

Minutes of the 2010 Fall Session of the Lesser Synod/Metropolitan Council

Tuesday, September 21 – Thursday, September 23, 2010

East Norwich Inn, East Norwich, NY

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

PARTICIPANTS

LESSER SYNOD

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah
His Grace, Bishop Tikhon

His Grace, Bishop Benjamin
His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Church Officers

Archpriest Alexander Garklavs, Chancellor
Archpriest Eric Tosi, Secretary

Melanie Ringa, Treasurer

Members elected by the All-American Council

Archpriest Theodore Boback
Priest David Garretson

Archpriest Theodore Bobosh
Protodeacon Peter Danilchick

Diocesan Representatives

Diocese of Alaska

Archpriest Michael Oleksa

Albanian Archdiocese

Archpriest Joseph Gallick

William Peters (9/22-23)

Bulgarian Diocese

Priest Matthew-Peter Butrie

Protodeacon Michael Myers

Archdiocese of Canada

Igumen Alexander (Pihach)

David Grier

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Archpriest David Mahaffey

David Yeosock

Diocese of the Midwest

Archpriest Michael Matsko

Mark Stokoe

Diocese of New England

Archpriest Robert Arida

Deacon John Zarras

Diocese of New York New Jersey

Archpriest Alexis Vinogradov

John Kozey

Diocese of the South

Priest Gleb McFatter

Judge Ray Lanier (9/21-22)

Diocese of Washington

Priest John Vitko

Rosalie Luster

Diocese of the West

Archpriest Matthew Tate

Dr. Dmitri Solodow

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Gregory J. Nescott

Absent

Eleana Silk, Dr. Faith Skordinski, Anna Cheryl Andrew (Diocese of Alaska), Archpriest John Reeves (Diocese of Western Pennsylvania)

Guests (for all sessions)

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

Alexis Liberovsky (recording secretary for this meeting)

Other guests in attendance for individual sessions as listed below or indicated in the minutes

Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko (9/21-22)

Maureen Ahearn

Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky

Robert Taylor

Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak

Valerie Jones

Deacon Martin Brown

Tuesday, September 21

Following a retreat led by Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko from Monday evening, September 20 until Tuesday afternoon, September 21 at Our Lady of Kazan Church in Sea Cliff, NY, which included a Divine Liturgy, the meeting was opened with prayer led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah at the East Norwich Inn at 6:17 PM.

A. Introduction

A.1. Approval of Recording Secretary

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

A.2. Roll Call

Fr. Eric Tosi (OCA Secretary) conducted the roll call.

A.3. Approval of Co-chairs

Fr. Alexander Garklavs announced that, with His Beatitude's blessing, Judge Ray Lanier and John Kozey would assist him in chairing parts of the meeting.

A.4. Agenda (attached)

Fr. Tosi announced that a short presentation on plans for a new OCA website would take place after the Pension Board report on Wednesday.

Fr. Garklavs announced that, time permitting, OCA Archivist, Alexis Liberovsky, would present a multimedia historical presentation for the fortieth anniversary of autocephaly on Wednesday evening.

Dr. Dmitri Solodow suggested that only those committee reports requiring action be read at the meeting and that members simply read other reports as they have already been submitted in writing. He also requested that consideration of the 2011 budget take place on Wednesday afternoon rather than Thursday.

A.4. MOTION: SOLODOW/KOZEY – That budget consideration take place on Wednesday afternoon. CARRIED.

B. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Fr. Alexander Garklavs presented the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Metropolitan Council on March 3-4, 2010 for approval.

B.1. MOTION: OLEKSA/LANIER – To accept the previous minutes as presented. CARRIED.

C. Opening Remarks: Metropolitan Jonah

Metropolitan Jonah spoke of his visits to parishes, monasteries, seminaries, dioceses, conferences and other OCA institutions and events. There is hope in the search for unity and people are living the Gospel. He spoke of the Episcopal Assembly, its preparation and aftermath. It is a time of tremendous opportunity and the biggest challenge for our Church since the granting of autocephaly 40 years ago. It requires discernment to proceed in the right way. He expressed profound thanks for their work and patience to church officers and chancery, particularly Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky. He spoke of his work as ruling hierarch of his own Diocese of Washington and other dioceses that he administers. He spoke of the excellent brotherly cooperation that exists within the Holy Synod and the recent addition of Bishop Michael of New York and New Jersey. He mentioned the particular importance of his OCFs as well as his work with the seminaries, stavropegial monasteries and military chaplaincy. He provided an update on the episcopal selection process in the four vacant dioceses and expressed the need for several auxiliary bishops. Metropolitan Jonah views the development of episcopal candidates as a major task of the office of the Metropolitan. In conjunction with his observations on the Episcopal Assembly, Metropolitan Jonah stressed that our autocephaly and its full maturity is the only acceptable solution for Orthodox unity in America. He spoke of his work as the one ultimately responsible for the church's external affairs and his various tasks in this area including the Episcopal Assembly and related issues. He then relayed principles and points of self-understanding developed by the Holy Synod meeting in August in response to the Episcopal Assembly.

Principles:

- We must be in full communion with the whole Orthodox world
- Our identity must be fully maintained

- Whatever we do advances Orthodox unity in America
- We are a local Church

Our statement of self-understanding is:

- The OCA understands itself to be a local, indigenous, multiethnic, missionary whose mission is to bring Orthodoxy to Americans
- The OCA affirms that it is historically derived from the Russian Orthodox Church and that this is its historical reality. It is the heir to the Orthodox mission of 1794, the Diocese of Sitka in 1843, the Diocese of San Francisco in 1870, its relocation to New York in 1907 and its autocephaly in 1970, which is our canonical history and foundation.
- The OCA is an autocephalous church electing here own bishops and Primate without confirmation by any other synod, maintaining interchurch relationships with all other Churches and consecrates its own chrism accord to its Tomos.
- The autocephaly of the OCA will be fulfilled when the OCA is merged into a united autocephalous American Church recognized by all and including all.
- A united American Church is being cast in terms of the Chambesy protocols. The OCA is prepared to work within the Episcopal Assembly to realize this goal.

The Metropolitan further expounded on these points. He additionally commented on his involvement in the ministry of OCA seminaries, commissions and departments. Following discussions at the retreat before this meeting, Metropolitan Jonah announced the appointment of a small Chancery committee to assist him in church administration, composed of the church officers: Frs. Garklavs, Tosi and Melanie Ringa along with Fr. Vitko and Deacon Zarras. An extensive discussion took place concerning the issues raised in the Metropolitan's remarks. In response to a question, Metropolitan Jonah stated that his top objectives are the unity of the Church, a common vision, leading the Church out of its turmoil of recent years and ensuing litigation, and developing episcopal candidates.

D. Officers' Reports

D.1. Chancellor – attached

Fr. Alexander Garklavs highlighted his written report, which was then discussed.

D.2. Secretary – attached

In additional comments to his written report, Fr. Eric Tosi officially expressed appreciation and recognition to Metropolitan Council members whose terms of office are about expire: Frs. Arida, Matsko, Tate, Vinogradov, Dr. Solodow and Mr. Kozey. It was noted that some of these members are eligible for reelection. Protodeacon Danilchick suggested that outgoing members mentor their successors as members of the Metropolitan Council. Fr. Tosi also welcomed the new incoming members participating in a Council for the first time: Frs. Butrie and Pihach. He asked that they return their signed forms and familiarize themselves with all material that had been sent to them. He also reminded all Council members to sign up for various committees of the Metropolitan Council. He mentioned that asbestos abatement had been completed and that radon testing will be forthcoming. He stressed the need for other building improvements and maintenance that will be discussed in conjunction with budget consideration. He informed the Council that liability insurance has been traced back to the mid-1980s. A discussion ensued concerning the changes in the manner of functioning of the Metropolitan Council in the last several years.

Fr. Matthew Tate announced a meeting of the finance committee for immediately after adjournment.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:00 pm.

Wednesday, September 22

The morning session was called to order, following prayer, at 9:10 am. Judge Lanier chaired the session.

E. Pension Plan report - attached

Fr. Gleb McFatter, Pension Board member, presented the Pension Plan report. Maureen Ahearn, Pension Plan Administrator, was also present.

In additional comments to the written report by Pension Board Chairman John Sedor, Fr. McFatter announced an increase in the Pension Plan's assets of \$300,000 since the report was compiled and a year to date return on the fund of 5.4% and a quarter to date return of 8.8%. If the trend continues, the 7.5% anticipated annual return will be reached. If returns hold up, the plan will be fully funded by 2024 or 2025, which does not take into account the possibility of other jurisdictions joining the plan, which would reduce the timeframe dramatically. In response to John Kozey's question regarding asset allocation breakdown, Fr. McFatter stated that equities are 70% and fixed income is 30%. Discussion ensued concerning enforcing mandated participation in the plan and housing allowance issues.

E.1 MOTION: KOZEY/DANILCHICK – In light of the global financial crisis that began in 2007, the Metropolitan Council recommends that the Pension Board reevaluate their actuarial rate of return assumption of 7.5% in order to maintain the future financial integrity of the OCA Pension Plan, and that the Pension Board report the results of that inquiry to the Metropolitan Council. CARRIED.

Fr. McFatter and Ms. Ahearn answered questions from the Metropolitan Council. The Metropolitan Council thanked the Pension Board for its work on the Pension Plan.

F. Metropolitan Council Business

F.2. Council Development Committee report – attached

Protodeacon Danilchick highlighted the Committee's written report and expressed gratitude to Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko for the retreat that he conducted before this meeting. He discussed the need for a Financial Development Committee.

F.2.1 MOTION: DANILCHICK/SOLODOW – That the charter of the Financial Development Committee be accepted as presented in the attached report. CARRIED.

Council members were asked to sign up for membership in the Financial Development Committee.

F.3. Crisis Management Committee

Dr. Solodow stated that there was no report at present due to scheduling difficulties with the consultant for the implementation of the crisis management plan. Implementation is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

F.4. Ethics Committee report – attached

Fr. Theodore Bobosh presented the written report, which was then discussed.

F.1 Charity Committee report - attached

Protodeacon Michael Myers presented the written report and attached Charity Committee Policies

F.1.1. MOTION: MYERS/NESCOTT – That the Charity Committee Policies attached to the report be accepted and incorporated into the Metropolitan Council Handbook. CARRIED.

F.5. Human Resources Committee

No report was presented, as the committee has not met since the last Metropolitan Council meeting. Hiring without posting jobs was discussed and the necessity to clarify such practices in our employment policies.

F.6. Internal Governance Committee

Mark Stokoe stated that the committee has no issues to report at present. Protodeacon Danilchick stated that according to the Best Practices for financial accountability policies adopted by Metropolitan Council in June 2007, the Ethics policy and Conflict of Interest policy be reviewed every three years. As this deadline has passed, he suggested that the Internal Governance Committee conduct a review of these policies with suggestions for revision before the next Metropolitan Council meeting.

F.7. Strategic Plan Committee Report – attached

Fr. John Vitko highlighted the committee's report, particularly the feedback and comments on the plan received both through the internet and at various church gatherings dedicated to presenting the Strategic Plan.

F.7.1. MOTION: VITKO/ZARRAS – to approve the formation of working groups by the Strategic Plan Committee including experts and interested volunteers in order to study feedback received and to formulate suggested goals for the eventual implementation of the Strategic Plan. The work of the groups will be reported at the next Metropolitan Council meeting. CARRIED.

Following a short recess, the session resumed at 10:50 am.

G. OCA Website development report – attached

Fr. Eric Tosi presented the extensive OCA website development report and proposal along with current website evaluation. He also announced that an All-American Council website would be up on October 31. In response to a question from Protodeacon Danilchick, Fr. Tosi stated that the projected timeline to the next redesign of the website after this one would be five years. In discussion, Mark Stokoe stressed that the internet is often our primary point of contact with the world. Protodeacon Danilchick stated that it is a way of telling our stories

H. Treasurer's Report – attached

Melanie Ringa highlighted the written Treasurer's report and attached exhibits, except the 2011 budget, which will be considered later in the meeting. In response to questions, Melanie Ringa and Fr. Matthew

Tate stated that refinancing and other options are being explored in order to obtain a lower interest rate on the mortgage loan.

Following a recess for lunch, the afternoon session was called to order at 1:03 pm.

I. Internal Audit Committee report – attached

Deacon Martin Watt, chair of the Audit Committee, presented highlights of the Committee's written report, responded to questions and accepted suggestions from the Metropolitan Council. Metropolitan Jonah pointed out that stavropegial institutions are not defined in the OCA Statute and need further definition.

I.1. MOTION: NECSCOTT/STOKOE – To commend the Audit Committee (Deacon Martin Watt, Chair, Karen Simons-Durkish and Michael Strelka, members) for its excellent report. CARRIED.

Mark Stokoe pointed out that among Orthodox Churches only the OCA audits its finances so thoroughly and extensively.

H. Treasurer's Report – attached (continued)

Melanie Ringa continued the treasurer's report with review of 2010 statement and provided clarifications in response to numerous questions. Deacon John Zarras stressed the importance of FOS and appealed for contributions from Metropolitan Council members.

J. 2011 Budget – attached

Fr. Matthew Tate and Melanie Ringa presented the 2011 budget. In regard to salaries, a 3% raise will be given to all staff, which has not been done in several years. The church officers decided to forego such raises for themselves. Protodeacon Danilchick addressed the issue of clergy housing allocations and employment taxes for staff who are clergy, which had been discussed at previous meetings. Fr. Matthew stated that this was not yet researched sufficiently to make a determination on this issue. It was agreed that Melanie Ringa's salary should be adjusted to compensate for her non-qualification for clergy tax benefits pertaining to housing allowances. Fr. Tosi elaborated on long deferred exterior chancery building maintenance that is planned including painting, back stairs repair, fire escape repair, little leaks, etc as well as radon testing. A future item of concern will be removal the concrete swimming pool in the back as well the building interior. It was stated that that in conjunction with previous All-American Councils, the Preconciliar Commission's expenses were not recouped by All-American Council assessments.

J.1. MOTION: TATE/SOLODOW – that the Preconciliar Commission's expenses be recouped in the setting of the All-American assessments. CARRIED.

The present process of reviewing budget requests from ministries (departments), based largely on content evaluation and recommendations by the officers and the possibility of greater involvement of the Metropolitan Council in such evaluation and prioritization of ministries in the future were discussed. Fr. Oleksa and others stressed that the Strategic Plan is part of such prioritization of ministries.

J.2. MOTION: SOLODOW/STOKOE - to approve the 2011 OCA budget with adjustments as presented. CARRIED.

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

Fr. Matthew Tate led an extensive discussion on alternative church funding in order to move away from the current head tax as has been under discussion for many years. Fr. Bobosh suggested that the funding methods of non-Orthodox bodies should be researched. It was suggested that such alternative funding methods be implemented in concert with the development of the church's strategic vision. Fr. Hopko suggested that a major change in funding system requires education of the faithful preceding the change and a proper understanding of stewardship throughout the church.

J.3. MOTION: SOLODOW/MAHAFFEY – that the Metropolitan Council authorize the establishment of an ad hoc committee on church funding (of the finance committee) to investigate funding to include dialogue with dioceses. CARRIED.

J.4. MOTION: SOLODOW/ZARRAS - that the work of the ad hoc committee focus on maintaining stable funding of the central church administration between the 16th and 17th All-American Councils. CARRIED.

Fr. Tate, who is ineligible for reelection to the Metropolitan Council, was thanked for his work as chair of the finance committee. Fr. Tate expressed special thanks Gregory Nescott and Fr. John Reeves for their courage, fortitude and leadership that inspired him in work on the Metropolitan Council.

J.5. MOTION: TATE/OLEKSA – that the housing allocations of \$45,000 for Eric Tosi and \$40,000 for Fr. Alexander Garklavs be approved. CARRIED.

It was stressed that the housing allocations do not change the compensation for Frs. Garklavs and Tosi but that this motion simply allocates the approved amounts as housing allowance within their compensation packages.

Fr. Garklavs expressed special acknowledgement to Melanie Ringa who is completing her first year as OCA Treasurer.

John Kozey requested clarification of certain legal issues pertaining to entering into a refinancing agreement with another Orthodox organization on the Honesdale Bank mortgage. Gregory Nescott suggested that OCA Legal Counsel be contacted and that no motion on the matter was presently necessary.

David Yeosock conveyed requests from the Chancellor and Treasurer for invoices and receipts for OCA assessments.

K. Legal Issues

K.1. MOTION: GARRETSON/GALLICK – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, Gregory Nescott, Chairman of the Legal Committee, reported on various legal matters confronting the Church followed by questions and discussion.

K.2. MOTION: LUSTER/GALLICK – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

Following a recess for dinner, with the Lesser Synod meeting separately, the evening session was called to order at 7:10 pm.

K.3. MOTION: STOKOE/LUSTER – the Metropolitan Council thanks Thaddeus Wojcik for his skillful professional services and his generous donation of time in his work as OCA Legal Counsel. CARRIED.

Fr. Thomas Hopko was thanked for his insights and input during the meeting. He was invited to attend future meetings. Fr. Hopko stated that he was inspired by the commendable work of the Metropolitan Council in the difficult issues it faces. He provided some insights on autocephaly. The Metropolitan Council then extensively discussed many issues raised during the retreat conducted by Fr. Thomas Hopko before the meeting.

L. Alaska Lands - attached

Fr. Michael Oleksa and Judge Ray Lanier highlighted the voluminous documentation and explained the resolution pertaining to the quitclaim of church owned lands in Alaska, answering numerous questions from Metropolitan Council members.

L.1. MOTION: OLEKSA/LANIER - That the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America (the “OCA”), assembled on September 22, 2010, at the East Norwich Inn in East Norwich, New York, in a regularly scheduled meeting as provided in Article V, Section 3, of the Statute of the OCA, and in the exercise of its authority and competence under Article V, Section 4, of the said Statute, hereby authorizes and approves the preparation and due execution on behalf of the OCA as grantor of quitclaim deeds in the usual and customary form, and in all respects valid and effective under the law of the State of Alaska, naming The Diocese of Sitka and Alaska, Orthodox Church in America, Inc., as grantee; such quitclaim deeds shall transfer all right, title, and interest, whether legal or equitable, real, fixed or contingent, in and to any and all real property within the geographical boundaries of the State of Alaska which may be vested in the OCA or its predecessor entities, as of the date of the execution thereof, in accordance with the laws of the State of Alaska; provided however that such quitclaim deeds shall expressly exclude, and shall reserve and preserve unto the OCA, wholly without impairment, any canonical rights of the OCA or its predecessor entities in and to any and all real property within the geographical boundaries of the State of Alaska which may be vested in the OCA , or in which it may have a contingent interest as aforesaid, under the provisions of that certain Resolution, entitled "Property Held in Trust," adopted in Orlando, Florida, at and by action of the 13th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America, at Plenary Session IV of said All-American Council, on July 23, 2002, or as may otherwise inure to the OCA under Orthodox Christian canon law and traditions. CARRIED.

Judge Lanier expressed special appreciation to Ms. Grayce Oakley for her tireless work in compiling the lands documentation over many years.

L.2. MOTION: LANIER/VITKO - Whereas, Ms. Grayce Oakley has labored diligently for more than four years in researching, preserving, cataloging, and organizing historical documents regarding the Alaskan patrimony of the Orthodox Church in America; and whereas this work on the Alaskan Church lands has been of great benefit for the Orthodox Church in America in general and the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska specifically; the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America wishes to express its thanks to Ms. Oakley for her work and commitment that helped enable us to return the titles for these lands to the Diocese to which they were first entrusted. We recognize in Ms. Oakley's unflinching dedication to this task a true generosity of spirit, born of love, and a profound

Christian witness, for which we give thanks to God, and ask Him to grant her: Many Years! CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:45 pm.

Thursday, September 23

The morning session was called to order, following prayer, at 9:10 am. John Kozey chaired the session.

M. External Audit Report – attached

Melanie Ringa introduced Robert Taylor and Valerie Jones of Lambrides, Lamos, Taylor, LLP, who highlighted the 2009 external audit report. They answered various questions and provided clarification on several issues. John Kozey expressed special thanks to Robert Taylor for his guidance a decade ago when initial financial irregularities of the OCA surfaced more than a decade ago.

N. Saint Tikhon's Orphanage report

Fr. Alexander Garklavs delivered an oral report on the status of Saint Tikhon's Orphanage. In response to a recommendation of the St. Tikhon's Investigative Committee report, Metropolitan Jonah created a task force to facilitate dissolution of the Orphanage and the disposition of its assets. The task force consists of: Bishop Tikhon, Father Sergius (Bowyer), Fr. Daniel Donlick, Gregory Nescott, Judge Ray Lanier, Kory Warr and initially, Deacon John Zarras. The task force met on August 16, to examine existing documents and to reconstitute its board, which now consists of Metropolitan Jonah, Bishop Tikhon Fr. Sergius, Fr. Alexander Garklavs, Fr. Donlick, Fr. John Perich, Gregory Nescott, Judge Lanier and Kory Warr. The board will meet on November 22 to begin disposition of the corporation's property, which includes four buildings on its land within the complex of Saint Tikhon's Monastery/Seminary and eventual dissolution of the corporation. Fr. Garklavs answered questions pertaining to the Orphanage and the property disposition and corporate dissolution process.

O. External Affairs

Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, delivered an extensive oral report highlighting the OCA's external relations including the recent Episcopal Assembly, discussions and perceptions of OCA autocephaly as well as other issues and events throughout the Orthodox world.

O.1. MOTION: GARRETSON/SOLODOW – The Metropolitan Council expresses its continued support and profound thanks to Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky for his exemplary role as Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations. CARRIED.

P. Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee report

Fr. Alexander Garklavs delivered an oral report on the Committee's work. The members are Fathers Matsko, Bobosh and Protodeacon Danilchick along with Dr. Nikita Eike and Attorney James Spencer. The current tasks of the Committee are: rewriting the current Policies, Standards, and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct, receiving indication of compliance and acceptance of the policies from parishes and dioceses, reviewing investigations as they are received.

P.1. MOTION: DANILCHICK/BUTRIE – to move into executive session. CARRIED.

A discussion of various issues took place.

P.2. MOTION: NESCOTT/MAHAFFEY – to move out of executive session. CARRIED.

Q. 16th All-American Council report – attached

Fr. Eric Tosi highlighted the written report. Preparation is locally underway with minor routine complications. The next meeting of the Preconciliar Committee will take place on November 19. Registration for the council will be done online. The Diocese of the West is donating a new mobile iconostasis. The Sitka icon of the Mother of God will be present throughout the council. Pilgrimages are being planned for participants before and after the council to Wilkeson (a church consecrated by Saint Tikhon), the place of repose of Saint John Maximovitch. Liturgy on Sunday before the council will be a pan-Orthodox event. A story booth for recording oral histories will be open throughout the council. The strategic plan will be an integral part of the council's agenda. Protodeacon Danilchick suggested that as the Metropolitan Council is charged with implementing All-American Council decisions that there should be a Metropolitan Council report to the All-American Council. A pilgrimage to Sitka, Alaska is projected after the council. A local website for the All-American Council will be going online on October 31.

R. Other business.

R.1. MOTION: GARRETSON/NESCOTT – to move into executive session. CARRIED.

Confidential matters were discussed in executive session.

R.2. MOTION: STOKOE/TOSI – to move out of executive session. CARRIED.

R.3. MOTION: VINOGRADOV/DANILCHICK – to ask Father Thomas Hopko to be a consultant to the Metropolitan Council for an indefinite period of time, inviting him to participate in future meetings. CARRIED.

Metropolitan Jonah delivered his concluding remarks. He expressed thanks to the Metropolitan Council for its work and asked for patience. He stated that there is absolutely no intention of giving away the autocephaly of the OCA. We need to understand it in the contemporary context in relation to an immense challenge from the outside. It requires an internal reflection, an effort to clarify misconceptions, to discern our calling and to know who we are. We need extensive and informed self-reflection.

S. Adjournment

S.1. MOTION: DANILCHICK/MATSKO - To adjourn the meeting. CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary