



Metropolitan Council Meeting

Fall 2013

Committees/Departments Reports



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council
September 24 to September 26, 2013
Committees/Departments Reports
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Charity Committee Report

Since the Spring session of the Metropolitan Council there has been only one disbursement from the Charity Fund, of \$5000 to IOCC Oklahoma tornado relief.

The committee offers the following for the consideration of the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council:

- The year-end fund balance for 2010 was \$ 34,559.36
- If the Charity Committee makes even a \$5000 donation to IOCC for the crisis in Syria (or, variously, Egypt), it leaves us with a less than \$3000 in the Charity line item.

The committee would like to see the funding return to 2010 levels; also, we suggest that a reinstatement of a Church-wide appeal (or similar vehicle) be considered.

In Christ, the Charity Committee

Protodeacon Michael Myers, Chair
 Bishop MELCHISEDEK, Synod Liaison
 Fr. John Jillions, Chancery Liaison
 Fr. David Lowell
 Fr. John Dunlop

Orthodox Church in America
 Schedule of Temporarily Restricted Funds - Charity
 Through September 3, 2013

| | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Ending Balance, December 31, 2011 | | <u>\$ 15,235.38</u> |
| <i>Donations Received - 2012 - Sept 3, 2013</i> | | \$ 2,755.00 |
| Earmarked Donation for Hurricane Relief | | \$ 10,000.00 |
| <i>Distributions:</i> | | |
| - Earmarked for Diocese of NY/NJ Hurricane Relief Fund | \$ (10,000.00) | |
| | \$ | |
| - IOCC - Hurricane Sandy Relief | (5,000.00) | |
| | <u>\$</u> | |
| - IOCC - Oklahoma Tornado Relief | <u>(5,000.00)</u> | |
| Total Distributions | | <u>\$(20,000.00)</u> |
| Ending Balance September 3, 2013 | | <u>\$ 7,990.38</u> |

Report of the Ethics Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Fall, 2013

There is no written report.

**REPORT OF FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO THE
METROPILTAN COUNCIL FALL MEETING
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
SEPTEMBER 23TH TO 26TH , 2013
EAST NORWICH INN, SYOSSET, NEW YORK**

MANDATE:

Originating from the Statutory Authority of the All-American Council, the Financial Development Committee (FDC) was brought into existence in the fall of 2010 and subsequently defined its Charter during the Spring 2011 Holy Synod/ MC Joint Meeting as follows:

"The [Financial] Development Committee offers guidance, suggestions and support to the central administration for annual, major, and planned giving programs. It assists the Metropolitan and Giving Officers/ Staff in identifying, cultivating and soliciting donors to the OCA. It reports to the MC, presenting appropriate recommendations for action concerning the OCA's fund-raising policy and activity."

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

His Grace, Bishop Michael, Synodal Liaison
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

Janet Van Duyn
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

V. Reverend John J. Jillions, Ex-Officio
Chancellor Orthodox Church in America

Melanie Ringa, OCA Treasurer
Orthodox Church in America
Chancery Liaison

David M. Yeosock, PE, Chairman
Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern
Pennsylvania

V. Reverend David Lowell
Diocese of West

V. Reverend John Shimchick
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

Elizabeth Mikhalevsky
Diocese of Washington

Protodeacon Nazar Polataiko
Archdiocese of Canada

RESOURCES:

The primary resource for the FDC originates from an invigorated umbrella gift giving organization that acts "to articulate a compelling vision and plan for funding the outreach ministries of the Church and other Church needs." An advisory board (not restricted to MC members) formulates the "case" for funding and training solicitors in the fundraising strategy. Donors, in turn, would be cultivated and solicited to provide earmarked and sequestered funds for individual ministries. Since the Spring session of the MC, the FDC has established the "Stewards of the OCA" with a goal of creating a strong base of 300 members as a spring board for current and future "**relationship building**".

PROJECTS SINCE LAST AAC:

The FDC has initiated three minor fund raising programs of varying success. The “Point-n-Click” website drive was a successful fund raising drive to assure better attendance from delegates in more remote locations for the 16th AAC. The second initiative was a letter request campaign initiated at the past AAC which solicited funds for evangelism and revitalization beginning with the members of the MC that has received positive support. The third, in progress, will be second “Point-n-Click” donation page for the OCA website and revision of the OCA database of donors.

FUTURE PLANS:

The committee has continued to meet via teleconferences and group meetings to review and refine our message to the Church-at-large. During the Spring MC meeting, the committee presented the need for **the involvement of every single Metropolitan Council Member**. The committee challenged the support of the MC; who then responded with a generous offering as Stewards along with many attendees of the most recent AAC.

Since the council, we have reviewed database requirements for soliciting new members to join the “Stewards of the OCA”. Our review revealed significant issues with regarding the age of the database with a firm conclusion that the entire list was “woefully out of date”. This list is crucial to our mission and the FDC is formulating a fix to solve issues initially pointed out by our consultant, Fr. Chad Hatfield: speaking to the point, that the database often offends more than it succors. For example, the database is amiss with misspelled names, deceased members of our Church, and other discrepancies that result in a feeling that tells our potential givers that “You really don’t know me, do you?” The committee desires to get to know our Stewards and this issue will require, as Father David Lowell posited during his FDC tenure, a long-term approach to building a new vision and community of givers.

With this in mind, the FDC concluded that relationship is the key to our success and has made this point the crux of our fundraising efforts. Although this may sound like a simple conclusion of the problem of past fundraising that anyone in the Church would notice, the ability to “build an emotional and faith based connection” has been routinely disrupted by a fundraising “transactional process” in a manner that has ignored the fact that relationships are crucial. Rather than dwell on the intricacies of “relationship building”, it is suffice to say that the committee’s present goal is just this: we need authentic, personable and inspiring people from within our ranks to reach out and rebuild the relationships within our Church (and this is not a short term process with a quick fix approach). And, we chose to begin with the close relationship currently being forged in the venue of the Metropolitan Council, a starting point for extending our Financial Development into the full body of the Church.

With this approach in mind, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, along with our Chancellor, Father John Jillions and Treasurer, Melanie Ringa, is working to restore and reach out to the donors of the Church through personal contact, but there is obviously a need for help from all of us. We need to strengthen our commitment to fundraising by following their example of getting to know the “Steward of the OCA”, thanking them, making personal phone calls and “**building relationships**” across the board. In essence, the topic on the table for the FDC is not strategizing to solicit funds or creating tactics to get people to give but an effort to repair, reach out, and create new relationships in a genuine manner.

COMMENTS:

His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, His Grace, Bishop MICHAEL, along with Diocesan Hierarchs from the OCA supports the formation of the Financial Development Committee (FDC) and the goal of involving the entire Church in fundraising through relationship in an authentic environment.

The Stewards, those that we have currently recruited and those that will come into their ranks have a responsibility that is more than being than just being a “donor”. We challenge all of our Stewards, within the vision that is the OCA, to the renewal of relationships putting behind conflicts by repair and asking advice from our future supporters to meet the needs of the Church.

Members of the Committee are soliciting comment, volunteers and will be providing much detail on this specific committee during the upcoming meeting.

Respectfully Submitted
September 19, 2013

Report of the Financial/Investment Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Fall, 2013

Report to Follow.

Report of the Human Resource Committee
Metropolitan Council Meeting
Fall, 2013

No written report.

**Internal Governance Committee
Report to the Metropolitan Council
Fall Session 2013
Archpriest Chad Hatfield, Chairman**

Members:

**Fr. Chad Hatfield, Chairman
Bishop Melchisedek (Synod Liaison)
Fr. Eric Tosi (Chancery Liaison)
Fr. Michael Anderson
Fr. William Evansky
Fr. David Lowell
Fr. James Weremedic
Pdn. Michael Myers
David Yeosock
David Zavednak**

As discussed at the previous meeting of the MC, a retreat was organized on the theme: "Conflict Resolution". Again, per conversations at the MC this theme was chosen given our need as a body to better understand conflict resolution not only from our history but as we seek to move forward in a positive vein.

Prof Al Rossi, Director of Field Education at SVOTS and a licensed clinical psychologist in New York and Fr Nicholas Solak who directs Prison Chaplaincy Field Work at SVOTS have presented previous workshops on this topic. The retreat will be hosted at Our Lady of Kazan Church.

Work needs to begin on the updating of the MC Handbook with a working sub-committee to be named at this meeting. A Talent Survey will also be submitted to members of the MC electronically.

It should be noted that auditors have completed the 2012 audit with a report from Melanie Ringa to be received at this meeting.

Report of the Metropolitan Council Legal Committee

Fall Meeting of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America

September 24-26, 2013

Given that many of the Dioceses of the Orthodox Church in America convene their annual Diocesan Assemblies during the spring and summer months, it can be anticipated that many new diocesan delegates to the Metropolitan Council will participate for the first time in the work of this body at its fall session. For this reason the Legal Committee reprints as Appendix I to this Report a brief statement regarding the Committee's function, role, and current membership. Each member of the Committee welcomes any questions from any delegate to this Council regarding any aspect of its work.

The interim between the spring meeting of the Metropolitan Council and the projected date for the fall session of the Council has been an extremely busy one for the Legal Committee. In addition to its mandate to monitor both ongoing and newly-filed civil claims and lawsuits against the Church (as well as civil claims initiated by the Church to protect and advance its civil and secular interests), the Committee has been heavily invested in a number of initiatives of the Church, some of which only incidentally touch on the legal interests of the OCA, but also others which impact more directly and immediately on the legal posture of the Church. These activities have included:

Matters Pending in the Courts of Interest to the Orthodox Church in America

Susan v. Romanian Orthodox Episcopate

The Legal Committee has earlier reported that some years back, Father Vasile Susan ("Fr. Susan") initiated a lawsuit in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Chancery Division, against Defendant Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America ("ROEA"), Defendant Archbishop Nathaniel, and Defendant V. Rev. Fr. Simion Pavel, contesting Archbishop Nathaniel's decision to remove Fr. Susan from an OCA parish within the ROEA and to transfer him to the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Primate. Fr. Susan seeks an injunction to compel the ROEA to convene an ecclesiastical tribunal to determine his priestly status. Fr. Susan also brings related contract and tort claims arising from his ecclesiastical transfer and statements made solely within the Church as part of that process.

Subsequently Fr. Susan's attorney issued a deposition subpoena to Metropolitan Jonah. Counsel retained to represent the Metropolitan moved to quash this subpoena on

several grounds, among which were that the Circuit Court lacked subject matter jurisdiction over this obviously religious dispute. Although the Circuit Court originally held (multiple times) that the ecclesiastical abstention doctrine did not apply in this case, on reconsideration the Circuit Court dismissed the case in its entirety with prejudice for lack of subject matter jurisdiction by order dated July 15, 2011 and affirmed its ruling by order (denying reconsideration) dated February 9, 2012.

Fr. Susan then petitioned the First District Court of Appeals in Illinois for a rehearing respecting the dismissal of his lawsuit by the Circuit Court of Cook County. On August 15, 2013, that appellate court issued its Order (Number 1-12-0697), denying Father Susan's petition for rehearing.

The Legal Committee will continue to monitor this litigation.

Ivanov v. Notzkov

The Legal Committee has previously reported to the Metropolitan Council that a suit (*Ivanov et al. v. Notzkov, et al.*) had been initiated in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois (County Department, Chancery Division, Number 05 CH 13247) seeking a court ruling that the parish of Saint John of Rila Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church in Chicago was not subject to the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church Diocese of the United States of America and Canada (OCA). The Committee had also reported that on July 20, 2012, after 18 days of a trial which took place periodically between October 24, 2011 and May 11, 2012, a Memorandum Opinion and Order had been entered in the suit dismissing the claims of the Plaintiffs and denying the Plaintiffs' Complaint in its entirety, specifically ruling that "Defendants [OCA party] may govern St. John of Rila [parish] under the hierarchical jurisdiction of the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church of the Diocese of the United State [sic] of America and Canada," the Court grounding its decision on the religious abstention doctrine and "refrain[ing] from imposing the Court's determination in the governance of St. John of Rila Bulgarian Orthodox Church." The Legal Committee is unaware of any further activity in this matter.

Thompson v. Orthodox Church in America

On June 25, 2013, a lawsuit was filed in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles (Central District), Case Number BC 513443, captioned Krista Thompson, plaintiff, v. Orthodox Church in America, St. Innocent Orthodox Church, Father John Soucek, and Does 1-100, as defendants. The complaint seeks damages for negligence; negligent supervision; negligent hiring/retention; negligent failure to warn, train, or educate; constructive fraud (California Code §1573); intentional infliction of emotional distress; sexual battery (California Code §1708.5); assault; sexual harassment (California Code §51.9); and gender violence (California code §52.4). As of the time of this report, no service of process has been accomplished upon the Orthodox Church in

America, although plaintiff's attorney (Barry P. Goldberg of Woodland Hills, California) has forwarded a letter dated August 8, 2013, to Archbishop Benjamin soliciting a waiver of service of process in this case. The complaint alleges in general terms that "Defendant SOUCEK was an ordained reader, choir director, and layperson ... a position of trust and stature within the church." It further alleges that "[i]n or around 2000, Plaintiff, now 13 years old ... was sexually molested and abused by SOUCEK on at least three occasions," and that the other named defendants have legal liability for reasons generally described in the complaint for these alleged acts of defendant Father Soucek. The Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America provided notice of the claims asserted in this lawsuit to insurance carriers of the Church within a matter of days of receiving notice of the August 8, 2013, letter to Archbishop Benjamin. Discussions are currently underway with respect to OCA insurance coverage regarding these claims and the retention of legal counsel in California to defend these matters on behalf of the OCA.

Avis Smith v. Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., et al.

On July 30, 2013, a civil suit (Case No. 13-C-13-95739) was filed in the Circuit Court for Howard County, State of Maryland, captioned *Avis Smith v. Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.* The Orthodox Church in America; His Beatitude, The Most Blessed Jonah Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of all America and Canada (a.k.a. James Paffhausen) (a.k.a. Metropolitan Jonah); The Orthodox Church of St. Matthew; St. Matthew Housing Development, Inc.; Jean Byrnes; Teresa Thomas; Cheryl Campbell; Eugenia Ordynsky; Jim Dramby; John Zahore; Cooper Pappas; Wayne Hajos; Eric Hajos; and Susan Goodknight. The complaint sets forth a series of separate counts, including "Count One-Battery (Defendant Byrnes)"; "Count Two-Battery (Defendants Thomas, Byrnes, Hajos, and Goodknight)"; "Count Three-Defamation of a Private individual (All Defendants)"; "Count Four-Civil Conspiracy (All Defendants)"; "Count Five-Intentional Interference with Economic Relations (All Defendants)"; "Count Six-Wrongful Discharge (Defendants Archdiocese of Washington, D. C., Metropolitan Jonah, Orthodox Church of St. Matthew, and St. Matthew Housing Development, Inc.); "Count Seven-Employment Discrimination (Defendants Archdiocese of Washington, D. C., Metropolitan Jonah, St. Matthew Church, St. Matthew House"; "Count Eight-Unjust Enrichment (Defendant St. Matthew Church)"; and "Count Eight-Unjust Enrichment (Defendant St. Matthew House)." The factual matrix of the claims asserted in these various Counts center upon events alleged to have taken place when the plaintiff was purportedly employed in the summer of 2009 as a kitchen manager and house caterer at St. Matthew Church; her alleged employment in October, 2009 as a part-time office manager for St. Matthew House; and her employment beginning in November 2009 as office manager. This matter is now under review.

Crown v. Archbishop Seraphim

The Legal Committee has determined that the trial in Case No. CR12-01-31687 (Queen v. Seraphim Kenneth W. Storheim) now pending in the Court of Queen's Bench, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, has been assigned to a trial calendar for the periods 12-13 September 2013 and 31 October – 1 November 2013. The Committee will continue to monitor this matter.

Other Matters with Potential Legal Implications for the Orthodox Church in America

Orthodox Catholic Christian Brotherhood of Saint John Divine (Hiram Township, Ohio)

The two monastics of the Brotherhood of Saint John Divine have expressed their wish, due to age and infirmity, to leave the property of the monastery located in Hiram, Ohio, for possible release to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (MP). The real property of the monastery consists of approximately 110 acres, consisting of as many as three tracts, each of which appears to be presently titled in the name of the Orthodox Catholic Christian Brotherhood of St. John, with the exception of the third (a 1986 transfer from John Killoran and Rose Killoran to the "Orthodox Monastery of St. John the Theologian"). The earliest deed of the three – a 1953 transfer from Ignatius Sudnick – purports to condition the use of the transferred property to "religious, recreational, educational and charitable welfare activities." The monastics now at the monastery and the *locum tenens* of the Diocese of the Midwest have discussed some form of transfer of the monastery and control of its property to a ROCOR monastery located in West Virginia. The Legal Committee has urged both the *locum tenens* of the Diocese of the Midwest and the Metropolitan to resolve the canonical or disciplinary status of the monastery and the disposition of its property as quickly as possible; the Committee has especially stressed the necessity to retain an attorney licensed in the State of Ohio to assist in respect to any legal requirements associated with the monastery, its status, and the possible transfer of any of its property rights and, in particular, the implications of the reversionary clause noted above.

Legal Review of Policies, Standards, and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct

The current effort to revise the existing (2003) Policies, Standards, and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct (PSPs) in order to bring these in line with the experience of the Church since their original adoption has been supported and advanced by a number of officers and agencies of the Church, including General Counsel and, to a more limited extent, members of the Legal Committee. At the spring meeting of the Metropolitan Council, the existing draft of revisions to the PSPs was approved and recommended to the Holy Synod for its consideration and adoption; subsequently the Synod reviewed these revisions and identified certain issues for further

consideration. The Legal Committee has contributed and continues to contribute to the ongoing review of these PSPs.

Review of Spiritual Court Judgment

As previously reported to the Metropolitan Council, The Legal Committee, in collaboration with the General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America, reviewed the conduct and results of a Spiritual Court convened by a diocesan hierarch of the Orthodox Church in America. Based upon this review, both the Legal Committee and the General Counsel recommended that the Accuser in that case seek an appellate review of the matter by the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church America in its canonical capacity as Supreme Court of Appeals as provided in Article XI, Statute of the Orthodox Church in America. That matter is still pending before the Holy Synod, made somewhat more complicated by the fact that several of the substantial issues before the Spiritual Court overlap with or are integrated into issues under consideration in connection with the ongoing effort noted above to revise the 2003 Policies, Standards, and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct (PSPs).

Proposed Task Force on OCA Statute Revision

A proposal has been made to the Metropolitan that he constitute an OCA-wide special task force to undertake revisions of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America. Numerous anomalies and gaps in the current Statute have been identified over the years, leading to calls for a close examination of the existing Statute (which is, in legal terms, the set of bylaws adopted by the OCA religious corporation created by the New York legislature in 1972); proposals have been made, ranging from an overall, top-to-bottom revision of the Statute to a more limited, issue-by-issue reconsideration of the current Statute's terms. The scope of these suggested revisions and the membership on that proposed special task force have yet to be determined, but concrete proposals are now moving to His Beatitude's desk. The Legal Committee has been heavily invested in this project.

Xenia Weigel Estate

The Orthodox Church in America is a named beneficiary in the estate of Xenia Weigel, late of Pennsylvania. Under the terms of the decedent's will, the OCA is to receive the residuary estate — that is to say, after all other named beneficiaries of the will have been paid their distributions, the remainder is to go to the OCA.

The residuary amount is approximately \$396,13 after giving effect to the OCA's decision to release approximately \$185,438, as approved by the Metropolitan Council at its Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 meetings and blessed by the Holy Synod.

The OCA in the present circumstances was presented presented with three choices: (A) receive payment of the residuary estate distribution and in that connection sign a settlement agreement and release (releasing the estate, the estate's lawyer, and the executor from liability) as it was presented by the lawyer to the estate, (B) attempt to negotiate terms more favorable to the OCA in the settlement agreement and then, if favorably negotiated, execute the agreement and receive the distribution, and (C) decline to sign entirely, and instead petition the Orphan's Court for a formal accounting and adjudication. The costs of such an adjudication are borne by the residuary beneficiary out of the residuary estate.

Under Pennsylvania law the executor of an estate has fiduciary obligations in administering the estate. In order to make distributions, the executor can either have the beneficiaries sign a release agreement or file for a formal accounting and petition the court to adjudicate the accounting. In short, the third choice provides protection to the beneficiaries, since under the first and second alternatives after the beneficiaries have received distributions they remain subject to the claims of any unpaid creditors who may not have been properly notified by the executor, while the OCA would have released the estate from any liability by signing the settlement agreement. This would be true even if a beneficiary had already spent the entirety of its distribution.

General Counsel, the Legal Committee, and the Church's Pennsylvania counsel had significant concerns with respect to the settlement agreement and release as it was presented by the estate lawyer. In addition there were some anomalies concerning the accounting as it was originally presented to the OCA. After weighing the risks of proceeding without an adjudication, the relatively nominal costs of an adjudication, and upon consultation with Pennsylvania counsel, the OCA's Treasurer, General Counsel, and Legal Committee agreed that the second alternative was the wisest, providing the OCA with the twin benefits of finality and certainty.

Pennsylvania counsel has communicated with the estate's lawyer and the adjudication proceeding has been initiated. While there can be no assurances, we are advised that the process could take up to several months (as of late August, 2013). Given the risks, it appears that the course of action elected is in essence opting to do it right over doing it right now. The costs of the process are difficult to estimate, but General Counsel is advised by Pennsylvania counsel of a possible range of \$4,000 to \$8,000.

Respectfully submitted,

E. R. Lanier

Chair, Legal Committee of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America

APPENDIX I

The Function, Role, and Current Membership of the Legal Committee of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America

It is the intention of the Legal Committee regularly to provide a summary written report from that Committee to the members of the Metropolitan Council in connection with each of the semiannual meetings of that body with respect to matters of current legal interest or concern to the Orthodox Church in America insofar as these relate reasonably to the functions and role of the Metropolitan Council in the overall governance of the Church. This role of the Legal Committee is objectively a limited and truncated one and must be understood as separate and distinct from the important, critical functions of the General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America who has a broad and comprehensive professional responsibility to take care for the general legal interests of the Orthodox Church in America, a scope of interest and concern far broader than that of the Legal Committee. Although the functions and roles of the GC and the LC MC differ in fundamental respects, the two entities work in a cooperative, supportive and reinforcing manner.

The Chair of the Legal Committee of the Metropolitan Council is Judge E.R. Lanier of Monticello, Georgia; the remaining members of the Committee are Professor Paul Meyendorff -- who brings to the Committee his acknowledged expertise on issues related to canon law, ecclesiology, and church history-- and Fr. Deacon Tony Dyl of Denver, Colorado. The Committee is assisted on a regular basis by Ms Angela Parks of Montgomery, Alabama, and by Mr. Sergei Givotovsky, an attorney now retired but very active in corporate transactions involving Russian and American interests. Mr. Gregory Nescott of Pittsburgh – a long time member of the Metropolitan Council and former Chair of the Legal Committee – is Special Consultant to the Legal Committee. The Legal Committee has since the last meeting of the Metropolitan Council continued to be in regular, often daily, contact by email, and conference calls continue to be utilized as conditions warrant. The Committee works harmoniously with the General Counsel of the OCA and with Father Eric Tosi who, in his capacity as Secretary of the Church, has a primary responsibility under the terms of the OCA Statute for legal matters within the Chancery. What has been noted in previous reports to this Council remains true: the “Legal Team” – members of the Legal Committee, Consultants to that Committee, and its Special Consultant, together with Mr. Thaddeus Wojcik, the OCA General Counsel–

“continue[s] to be blessed by unity of spirit and respect that marks our discussions. The lawyers and non-lawyers are truly functioning as a team.”

The charge of the Legal Committee is stated in the Council Members’ Handbook:

“The Metropolitan Council Legal Committee, consisting of at least three to five members, shall between meetings of the Metropolitan Council act for and on behalf of the Metropolitan Council to discharge its legal responsibilities. The Legal Committee shall work and in conjunction with the General Counsel and members of the Central Administration. Responsibility for major policy and legal decisions, such as initiation of litigation and settlement of litigation, shall be retained by the Metropolitan Council as a whole.

The Legal Committee shall fully and promptly report to the Metropolitan Council its activities and decisions between meetings. The Legal Committee shall act by majority vote. The Legal Committee may act by telephonic meeting or consent evidenced in writing or email, or such other means as means that the Legal Committee shall determine to be useful or appropriate.”

Report of the Strategic Planning Post Conciliar Committee (PoCC) to the Metropolitan Council – September 2013

The Post Conciliar Committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the OCA Strategic Plan approved at the 16th All American Council (Seattle, 2011). The current committee members are: Fr. Robert Dick, Fr. Chad Hatfield, Judge Ray Lanier, Fr. David Lowell, Pdn. Michael Myers, Fr. John Shimchick, Fr. John Vitko (chair) and Mr. David Zavednak. This committee only provides oversight, it does not do the actual implementation – that is done by Implementation Teams for each of the major goals – and to them goes the credit for the accomplishments listed below.

To date, there has been major progress against most of the goals. Equally important, these goals are being incorporated in a natural, sustainable way into the normal life and infrastructure of the Church – both at the central administration level and at the diocesan and deanery levels. This is further facilitated by the relative time of ‘peace’ throughout the OCA – which is allowing the Church at all levels to focus more of its attention its ministries. Therefore it is the recommendation of the PoCC that we complete this transition to the normal life and infrastructure of the Church by the 18th AAC (Summer 2015) and that after that the PoCC be dissolved. In the interim, we ask the Metropolitan Council for their approval to retain the current composition of the PoCC, even if the term of some of its members may have expired.

The rest of this report summarizes major progress to date and how they are transitioning into the normal life of the church.

Continuing Education: continuing education has become a major theme in the life of the Church – with activities at all levels: central administration, seminaries, and dioceses. An OCA Department of Continuing Education has been created (Holy Synod, 2013); is implementing distance learning tools (Moodle); has given live training on our sexual misconduct policies in two dioceses (Romanian and Canadian) and is scheduled to give it in 3 others (the West, NY/NJ, and Washington D.C.); and is making available recordings of other training (e.g. the OCA Parish Ministries Conference) for use throughout the Church. Both St. Tikhon’s and St. Vladimir’s Seminaries have put on summer courses in continuing education addressing such topics the ministry of presence, living the liturgy, pastoral counseling-conflict resolution, and suffering and the nature of healing. Individual dioceses are also conducting their own continuing education efforts. For example, the Diocese of Western Pennsylvania held a series of webinars on Building Vibrant Parishes and the Bulgarian Diocese partnered with the University of Saint Francis to hold a Symposium on Searching for the Sacred.

Diocesan Revitalization is being actively piloted by two dioceses: that of Eastern Pennsylvania and that of Western Pennsylvania. In addition to a broad range of revitalization activities – e.g. clergy retreats, continuing education and growing outreach programs (Prison Ministries, a coffee house, a food pantry) – both dioceses have placed significant emphasis on parish development and revitalization and have adopted modified

forms of the Parish Health Inventory Model (PHIM) developed by Joe Kormos and the Diocese of the Mid-West. Initial emphasis has been on need to educate clergy and laity on the imperative for parish development and to introduce them to the PHIM. The Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania has established a Revitalization Committee with a goal of having each parish work through the inventory's self-examination. Some parishes have undertaken the task noting that it "takes time to do well." To encourage compliance and accountability of all parishes, a monthly reporting system was instituted with most of the parishes actually filing a monthly progress report. The Diocese of Western Pennsylvania is working with Joe Kormos as a paid consultant on their Archdiocesan Parish Development Ministry. He delivered introductory presentations in the five deaneries. They have completed Phase 1 that was dedicated to "building urgency, hope and a vision of a brighter, growing future for parishes." Now in Phase 2, parishes are encouraged to channel their desire for growth and renewal into true action by initiating a specific improvement program. Key questions for this next phase will be - "Do they want to do it? Can the efforts be sustained? What about the Funding?"

Leadership: has focused on deaneries as the place to grow both clergy and lay leadership and is piloting this in the Diocese of the West. Archbishop Benjamin has increased the number of deaneries from five to six and directed that all deaneries meet twice a year in addition to the Diocesan Assembly. The Diocesan Council added \$1500 per deanery to the annual budget for each Dean to use as they deem best.

Management: is developing administrative tools and guidelines that individual parishes may find useful should they choose. Initial efforts have focused on financial tools and are being coordinated with the OCA Treasurer, Melanie Ringa. An Excel based Income and Expense Reporting Tool has been developed and provided to Melanie. She will make it available to the Diocesan Treasurers to use as they see fit. A draft set of Auditing Guidelines has also been developed and are now in review and iteration and will also be made available in the near future. These Auditing Guidelines build heavily on the earlier work by Joe Kormos and the Diocese of the Mid-West.

Finance: while finance was one of the key goal areas of the original Strategic Plan, per the recommendations of 16th AAC recommended the responsibility for this area was 'moved' to the OCA's Finance Committee. It is interesting to note that the two key recommendations of the Strategic Plan in this area – a transition to percentage giving and the development of additional funding sources (e.g. reinstatement of the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards) – are both major foci of the Finance Committee's current efforts.

Pan-Orthodox Unity: per the recommendations of the 16th AAC, this effort was to focus on pan-Orthodox efforts at the local level. It turns out that there is much more already going on at this level than people are aware of. So as the first step toward this goal, the team leader developed a compendium of the many existing pan-Orthodox fellowships/committees at the city and regional level throughout North America. However, because of unforeseen time demands, the team leader has had to step down and this activity is now on an indefinite hold.

Evangelization: Rather than reinventing the wheel, this team had reviewed the extensive existing materials on evangelization related activities – both Orthodox and non-Orthodox – and based on that review have developed a selected and annotated bibliography of 45 articles and videos and their html links. These will soon be posted by Fr. John Parker on the Department of Evangelization website. These include 18 entries on Evangelization, 5 on Growth and Vision, 6 on Stewardship, 7 on Parish Renewal, 4 on Parish Ministries and Boards, 6 on Communicating in your Parish and 4 videos. Now that this annotated bibliography has been developed and delivered, any subsequent evangelization activities will be conducted by the OCA Department of Evangelization.

Contemporary Moral Issues: piloted the first of its ‘Holy Conversation’ in the Diocese of New England on Mar. 1-2, 2013. The Holy Conversations are meant to provide an interactive, informal forum to present Orthodox teachings on contemporary moral issues and to discuss their pastoral implications. This initial pilot focused on “Marriage and Sexuality” and consisted of two keynote presentations, a panel discussion, followed by breakout working groups on various topics. The venue (a remodeled barn with lots of space) and the food were chosen to further enhance informal ‘family’ interactions and discussions. In his feedback on the meeting, one of the panelists said: “The format encouraged personal, deep and long-lasting encounters. Yet, the schedule of events did occur with keynote presentations and workshops. The atmosphere was enlivening, and for lack of a better word, Orthodox. We all learned how to relate to the others in a Spirit-driven manner, neither forced nor slackened. The atmosphere was intense yet relaxed, lively yet subdued. Holy Conversations proved to be an educational format that holds much promise for future Orthodox conferences.” Of course, there were also ‘lessons learned’ on things that could be done better. Having piloted what we believe is a promising format for such discussions, any future ‘Holy Conversations’ depend on the desires of the various dioceses to conduct them. We would be happy to work with any Diocese wishing to implement their own Holy Conversations on issues of their choosing

Youth and Young Adults: This team has focused on using social media to enable the interaction of young adults throughout the country (and the world) and to present a ‘daily liturgical presence on social media’. Our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/yyaoca), established about a year ago, already has over 1,100 ‘likes’ and a reach of 5,000 or so. About 2/3 of our ‘likes’ are within the U.S., the remainder abroad (Egypt, Greece, Canada, Georgia, Romania, and Serbia). About 50% of our audience is 34 and under. To keep this vibrant, we have new postings nearly everyday. The most effective postings seem to be spiritually centered items with a good picture and a short text. We are also developing two short videos: one on gossiping and the other, in time for Lent, on the theme of “return to paradise”. We have also just started a Twitter account – tweeting out 2 or 3 lines from the Psalms – 2 or 3 times per day. The intent is to be able to go through the entire Psalter several times per year. These activities are closely coordinated with the Department of Youth and Young Adults.

August 28, 2013

Your Beatitude and members of the Lesser Synod,

As defined at the 2012 Spring session of the Metropolitan Council, the Reorganization Work Group was directed

to prepare an initial draft on what is the work of the Church and where, centrally or locally, it can be most effectively done. The Work Group will be composed of the Lesser Synod, the Officers and three members of the Metropolitan Council.

In addition to the Metropolitan and Officers, the Council members included myself (who became the Chair after our Spring 2013 MC Meeting), Janet Van Duyn, and Maureen Jury. Fr. David Lowell also joined the group.

At the Spring 2013 MC Meeting the Group proposed the following points for exploration and further discussion:

- What actually happens at the OCA-wide Administrative level? What do our Officers and Administrators actually do?
- Are there things on this list that they should not be doing and could or should these things be done at the Diocesan level?
- Are there responsibilities that they should be doing that they currently are not?
- Is all of this worth the effort? If we did not have an OCA-wide Administrative level, how would certain functions be accomplished? Are there duplications of efforts? Is all of this cost effective?

Though the goal was is to have some proposals/suggestions prepared by the end of June, this was not possible.

In early June we received over 100 pages of “unfiltered” work logs for the Chancery operations as detailed for the weeks of May 12-24. These included the daily activities of:

Metropolitan Tikhon
Fr John Jillions
Fr Eric Tosi
Melanie Ringa
Andrew Boyd
Cindy Davis
Jessica Linke
Greg Sulich

Alex Liberovsky
Svetlana Raducevna
Roman Ostash

Also included were the stipend positions, contracted positions, Department chairs, and other individuals of responsibility:

Fr Leonid Kishkovsky
Fr John Matusiak
Thaddeus Wojcik
PDN Joseph Matusiak
Ryan Platte
Fr Theodore Boback and Fr Joseph Gallick (as the office of military chaplains fall directly under the supervision of the Metropolitan)

Departments

Bishop Mark as Department Coordinator
Department of Christian Ed (Mat. Valerie Zahirsky)
Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aide (Donna Karabin)
Department of Continuing Education (Fr Ian Pac-Urar)
Department of Evangelization (Fr. John Parker)
Department of Institutional Chaplains (Fr Steven Voytovich)
Department of Liturgical Music (David Drillock)
Department of Youth (Andrew Boyd but incorporated into chancery report)
FOCA (Becky Tesar)
AAC (Peter Ilchuk)

Our Group scheduled several teleconferences to examine this significant amount of material. Jan Van Duyn prepared a study of the documents and raised some points for consideration. Health concerns both for her and Maureen Jury prevented their active participation in later summer discussions. I proposed assembling a final report that the Group would review in anticipation of its final submission to you. In addition, I agreed to discuss the main points with members of the Holy Synod (I was able to have phone conversations with Archbishops Benjamin and Nikon, Bishops Michael, Melchizedek, Mark, and Alexander.)

With this background in mind, the following points can be made:

- 1) The hierarchs and Group were quite satisfied with the level and quality of the work done at the various levels, particularly by the Officers. In fact, it was generally acknowledged that greater awareness of these efforts would be valuable and should somehow be made available to the broader membership of the OCA. It was affirmed that as in life, “you get what you pay for,” and maintaining quality

staff in a reasonable way while living in an expensive part of the country does have its legitimate expenses.

Several hierarchs noted that as an Autocephalous Church it is essential that we are prepared to deal with our own internal needs and to have the necessary expertise to present ourselves both to the rest of the Orthodox world and to the non-Orthodox in America

The underlying tension for some was not the value of the work being done or the integrity of the individuals represented (particularly the Officers), but the ability of the Church to financially sustain these efforts. Relying on the existing method of assessments, based on the “head tax” of members, has proven unreliable, with declining memberships in some Dioceses. It is important, some have suggested, to establish healthier models of support based on proportional giving as well as to have “stewardship based” resources, such as was provided by the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards (FOS).

The preferred approach recommended by some was not to explore avenues of reducing the staff or their salaries, but to guide and strengthen the life of our parishes. As expressed by one hierarch, “When the hull of a ship rises, the whole ship rises,” so it is with parishes, Diocesan life, and our whole Church.

2) Certain “overlaps” were noted by the Group, especially as relates to decision-making and the process of responding to emails. However, it was not clear how much actual duplication these represented, particularly as understood from the financial perspective of employee’s time, and how much of this may have been necessary and perhaps even valuable (utilizing additional eyes and ears who can be sensitive in perceiving the proper context and tone of an issue).

3) When the hierarchs were asked about their Diocesan interactions with National Departments, most acknowledged that while some areas are best done on local levels (particularly youth work and mission), others like the identification and availability of professionals in the area of Sexual Misconduct are essential. The financial resources provided by the Department of Evangelization’s “Mission Grant” can rarely be duplicated on a Diocesan-level. The instant online access to well-set liturgical texts and music produced by the Department of Liturgical Music are much appreciated. No doubt, the upcoming online training sessions for choir directors (first piloted in the Diocese of NY & NJ) will help greatly, with minimum expense. Online materials prepared by the Department of Religious are also easily accessible.

Some logistical questions remain: Is there an overall plan or coordinated understanding of how the Departments work or does each chair go about their business as they see fit and then just report the results? Are they expected to be

proactive in scheduling activities throughout the Church (making contacts with Diocesan departments) or should they be clearinghouses for the distribution of materials and ideas/(best practices, etc)?

Are there any metrics/measurements on how internet materials are being used? If their use is limited, is it because parishes are not aware of their availability or they are just not needed? (For example, how well utilized are the Department of Christian Education's weekly bulletin inserts?)

The Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aide is recognized as one area where the distribution of shared experience is quite valuable as it is grounded on the interaction of clergy and laity. The Department offered a Conference this summer that was well received.

- 4) Some areas whose
work and content formation should be considered for standardization are:

Sexual Misconduct: It has been observed that the NY-NJ Diocese has offered sessions for laity (church school and parish council members) and will have a session for clergy this fall with Fr. Ian Pac-Urar), while the Diocese of New England offered similar training for clergy and laity based on the standards set by the *Boy Scouts*.

Late Vocations Education: The Orthodox Church in America, St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's Seminary, the Diocese of NY-NJ, and New England (perhaps each Diocese) has its own program. Some seem more geared for the late vocation preparation of diaconal candidates, others are considered as "Catechetical training," which includes both diaconal training and church school teachers — women and men. Does there need to be similar training in these program?

With offer this review, suggestions, and questions for your blessing and comments.

In Christ,

Fr. John Shimchick

Department of Christian Education Report: September, 2012

Department Mandate

To support church school teachers, clergy, families and others engaged in faith formation for every age level. The Department's services include:

- Web-based study units
- Workshops and conferences for Christian educators
- Training in the use of available curriculum and resources
- Articles offering timely information in Orthodox periodicals
- Review and recommendation of resources, and production of new resources
- Consultant services
- Cooperative efforts with Orthodox Christian Education Commission including materials, workshops and projects

Members and Resource Persons

Chair: Valerie Zahirsky

Members: Veronica Bilas, Myra Kovalak, Daria Petrykowski, Maria Proch, Alexandra Safchuk, Jewelann Stefanar, Christine Zebrun

Webmaster: John Pusey

The Department's Work:

Regularly-Appearing Written Pieces

Weekly bulletin inserts downloadable from the Department site

Articles for each issue of *The Orthodox Church*

Parish Visits and Support

Department members visit parishes (often while traveling on vacation) to meet with clergy, teachers, directors, parents and students. These were mostly informal visits, though materials and resources were displayed and described when possible.

Department members maintain ongoing correspondence and phone contact to respond to questions and provide help with problems and needs re church school programs, curriculum and resources.

Conferences and Workshops

Regional, Diocesan and parish workshops are offered in response to requests, and also as part of the Department's own initiative.

Projects Begun in 2012

Illustrated guide to the Book of Revelation, working with Fr. George Gray

Study questions for the revised History section of Fr. Thomas Hopko's series of books entitled *The Orthodox Faith* (questions for other sections to follow).

Ongoing Projects

Website review and updating, activities and resources added to the website, monthly departmental conferences, semi-annual working retreats,

Parish Ministries Conference 2013

A follow-up to the successful 2010 conference in Cleveland, this event will take place in Washington DC. Department members will present workshops on the Christian Education track, and will work with the

other participating departments to plan the plenary sessions and other whole-group gatherings. A Department member is the overall coordinator of this July conference. This event will require a great deal of time and effort on the part of each Department member: planning, producing handout materials, gathering resources, preparing workshop content, arranging for speakers, seeing to accommodations and venues, etc.

Cooperative Activities with OCEC and Other Jurisdictions

In addition to attending the annual OCEC (Orthodox Christian Education Commission) meetings, Department members lead, coordinate and present at teacher training workshops offered by OCEC. They also take part in workshops and conferences offered by other Orthodox jurisdictions. Prominent among these is the annual Orthodox Institute sponsored by the Antiochian Archdiocese. The Department now, along with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, financially supports this conference, and Department members are often called on to be presenters.

Anticipated Projects

In cooperation with Department of Music and Translations, the Department will undertake the production of a mini-unit about the lives of Orthodox composers. After learning about composers, students will be guided in singing some of their compositions.

The Bishop's Special Table, an explanation of what is on the Altar Table and what is done in the Altar Table area, for younger children. It will be accompanied by line drawings.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Zahirsky, Department Chair

**OCA DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND HUMANITARIAN AID (CSHA)
SEPTEMBER 4, 2013 SUMMARY REPORT (March - August 2013)**

Members: Donna Karabin – Chair, Archpriest Thomas Moore, Popadija Kitty Vitko, Nancy VanDyken, Arlene Kallaur – Resource Handbook Editor, and a number of ministry consultants

Parish Ministries Conference

The 2013 OCA Parish Ministries Conference was the department's major event of the past six months. It was held at Marymount University in Arlington, VA, July 10-13 and coordinated with the Departments of Christian Education, Liturgical Music and Youth and Young Adults. Clergy Continuing Education credits were granted to clergy participants. CSHA extended a courtesy invitation to the Department of Institutional Chaplaincies to present a workshop in the Christian Service track. In addition to workshops, there was a keynote address given by V. Rev. Thomas Hopko. The liturgical schedule included Morning Prayers, Vespers and a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on the closing day. Two of the services were held at churches in the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, St. Nicholas Cathedral and St. Luke-McLean. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and His Grace, Bishop Mark attended the full conference. There were 110 registrants representing ten OCA dioceses, plus a dozen or so attendees from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. CSHA workshops focused on Matthew 25 ministries:

- **Challenges of Matthew 25 Parish Outreach Ministries:** Arlene Kallaur, John Demakis, MD and Rev. Stephen Vernak made presentations about the obstacles they encountered and the successes they experienced in their dynamic outreach ministries.
- **Institutional Chaplaincies for Clergy and Lay Men and Women Seminary Graduates:** V. Rev. Steven Voytovich and Rev. Timothy Yates spoke about the fulfilling pastoral care careers in hospitals, hospices, long-term care facilities, prisons and other specialized settings.
- **Parish Prison Ministry:** Rev. Demetrius and Presbyteria Despina Nicoloudakis talked about their unique ministry involving the priest and the entire parish in outreach to incarcerated men and women and care for them during their transition after release.
- **Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training:** V. Rev. Steven Voytovich and Nancy VanDyken introduced CiA as a program that equips, trains and mentors parishes in a ministry of caring, compassion, and relational transformation.
- **Addictions and Recovery:** V. Rev. George Kokhno and Popadija Kitty Vitko, Coordinators, and Guest Speakers (Anonymous) gave information on alcohol, drug, food and other addictions and how we in Orthodox parishes can help those who are struggling.
- **IOCC Interactive Worldwide and US Programs, incl. Emergency Disaster Response:** Dan Christopoulos, IOCC Country Representative–USA, gave a comprehensive view of IOCC outreach programs and how Orthodox parishes can work with IOCC to help families escape the cycle of hunger, poverty and disease, and to rebuild lives following conflict and disasters.
- **OCCM Mission Teams and Church World Service in Global Outreach:** V. Rev. Konstantinos Pavlakos (Guatemala), Maria Roeber, RN (Tanzania), Greg McKinney (Alaska), and John Javed - CWS Asst. Regional Director – Richmond, VA each told of their experiences in countries around the world where the love of Jesus Christ is spread through OCCM teams and the CWS network of ecumenical partners.
- **FOCUS North America: Orthodox Christian Outreach to the homeless and working poor of America:** Nick Chakos, Exec. Dir., spoke about the broad development of this city by

city national movement of Orthodox Christians, united in faith to provide vital life recovery services: food, clothing, shelter, job training, and understanding.

Resource Handbook for Ministries

New Resource Handbook (RH) articles are being researched. Existing articles are being reviewed, updated and periodically featured on the OCA homepage and Facebook page. Ryan Platte, OCA Tech Manager, provided statistics and analysis of RH on-line activity to help CSHA better understand readers' interests. We will continue consultations with the Web Team to better promote this valuable ministry resource. A Resource Handbook Working Group is being formed to further study the statistical data and determine the focus for future ministry themes.

Recent postings on the OCA website/Facebook page include:

- "Help the Hungry with a Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk" by Arlene Kallaur in March
- Three articles posted for Older Americans Month in May: "Giving Back to the Community" by Popadija Kitty Vitko; "Ideas for Youth to Minister with the Elderly" by V. Rev. Michael Anderson; "The Child and Aging Adults" by Ludmilla B. Turkevich. (Note: We were denied permission from Eerdman's Publishing Co. to reprint an article on "The Christian Practice of Growing Old: The Witness of Scripture" because the RH is not password protected.)
- In promotion of Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday in June, a new article by Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) Board Member, Fr. Stephen Powley (Antiochian Archdiocese), entitled "Unbind Him" was posted. CSHA referenced the Encyclical from the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America urging parishes to pray for OCPM, to take up special collections, and to consider internships and volunteer opportunities.
- An announcement was posted in September encouraging participation of parishes, clergy and laity in charitable outreach on September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance.

The Diocese of Eastern PA posted one of the RH articles on Stewardship on their website. We encourage other dioceses, parish councils and parish leaders to read through the RH's eight themes and select resource materials for use in their communities.

Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training

Our collaboration with the Department of Institutional Chaplaincies continues on Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training (CiA). Fr. Steven Voytovich met with Metropolitan Tikhon in the Spring to introduce the ministry. His Beatitude gave his blessing. We are updating the contact information on the CiA Development Kit website in anticipation of starting a pilot program in the coming months.

"The Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training Program has been blessed for use in the parish setting to aid the faithful of our parish communities realize their calling to such a ministry of presence, and likewise aid parish pastors in building mentoring skills to support them ... It is my fervent prayer that the parish pastor and people, working together, will utilize this program with a spirit of love, compassion and humility, developing a variety of compassionate caring ministries."

- Excerpt of April 3, 2013 letter from His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon

Ministry to Deaf Orthodox Christians

(16th AAC Mandate) The department continues to investigate Ministry to the Deaf. There is an expressed interest from the deaf in Catechetical materials and in development of an ecclesiastical dictionary in American Sign Language for liturgical translations. An active "Deaf Orthodox Christian" Facebook page provides a view into needs and attitudes of the deaf culture.

Internet Communications

The OCA e-mail account is used extensively for internal communications and in response to inquiries and requests from outside sources. The CSHA page on oca.org has been updated. An independent CSHA website is planned with Orthodox Web Solutions. A Facebook page is nearing readiness.

Church World Service – Humanitarian Aid

- Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky (External Affairs Dept.) and Arlene Kallaur (CSHA) represent OCA at CWS meetings and report to the administration and department on efforts we can jointly undertake to fight hunger and poverty worldwide. CSHA promotes CWS programs through Resource Handbook articles, news items and through the 2013 Parish Ministries Conference. Specifically, CSHA urges parishes to assemble and donate Gift of the Heart Kits (hygiene/infant/school kits and clean-up buckets for disaster response), and to participate in CROP Walks in their local areas to raise awareness and funds. CWS is an Implementing and Gifts-in-Kind Partner of IOCC.
- The CSHA budget provides the annual \$500 OCA donation to CWS.

**The Orthodox Church in America
Department of Continuing Education**

Memorandum to the Metropolitan Council

Mandate

At its January 28, 2013 meeting, the Holy Synod of Bishops established the Department of Continuing Education to provide for the ongoing development of clergy and lay leaders. The Department reports directly to the Holy Synod of Bishops. On a day-to-day basis, the Director of Continuing Education collaborates with the Chancery of the OCA. General information about the Department may be found at: <http://oca.org/about/departments/department-of-continuing-education>.

Financial Activity

Since the Department receives no funds from the operating budget of the OCA, the Department administers its own budget and funds according to its own needs and resources. All monies received by the Department are restricted for use by the Department. The Treasurer of the OCA, in accordance with Department policies and decisions, administers the funds of the Department. As of this writing, no funds have been received or expended by the Department in 2013. This means that the Director and support staff have continued to work without pay, and that all expenses, including travel, supplies and equipment, have been paid for, out-of-pocket, by the staff. As revenue begins to flow, the Department expects to cover back pay and expenses.

Administration

The Department has been occupied in 2013 with establishing infrastructure and relationships with the various constituencies of the Orthodox Church in America. During the period from April to August, the Department collaborated with the Church's IT team to set up a single online installation for all education efforts within the Church's departments and offices. This will be located at education.oca.org and will host offerings by the Departments of Liturgical Music, Diaconal Vocations and Continuing Education. We intend to provide a one-stop experience for those seeking educational opportunities. Special thanks go to Ryan Platte and Mark Pearson for their work on this project.

The twenty-hour requirement engendered a very encouraging response from across the Church, as the Department received a large number of requests to accredit offerings given in various locations by various entities. The Department is working to improve communications with the various departments, dioceses and other bodies of the Orthodox Church in America so that offerings may be announced and accredited in a timely manner. Presently the process is idiosyncratic, with requests for accreditation often made after a seminar or workshop has already taken place. We are striving to become more proactive in this regard.

Program

The 20-hour requirement established this year by the Holy Synod of Bishops has been met with general acceptance, and even enthusiasm. Institutional responses have been positive and offered many opportunities for clergy to meet the requirement. Systematic, purposeful continuing education is generally seen in the Church as one way of promoting renewal and growth in the priestly vocation.

St. Vladimir's and St. Tikhon's seminaries each instituted programs of continuing education that are offered to all clergy. The programs are different in scope and nature, reflecting the differing philosophies and approaches of the two schools. The St. Vladimir's program offers

several hours on a single topic each year, culminating in the award of a Certificate after several successful years of participation. St. Tikhon's has established the Clergy Continuing Education Symposium, a single, annual event featuring shorter offerings on a variety of topics. The St. Vladimir's program travels by invitation to local venues, while the Symposium is held on the campus of St. Tikhon's.

Several dioceses have taken the initiative to provide continuing education opportunities for their clergy. Notably, two have provided enough offerings for their clergy to easily meet the twenty-hour requirement. The Diocese of New York and New Jersey offered several clergy conferences that were credited for Continuing Clergy Development (CCD). The Romanian Episcopate also offered twelve hours at its February Clergy Conference and a further nine hours at its Family Life conference in June. Other dioceses also have provided at least some diocesan-sponsored offerings for their clergy.

The Department of Evangelization and Church Growth hosted a series of webinars that were credited for CCD. A further five departments collaborated to offer the Pastoral Ministries Conference in June. Clergy were able to receive CCD credit for sessions presented by the Departments of Christian Education, Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid, Institutional Chaplains, Liturgical Music and Translations, and Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry.

Several localities have also hosted retreats, workshops, or seminars that were accredited by the Department for the CCD program.

The five-hour requirement in Profession, Legal and Ethical Topics is being met in 2013 by the Department's daylong session on Clergy Sexual Misconduct. The Department was invited to present the session at the Clergy Conferences of: the Archdiocese of Canada, the Archdiocese of Washington, the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, the Diocese of the West, and the Romanian Episcopate. In addition, the Department scheduled a few local offerings in places accessible to clergy whose dioceses did not sponsor sessions.

In November, after all live, on-site sessions have been completed, the five hours of training on Clergy Sexual Misconduct will be offered online, on the education.oca.org website. Thus, all clergy of the Orthodox Church in America will have the opportunity to take this course by the end of 2013.

Next Steps

During the rest of 2013, the Department plans to complete its onsite sessions and deploy its online offerings. The Department will be monitoring the online registration, payment, learning and reporting cycles closely to ensure smooth operation from the outset. The Department will begin development of the second level of Professional, Legal and Ethical Topics, as well as continuing to develop its program in Leadership and Management for Clergy.

For further information or discussion, the Director may be contacted by email at conted@oca.org or by phone at 330-329-5353.

In Christ,
Archpriest Ian G. Pac-Urar
Director

Fall 2013 Department Report

[Institutional Chaplaincy Department]

1 DEPARTMENT MANDATE

The Department of Institutional Chaplaincies supports the ministry of full and part-time hospital, hospice, long-term care, prison, fire, police chaplains, and those in other settings.

The Orthodox Church in America is a member of the Commission for Ministry in Specialized Settings (COMISS Network) and endorses chaplains to serve in specific institutional settings and toward certification with the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC), the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE), and the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP).

Archpriest Steven Voytovich serves as the Department's Director, supporting the formal endorsement process for institutional chaplains and facilitating dialogue among those ministering in a variety of institutional settings.

A meeting was planned with Metropolitan TIKHON to both plan for optimal way of proceeding around endorsements for institutional chaplaincy and other topics on February 12th. Unfortunately Storm Charlotte prevented that by leaving us three feet of snow in CT that took a good part of the week to sufficiently clear roads from. I hope to reschedule this as soon as possible so that we prepare a good foundation.

2. DEPARTMENT MEMBERS & RESOURCE PEOPLE

Chair: V. Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich
Members: V. Rev. John Maxwell, Frs. John Brown Paul Fetsko, Alexandre Ioukhaievskikh, Michael Medis, Timothy Hasenecz, Dn. David Neff, Sarah Byrne, Elaine Mayol, Mark Anderson, Larisa Waya, Jessica D'Angio. Anna Nikitina

Resource People: V. Rev. Theodore Boback
V. Rev. Sergei Bouteneff

Website: www.orthinc.org

3. BUDGET REVIEW

- 2013 Budget: \$6,000 stipend, \$6,500 expenses
- 2013 Budget Actual: \$4,000 stipend, roughly \$2948 expenses (most expenses come near the end of the year for this department and some not reflected by Dec. 20 close). 2014 Budget submitted.

4. HIGHLIGHTS AND PROJECTED FUTURE INITIATIVES

- The Institutional Chaplaincy Department participated in the Parish Ministry Conference in July. Fr. Timothy Yates shared his experience of residency CPE alongside Fr. Steven presenting on chaplaincy, including 10th anniversary of formal endorsement in the OCA! Fr. Steven also presented Compassion in Action program with Nancy Van Dyken from Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid Department.
- A number of already certified chaplains need updated endorsements for five-year reviews.
- In October 2012, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese adopted formal endorsement for institutional chaplaincy. This is a giant step forward in terms of uniform practice of institutional endorsement! We are currently developing a model for endorsement under ACOB that the Metropolitan has seen.
- In March of this year Fr. Steven met with OCF leadership to explore ways in which clinical training can aid campus ministry. This was a dynamic time of sharing and we hope to follow-up on this. During the course of the day of this meeting at the chancery, Fr. Steven met with Metropolitan TIKHON to talk about institutional chaplaincy, including the ACOB plan.
- The Orthodox Church in America is currently represented in the following ways as of January 2012, continuing for 2013, with both bodies below meeting in January, 2013:
 - Fr. Steven is serving as Chair of Association of Religious Endorsing Bodies (AREB)
 - and member-at-large of COMISS Network.

- The Greek Orthodox priest who shepherded their endorsement development was present for both meetings, doubling the Orthodox presence. We had good collegial exchange during both meetings!
- *Spirituality and Healthcare Encyclopedia*, has now been published. Fr. Steven drafted the chapter representing the Orthodox Faith.
- The OCA's application to formally join the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education as a member was approved in May of this year. An article was posted on OCA website to share this news.
- Complete Compassion-in-Action program with CSHA Department to empower laypersons to engage in ministry and mentoring skills among the clergy with the support available through those who have received clinical training in ministry represented by our institutional chaplains.
 - The first portion of this program is nearly complete as of the writing of this report.
 - Our presentation at Parish Ministries workshop sought volunteers to serve as facilitators.

Future Developments:

- We hope to feature a number of our institutional chaplains in their ministry contexts on our www.orthinc.org website during the coming year, as well as opportunities for continued exchange
- With the advent of now two jurisdictions having similar endorsement processes, we need to dialogue toward implementation of uniform approach to institutional chaplaincy endorsement.
- Support the Strategic Plan:
 - Our chaplains can assist with clergy continuing education; seminarian training. Fr. Steven began a dialogue with Fr. Ian, now in charge of continuing education about the ongoing continuing education chaplains are already undertaking (at least 50 hours each year). We hope to come to some kind of understanding so that chaplains are not having to duplicate continuing education in chaplaincy and church settings.
 - CiA Program will assist parishes in engaging in ministry development
 - Represent our OCA in the greater pastoral care and counseling arena

5. COMMENTS

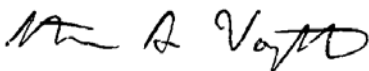
This past year in my roles as Chair of AREB and COMISS Leadership, I attended several credentialing body meetings to represent endorsers: ACPE in May, and COMISS planning meeting in July. As I am also a certified member of these bodies, I have been able to pay the travel costs through work budget rather than departmental funds. As indicated in last year's report, this past year I had to rely on OCA funds to attend meetings related to institutional chaplaincy, as funds from work setting became very tight. I am grateful to have been able to continue to serve. My leadership in AREB will conclude in January.

The Institutional Chaplaincy Department has only been fully formed as of about 2006 after first being established as an office in 2003. Even before forming, chaplaincy components were incorporated into the development of the original Seminarian Internship Program in 1999. We are grateful for the opportunity to form in order to support Orthodox Christians interested in pursuing institutional chaplaincy, to support ministry in parish and diocesan settings, and to represent the Orthodox Church in the greater pastoral care and counseling community nationally and internationally, bearing witness to our strong tradition of pastoral caregiving. We celebrate 10 years of formal endorsement this year!

Of all the goals in the coming year, developing an approach for use by the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops to present one united Orthodox witness to the greater pastoral care and counseling community with respect to institutional endorsement will be an important goal transcending jurisdictional separation.

Lastly, as I have begun my duties as Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary, we will be working toward developing a new director to take over this department. I am grateful to continue to offer leadership in the meanwhile.

Respectfully submitted,



The V. Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich, Director
Department of Institutional Chaplaincies

Summary of Recent Work
Department of Evangelization
Priest John Parker, Chair
September 2013

Planting Grants

- ❖ In regular touch with three of four priests. One (NY, Fr James Worthington) is not doing communicating well. Fr Jonathan Ivanoff is assisting to rectify. Two of the Missions now have “graduate” mentors (mentors who themselves were on the grant).
 - a. Fr Christopher Foley (North Carolina)—for the Kansas Mission. He visited for a Lenten Retreat Weekend in the spring.
 - b. Fr Timothy Hojnicky (EPa)—for the Annapolis, MD, Mission. Fall retreat being planned with Fr Timothy.
- ❖ Notice is out for new applications. None yet received, but several have inquired.
- ❖ Grant to Mexico (\$15,000) special for rectory in remote village is being disbursed.

Strategic Plan

- ❖ Fr John Reeves and Dn Alex Cadman have produced nearly three dozen web-based documents/resources for Evangelism, Church Health, Revitalization, etc. Will be posted on new Evangelization website which is in the planning and preparation stage.

Summit

- ❖ Hosted summit of 11 OCA leaders in Missions/Evangelism in Charleston, SC, Aug 31-Sept 2. Full report to follow. Three Part Summit: a) history of this department b) where are we now—across the OCA and across departments with respect to Evangelization c) 25 years from now—where do we need to be. Attended by: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon; Fr Eric Tosi; Fr Jonathan Ivanoff; Fr Antonio Perdomo; Fr David Rucker; Fr Robert Miclean; Dn Alex Cadman; Dn Jason Ketz; Andrew Boyd; Matuskha Valerie Zahirsky; Christina Semon (OCMC). Special guests: Fr Marcus Burch, Fr Thomas Moore.

Mexico

- ❖ Through the diligent labors of Archpriests Theodore Pisarchuk and Antonio Perdomo, our first OCA short-term missions team was sent to Mexico to the village of San Esteban. Reported and photos on oca.org
- ❖ Annual Team desired.

Alaska

- ❖ Retreat given at St Innocent Cathedral in Kodiak on Saturday, Sept 3. “How Alaska is Saving my life.”
- ❖ Extensive discussions with Fr David Mahaffey on Evangelism and Diocesan Needs
- ❖ 8 or more Podcasts recorded (St Herman’s Seminary Dean, a professor, a village priest and youth group, the St Innocent’s Academy
- ❖ Interviews and planned article on Renewal of Alutiiq language in parishes—“evangelization” by the rejuvenation of language with the Archivist of SHS
- ❖ Served on Pilgrimage, preached at Holy Resurrection Cathedral on August 11.

Ancient Faith Radio

- ❖ Continued recording many podcasts, including interviews with Fr Chad Hatfield, Nadezhda Savova, Fr Sergius Halvorsen, Fr James Bozeman, and others.

Inter-Jurisdictional Work

- ❖ Met with Fr James Kordaris, GOA, on Wed, Sept 4, at LaGuardia, in tandem with Anglican Dialogue. Fruitful meeting and discussion to get to know one another and to begin to look at areas where our ministries can encourage one another, etc.

OCMC

- ❖ Keynote Speaker, OCMC Fundraiser, Washington, DC
- ❖ Appointed to Board of OCMC, though my departmental work

Evangelistic Dialogue

- ❖ Anglican Dialogue continued September 3-4 in Syosset. Metropolitan Tikhon hosted the two-day meeting. Mutual introductions, history and background of our meetings, and discussion of Moral Theology.
- ❖ Met Joel and Victoria Osteen in Charleston, SC. Preliminary plans to continue a discussion in tandem with my Diocesan Clergy meeting in February in Texas
- ❖ Ongoing email with Pastor Rick Warren.
 - a. Planned 3 day visit to Saddleback Church/Church Planting Conference in October.
 - b. Was asked by Rick Warren to help make introductions for him in the Orthodox circles at a Summit concerning Violence against Christians in the Middle East, organized by the King of Jordan. Worked with Fr Leonid Kishkovsky to make this happen. Very fruitful cooperation, as reported to me by Rick Warren.

Other Diocesan Work

- ❖ Keynote at follow-up “Diocesan Leader’s Day”, Diocese of Western PA, Sept 21.
- ❖ Preach and Serve in Ambridge, PA, Sept 22.

Upcoming

- ❖ Guest Speaker, Diocese of New England Assembly, October 2013.
- ❖ Retreat Leader, Holy Cross Orthodox Church 20th Anniversary, Linthicum, MD, November 2013.
- ❖ www.goodnews.oca.org a website similar to the YYA and DCE sites, devoted to Missions, Evangelism, Church Planting Grants, resources and more. Hope to have it up by October/November.

Respectfully Submitted by
Priest John Parker

Thank you for this honor and responsibility. I look forward to speaking before the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council in October and September respectfully.

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA)
President's Report to the Metropolitan Council
Fall 2013
Respectfully Submitted by President Becky Tesar

The FOCA held its 87th National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, June 28 – July 1, 2013 under the sponsorship of the Cleveland 'R' Club based at Archangel Michael Orthodox Church in Broadview Heights, Ohio. Over 200 members and guests gathered at various social and events and religious services, highlighted by the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy held Sunday morning with Divine Liturgy served by His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon. The annual convention affords the opportunity for FOCA members and friends to gather in Christian fellowship to celebrate religious services and conduct the yearly business of the Fellowship. During this year's meeting, the convention body voted to hold its 89th National Convention in conjunction with the 18th All American Council in 2015.

Thank you to His Grace Bishop Mark, Bishop of Baltimore, Administrator of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, Synodal Liaison for Departments and Commissions of the Orthodox Church in America for including the FOCA in conference calls of the various OCA departments. Either I or FOCA Vice President Marge Kovach have participated in these calls to represent the FOCA.

Outreach:

The FOCA continues its mission to witness our faith by charitable works through fellowship. Within the last year, we have donated \$1300 to initiate a Sunday School Program at St. Tikhon's Seminary. We have also followed through on our pledge to support the OCA Youth and Young Adult Ministries by donating \$1000 to those efforts.

In November of 2012 we completed another successful St. Nicholas Day Gift Campaign for our seminarian families at St. Tikhons and St. Vladimir's Seminaries. This program matches seminarian families with parishes, FOCA chapters and individuals who then gather gifts for those families which are then distributed for St. Nicholas Day. We also gather gift cards which are sent to the seminarian families at St. Herman's Seminary. This program has become an integral part of our charitable giving.

Juniors:

The Junior Department organized a very successful toy drive providing Christmas gifts to children affected by Hurricane Sandy. This was an outstanding effort and we are very proud of the youth and future of our Fellowship. In a continued effort to encourage our Juniors on the path of service and fellowship, the Juniors participate in a Bowl-A-Thon fundraiser for IOCC during our National Bowling Tournament. They raised over \$1000.

The FOCA sponsors a very successful camping program under the leadership of Deacon Daniel and Catrina Kovalak. In addition to daily prayer and religious education, the week-long camp has a sports theme with great emphasis is placed on teamwork and sportsmanship.

Sports:

We hold annual sports tournaments which contribute to the financial stability of the Fellowship. This year our basketball tournament was held in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, bowling in Cleveland, Ohio and golf sponsored by the Weirton, West Virginia chapter. All events were well attended, especially the basketball tournament which typically draws 200-300 attendees, mostly youth. We consider this tournament paramount to keeping our youth involved with the organization.

St. Tikhon's Married Student Housing

We are still collecting funds to meet our \$300,000 pledge to the seminary. We have turned over \$150,000 in donations to St. Tikhon's and plan to fulfill our pledge by the end of 2014.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to share this update on the FOCA with you. Know that the Metropolitan Council, the Holy Synod and the OCA remain in our prayers and that we humbly ask you to keep the FOCA, its members and works in your prayers.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Tesar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Becky Tesar
FOCA President

Orthodox Church in America
Department of Liturgical Music and Translations
Report to the Holy Synod – Fall 2013

A. Music Settings for Liturgical Services

The Troparia and Kontakia Project, begun in 2002, has been completed, as all days of the calendar year have been provided with musical settings of the appointed Troparia and Kontakia. Over 2,400 individual settings of troparia and kontakia representing a variety of chant settings (Russian Common Chant/Bakhmetev-Lvov Obikhod, Kievan, Greek (Russo), Galician, Carpatho-Russian, Serbian, Byzantine, and Bulgarian) are posted on the website and available for free downloading.

During the past five years most of the required music for the services of Vespers, Matins, and the Divine Liturgy for the major feasts of the Church, Pre-Lenten and Lenten Sundays and Palm Sunday, has been prepared and posted on the website. Since the last report (February 15, 2013) 148 pages of music for the feasts of Ascension, Exaltation, Palm Sunday, and the pre-Lenten and Lenten Sundays have been translated, set to music, and posted on the website.

Last year we began working on the texts for the Resurrection stichera Vespers, the Kanons for Resurrection Matins and the stichera on the Praises at Matins. The texts for Vespers Tones 1 through 5 have been reviewed, corrected, and revised. The texts for Resurrection Kanons Tones 1 through 3 have been reviewed, corrected, and revised. Music for Resurrection Kanon Tone 1 has been completed and is now available for download on the website.

Since our last report the complete service of Matrimony (music setting of all sung parts plus texts of prayers and litanies) has been completed and posted on the website. In 2012 the complete services of the Burial of a Priest and Baptism were completed and made available for downloading. As soon as the completed text for the Akathist to the American Saints is reviewed and approved by the Holy Synod, the music and the full service will be posted on the website for free downloading.

Texts that are set to music and posted on the website are reviewed, corrected, and revised when necessary by competent translators who are fluent in Greek, Slavonic, and English. Translators include Archimadrite Juvenaly (Repass), Father Benedict Churchhill and Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff. Proofreading and grammatical corrections are done by Dr. Vladimir Morosan. Final texts are then reviewed by Dr. Paul Meyendorff and the members of the Department. Musical settings are done by Deacon Gregory Ealy and others. All work is overseen and reviewed by the Chairman before posting on the website.

B. Texts for Liturgical Services

In 2012 approximately 200 liturgical services containing the so-called *Propers* of Vespers, pointed to be sung according to the Common Chant, were posted on the website. Approximately the same number will be posted in 2013. These include services for all feasts and saints that call

for a Vigil in the “official” Liturgical Calendar, in addition to the services of the Presanctified Liturgy during Lent and the services of Holy Week.

C. Audio Files for Teaching Liturgical Music

As a teaching tool the Department is making available on the website audio files (MP3) of various hymns that have been prepared by the Department. Thus, not only will a choir director (or singer) be able to download a specific sheet of music for use by his/her choir, but will be able to listen via the audio file and hear how the music should be sung. In addition to the “Lord, I Call” tones in both Obikhod and Kievan chant arrangements, the Department has just posted on the website the “Tutorial for the study of the Eight Tones, Part I.” Recorded choral demonstrations of the written examples for each tone are presented, including full (SATB) choir, and individual lines for soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. The recording for the tutorial were done by singers of St. Mary’s Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, MN, under the direction of Deacon Gregory Ealy.

D. Tutorial for the Study of the Eight Tones

Part I of the Tutorial for the learning of the Church Tones, including both the Obikhod (Common Chant) and Kievan “melodies” used for the singing of the *stichera* (Part I), has been completed and has been posted on the website. The scheme of the tutorial is to break down each tone and identify its musical phrases. The sequence for the proper use of the melodic phrases is fully explained as well as the “formula” (intonation pattern, the recitation pitch of the body of the phrase, and cadence) for each melodic line. All phrases are illustrated with musical and textual examples. Part I of the Tutorial was written by David Drillock and Deacon Gregory Ealy; Dr Vladimir Morosan did the editing and provided musical assistance. The Tutorial will eventually include analysis and learning tools for the Prokeimena, Kanons, Special Melodies (Podoben), and Psalm verses.

E. Music for the Church School

The Department, in cooperation with the Department of Christian Education, is inaugurating the first of a series of materials that will acquaint our young persons with the liturgical, poetical, and musical forms that are used in our liturgical services. Two segments will have been completed (Cosmas of Maium and Kassiane) and are now being reviewed and complemented by the Department of Christian Education.

F. On-line Course in Choral Conducting

In Fall and Winter, 2012-13, the on-line course for Beginning Choir Directors was offered by the Department to interested and beginning choir directors in the Diocese of New York-New Jersey. Bishop Michael and the Diocese’s Commission on Liturgical Music promoted the on-line course and assisted in the recruiting of students. Seven of the eight students (not all were from the Diocese of New York-New Jersey) who were enrolled in the class completed all twelve sessions successfully.

The relationship between text and music, accented and non-accented syllables, is emphasized in the first half of the on-line course and the learning exercises are focused on learning the beat patterns. The second half of the course concentrates on techniques of conducting chant, singing in phrases, analyzing specific examples of both metered and unmetered music, and preparing the music for conducting. Each session consists of video and textual teaching demonstrations.

Based on course evaluations submitted by the participants, minor adjustments are being made to the course and the Department will offer the course again, beginning September 23. This time the course will be open to a limited number of interested and beginning choir directors located throughout the entire OCA.

Dr Mark Pearson, who designed the on-line course format provided technical support and program assistance. Dr Pearson is Instructional Technologist and Designer at Earlham College where he manages all aspects of the college's Moodle Learning Management System.

G. Joint Conference

The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, together with the Department of Christian Education, the Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid, and the Department of Young Adult and Campus Ministries, sponsored the Parish Ministries Conference, 2013, held July 10-13 at Marymount University in Arlington, VA. This year's conference, *Faith in Action: Equipping the Saints for Worship, Learning and Serving*, provided opportunities for learning, common worship and prayer, and good fellowship for the members of our Church. The Liturgical Music Department again used the multi-track format to offer workshops for beginning singers as well as more advanced directors and church musicians. The workshops, presented by David Drillock and Mark Bailey, covered beginning and advanced conducting, tutorial in the 8 tones, liturgical composition, vocal technique, choir rehearsal skills, and musical analysis. The Department was also responsible for the liturgical services, including the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, celebrated at the conclusion of the Conference by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon.

Respectively submitted,

David Drillock, Chairperson
Department of Liturgical Music and Translations
Orthodox Church in America
September 12, 2013

Report of the Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry
Fall 2013 Metropolitan Council/Holy Synod Meetings

Overview

As many know, I have left full-time employment at the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America, but for now, His Beatitude has blessed me to continue in my work with the Youth Department. Unfortunately, this means that I am unable to devote as much time to this important work as I would like, but we are still growing the Department's work in many exciting ways. Many thanks to His Beatitude, the Holy Synod, the Chancery Staff, my many volunteers, for their hard work and constant support.

Social Media

Much of our effort is focused on Social Media following the recommendations of the 16th All-American Council. Our Social Media Team meets weekly by telephone conference and administers our Facebook page, new twitter account, and works on video offerings or our Youtube page. Our goal is to push the liturgical life of our Church into the social media space.

Job Search Skills Webinars

In the late fall of 2013 we will restart our Job Search Skills Webinar series that partners Orthodox professionals with Orthodox young adults to build skills around resume writing, interviewing, networking, and being a Christian in the workplace. Webinars will be offered on Sunday nights starting in November and are free and open to all. We hope to partner with orthodoxjobs.com in this project.

OCF

His Beatitude has made support of this critical ministry a priority for us. We continue to not only support OCF financially, but with expertise, advice, prayers, and guidance. Our department works closely with their staff, and is in contact with them on a weekly basis, to ensure our college students are being ministered to. Deacon Alexander Cadman continues to represent the OCA on the Board of Directors. Many challenges remain to a stable ministry, the first of which is funding, the second of which is jurisdictional politics and infighting. We were pleased to host the OCF staff and leaders at the Chancery in March to start providing resources for pastoral care and ministry in a specialized setting from our Department of Institutional Chaplains.

Episcopal Assembly

The work of the Episcopal Assembly Committee for Youth continues at a pace faster than other committees. I serve (along with the leaders of all jurisdictional youth departments) on the consultation for that committee. We now meet once a year in person and quarterly by phone. We were able to put together a resource packet after the Boston Marathon Bombing for youth workers across jurisdictions to use to speak to their youth about the tragedy. There is a growing sense of collaboration which is refreshing and encouraging.

Retreats and Conferences

I continue to represent the OCA and our department at many retreats and conferences. Most recently, I was able to attend the “One” conference in Jersey City, NJ. Sponsored by the Coptic and Indian Churches, they brought around 600 youth and young adults from Oriental and Eastern Churches for a day of prayer, fellowship, and education.

On my schedule is leading a workshop at a young adult retreat for the Greek Archdiocese, a regional young preachers festival in New York City, and the upcoming College Conference at Saint Vladimir’s Seminary.

Wonder

We continue to publish monthly on a variety of topics under the direction of our editor, Deacon Jason Ketz. Traffic continues to slowly rise, and we are in the last stages of building our redesigned and mobile-responsive site directly on the oca server. As this project enters into its fourth year, we are finding time for self-reflection, evaluation, and a refreshing of direction and purpose. Input is more than welcome.

Youtube Challenge

We are working on launching our online rhetorical festival (Youtube Challenge) again this fall. Allowing for 14-28 year olds to practice their oratorical, creative, and apologetic skills via this creative program, we endeavour to help our youth preach their faith in their own digital context.

Parish Ministries Conference

We were pleased to partner with many other of our Departments and staff from OCF to offer a full track of Campus/Young Adult Ministry workshops at the recent Parish Ministries Conference in Virginia. Workshops focused on hands on skills in building campus-based ministries, using social media as a responsible tool to reach out to Young Adults, and addressing so-called “culture wars” topics.

18th All-American Council

Our current plan is to offer a full youth plan, with the help of the FOCA, at the next upcoming All-American Council. We are currently forming a team to run the Youth Events and are looking for interested volunteers.

Peter the Aleut Grant Program

We have distributed \$2,010 through our small grant program since its implementation after the last Metropolitan Council meeting. These grants are intended to help youth attend retreats, conferences, and vocations experiences at our seminaries or monasteries. They are also available to clergy and lay-leaders seeking continuing education in Youth Ministry. The grant is administered through a committee composed of myself, Jeremy Pletnikoff, and Priest Christopher Rowe.

Pilgrimages

In the coming year, one of our near-term goals is to reinstate the venerable tradition of this Department to offer pilgrimages that enrich the spiritual lives of our Youth.

Two are currently being planned, one a work trip in early summer to the Diocese of Alaska, and another a trip to Poland in August 2014. Both would be self-funding.

Submitted with thanks,

Andrew Boyd

Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry
Orthodox Church in America

FALL Report Office of Orthodox Church in America Military and Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplaincies

Very Rev. Theodore Boback, Jr. – Dean/Executive Director OCA Military and VA Chaplaincy
Very Reverend Joseph Gallick - Assistant Dean/Deputy Director OCA Military and VA Chaplaincy

Vision

The Orthodox Military Chaplain is an Orthodox Priest in uniform serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplain serves in the Department of Veterans Affairs in a medical center. They are active members of the respective chaplaincy and share a common core of professional responsibilities for worship services, personal counseling, administrative duties, pastoral visitations, cultural activities, humanitarian projects, moral leadership, and appropriate collateral duty assignments.

They in addition to fulfilling the disciplines, dogmas, doctrines of faith and other canonical directives required of all Orthodox Priests, comply with the administrative requirements of their Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agency.

They exercise their priestly mission in three ways: to those of the Orthodox Faith, to those of other faiths, and to those who have no religious affiliation.

Mission

The mission of the OCA's military chaplain is the propagation of the Orthodox Faith; to serve, worship, and love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and to bring spiritual nourishment and enlightenment to thousands of Orthodox military personnel and their families serving their country throughout the world.

The mission of the Veterans Affairs (VA) Chaplains is to counsel and to bring spiritual nourishment through the Holy Sacraments to hundreds of Orthodox veterans in VA Medical Centers throughout the United States of America.

Operation

The Office of Military Chaplaincies operates directly under the supervision of the Metropolitan and forms a unique deanery of the Church. According to the Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America (Article II section 5) deaneries within the boundaries of a diocese are established by the diocesan council. However, the Dean of Orthodox Military Chaplains is appointed by and directly responsible to the Metropolitan (Cf. Article II, section 7p).

The Executive Director and Dean of Chaplains is the chief administrator for the Metropolitan in all matters concerning the OCA chaplains in the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and the Veterans Administration. The Executive Director/Dean is the representative of the Metropolitan to the National Conference of Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) and the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC). The Assistant Executive Director works together with the Executive Director. The Executive Director/Dean and the Assistant Executive Director recruit and screen candidates for the chaplaincy, prepare ecclesiastical endorsement for the Metropolitan and maintain contact with all Orthodox chaplains and with the Executive Director of the Armed Services Chaplains Board, Military Chief of Chaplains and the VA National Staff Chaplain and chaplain staff. . They do this through telecommunications, email, correspondence, and by participating in various meetings and site visitations throughout the world. The Executive Director/Dean provides guidance to chaplains serving throughout the world on spiritual matters and ensures that Orthodox personnel, regardless of where they are

stationed can freely exercise their religious beliefs. The Executive Director/Dean attends all conferences and executive board committee meetings of the NCMAF and ECVAC.

The Military chaplains from the Orthodox Church in America serve in the United States Armed Forces in the United States, Germany, Korea, Japan, and the Middle East, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Endorser's Conferences:

The annual National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF), the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC) and the Armed Forces Chaplains Board with the three branches Chief of Chaplains will be conducted 13 -16 January 2014

The Office of Chaplaincies remains involved with various aspects of the chaplaincies: The office works with Archbishop Nikon reference data from the Assembly of Bishops of North America in concert with the Office of the Metropolitan and Chancery Staff.

OTHER ITEMS:

OCA Chaplaincy Conference is being planned with the Metropolitan to be held in the Fall.

DOMA – The repeal of the Don't ask Don't Tell and the Defense of Marriage Act has been discussed with the Office of the Metropolitan. The OCA reaffirmation of the Synodal Affirmations on Marriage, Family, Sexuality and Sanctity of Life was noted to chaplains. Further discussion will be included in a report to Metropolitan Tikhon.

Assembly of Canonical Bishops of North and Central America in reference to the report on the Military and VA Chaplaincy will be further discussed with Archbishop Nikon, OCA representative on the commission and Metropolitan Tikhon, chancery staff and the Office of the OCA Military and VA Chaplaincy.

Military Chaplains:

Orthodox Military Chaplains perform a full cycle of liturgical services including Vespers, Matins, Divine Liturgy, Feast Days, and services during Advent, Great Lent, the Dormition and Apostles Fasts, Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts and administering the Sacraments of the Church.

Continued deployment in particular of Orthodox Priests to the Middle East during the Nativity of Christ and Theophany, Holy Week and Pascha, and Dormition Fast and Feast day. This was based upon a request initially written by his Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman (Swaiko) and reaffirmed by Metropolitan Jonah (Paffhausen) to the Army Chief of Chaplains.

Fr George Rusty Hill deployed this past year to the Middle East with his unit. Fr. Paul Rivers also serves in the Middle East.

Included among the Ministry Concern of our chaplain are:

Spiritual Renewal, Ministry of Present, Readiness, Interfaith and Ecumenical Ministries Programs, outreach programs, service on various boards such as family action; biomedical ethics, advisory councils.

Military and VA Chaplain Personnel Strength

Personnel Statistics have changed through the years and continues to change based on requirements of the United States Armed Forces and the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in fulfilling its missions.

Military Personnel Strength.

Our current personnel outlook is reflected in the following table: In each column the figure at the left indicate the number of OCA Chaplains while the figures within the parentheses indicate the number of non-OCA Orthodox Chaplains. The bottom line – “Totals” shows the total number of Orthodox Chaplains from all jurisdictions.

| BRANCH | Active Duty | Reserve Component |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Air Force | 2 (3) | 2 (2) |
| Army | 6 (3) | 4 (2) |
| Navy | 3 (5) | 2 (0) |
| Subtotals | 11 (11) | 8 (4) |
| Totals | 22 | 12 |

Projections: There are two OCA Priests who have applied for the active duty military chaplaincy and one for the US Navy with accessioning in FY14. The other priest has applied to the US Air Force with an accessioning the last quarter of FY13 or first quarter of FY14. hence, we pray that their application is considered, that they will be accessioned and this will result in an additional priests for providing ministry. There is one active duty OCA chaplain projected to retire in 2014.

ACTIVE DUTY FORCES

11 (50%) of all Orthodox Chaplains on active duty are Orthodox Church in America
7 (32%) are priest of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese
3 (14%) are priests of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
1 (4%) is a priest with the Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia

RESERVE COMPONENT

8 (67%) of all Orthodox Chaplains in the Reserve Component are OCA
2 (17%) are priests of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
1 (8%) is a priest of the Antiochian Archdiocese
1 (8%) is a priest with the Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia

Chaplain Candidates

Currently there are several seminarians who are participating in the chaplain candidate programs in either the United States Army or the United States Air Force. The seminarians attend St. Tikhon and St Vladimir Seminaries.

Chaplaincy Specialized Training

Both the Military and VA Chaplains received training in their particular areas.

Most if not all Orthodox Military Chaplains have training in suicide prevention, moral leadership training, personal value/values clarification, stress management, marriage enrichment, chaplain orientation, and crisis incident response and critical incident stress management.

Some of the chaplains receive specialized training in areas including: ethics, family life, alcohol and drug counseling, fund management, administration, combat developments, training and curriculum development, task analysis and development, total quality management, facility management, security management, interpersonal relationship development, leadership development, organizational effectiveness and development, marriage and family life training and counseling; clinical pastoral education; hospital ministry; and confinement ministry and volunteerism.

Both the military and VA chaplain are good resources for speaking at retreats and workshops.

Military Orthodox Priests are assigned throughout the world. The following is a list of current Orthodox Church in America military Priests serving our nation and location.

Active Duty

United States Air Force

Father Ioan I Dumitrascu Chaplain, Captain USAF Langley AFB, Virginia

Father Eugene Lahue, Major, Captain, USAF – Kessler AFB

United States Army

Father Peter A. Baktis, Chaplain (COL) USA Fort Belvoir, VA

Where he serves as Command Chaplain with the USA INSCOM

Father Peter Dubinin, Chaplain (LTC) USA Hunter Air Field, Georgia

Father. George Hill, Chaplain (MAJ) USA Fort Bragg, North Carolina

Father Sean Levine, Chaplain (CPT), USA, Fort Bliss, Texas

Father George Oanca, Chaplain (CPT) USA Fort Carson, Colorado

Father Paul Rivers, Chaplain (CPT) USA Kaiserslautern, Germany currently serving in the Middle East

United States Navy

Father Jerome Cwikslinski CAPT CHC USN Hawaii where he serves a Force Chaplain, MARFORPAC

Father Stephen Duesenberry LCDR CHC USN Miramar - San Diego, CA

Father Eugene Wozniak LCDR CHC USN PCS'd this summer.

Reserve Component

United States Air Force

Father Oliver Herbel Chaplain, Captain, USAFR

Father Thaddeus Werner Chaplain Captain USAFR

United States Army

Father Ian Burgess, Chaplain (CPT) USAR

Father Danut Palanceau Chaplain Captain USAR

Father James Parnell, Chaplain (CPT) USAR

Father James Sizemore Chaplain (CPT) USAR

United State Navy

Father Herman Kincaid, LTJG, CHC, USNR

Father Christopher Kilian Sprecher, LT CHC USNR

Retired Military Chaplains

There are over 30 retired Orthodox Priests from the United States Armed Forces with over of them serving within the OCA in various ministries. The retired chaplains have a range of special skills and are an additional asset within our Orthodox Church. Please read the Continuing Education Report within the Strategic Plan as well as the paragraphs above for more information.

Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplains

Father Joseph Martin, VAMC, Wilkes-Barre, PA and Father Sergei C. Bouteneff VAMC Newington, CT serve as the Chief of Chaplain Service at their respective VAMC. Father Philip Reese serves as a full time position at the Miami VAMC. Our other VA Chaplains serve part time or intermittent We are grateful for their ministry within the VAMC.

VA Chaplains might attend training that equips them to perform specific tasks and or to fill certain positions such as PTSD, palliative care, substance abuse; etc. There is another OCA Priest who is being considered for a VA Chaplaincy appointment.

There are nine OCA Priests who serve our VAMCs

Father Sergei C. Bouteneff – Newington, CT

Father Igor Burdikoff – Albany, NY

Father Daniel Degyansky – Manhattan, NY

Father John Klembara – Brecksville, OH

Father Joseph Martin – Wilkes-Barre, PA

Father Philip Reese, Miami, FL

Father Paul Suda – Pittsburgh, PA

Father Michael Westerberg – New Haven, CT

Father George York, Pittsburgh, PA

ENDORISING CONFERENCES

- The Orthodox Church in America continues to be an active member and participant in the National Conference of Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) and the Endorser Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC). The membership is comprised of more than 200 faith groups and denominations.
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- The Orthodox Church in America is recognized by each of these organizations and the Military Chief of Chaplains and the VA National Chaplain Center as the endorser for OCA priests. To be considered for the military or veterans affairs medical center chaplaincy, a candidate must first have his Diocesan Bishop's Blessing, then an ecclesiastical endorsement from the Metropolitan, which is prepared by the Director of the OCA Chaplaincies as well as meet the requirements of the United States Armed Forces or the Veterans Affairs Medical Center National Chaplain Office.
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- As noted earlier, Fr. Theodore Boback serves as a member of the organizations and has served in the past on the executive board of NCMAF and currently serves on the executive board of ECVAC – having previously in the past served as chair of the group.

In conclusion, thanks to all who continue to support the Office of Chaplaincies, to Fr. Joseph Gallick the Deputy Director, to our active duty, reserve component, VA and retired chaplains and various members of the office, to the Chancery Officers and Staff for their consultation on concerns and various items. We express especially our gratitude to the Hierarchs for their continued prayers and for their support of providing qualified chaplains for the active and reserve forces of the United States Armed Forces and the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers. We ask that you continue to remember our chaplains and family members in your prayers.