

MINUTES

Archdiocesan Council Meeting – October 11, 2014

Hosted by St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Baltimore, Maryland

The meeting was opened with a prayer at 11:20 AM.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Archdiocesan Hierarchy: Metropolitan Tikhon

Archdiocesan Council Members:

<u>Parish/Mission</u>	<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Laity</u>
All Saints of N. America	Fr. Michael Koblosh	
Christ the Savior	Fr. John Parsells, Secretary	
Holy Archangels		Noel Brockett
Holy Trinity		
St. Andrew	Fr. Theodore Boback	Yuriy Dzambasow
St. Catherine	Fr. Dennis Buck	Peter Mazikins
St. Mark	Fr. Gregory Safchuk Fr. Mark Koczak	Michael Hydock, Treasurer Michael Lungociu
St. Matthew	Fr. Constantine White	John Zahor
St. Nicholas		
St. Luke	Fr. John Vitko, Chancellor	Val Maksimovic

Guests: Sdn. Roman Ostash.

AGENDA:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Discussion of Agenda
3. Approval of the Council Minutes for 2013
4. Metropolitan's Report
5. Status of compliance with Policies, Standards, and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct (PSPs)
6. Status of compliance with Continuing Clergy Education (CCE) requirement
7. Quick summary of upcoming All American Council
8. St. Nicholas proposal for Archdiocese to support Alaskan seminarians
9. Agenda for Continuing Education Retreat and Archdiocesan Assembly
10. Update on Mission Status
11. Update on Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDB)
12. Draft budget and proposed assessments for 2015

13. Nominations for clergy member of Archdiocesan Auditing Committee
14. Possible nominations for Archdiocesan Treasurer
15. Other issues the brotherhood might want to raise.

Discussion of Agenda

Fr. John Vitko, Archdiocesan Chancellor, thanked Fr. Theodore Boback and St. Andrew's for hosting the meeting, welcomed the members of the Archdiocesan Council and reviewed the agenda.

Approval of the Council Minutes for 2013

After review, the minutes of the 9/21/13 meeting were accepted by consensus, without amendment.

Metropolitan's Report

His Beatitude reported on his activities within 1) the Archdiocese of Washington, 2) the Orthodox Church in America, and 3) the worldwide communion of the Orthodox Church.

- 1) Metropolitan Tikhon expressed his appreciation for the work of all the clergy and laity within the Archdiocese of Washington, reflecting upon his parish visitations, the clergy gatherings, Archdiocesan day, the work of the officers and administration, and the blessed repose of those within the Archdiocesan family during the past year. He updated the clergy on the transfer of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Mission to Bp. Alexander and the Bulgarian Diocese as well as the move of Holy Trinity from Reston to Ashburn. His Beatitude expressed his desire for the development of Mission guidelines to help with the planting of new missions, the nurturing of existing missions on their transition to parish status, and, if necessary, the closing or relocation thereof. Encouragement was offered to the clergy in their sacrificial service, as His Beatitude thanked them for their attention to all the pastoral work required of them, including the mandates for completion of the Continuing Clergy Education (CCE) and compliance with *the Policies, Standards and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct* (PSPs). Metropolitan Tikhon spoke of the multifaceted maintenance of clerical health: spiritual, mental, physical, and financial; suggesting timely vacations, personal renewal, and introducing the Personal Assistance Program (PAP) offered by the OCA.
- 2) His Beatitude reported on the work of the OCA, including but not limited to: the unity of the Holy Synod, the filling of diocesan vacancies, the strong financial accountability of the Metropolitan Council, and the movement to proportional giving and a reduced assessment. He gave special focus to the development of three concrete priorities which will guide the strategic plan: 1) Missions and Evangelism, 2) Clergy Health, and 3) Strengthening Institutions (especially monasteries and seminaries).
- 3) He offered an update on the work of the Assembly of Bishops, sharing his own personal reflection on both the inspiring work of the agencies, which offer a glimpse of what can be done as a Local Church, as well as proposals for administrative unity and the preparations being made for the Great Council slated to be held in 2016.

Status of compliance with PSPs

Discussion was held regarding the requirements and benefits of the PSPs. Although information had been

communicated in the past via email and OCA.org, in order to clarify questions which were raised at the council meeting, another email would be sent summarizing what needs to be done as well as the timeline in which it needs to be completed.

Status of compliance with Continuing Education requirement

A reminder was given as to the CCE mandate and the upcoming Clergy Retreat in November.

Quick summary of upcoming All American Council

Fr. John Vitko spoke of the upcoming 18th All American Council to be held July 20-24, 2015 in Atlanta, GA. Major highlights of his summary included: 1) Statute revision, 2) Funding revision, 3) Parallel Youth Programs on all days, 4) Workshops on the theme of “How to Expand the Mission”, and 5) Coordination with FOCA which meets the preceding weekend. Fr. John address the purpose for updating the Statute as well as the process by which it will be updated.

Fr. Theodore Boback requested that a report be offered by the Metropolitan Council members between their fall and spring meetings. A townhall is being planned for the Archdiocese of Washington before the All American Council to foster discussion of the proposed OCA Statute revisions.

St. Nicholas proposal for Archdiocese to support Alaskan seminarians

After discussion it was the consensus of the council that such a proposal, although a worthy one, should be addressed outside of the budget of the Archdiocese of Washington as well as that of the DDB.

Agenda for Continuing Education Retreat and Archdiocesan Assembly

Fr. John Vitko led the council through the agendas for the Clergy Retreat and Archdiocesan Assembly.

Update on Mission Status

Fr. Mark Koczak, chair of Missions, offered a report and answered questions regarding the existing missions. He also reflected upon the historic missions of the Archdiocese, now parishes, which serve as examples and success stories. He spoke of the need for patience, encouragement and the drafting of guidelines to improve upon our efforts going forward.

Update on Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors Fund

Yuriy Dzambasow, chair of the DDB, reviewed the history behind the formation of the DDB as well as its work to present, thanking all those involved. He likewise spoke of the upcoming presentation of the DDB which will be given at the Archdiocesan Assembly.

Draft budget and proposed assessments for 2015

Michael presented the proposed budget for 2015, highlighting the move to proportionate giving. Discussion was held as to the funding of missions and the OCFs, chaplaincy challenges/opportunities, legal expenses, the assessment requirement for missions and mortgage-paying parishes, and the need to better collaborate, articulate

and communicate the vision and work of the Archdiocese as it pertains to stewardship. Fr. John Vitko reminded us that all sacrifices are appreciated and none are being devalued. It was suggested that we tell the story of the Archdiocese, both past and present, to foster a common vision, renewed inspiration, and sustained commitment.

Nominations for clergy member of Archdiocesan Auditing Committee

Fr. Mark Koczak volunteered to serve as the clergy member of the Archdiocesan Auditing Committee.

Possible nominations for Archdiocesan Treasurer

Requests were made to recruit a new treasurer so that Michael Hydock could finally lay down the burdens of this office which he has honorably carried with distinction for many years.

Other issues the brotherhood might want to raise.

None.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 3:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. John Parsells
Secretary of the Archdiocese of Washington