of a fuller response on canonical restructuring from the Holy Synod to the Assembly of Bishops. He invited input and suggestions from Metropolitan Council members.

- Editorial policy of the Orthodox Church in America

Metropolitan Tikhon stressed the need for a pastoral approach on this issue. It was suggested that a comprehensive editorial policy is needed for anything published by the OCA, whether on its websites or elsewhere in order to ensure consistency or nothing contradict its teachings. It was noted that that editorial policies do exist but that input is welcome towards further developing them. It was also stated that the internet and social media are not conducive to communicating nuance, but that, nevertheless, the internet is perhaps the most effective vehicle to reach out to youth. As this issue is within the competence of the Holy Synod, it was respectfully suggested that the Synod should establish a Communication Commission to further develop uniform editorial policies and to address other related issues.

- Theological education and seminaries

Metropolitan Tikhon stated that the Church must highly value theological education and that support from the entire Church must be further encouraged and that is paramount to our mission as a Church. There was some discussion of the future of our seminaries in view of declining church membership and resources. It was stressed that residential formation at a seminary is essential in the preparation of clergy for the Church. The need for other education in the Church was also discussed including catechesis and formation of the laity. Various programs and internet resources were mentioned. The recently announced joint publication initiative of St. Vladimir's Seminary Press and St. Tikhon's Monastery Press was commended as a positive step. Metropolitan Tikhon said that the Holy Synod will seek to develop a creative vision for a comprehensive approach for education at all levels throughout the Church.

The session was adjourned with prayer at 8:23 PM.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2015

The morning session was opened with prayer at 9:03 AM.

U. External Affairs Report (attached)

Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, delivered the attached report, providing additional comments and insights. Metropolitan Tikhon and others also provided additional information and discussion ensued.

S. Pension Board Report

Fr. Gleb McFatter delivered a brief oral report. He reported that the OCA Pension Plan investment return for the past year was 5.48% below the target of 7%, which was due to prevailing global economic climate, especially in the fourth quarter. Fr. McFatter, Maureen Ahearn, Pension Plan Administrator, and Warren Rivetz, money manager and advisor for the OCA Pension Board, answered questions from Metropolitan Council members.

U. External Affairs Report (continued)

Presentation and discussion of the attached report on External Affairs and Interchurch Relations continued.

Following a short recess at 10:26 AM, the session resumed at 10:35 AM.

T. Department/Organization Reports

T.1. RBO (attached)

Mr. Basil Russin, Vice President of the Russian Brotherhood Organization (RBO) of the USA, delivered an oral report with the attached PowerPoint presentation. He presented its new logo and relayed its history, programs and services, as, currently, the only Orthodox fraternal benefit society in America. He stressed the Organization's strong connection to the Church over many decades.

U. External Affairs Report (continued)

Presentation and discussion of the attached report on External Affairs and Interchurch Relations was concluded.

T. Department/Organization Reports (continued)

T.2. FOCA (attached)

Archpriest Theodore Boback, Spiritual Advisor, and Dr. John Shultz, Immediate Past President, presented the attached report and PowerPoint presentation on the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA). They highlighted its history, current projects and activities. They also invited everyone to participate in events of the annual FOCA Convention, which will be held this year in conjunction with the 18th All-American Council.

V. Future Meeting Dates

Fr. Tosi reminded everyone that the Metropolitan Council would next meet in Atlanta over dinner on July 20, 2015, just prior to the opening of the 18th All-American Council. The next regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council will take place on September 22-24, with a retreat on September 21.

W. Adjournment

In concluding remarks, Metropolitan Tikhon thanked everyone for a productive meeting. He noted that although some issues were rightly referred to the Holy Synod, he encouraged Metropolitan Council members to carry issues forward to their dioceses for further discussion, and that such synergy is a manifestation of hierarchy and conciliarity.

W.1. MOTION MEYENDORFF/JURY – To adjourn the meeting. CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary

DRAFT

Metropolitan Council

As of August 14, 2015

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of All America and Canada
6850 North Hempstead Turnpike
Syosset, NY 11791
(516)922-0550
Email: metropolitan@oca.org

Officers of the Orthodox Church in America

Archpriest John A. Jillions (Chancellor)
10 Galway Place
Huntington, NY 11743-6229

Home: 516-549-2124
Email: jjillions@oca.org

Archpriest Eric G. Tosi (Secretary)
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Home: 516-922-3504
Email: egtosi@oca.org

CH, ET, FD, IG, OR

CD, CM, HR, IG, LE, OR

Melanie Ringa (Treasurer)
29 Wellsville Avenue
New Milford, CT 06776-2720

Home: 860-210-7933
Email: mringa@oca.org

FD, FI, OR

Members elected by All-American Council

Members elected at 16th AAC for Six-Year Term

Archpriest Chad Hatfield
27 Maria Lane
Yonkers, NY 10710-2007

Home: 914-337-3419
Work: 914-961-8313 ext 339
Email: hatfield@svots.edu

Maureen Jury
5921 Lennox Hill Drive
Plano, TX 75093-8054

Home: 972-403-0222
Email: jurydos@verizon.net

IG

CH, FI, OR

Members elected at 18th AAC for Six-Year Term

Archpriest Anthonio Perdomo
520 West Rosemary Avenue
Pharr, TX 78577-0667

Home: 956-781-2388
Work: 956-781-6114
Email: padreantoniop@att.net

Katherine Vitko
6220 Loch Raven Drive
McLean, VA 22101-3133

Home: 925-667-6451
Email: kittyv70@gmail.com

Members elected at 18th AAC for Three-Year Term	
<p>Archpriest Thomas Moore 634 Wren Road Lexington, SC 29073-9106</p> <p>Home: 803-318-6093 Email: frthomas@holyapostles.org</p>	<p>Larry Skvir 156 Whitemarsh Way Delran, NJ 08075-2216</p> <p>Home: 856-461-9474 Email: lskvir@aol.com</p>
Alternates elected at 18th AAC for Three-Year Term	
<p>Priest Elijah Mueller 110 East 55th Street Chicago, IL 60615-5112</p> <p>Home: 312-714-9775 Email: ElijahNMueller@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>Michael Strelka 1809 North Ridge Avenue Arlington, IL 60004-3748</p> <p>Home: Email: michael.strelka@gmail.com</p>
Members Elected by Diocese	
Diocese of Alaska	
<p>Archpriest John Dunlop 414 Mission Road Kodiak, AK 99615-6329</p> <p>Home: 907-486-0950 Email: frjohn@sthermanseminary.org</p>	<p>Jeremy Pletnikoff PO Box 71484 Fairbanks, AK 99707-1484</p> <p>Home: 907-378-6818 Email: patrickjeremyp@yahoo.com</p>
CH	FI
Albanian Archdiocese	
<p>Archpriest Joseph Gallick 3 Wildwood Drive Southborough, MA 01772-1989</p> <p>Home: 508-481-2028 Email: Jgall41080@aol.com</p>	<p>Donna Dimitri 1901 Beverly Road Burlington, NJ 08016-1114</p> <p>Cell: 609-368-1651 Email: donnadimitri@gmail.com</p>
HR	
Bulgarian Diocese	
<p>Priest Martin Watt 1411 Wilson Avenue Ames, IA 50010-5463</p> <p>Home: 515-337-1192 Email: fmarty@amesorthodox.org</p>	<p>Esteban Vazquez 11319 Grand Oak Drive Apt 13 Grand Blanc, MI 48439-1263</p> <p>Home: 810-875-4417 Email: voxstefani@yahoo.com</p>

Archdiocese of Canada	
<p>Archpriest Anatoliy Melnyk 1175 rue Champlain Montreal, QC H2L 2R7 Canada</p> <p>Office: 514-522-2801 Email: montreal.sobor@gmail.com</p>	<p>Deacon Justin Mitchell 6500 Route Transcanadienne, Bureau 400 Pointe Claire, QC H9R 0A5 Canada</p> <p>Home: 438-995-3490 Email: frjustinmitchell@gmail.com</p>
ET	ET
Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania	
<p>Priest James Weremedic 3630 Browning Lane Bethlehem, PA 18017-1504</p> <p>Home: 610-866-6057 Cell: 570-764-4323 Email: frjamesw@hotmail.com</p>	<p>David Yeosock, P.E. 40 S. Main Street Plains, PA 18705-1915</p> <p>Cell: 570-760-8259 Email: dmyeosock@comcast.net</p>
ET, IG,	FD , IG
Diocese of Midwest	
<p>Archpriest Alexander Kuchta 7 Cumberland Court Cary, IL 60013-1912</p> <p>Home: 847-516-6025 Email: akyxta@owc.net</p>	<p>Robert Graban 29541 Oakview Street Livonia, MI 48154-4463</p> <p>Cell: 313-702-1300 Email: RGraban@yahoo.com</p>
CH , CM	
Diocese of New England	
<p>Priest Robert F. Dick II 34 Fairfield Street Maynard, MA 01754-1743</p> <p>Office: 978-897-4364 Email: rfd2@earthlink.net</p>	<p>David Zavednak 65 Hyla Lane Northford, CT 06472-1247</p> <p>Home: 203-484-4071 Cell: 203-215-1792 Email: dzaved@comcast.net</p>
FI	IG
Diocese of New York and New Jersey	
<p>Archpriest John Shimchick 24 Colmar Road Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-1206</p> <p>Home: 609-315-2894 Office: 856-665-2491 Email: FrJS@aol.com</p>	Open
FD , OR	

Romanian Archdiocese	
Open	Open
Diocese of South	
Priest Joseph Lucas 8510 NW 138 th Terr Apt 1902 Miami Lakes, FL 33016-6593 Home: 305-332-4454 Email: joseph.lucas@yahoo.com	Angela Parks, esq Director of Regulatory Programs Alabama State Bar PO Box 671 Montgomery, AL 36101-0671 Work: 334-269-1515 Email: angela.parks@aol.com
	LE
Archdiocese of Washington	
Priest John Vitko 6220 Loch Raven Drive McLean, VA 22101-3403 Home: 925-667-6451 Email: john.vitko@gmail.com	Elizabeth Mikhalevsky 309 Yoakum Parkway #611 Alexandria, VA 22304-3931 Home: 571-483-0388 Email: lisamik56@gmail.com
PC	
Diocese of West	
Archpriest John J. Dresko 1747 Crystal Downs Ave Las Vegas, NV 89123-2413 Cell: 860-833-4921 Email: fatherjohn@lasvegasorthodox.com	Wesley J. Smith, Esq 19525 Barlow Court Castro Valley, CA 04546-3205 Cell: 510-501-6642 Email: wesley@discovery.org
FD, FI, HR, OR	LE
Diocese of Western Pennsylvania	
Archpriest William Evansky 158 Pilgrim Drive Sewickley, PA 15143-8709 Cell: 412-855-1307 Email: fbill158@verizon.net	Dr. John Schultz 11 Ralston Lane Weirton, WV 26062-5535 Cell: 304-479-5071 Home: 304-748-1223 Office: 304-723-3967 Email: jpswv@comcast.net
IG	HR
Committee Codes: CH = Charity CM = Crisis Management ET = Ethics FD = Financial Development FI = Finance/Investment HR = Human Resources	IA = Internal Auditors IG = Internal Governance LE = Legal OR = Organization Task Force Bold/Italic = chairperson

Post 18th All-American Council Survey

Wednesday, September 09, 2015

232

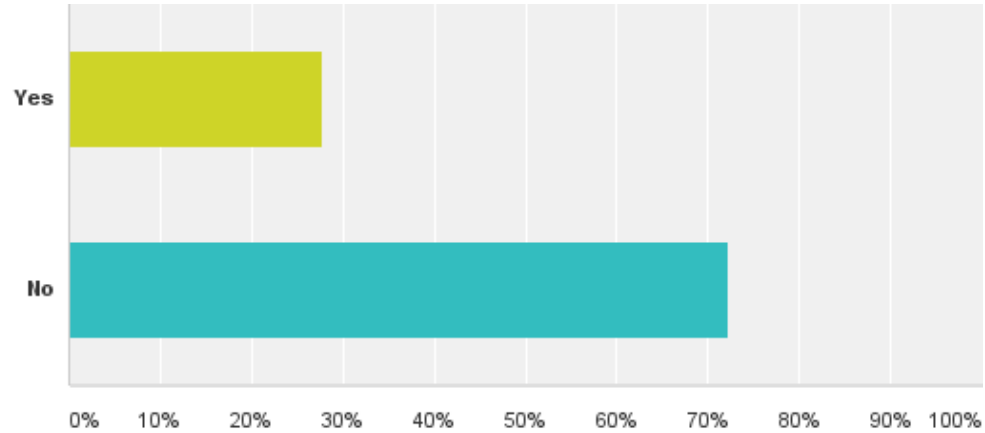
Total Responses

Date Created: Tuesday, August 18, 2015

Complete Responses: 232

Q1: This was my first All-American Council

Answered: 231 Skipped: 1



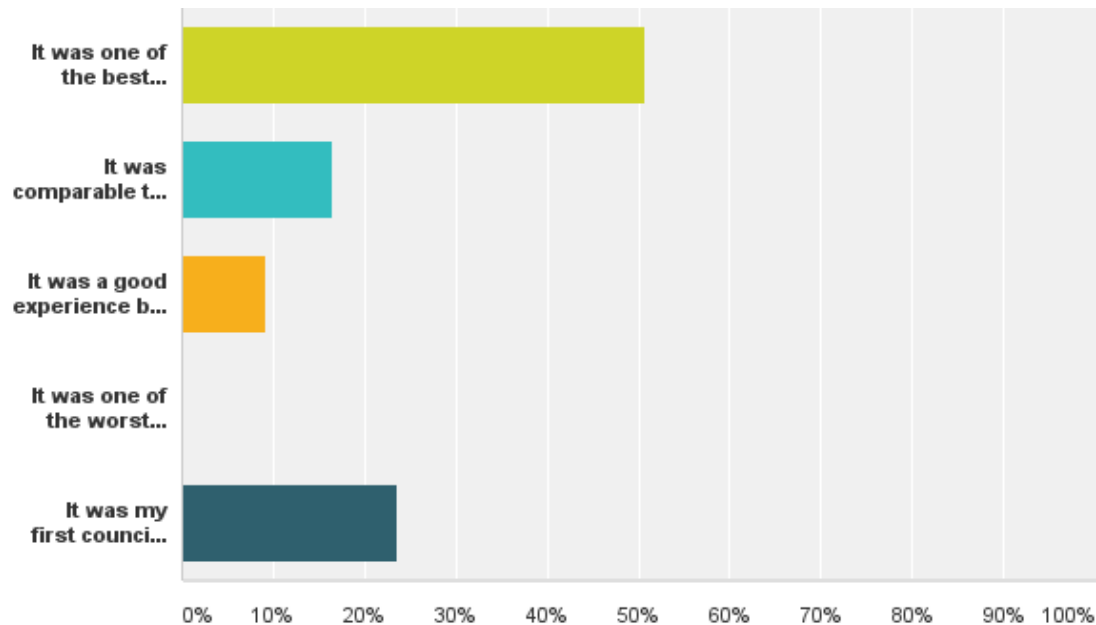
Q1: This was my first All-American Council

Answered: 231 Skipped: 1

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	27.71%	64
No	72.29%	167
Total		231

Q2: What was your overall impression of the 18th All American Council in relation to previous councils?

Answered: 229 Skipped: 3



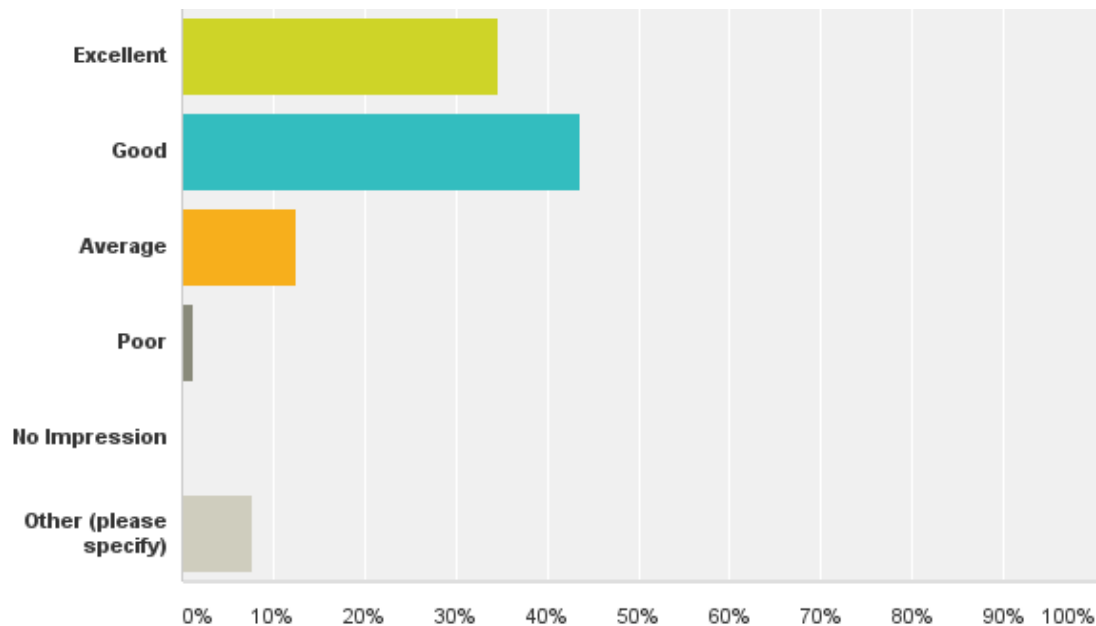
Q2: What was your overall impression of the 18th All American Council in relation to previous councils?

Answered: 229 Skipped: 3

Answer Choices	Responses	
It was one of the best councils I have ever attended	50.66%	116
It was comparable to previous councils I have attended	16.59%	38
It was a good experience but needed improvement	9.17%	21
It was one of the worst councils I have ever attended	0.00%	0
It was my first council and therefore I have no way to measure	23.58%	54
Total		229

Q3: What was your overall impression of the venue in which the Council was held?

Answered: 231 Skipped: 1



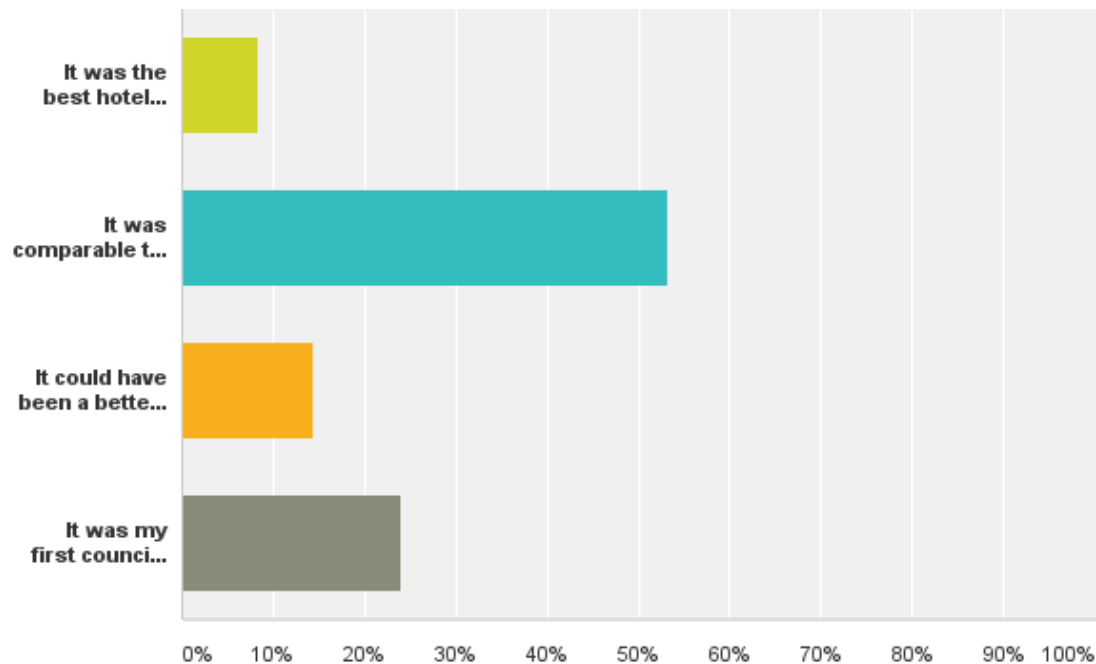
Q3: What was your overall impression of the venue in which the Council was held?

Answered: 231 Skipped: 1

Answer Choices	Responses
Excellent	34.63% 80
Good	43.72% 101
Average	12.55% 29
Poor	1.30% 3
No Impression	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	7.79% 18
Total	231

Q4: What was your overall impression of the venue in which the Council was held in comparison to previous venues?

Answered: 229 Skipped: 3



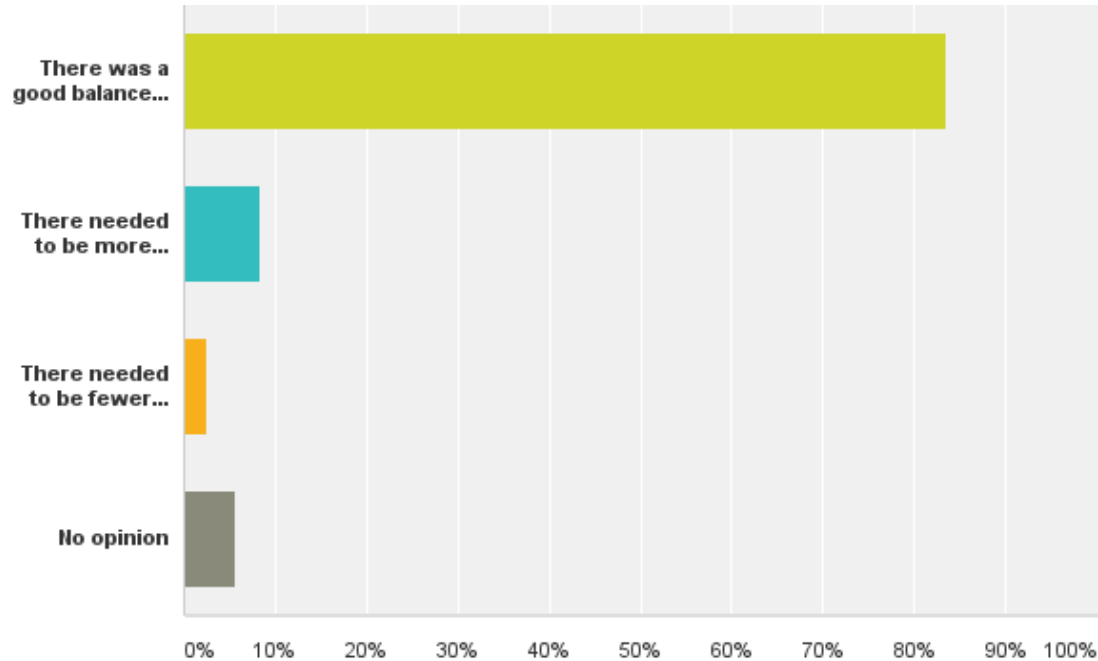
Q4: What was your overall impression of the venue in which the Council was held in comparison to previous venues?

Answered: 229 Skipped: 3

Answer Choices	Responses	
It was the best hotel venue	8.30%	19
It was comparable to previous hotel venues	53.28%	122
It could have been a better venue	14.41%	33
It was my first council and therefore I have no way to measure	24.02%	55
Total		229

Q5: What was your overall impression of the liturgical services held during the Council?

Answered: 230 Skipped: 2



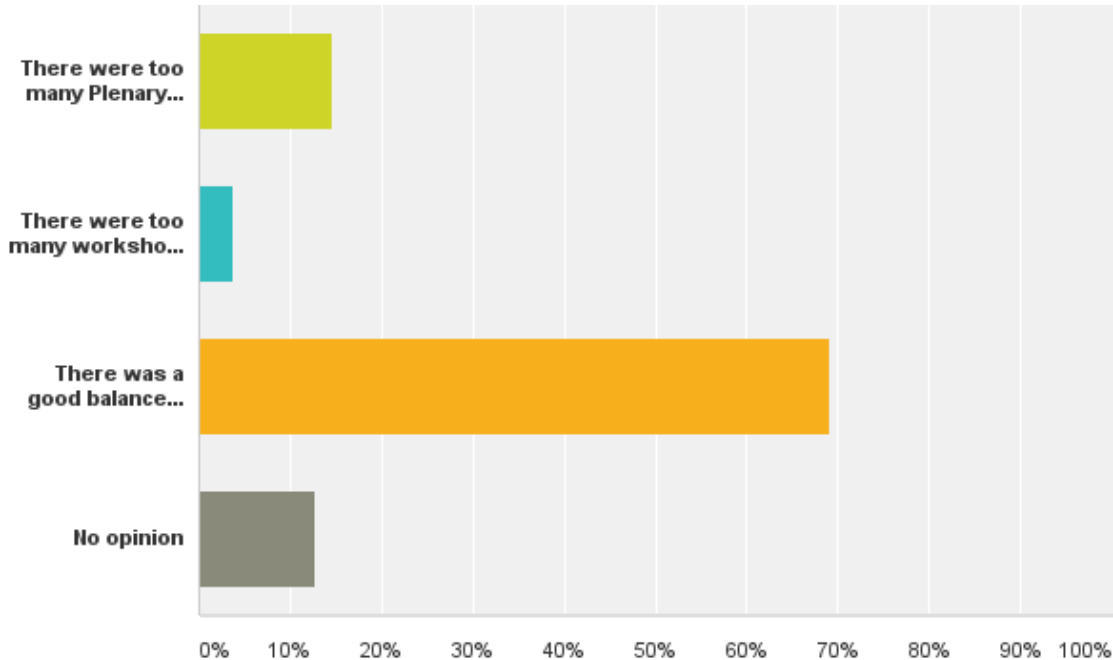
Q5: What was your overall impression of the liturgical services held during the Council?

Answered: 230 Skipped: 2

Answer Choices	Responses	
There was a good balance of liturgical services	83.48%	192
There needed to be more liturgical services	8.26%	19
There needed to be fewer liturgical services	2.61%	6
No opinion	5.65%	13
Total		230

Q6: What was your overall impression of the structure of the Plenary Sessions and Workshops?

Answered: 213 Skipped: 19



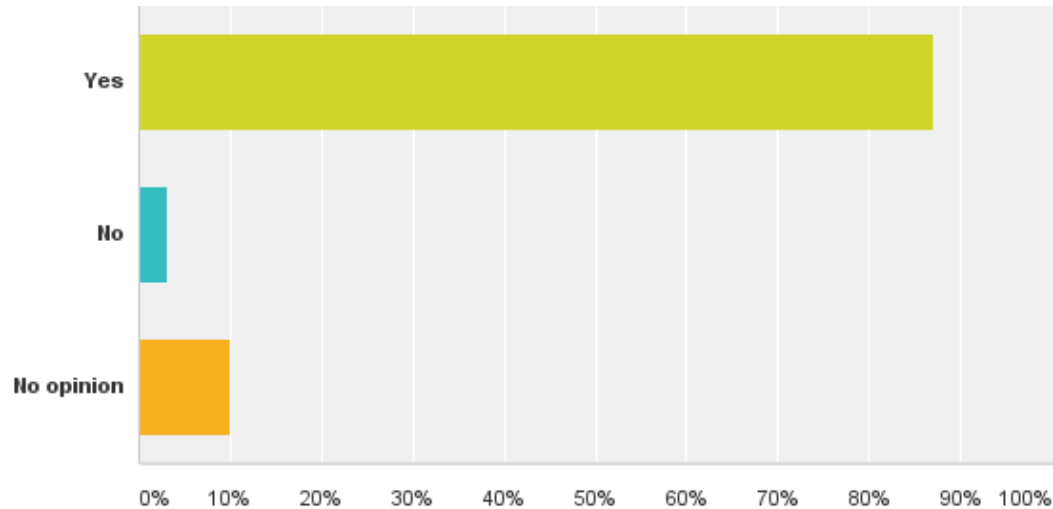
Q6: What was your overall impression of the structure of the Plenary Sessions and Workshops?

Answered: 213 Skipped: 19

Answer Choices	Responses	
There were too many Plenary Sessions and not enough workshops	14.55%	31
There were too many workshops and not enough Plenary Sessions	3.76%	8
There was a good balance between Plenary Sessions and Workshops	69.01%	147
No opinion	12.68%	27
Total		213

Q7: Should there continue to be a Youth Component at the 19th All-American Council?

Answered: 230 Skipped: 2



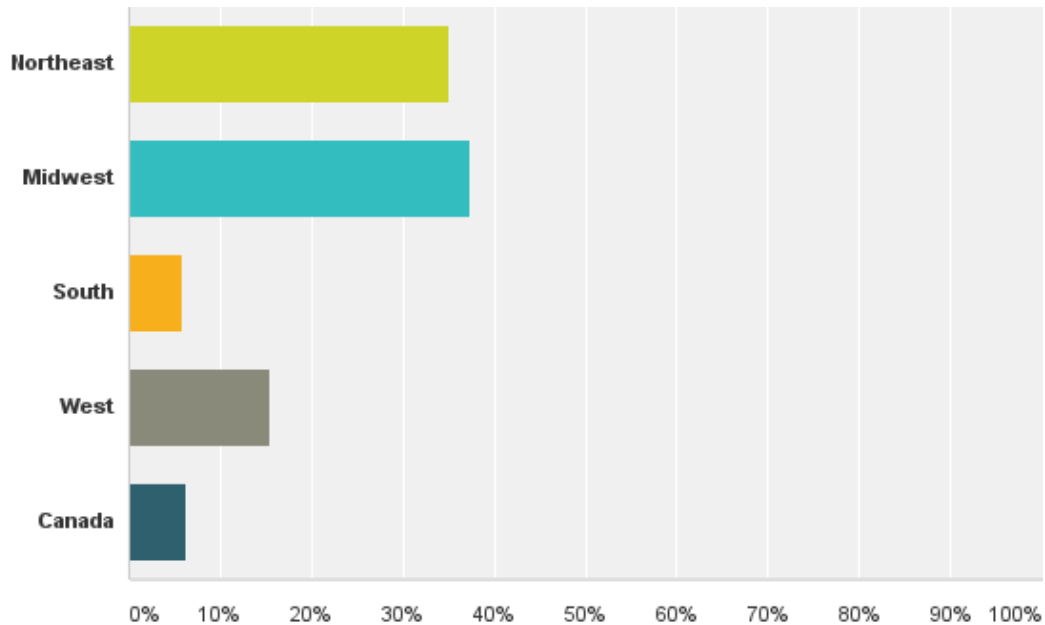
Q7: Should there continue to be a Youth Component at the 19th All-American Council?

Answered: 230 Skipped: 2

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	86.96% 200
No	3.04% 7
No opinion	10.00% 23
Total	230

Q8: Suggestions for a location for the 19th All-American Council to be held in 2018

Answered: 220 Skipped: 12



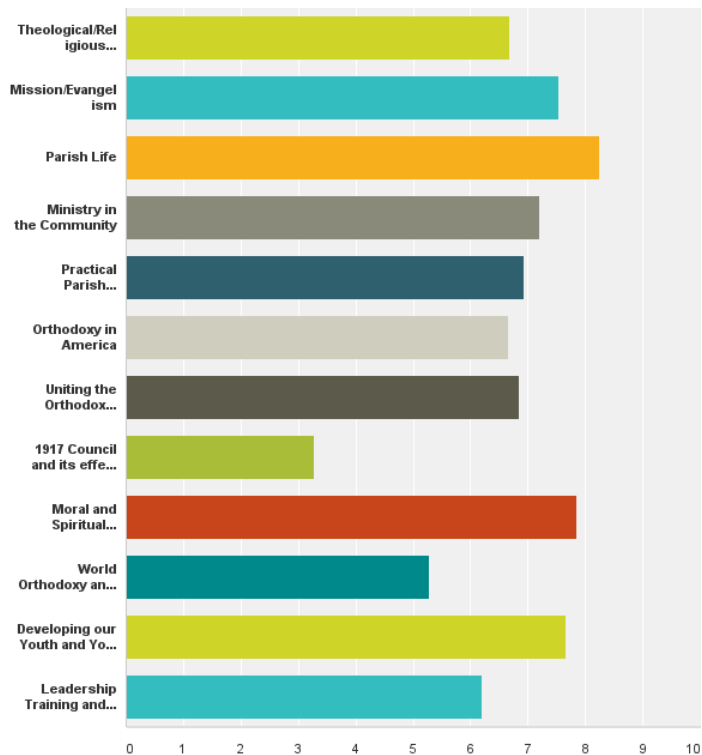
Q8: Suggestions for a location for the 19th All-American Council to be held in 2018

Answered: 220 Skipped: 12

Answer Choices	Responses
Northeast	35.00% 77
Midwest	37.27% 82
South	5.91% 13
West	15.45% 34
Canada	6.36% 14
Total	220

Q9: Is there a suggested theme/topic to be explored at the 19th All-American Council? Please rank them from most interested to least interested.

Answered: 214 Skipped: 18



Q9: Is there a suggested theme/topic to be explored at the 19th All-American Council? Please rank them from most interested to least interested.

Answered: 214 Skipped: 18

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total	Score
Theological/Religious Education	6.11% 11	8.33% 15	10.00% 18	10.56% 19	6.11% 11	8.89% 16	10.00% 18	10.00% 18	11.11% 20	9.44% 17	5.00% 9	4.44% 8	180	6.68
Mission/Evangelism	14.81% 28	11.64% 22	8.47% 16	8.99% 17	7.94% 15	7.94% 15	9.52% 18	11.64% 22	4.76% 9	4.23% 8	6.35% 12	3.70% 7	189	7.54
Parish Life	13.61% 26	10.99% 21	11.52% 22	10.47% 20	15.71% 30	11.52% 22	9.95% 19	6.28% 12	5.24% 10	3.14% 6	1.05% 2	0.52% 1	191	8.24
Ministry in the Community	2.67% 5	10.16% 19	12.83% 24	13.37% 25	10.16% 19	10.70% 20	10.16% 19	10.16% 19	7.49% 14	6.42% 12	5.35% 10	0.53% 1	187	7.21
Practical Parish Operations	8.11% 15	8.65% 16	10.27% 19	9.19% 17	10.27% 19	10.81% 20	9.19% 17	7.57% 14	6.49% 12	5.95% 11	7.57% 14	5.95% 11	185	6.94
Orthodoxy in America	7.37% 14	5.26% 10	10.00% 19	8.42% 16	11.58% 22	8.42% 16	8.95% 17	9.47% 18	10.00% 19	13.16% 25	4.21% 8	3.16% 6	190	6.66
Uniting the Orthodox Churches in North America	14.81% 28	10.05% 19	7.94% 15	7.94% 15	5.82% 11	5.82% 11	2.65% 5	7.94% 15	10.58% 20	13.76% 26	6.35% 12	6.35% 12	189	6.85
1917 Council and its effect on the Church in America	2.27% 4	3.98% 7	3.98% 7	2.84% 5	0.00% 0	2.84% 5	3.41% 6	3.98% 7	5.68% 10	10.23% 18	15.91% 28	44.89% 79	176	3.27
Moral and Spiritual Challenges in the Modern World	17.59% 35	12.06% 24	9.55% 19	11.56% 23	7.54% 15	7.54% 15	10.05% 20	2.51% 5	5.53% 11	5.53% 11	6.53% 13	4.02% 8	199	7.85
World Orthodoxy and the Place of the Orthodox Church in America	6.04% 11	7.14% 13	7.14% 13	4.40% 8	6.59% 12	3.30% 6	4.40% 8	6.04% 11	9.89% 18	14.29% 26	21.43% 39	9.34% 17	182	5.29
Developing our Youth and Young Adults	9.47% 18	15.26% 29	10.53% 20	11.05% 21	9.47% 18	10.53% 20	6.84% 13	7.37% 14	6.84% 13	3.16% 6	6.32% 12	3.16% 6	190	7.66
Leadership Training and Development	6.88% 13	4.76% 9	6.88% 13	7.94% 15	9.52% 18	10.05% 19	10.58% 20	11.11% 21	9.52% 18	5.29% 10	7.41% 14	10.05% 19	189	6.20

2016 OCA Journal Proposal
Prepared by Fr. John Matusiak

The edition would be between 36 and 40 pages, if printed 4-up, or 32 and 40 pages if printed 8-up. Other specs would be the same as TOC -- same glossy paper, mailed in bulk to parishes but also permanently available on-line in PDF format for downloading, etc.

Theme: Mission and Evangelization

The overall theme would pick up where the 18th AAC left off rather than be a "report" or "compilation" of that discussed/presented at the AAC. In other words, "having discussed 'all that,' what do we now 'do' with it?"

Broader scope

It's just my opinion, but if we're going to do an annual "journal," each edition should have a specific theme that features articles that are not only of the theoretical/theological nature, but a practical one as well. In time, this will produce a series of themed publications that will be useful well beyond the immediate date of publication. Future themes should mirror our departments -- religious education, youth, lay ministry, stewardship, etc. Hence, each edition of the "journal series" would provide an introductory "resource" with a number of related articles, all "in one place."

Format

The old "TOC" format would be the most efficient, although the layout would be more formal -- a more serious "journal" format rather than the more "casual" TOC format. Of course, illustrations -- especially photos of people actually doing the things noted in each article -- would be featured.

Proposed contents

Considering the theme of evangelization/mission, the following would seem to "hit upon" the main sub-themes. Exact titles can be changed, of course, as can the list of writers. While I have no intense opinion with regard to authors, it would be good to avoid contacting people who cannot write well, as was the case with some of the "reflections" submitted for the 18th AAC which, in a few instances, were unusable as submitted.

Editing

All articles should be edited for consistency, style, etc. I assume that I would be doing this, if this is your pleasure. I also assume that I'll be doing the layout and providing a "camera-ready product," so to speak. Of course, if you would prefer that someone else do this, I will in no way whine about it. I would caution against editing or writing "by committee," so to speak, as this often becomes counterproductive and tremendously time consuming. I will gladly contact each potential author and explain their individual tasks, deadlines, etc. If, within a reasonable period of time, a requested author fails to respond, then we'll simply find an alternative author.

CONTENT OUTLINE

1. Inside cover -- Introduction by Fr. John Jillions
This would be an "editorial" of sorts.

2. Feature article -- "To Love Is To Remember" by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann
I'll make reference to this in the intro/unsigned editorial.

3. Second feature article -- "Facing Forward: Expanding the Mission" by Metropolitan Tikhon
This would be a general introduction that picks up where the AAC left off, so to speak, highlighting Metropolitan Tikhon's points/vision for "where we are going" in the immediate and distant future.

SERIES OF ARTICLES ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF MISSION/EVANGELIZATION

4. "Defining Mission" by Fr. E. Tosi
This should provide

- 1. a general introduction to the mission of Christ and the Church.*
- 2. a broader understanding as understood in his thesis.*
- 3. an understanding of how this would be applied in North America.*

5. "Principles of Evangelization" by Fr. J. Parker
Title is self-explanatory, but content should be very specific.

6. "Evangelization in Action" by Joseph Kormos
Again, title is self-explanatory, but content would offer clear steps/actions/ways to evangelize.

7. "Internal Evangelization: Building Conviction and Renewing Commitment to Christ among 'our own'"
by Fr. Jonathan Ivanoff
How to evangelize "our own people" before "sending them out" to evangelize others.

8. "External Evangelization: Taking the Good News beyond 'our walls'" by Fr. Stephen Freeman
Preparing others to receive the Gospel and how to share it with those so prepared.

9. "Matthew 25 Evangelization" by Donna Karabin
Sharing the Good News in light of the Parable of the Sheep and Goats.

10. "Christian Education as Evangelization" by Valerie Zahirsky
Sharing the Gospel in Church school, VCS, community educational settings.

11. "Sharing the Gospel with Tweens and Teens" by [need suggestion here]
Title is self-explanatory and should cover such things as classes, retreats, etc.

12. "Evangelization on Campus" by Fr. John Reeves or Deacon ?? from his parish
Again, title is self-explanatory.

13. "Evangelizing the Broader Community" by Fr. Ambrose Arrington
His mission to the broader Bixby, OK community is a "case study," so to speak -- what "principles" could be derived therefrom?

14. "Reviving Older Communities" by Fr. Thomas Soroka
His experience in McKees Rocks certainly can highlight a variety of "dos" and "don'ts."

15. "Using the internet, social media" by Fr. John Parsells
This too should consider a variety of "dos" and "don'ts."

16. "Facing Forward: Where do we go from here as individuals, as parishes, as the Church in North America?"
A closing "unsigned editorial" for which I'll find a writer or which I can write myself as a "wrap up."

Searching for the relics of St. Jacob Netsvetov

SITKA, AK – In conjunction with a National Park Service [NPS] project to restore a portion of Sitka National Park to its appearance in Russian colonial times, a search for the burial site and relics of St. Jacob Netsvetov recently began.

In a meeting with NPS reps, His Grace, Bishop David mentioned the possibility of locating the relics which, if found, would be enshrined in Sitka's historic St. Michael Cathedral. Cornell University's Dr. Thomas Urban arrived in Sitka where, with the help of a "ground penetrating radar" device, scanning was initiated.

It is suspected that St. Jacob was interred near the entrance to a church that once stood on the site, but its exact location remains unknown. Born on Atka Island in 1802, the son of a Russian father and Aleut mother, St. Jacob was Orthodox Christianity's first North American-born priest. His tireless missionary efforts brought about the conversion of many across Alaska's Yukon River region. He fell asleep in the Lord in 1864. ■ <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/search-for-relics-of-st-jacob-netsvetov-begins>



Dr. Urban, Bishop David scan for St. Jacob's grave.

OCA young adults attend international youth festival

SUPRASL, POLAND – Five young adults represented the Orthodox Church in America at the international youth festival, "Attaining Conciliarity," at the Annunciation Monastery here recently. Sponsored by Syndesmos, the World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth, the gathering marked the first time since 1998 that OCA youth had participated in such an event.

Representing the OCA were Janine Alpaugh, Joseph Green, William Kopcha, Victor Lutes, and John Shimchick Archpriest Dr. Chad Hatfield, Chancellor of Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Yonkers, NY, delivered the keynote address, titled "The Conciliar Model of the OCA: The Dream of Saint Tikhon."

OCA young adults with Archbishop Jacob of Bialystok and Gdansk, Poland.



Over 40 young adults from Germany, Russia, Slovakia, Romania, France and elsewhere attended.

Syndesmos was established in Paris in 1953 to network Orthodox youth the world over.

■ <http://oca.org/media/photos/oca-young-adults-participate-in-syndesmos-international-gathering-in-poland>

Study guide on care for creation reissued; Metropolitan Tikhon addresses faithful

SYOSSET, NY – *The Earth is the Lord's: Caring for God's Creation* – a five-part study guide first published by the Orthodox Church in America in 1995 – has been reissued and is available in PDF format at <http://oca.org/cdn/PDFs/DCE/2015-0828-the-earth-is-the-lords.pdf>.

"On September 1, 1989, the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios I issued the first message from the Ecumenical Throne on the environment," wrote His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, in a letter sent to all parishes in late August, in which he urges use of the study guide. "The Church again seeks to remind us, as Mary reminded Martha, of the one needful thing – life and unity with Our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ... Patriarch Demetrios I reminds us that the holy fathers of the Church teach that 'man is the prince of creation, endowed with the privilege of freedom. Being partaker simultaneously of the material and the spiritual world, he was created in order to refer creation back to the Creator, in order that the world may be saved from decay and death.'

"As the summer draws to a close and children go back to or away to school for the first time and begin again a new academic year and ecclesiastical year, let us... take a moment to turn to the one needful thing in praise, worship and thanksgiving for the creation and all the blessings bestowed upon us by our merciful Creator."

The full text of Metropolitan Tikhon's letter is available at <http://oca.org/holy-synod/statements/his-beatitude-metropolitan-tikhon/the-beginning-of-the-ecclesiastical-year-the-day-of-prayer-for-the-creation>. ■ <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/study-guide-on-care-for-creation-reissued-metropolitan-tikhon-addresses-fai>

A monthly digest highlighting news and features from the web site of the Orthodox Church in America <http://oca.org>, published with the blessing of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon

September 2015

Father John Matusiak, Editor
info@oca.org

Archbishop Benjamin represents OCA at canonizations

ALHAMBRA, CA – His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin represented His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon at the canonization of Bishop Mardarije [Uskokovic] and Archimandrite Sebastian [Dabovich] at St. Steven Serbian Orthodox Cathedral here September 5, 2015.

His Holiness, Patriarch Irinej of Serbia, presided at the liturgical celebration, at which many visiting hierarchs, civil dignitaries, and others were present.

Saint Sebastian was born in San Francisco, CA in 1863. As a priest he worked closely with Archbishop [now St.] Tikhon in various capacities and locations in the North American Mission. In 1894, he established the first Serbian parish in the US in Jackson, CA. He fell asleep in the Lord in Serbia in 1940.

Born in Montenegro in 1889, Saint Mardarije served as a missionary in America. Consecrated to the episcopacy in 1926, he organized the Serbian Orthodox Diocese in the US. He reposed in 1935. ■ <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/bishop-mardarije-archimandrite-sebastian-to-be-canonized-september-5>



Serbian Patriarch Irinej presides at canonizations.

OCA Departments share hopes for future

SYOSSET, NY – A great deal of enthusiasm was generated by the reports offered by the Orthodox Church in America’s departments during the 18th All-American Council in July 2015. In a feature article recently posted on the OCA web site, the Departments of Continuing Education, Pastoral Life, Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid, Christian Education, Liturgical Music and Translations, and Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry and the Office of Military and Veterans Administration Chaplains shared their vision and plans in the months and years ahead in light of the AAC theme, “How To Expand The Mission.” ■ <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-departments-share-current-future-plans-for-expanding-the-mission>

OCA represented at Lausanne Initiative in Finland

HELSINKI, FINLAND – Archpriests Eric G. Tosi, OCA Secretary, and Michael Oleksa were among the members of the OCA who participated in the third and final Lausanne Orthodox Initiative [LOI] here during the first week of September 2015. His Eminence, Archbishop Leo of Finland, hosted the event.

The LOI began in 2010 as a forum venue for Orthodox and Evangelicals to enhance mutual understanding and find common projects. After three consultations, it now will focus on regional activities.



Fr. Michael delivered one of the keynote addresses.

■ <http://oca.org/news/headline-news/oca-represented-at-lausanne-orthodox-initiative-in-finland>

AOB PHOTO WHEN I GET ONE

Caption when I get AOB photo

Assembly of Bishops meets in Chicago

CHICAGO, IL – His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and members of the OCA Holy Synod of Bishops participated in the sixth annual meeting of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA here September 15-17, 2015.

This year’s meeting included two sessions devoted to canonical regional planning. In the first of these sessions, the Assembly’s 12 jurisdictional first hierarchs had the opportunity to offer their comments on a proposal prepared by the Committee for Canonical Regional Planning for submission to the Great and Holy Council in 2016. In the second session, the Assembly’s hierarchs engaged in a facilitated discussion about the proposal. Working sessions on pastoral practices of marriage and divorce also were held.

High school and college students were given the opportunity to participate in a dialogue with the hierarchs on Tuesday evening. ■ [WILL MAKE LINK AS SOON AS IT’S POSTED ON OCA SITE](#)

Planting Grant Recommendations
Calendar Year 2016
Priest John Parker
Chair, Department of Evangelization

Summary

TOTAL PLANTING GRANT REQUESTED FOR 2015: \$106,000

TOTAL RETURNING: \$58,000

USA: \$58,000

\$20,000	Tempe, AZ	Diocese of the West
\$20,000	Beaufort, SC	Diocese of the South
\$18,000	Cardiff, CA	Diocese of the West

NEW in 2015: \$48,000

USA: \$48,000

\$24,000	Waxahachie, TX	Diocese of the South
\$24,000	Wasilla, AK	Diocese of Alaska

Three new grant applications, three returning applications. New applications from:

Diocese of the South: 1
Diocese of the Midwest: 1
Diocese of Alaska: 1

Graduating the Grant at the end of 2015

<i>Holy Apostles</i>	Lansing, NY
Diocese of NY/NJ	Fr James Worthington

<i>Holy Archangels</i>	Annapolis, MD
Archdiocese of Washington, DC	Fr Robert Miclean

Explanation of Recommendations—Returning:

Accept Returning:

<i>St Katherine Orthodox Mission</i>	Cardiff, CA
Diocese of the West	Fr Andrew Cuneo

St Katherine's is a growing remarkably under the capable leadership of Fr Andrew Cuneo. I will visit St Katherine parish the first week in December 2015. Will finish second year and begin third year grant, with a blessing. St Katherine's began the grant in June, not January of their first year, as Fr Andrew was teaching at St Katherine College at the time. This explains the rare amount listed above—the coming year, they would receive a portion of a second year grant, and the first portion of the third year.

Accept Returning:

<i>St John the Evangelist Orthodox Church</i>	Tempe, AZ
Diocese of the West	Fr Andre Paez

St John's Church will finish the first year on the grant strongly. A developing mentorship between Fr Andre and Fr Jason Foster (graduated the grant last year, Shreveport, LA) is bearing fruit. Would enter second year with a blessing.

Accept Returning:

St James Orthodox Church

Beaufort, SC

Diocese of the South

Fr James Bozeman

St James is growing apace. A developing mentorship between Fr James and Fr Christopher Foley (Greensboro, NC, graduated the grant about 8 years ago) is bearing fruit. Would enter second year with a blessing.

Explanation of Recommendations—New:

Accept New:

St Nektarios

Waxahachie, TX

Diocese of the South

Fr David Bozeman

St Nektarios Mission has a strong foundation, which has been supported and encouraged strongly by the Diocese, whose Cathedral has essentially planted this mission south of Dallas. They are completing Diocesan Planting grant which allowed them to solidify the work of a part-time priest. The grant should push them to the next level. St Nektarios is a snapshot of a model Planting Grant Mission at their current stage.

Accept New:

St Juvenaly and His Companion

Wasilla, AK

Diocese of Alaska

Fr Mikel Bock

The St Juvenaly Mission has demonstrated over three years a tremendous amount of growth and a spirit of devotion and hard work. Originally, the Mission applied for the grant in order to build a building—and this Grant, in its basic structure, is not for that purpose. During the past two years, the mission has grown in spirit and in numbers, and has been able to build a proper church building and parish hall. Someone once described perseverance as “stick-to-it-iveness”. This Mission has demonstrated perseverance for these years, and I believe it is time for St Juvenaly to benefit from the Grant. It is also important, in my judgment, for the Diocese of Alaska to shine, and this is one facet of that hope.

Explanation of Recommendations—Not at this time:

Not At this time:

Annunciation of the Virgin Mary

St James, MO

Diocese of the Midwest

Fr Joel Wilson

Annunciation Mission is a remarkably devoted mission. They have moved from various temporary spaces to the converted garage of the priest’s residence. The parishioners have poured in copious amounts of equity, in addition to their financial support to establish a more permanent, beautiful, intentional space for their services.

Annunciation appears to be growing steadily and strongly. The numbers are slightly on the small side, and a significant portion of their financial support comes from supporters outside the mission. The priest works a full-time business he owns (web design) and has come to that point of stagnation in growth because of the time necessity required for earning a living outside the mission.

Their basic approach to missionary life, commitment to liturgical services, to beauty, and outreach are marks of a solid mission. This is a mission to keep an eye on; recommend re-application for 2017 consideration.

+++++

Additional Pastoral Note:

This year, for the first time in a while, the Grants are heavy in two dioceses South and West. I am very cognizant of this situation, and personally would hope for representation across the breadth of the OCA.

Nevertheless, based strictly on the guidelines of the Grant and the basic possibilities of accomplishing the end-goal of a full-time priest now, and upon graduation from the grant, the missions I have recommended this round are in that rank order. The Priests and their missions do speak for themselves in this way, regardless of their dioceses.

In the South, it is also the case that, if blessed by the Synod, not only would there be two missions from the Diocese on the grant, but the priests are brothers. I am also aware of the potential murmurs that such a decision might raise, but given the nature of the grant, the strength of the missions, and when they applied (one would be in second year, one in first year), I cannot recommend *against* Waxahachie simply because of a fraternal relation to another planting grant priest.



Pension Office
P.O. Box 675
Syosset, NY 11791
Tel: 516-922-0550
Fax: 516-624-3153
pension@oca.org

With the Blessing of The Holy Synod, the Pension Board is presenting the following proposal for consideration by the Metropolitan council:

Mission Parish Priest Retirement benefits

Purpose: The following parameters are identified to accommodate retired priests who choose to serve in a mission parish without affecting their pension.

- 1) Priest must be of retirement age (over 65 years of age).
- 2) Priest can only serve in any one mission parish for a total of two years and may serve in multiple mission parishes.
- 3) Mission parish must be in existence less than 5 years.
- 4) Mission parish must be servicing less than 50 souls (defined as any man, woman, or child)
- 5) Parish must be providing less than \$2000/month (\$24,000/year) total compensation which includes value of provided housing or housing allowance, salary, insurance, and any and all reimbursements (e.g. car, gas, phone, internet, meals, subscriptions, registration fees)
- 6) While participating in this program, both church and priest contributions to the pension plan will not be required.
- 7) Documentation of these parameters will be required as designated by pension board.
- 8) Each mission parish must apply for inclusion in this program.

Report of the Metropolitan Council Legal Committee

Fall Meeting of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America
September 21-24, 2015

Introduction

The Metropolitan Council Legal Committee was created by Resolution of the Metropolitan Council, and blessed by the Holy Synod, at the Spring 2008 Metropolitan Council meeting.¹ That Resolution, which is set forth both in the meeting minutes and in the Metropolitan Council Member Handbook, provides as follows:

“The Metropolitan Council Legal Committee, consisting of at least three to five members, shall between meetings of the Metropolitan Council act for and on behalf of the Metropolitan Council to discharge its legal responsibilities. The Legal Committee shall work in conjunction with the General Counsel and members of the Central Administration. Responsibility for major policy and legal decisions, such as initiation of litigation and settlement of litigation, shall be retained by the Metropolitan Council as a whole. The Legal Committee shall fully and promptly report to the Metropolitan Council its activities and decisions between meetings. The Legal Committee shall act by majority vote. The Legal Committee may act by telephonic meeting or consent evidenced in writing or email, or such other means as means that the Legal Committee shall determine to be useful or appropriate.”

(It is to be noted that, as currently configured, the Legal Committee consists of just two members, rather than the required three to five members.)

¹ 10.4. MOTION – G. Nescott / Fr. M. Searfoorce: Be it resolved, that a Metropolitan Council Legal Committee, consisting of at least three to five members is hereby established. Such committee shall between meetings of the Metropolitan Council act for and on behalf of the Metropolitan Council to discharge its legal responsibilities. The Legal Committee shall work in conjunction with the General Counsel and members of the Central Administration. Responsibility for major policy and legal decisions, such as initiation of litigation and settlement of litigation, shall be retained by the Metropolitan Council as a whole. The Legal Committee shall fully and promptly report to the Metropolitan Council its activities and decisions between meetings, and Be it further resolved, that the Legal Committee shall act by majority vote. The Legal Committee may act by telephonic meeting or consent evidenced in writing or e-mail, or such other means that the Legal Committee shall determine to be useful or appropriate.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.5. MOTION – Fr. M Sherman / W. Peters: That Mr. Gregory Nescott be appointed the Chair of the Metropolitan Council Legal Committee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It has always been the goal of the Legal Committee to use its semi-annual reporting opportunities to ensure that each member of the Metropolitan Council is well-informed regarding matters of current legal interest or concern to the Orthodox Church in America, insofar as these matters reasonably relate to the function and role of the Metropolitan Council in the overall governance of the Church, as that role is defined in the Statute of the OCA.

The OCA Statute

Delegates to the 18th All-American Council overwhelmingly adopted the proposed revisions to the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, in a 473 to 15 vote, during the AAC's Second Plenary Session on Tuesday morning, July 21, 2015. The Revised Statute becomes effective November 1, 2015. Under the terms of the Revised Statute, the competencies of the Metropolitan Council have been redefined and clarified. Article V, Section 7 of the Revised Statute reads in pertinent part,

“The following matters are within the competence of the Metropolitan Council. The Metropolitan Council shall:

- a. Implement the decisions of the All-American Council and continue the work of the All-American Council between sessions in the areas of its competence;
- b. Assist the Metropolitan and the Holy Synod in implementing decisions within its competence; ...
- k. Initiate, prosecute, and defend all legal matters affecting the interests of the Church ... “

With those competencies in mind, and continuing to follow the mandate given to the Legal Committee in its enabling resolution, the following report presents the current state of various legal issues now confronting the OCA.

General Counsel Search Committee

As Chair of the Legal Committee, I was also asked to Chair the Search Committee charged with identifying and recommending to the Holy Synod a candidate to serve as General Counsel for the OCA. In addition to the Chair, the Search Committee consists of Father John Jillions, Father Eric Tosi, Judge E.R. Lanier, Professor Paul Meyendorff and Gregg Nescott.

In response to a Job Description of the General Counsel position, ably drafted by Judge Lanier earlier this year and circulated just prior to the All-American Council, seven applications were received by the submission deadline of August 10. On August 22, the Search Committee held a conference call to review each application. At the direction of the Search Committee, the Chair contacted one of the candidates for additional information. We hope to make a recommendation to the Holy Synod in time for its next meeting in October.

The *Obergefell* Decision.

It is critical that the OCA have a General Counsel with expertise both in general litigation as well as issues of First Amendment protections. As you may be aware, less than a month before the All-American Council, the United States Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. ___ (2015), which held that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The ramifications of this decision are vast and will likely have an impact on the manner in which the Church hires new employees, takes on volunteers, conducts future business relationships, and how the Church will be treated by secular courts. This decision will likely have an effect on health insurance issues, child protection issues, clergy housing allowances, married student housing at our seminaries, liability insurance coverage issues and it could potentially impact the Church's tax-exempt status.

This decision heightens the concerns raised by Judge Lanier in his Spring 2015 Report of the Legal Committee in his discussion of the decision of the 10th Circuit's decision in *EEOC v. Abercrombie & Fitch Stores, Inc.*²

² " ... Since these judicially created limitations are not reasonably to be inferred from the text of the legislation or from its legislative history and since these restraints would impose onerous (if not insurmountable) barriers to the free exercise of an employee's religious beliefs, it was the consensus of the Legal Committee that the 10th Circuit's dumbrations to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act's requirements for religious accommodation in the workplace represent unwarranted restraints on the free exercise of religion

Ongoing Matters

The OCA is currently not a party to any active litigation in any U.S. or Canadian jurisdiction.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Parks, Chair

as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and constitute as well a perversion of the explicit language of Title VII itself.”



Stewards of the OCA (SOCA)

Stewards of the OCA

History

FOS (Fr. Glagolev, Fr. Summer, Fr. Fester, Fr. Eugene Vansuch, Fr. Tassos)

SOCA (FDC and Melanie Ringa)

Purpose

Expand the Mission of Orthodoxy in America by funding and participating in departmental ministries.

Plan

Constant relationship building and communication of the ministries of the OCA, and education in stewardship through available parish programs, events, and campaigns.

Membership

Every member of every OCA entity or structure recognized by the Synod of Bishops who has committed or will commit themselves to the OCA mission with time, talent, and treasure.



Stewards of the OCA

Structure

At least **one SOCA Stewardship Assistant (SA) volunteer** in each **Diocese** (perhaps eventually each Deanery)

Communication Plan

A communication plan needs to be developed which would include methods to collect Departmental status information electronically to build newsletters which can be distributed via digital means and actual mailing pieces (outreach for none emailers and shut-ins) (10/year?)

Event and Campaign Plans

OCA-wide events and campaigns must be developed, communicated widely, and executed. The Financial Development Committee (FDC), and the Treasurer shall all participate in this effort.

AAC Event planning

The AAC must be a target event for communication planning and distribution for three-year purposes.



Stewards of the OCA



2016 Events/Campaigns

- 1) Reinitiate the call out for new members of the SOCA with a posting on the website and an outbound letter of appeal for another 3 week campaign of enlistment starting in late Nov, 2015.
- 2) Another outbound letter of appeal in the spring highlighting the work of the departments.
- 3) Initiate a Facebook campaign before “Giving Tuesday” to introduce SOCA to other OCA members.
- 4) Plan two or three other outreach events via social media in 2016.
- 5) Plan two open house events in 2016 at the Chancery (and potentially other venues in the future) for existing and new target members of the SOCA.

2016 Focus

- 1) Build a relationship with as many SOCA members as possible, especially folks in dioceses within driving distance of Syosset.
- 2) Work closely with the FDC and Treasurer on an escalating schedule of activities, events, campaigns, and visits to parishes.
- 3) Recruit and train at least 2 Volunteer SA’s in 2 dioceses

SOCA Programs and Events



Parish Program Examples

Developed for local distribution by SA's (begin with NY/NJ Diocese)

“Stewardship Understanding”; “Planned Giving”

“Living Wills”; “Time as a Critical Element for Giving”

“Archiving true Treasures and Relics of Orthodoxy”

SOCA Events

Visits to Syosset

Tea with Metropolitan Tikhon

Archivist visits

Open Houses

SOCA 2016 Targets



Parish Programs Delivered

Developed for local distribution by SA's

begin with NY/NJ 15

New England 8

Eastern PA 5

Western PA 2

SOCA Events

Hosted Visits to Syosset 2 to 5

Outreach for membership in SOCA 150 to 300 new members

Treasure captured by all the above \$50K to \$100K



Another Understanding of Stewardship

Stewardship in our Faith

“All the earth is the Lord’s, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.” (Psalm 24:1)

“Our human role is to offer back to God in thanksgiving, all that He has given to us.” (Fr. Schmemmann)

St. Ignatius of Antioch told the faithful that they were “stewards in God’s house, members of His household, and His servants” (Epistle to Polycarp)

It is the well-rounded view of life ... the giving of time, and talent, and treasure. Thus, stewardship is a state of being based in service. The steward is in the employ of the master. (Benjamin D. Williams)



“Stewardship” of and for our Faith

Steward of (and for) our Faith and God’s Word and World
Steward of (and for) our Orthodox Jurisdiction (the OCA)
Steward of (and for) our Diocese
Steward of (and for) our Parish
Steward of (and for) our Family

“A **Steward** of the use of Time, Talent, and Treasure”

Member of (for) our Faith and God’s Word and World
Member of (and for) our OCA
Member of (and for) our Diocese
Member of (and for) our Parish
Member of (and For) our Family

“A **Member** for giving of Time, Talent, and Treasure”

Servant of (for) our Faith and God’s Word and World
Servant of (and for) our OCA
Servant of (and for) our Diocese
Servant of (and for) our Parish
Servant of (and for) our Family

“A **Servant** for constant and consistent delivery of Time, Talent, and Treasure”



“Stewardship” of and for our Faith

An analogy: Dinner with friends at your home



Steward of your home and the meal in that you clean your home before the dinner, you purchase food and drink and prepare it for your guests, you set the table, greet your guests upon their arrival, and serve them a beverage.

“A **Steward** of the use of Time, Talent, and Treasure”

Member of the group of friends dining, as you enjoy the company, participate in discussions and banter (and song?), and share the goodwill.

“A **Member** for giving of Time, Talent, and Treasure”

Servant of (for) the friends and household as you serve the food, you refresh the beverages, you clear the dishes and serve dessert, and clean-up after the guests have left.

“A **Servant** for constant and consistent delivery of Time, Talent, and Treasure”

Stewardship in our Faith

Our [stewardship](#) requires the combination of these three in each of us.



Stewards shall:

- grow member numbers, and manage the household of the Master.
- recruit, hire, train, and care for other members and servants.
- plan and prepare all sacraments, worship, and prayer events
- plan and prepare all social events, feasts and celebrations.
- set the example for all members, visitors, and servants of His house.
- show compassion for all members, visitors, and servants of His house.
- show compassion for and give assistance to all they meet.

Members shall:

- abide by all rules and commandments of the Master to the best of their ability.
- attend and participate in all sacraments, worship and prayer events.
- participate in all social events, feasts and celebrations.
- participate in growing member numbers and managing the household
- set the example for the youth and teach them the Light.
- show compassion for and give assistance to all they meet

Servants shall:

- do all which the Master requests with a warm heart.
- serve all who need assistance, clothing, food, and encouragement.
- show compassion for and give assistance to all they meet.

To: Metropolitan Council
Date: September 23, 2015
From: Fr. Alexander Rentel
Re: Revised Statute Implementation

On Tuesday, July 21, 2015, at the Second Plenary Session, the delegates to the 18th All-American Council, overwhelmingly adopted the revision of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America. The overwhelming support for the new Statute showed by the 18th AAC is a testimony to the calm and conducive atmosphere, which allowed for such work, that the Metropolitan and Holy Synod provided for the Church. By supporting the revision of the Statute, the AAC recognized that the new Statute was the result of professional, collaborative, and careful work of the Statute Revision Task Force, and, as such, appropriate for adoption at this point in the life of the Church.

In the newly adopted Statute, in the Article XVIII – Effective Date, the effective date for the new Statute is Sunday, November 1, 2015. On that date, because the proposed Statute was accepted by the 18th AAC, in accordance with Article XIII of the current Statute, the new Statute will go into effect and replace the current one. Nothing further need be done by anyone or any body in the Church for the new Statute to go into effect.

The Commission on Canons and Statute, the Church body that did the final review of the proposed Statute Revision and wrote this proposed article, set November 1, 2015, as the effective date so that if the proposed Statute was adopted, and subsequently something was found amiss in the Statute, the Metropolitan Council and the Holy Synod would have met and could address any issues that might arise at their meetings. To the best of my knowledge, nothing has arisen in regard to the Statute since its adoption that would require the Metropolitan Council or the Holy Synod to take any action.

This same article directs that “Dioceses, Parishes, monasteries, institutions, offices, and organizations of the Church shall review their governing documents and administrative practices and conform them to the Statute by December 31, 2017.” The Commission on Canons and Statute provided this lengthy period so that the governing documents of the Church could be carefully brought into conformity with the new Statute.

For the most part, this work will not require too much effort. It will require Church officials at all levels, beginning with the members of the Holy Synod and continuing on to any group in the Church that has any governing documents (by-laws, Statutes, constitutions, *Typika*, etc.), to examine their governing documents and bring them inline with the relevant part of the Statute.

In its work, the Task Force introduced little that was new into the proposed Statute revision. Where it did so, the Task Force did so with the greatest care and with the strong feelings that the Church required statutory protection in these matters. Perhaps the most notable places where the Task Force introduced something can be found in three places: 1. Article XIII – Monasticism, and 2. Article XIV – Stavropegial Institutions. In both instances, the Task Force drafted these articles from scratch, because there are no articles covering them in the current Statute. As such, Monasteries and

Stavropegial Institutions will have to take care to read carefully through the respective articles and bring their governing documents in conformity with the new Statute.

The third instance can be found in Article VII – The Diocese, Section 3: Diocesan Bylaws. The new Statute requires first that each Diocese have Bylaws and, second, that these Bylaws have the following provisions:

- a. The nomination of a Diocesan Bishop in accordance with Article VIII, Sections 5- 7;
- b. The composition and election of the Diocesan Council;
- c. The appointment, dismissal, and duties of Diocesan Officers;
- d. The terms of office, method of election, and duties of the Diocesan Auditing Committee, and,
- e. The amendment of the Diocesan Bylaws.

With the two-year period provided for, Dioceses should easily be able to revise their governing documents and bring them into conformity with the new Statute.

The new Statute revision also requires the Church at all levels to maintain with all care the patrimony and records and archives of the Church. The following requirements for this preservation work can be found in the following places in the Statute:

Safeguarding the Patrimony of the Church

- Article IV – The Metropolitan, Section 2(o) and Section 3
- Article V – The Metropolitan Council, Section 7(i)
- Article VI – Church Officers, Section 3
- Article VIII – The Diocesan Bishop, Section 2(f)
- Article X – The Diocesan Council, Sections 6(o) and 7

On Records and Archives

- Article VI – Church Offices, Section 3(g)
- Article VIII – The Diocesan Bishop, Section 2(g)
- Article X – The Diocesan Council, Section 7
- Article XII – The Parish, Sections 3(b)(vi) and 9(d)
- Article XIV – Stavropegial Institutions, Section 2

Finally, all levels of the Church need to be aware that the new Statute has incorporated the Resolution on the Property Held in Trust, passed by the 13th All-American Council in Orlando, Florida, in July 2002. The provisions from this resolution can be found in Article XII – The Parish, Section 9, and Article XIII – Monasticism, Section 4.