

Metropolitan Council Report, Spring 2018
Diocese of New York and New Jersey Diocesan Assembly
October 30-31, 2018
Orthodox Christian Church of the Annunciation, Brick, New Jersey

Your Eminence, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, and Lay Delegates,

Metropolitan Tikhon spoke about Long-term Planning and about our Identity as the Orthodox Church in America, particularly in the context of their place within the *Four Pillars of the Guiding Framework* document, which will be released this spring in preparation for the 19th All-American Council. He then introduced Bishop Daniel, who outlined his work as Consultant to the Primate for optimizing the functioning of the OCA Chancery. His Grace particularly noted his many meetings with officers and staff as well as the change in His Beatitude's office location in the Chancery building and the resultant relocation of other offices. He also spoke about his joint work with the Human Resources Committee to update staff job descriptions. Metropolitan Tikhon continued his report by highlighting work in the areas of Communications and External Relations, particularly with regard to his recent travels to Russia and Mexico.

Questions and extensive discussion was held concerning a variety of possible ways the Church could appropriately mark the 50th anniversary of autocephaly in 2020.

Fr. Eric Tosi reported on the purchase of a used vehicle for the chancery to replace one that had been totaled in an accident. He also noted finalization of the standard metrical book for Church-wide use and pectoral crosses for military chaplains. He then detailed progress in preparatory steps towards renovation of the Chancery basement, where the OCA Archives are located, and noted, in particular, a positive meeting with the local County Legislator and the Assistant County Fire Marshal the previous week. Permits need to be obtained before work can begin. Alexis Liberovsky, OCA Archivist, provided additional comments on the current status of the Archives. Fr. Tosi also reported on chancery property maintenance and technology issues.

Father Tosi indicated that all preparations for the 19th AAC are proceeding in an efficient and timely manner. He presented the draft agenda and schedule for approval. Funding to enable clergy from Alaska and Mexico to attend the Council was also discussed.

In closed session, Judge Lanier and Angela Parks gave a confidential report on legal matters in the OCA.

The various Metropolitan Council committees presented their reports.

Melanie Ringa reported on preliminary 2017 financial results and projections for 2018. She also reported on her extensive work together with the staff at St. Catherine's OCA Representation Church in Moscow and officials from the Moscow Patriarchate to audit its finances and to rectify disorders in recordkeeping, which had been going on for several years. She noted that new controls and staff are now in place to ensure accountability and transparency.

Ms. Ringa reported on the new proportional giving and how it will be implemented with regard to the territorial dioceses.

Motions were made and carried to approve funding for OCA Chancery repairs and improvements and operations of St. Catherine's Church, Moscow.

Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, delivered an oral report on the various activities of the Orthodox Church in America through interaction with other Orthodox Churches, non-Orthodox bodies, government officials and other organizations. He particularly highlighted the fruitful contacts with the Moscow Patriarchate and other Orthodox Churches during the celebrations in Moscow in December. He noted the importance of the appointment of Father Daniel Andrejuk as the new OCA Representative in Moscow. Bishop Daniel provided further details on the current status of St. Catherine's Church in Moscow.

Bishop Daniel resumed his report on the OCA Representation Church in Moscow and indicated that the Advisory Committee for Saint Catherine's Church appointed by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, last summer, which includes Fathers Leonid Kishkovsky and Nazari Polataiko as well as Melanie Ringa and Bishop Daniel, would continue its work in facilitating the supervision of the OCA Representation Church. Bishop Daniel reported that Father Andrejuk is grateful for guidance from the Committee as he begins his ministry in Moscow. Fr. Kishkovsky continued his overview of external Church relations outlining the situation of several Orthodox Churches and the status of ecumenical organizations.

Archpriest Christopher Rowe, Project Manager, presented the Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries Department's report via conference call. Father Eric Tosi provided additional information on OCA participation in scouting programs.

David Drillock, Liturgical Music and Translations Department Chairman, gave his report. He noted the growing number of music downloads and liturgical texts on the OCA website. He expressed particular satisfaction with the success of the online choral conducting courses that are offered by the Department.

Father Eric Tosi delivered the report submitted by Father Gleb McFatter, Pension Board Chairman. Father Jillions indicated that every effort is made to ensure that all those who are eligible are enrolled in the OCA Pension Plan. In discussion, Metropolitan Council members requested that a Pension Board member be present at its every meeting to answer questions and provide information.

Respectfully submitted,

Archimandrite Joseph

Archimandrite Joseph (Hoffman)
OCA Metropolitan Council Clergy Representative

James P. Kornafel

James P. Kornafel
OCA Metropolitan Council Lay Representative

Metropolitan Council Report, Fall 2018
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October 30-31, 2018
Orthodox Christian Church of the Annunciation, Brick, New Jersey

Your Eminence, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, and Lay Delegates,

The Metropolitan Council last met September 19-21, 2018 at the Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington, NY.

All the standard reports were received. Following are highlights of those reports and proceedings of the Metropolitan Council meeting, not necessarily in the order they were received and discussed.

Metropolitan's Report: Met. Tikhon spoke regarding his book, *The Four Pillars*, and of the restructuring of the Chancery administration.

Pension Plan: The biggest problem is that not all the eligible OCA clergy and other employees participate in the Pension Plan. Clergy are mandated to do so. Diocesan bishops will be informed of which of their clergy are not in compliance.

Youth Director: Nearly \$90,000.00 was pledged at the AAC for the OCA to hire a Youth Director. After much discussion of how to proceed with this, Metropolitan Tikhon decided he will contact eight people with experience in this area and ask for their help in deciding what is needed. FOCA is on board with assisting with the funding of this position. Abp. Benjamin commented that a full-time Youth Director is not necessary but we need someone to coordinate some national level events. Abp. Michael emphasized that youth want to come together from around the whole country.

Statement of MC Direction: One of the MC members asked that a statement be made regarding what the MC will do for the next three years before the next AAC. It was stated that the purpose of the MC is to ensure that the directives of the AAC be followed between sessions.

Reorganization of the OCA Chancery: Bp. Daniel reported that the work of reorganizing the administration of chancery administration and employees is continuing. The current three officers, Chancellor, Secretary, and Treasurer will continue in their positions until the end of the year. Met. Tikhon has someone in mind for the position of Chancellor but did not yet want to reveal who it is.

OCA Chancery Physical Plant: Fr. Eric Tosi reported that several much-needed repairs around the Chancery have been accomplished including the roof, the driveway, and carpeting. A new front door still needs to be installed.

OCA Website: Fr. Eric reported that the new templates are all set. The redesign of the website is almost complete. The holdup was due to the priority of the AAC.

Archives: The bureaucratic red tape hampering the project has been worked through and the project is proceeding. Soon, all the archives will be removed to storage pods on site while the work in the basement facility is completed.

2019 OCA Desk Calendar: Fr. Eric asked that all Dioceses and organizations get their meetings, events, etc., into his office by the end of September for inclusion in the calendar which should be available around the Holy Nativity.

Metrical Book: Completed and may be purchased from SVS Bookstore.

AAC Survey: Survey results were published. The greatest complaint was time constraints and trying to accomplish too much in too little time. The Diocesan videos are a big hit.

Social Media Guidelines: Guidelines for clergy, members of the MC were discussed. Anyone posting on social media must be clear about speaking officially for the Church and simply posting their own opinions.

Chancellor's Report: Fr. John Jillions gave a brief report highlighting his leaving the position of OCA Chancellor and feels the restructuring of the Chancery Administration is a good thing.

ORSMA/SYMPAC: Fr. John Jillions reported there is nothing new in these departments.

Stewards of the OCA: Adn. Joseph Matusiak reported that last year's appeal was moderately successful. Much discussion ensued on how to promote the OCA Stewards.

External Affairs: Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky reported on the situation of the Church in Ukraine. For the time being, the OCA will not make an official statement but remain in communion with both the Church of Russia and the Church of Constantinople.

Respectfully submitted,

Archimandrite Joseph

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OCA Metropolitan Council Clergy Representative

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