



Metropolitan Council Meeting
Spring 2017
Other Reports



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
February 21 to February 23, 2017
Other Reports**

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Meeting of the Metropolitan Council February 21 to February 23, 2017

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 east of the Chancery) Phone: (631)423-0483.

Monday, February 20

Arrival and Committees

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
All Day	Transport	Airports	Chancery Staff
10 AM – 3 PM	Standing Synod	Chancery	Metropolitan

Dinner will be available at 5:30 PM at the Seminary

If any committees would like to meet this evening, they are free to schedule it themselves

Tuesday, February 21

Metropolitan Council

<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
8:00 AM	Divine Liturgy	Chancery	Metropolitan
9:30 AM	Breakfast	Chancery	Chancery Staff
11:00 AM	Metropolitan Council		
	A. Agenda: Introduction		Fr. John Jillions
	B. Roll Call/Approval of Minutes		Fr. Eric G. Tosi
	C. Welcome		Metropolitan Tikhon
	E. Metropolitan's Report		Metropolitan Tikhon
	F. Strategic Planning Session		Metropolitan Tikhon
12:30 PM	Lunch	IMC	IMC
1:30 PM	G. Chancellor's Report - Dpt of Pastoral Life - ORSMA		Fr. John Jillions Fr. Nathan Preston

		- Centralizing Background Checks - SMPAC	
	H.	Secretary's Report -Gift Acceptance Policy -AAC Update - Mission School 2017 - Archives Report - IT Report - Communications/website redesign Report	Fr Eric G. Tosi Alex Liberovsky
	I.	Legal Report - New Statute Compliance Report	E.R.Lanier/Angela Parks
5:30 PM	Dinner	IMC	IMC
Wednesday, February 22 Metropolitan Council			
8:00 AM	Breakfast	IMC	IMC
9:00 AM	Metropolitan Council	IMC	
	J.	Stewards of the OCA Report	ADN Joseph
	K.	Metropolitan Council Committees	
	1.	Report of Charity Committee	Fr. Alexander Kuchta
	2.	Report of Ethics Committee	Fr. Thomas Moore
	3.	Report of Human Resources - Update of HR Handbook - Status of Job Descriptions	Lisa Mikhalevsky
	4.	Report of Internal Governance	Fr. Chad Hatfield
12:30 PM	Lunch	IMC	IMC
1:30 PM	Metropolitan Council	IMC	
	L.	Treasurer's Report - Finance Update - External Auditor Search - Chancellor/Treasurer Meeting	Melanie Ringa
	M.	Report of Finance/Investment Committee	Fr. John Dresko
	N.	SOCA Report	AND Joseph Matusiak

	O.	External Affairs	Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky
	P.	Strategic Planning Session - Improving Effectiveness of the Metropolitan Council	Metropolitan Tikhon
4:00 PM	Q.	Open Discussion	Metropolitan Tikhon
5:30 PM	Dinner	IMC	IMC
7:00 PM	R.	Standing Synod/Committee	IMC

Thursday, February 23
Metropolitan Council

8:00 AM	Breakfast	IMC	IMC
9:00 AM	Metropolitan Council	IMC	
	S.	Pension Plan Report	Mary Buletza
	T.	Department Report - Christian Education - CSHA	Valerie Zahirsky Donna Karabin
	U.	Strategic Planning Session - Prioritizing major goals and processes	Metropolitan Tikhon
	V.	Other Business/Committee Meeting Issues	
	W.	Next Meeting and Date	
12:30 PM	Lunch	IMC	IMC

Departures

1. We will do Liturgy on Tuesday morning due to the pre-Lenten cycle which precludes a Liturgy on this Wednesday. Friday is problematic due to arranging rides so Tuesday works best.
2. I am unsure as to which department to invite so I simply put in the next ones. I am open to whatever is suggested
3. I do not have many agenda items so I copied some previous ones. Please let me know who is presenting which item and if there are specific items you would like noted.
4. We do need an agenda for the Standing Synod on Monday.

Metropolitan Council <i>As of January 23, 2017</i>	
His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon <i>Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of All America and Canada</i> 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) 140 Summers Street Oyster Bay, NY 11771-3710 Home: 516-922-3504 Email: egtosi@oca.org
CH, ET, IG	CD, HR, IG, LE
Melanie Ringa (Treasurer) 29 Wellsville Avenue New Milford, CT 06776-2720 Home: 860-210-7933 Email: mringa@oca.org	
FI	
Members elected by All-American Council	
Members elected at 16 th AAC for Six-Year Term	
Archpriest Chad Hatfield 27 Maria Lane Yonkers, NY 10710-2007 Cell: 914-364-0219 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@gmail.com
IG	CH, FI
Members elected at 18 th AAC for Six-Year Term	
Archpriest Anthonio Perdomo 520 West Rosemary Avenue Pharr, TX 78577-0667 Cell: 956-358-8875 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
CH, ET, HR	HR, IG

Members elected at 18th AAC for Three-Year Term	
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Members Elected by Diocese	
Diocese of Alaska	
Archpriest John Dunlop 414 Mission Road Kodiak, AK 99615-6329 Home: 907-486-0950 Email: frjohn@sthermanseminary.org	Subdeacon Patrick Pletnikoff PO Box 71484 Fairbanks, AK 99707-1484 Cell: 907-378-6818 Email: patrickjeremyp@yahoo.com
CH	FI
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	LE
Bulgarian Diocese	
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Open	Open

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	ET, HR
Committee Codes: CH = Charity ET = Ethics FI = Finance/Investment	
HR = Human Resources IG = Internal Governance LE = Legal Bold/Italic = chairperson	



**MINUTES
of the Joint Meeting of the Standing Synod
and the 2016 Fall Session of
the Metropolitan Council**

**Tuesday, September 20 – Thursday, September 22, 2016
Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington, NY**

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

PARTICIPANTS

STANDING SYNOD

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon
His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin

His Eminence, Archbishop Michael
(Tuesday Morning & Thursday)

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

CHURCH OFFICERS

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

Archpriest Eric Tosi, *Secretary*

MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL

Archpriest Chad Hatfield
Archpriest Antonio Perdomo
Archpriest Thomas Moore

Maureen Jury
Katherine Vitko
Larry Skvir

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Diocese of Alaska
Archpriest John Dunlop

Patrick Pletnikoff

Albanian Archdiocese

Donna Dimitri *(except Thursday)*

Bulgarian Diocese
Priest Martin Watt

Archdiocese of Canada

Deacon Nicolas Svetlovsky

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky

Susan Schlasta *(except Thursday)*

Diocese of the Midwest

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta

Robert Graban

Diocese of New England

David Zavednak

Diocese of New York/New Jersey

Archpriest John Shimchick

James P. Kornafel

Diocese of the South

Priest Joseph Lucas

Angela Parks, Esq.

Diocese of Washington

Archpriest John Vitko

Elizabeth Mikhalevsky

Diocese of the West

Archpriest John Dresko

Wesley J. Smith, Esq. *(Tuesday only)***Diocese of Western Pennsylvania**

Priest Nikolai Breckenridge

ABSENTHis Grace, Bishop Paul *(Standing Synod)*Archpriest Robert Dick *(Diocese of New England)*Archpriest Joseph Gallick *(Albanian Archdiocese)*Archpriest Anatoliy Melnyk *(Archdiocese of Canada)*Popadia Christine Monkowski *(Bulgarian Diocese)*Dr. John Schultz *(Diocese of Western Pennsylvania)***GUESTS (for all sessions unless otherwise indicated)**Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky *(Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations – Tuesday only)*Archpriest Theodore Boback *(Spiritual Advisor, Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America**– Wednesday morning)*Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak *(Secretary to the Metropolitan & Director, Stewards of the OCA**– Tuesday morning & Wednesday)*Maureen Ahearn *(OCA Pension Plan Administrator – Tuesday afternoon)*Cindy Heise *(Coordinator for the Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations – Tuesday afternoon)*Marge Kovach *(President, Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America – Wednesday morning)*Alexis Liberovsky *(recording secretary)*Martin Myers *(Bulgarian Diocese substitute lay representative)*Anthony Pennella, CPA *(external auditor from D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP – Wednesday morning)***TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**

Following an all-day retreat for the Metropolitan Council conducted by Protodeacon Peter Danilchick and Charles Ajalat on Monday September 19, 2016, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon celebrated a prayer service at 9:00 AM on Tuesday morning to open the meeting at the Immaculate Conception Seminary.

A. Agenda: Introduction (attached)

The meeting was then called to order. Frs. John Jillions and Eric Tosi indicated minor clarifications to the agenda as to presenters of reports and requested its approval.

- A.1. MOTION KUCHTA/ZAVEDNAK – To approve the agenda for this meeting as presented. CARRIED.**

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

Fr. Tosi then conducted the roll call and announced guests 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, which was accepted without objection. He presented the draft minutes of the previous meeting of the Metropolitan Council on February 16-18, 2016 for approval.

- B.1. MOTION FR. J. VITKO/KUCHTA — To accept the previous meeting minutes of February 16-18, 2016 as presented. CARRIED.**

C. Welcome

Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed everyone present for the meeting, including the members of the Standing Synod in attendance and noted the absence of Bishop Paul due to illness. He also extended a particular welcome to the new members of the Council. He then expressed gratitude to Archpriests John Vitko and John Schimchick, whose terms on the Metropolitan Council are ending with this meeting.

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D. Metropolitan's Report

Metropolitan Tikhon presented an oral report. He noted the fruitful discussions on leadership at the previous day's retreat led by Protodeacon Peter Danilchick and Charles Ajalat. He emphasized that prayer, humility and discernment are required to exercise leadership. He noted the importance of improving communication and dialogue. The presence of the Standing Synod at Metropolitan Council meetings improves communication.

He then presented the core of his report, reflecting the four pillars of the Guiding framework in reverse order. Regarding External Relations (Pillar IV), he highlighted, as an introduction, the final paragraphs of Holy Synod's response to the Episcopal Assembly on canonical regional planning in March 2015. He then reported on his trips abroad, particularly concelebration with the Ecumenical Patriarch, as well as other significant activities. During this section of the Metropolitan's report on External Relations, a broad and extensive discussion on means of communication took place, resulting in the following resolution. It was indicated that the issue in question is already being addressed.

- D.1. MOTION K. VITKO/ MIKHALEVSKY – That important documents that the Metropolitan would like to share with the whole Church be disseminated by email to bishops and priests for further dissemination to their flocks. CARRIED with 5 opposed (Jury, Kuchta, Lucas, Svetlovsky, Watt).**

Concerning Evangelism and Outreach (Pillar III), His Beatitude noted the success of the OCA Mission School as well the outreach provided by the OCA website. As examples of Stewardship (Pillar II) for the Church, he expressed appreciation for the work of the Stewards of the OCA (SOCA), the Chancery staff, the Archives Advisory Committee and the Metropolitan Council. Regarding Spiritual Life (Pillar I), he indicated his conviction that this pillar must be the foundation for all the other pillars. He pointed to the ascetic labors of Saint Herman and reported on the work of the Synaxis of Monastic Superiors, the Department of Pastoral Life, ORSMA, SMPAC as well as theological education, which was the subject of the Holy Synod's retreat in June.

E. Major Goals for Upcoming Year

Metropolitan Tikhon initiated discussion on the process of implementing and promoting all the discussions at this meeting. In response to questions, he stated that a major goal for the upcoming year would be to reevaluate the work of OCA departments and to prioritize their activities. He also underscored the importance of monasticism in enhancing the spiritual and liturgical life of the Church and advocated for greater connections between parishes and monasteries. Discussion ensued on various related issues.

Following a recess for lunch at 12:30 PM, the afternoon session was called to order at 1:35 PM.

F. Pension Board Report (attached)

Maureen Ahearn, OCA Pension Plan Administrator, presented the attached report from the Pension Board and the attached introduction of amendments to the Pension Plan proposed by the Board titled: *"Provide for deemed retirement for Members upon reaching age 75"* and *"Excuse Member Contributions for Members Who Are Eligible for Retirement and Have Reached Age 80"*.

F.1. MOTION MIKHALEVSKY/GRABAN – To approve the following amendments to The Orthodox Church in America Pension Plan

Plan Section 1.28 is restated as follows:

- 1.28 "Retirement" The termination of employment of a Member on his Normal, Deferred or Disability Retirement Date. A Member who has not earlier retired shall be treated as having terminated employment on the first day of the month coincident with or immediately following his seventy-fifth (75th) birthday for the purpose of enabling commencement of a benefit while otherwise remaining Employed (including remaining Employed and having Compensation for purposes of being obligated to contribute to the Plan with respect to such Employment). The Pension received by a Member shall not be treated as Compensation for purposes of determining contributions due to the Plan or for determining benefit accruals.**

Plan Section 5.5 is added as follows:

- 5.5 If a Participant first becomes eligible to receive additional benefits after attaining Normal Retirement Age, whether as a result of performing additional service or because of a benefit increase through the Plan, the actuarial increase applicable to those additional benefits will be calculated from the date the additional benefits would first have been paid rather than the date on which the Participant attained Normal Retirement Age.**

Plan Section 3.2(c) is added as follows:

- 3.2(c) A Member who is receiving a Pension benefit and continues as an Employee shall not be required to contribute to the Plan as of the first day of the month coincident with or following his reaching age 80. Nonetheless, the Employer Contribution shall continue with respect to any Compensation paid to such Member. CARRIED.**

Questions and discussion ensued. Per the request of the Metropolitan Council last year, the Pension Board is continuing to explore drafting of a policy for retired priests serving older parishes, similar to the Mission Parish Priest Retirement Benefits Policy adopted a year ago.

G. Chancellor's Report

Fr. John Jillions highlighted his attached written report with appendices. He particularly noted the need for long-term planning in order to actualize a vision for the Church's ministry as expressed in the four pillars put forth by Metropolitan Tikhon. Regarding the Department of Pastoral Life, he stated that a major project is to undertake revision of the Guidelines for Clergy issued over twenty years ago. Questions and discussion ensued on various issues.

G.1. ORSMA

Cindy Heise highlighted the confidential report from the Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations (ORSMA), which included case statistics and coordinator activities. She noted the success of the ORSMA/SMPAC workshop conducted with OCA hierarchs during the Holy Synod retreat this year. She also indicated that parish compliance with the OCA Policies, Standards, and Procedures (PSPs) on Sexual Misconduct continues to improve with the submittal of annual compliance forms and the execution of background checks as required. Questions and discussion ensued.

G.2. SMPAC

Fr. Jillions presented the confidential report from the Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee (SMPAC). He highlighted SMPAC activities, while noting that SMPAC is an oversight policy-making body responsible to the Holy Synod, while ORSMA deals with actual misconduct cases and implements policies created by SMPAC. Questions and discussion ensued.

Following a short recess at 3:22 PM, the session resumed at 3:42 PM.

H. Secretary's report (attached)

Fr. Eric Tosi summarized his attached written report with attachments, including a proposal to redesign the OCA website. He presented the recommendations for Mission Planting Grants in 2017 from Fr. John Parker, Chairman of the Department of Evangelization, for which funding is to be approved as part of the proposed OCA budget for the coming year. Questions and discussion ensued, particularly regarding insurance issues.

H.1. Archives Advisory Committee (attached)

Alexis Liberovsky, Committee Secretary and OCA Archivist, summarized the attached written report, noting that the environmental assessment of the OCA Archives for which the Council had allocated funding had been completed and indicated the availability of the lengthy assessment report for those who may wish to read it. In response to a question, he reiterated that the Committee continues to deal with the immediate needs of the OCA Archives in their current location as well as long term planning for relocation to a proper facility.

Fr. Tosi then highlighted the attached Preliminary Report for the 19th All-American Council with the attached PowerPoint presentation. He indicated that based on the success of the youth program and joint convocation with the FOCA convention, these features would be retained for the 19th Council. He then outlined the process of site selection for the 19th Council and presented the following proposals for decision to the Metropolitan Council.

H.2 MOTION HATFIELD/JURY – To approve the St. Louis Union Station Hotel in St. Louis, MO as the venue for the 19th All-American Council. CARRIED.

H.3. MOTION MIKHALEVSKY/K, VITKO – To approve the recommendation concerning Preconciliar Committee membership as presented and to submit these names for appointment to the Holy Synod. CARRIED.

I. External Affairs Report

Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky, Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations, delivered an oral report highlighting the following issues: conflicts around the world, including Syria and the resulting refugee crisis, and their impact on the Church; the Council in Crete; as well as the complexities of current relationships throughout the Orthodox world and in ecumenical relations. He also reported on OCA representation, competently provided by several new people at significant international events in recent months.

The day's sessions were adjourned at 5:28 PM.

After dinner, an orientation session was conducted for the newly elected members of the Metropolitan Council.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

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 11:06 AM.

M. External Auditor Report (attached)

Mr. Anthony Pennella, CPA and Partner in D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP, the new external audit firm engaged by the OCA per decision of the Metropolitan Council, highlighted the audited financial statements and other reports, which are attached to Treasurer's report, and were prepared by his company in conjunction with the audit they conducted for the Orthodox Church in America. He provided several constructive suggestions concerning accounting policies and practices. He noted the unqualified opinion of the auditors. He answered questions, particularly concerning endowments and bequests.

N. FOCA (attached)

Archpriest Theodore Boback, Spiritual Advisor, and Marge Kovach, President, presented the attached report and PowerPoint presentation on the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA). They highlighted its history and its wide-ranging current projects and activities. They stressed FOCA's close relationship with the OCA and joint initiatives. FOCA is looking forward to its annual convention in 2018, which again will be held concurrently with the All-American Council. Questions and discussion ensued.

J. Legal matters (attached)

Angela Parks, Chairperson of the Legal Committee, presented its attached report.

J.1. MOTION J. VITKO/ZAVEDNAK – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

Confidential details pertaining to legal matters were discussed in executive session.

J.2. MOTION ZAVEDNAK/JURY – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

Following a recess for lunch at 12:36 PM, the afternoon session was called to order at 1:31 PM.

J.3. MOTION DRESKO/JURY – To move into executive session. CARRIED.

Discussion of confidential details pertaining to legal matters continued in executive session.

J.2. MOTION DRESKO/GRABAN – To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

Following a short recess at 2:30 PM, the session resumed at 2:48 PM.

K. Stewards of the OCA (attached)

Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak, newly appointed Director of the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America (SOCA) highlighted his attached report. He expressed profound gratitude to Raymond Boyd for his work and indicated that he would continue to build on Mr. Boyd's efforts. He outlined a vision for his work as SOCA director.

L. Internal Audit (attached)

Melanie Ringa presented the attached report from the Auditing Committee, consisting of all new members recently appointed by the Metropolitan Council. She noted the excellent work of the new auditing team. She indicated that the comments in their report were identical to those of the external auditor. She conveyed the Committee's request for clarification regarding their responsibilities pertaining to auditing of stavropegial institutions. Discussion ensued.

O. Metropolitan Council Committees

O.1. Charity (attached)

Fr. Alexander Kuchta, Charity Committee Chairman, presented the attached report. He expressed hope that the new charity page on the OCA website would generate more visibility to both donors and those needing assistance.

O.2 Internal Governance (attached)

In addition to the attached brief report, Fr. Chad Hatfield indicated that the Metropolitan Council Members' Handbook has been revised to conform to the new OCA Statute. He noted that topics related to millennials, and social media communications have been suggested for future Metropolitan Council retreats, which are in reality workshops. He suggested Deacon Michael Hyatt as a possible speaker.

O.3. Human Resources

Elizabeth Mikhalevsky, Committee Chairperson, reported that job descriptions have been drawn up for the Archdeacon/Secretary to the Metropolitan as well as the SOCA Director, while reorganization for the chancery and revised job descriptions are in process.

O.4. Ethics

Fr. Thomas Moore, Committee Chairman, indicated that the Committee has nothing to report at this time.

Following a short recess at 3:38 PM, the session resumed at 3:49 PM.

P. Treasurer's Report (attached)

Melanie Ringa highlighted the attached Treasurer's report including the 2015 audit report and 2016 financial results updated through August 31 as well as the status of endowments and investments. She reported that the new funding methodology adopted by the 18th All-American Council has been working well. Regarding endowments, she indicated that a proposal would be prepared for the next Metropolitan Council meeting to define how these funds can be distributed in compliance with agreements governing the various endowments. She provided updated account figures on investments and noted that the Finance/Investment Committee would be reviewing investment and spending policies, which have not been updated in over 20 years.

Q. 2017 Budget Presentation (attached)

Fr. John Dresko presented the proposed 2017 balanced budget prepared by the Finance Committee. He reported on new federal regulations on fulltime employment and their effect on OCA finances. He noted the rising cost of medical insurance and possible provisions that eventually may be implemented for OCA employees. He indicated the new proportional giving funding methodology for the All-American Council. Discussion ensued on various budgetary and other funding issues.

Q.1. MOTION DRESKO/HATFIELD – To approve the proposed 2017 budget as presented. CARRIED.

Q.2. MOTION RINGA/JURY – To accept the external audit reports as presented. CARRIED.

As a point of personal privilege, Fr. Chad Hatfield commended Melanie Ringa, Fr. John Dresko and Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak for their excellent work in the financial sphere. He suggested that funds be allocated for Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak to attend the one-week fundraising course offered by the Indiana University School of Philanthropy. Fr. John Dresko commended this excellent course that he had attended in the past.

Q.3. MOTION FR. J. VITKO/HATFIELD – To allocate \$1000 to enable Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak to attend the fundraising course at the Indiana University School of Philanthropy. CARRIED.

V. Future Meeting Dates

Fr. Eric Tosi presented options for Metropolitan Council meeting dates in 2017. After discussion, the meetings were scheduled for February 21-23 and September 19-22. The fall meeting will include a retreat on September 19.

R. Open Discussion

Metropolitan Tikhon initiated discussion on planning and structure, continuing the deliberations in conjunction with his earlier report. He advocated prayer as the underlying context for this work. A lengthy dialogue took place on the process of communicating and implementing the vision of the four pillars of the Guiding Framework

The day's sessions were adjourned at 5:28 PM.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

The morning session was opened with prayer at 9:14 AM.

S. Guiding Framework

Metropolitan Tikhon continued to lead discussion on the process of communicating and implementing the Guiding Framework and its four pillars. Maureen Jury was asked to introduce a discussion of the four pillars in breakout groups. Each of the four groups would spend 15 minutes discussing each pillar and writing down priorities. She then read the four pillars and corresponding goals, as outlined on pages 6-7 of the Chancellor's report. The breakout discussions ensued for over an hour.

Following a short recess at 10:46 AM, the session resumed at 11:00 AM.

Maureen Jury then asked everyone to vote for the top priority in each pillar resulting from the discussion groups. After the voting, she announced the results, indicating the top priorities voted under each pillar.

PILLAR ONE: THE SPIRITUAL LIFE: Peer groups (clergy and lay); Training on developing a spiritual life; Catechism of the Good Shepherd in an Orthodox Context.

PILLAR TWO: STEWARDSHIP: Build understanding of stewardship/moving from fundraising to stewardship/fundraising for outreach; Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America (SOCA).

PILLAR THREE: EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH: Tell “Joe Parishioner” how to evangelize; Re-evangelize former Orthodox (“Nones” vs. those who rejected Orthodoxy, superficial ideas of our faith); Better use of social media.

PILLAR FOUR: EXTERNAL RELATIONS: • Plan for the 50th Anniversary of the OCA! (2020); Encourage IOCC, OCMC, OCF, OCPM, Syndesmos, FOCUS; Every parish attend events in other Orthodox jurisdictions.

A further discussion ensued on process and implementation, particularly on how implementation might differ in diverse settings throughout the Church.

Possible themes for the 19th All-American Council emanating from the Pillars of the Guiding Framework were discussed. It was suggested that all four pillar topics could be used as the theme.

W. Adjournment

In concluding remarks, Metropolitan Tikhon indicated the Metropolitan Council discussions on the Guiding Framework would be shared with the Holy Synod at its upcoming meeting for the further input and action by the hierarchs. He thanked the Council members for a productive meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 12:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary

**GUIDING FRAMEWORK BRAINSTORMING SESSION
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
FALL 2016**

The following is the complete list of items compiled by the members of the Metropolitan Council at a planning session held on Thursday, September 22, 2016. The number following the first items under each pillar reflect the number of votes received for that item during the follow-up session to the brainstorming session. The items with the most votes are listed first. The items without any vote are not listed in any particular order.

PILLAR ONE: THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

- Peer groups (clergy and lay) [6]
- Training on developing a spiritual life [4]
- Catechism of the Good Shepherd in an Orthodox Context [4]
- Updated Church School materials [2]
- Encouraging lay participation in liturgical life [2]
- Fast [1]
- Establishing and maintaining lay ministries in parish [1]
- Feed the homeless [1]
- Increase contact with monasteries and seminaries [1]
- Train more music directors, especially missions [1]
- Establishing Orthodox classical/parochial schools [1]
- Active charity outreach [1]
- Support OCF and student centers [1]
- Adopting a seminarian(s)
- Support continuing education
- Clergy wives support/network/retreats
- Clergy compensation and support

- Encourage parishes to support clergy full time
- Increase seminary collaboration
- Listen to God
- Attend services
- Observe liturgical cycle
- Psalmathon
- Pray
- Follow spiritual advisors on your prayer life
- Fast-Pray-Alms
- Go to confession
- Visit shut-ins
- Attend funerals
- Do something for someone every day
- Reflecting the joy of Christ
- Have a Church prayer list
- Hot dish ministry – “Blue Apron”
- Make festal days festive
- Clergy set the tone
- Haj to St Tikhon’s
- Pilgrimage yearly
- Lenten Retreat
- Clergy/parish spotlight (articles)
- Clergy sabbaticals

- Clergy retreat/time with bishop
- Use Ancient Faith Radio for outreach
- Visiting speakers
- High School visits for monastic vocation weekends
- Frame parish as family
- Women's conferences
- Bible/Orthodox Liturgy studies
- Publicize organizational structure
- Addiction/12-step training
- Gardening
- Bring food/flowers to Church/monastery
- Train Church school leaders
- 100% compliance with 1% parish support of seminaries
- Preaching training
- Re-establish funded seminary summer internship

PILLAR TWO: STEWARDSHIP

- Build understanding of stewardship/moving from fundraising to stewardship/fundraising for outreach [6]
- Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America (SOCA) [5]
- First fruits/sacrificial giving [2]
- Inventory of viable physical resources and equity [2]
- Being responsible financial stewards in our own lives [2]
- Stewardship of OCA patrimony: sites, parishes, museums, monasteries, archives

- Stewardship of OCA legacy of conciliar/hierarchical approach and spiritual tradition of saints
- Sunday of Saints of North America as “Patrimony Sunday” [1]
- Lead by personal example and show what people are doing [1]
- Stewardship of the environment: unique Orthodox perspective [1]
- Connect the OCA with the “Fellowship of the Transfiguration” [1]
- Nature walk [1]
- Start writing grants [1]
- Diocesan support projects [1]
- Planned giving/lawyers donate services [1]
- Use of facilities to benefit others/community (i.e. AA groups) [1]
- Personally set the example [1]
- Catechism includes tithing instruction/expectation [1]
- Green projects for parishes
- No Styrofoam
- Assess best use of all Church’s assets
- National wish list for churches, dioceses, institutions – projects list
- Training clergy and leaders in stewardship, in recognizing and nurturing talent
- Teaching clergy to delegate
- Communicate re. stewardship
- Develop sense of sacrifice (“start where they are a build: 1% - 2% - 10%)
- Diocesan work parties to help parishes
- Bishops/priests communication
- Provide reason for giving

- Don't be afraid to ask
- OCA "Leadership 100/Order of St Ignatius"
- Sharing our faith
- Pooled income/endowments
- Identification and use of stewardship specialists across jurisdictions
- Explore alternative energy sources
- Recycle
- Explore city/state government partnership
- Use employer's matching gifts
- Join local environmental groups
- Communicate to the body how new proportional giving is progressing
- Fund church repair association ROSSIA
- Parish Council members set example
- Consider OCCIF/Church-friendly loans
- Encourage time/talent donations
- Investment done ethically (no Phillip Morris)
- Set plan for Archives/Chancery
- Local talent search
- Talent surveys/talent pools
- Stewardship of self
- Teach the children
- Simple clear scriptural basis
- Motivational icon

- Train people
- Motivational examples
- “Sister” parishes
- Communicate beneficial ways of giving
- Communicate value of national church activities
- Making time for God

PILLAR THREE: EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

- Tell “Joe Parishioner” how to evangelize [6]
- Re-evangelize former Orthodox (“Nones” vs. those who rejected Orthodoxy, superficial ideas of our faith) [4]
- Better use of social media [3]
- Orthodox “branding” [2]
- Charity festivals – proceeds go to local charities [2]
- Each parish has a regular charity outreach program [1]
- Developing means of financial support for revitalization [1]
- Bring mission school to specific parishes [1]
- Matthew 25 outreach – taking care of others [1]
- Clean, beautiful temple! [1]
- MOOCS [1]
- Traveling mission chapel [1]
- Be Christ to the neighbor
- Be the Church
- Apophatic Evangelism
- Diocesan mission teams

- Miraculous icons
- Leave Orthodox literature at coffee shops
- Sponsor public forums/speakers on current topic
- Talk to people
- Report Planting Grant success
- Create Orthodox libraries
- Youth camps
- Have fun
- Chaplains
- Promotion and reporting of St Peter the Aleut Grant
- Signage for parishes
- “Lost Sheep” ministries
- Provide Orthodox contacts to hospitals/nursing homes
- T-shirts
- Iconography tours
- Orthodox coffee houses
- Outreach to laicized clergy
- “Gleaning” for food banks
- Establish New Missions
- Revisit the \$1million grant
- Deanery missions location assessment
- Revisit commitment to Hispanic-, African-, and Asian-American Outreach
- Development of Orthodox classical and parochial schools

- Model on “Crossroads Program” (send kids to camps, expand other opportunities for youth, i.e. “Real Break”)
- Training/continuing education for priests to be active and enthusiastic, able to engage our society today.
- Greeter program
- Better training on retaining visitors
- Meet your neighbors
- Use local vendors – be a part of your community
- Teaching healing the passions – hospital, not courtroom or hotel
- Collect lessons learned – successes and failures
- More open events at parish level (“Bible and BBQ”)
- Icon key
- Books/booklets
- Donate a book to a local library
- More classes at seminary
- Match people to groups
- Train/encourage missionaries (create a pool)
- Develop procedures for discerning competencies of clergy going into the field

PILLAR FOUR: EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

- Plan for the 50th Anniversary of the OCA! (2020) [8]
- Encourage IOCC, OCMC, OCF, OCPM, Syndesmos, FOCUS [5]
- Every parish attend events in other Orthodox jurisdictions [3]
- Metropolitan needs to visit the other autocephalous Churches as Primate [2]
- Establish “sister churches” [2]

- Participate in community events that align with our beliefs [2]
- Be involved in Assembly of Bishops organizations (IOCC, OCPM) [1]
- Sponsor an African Church [1]
- Distribute H2O bottles with parish labels at athletic events [1]
- Joint youth activities
- Sponsoring Orthodox refugees
- More travel for the Metropolitan
- Revitalize the bilateral commission with the Antiochians
- Act as the Orthodox Church in America
- Promote Alaska as part of the American heritage
- Sister parishes overseas
- Communicate and highlight pan-Orthodox activities
- Involvement in clergy/pan-Orthodox associations
- Speaking at local universities
- Invite groups to parishes
- Encourage priests and chaplains to be more involved in governmental/civic organizations
- Personal pilgrimages to Orthodox countries
- Pan-Orthodox clergy associations
- Visit other parishes/other jurisdictions
- Highlight the successful activity
- Artistic expression of Orthodoxy
- Orthodox athletic events

- Joint publishing ventures
- Celebrate feast days – attend their liturgy
- Concelebrate Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers
- Support/encourage Episcopal concelebration
- Informing faithful on external affairs
- Contact local politicians to voice Orthodox concerns
- Encourage more clergy participation in external affairs
- Bringing in pan-Orthodox speakers
- Develop young leaders
- Curtail negative language/attitudes
- Invite more international hierarchical visits
- Encourage the bishops to be a voice
- More statements released from the bishops on specific issues
- Pepper news feeds with Orthodox links
- Seminary student exchange
- Pan-Orthodox dating site
- Like and share on Facebook Sunday
- Training clergy outreach – social media
- Write responses to Roman Catholic Encyclicals
- Explore local teaching opportunities
- Speak out on important events
- Continue ACNA/OCA dialogue
- Outreach to traditional Lutherans

- Participate in charitable activities outside the parish (i.e. feed the homeless)
- Join pan-Orthodox endeavors
- Properly discern/participate in ecumenical events to offer the Orthodox voice
- Increase communication of parish events
- Communicate pan-Orthodox successes at the parish level
- Joint liturgical services – i.e. patronal feast days (pan-Orthodox)

**GUIDING FRAMEWORK BRAINSTORMING SESSION
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
FALL 2016**

The following is a streamlined version of the complete list of items compiled by the members of the Metropolitan Council at a planning session held on Thursday, September 22, 2016. The items have been collated under several categories

PILLAR ONE: THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

GENERAL

- Fast [1]
- Feed the homeless [1]
- Listen to God
- Attend services
- Observe liturgical cycle
- Follow spiritual advisors on your prayer life
- Pray
- Fast-Pray-Alms
- Go to confession
- Visit shut-ins
- Attend funerals
- Do something for someone every day
- Reflecting the joy of Christ

TRAINING

- Training on developing a spiritual life [4]
- Establishing and maintaining lay ministries in parish [1]

- Train more music directors, especially missions [1]
- Train Church school leaders
- Preaching training
- Addiction/12-step training

CLERGY HEALTH

- Peer groups (clergy and lay) [6]
- Clergy wives support/network/retreats
- Clergy compensation and support
- Encourage parishes to support clergy full time
- Clergy/parish spotlight (articles)
- Clergy sabbaticals
- Clergy retreat/time with bishop
- Clergy set the tone

MONASTICISM

- Increase contact with monasteries and seminaries [1]
- Pilgrimage to St Tikhon's
- Pilgrimage yearly
- High School visits for monastic vocation weekends
- Bring food/flowers to Church/monastery

SEMINARIES

- Adopting a seminarian(s)
- Increase seminary collaboration

- Re-establish funded seminary summer internship
- 100% compliance with 1% parish support of seminaries

CATECHETICAL/EDUCATION

- Catechism of the Good Shepherd in an Orthodox Context [4]
- Updated Church School materials [2]
- Establishing Orthodox classical/parochial schools [1]
- Support OCF and student centers [1]
- Support continuing education
- Women's conferences
- Bible/Orthodox Liturgy studies

LITURGICAL

- Encouraging lay participation in liturgical life [2]
- Psalmathon
- Have a Church prayer list
- Make festal days festive

CHARITY

- Active charity outreach [1]
- Hot dish ministry – “Blue Apron”

PARISH LIFE

- Lenten Retreat
- Use Ancient Faith Radio for outreach

- Visiting speakers
- Frame parish as family
- Gardening

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

- Publicize organizational structure

PILLAR TWO: STEWARDSHIP

GENERAL

- First fruits/sacrificial giving [2]
- Being responsible financial stewards in our own lives [2]
- Lead by personal example and show what people are doing [1]
- Personally set the example [1]
- Provide reason for giving
- Don't be afraid to ask
- Sharing our faith
- Teach the children
- Simple clear scriptural basis
- Stewardship of self
- Making time for God

TRAINING

- Build understanding of stewardship/moving from fundraising to stewardship/fundraising for outreach [6]
- Catechism includes tithing instruction/expectation [1]

- Training clergy and leaders in stewardship, in recognizing and nurturing talent
- Teaching clergy to delegate
- Develop sense of sacrifice (“start where they are a build: 1% - 2% - 10%)
- Identification and use of stewardship specialists across jurisdictions
- Train people

PROGRAMS

- Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America (SOCA) [5]
- OCA “Leadership 100/Order of St Ignatius”
- Consider OCCIF/Church-friendly loans
- Stewardship of OCA patrimony: sites, parishes, museums, monasteries, archives
- Stewardship of OCA legacy of conciliar/hierarchical approach and spiritual tradition of saints
- Sunday of Saints of North America as “Patrimony Sunday” [1]

RESOURCES

- Inventory of viable physical resources and equity [2]
- Start writing grants [1]
- Planned giving/lawyers donate services [1]
- Assess best use of all Church’s assets
- Pooled income/endowments
- Use employer’s matching gifts

THE ENVIRONMENT

- Stewardship of the environment: unique Orthodox perspective [1]
- Connect the OCA with the “Fellowship of the Transfiguration” [1]

- Nature walk [1]
- Green projects for parishes
- No Styrofoam
- Explore alternative energy sources
- Recycle

COMMUNICATION

- Communicate re. stewardship
- Bishops/priests communication
- Communicate beneficial ways of giving
- Communicate value of national church activities
- Communicate to the body how new proportional giving is progressing

SPECIFIC PROJECTS

- Diocesan support projects [1]
- Use of facilities to benefit others/community (i.e. AA groups) [1]
- National wish list for churches, dioceses, institutions – projects list
- Diocesan work parties to help parishes
- Explore city/state government partnership
- Join local environmental groups
- Fund church repair association ROSSIA
- Parish Council members set example
- Encourage time/talent donations
- Investment done ethically (no Phillip Morris)

- Set plan for Archives/Chancery
- Local talent search
- Talent surveys/talent pools
- Motivational icon
- Motivational examples
- “Sister” parishes

PILLAR THREE: EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

GENERAL

- Be Christ to the neighbor
- Be the Church
- Apophatic Evangelism
- Talk to people
- Have fun
- Clean, beautiful temple! [1]
- Chaplains
- Establish New Missions
- Revisit commitment to Hispanic-, African-, and Asian-American Outreach
- Deanery missions location assessment
- Match people to groups

TRAINING

- Tell “Joe Parishioner” how to evangelize [6]

- Re-evangelize former Orthodox (“Nones” vs. those who rejected Orthodoxy, superficial ideas of our faith) [4]
- Train/encourage missionaries (create a pool)
- Develop procedures for discerning competencies of clergy going into the field
- Training/continuing education for priests to be active and enthusiastic, able to engage our society today.
- Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS) [1]
- More classes at seminary
- Better training on retaining visitors
- Development of Orthodox classical and parochial schools
- Model on “Crossroads Program” (send kids to camps, expand other opportunities for youth, i.e. “Real Break”)

COMMUNICATION

- Better use of social media [3]
- Orthodox “branding” [2]
- Report Planting Grant success
- Signage for parishes
- Collect lessons learned – successes and failures

FUNDING

- Developing means of financial support for revitalization [1]
- Revisit the \$1million grant

SPECIFIC PROJECTS

- Charity festivals – proceeds go to local charities [2]

- Each parish has a regular charity outreach program [1]
- Bring mission school to specific parishes [1]
- Traveling mission chapel [1]
- Diocesan mission teams
- Miraculous icons
- Leave Orthodox literature at coffee shops
- Sponsor public forums/speakers on current topic
- Create Orthodox libraries
- Youth camps
- “Lost Sheep” ministries
- Provide Orthodox contacts to hospitals/nursing homes
- T-shirts
- Iconography tours
- Orthodox coffee houses
- Outreach to laicized clergy
- “Gleaning” for food banks
- Matthew 25 outreach – taking care of others [1]
- Greeter program
- Meet your neighbors
- Use local vendors – be a part of your community
- Teaching healing the passions – hospital, not courtroom or hotel
- More open events at parish level (“Bible and BBQ”)
- Icon key

- Books/booklets
- Donate a book to a local library
- Promotion and reporting of St Peter the Aleut Grant

PILLAR FOUR: EXTERNAL RELATIONS

GENERAL

- Curtail negative language/attitudes
- Speak out on important events
- Explore local teaching opportunities

TRAINING

- Develop young leaders
- Encourage more clergy participation in external affairs
- Seminary student exchange
- Training clergy outreach – social media

THE PRIMATE

- Metropolitan needs to visit the other autocephalous Churches as Primate [2]
- More travel for the Metropolitan

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

- Plan for the 50th Anniversary of the OCA! (2020) [8]
- Act as the Orthodox Church in America
- Promote Alaska as part of the American heritage
- Invite more international hierarchical visits

- Encourage the bishops to be a voice
- More statements released from the bishops on specific issues
- Informing faithful on external affairs

THE ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS

- Encourage IOCC, OCMC, OCF, OCPM, Syndesmos, FOCUS [5]
- Be involved in Assembly of Bishops organizations (IOCC, OCPM) [1]
- Revitalize the bilateral commission with the Antiochians

PAN-ORTHODOX COOPERATION

- Every parish attend events in other Orthodox jurisdictions [3]
- Communicate and highlight pan-Orthodox activities
- Involvement in clergy/pan-Orthodox associations
- Celebrate feast days – attend their liturgy
- Concelebrate Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers
- Support/encourage Episcopal concelebration
- Pan-Orthodox clergy associations
- Joint publishing ventures
- Pan-Orthodox dating site
- Communicate pan-Orthodox successes at the parish level
- Joint liturgical services – i.e. patronal feast days (pan-Orthodox)
- Join pan-Orthodox endeavors

GOVERNMENT/CIVIC

- Encourage priests and chaplains to be more involved in governmental/civic organizations

ECUMENICAL

- Continue ACNA/OCA dialogue
- Outreach to traditional Lutherans
- Properly discern/participate in ecumenical events to offer the Orthodox voice
- Increase communication of parish events
- Write responses to Roman Catholic Encyclicals

SPECIFIC PROJECTS

- Establish “sister churches” [2]
- Participate in community events that align with our beliefs [2]
- Sponsor an African Church [1]
- Sister parishes overseas
- Distribute H2O bottles with parish labels at athletic events [1]
- Joint youth activities
- Sponsoring Orthodox refugees
- Speaking at local universities
- Invite groups to parishes
- Personal pilgrimages to Orthodox countries
- Visit other parishes/other jurisdictions
- Highlight the successful activity
- Artistic expression of Orthodoxy
- Orthodox athletic events

- Contact local politicians to voice Orthodox concerns
- Bringing in pan-Orthodox speakers
- Participate in charitable activities outside the parish (i.e. feed the homeless)
- Pepper news feeds with Orthodox links
- Like and share on Facebook Sunday

Report for the 19th All-American Council

Archpriest Eric G. Tosi

1. Introduction

The 19th All-American Council will be held in from July 23 to 27, 2018 at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel located on Market Street in St. Louis, MO. The contract for the hotel has been signed and the planning process is proceeding. We have formed the Preconciliar Commission which has met and the Local Committee which has also met. The operational and logistical planning is now underway.

2. Preconciliar Commission

The PCC met in December to begin the process of planning the next AAC. His Grace Bishop Paul of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest is chairing the committee which consists of the officers of the Church, the Local Committee chairs, a member of the Metropolitan Council, and representatives for the FOCA and Youth programs. The PCC will meet quarterly as the planning for the AAC evolves.

3. Theme

The PCC has looked at a number of themes for the AAC and based on the guidance of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, it has recommended that the 19th AAC be based around the “4 Pillars” which was first highlighted by His Beatitude at the 18th AAC. These “4 Pillars” are: Spiritual Life, Stewardship, Evangelism and Outreach, and External Relations. Each of these have subcategories which will be further explored over the next year by the dioceses.

The PCC looked at various themes to integrate the guidance from the Holy Synod with the operation of the AAC. His Beatitude put forth and the PCC recommends that the overall theme of the 19th AAC be “For the Life of the World”. This theme not only encompasses the spirit of the Pillars but also honors the ever-memorable Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann whose seminal book first was published close to 55 years ago and addresses these very issues. The 19th AAC will integrate this into the planning and operations of the Council. Contact and approval from the Schmemmann family has been accomplished.

4. Recommendations by the PCC

Among the highlighted recommendations of the PCC, with the guidance of the Holy Synod are:

- a. The Council will build upon the good work from the last AAC in Atlanta.
- b. There will be electronic registration as was in Atlanta.

- c. Fees for the AAC will be directly assessed to the Diocese in keeping with the new finance model of the OCA. Each diocese will determine how or if they will collect such fees from their parishes. The OCA will not collect fees directly from any parish. The fees to the diocese will be determined by the percentage that each provides to the overall OCA budget. Melanie Ringa will present a more detailed explanation.
- d. Retired clergy and widowed clergy wives will not be assessed to attend the AAC.
- e. Individual assessments will remain the same as in Atlanta and will apply to certain registrants such as military chaplains, observers and others as determined by the PCC.
- f. There will be a FOCA annual convention the weekend before the AAC.
- g. The Youth component will also be held during the Council.
- h. Dioceses will once again present short 10 minute films about the life in their respective diocese.
- i. There will be a formal dinner on Thursday evening with an invited major speaker.
- j. There will be exhibits and vendors. Each diocese and department of the OCA will be expected to have a display.
- k. There will be clergy portraits for the OCA website during the Council.
- l. Dioceses can hold their annual assembly on the Monday of the Council.
- m. There will be early morning Liturgies by the monasteries during the Council, Akathists in the morning and Vespers in the evening. Confession and other prayer opportunities will be provided.
- n. There will be Hierarchical Liturgy at the hotel on the Sunday before the Council and the Thursday of the Council.
- o. Electronic voting is being explored.
- p. There will be a coordinated communication plan which will include local TV and newspapers, website daily press releases and video, and a live simulcast of the proceedings.
- q. An AAC website will be go active one year before the Council and all documents, news, registration and information will be posted there.
- r. Registration for the Council and the hotel will open the first week of January, 2018.
- s. There will be a clergy wives breakfast and a youth breakfast with the Holy Synod.
- t. There will be a SOCA reception and a joint seminary reception.
- u. We will utilize seminarian volunteers for the Council.
- v. We will utilize a professional parliamentarian for the Council.
- w. We are looking for recommendations for the Clergy and Lay Chair of the AAC.
- x. All money collected from the services will be donated on behalf of the OCA to a local charity. We are looking for suggestions.

5. Local Committee

The Local Committee will be chaired Fr. Timothy Sawchak and Robert Butchko. They have begun the process of formulating the local committees. All the committees have chairpersons in place and they have been briefed on their responsibilities. Some of the committees will begin work in the very near future such as the exhibits committee. Others will not begin work until closer to the Council itself. The next planned visit to the local committee will be in late spring. The committees are:

- a. Bishops Accommodations and Welcome – Sarah Butchko and Lori Billy
- b. City Guide and Transportation – Michael Butchko
- c. Council Workbook – Michael Butchko
- d. Council Registration and Credentials – Fr. Andrew Moulton
- e. Council Book – Becky Tesar
- f. Council Meals and Receptions – Peter Lecko
- g. Council Signage – John Kreicbergs and Brandon Ratzlaff
- h. Council Exhibits – Kenneth Ryan Herman and Paul Rueschhoff
- i. Formal Dinner and Reception – Karen Butchko and Lori Billy
- j. Liturgical – Fr. Nicholas Finley
- k. Public Relations – Bob Butchko
- l. AAC Website – Fr. Joel Wilson
- m. AAC Video – Fr. John Parsells
- n. Secretary – Karen Butchko
- o. Youth – Fr. Benjamin Tucci assisted by Lauren Herman and Maggie Fryntzko

6. Logo

The logo was done by two local graphic designers Brandon Ratzlaff and John Kreicbergs. It incorporates the symbolism of the OCA with the local sights. It is being finalized for general release. It will be utilized for stationary and all electronic graphics

7. Mandated Timeline

- a. Council Registration open first week of January, 2018
- b. Agenda to be approved by HS and MC at Spring, 2018 meeting (February 2018)
- c. Proposed Statute Revisions 90 Days prior (April 25, 2018)
- d. PCC to publish agenda, notices and arrangements 60 days prior (May 24, 2018)
- e. Chancery to publish credentials and certification 30 days prior (June 22, 2018)
- f. Reports to be distributed by Chancery 30 days prior (June 22, 2018)
- g. All statute change, resolutions, etc to be released 30 days prior (June 22, 2018)

8. Agenda and Proposal

The PCC is currently working on a proposed agenda for the Council and the PowerPoint has a first round of items. It will continue to evolve over the next year. However, there is a major proposal attached which would affect Plenary Session 3 and 5 (Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon respectively). Read the attached proposal and we ask that the Metropolitan Council recommend it for approval and implementation by the Holy Synod at their spring 2017 meeting.

9. Logistics

Dn Peter Ilchuk has been working on the logistical aspects of the Council. We will be reviewing and recommending contracts for AV/staging, exhibit space, security (important as the exhibit space is an open floor plan), photographer, transportation needs, food and beverage needs, and

other related needs. Extensive contact and cooperation has been made with the St. Louis Convention Visitors Bureau. They will be providing a number of items including reduced pricing for food and events, items for the gift bags, and electronic interfacing with the AAC website. We will be working on the transportation of items for the Council which will include the iconostasis and other liturgical items, operational supplies and material, and bookstores from the seminaries. Youth events and transportation are still being developed. We do have a number of sponsors for items such as the bags and workbooks which will cover their costs. We will also have historical items from the Metropolitan Museum at St. Tikhon's Seminary present at the Council. We are expecting the Our Lady of Sitka icon and the St. Anne icon to be present.

10. FOCA and Youth

The FOCA and Youth programs are still being developed under the able leadership of Becky Tesar and Fr. Benjamin Tucci. The FOCA program will begin on Saturday and finish on Monday morning. FOCA will also have a number of events including a dinner and dance on Sunday evening. They are also sponsoring the Council Souvenir book as they did in Atlanta. Other events include a golf outing, Baba's Auction and other events.

The Youth Program is developing and we expect to build on the success of the Atlanta Council. There will be the full vetting of volunteers and a training session prior to the Council. There will be a number of events which will include instruction and outings to various local sites. The Youth will once again be presented to the Council where they will do a presentation. There is a possibility of a major donor to assist in the underwriting of the Youth Program in order to have no cost to the participants. Fr. Benjamin is working with hierarchs and parish priests to begin gathering names and encouraging the youth to attend (and to begin raising funds to cover their costs). There are a number of sites around St. Louis which we can get reduced group rates from the CVB. There is also a plan to interact with the community with a Day of Service for the youth in the local community.

Notes for Possible AAC Sessions

1. The 19th All American Council is scheduled for July 23-27, 2018 in St. Louis. It is going to be one of the first held in some time when we do not have a major issue that needs to be passed (i.e. Statute, financing, etc.) As such, it presents an opportunity for the Church to engage in forward thinking and strategic planning.
2. There has been discussion in recent years about how to reformat the AAC to reflect diocesan realities as well as to increase participation by dioceses rather than parishes. While the structure of the AAC is parish centered (parishes send representatives as opposed to dioceses sending representatives), there is an opportunity to shift this for the upcoming council.
3. The expected theme of the Council will be based off of Metropolitan Tikhon's "Four Pillars" which has received the support of the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council. In addition, the "Four Pillars" was briefly introduced in the Metropolitan's address at the Formal Dinner at the

18th AAC. If the Council is organized around the “Four Pillars” then there is a way to bring these two elements together at the next Council.

4. There are two sessions from the last Council which were dedicated to workshops. These were held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon (plenary session 3 and 5 respectively). If we removed the workshops from the agenda, we could replace them with diocesan initiatives based off of the “Four Pillars”.
5. The plan would be to release the “Four Pillar” document at least one year from the AAC. Then each diocese would be able to discuss in detail and present initiatives for consideration by the entire AAC at these two sessions. Two Pillars would be on Tuesday and two on Wednesday.
6. The Holy Synod would receive the initiatives from each diocese by the Spring 2018 Holy Synod meeting and whittle them down to three or four for consideration.
7. A diocese can submit any number of initiatives from on any, part or all of the “Four Pillars”. They would have discussed the “Pillars” beforehand at diocesan meetings and work together as a diocese to submit any number of initiatives as approved by the diocesan hierarchy.
8. These would allow for diocesan concerns to be brought forth to the Synod and the Church as a whole while allowing for free-form discussion on a diocesan level. As such the work would be done prior to the Council and the Council would simply vote on which initiative is of the most concern for the Church as a whole. We would utilize electronic voting on those two days which would give the Council immediate feedback.
9. There would need to be guidelines for the initiatives. These would be:
 - A. They would need to be in the area of the “Four Pillars”
 - B. They would need to be in the competence of the AAC
 - C. They would need to be something that can be applied Church-wide
 - D. They would need to be impactful
 - E. There would need to be a detailed implementation plan
 - F. There would need to be detailed associated costs outlined
 - G. They would need to be sustainable for at least the time between AACs
 - H. They would need a matrix of measuring success/effectiveness in implementation
 - I. They would have an oversight and management plan in place
 - J. They would be reviewed periodically for both implementation and results.
10. Those selected plans would be sent out beforehand to the delegates as part of the AAC packet for review prior to the Council. Representatives of diocese whose plans are selected for presentation will present them at the assigned plenary session. It would be a short 5 minute presentation for each initiative with questions as well as the ability to speak for or against each initiative. At the end of each “Pillar” presentation, an electronic vote would be taken and the one with the highest votes will be the presented to the Synod for their blessing. In the end there would be four initiatives for implementation over the next triennium.
11. The Metropolitan Council (as responsible for the AAC between Councils and the budget of the Church) would ensure they are placed in the budget and implemented. If an initiative falls into the

competency of a particular department or office, they would be responsible for implementation. If not then some mechanism for responsibility would need to be in place. It would also provide guidance to these parties in directing their work for the upcoming triennium.

12. These could be reviewed and re-implemented (or dropped) at the 20th AAC.

As a note, here are the Four Pillars and associated points. As can be seen, this is a large area to cover but in reality it can be quite directed. A diocese may have a particular interest in one or a few areas that directly impact the diocese and parishes. On the other hand, it could clearly impact the whole Church and direction of the Church. But the initiatives should be focused and impactful. See Point 9 for the criteria. In addition, some may be deemed not within the competence of the AAC but worthy of discussion as a Church. This would be determined by the diocesan hierarch in the beginning and the Synod as a whole prior to the Council.

1. The Spiritual Life
 - A. Monastic Life
 - B. Clergy Health
 - C. Theological Education
2. Stewardship
 - A. Developing Resources of the Church (Financial and Otherwise)
 - B. Patrimony of the Church/Archives/History
 - C. Organization of the Church
3. Evangelism and Outreach
 - A. Contemporary Moral and Ethical Issues
 - B. Communications
 - C. Mission and Evangelism
4. External Relations
 - A. Assembly of Bishops/Local Orthodox Churches
 - B. Ecumenical Bodies
 - C. Non-Christian/Governmental/Non-Governmental Bodies



**ORTHODOX
CHURCH in
AMERICA**

19th All-American Council

*St. Louis Union Station Hotel
1820 Market Street
St. Louis, MO
July 23-July 27, 2018*

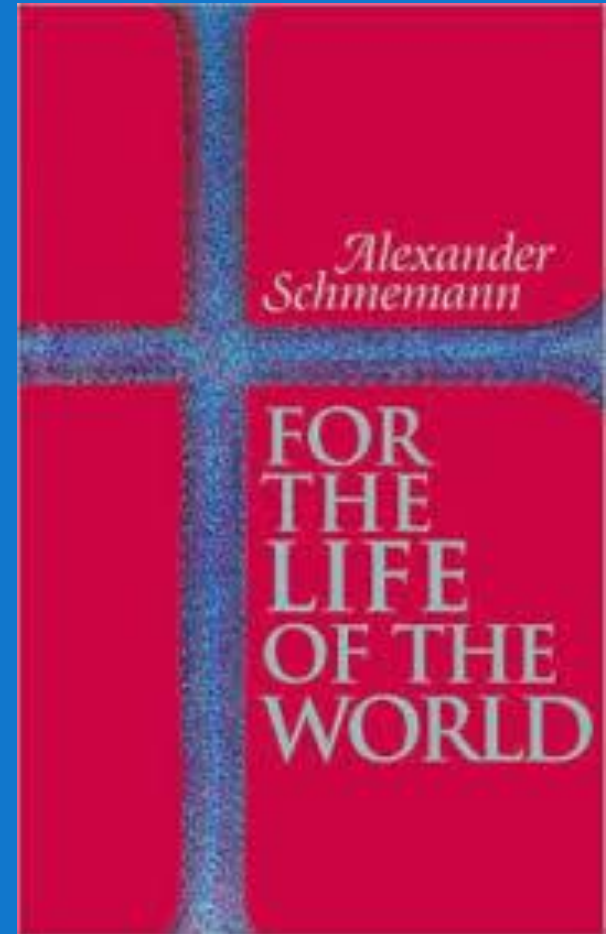
19th All-American Council

- ✓ Contract is signed
- ✓ Initial Organization
- ✓ Preconciliar Commission appointed and have met
- ✓ Local Clergy and Lay Chair appointed
- ✓ Local Committee Chairs appointed & in formation
- ✓ Organization of national and local operations
- ✓ Initial lay-out and operations
- ✓ Theme is.....

The recommendation for the theme is....

“For the Life of the World”

- 55 Years since its first printing
- 41 years since its second edition
- Covers so much of what the 4 Pillars speak about
- One of the most influential modern theology books



And the logo choices are...



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

Responsibilities

- Bishop Paul is Chair of the PCC
- Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, Secretary and overall responsible for AAC
- Deacon Peter Ilchuk is Council Manager
- Archpriest Timothy Sawchak is Local Clergy Chair
- Bob Butchko is Local Lay Chair

General Timeline

- Initial meeting
- Appointment of PCC at Fall Holy Synod
- PCC to establish theme, logo, agenda and material
- Local Committee to establish working groups within areas, set up local accounts and contacts, prepare site
- Chancery to coordinate all activities
- AAC Committees appointed 30 days prior

19th AAC Preconciliar Commission

- Bishop Paul (Synod)
- Archpriest John Jillions (Chancellor)
- Archpriest Eric G. Tosi (Secretary and Supervisor)
- Melanie Ringa (Treasurer)
- Deacon Peter Ilchuk (Council Manager)
- *Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky (Consultant)*
- Archpriest Timothy Sawchak (Local Clergy Chair)
- Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky (MC Representative)
- Priest Benjamin Tucci (Youth)
- Becky Tesar (FOCA)

Composition of AAC

Article III, Section 2

Members of the All-American Council are delegates, observers, and guests. Delegates are:

- a. The Metropolitan and the other members of the Holy Synod;
- b. Auxiliary bishops;
- c. The Parish Priest and associate priests, if any, of each parish and an equal number of lay delegates from that parish;
- d. Military chaplains;
- e. One assigned deacon per parish;
- f. One lay delegate from each parish not having an assigned priest;
- g. The members and alternates of the Metropolitan Council;
- h. The members of the Auditing Committee of the Church;
- i. One priest or deacon and one layperson, from each theological institution;
- j. The superiors of monasteries, if accredited by their Bishop; and
- k. Members of the Preconciliar Commission.

Requirements for Representation

Article III, Section 6 and 7

Section 6: Requirement for Parish Representation at the All-American Council

Each parish which has fulfilled its financial obligations to the Church as established by the All-American Council and by its Diocese is entitled to representation at the All-American Council.

Section 7: Qualification, Election, and Accreditation of Lay Delegates

a. Each parish shall elect at a Parish Assembly lay delegates equal to the number of priests as defined in Article III, Section 2.c, and a single alternate. In order to be validly elected and accredited, the lay delegates and alternate to the All-American Council from parishes must be Voting Members of the parish as defined in Article XII, Section 5.d of this Statute.

b. The Parish Priest shall attest to the qualification and election of the delegates and alternate in the manner determined by the Preconciliar Commission. In case the office of the Parish Priest is vacant or the Parish Priest is incapacitated or otherwise prevented from making such an attestation, this responsibility shall be assumed by the District Dean or Diocesan Bishop.

c. Provisions for the qualification and accreditation of lay delegates from stavropegial institutions and other Church-recognized institutions shall be substantially similar to those in Article XII, Section 5, as determined by the institution in consultation with the bishop with canonical oversight. They shall be appropriately accredited by the abbot, rector or superior of the stavropegial institution they represent.

PCC Responsibilities

Article III, Section 5

The Holy Synod shall appoint a Preconciliar Commission, nominated by the Metropolitan Council. The Preconciliar Commission shall:

- a. Recommend to the Metropolitan Council and Holy Synod, for their approval and confirmation, the dates, location, and theme of the All-American Council;
- b. Establish such committees as may be necessary for the proper operation of the All-American Council, such as a local functioning committee, a resolutions committee, a credentials committee, and a translations committee;
- c. Propose an agenda and rules of procedure for the All-American Council and submit it to the Metropolitan Council for approval and confirmation by the Holy Synod, it being understood that the agenda may be changed by vote of the All-American Council;
- d. Establish and oversee procedures for registration and certification of members at the All-American Council;
- e. Establish All-American Council assessments and fees;
- f. Publish the agenda, notices, and arrangements for the All-American Council at least sixty (60) days prior to the date set for the convening of the All-American Council;
- g. Ensure that proposed amendments to the Statute, together with recommendations of the Commission on Canons and Statutes, are published at least sixty (60) days prior to the date set for the convening of the All-American Council;
- h. Notify members of their certification at least thirty (30) days prior to the date set for the convening of the All-American Council; and
- i. Assure that all reports to the All-American Council are in written form and that they are published at least thirty (30) days prior to the date set for the convening of the council.

Mandated Timeline (per Statute)

- Agenda to be approved by HS and MC at Spring, 2018 meeting (February 2018)
- Proposed Statute Revisions 90 Days prior (April 25, 2018)
- PCC to publish agenda, notices and arrangements 60 days prior (May 24, 2018)
- Chancery to publish credentials and certification 30 days prior (June 22, 2018)
- Reports to be distributed by Chancery 30 days prior (June 22, 2018)
- All statute change, resolutions, etc to be distributed 30 days prior (June 22, 2018)

General Agenda for AAC

- Registration Opens on January 1, 2018
- Reservations for hotel closes on June 29, 2018
- Team Arrival on Friday, July 20, 2018.
- FOCA Convention Saturday, July 21 to Monday, July 23.
- Saturday Vigil and Sunday Liturgy at Hotel.
- Council to be Monday to Friday
- Saturday, July 28 to be break-down of site

Diocesan Structure

It will be recommended that the AAC be more based on a Diocesan structure rather than as a large diocesan assembly.

This will be accomplished in two ways:

1. No parish will be assessed directly from the OCA. The diocese will be assessed based on percentage of the income they provide to the OCA and then the diocese assesses their parishes (or not) as they deem proper.
2. Two sessions will be dedicated to diocesan initiatives on the "4 Pillars" to be taken up and voted by the AAC as a whole.

Diocesan Initiatives

1. Based off of the "4 Pillars" which are Spiritual Life, Stewardship, Evangelism and Outreach, External Relations
2. Plenary Sessions 3 and 5 (Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon) will be dedicated to this topic
3. The final "4 Pillar" document would be released to the Church 1 year before the AAC (after Spring 2017 Synod meeting in March)
4. Each diocese will have a year to meet, discuss and submit any number of initiatives from any or all of the "4 Pillars".
5. These would be taken up and sorted through by the Holy Synod at the Spring 2018 meeting with 3 to 4 of them being submitted to the AAC for consideration
6. Two Pillars and associated initiatives would be presented by the diocese who recommended them at the plenary session for a general discussion and vote on them
7. We would use electronic voting and the one with the most votes will be integrated into the next triennium
8. They will be reviewed at the 20th AAC in 2021

Guidelines for the Initiatives

- A. They would need to be in the area of the "Four Pillars"
- B. They would need to be in the competence of the AAC
- C. They would need to be something that can be applied Church-wide
- D. They would need to be impactful
- E. There would need to be a detailed implementation plan
- F. There would need to be detailed associated costs outlined
- G. They would need to be sustainable for at least the time between AACs
- H. They would need a matrix of measuring success/effectiveness in implementation
- I. They would have an oversight and management plan in place
- J. They would be reviewed periodically for both implementation and results.

A Reminder on the 4 Pillars

1. The Spiritual Life
 - A. Monastic Life
 - B. Clergy Health
 - C. Theological Education
2. Stewardship
 - A. Developing Resources of the Church (Financial and Otherwise)
 - B. Patrimony of the Church/Archives/History
 - C. Organization of the Church
3. Evangelism and Outreach
 - A. Contemporary Moral and Ethical Issues
 - B. Communications
 - C. Mission and Evangelism
4. External Relations
 - A. Assembly of Bishops/Local Orthodox Churches
 - B. Ecumenical Bodies
 - C. Non-Christian/Governmental/Non-Governmental Bodies

Friday, July 20, 2018

AAC

Arrival of Team
Meet with Hotel
Meeting with Executive
Board
Load In

Youth

Arrival of Team

FOCA

Arrival of Team
Pre-arrival

Saturday, July 21, 2018

AAC

Arrivals
Greeting of the
Metropolitan
Chapel Set-up
Exhibits Set-up
Registration Set-up
Vespers

Youth

Arrival
Training
Orientation
Youth Set-up
Youth Program
Possible Youth Outing

FOCA

Arrival
Registration Set-up
Registration
Golf Tournament
FOCA adult outing
Board meeting

Sunday, July 22, 2018

AAC

Hierarchical Liturgy
Exhibits
Registration
Synod meeting and
outing
Other meetings

Youth

Orientation
Training
Possible Outing
Pizza Party

FOCA

Registration
Baba's Auction/Sales
Welcome Dinner Dance

Monday, July 23, 2018

AAC

Registration
Diocesan Assemblies
Exhibits
Possible Workshops
Meetings
Vespers
Holy Synod/Metropolitan
Council dinner meeting
Plenary Session 1 - 7:30 PM
 Molieben
 Organizing
 Council
 Metropolitan's
 Address
 Officers' Reports
 Easy resolutions

Youth

Youth Sessions
Youth Outing
Teen Crash Room

FOCA

FOCA Plenary Session 1
FOCA Outing
Completed

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

AAC

Liturgy

Akathist

Exhibits

Clergy Wives Breakfast with Holy Synod

Plenary Session 2 -9:30 AM

- Procedures

- Treasurer/Finance

- Metropolitan Council

- Statute Revisions

- Resolutions

Plenary Session 3 – 1:30 PM

- Pillar 1: Spiritual Life

- Pillar 2: Stewardship

- Resolutions

Vespers

Joint Seminaries Reception

Meetings

Youth

Youth Sessions

Youth Outing

Teen Crash Room

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

AAC

Liturgy

Akathist

Exhibits

Plenary Session 4 -9:30 AM

Department Reports

Military Chaplains

Institutional Chaplains

Seminaries

Resolutions

Plenary Session 5 – 1:30 PM

Pillar 3: Evangelism/Outreach

Pillar 2: External relations

Resolutions

Vespers

Stewards of the OCA Reception

Meetings

Youth

Youth Sessions

Youth Outing

Teen Crash Room

Thursday, July 26, 2018

AAC

Hierarchical Liturgy

Exhibits

Youth Brunch with Holy Synod

Plenary Session 6 -10:30 AM

Elections

Assembly of Bishops Report

Mission School

Initiatives

Resolutions

Plenary Session 7 – 1:30 PM

Open Right Now

Formal Dinner

Meetings

Youth

Youth Sessions

Youth Outing

Teen Crash Room

Youth Banquet

Friday, July 27, 2018

AAC

Liturgy

Akathist

Exhibits completed

Plenary Session 8 -9:30 AM

Installation of MC

Vision of the OCA/Wrap-up

Youth Presentation

Misc Presentations

Final Resolutions

Holy Synod/Metropolitan Council Lunch

Depart in Peace

Breakdown of Hotel

Youth

Youth Presentation

Local Committees

- Local Clergy and Lay Chair
- Local Secretary
- Bishop's Welcome
- City Guide
- Council Workbook
- Credentials & Registration
- Exhibits and Displays
- Formal Dinner
- Liturgics
- Public Relations
- Secretarial
- Signage
- Food & Beverage
- Souvenir Book
- Youth
- FOCA

Other

- Statute changes
- Speakers
- Main Feature Movie on “For the Life of the World”
- Diocesan Movies
- Early morning Liturgies
- Possible Synod visits



**ORTHODOX
CHURCH in
AMERICA**

Questions?

Where do we go from here?

**RESOLUTION OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA GRANTING
SIGNING AND AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA**

WHEREAS, the Orthodox Church in America desires to grant signing and general business authority to certain persons described hereunder; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church in America has that corporate authority granted to him under Article IV of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America; and

WHEREAS, the Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America; the Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America; and the Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America have that corporate authority granted to them under Article VI of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America hereby authorizes and approves the grant of signing and authority to conduct business of the Orthodox Church in America to each and every of the following Officers of the Church:

The Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church in America;

The Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America;

The Secretary the Orthodox Church in America; and

The Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America.

The foregoing signing and authority granted hereby shall include, but shall not be limited to, the receipt of funds properly owing to the Orthodox Church in America and the execution of deeds, powers of attorney, transfers, assignments, contracts, obligations, certificates, and other instruments of whatever nature entered into by the Orthodox Church in America.

The undersigned hereby certifies that he is the duly appointed and qualified Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America and in that capacity he is the custodian of the books and records and seal of the Orthodox Church in America, a corporation duly formed pursuant to the laws of the state of New York; that the foregoing is a true record of that certain resolution duly adopted on February 23, 2017, at a regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America properly convened and acting in the city of Huntington, New York; that said meeting of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America was held in accordance with the laws of the State of New York and the Statute of the above-named Corporation on the date indicated; and that said resolution is now in full force and effect without modification or rescission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed my name as Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America and have hereunto fixed the corporate seal of the above-named Corporation this 23rd day of February, 2017.

SECRETARY OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

CORPORATE GIFT POLICY

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Orthodox Church in America, a religious corporation established under the laws of the State of New York, hereby establishes this uniform policy to inform church employees of the prohibitions established by the Holy Synod against soliciting or receiving corporate gifts. This policy has application to the employees of the Chancery Office of the Orthodox Church in America, exclusive of the employees of the Dioceses, Parishes, and Stavropegial Institutions of the Church. This policy shall not affect the authority of officers, agents, or employees of the Orthodox Church in America to accept gifts, donations, or bequests on behalf of the Church at large in furtherance of the religious and ecclesiastical purposes of the Orthodox Church in America.

DEFINITIONS

“A Thing of Value” shall include any gift, benefit, favor, service, gratuity, reward, promise, honoraria or other item of monetary value.

“De Minimis” is a value of twenty-five dollars (\$25) or less per occasion, and an aggregate of fifty dollars (\$50) or less in a single calendar year.

“Employees” include all permanent, part-time, temporary and contract employees, including volunteers, of the Orthodox Church in America.

POLICY

No Church Officer, Agent or Employee, nor any family member of a Church Officer, Agent or Employee, shall solicit or receive a thing of value in connection with their service to the Orthodox Church in America.

No person shall offer or give to a Church Officer, Agent or Employee, or to a family member of a Church Officer Agent or Employee, a thing of value for the purpose of influencing official Church action.

If a Church Officer, Agent or Employee is offered a thing of value governed by this policy, such offer shall be declined, with reference to this policy.

If a Church Officer, Agent or Employee receives a thing of value governed by this policy, the thing of value shall be returned, with reference to this policy.

If an anonymous thing of value is received by a Church Officer, Agent, or Employee, the gift shall be delivered to the Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church in America, who shall then convey the thing of value to a charitable organization.

The Church Officers, Agents and Employees shall publish this policy to the public, vendors, contractors and others doing business with the Church.

EXCEPTIONS

A Church Officer, Agent or Employee may accept food items of de minimis value when such items are to be shared with the other Officers, Agents, or employees of the Church.

A Church Officer, Agent, or Employee may accept gifts of a religious character or significance which are customarily exchanged between or among officers, agents, or employees of religious bodies maintaining relations with the Orthodox Church in America.

A Church Officer, Agent or Employee may accept any item which may be displayed in public areas belonging to the Orthodox Church in America (such as flowers or religious art).

A Church Officer, Agent or Employee may accept handmade items from children under sixteen years of age.

This policy shall not preclude the payment of or reimbursement for actual and necessary transportation and lodging expenses for Church Officers, Agents or Employees engaged in Church business.

DCE Presentation

DOCTRINE AND SCRIPTURE

These words from the Law of Moses are quoted by Christ as the first and greatest commandment (Mk 12.29). They follow upon the listing of the Ten Commandments which begin, "I am the Lord your God . . . you shall have no other gods besides me" (Deut 5.6-7).

The one Lord and God of Israel revealed to man the mystery of his name.



And Moses said "... if they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

God also said to Moses, "Say to the people of Israel, 'Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob has sent me to you: this is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations'" (Ex 3.13-15).

God's name is **Yahweh** which means I AM WHO I AM; or I AM WHAT I AM; or I AM WILL BE WHAT I WILL BE; or simply I AM. He is the true and living God, the only God. He is faithful and true to his people. He reveals to them His divine and holy Word. He gives to them his divine and holy Spirit. He is called **Adonai**: the Lord; and his holy name of **Yahweh** is never mentioned by the people because of its awesome sacredness. Only the high priest, and only once a year, and only in the holy of holies of the Jerusalem Temple dared to utter the divine name of Yahweh. On all other occasions **Yahweh** is addressed as the Almighty Lord, as the Most High God, as the Lord God of Hosts.

Activity Books



SAINTS AND THE ANIMALS THAT SERVED THEM

An Activity Book for Orthodox Children and Parents

Department of Christian Education • Orthodox Church in America

The Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America is excited to announce the fourth in an on-line series of DCE Activity Books: Saints and the Animals that Served Them. Many Saints are known for having befriended God's creatures, and the stories of their interactions with various animals have always been beloved parts of sacred Tradition, a testimony to God's presence in creation, and man's reception of creation as gift.

This most recent DCE creation is styled similarly to its predecessors: Saints of North America, Saints in Times of Trouble, and Saints Commemorated in the Litiya Prayers. Each installment contains concise, informative, easy to read histories of the Saints; detailed maps of their lives and travels; respective Troparia and Kontakia; entertaining word games and puzzles; helpful resources for further information; as well as beautiful and original iconographic line drawings of the Saints which may be used as handouts, enlarged for classroom use and bulletin boards, or given to children, as well as adults, to color.

[Free Download Now](#)

SEARCH

FOCUS Units

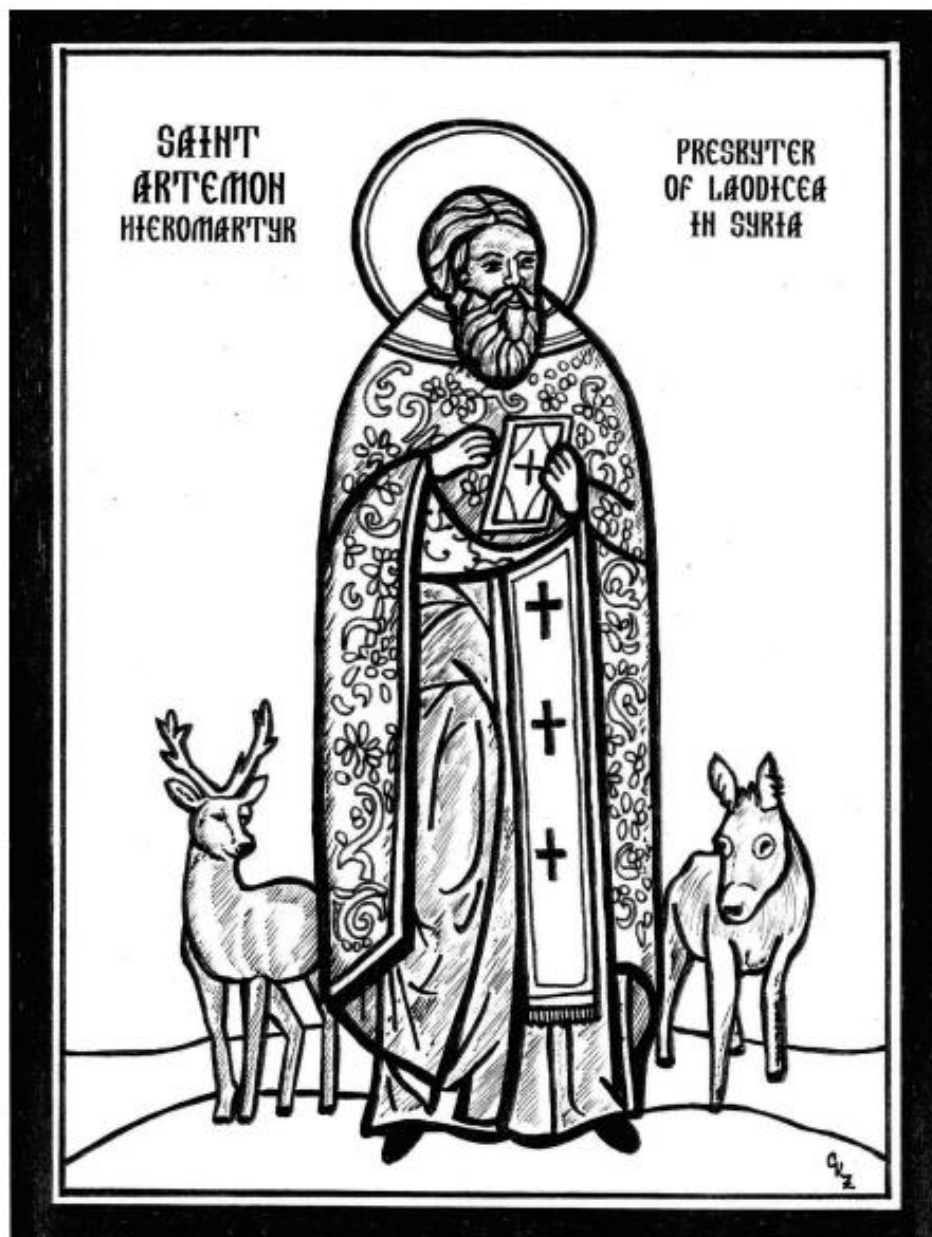
- ☐ Journey to Pascha
- ☐ My Orthodox Family
- ☐ The Nativity Season
- ☐ The Theotokos

Resources

- ☐ Handouts
- ☐ Liturgical Texts
- ☐ Activities
- ☐ Articles
- ☐ Stories
- ☐ Tools
- ☐ Books
- ☐ Line Drawings
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Plays



Join Our Email
Newsletter





St. Kevin

Venerable Father, Wonder-worker of Ireland

In 498, in the Irish province of Leinster, a baby boy was born to noble Christian parents. The baby was baptized Kevin, or Coemgen in the Irish language. The name means "he of blessed birth." This child was the first person in history to be called Kevin.

As a young boy Kevin had a bad temper and was not liked by the other children. In fact, they stayed away from him so they would not be hit by the stones he threw at them. He called other children terrible names.

But birds and animals loved Kevin and he loved them. The creatures trusted him, knowing that he would take care of them and never harm them. They came when he called them, and stayed near him for hours at a time.

It was a custom during the years of Kevin's childhood for parents to send their children to monasteries where they could learn reading, writing, and their Christian faith. So when Kevin was seven years old his parents sent him to Saint Petroe in Cornwall Monastery. But Kevin continued to have trouble getting along with others, and the monks had little success in getting the boy to be a better companion. Finally, one Great Lent, they decided that he should spend the forty-day period alone with God.

On the first day of Lent, as Kevin was kneeling and praying with his arms outstretched, a blackbird landed on his hand and began to build a nest. Kevin remained motionless and very quiet, not wanting to frighten the bird. He continued like this for the entire Lent, praying constantly. The blackbird fed him with nuts and berries. As Lent ended, the last baby bird in the nest flew away and Kevin returned to the monastery for Pascha. His prayers had shown him that he must be kind to people as well as animals.

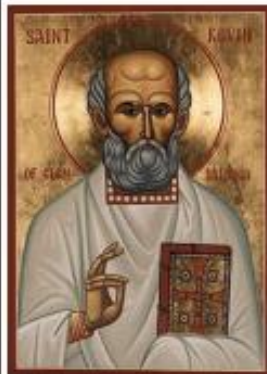
Kevin was ordained to the priesthood and spent seven years as a *hermit*. One day a farmer named Dima, who lived near Kevin's cave, followed one of his cows when it went out to pasture. He did this because this cow gave far more milk than any of his others, and he hoped to find out why.

The farmer made an amazing discovery. He watched as the cow went to Kevin's cave, where the hermit monk was praying, and began gently licking his clothing and feet. The farmer was so struck by what he saw, especially when he found out that his cow had been doing this every day, that he asked Kevin to teach him about Jesus Christ. Then Dima begged the monk to come to his home to teach all of his family about Christ and the Gospel, and show them how to pray. Soon, other families heard about Kevin's teaching and also wanted to learn about Christ.

Kevin planned to build a monastery where monks could teach everyone – the young, the old, the rich, the poor, Christians, and pagans. However, King O'Tool of Glendalough would not permit it. King O'Tool was a pagan and did not believe in Christ.

The king had a pet goose of which he was very fond. The goose was old and weak. When the king heard of Kevin's miracles, he asked him to make the goose young again. Kevin agreed, and requested a very specific payment: he wanted to be given the land in the Valley of Glendalough over which the goose liked to fly. He did restore the goose's energy and youth, and was given the large piece of land.

The farmers of the area were glad to help Kevin, and worked very hard over many hours and many days to help build the monastery in the Valley of Glendalough. Sometimes they could look up and see the goose flying overhead.



Quote

Kevin or Coemgen in the Irish tongue, which means "He of Blessed Birth"

- Kevin of Glendalough

Date Born

498 in the Irish Province of Leinster

Date Died

June 618 at the age of 120 years

Place Buried

unknown

Commemoration Date

June 3



Kevin encouraged everyone to come and learn about Christ. He became the *abbot* of the monastery he'd built.

Saint Kevin was a great worker of miracles, and many of them involved the birds and animals he loved. He taught in the monastery until his peaceful death in 618, at the age of 120. We celebrate Saint Kevin's memory on June 3.

Troparion (Tone 8)

Thou wast privileged to live in the age of saints, O Father Kevin,
Being baptized by one saint, taught by another, and buried by a third.
Pray to God that he will raise up saints in our day
To help, support, and guide us in the way of salvation.

Kontakion (Tone 8)

Forsaking thy noble inheritance,
and shunning all the crooked ways of this sin-loving world,
Thou didst apply thine obedient feet to the straight and narrow path of Christ,
Eagerly hastening throughout thy life toward the heavenly Zion,
Where with all the saints and the bodiless hosts thou criest aloud in ecstasy:
Let every breath praise the Lord!

References

"Kevin of Glendalough – OrthodoxWiki", http://orthodoxwiki.org/Kevin_of_Glendalough

Schroedel, Jenny, "The Blackbird's Nest – St. Kevin of Ireland", St. Vladimir's Seminary Press

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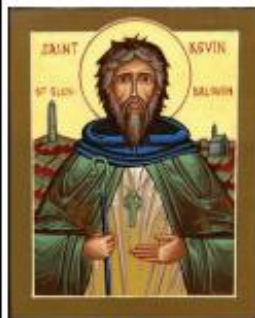
"Under the Oak: The Icon of Saint Kevin",
<http://brigid-undertheoak.blogspot.com/2009/06/icon-of-saint-kevin.html>

Key Terms

Hermit • a person who lives alone and away from others, sometimes a monastic

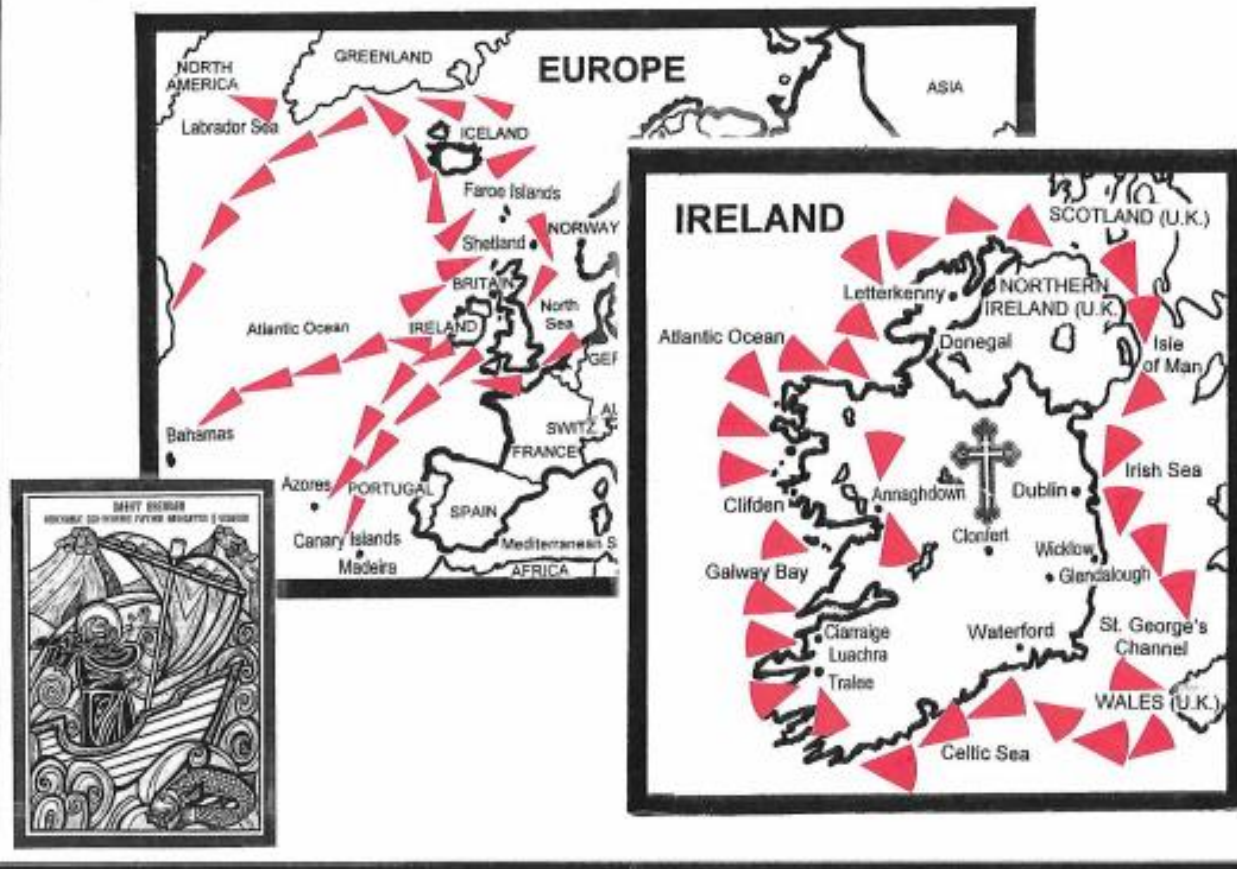
Pagans • those who do not believe in Christ and often worship multiple gods

Abbot • a monk who heads or is in charge of a monastery





IN THE FOOTSTEPS of ST. BRENDAN





Put on Church "family tree":

Metropolitan

Bishop

Priest(s)

Deacon(s)

Chanters

Choir

teachers

Parish Council

Ushers

Families

Readers

Saint Tikhon the Confessor

Patriarch of Moscow, Enlightener of North America

- 2 After completing his studies, he taught at seminaries in Pskov and Kholm. 3 He was consecrated Bishop of Lublin, Auxiliary of the Kholm Diocese, in 1897.

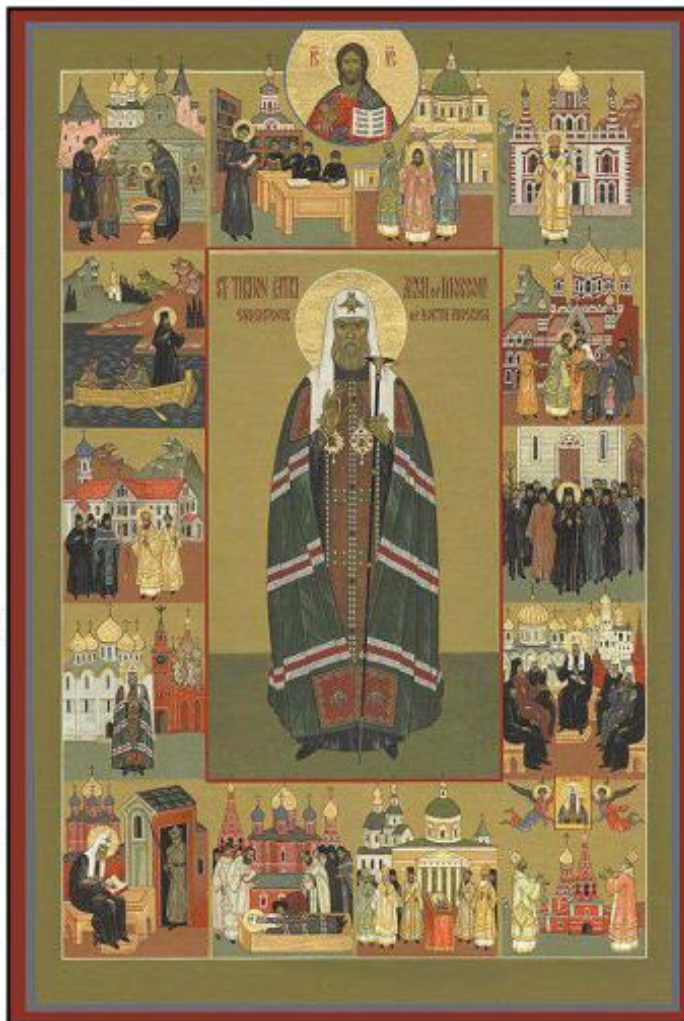
1 The infant Vasily Ivanovich Belavin was born and baptized in Toropetz, Pskov region, Russia in 1865.

5 Bishop Tikhon made a number of pastoral journeys, visiting his flock in the remotest corners of Alaska.

7 In 1905, he established and blessed St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA.

9 In 1917, he was elected Patriarch of Moscow – a position that had been abolished some 200 years earlier.

11 Under communist persecution – and house arrest in Moscow's Donskoy Monastery – Patriarch Tikhon guided the Church through a perilous period.



12 The difficulties of Church life under communism took a toll on the health of Patriarch Tikhon, who fell asleep in the Lord on April 7, 1925. He was buried in the Donskoy Monastery.

13 In 1989, the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church glorified Patriarch Tikhon as a saint and confessor of the faith. His body, hidden for decades, was discovered and reinterred in 1992.

4 In 1898, Bishop Tikhon was appointed Bishop of the Aleutian Islands and Alaska.

6 In 1905, he moved his See to New York, where he supervised construction of St. Nicholas Cathedral.

8 In 1907, he presided at the First All-American Sobor in Mayfield, PA.

10 As Patriarch of Moscow, he presided at the All-Russian Church Council of 1917-1918.

14 Saint Tikhon is uniquely remembered by Orthodox Christians in North America as well as Russia for his selfless ministry on behalf of the People of God.

Saint Tikhon the Confessor

Patriarch of Moscow, Enlightener of North America

Vasily Ivanovich Belavin – the future Saint Tikhon – was born on January 19, 1865 in the Toropetz region of Pskov, Russia. Baptized in the church that his father served as a priest [1], Vasily showed a profound love for the Church and a gentle nature since childhood.

After completing studies at the Pskov Seminary, the tall, fair-haired young man graduated from the Saint Petersburg Theological Academy, where he was affectionately called “bishop” by his classmates, in 1888. He taught at the Pskov Seminary, and then in 1891 took monastic vows with the given name Tikhon, in honor of Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk. Soon after, he was reassigned to teach at the Kholm Seminary and raised to the rank of archimandrite. He later was appointed Rector of the seminary [2]. In 1897 he was consecrated Bishop of Lublin, ministering amongst Lithuanians and Poles as well as Russians and winning everyone’s affection [3].

The following year brought significant changes to Bishop Tikhon’s life. Having been appointed Bishop of the Aleutian Islands and Alaska, he travelled to America and took up residence at Holy Trinity Cathedral in San Francisco [4]. He worked hard to promote Orthodoxy, and made pastoral journeys to the remotest parts of Alaska [5].

Recognizing the need for more effective outreach to immigrants, Bishop Tikhon had the diocesan See moved to New York City. Later he oversaw the construction of Saint Nicholas Cathedral there [6]. In 1905, following his elevation to the rank of Archbishop, he established and blessed Saint Tikhon’s Monastery in Pennsylvania [7]. In 1907, just before he returned to Russia, Archbishop Tikhon presided at the first All-American Sobor in Mayfield, Pennsylvania. This gathering set the precedent of conciliar Church government in America [8].

Archbishop Tikhon spent the next ten years in Yaroslavl, Russia and Vilnius, Lithuania, serving with love and offering generous help to those left destitute by World War I. In 1917, having been raised to the rank of Metropolitan, he was elected Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia – the first in 200 years [9]. He knew the position would be filled with suffering, but he accepted it with obedience and out of his desire to serve Our Lord, regardless of the circumstances.

As Patriarch, Saint Tikhon presided at the All-Russian Church Council of 1917-18 [10]. This gathering was unprecedented in its legislation of many needed reforms in Church life. But the Patriarch’s task was exceedingly difficult, dealing with internal schisms, disorganization, and little administrative help. It was during the Council that the Russian Revolution took place.

Saint Tikhon courageously guided the Church through severe persecution by the Communist regime, which was devoted to the eradication of all religious expression and faith, and was placed under house arrest in Moscow’s Donskoy Monastery [11]. Though he was always kind and approachable, he refused, in his own words, to “make concessions which could lead to the loss of the purity and strength of Orthodoxy.”

The daily strain of external and internal problems, threats and persecution undermined Patriarch Tikhon’s health. He died on April 7, 1925, and was buried in the small Cathedral of the Donskoy Monastery [12]. Nearly one million people paid their respects to their beloved shepherd, who had exhorted his clergy to devote all of their energy “to preaching the word of God and the truth of Christ, especially today, when unbelief and atheism are audaciously attacking the Church of Christ. May the God of peace and love be with all of you!”

In 1989, Patriarch Tikhon was glorified by the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church [13]. On April 7, 1990, representatives of the Orthodox Church in America joined Patriarch Pimen and the faithful of the Russian Orthodox Church in celebrating his feastday for the first time in the Donskoy Monastery [14].

Saint Tikhon remains an inspiration to the faithful of North America as well as Russia and a constant reminder that, despite the trials and tribulations the Church faces in the world, “the gates of hell shall not prevail.”

Holy Father Tikhon, pray to God for us! ■



A Grown Man Grows

Characters: Narrator, Peter, John, Beggar, 1st Bystander, 2nd Bystander

(Beggar is sitting on the floor. As Narrator speaks, Peter and John are walking toward the Beautiful Gate of the Temple.)

Narrator: One day the apostles Peter and John were on their way to the Temple to worship. It was three o'clock in the afternoon, the hour of prayer. A man who had been unable to walk since birth used to be carried each day to the "Beautiful Gate" of the Temple to beg.

Beggar: Wait, gentlemen! I beg you, give me some money. I am poor and I cannot walk or work for pay. *(Peter and John look at the beggar with loving concern.)*

Peter: Look at us! *(The beggar looks at them with his hand out, expecting money.)*

Peter: I have no silver or gold, but what I have, I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk! *(Peter and John raise the beggar to his feet.)*

Beggar: I can walk! Praise God! Look—I can walk or dance or do anything! Thanks to the Lord! *(He hugs both Peter and John. Then he walks around and does a few dance steps, and remains standing and smiling near Peter and John.)*

1st Bystander: Look what's happened! That beggar who always sat by the gate is walking!

2nd Bystander: How did it happen? Is it a miracle?

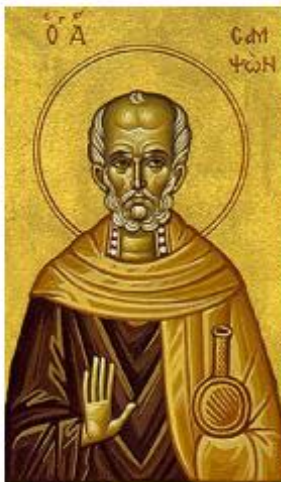
1st Bystander: Peter and John, over there, had something to do with it. But how could they have done it? *(They look at Peter and John.)*

Peter: Men of Israel, why do you stare at us as if we made this man walk by our own power or godliness? The God of our fathers sent His Son Jesus Christ. Though you killed Him, God raised Him from the dead. We are witnesses to that. *(John nods.)* By faith in the name of Jesus Christ this man was made strong and healthy. Now is the time for you to repent of your sin. Jesus Christ has come for you and all of us. He fulfills the promise made to your forefather Abraham long ago.

Narrator: Some of the Jewish leaders did not want John and Peter to go on preaching about Jesus Christ. The two men were put in prison overnight. But many who heard their message that day became believers. The number was about 5000.

Giving It All Up When You Have It All

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.



On June 27 the Church celebrates the memory of a man who, from birth, truly "had it all." He is Saint Sampson the Hospitable. In some accounts he is also given the title of Physician.

He was born in Rome in the 5th century to a wealthy, prominent family. The study of medicine particularly interested him, and his privileged position enabled him to pursue it fully, while also receiving an excellent and well-rounded education.

Sampson belongs to a group of saints known as "Unmercenaries." These saints cared for those who needed medicine or healing without asking for payment. When Sampson completed his medical studies, he willingly served as a physician to anyone who needed him. Along with medicine and physical care, he gave comfort and spiritual guidance, urging everyone he met to trust and serve Jesus Christ.

His loving care wasn't limited to those who were considered, in the stratified Roman society, to be his equals. When his parents died he freed all the slaves he had inherited as part of a vast fortune. His inherited money went to help the poor, and he made plans to live simply in the wilderness.

But he came to understand that he could serve God better living among people, so he moved to Constantinople. He took a small house and offered its shelter to homeless people, while continuing to serve as a physician and caring friend.

The Patriarch of Constantinople heard about Sampson's work, and called him to priestly ordination. More people got to know who he was after he was ordained, but his quiet ministry of healing didn't change at all.

When Emperor Justinian became gravely ill and his doctors could find no cure, Sampson was sent for. His fervent prayer healed the emperor, who was so relieved and grateful that he wanted to bestow lavish gifts on the man who had cured him.

But Sampson had already had the kinds of things the emperor wanted to give him. He respectfully reminded the monarch of this, and said, "I left those things behind for the sake of Christ, so that I might find heavenly and eternal wealth." Perhaps only a person who has given up great riches is able to understand so well how little they mean in comparison to God's gifts.

Sampson did receive a reward from the emperor. He requested that Justinian build a hospital to serve the people of Constantinople. His request was fulfilled, and the hospital became the largest free clinic in the empire.

One commentator remarked on the uniquely Christian character of the hospital:

"It should be noted that such institutions were unknown to the pagans. They built grandiose edifices, temples to their gods, palaces, theaters, circuses whose ruins amaze us even today by their enormous size. They spent huge amounts on luxury and pleasure, but nowhere do we see that they tried to ease the lot of the sick and the suffering." (From "Selected Lives of Saints", compiled by A.N. Bakhmeteva, Moscow 1872.)

Troparion - Tone 8

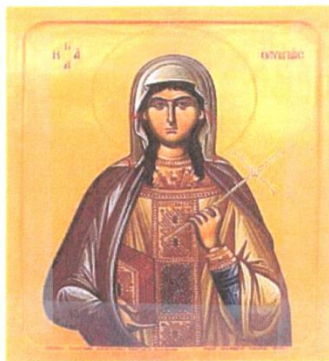
Through your patience, your unceasing prayer,
your love for the poor and the help you gave to them,
you became worthy of your reward, O holy Sampson.
Intercede with Christ God that He may save our souls

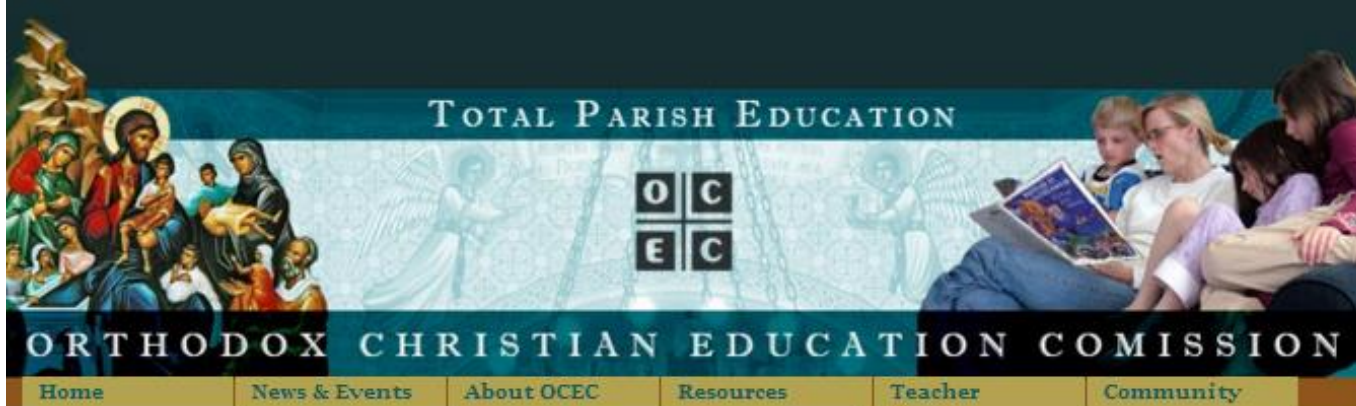
Six Things Every Orthodox Woman Should Know



So that nobody should take the term “man” (*anthropos*) to mean only the male, Scripture adds “male and female He made them.” Woman, like man, possesses that which is created in God’s image. Equal in honor in their natures, equal their virtues, equal their reward and alike their condemnation. (*St. Basil the Great*)

1. It isn’t all about Eve
2. The Church Fathers are our friends
3. Asking questions is a good thing
4. Women can teach men
5. We can meet extraordinary women in the Bible and in our Calendar of Saints
6. We have opportunities and advocates





With a vision for *Total Parish Education*, The Orthodox Education Commission provides resources and a community to meet the educational needs of all Orthodox Christians.



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Visit www.antiochian.org/OI2015 for the latest info and forms for the 2015 Orthodox Institute. Visit the [News & Events](#) page to download a schedule and posters for the Institute.

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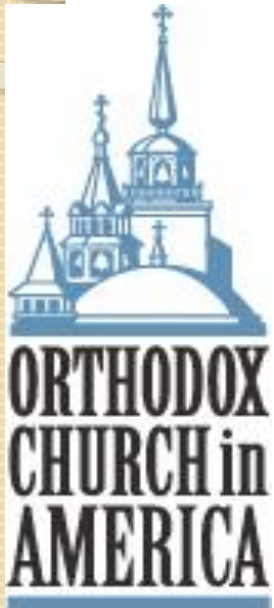
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DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE & HUMANITARIAN AID



EXPANDING THE MISSION
through
PARISH MINISTRIES and
MATTHEW 25 OUTREACH



CSHA and the OCA VISION

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon set forth the vision of the OCA built on “Four Pillars”.

**Under Evangelism and Outreach, an
Enduring Goal is:**

**“To effectively practice Matthew 25
ministries in reaching out to those in need,
both within and outside our parishes”**



CSHA DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

**Donna Karabin, Popadija Kitty Vitko, Priest Timothy Yates,
Arlene Kallaur, Diana Pasca, Nancy Van Dyken [Archpriest
Thomas Moore]**

His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek ~ Holy Synod Liaison

December 2016 Meeting and Retreat Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration Ellwood City, PA



DIOCESAN MINISTRY NETWORK

OCA Dioceses are invited to appoint clergy or lay liaisons to share news on local ministry programs with CSHA and to inform their dioceses of department news. At this time:

❖ Bulgarian	Mat. Krystal (Xenia) Royer
❖ Midwest	Mat. Vera Proctor
❖ NY/NJ	Diana Pasca
❖ South	Priest Timothy Yates
❖ Wash., DC	James (Skip) Mersereau
❖ West	Archpriest David Lowell

CHRISTIAN SERVICE & HUMANITARIAN AID

- ❖ **CSHA promotes the involvement of clergy and laity in caring for the needs of others according to the Gospel teachings and Tradition of the Church,**
- ❖ **Develops resources for ministry programs by and for people of all ages,**
- ❖ **Collaborates with other OCA Church Ministries and Orthodox agencies, and**
- ❖ **Promotes programs and support for U.S. and worldwide humanitarian organizations.**

Supporting Orthodox Agencies and Ecumenical Partners



IOCC

Helping others help themselves

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES



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ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PRISON MINISTRY
AN AGENCY OF THE ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS

CURRENT CSHA PROGRAMS

- ❖ **Parish Ministry Resources (PMR)**
- ❖ **Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training**
- ❖ **Orthodox Christian Living Will**
- ❖ **“OCA Parish Ministry” Facebook page**
- ❖ **MailChimp**
- ❖ **Conference Planning**

PARISH MINISTRY RESOURCES

The PMR is a collection of articles describing ways clergy and laity are successfully serving others and building up their parishes.

“Enormous treasure-trove of parish-tested ministry”

-- Archpriest John Jillions, OCA Chancellor



There are nearly 300 PMR articles categorized under eight ministry themes:

- ❖ Theology of Lay Ministries**
- ❖ Stewardship Education**
- ❖ Parish Development**
- ❖ Community Service**
- ❖ Witness and Mission**
- ❖ Family Life**
- ❖ Youth and College Ministries**
- ❖ Seniors**

HOW TO FIND THE PMR

oca.org/parish-ministry



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July 17, 2015 — Greatmartyr Marina (Margaret)
of Antioch in Pisidia

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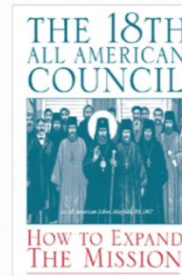
July 16, 2015

IN THE NEWS: AAC liturgical services and music, youth program, new publication

SYOSSET, NY [OCA]

Liturgical services at the 18th All-American Council.

The liturgical services are at the heart of the [18th All-American Council](#). On Saturday, July 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m., participants in the [Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America's](#) national convention and those arriving early for the AAC are invited to attend a pan-Orthodox Great Vespers at Atlanta's [Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral](#), hosted by His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta. **Transportation** will be



[Find a Parish](#)



[Questions & Answers](#)



[Become a Steward](#)



[18th All-American Council](#)

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[AAC Documents](#)

[Delegate Handbook, Proposed Revised Statute, Resolutions, Reports](#)

[TEXTS FOR UPCOMING SERVICES](#)

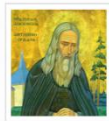
[July 27](#)

HOW TO FIND THE PMR

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[More News](#)



Evangelization
Inspiration and
resources for sharing
the good news



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Adults**
Read recent issues of
the *Wonder* online
journal



**Orthodox
Christianity**
"Come and see" the
ancient Christian faith



**Resources for the
Prevention of Sexual
Misconduct**



**Dept. of Christian
Education**
Christian education
resources, bulletin
inserts



**Parish Ministry
Resources**
Practical "how to" ideas
for serving others



Serbia

FR. LAWRENCE FARLEY

The Mathematics of Misery

One of the many memorable lines from the classic *The Princess Bride* says it admirably. In that film,...

FR. STEVEN KOSTOFF

"Do you want to be healed?"

In the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Saint John we find the account of the healing of the paralytic...



**FOCA deadlines, updates,
news**

The Orthodox Church in America

The Mission of The Orthodox Church in America, the local autocephalous Orthodox Christian Church, is to be faithful in fulfilling



PARISH MINISTRY RESOURCES

- ❖ We welcome your feedback on articles.
- ❖ Are there programs in your home parishes that could be highlighted in the PMR?
- ❖ Contact us at csha@oca.org

ORTHODOX LIVING WILL

**“A GIFT FOR MY LOVED ONES”
“ANOTHER GIFT FOR MY LOVED ONES”**

Two documents to assist in making faith-informed decisions on end-of-life care and after-death issues:

- ❖ **Healthcare Power of Attorney**
- ❖ **Advance Directive for Health Care Decisions**
- ❖ **Advance Directive for Funeral Care**

Find on oca.org: “About the OCA” ~ Documents ~ Tools

**Task Force: Archpriest Thomas Moore, Priest Paul Fetsko,
Deacon Mark Barna and Mr. Nicholas Ressetar**

The image features two hands, one from the top right and one from the bottom left, reaching towards each other. A bright, glowing light emanates from the space between the palms, creating a lens flare effect against a dark, blurred background. The text is overlaid on this scene.

COMPASSION IN ACTION:

PARISH MINISTRY TRAINING



COMPASSION IN ACTION: PARISH MINISTRY TRAINING

Compassion in Action is a ministry of personal presence ~ of empathy, compassion and listening provided by the faithful to someone who is suffering mentally, emotionally, physically and/or spiritually.

Faithful are trained and supervised to visit and provide Orthodox Christian care to hurting brothers and sisters in the parish, or to neighbors in the community.



COMPASSION IN ACTION (CiA)

To clarify, this ministry of caregiving does not focus on “doing things” for the sufferer (e.g., cleaning the house, helping him/her get into the shower) but, rather, focuses upon the care receiver’s need for an Orthodox person’s presence as the center and sole reason for the visit.

~ Excerpt from Concept Booklet



Participating parishes have access to the CiA Development Kit website:

- ❖ **With the blessing of Metropolitan Tikhon**
- ❖ **With the blessing of the Diocesan Bishop**

- ❖ **Exercises and activities to begin the process**
- ❖ **Materials to aid in discernment**
- ❖ **A mentor is assigned to help and advise**

**COMPASSION IN ACTION
PILOT PROGRAM**
Saint Mary Magdalene Church – Fenton, MI
Bulgarian Diocese



COMMUNICATIONS

- ❖ **News Features on the OCA Website**
- ❖ **“OCA Parish Ministry” Facebook Page**
- ❖ **CSHA Page on the OCA Website**
- ❖ **Diocesan Ministry Representatives**
- ❖ **Diocesan Assemblies and Meetings**
- ❖ **St. Juliana Society at SVS**
- ❖ **2017 Parish Ministries Conference**
- ❖ **2018 All-American Council Workshops**

CHALLENGES

- ❖ **Staffing: We need new ministry-minded department members with contributing skills.**
- ❖ **We welcome appointment of new Diocesan Ministry Representatives.**
- ❖ **Budget shortfalls for CiA and Parish Ministries Conference, e.g.**

2013	\$17,000 (last Conference)
2014	\$12,000
2015	\$8,500
2016	\$8,500
2017	\$8,500

MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS, JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW

Joy of all who sorrow art thou
And protectress of the oppressed,
Feeder of the hungry,
Consolation of travelers,
Haven for the storm-tossed,
Visitation of the sick,
Protection and aid for the infirm,
Staff of old age,
O all pure Mother of the
Most High God,
Hasten, we pray,
to save thy servants.

