



**ORTHODOX  
CHURCH in  
AMERICA**

**Metropolitan Council Meeting**

**Spring 2017**

**Committees/Departments Reports**



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council  
February 21 to February 23, 2017  
Committees/Departments Reports  
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**OCA Charity Committee Report  
Spring 2017 Metropolitan Council meeting**

**Committee members:** His Eminence Archbishop Melchizedek, Episcopal liaison, Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor, Melanie Ringa, treasurer, Archpriests John Dunlop, Thomas Moore, Antonio Perdomo, Alexander Kuchta, chair, Maureen Jury, Lisa Mikhalevsky.

Balance in Charity funds noted in Fall 2016 report	5,955.15
Income – Donations received (7/8/16 – 12/29/16)	1,985.00
Stripe fees 8/1/16 – 12/31/16	9.39
Balance in Charity Fund as of 12/31/16	\$7,930.76

There were 22 donations from 17 individuals and entities (organizations and parishes) in 2016. I hope to continue to call attention to the existence of our Charity Committee in order to stimulate additional donations.

I would like to ask members of the Metropolitan Council to visit the page and making a donation. Visit [OCA.org](http://OCA.org) and click on the “Donate to Charity” link. It’s quick and painless and by giving, you will be providing assistance to those who ask us for it.

Respectfully submitted,



Archpriest Alexander Kuchta, chair

**Report of the Ethics Committee**  
Metropolitan Council Meeting  
Spring, 2017

There are no items to report.

**Report of the Finance Committee**  
Metropolitan Council Meeting  
Spring, 2017

See Treasurer's Report on Officers' Section

**Report of the Human Resource Committee**  
Metropolitan Council Meeting  
Spring, 2017

The reorganization of the chancery structure is progressing.

Senior staff job descriptions remain the priority.

Other areas of focus are organizational structure and chain of command.

At His Beatitude's request, a draft will be prepared for his presentation to the March meeting of the Holy Synod.

# D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP

Certified Public Accountants & Consultants

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January 23, 2017

Father Chad Hatfield, Chair of the  
Internal Governance Committee of  
The Orthodox Church in America  
PO Box 675  
Syosset, NY 11791

Dear Fr Hatfield:

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for The Orthodox Church in America for the year ended December 31, 2016.

We will audit the financial statements of The Orthodox Church in America, which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2016, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. Also, the following supplementary information accompanying the financial statements will be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and we will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole, in a report combined with our auditor's report on the financial statements:

1. Schedule of Expenses-2016

## **Audit Objective**

The objective of our audit is the expression of an opinion about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and will include tests of your accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such an opinion. We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the Orthodox Church in America's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph. If our opinion is other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express an opinion or withdraw from this engagement.

Fr Chad Hatfield  
The Orthodox Church in America  
January 23, 2017  
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### **Audit Procedures**

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from the Organization's attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about the financial statements and related matters.

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the Organization or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the Organization.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the Organization and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies in internal control. However, during the audit, we will communicate to you and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under professional standards



Fr Chad Hatfield  
The Orthodox Church in America  
January 23, 2017  
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### **Other Services**

We will prepare the Organization's financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles based on information provided by you.

We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statement. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

### **Management Responsibilities**

You are responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities; for the selection and application of accounting principles; and for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You are also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the organization from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the Organization involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Organization received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring the Organization complies with applicable laws and regulations.

You are responsible for the preparation of the supplementary information in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains, and indicates that we have reported on, the

Fr Chad Hatfield  
The Orthodox Church in America  
January 23, 2017  
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supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities for the financial statement preparation services, and any other nonattest services we provide; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for them.

### **Engagement Administration, Fees and Other**

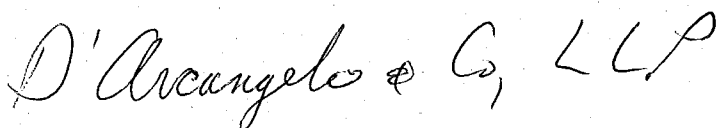
We understand that your employees will prepare all cash, accounts and pledges receivable, legal and other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

Anthony Pennella, CPA, is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign it. We expect to begin our audit on approximately May 15, 2017 and to complete and issue our report no later than August 30, 2017.

We estimate that our fees for these services will range from \$17,500 to \$19,000. You will also be billed for travel and other out-of-pocket costs such as report production, word processing, postage, etc. The fee estimate is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,



D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP

Fr Chad Hatfield  
The Orthodox Church in America  
January 23, 2017  
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***RESPONSE:***

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA.

Officer signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

# Report of the Metropolitan Council Legal Committee

Fall Meeting of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America  
February 21-23, 2017

## Introduction

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

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

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

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

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

## **The OCA Statute**

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

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

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

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

### **1. Status of Legal Committee**

We have been advised by Wesley Smith that he has resigned his position as Lay Delegate for the Diocese of the West and, accordingly, his position on the Metropolitan Council, due to his relocation to the DC area. We thank Wesley for his service on the Legal Committee. The Legal Committee now consists of two members, Angela Parks and Donna Dimitri.

## **2. Standing Committee on Canonical Procedure**

Chaired by His Grace, Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa, the Committee, composed of Father Alexander Rentel, Father Nicholas Roth, Judge E.R. Lanier and Angela Parks, held its third meeting as guests of Bishop Daniel in Phoenix, AZ from February 8 through February 10. The Committee is making good progress in drafting the preliminary Standards, Norms, and Procedures for Ecclesiastical Courts, with a focus on clarity and transparency for all parties involved, while still ensuring fidelity to the Sacred Canons. The Committee is harmonizing its work with other Synodal documents, as well as creating templates and other documents that can be customized easily and used by participants in the Court process. The Committee members will continue their work separately over the next several months and intends to meet together again early next year before Great Lent to finalize the disciplinary procedures.

## **3. Moriak Litigation**

This case has been settled.

## **4. Fratello v. Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York et al.**

With the blessing of the Holy Synod, the OCA joined this case as *amicus curiae*, which seeks to determine the parameters of the “Ministerial Exception” to immunity from claims under various Civil Rights acts.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Parks, Chair

**Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America  
Report to the Holy Synod of Bishops and Metropolitan Council  
February 2017**

**Members**

Chair: Matushka Valerie Zahirsky

Mrs. Veronica Bilas, Matushka Myra Kovalak, Mrs. Daria Petrykowski, Miss Maria Proch, Matushka Alexandra Safchuk, Mrs. Jewelann Stefanar, Matushka Christine Zebrun

**New and Current Departmental Offerings**

*Study and Review Questions and Answers* for a third volume, "Spirituality", of Father Thomas Hopko's four-volume series *The Orthodox Faith* are completed and are now available for free download. These study resources offer users of the book, whether in a group or on their own, a way of reviewing and reinforcing what they have read. Several of the questions also offer points for further reflection. Because of its subject matter, this volume of the series is especially appropriate for study during Great Lent.

*Activity Book #4, "Saints and the Animals That Served Them", as well as the three preceding Activity Books*, are now being used not only in church school classes but also in parishes that do not have church schools. These parishes are finding that the varied activities in the books provide appealing weekly handout sheets, so that even without a formal church school the parish children are getting educational materials.

*A retreat available to parishes or groups, entitled "Orthodox Surprises."* This retreat shows how the Septuagint gives insight into many Biblical saints, and guides participants in small-group spiritual reflection.

*A workshop available to church schools, entitled "Through the Years: Teaching a Single Concept at Various Age Levels."* The workshop engages teachers in activities that show how a concept can be introduced in a child's early years, and then reinforced in following years by teaching it again using age-appropriate lessons and examples.

**Work in Progress**

*Study and Review Questions and Answers* for the final volume, entitled "Worship", of Father Thomas Hopko's four-volume series *The Orthodox Faith* will be completed and made available for free download this spring. This will fulfill Father Thomas's personal request to the Department, when he was working on the books, to provide these resources for each of the four volumes in the series.

*Vacation Church School materials* produced by teachers in several parishes have been sent to the Department for review and editing. When the process is finished they will be made available for free download.

**Cooperative Work**

The next meeting of the Orthodox Christian Education Commission, of which the Department is a member, will take place in February.

The *Orthodox Institute*, an annual teacher conference co-sponsored by our Department and the Christian Education Departments of the Antiochian Archdiocese and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, will take place in the fall.

The Department has contributed materials for the “Hymnographers” project undertaken by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations.

The Department has helped with planning for teacher workshops offered by the Orthodox Christian Education Commission, and Department members serve as instructors for these workshops.

**Ongoing Work**

The Department is in touch with church school teachers from various parishes to offer support and guidance, and serves as a clearing house for materials produced by teachers.

Supplemental activities and resources, usually seasonal, are regularly produced and made available for free download by the Department.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matushka Valerie Zahirsky, Chair  
Department of Christian Education  
Orthodox Church in America



## **OCA DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND HUMANITARIAN AID (CSHA) SUMMARY REPORT (September 1, 2016 – January 31, 2017)**

**Chair:** Donna Karabin

**Members:** Priest Timothy Yates, Popadija Kitty Vitko, Arlene Kallaur, Diana Pasca, Nancy VanDyken, and eight consultants

**Diocesan Ministry Network:** Diana Pasca (NY-NJ), Krystal Royer (Bulgarian) Skip Mersereau (WDC), Fr. Timothy Yates (DOS), Fr. David Lowell (West), Vera Proctor (Midwest)

**Episcopal Liaison:** His Eminence, Archbishop Melchisedek, Archbishop of Pittsburgh and W. PA

**Ministry Focus:**

Parish Ministries, Matthew 25 Charitable Outreach, Senior Life, Family Life

[CSHA](#) promotes compassionate and charitable ministries in all levels of OCA life.

### **Meeting with Metropolitan Tikhon**

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon invited CSHA Chair, Donna Karabin, to meet with him on September 15, 2016 to discuss department programs and needs. The in-person conversation proved to be an important opportunity to provide information on past accomplishments, present activities and plans for the future. His Beatitude's questions, comments and counsel on Compassion in Action, Parish Ministry Resources, the Orthodox Living Will, and communications were a great encouragement. This dialogue was an assurance of Archpastoral interest and support for which the department is most grateful.

### **Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training (CiA)**

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon addressed the members of the Metropolitan Council and Holy Synod at their Fall 2016 meetings with a challenge for dioceses to develop Compassion in Action programs in their parishes. CSHA with the Office of Institutional Chaplaincies are now planning for Mentor development to support the potential growth of parish programs. Read the [Compassion in Action Brochure](#).

Fr. Gabriel Bilas, Deacon Michael Schlaak and the core group of volunteers continue in the CiA pilot program at St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church in Fenton, MI (Bulgarian Diocese). They report they are "spreading the love of Christ through their compassionate presence with suffering people" at a soup kitchen and warming center and healthcare facilities such as hospices, a local veteran's hospital and nursing homes.

Both CSHA and Institutional Chaplains who collaborated on CiA envision the expanding Compassion in Action program throughout the OCA. This will be possible only as far as the CiA program is funded sufficiently to enable needed training and mentorship. Considering His Beatitude's challenge, CSHA looks to the Metropolitan Council and Chancery for financial guidance whether through the department budget, the Stewards of the OCA and/or outside grants. CSHA worked with the St. Mary Magdalene core group on an article about the effective CiA Pilot including personal testimonies. It was submitted to Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak of the Stewards of the OCA.

### **Parish Ministry Resources (PMR)**

A new article was introduced in the [Community Service](#) section of [Parish Ministry Resources](#) titled [Expanding the Mission in the Jersey Shore Area](#). Members of Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church in Brick Town, NJ, Archdiocese of NY/NJ, with their rector, Archpriest Gary Breton, took up the OCA challenge of "Expanding the Mission". They committed themselves to Orthodox Christian service to the poor and

needy, the hungry and the homeless in their local area. Their story of the successful development of their ecumenical outreach ministries is a welcome addition to the PMR and a positive reflection of OCA parish life for others to follow.

Two articles about OCA's involvement in Pan-Orthodox Matthew 25 outreach programs are in process. The main sources of PMR topics are clergy and lay men and women in local parishes. We encourage rectors and parish leaders to contact [csha@oca.org](mailto:csha@oca.org) about possible submissions from their communities on any of the PMR themes, e.g. Community Service, Parish Development, Family Life and Senior Life.

### **Orthodox Living Will – Advance Directives for Healthcare and Funeral Care**

The CSHA department was in touch with several OCA dioceses before their annual assemblies to invite them and their parishes to post the two Living Will documents on their websites and to encourage clergy and faithful of all ages to become familiar with them. The wise consideration of personal desires for medical treatment options, end-of-life care, funeral and burial preferences is best undertaken before a crisis arises. In the common event when families are called upon to make medical treatment decisions for loved ones, these legal documents ease their burden.

The documents are on the OCA website and provided here:

- [A Gift for my Loved Ones](#) This package contains everything necessary to know should one become disabled or incapacitated and unable to make decisions on one's own. It includes a Health Care Power of Attorney and Advance Directive for Health Care—Living Will.
- [Another Gift for my Loved Ones](#) This package contains everything necessary to know to arrange a burial and funeral—an Advance Directive for Funeral Care.

### **Diocesan Ministry Network**

As noted above in the report heading, CSHA has representatives from six OCA dioceses. We invite other dioceses to appoint a person, either clergy or lay, to serve as a liaison to facilitate communications between the department and the diocese on outreach and service programs.

### **Communications**

CSHA's Facebook page is known as OCA Parish Ministry. PMR articles, department resources and charitable outreach programs by parishes and Orthodox agencies are featured in postings. Inspirational videos are included on occasion. Its reach is growing steadily and we encourage members of the Metropolitan Council and the Holy Synod to visit [OCA Parish Ministry](#).

News features on the homepage of the OCA website have included the announcement of the new PMR article and recognition of growing parish outreach programs for feeding the hungry, e.g. Saints Peter and Paul Church, Lorain, OH, with Fr. Joseph McCartney serves a local shelter and FOCUS Cleveland's Saint Herman's House of Hospitality, and when Holy Assumption of Saint Mary Church in Pittsburgh with Igumen Patrick and seventy volunteers served 3,200 Thanksgiving dinners. Holy Assumption also is the site of the Saint Cyril of White Lake Food Pantry that distributes food to Pittsburgh's poor and homeless every Thursday.

CSHA member, Nancy Van Dyken, has designed a template and set up a MailChimp email service to share CSHA news of resources, ministry developments and events with the faithful. The email list is in final preparations before the launch of this new communication tool.

### **Church World Service (CWS)**

Chicago, IL was the site of the October 28, 2016 CWS Annual Members Meeting. Arlene Kallaur, CSHA member and official OCA Representative to CWS, joined His Grace, Bishop Paul of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest and Protopresbyter Leonid Kishkovsky, OCA Director of External Affairs and Interchurch Relations.

Of historic importance for the 2016 meeting was the presentation by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon titled "The Face of Christ: A Missiological Reflection". In it he expressed Orthodox Christianity's monastic tradition and its relationship to the Church's outreach to the hungry, the poor and the displaced.

The department continues to promote CWS programs, e.g. CROP Hunger Walks & Gift of the Heart Kits as part of the longstanding relationship in humanitarian efforts. The CSHA budget covers travel costs for Mrs. Kallaur and OCA's annual \$500 donation to CWS.

### **St. Juliana Society**

Matushka Thekla Hatfield extended an invitation to CSHA member, Popadija Kitty Vitko, to speak at St. Vladimir's Seminary to the women students and seminarian wives of the St. Juliana Society in December. She gave a presentation on Addictions featuring food addictions and co-dependency. Donna Karabin is invited to SVS in March 2017 to talk about the work of the department.

### **Department Meeting and Retreat**

CSHA conducts its work through monthly conference calls. A special occasion occurred when four CSHA members were able to schedule a department meeting and retreat on December 13-15, 2016. The Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City, PA was the site where the gracious hospitality of Mother Christophora and the community provided guesthouse accommodations, meals, meeting space, beautiful Church services and guided tours of the icons, relics along with monastery history. The monastic setting enriched the meeting/retreat experience and affirmed the members' calling to serve the Lord and our neighbor through the department ministries.

### **2017 Planning**

CSHA members are considering meeting sites in New York and Eastern Pennsylvania for a summer Parish Ministries Conference. It most likely will be scheduled in mid-July. The theme of "Helping the Hurting: our Families, our Parishes and our Communities" and other details will be submitted in a proposal to the Holy Synod for approval.

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

**Winter, 2017**

**Terms of Reference**

The Department of Continuing Education creates annual course offerings according to the recommendations of the Bishops and is directly responsible to them. The Department's Episcopal Moderator is His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel.

Beginning in 2013, by decision of the Holy Synod of Bishops, every priest and deacon is required to complete twenty hours of continuing education annually. Of these, fifteen hours are taken at the initiative of the priest or deacon, or as required by the Diocesan Bishop. Five hours must be taken annually from the Department in the areas of Legal, Professional and Ethical Topics for OCA clergy.

Details may be found at <http://www.oca.org>.

**Continuing Clergy Development (CCD) Onsite**

In 2016 the Department of Continuing Education presented the fourth program in its Continuing Clergy Development series. Presentations included *The Church and the Law*, *Perinatal Loss and Infant Death*, and *Forming and Maintaining Clergy Peer Learning Groups*, as well as numerous smaller offerings. Live, on site presentations were made to clergy conferences in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, the Archdiocese of Washington DC, and the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America.

**Resource Development**

As reported last year, the Department collaborated with the Committee for Pastoral Practice of the Assembly Of Bishops Of United States, to produce a booklet entitled, *Perinatal Loss and Infant Death: A Resource for Orthodox Christian Pastors*.

The booklet was accepted for publication by the Orthodox Christian Association for Medicine, Psychology and Religion as part of its 2015 Conference Proceedings. The Department now is seeking funding to publish the booklet in its own right, for the convenience of clergy and laity.

The final draft version may be viewed at: <http://polycarphouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Perinatal-and-Infant-Loss-A-Resource-for-Orthodox-Christian-Pastors-rev-12-31-15.pdf>

**Online Program**

The Department continues to collaborate with Polycarp House, an online "virtual house of studies," to provide continuing education online. Clergy now may enroll online in the Department's five-hour, required course in Professional, Legal and Ethical Topics each year. Participation and completion are recorded automatically, and the \$150 fee may be paid online by credit card or PayPal. Funds are deposited automatically and directly into the OCA's PayPal account, and are managed by the OCA Treasurer. As provided in the original description of the Department, all such funds are restricted for Department use.

**V. Rev. Ian G. Pac-Urar  
Director**

Department of Evangelization  
Priest John Parker, Chair  
Report for Fall 2016

**Planting Grants**

St Katherine's in Carlsbad, CA;  
St James, Beaufort, SC;  
St John the Evangelist, Tempe, AZ;  
St Nektarios in Waxahachie, TX;  
St Juvenaly and His Companion, Wasilla, AK.  
Annunciation Mission, St James, MO

**Diocesan Work**

- Diocese of Western PA: Guest Speaker at St Alexander Nevsky Cathedral on “Nones and Dones”, Thursday, November 20.
- Conversation with Dean, Fr Michael Senyo about clergy retreat for Evangelism and Priestly fraternity.
- Personal Meeting with Bp Paul, Diocese of Midwest, after OCMC Board Meeting. First in-person contact with Bp Paul, to learn about the life of missions and evangelism in his diocese.

**Grant Retreats**

Fr David Rucker gave a weekend retreat at St Juvenaly in Wasilla, AK, on behalf of the Department (October 2016).

**Assembly Evangelization Study**

Completed my chapter for National Evangelism Study—through Assembly (Alexei Krindatch). Includes participants from GOA and AOCA, and also Fr Eric Tosi.

**OCMC**

Attended board meeting October 14-16 in Chicago.  
Made our Annual OCA contribution to the OCMC.

**International**

- Personal meeting with Abp Ambrosiy of the St Petersburg Theological Academy on Evangelism in St Petersburg and in the USA.
- Gave interview for St Petersburg Theological Publication on Evangelization and my Conversion Story.
- Gave four talks in Joensuu Finland, Sept 24-26, on Missions, Evangelization, and Church Planting from an American perspective for the annual Clergy Symposium of the Orthodox Church in Finland.

**Correspondence and Conversations**

Several long and fruitful discussions with both His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, and His Eminence, Archbishop Michael. Presented both with proposed priorities for the Department of Evangelization, and discussed with them at length various approaches to

implementation.

## **MEDIA**

Monthly (scheduled) posts on oca.org—from each of the Planting Grant Missions.

### *Website*

www.goodnews.oca.org updated periodically. Needs attention.

### *Ancient Faith Radio*

Sporadic podcasts on Ancient Faith Radio. Revamped Podcast and preparing to re-launch with new focus on Discipleship and deepening our spiritual roots.

### *Orthodox Christian Network (OCN)*

Occasional essays for OCN

## **OUTREACH EFFORTS**

### *St Katherine's College*

Journal for Seekers/Inquirers, possibly to be published through the College in both digital and print formats. Still a possibility.

### *Anglican Church in North America*

Next meeting TBD.

**Orthodox Church in America**  
**Department of Liturgical Music and Translations**  
**Report to the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council – Spring 2017**

**A. Music Downloads**

During the past year the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations prepared and posted on the website music for the services of Lazarus Saturday and the feast of the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. We began the project of preparing and posting music for the minor feasts and commonly-celebrated services for major saints of the church; beginning with St Vladimir (July 15) and St Nicholas (December 6) the New Martyrs of Russia and for the repose of St Tikhon (April 7). Included in the music for these saints were stichera in the appointed “model melodies.”

Continuing the project of making available music for the Lenten Sunday evening Vespers, the Department posted 36 pages of music for the saints commemorated on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday evening Vespers in 2016; in addition to 36 pages of the penitential stichera in Tones 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 for Sunday evening Vespers.

As indicated in the 2016 report of the Department, we began to scan and make available on our website music for the feast of the Nativity of Christ, taken from the booklet published by the Department of Liturgical Music in 1987. We will complete this project in 2017.

The Department has been requested to issue music posted on the website in both YY (You, Your) and TT (Thee, Thou) forms. These two styles, however, can and should reflect a single translation rather than two entirely incongruent translations, or, as in some cases, a hodge-podge of texts, assembled from a multitude of disparate sources. In an attempt to follow this desire, already the Department has begun to work on the production of a Resurrection Octoechos for Vespers. We will continue our efforts in providing music for the minor feasts of the church, adding festal stichera in the appointed “model melodies” in both the “You/Your” and “Thee/Thou” versions.

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 Father Benedict Churchhill, Dr Elizabeth Theokritoff, and Archimadrite Juvenaly (Repass). 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. Setting of music in *finale* is done by Deacon Gregory Ealy, Dr Vladimir Morosan, Fr Lawrence Margitich, Kevin Lawrence, and others.

A major goal of the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations is to provide the necessary musical resources for a parish choir in order to be able to chant the responses to all the liturgical services that are called for in the Typikon and celebrated in the local church. These musical resources are posted on the website of the Orthodox Church in America and made available as a free download. During the past year, 187 newly-set pages of music were prepared and posted on

our website for free-downloading. In addition, 26 pages of music were scanned from the 1987 edition of the Department's Nativity of Christ music booklet. There are currently over 6,300 pages of music available on the website of the Orthodox Church in America for free downloading and use by our choirs and singers.

## **B. Texts for Liturgical Services**

In 2016 a total of 192 (compared to 181 in 2015) liturgical services containing the so-called *Propers* of Vespers, pointed to be sung according to the Common Chant, was posted on the website. Approximately the same number will be posted in 2017. 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, the services of Holy Week, and the services of Great Compline, Vespersal Liturgy of St Basil the Great, and Matins for Holy Saturday, the Nativity of Christ, and the Theophany (with the Great Blessing of Water). These services are put together by the Chairman, rubric outlines are provided by Archimandrite Juvenaly and the texts are proofread by Dr. Vladimir Morosan. As in the past year, two versions, TT (Thee/Thou) and YY (You/Your) for each posted service were provided. Dr Vladimir Morosan was responsible for the adaptation of the TT texts.

As the postings are in Microsoft Word, the texts can be downloaded and then easily adapted for local and particular use. These texts are not only being used by choir directors and singers, but many parishes are making them available for non-singers so that worshippers who do not sing in the choir can easily follow the texts as they are being chanted during the services.

## **C. On-line Course in Choral Conducting**

For the fifth consecutive year the on-line course for Beginning Choir Directors was offered by the Department to interested and beginning choir directors. The course began on September 12 and consisted of 12 (twelve) weekly sessions. Each session consisting of both video and textual teaching demonstrations to go along with daily exercises and weekly assignments. Each student was required to meet weekly on-line via the *skype videosystem* with the teacher of the course, Prof David Drillock. Following each skype session, written evaluations were presented to each participant.

The first part of the course places special emphasis on the relationship between text and music, accented and non-accented syllables; exercises are focused on learning the beat patterns. The second half concentrates on techniques of conducting chant, singing in phrases, analyzing examples of both metered and unmetered music, and preparing the music for conducting.

Music examples used in the course were sung by choir members of St Paul Orthodox Church, Dayton, Ohio. Video recording for the sessions was done by Dr Mark Pearson. Dr Pearson, formerly Instructional Technologist and Designer at Earlham College, also designed the course, using the Moodle Learning Management System, and provided technical support and program assistance throughout the twelve sessions.



Of the 19 participants who registered for the class, 15 completed all twelve sessions and 4 completed 8 sessions. Over the past five years a total of 78 students have registered for the course; 61 students (77%) have successfully completed all twelve sessions, of which all but 10 are now officially assigned as choir directors, serving parishes in the archdioceses of Canada and Washington, D. C, and the dioceses of Eastern Pennsylvania, Midwest, New England, New York and New Jersey, the South, and the West. 3 students are directing parish choirs in the Greek Archdiocese, 3 in the American Carpatho-Russian Diocese, 2 in the Antiochian Archdiocese, 3 in the Serbian Orthodox Church, 1 in the Russian Orthodox Church in England, and 1 in the formerly OCA Church (now Greek Archdiocese) in South Africa.

#### **D. Tutorial for the Study of the Eight Tones**

Although it was the objective of the Department to complete Part II of the Tutorial in 2016, this section is still in process and it is hoped that it will be completed by the end of this summer. Part II is devoted to an analysis and learning tools for the singing of the Prokeimena and also will include four-part music for all the Prokeimena that are appointed for the Resurrection tones, days of the week, major and minor feast days and saints that are commemorated with the serving of the All-night Vigil. The four-part music will include both YY and TT texts.

Respectively submitted,

*David Drillock, Chairperson*  
Department of Liturgical Music and Translations  
Orthodox Church in America  
January 31, 2017

## Department of Pastoral Life

The Department of Pastoral Life continues in that work with which it has been charged: to serve and assist the clergy and clergy families of the Orthodox Church in America so that their service to the faithful may continue unabated with strength and with health. The department's resources and attention are devoted to two primary and overarching endeavors: research into the needs of the Church's clergy and programs of both immediate and long-term application.

At the behest of the Holy Synod, we are now working to revise the "Guidelines for Clergy", a document compiled in 1998 and left largely unamended since its publication. It is our ambition to prepare a new draft for release in mid-2018. Due to the wide reach of this document and our belief that any new or revised version must incorporate much of the existing material yet also details of a variety of practical pastoral application, this is a large project. In the autumn of 2016, a grant application was submitted to the Louisville Institute with the hope that these awarded funds would permit the establishment of a national program of inquiry and reflection on the pastoral practices of OCA clergy. Although we were not a recipient of this grant, the materials prepared in its submission helped to clarify the work before us and guide our goals; we are now exploring alternative means to fund this project and anticipate allocating a sizeable portion of the departmental budget to it this year. At this time, we are seeking a qualified volunteer project manager to initiate and oversee a national dialogue on the diversity of pastoral practices at home within the OCA, and funds have been set aside to permit an honorarium for that individual who can ably manage this eighteen-month research project. The results of that national conversation will then form the core of a new "Guidelines for Clergy". We invite individuals interested in taking part in this project to contact the Department's administrator, Fr. Nathan Preston.

The HOPE (Honoring Orthodox Pastoral Excellence) Program of clergy peer groups continues to thrive. Founded within the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania in 2015, from its inception it has served clergy of multiple dioceses and Orthodox jurisdictions. Currently, five groups are in place with 28 active members drawn from six OCA dioceses, archdioceses, and episcopates, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, the Antiochian Archdiocese, and the Serbian Orthodox Church. This last year amidst its progress of organic growth in formation of new groups, a point of particular pride was the organization of a first group for clergy wives. The program continues to seek opportunities to bring structured peer support wherever it is requested, and has prepared for these requests by equipping and training a cadre of qualified individuals to serve as facilitators for future groups. In our exploration of this program before its introduction and in our observations since implementation, we have noted that much of the success of such groups hangs on the abilities of the facilitators, their ability to lead their charges into structured self-reflection and encourage mutual support between participants. Because of the gravity of this role, the HOPE Program is structured to ensure accountability of participants through regular conferral with the program's central manager. To now, it has been very ably managed by Fr. Nicholas Solak, but he is preparing for a period of sabbatical this summer. We are now in the process of cataloguing those many responsibilities that his management has entailed so that this effort may continue unflagging in his absence. Presentations on the HOPE Program were made to the Holy Synod, to the gathered chancellors and treasurers of OCA dioceses, and to many local and regional clergy groups. Our efforts will shortly shift to account for Fr. Solak's temporary absence into management and strengthening of current groups and away from promotion of this program. Thus, those parties interested in becoming members of a

clergy peer group or of bringing this program to a region nearer to themselves are asked to reach out to the Department of Pastoral Life.

“Discerning Celibacy”, a first paper documenting some of the particular needs of celibate clergy within the OCA, was completed last year after interviews with members of the Holy Synod. Its findings are still under discussion at the departmental level and were presented to the Synod. Means of addressing some of those needs that this paper brought to the fore are still under consideration, but one initial response is the organization of a clergy peer group especially for celibate clergy. That group is now being formed and anticipated to be a functioning part of the HOPE Program by the spring of this year.

As directed by the Holy Synod, the Department of Pastoral Life is examining those pastoral issues that arise in response to questions of sexual identity. Another series of interviews with diocesan hierarchs was conducted, and a paper on this topic is in preparation. Though not surprising, the preliminary findings from this inquiry merit note. First, there is pervasive sense of distrust that at times prevents discussion of this topic among clergy even in those forums where discussion of pastoral practice is commonplace, i.e., at the deanery and diocesan level and within local clergy brotherhoods. Second, a significant disparity exists regionally with some geographical areas already having been compelled to engage in conversations on how to deal with these needs and others reporting no pressing pastoral concerns known to precipitate such dialogue. Third, this is a subject of unease for clergy and laity alike as the culture in which parish communities exist continues to move and change in its expectations and as the topic of sexuality becomes both more commonplace and politicized. The department hopes in the near future to explore the first of these findings in more detail—lack of trust between clergy—since this deficit threatens to undermine that charitable camaraderie on which the presbyterate must be grounded.

After a review of the OCA’s clergy compensation guide, drafted in 1995, and of all those diocesan policies and guidelines extant and publically available, the committee of the Department of Pastoral Life initiated an ongoing discussion on clergy compensation practices. Fr. David Lowell shared the results of his comprehensive examination of this topic for the Diocese of the West. Conducted over the course of some eight or nine months during 2016, his findings are the fruit of numerous personal interviews as well as examination of those reports and statistics provided to the diocese. In this, it is a laudable model for future like inquiries as it combines both statistical knowledge as well as those personal accounts both good and bad that he was able to elicit. A summation of both Fr. Lowell’s findings and process was provided to the assembly of diocesan chancellors and treasurers; a similar presentation may be made to the Holy Synod, inviting the Church’s other dioceses to consider similar assessment.

Finally, the formation of a clergy wives advisory panel is now underway. A voice notably absent from some previous exchanges, this department remains still committed to seeking opportunities to listen to the experiences and insights of our clergy wives. Though finding venues where and when this could profitably occur has been a challenge, we continue actively to seek these. Under the very capable guidance of Cindy Heise, a seasoned and experienced social worker, whom we are happy to have had join the departmental executive committee, this new advisory panel offers one more inroad and opportunity for dialogue so that we can really continue to listen to those who serve the Church so ably.

The executive committee of this department continues to meet in monthly videoconference. We welcome the addition of two new members to this body: Archpriest Stephen Vernak and Cindy Heise. In addition to the episcopal moderator, His Grace, Bishop Paul, departmental chair, Archpriest John Jillions, and administrator, Priest

Nathan Preston, our other members are Archpriests Stephen Evanina, David Lowell, Dennis Rhodes, Gregory Safchuk, and Nicholas Solak.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Nathan Preston

Orthodox Church in America  
Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry  
Report to Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council  
February 2017

**Leadership**

Chair – Andrew Boyd  
Episcopal Liaison – Bishop David  
Project Manager – Priest Christopher Rowe  
Intern – Emma Solak

**Department Membership**

A full an updated membership list is available at <https://oca.org/about/departments/youth-young-adult>

**A Note**

This past fall, I asked His Beatitude to release me as the Youth Director for the OCA. Since then, I've been merely "keeping the seat warm" instead of pursuing our usual pace of activities and communications. My last official day, with His Beatitude's blessing, will be February 28<sup>th</sup>. I thank His Beatitude for the opportunity to serve, members of the Central Administration for their unwavering and creative support of our department, and the many volunteers who have helped me at the national and local levels these past four years.

**Orthodox Christian Fellowship- Our Pan-Orthodox Campus Ministry**

We continue to be represented on OCF's board by Deacon Alexander Cadman, who is also our campus Chaplain at Penn State. Additionally, this year, OCF's Student Board is being led by our department's intern, Emma Solak, a student at UPitt and from our Parish in Stroudsburg, PA (Diocese of Eastern PA). Our department continues to contribute substantially in terms of human resources and finances to this imperative ministry on behalf of the OCA, and we encourage both clergy and lay involvement at the local level, and thank the many volunteers who open the doors of our churches to college students throughout our Church. Particularly, Deacon Alexander has made considerable contributions to the strategic direction of the organization as they search for a new executive director. Priest Timothy Hojnicky from our Diocese of Eastern PA led the content portions of the recent College Conference –East. A number of our clergy are also volunteering on national programs such as retreats and "Real Break" Trips.

**Syndesmos**

Syndesmos is the World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth. This "bond of unity" brought together Orthodox youth movements and seminaries from all over the world regularly for fellowship, education, mission work, and theological reflection. Especially dear to their work was connecting youth in North America and Western Europe to those in traditional Orthodox homelands. Influential members and supports, while they were young adults and after, included Frs. John Meyendorff and Alexander Schmemmann, and John Matusiak, Now Patriarch Kyrill, The late Patriarch Ignatius of Antioch, Archbishop Anastasios of Albania, Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Archdiocese, Metropolitan Kallistos, Sophie Kolumzine, Mark Stokoe, and countless others. The OCA has a strong tradition of supporting this organization, often

providing interns and staff starting with the recently departed Connie Tarasar, who interned in 1969 and most recently, myself in 2009.

In the economic downturn of 2008-2010, Syndesmos, then based in Greece, slowly began to fall apart, and really struggled to continue with even its basic mission. Recently, there have been signs of new activity and growth, which we have been supporting. Following on last year's successful festival in Poland, we were again able to partner with several dioceses to send a delegation of five OCA young adults to their recent conference in Slovakia in July. It seems that there is again activity in this area, and the OCA is being consulted continuously as to next steps and future activities, and encouraging other North American jurisdictions to get involved.

### **Local Projects**

We are always looking for local, grassroots projects to support whether on the parish, deanery, or diocesan level. Often we are able to offer financial assistance and advice and expertise on youth/young adult ministry.

### **Social Media Team**

Our social media team continues to meet by teleconference every other week and maintains our department's growing presence on facebook and twitter, as well as our micro-site "Saints You Missed in Sunday School" ([missed-saints.org](http://missed-saints.org)). All of these projects continue to grow and build audience. As we head into the fall, this team is going to be revisiting some of our past google hangouts/webinars to see what content can be re-addressed.

### **FOCA**

After a few years of closer collaboration

### **Peter the Aleut Grant**

Our grant program continues to grow in popularity. In fact, 2015 was its largest year for distributions every. This grant is reserved for youth/young adults trying to attend a qualifying retreat or program, or visit an OCA monastery or seminary to discern a vocation. Clergy and lay leaders may also apply to offset the costs of attending qualifying continuing education in youth ministry. Priest Christopher Rowe (Diocese of the Midwest) and Patrick Pletnikoff (Diocese of Alaska) oversee the grant program with me. We have seen a slight downturn in the number of applications this year, and we are planning a new marketing effort to remind clergy, laity, and youth about the grant opportunities.

### **Episcopal Assembly**

I continue to serve as an advisor to the Episcopal Assembly's Youth Ministry Committee, chaired by His Grace, Bishop Thomas of the Antiochian Archdiocese. I also serve on a special sub-committee dedicated to youth formation issues particular to Orthodoxy in our North American context. All jurisdictional youth directors continue to meet on a quarterly basis and enjoy a strong culture of collaboration even in the face of some challenging inter-jurisdictional politics and positions. Recently, Priest Christopher Rowe, Emma Solak, and Matushka Jenny Mosher represented the OCA at the yearly meeting of the committee's advisors and general conference for all Orthodox Youth/Camp Workers in Austin, TX hosted by the Greek Archdiocese. My thanks as well to Archpriest Stephen Freeman of the our Diocese of the South who keynoted the conference.

## **Future Focus:**

As His Beatitude, the Holy Synod, the Metropolitan Council and other leaders of our Church consider “what next” for youth and young adult ministry in the OCA, I invite you all to reconsider the vision the youth laid out for what they think is needed, but in youth ministry and in the OCA as a whole at the last All-American Council. That vision is appended to this report.

And I’ll end in our longstanding tradition of quoted our beloved Father Alexander Schmemmann addressing college students in 1968:

“To sum up, two things are essential: first the strengthening of our personal faith and commitment. Whether priest or layman, man or woman, the first thing for an Orthodox is not to speak *about* Orthodoxy, but to live it to his full capacity; it is prayer, it is standing before God, it is the difficult joy of experiencing “heaven on earth.” This is the first thing and it cannot be reached without effort, fasting, asceticism, without sacrifice and the discovery of that which in the Gospel is called the “narrow way.” And then, to use a most abused word: a deep and real dialogue with America — not accommodation, not a compromise, for a dialogue may indeed be violent. If nothing else, it will achieve two things: it will reveal to us what is real and genuine in our faith and what is mere decoration. We may, indeed, lose all kinds of decorations which we erroneously take for Orthodoxy itself. What will remain is exactly the faith which overcomes the world! And then in that dialogue we will discover the true America, not the America which so many Orthodox curse and so many idolize, but the America of that great hunger for God and His righteousness which has always underlain the genuine American culture. The more I live here, the more I believe that the encounter between Orthodoxy and America is a providential one. And because it is Providential, it is being attacked, misunderstood, denied, rejected on both sides. Maybe it is for the handful of Orthodox students on American campuses to understand its real meaning and to act accordingly. “

With thanks for the opportunity to serve all these years,

Andrew Boyd

# OUR **VISION** FOR THE **ORTHODOX** **CHURCH IN AMERICA.**

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*We, the Youth of the 18th All-American Council and members of the Orthodox Church in America, have a vision for our Church.*

*We dream of a Church that...*

- exists to promote the Faith first and foremost;
- is united as one;
- consists of members who know and understand the basic tenants of the Church;
- makes the Faith accessible to members of all ages;
- welcomes newcomers with open arms;
- embraces the diversity of cultures;
- experiences growth and avoids stagnancy;
- encourages the involvement and participation of all members;
- communicates across jurisdictions willingly and often for the furtherance of the Faith;
- uses a uniform translation to the English language among all dioceses;
- has an active, well-known and central Youth program for the betterment of fellowship and expansion of faith among the children and young adults of the Church;
- sees its Youth not as the future of the Church, but as the present.

**THIS IS OUR **VISION**.**  
**WE CHALLENGE **YOU** TO HELP US MAKE IT A REALITY.**

*Prepared by the Youth of the 18th All-American Council—July 19-24, 2015 in Atlanta, Georgia*



**Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA)  
Report to the Metropolitan Council  
January 2017  
Respectfully Submitted by President Marge Kovach**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Spiritual Advisor - V. Rev. Theodore Boback  
President - Marge Kovach  
Vice President - Allison Steffaro  
Recording Secretary - Tammy Schultz  
Treasurer - Michael Bowan  
Immediate Past President - Becky Tesar

**OUTREACH**

*Gifts of Love:*

*2017 campaign* –will raise funds to repair and restore the St. Nicholas Chapel, which is part of the Holy Assumption Russian Orthodox Church complex in Kenai, Alaska. This church is one of the oldest in Alaska – completed in 1896 – and the entire complex (church, chapel, rectory and cemetery) was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1970. The FOCA is sponsoring an Alaskan cruise in May and the proceeds will go toward the 2017 Gifts of Love campaign.

*Seminarian Assistance Programs:*

*Adopt a Seminarian program* - several chapters and parishes are providing financial assistance to married seminary students in need during this academic year.

*St. Nicholas Wish List project* – a number of families at both STOTS and SVOTS received gifts for St. Nicholas Day. Families at SHOTS received gift cards which is more practical than shipping packages to Alaska.

Several members of our Executive Board visited both STOTS and SVOTS to give a brief presentation on the FOCA's history and philanthropic activities with the goal of familiarizing these future leaders of our churches with the FOCA, and its goals and mission. St. Tikhon's re-established the chapter in 2015.

## **NATIONAL CONVENTIONS**

2017 - The 91<sup>st</sup> National Convention will be sponsored by our New Jersey District, at the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey Hotel in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania from September 1<sup>st</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>. In addition to convention sessions, the weekend schedule of events includes a number of opportunities for fun and fellowship such as the President's golf outing and a live performance by a well-known multicultural song and dance company. Saturday evening Vespers as well as the Sunday morning Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be at the hotel followed by a banquet and dance Sunday evening. A youth program, jointly coordinated with the OCA on the national and diocesan level, will include religious education sessions and trip to Hershey Park. A Young Adult service project is being discussed.

2018 - The FOCA will hold our 92<sup>nd</sup> National Convention in conjunction with the OCA's 19<sup>th</sup> AAC at the same venue in St. Louis, MO from July 20-23. Becky Tesar, Immediate Past President, is representing the FOCA on the OCA Preconciliar Commission.

## **JUNIORS**

Fr. Benjamin Tucci continues to do a wonderful job leading the FOCA Junior Department as well as coordinating our efforts with the OCA's Department of Youth and Young Adults.

### *Celebration of Faith Contest:*

The creative arts contest is open to ALL youth who are communicants in a parish or mission of a canonical Orthodox Church in North America. Participants are encouraged to express themselves by submitting projects within the categories of Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, or Visual Arts.

The 2017 topic is: "Who is my neighbor?" The deadline to enter is May 15 and further information is available on our website:  
[www.orthodoxfellowship.org](http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org)

### *Junior Olympics:*

Each July we bring Orthodox youth together for Junior Olympics, our annual sports camping week, at St. Vladimir's Camp and Retreat Center in Ohio. Record numbers of campers from several states continue to register for the week under the direction of Dn. Daniel and Mat. Catrina Kovalak. This is an excellent opportunity for youth to get away from

daily routines and to grow spiritually while living within this Orthodox community. As campers have said, camp is a place where they feel comfortable being themselves; a place where they don't need to pretend to be someone else.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

National Basketball Tournament	April 28-30, 2017 Weirton, West Virginia
National Bowling Tournament	May 5-7, 2017 Baltimore, Maryland
Junior Olympics Summer Camp	July 9-15, 2017 Farmdale, Ohio
National Golf Tournament	July 7-8, 2017 Alpha, New Jersey
91 <sup>st</sup> National Convention	September 1-4, 2017 Hershey, Pennsylvania

Thank you for the opportunity to share this update on the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America with you. We are grateful for your support and humbly ask you to keep the FOCA, its members, and our good works in your prayers.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marge Kovach  
FOCA President

# Spring 2017 Report

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## [Office of Institutional Chaplaincy]

### 1. OFFICE MANDATE

The Office 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 Office's Director, supporting the formal endorsement process for institutional chaplains and facilitating dialogue among those ministering in a variety of institutional settings.

### 2. OFFICE MEMBERS & RESOURCE PEOPLE

**Chair:** V. Rev. Dr. Steven Voytovich  
**Members:** V. Rev. John Maxwell, Frs. John Brown, Paul Fetsko, Alexandre Ioukliaevskikh, Michael Medis, Timothy Hasencz, Christopher Stanton, Dn. David Neff, Sarah Byrne, Logan Johnson, Elaine Mayol, Anna Nikitina, Jessica D'Angio, Larisa Waya

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

Website: [www.orthinc.org](http://www.orthinc.org)

### 3. BUDGET REVIEW

- 2016 Budget: \$6,000 stipend, \$1,350 expenses

### 4. HIGHLIGHTS AND PROJECTED FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Transitions: we ask for continued prayers for Fr. John Maxwell who continues to battle cancer. Fr. John Brown retired from Federal Correctional Chaplaincy. Fr. Steven was able to concelebrate with him for his last Divine Liturgy at the Federal Corrections Facility in Atlanta GA.
- Our Facebook page has been growing in interest and is now included on the OCA's website front page. We are grateful for this visibility!
- So far the efforts to reach out to emergency response chaplains has not netted many responses. Will continue the outreach for yet a little while.
- Have met briefly with several of our chaplains while traveling for other purposes.
- Several chaplains met at the November OCAMPR meeting in Boston.
- A new credentialing body has been created, Spiritual Care Association (SCA) by The Healthcare Chaplaincy in New York. This body appears to be competing with current credentialing bodies with an eye toward further solidifying engagement in the medical treatment model.
- Fr. Steven attended annual endorser meetings in Alexandria, VA (January 2017: COMISS and AREB).

#### Future Developments:

- We will continue to post opportunities for exchange on our [www.orthinc.org](http://www.orthinc.org) website during the year.
- With the advent of now two jurisdictions having similar endorsement processes, we need to continue dialogue toward implementation of uniform approach to institutional chaplaincy endorsement.
- A Compassion-in-Action (CiA) implementation is currently underway, with one of our chaplains assisting in this regard.

- Support the Strategic Plan:
  - Our chaplains are assisting 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.
  - Continue to represent our OCA in the greater pastoral care and counseling arena
- Hopefully opportunities will arise to continue the dialogue begun two years ago with our Orthodox Campus Fellowships (OCF) to support their chaplains.

## 5. COMMENTS

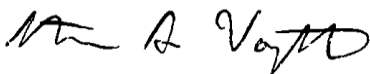
The Spiritual Care Association (SCA) is a body that has established itself for the purpose of credentialing chaplains. Their explicit goal is to utilize political influence to have chaplaincy recognized in medicare procedure payments that are moving to a “bundled” approach. Currently no reimbursement is attached to pastoral care. As such they are highly “data” driven. In meeting with Eric Hall, their leader, during our AREB meeting, however, it is also clear that they do not require theological education or faith tradition affiliation (related through endorsement). The gathered endorsers indicated that much work needs to be undertaken to expand the small amount of common ground now visible between current credentialing bodies and SCA, and again between SCA and endorsers.

Given this development, it should probably be indicated that OCA chaplains are not encouraged at present to seek credentialing with this body, especially if they are presently endorsed for ministry for current positions and other credentialing bodies. It is the concern of endorsers that legal issues may arise for this group, the liability for which is likely real and a threat to all parties connected to it.

It is also most interesting to note that this year’s COMISS meeting was focused on the changing paradigms of theological formation in seminaries! As such, I continue to see a value both in participating in these meetings, and doing so from the present vantage point of St. Tikhon’s Seminary!

In closing, I once again ask for your prayers on behalf of the men and women serving as chaplains in our institutional settings, bearing witness to the light of Christ to many who are hungry, sick, incarcerated, and in danger.

Respectfully submitted,



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

**Office of Orthodox Church in America Military and Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
Chaplaincies Spring Report 2017**

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

His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON serves as the Ecclesiastical Endorser for the US Military and Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplaincies; His Grace, Bishop Daniel serves as the Episcopal Liaison, His Eminence, Archbishop Nikon serves as the liaison to the Assembly of Canonical Bishops.

**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 (VAMC) Chaplaincies currently 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 XI section 4) 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.

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. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center Chaplains serve within the United States at VA Hospitals.

**VISITATION:** His Grace, Bishop Daniel made a pastoral visit to Lackland AFB, Texas on 4 to 6 November 2016 where Fr. Thaddeus Werner is the assigned Orthodox Chaplain. He blessed the new Iconostasis and presided at the Divine Liturgy with 45 in attendance. He had the opportunity to also have fellowship with the faithful and hosted a time of “ask the bishop.” An article appeared on the OCA website. His Grace, Bishop Daniel recently received a letter from a former air officer who attended Air Force Officer training in 1966 and who reflected on an article he wrote about the Lackland program and work of the Orthodox Chaplains and acknowledge his gratitude. We also thank Fr. John Matusiak for publishing the Iconostasis which resulted in the receipt of the correspondence to Bishop Daniel.

#### **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 is conducted in January annually. Fr. Theodore Boback and Fr Joseph Gallick attended the conference this year. Additionally, the OCA Office of Military and VA Chaplaincy is a member of the Commission on Ministry in Specialized Settings. Very Reverend Steven Voytovich, Director of the OCA Institutional Chaplaincy Department attends the COMISS meetings.

Highlights of the recent NCMAF and ECVAC and Chief of Chaplains conferences are next in the report: Meeting was held January 9 through January 13, 2017. The theme of the Conference was: **EMERGING TRENDS: SERVING ON THE CUTTING EDGE**. Monday included: a session on ECVAC's Emerging Role in Supporting VA Ministry; an exclusive screening of the movie ALMOST SUNRISE. An evening reception was held at which time new and departing endorsers were honored. Tuesday and Wednesday Sessions included presentations on: The Chapel of the Four by Ms. Christine M. Beady, Executive Director; Chaplains Emerging Trends in the American Religious Landscape by Dr. Gaston Espinoza, Arthur V. Stoughton Professor of Religious Studies Claremont McKenna College; Roundtable Discussions on Emerging Religious Trends; The Future of Education by Dr. Stephen Graham, Senior Director of Programs and Services Association of Theological Schools. Caring for Caregivers of our Wounded Warriors Hidden Heroes Campaign The Elizabeth Dole Foundation by Ms. Laurel Rodewald, Foundation Programs Manager; Emerging Trends in the Veterans Administration by Ms. Rosemary Williams, Office of Public Affairs; Analytics, Measuring Present and Future Trends by Gary Cole, CAPT, CHC, USN, Force Chaplain, Navy Installation Command; Emerging Ministry Opportunities in the Bureau of Prisons, Reverend Heidi Kugler Chaplaincy Administrator, Federal Bureau of Prisons; Workshops were conducted on Wednesday Afternoon with the opportunity to attend one of the following: Emerging Trends in Chaplaincy Education by Chaplain (COL) Ken Bush, US Army Retired; Alliance Defending Freedom by Mr. Casey Mattox; Moral Injury by Rev. William Jensen, Executive Officer and Deputy Endorser, Federal Ministries, The Episcopal Church; other presentations included: Updates on Emerging issues from the Armed Forces Chaplains Board, by Jerry A. Hinson, CAPT, CHC, USN – Executive Director of AFCB; Update on Emerging Ministry Opportunities in the Coast Guard by Gregory N. Todd, CAPT, CHC, USN, Chaplain of the Coast Guard and Updates by the Branch Chaplain Recruiters. The day ended with the NCMAF Meeting. Fr Ted was asked to serve on the executive board and was elected to serve on the board.

Tuesday Lunch had a presentation by Dr. Dick Stenbakken, who is a retired chaplain USA. The theme was guiding the future remembering the past. He did a first person narrative on the chaplain who ministered to those awaiting the Nurnberg Trials. Dr. Stenbakken also does first person Biblical narratives. It was a dynamic and well received presentation, which should be considered by others for future presentation.

Thursday Sessions were conducted at the Mark Visitors Center with a welcome from Captain Jerome A. Hinson, CHC,USN Executive Director AFCB and Mr. Anthony M. Kurta, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Ministry Personnel Policy; An opening address by the Honorable Peter Levine, Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness was given. The briefings by the three Chiefs of Chaplains : Rear Admiral Margaret G. Kibben, CHC,USN; Chaplain (Major General) Paul K. Hurley, USA; and Chaplain (Major General) Dondi E. Dostin, USAF. The afternoon session included presentation by Ms. Jeri Busch, Directory of Military Compensation on the new military retirement system for uniformed services and a panel discussion with National Guard and Reserve Chaplains concluded the afternoon sessions.



### **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.

Our Orthodox Priests have been deployed in support of the Global War on Terror. Our priests provided worship Services during holy Week and Pascha in tandem with other Orthodox Chaplains from other branches of the services. Others have served with coalition forces for example from Estonia, Georgia, and Romania and others have mentored and have served with the first Orthodox Chaplain in the Canadian Forces since WWII. Others have advised on various issues and concerns such as those who served with the Coast Guard in Alaska where they advised on coastal Alaskan communities which are indigenously Orthodox.

Included among the continued Ministry Concern of our chaplain are:

Spiritual Renewal, Ministry of Presence, 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.**

#### **Active Duty**

#### **United States Air Force**

Father Eugene Lahue, Chaplain, Major, USAF

Father Thaddeus Werner Chaplain Captain USAF Joint Base Lackland, San Antonio, TX

#### **United States Army**

Father. George Hill, Chaplain (MAJ) USA JAG School

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

Father George Oanca, Chaplain (CPT) USA Korea

#### **United States Navy**

Father Stephen Duesenberry CDR CHC USN Camp Lejeune, NC

## **Reserve Component**

### **United States Air Force**

Father Oliver Herbel Chaplain, Captain, USAFR  
Father Gregory Bruner, Captain, INANG

### **United States Army**

Father Peter Dubinin, Chaplain (LTC) USAR  
Father Danut Palanceau Chaplain (CPT) USAR  
Father James Parnell, Chaplain (CPT) USAR  
Father James Sizemore Chaplain (MAJ) USAR

### **United State Navy**

Father Herman Kincaid

### **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.

We do have a candidate for the United States Air Force. His paperwork has been submitted for the accession board. Also, we have Deacon Matthew Fuhrman who is in the United States Army Chaplain Candidate program. He will graduate Saint Tikhon Orthodox Theological Seminary this year.

### **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 recently. We are grateful for their continued ministry.

VA Chaplains might attend training that equips them to perform specific tasks and or to fill certain positions such as Post Traumatic Stress, palliative care, substance abuse; etc.

### **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 Joseph Martin – Wilkes-Barre, PA  
Father James Parnell – New Haven, CT  
Father Philip Reese, Miami, FL  
Father Paul Suda – Pittsburgh, PA  
Father George York, Pittsburgh, PA

### **Need for chaplains military.**

Recruitment of seminarians in the various branches of our US Armed Forces continues to be conducted. Also, discussion with the Holy Synod of Bishops reference the need for chaplains continues. We have two seminarians interested in the chaplain candidate program.

### **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 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 Dean/Director of the OCA Chaplaincies as well as the candidate must meet the requirements of the United States Armed Forces or the Veterans Affairs Medical Center National Chaplain Office.

We thank Metropolitan Tikhon and to the Holy Synod of Bishops for their support of the Military and VAMC Chaplaincies Program and for identifying priests to serve in the military and VAMC Chaplaincies; to Archbishop Nikon in his communications with us as he serves as the Episcopal Liaison to the Assembly of the Canonical Bishops; to Bishop Daniel for his communication with our office and for his pastoral visitations and to the OCA Chancery in support of the office of the military and VA Chaplaincies.

We ask that you remember in prayers our military chaplains and families as the chaplains provide the ministry within their area of operations and to our VA Chaplains as they minister to our veterans.



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February 18, 2017

Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces, honorable clergy and lay delegates:

On behalf of the OCA Pension Board, I take this opportunity to update you on the status of the Pension Plan as of December 31, 2016.

The net time-weighted return for calendar year 2016 was 0.07%, due to the approximately 6.52% drag from the Milliman Strategy. This is the result of domestic equity markets rising in November on expectations that a Donald Trump presidency will lead to accelerated U.S. economic growth, while international stocks fell on concerns surrounding U.S. foreign relations and trade policy. It is widely expected that the new administration will focus on tax reform and fiscal stimulus, which is beneficial for economic growth, but may create inflationary pressure. The net time-weighted annualized return for the plan since adoption of the Milliman Strategy in November, 2012, is a positive 3.04% compared to the benchmark of 2.46%. Because of the inability of the Milliman Strategy to deal with the volatility of the markets, a new balanced portfolio approach was adopted with elevated reserves of 15-18 months to prevent fire sales and down markets. The ending market value of plan assets at December 31, 2016 was \$23,399,266.

In the interim since the last Metropolitan Council Meeting, the Pension Plan has received a clean audit report, updated the plan to allow for lump sum payouts to the estate of a beneficiary who never chose a beneficiary himself, submitted the Plan for IRS determination (this is required periodically), and began payment of 75 and over in-service benefits. The Board continues to review the question of allowing retired members to serve in distressed parishes at the request of the Bishops.

With regard to participation in the Pension Plan, there are currently 336 active participating members (the highest number to date) and 178 monthly benefits recipients.

The Pension Board was represented at the recent Chancellors/Treasurers meeting held at the Chancery by Matushka Mary Buletza Breton, treasurer of NY/NJ and trustee of the Plan, who discussed the latest developments within the plan and addressed questions of those in attendance regarding the plan.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Priest Gleb McFatter, Chairman

Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America  
Metropolitan Council Winter 2017  
REPORT

**Where we stand**

I did not meet the goals for the Stewards of the OCA as set forth in the 2016 budget. The total income for 2016 was \$65,196, a good \$10,000 off the mark. When I took over the office in July of 2016 our fundraising to date was around \$22,000.

**What we did**

In the second half of 2016 we implemented two appeals. The first was the St Herman Appeal which was reported on at the Fall 2016 Metropolitan Council Meeting. The content of that appeal consisted of the defining of the philosophy of the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America through a video address posted on the OCA Website and sent by email to the Steward and OCA email list. The appeal was done solely by digital media and did not have a hard-copy component.

The second appeal was implemented during the Thanksgiving Holiday and done in conjunction with FOCUS North America, and was titled "Stewards of the OCA FOCUS on Thanksgiving". While the ultimate purpose of the Stewards is to raise funds for the OCA this appeal had no financial benefit to the Orthodox Church in America. Working with Nicholas Chakos of FOCUS we used our social media and network of stewards to raise funds to help fight child hunger in North America. In the words of Mr Chakos, "It was a successful effort and I'm thrilled with the results". The appeal itself raised a little under \$4,000, and it created a strong, and what I hope will be a long lasting relationship with FOCUS North America. Again, the Stewards of the OCA did not benefit financially from this appeal, but I do believe we will benefit in the long run by showing the Stewards to be about much more than fundraising.

At the end of the 2016 calendar year we made a year-end push using the tride-and-true "maximize your 2016 tax deductions by donating to the Stewards".

Again, we did not meet our financial goals, but I do believe we have raised awareness of the Stewards throughout the OCA and beyond, and have positioned ourselves for success in the coming years.

**What we plan to do in 2017**

Our monetary goal for 2017 is \$106,000. We plan to raise, and God willing exceed this goal in the following ways:

1. Appeal: we will again deploy an appeal on the Feast of St Herman. This year we will add a direct mail component to the appeal, as well as digital media as in 2016.
2. Relationship building: we will continue to build relationships with individuals to grow the rolls of Stewards, especially in the monthly giving category. We hope to build these relationships through direct meetings and presentations at parishes, diocesan events and through my travels with His Beatitude.
3. Content: In 2016 and continuing in 2017 web and social media content will be a key component of our strategy. One of the major trends in the fundraising world is storytelling. This is not necessarily new concept, but one that is often forgotten or overlooked. Our goal is to connect with people and remind them of the many reasons to be proud of being a member of the Orthodox Church in America. Recently I launched a Facebook page which will be the platform from which we can collect and tell the stories of the faithful, past and present of the OCA. If you take time and look around at our parish websites and social

media pages you will see how much is happening in the OCA. Stories of clergy serving in far out villages in Alaska for the first time in years, or of mission planting grant parishes “graduating” and celebrating their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, or seminarians who are excited for the work ahead of them are all stories which help connect our faithful through North America giving them a feeling a being something greater than their parish. If you have not already, I encourage you to view, like and share our page at [www.facebook.com/ocastewards](http://www.facebook.com/ocastewards).

4. Parish Stewards: Our goal is to get each parish to dedicate one Sunday to the Stewards of the OCA with a free will offering. Recently a parish took up a second collection on Sunday for the Stewards. The parish raised \$300.00. The priest was upset that it was, in his view, a small amount. In my view it was a complete success This is a parish with its own financial challenges, a parish that is trying to make it and despite their own challenges they choose to look outside themselves to connect to something greater than their local community. We have over eight hundred parishes in the OCA. If just half of those parishes gave \$300.00 we would be well over our goal for 2017.

I am confident that we can reach our goals for 2017. There is no doubt that the very public support of the Metropolitan Council and the Holy Synod, through their giving in the Fall, made an impact on the faithful, and set an example and foundation for the continued growth of the Stewards of the OCA.