

DRAFT

Minutes of the 2013 Archdiocesan Assembly
Held at St. Matthew Orthodox Church, Columbia, MD
November 16, 2013

These are the draft minutes from the 2013 Annual Assembly of the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. As a draft, they are still subject to revision and change and will not be finalized until the 2014 Archdiocesan Assembly.

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The 2013 Annual Assembly of the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. was held at St. Matthew Orthodox Church on Saturday, November 16, 2013. We thank Fr. Constantine White, Dn. Sergius Miller and the parishioners of St. Matthew for their wonderful hospitality in hosting the Assembly (and the associated Clergy Retreat) and for sharing this, their patronal feast day, with us.

Unfortunately, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon was unable to attend as he is still recovering from pneumonia. He did ask that the Assembly proceed in his absence, designated the Chancellor, Fr. Gregory Safchuk, to lead the Assembly in his absence and also submitted a written 'Metropolitan's Report' to be read by Fr. Gregory.

The Assembly began with a Divine Liturgy, concelebrated by Fr. Gregory Safchuk, Fr. Daniel Hubiak and Fr. John Vitko and was followed by a wonderful brunch in the St. Matthew social hall. We then returned to the church proper for opening prayers and for the Assembly itself. Reflecting His Beatitude's desire for written reports as well as oral presentations, many of the reports were submitted in writing. These written reports are presented in the various appendices in their entirety and so the body of these minutes only summarize selected key points of the reports, the surrounding discussions and the related motions.

Metropolitan's Report (see Appendix A): His Beatitude conveyed his regrets for not being able to attend. This Assembly marks the first anniversary of his elevation as Metropolitan. As Metropolitan, he has responsibilities for the Church as a whole, but he wanted to emphasize that he takes his diocesan responsibilities very seriously and is genuinely interested in the health of the clergy and of the parishes and missions in his Archdiocese. If he were to emphasize one overarching goal, *it is to focus on actions!* Meetings are useful and necessary – but they are only a prelude to action. The rest of his report addressed such key areas as: developing a better sense of clergy brotherhood; parish revitalization; submitting of key parish reports to the Archdiocese; financial stewardship as a pastoral responsibility; and the need for better communications across the Archdiocese. The report concluded by calling out several of the challenges he would like to see us address: a diocesan-wide program of education and training in sexual misconduct; the need for prayer; importance of conciliatory; and the need to slow down!

Metropolitan Appoints New Chancellor: As part of his written report, His Beatitude reluctantly accepted Fr. Gregory's request to be relieved of his responsibility as Chancellor, noting that "He (Fr. Gregory) is a genuine pastor who has care for those he ministers to and this has been evident to me in the many pastoral and administrative matters that we have addressed together over the past year." The Assembly echoed this appreciation for Fr. Gregory in a strong round of applause. His Beatitude then appointed Fr. John Vitko as the new Chancellor. In the near future, His Beatitude will identify and

appoint a new Archdiocesan Secretary to fill the position vacated by Fr. John Vitko's appointment to Chancellor.

Chancellor's Report (see Appendix B) – Fr. Gregory: “As outlined in my report we have some problems – e.g. a declining membership – but I remain optimistic that we can come up with some solutions to grow and build up. I think we should be able to get well over a 1000 people.”

Speaking for the Assembly as a whole, Fr. George Kokhno thanked Fr. Gregory for his service to the entire Archdiocese and, in Fr. George's particular case, to St. Nicholas Cathedral.

Appointment of Clergy and Lay Chairs for the Assembly: Prior to the Assembly, Metropolitan Tikhon had appointed Fr. Gregory Safchuk as the Clergy Chair of the Assembly and Mr. Yuri Dzambasow as Lay Chair of the Assembly.

Report of the Credential's Committee – Fr. John Vitko: There are 26 delegates (8 clergy and 18 lay) and 12 observers (5 clergy and 8 lay) for a total of 39. A complete listing is given in Appendix C.

Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2012 Archdiocesan Assembly: After correcting two small typos in the draft minutes, the Assembly offered the following motion:

M-1 (Lisa Mikhalevsky/Walter Alesevich): Move that we accept the Minutes of the 2013 Archdiocesan Assembly as corrected. Motion passed.

Financial Reports (Appendices D, E, F) – Michael Hydock: The Archdiocesan Treasurer, Michael Hydock, presented financial reports for 2012 (Appendix D), 2013 year-to-date (ytd) (Appendix E) and budget and assessment options for 2014. In 2012, the total ordinary operating income was \$ 72,007 and total ordinary expenses were \$71,439 for a net ordinary income of \$568. However, three parishes did not pay their full assessments – necessitating that the Archdiocese pay their portion of the OCA Assessments which totaled (\$9108). When this ‘extraordinary’ expense is factored in the Net Income for 2012 was (\$8,540) which was paid for out of our General Reserve, leaving the Archdiocese with \$39,321 ‘cash on hand’.

In 2013, ytd as of Nov. 8, the ordinary income was \$47,669 vs. ordinary expenses of \$43,595 for a net ordinary income of \$4,074. Two parishes paid \$0 in assessments in 2013 and a number of the others were a month in arrears as an artifact of the accounting period – so that there were ‘extraordinary expenses’ of \$16,312 resulting in a true net income ytd of (\$12,238). This net loss again had to be paid out of General Reserves, reducing the ‘cash on hand’ to \$27,083.73.

Discussion of unpaid assessments: There then ensued a discussion of unpaid assessments. The September Archdiocesan Council meeting had made the following recommendations, subject to approval at this assembly:

- The unpaid St. Nicholas Cathedral assessments for 2012 and 2013 would count as part of their reimbursement of \$43,433 in yet unreimbursed expenses incurred on behalf of Metropolitan Jonah;
- The unpaid Christ the Savior assessments for 2012 and 2013 were due to extreme financial hardship associated with their acquisition of new property in Berlin, MD and would be forgiven this one time. Effective Jan. 1, 2015 Christ the Savior has asked to be removed from our 'mission roles' and be considered a parish. Therefore, in the future they will not be receiving the \$7,000 per year mission stipend. With that said, they have asked for a waiver of their assessments through June 2014.

M-2 (John Jubinski, Jamie Magruder) Move to accept the 2012 and 2013 financial reports as presented subject to completion of a future audit. Motion passed.

Proposed 2014 Budgets and Assessments: Michael Hydock presented two budget options (A and B). The two options differed mainly in the way they would repay St. Nicholas Cathedral the remainder of the \$13,433 of their unreimbursed expenses on behalf of Metropolitan Jonah.

- *Option A* would pay \$5,000 out of the General Reserves, this being the amount received in 2013 for Met. Jonah's expenses, and would pay out the remaining balance of \$8,433 in equal installments over 3 years;
- *Option B* would pay all \$13,433 in 2014, the funds coming out of the General Reserve.

The discussion and voting on these options was left until new business, but are reported here for the sake of clarity and continuity. During these discussions two key points emerged:

- The financial situation at St. Nicholas Cathedral has yet to stabilize, so they really could use the full payment in 2014;
- Payment of the full \$13,433 in 2014 would draw the General Reserve down to about \$14,000. While this is manageable, there was discomfort about going so low, therefore the suggestion was made to go with higher diocesan assessment rate in Option A while paying all the monies due St. Nicholas in 2014 out of the General Reserves. This would generate a surplus income of little over \$2000 per year thus rebuilding the General Reserves.

M-3 (Gene Jacobsen, Claire Nobles): Move that we adopt budget A, removing line 27 and paying St. Nicholas \$13,433 out of the General Reserves. Motion passed.

The 2014 budget and assessments, revised per motion M-3 are given in Appendix F. The approved budget has an OCA assessment of \$92 per adult member and an Archdiocesan

assessment of 2.867% of each parish's adjusted income (total income less charities, missions, and restricted funds).

Report of the Auditing Committee: The Auditing Committee was unable to complete its audit in time for the Assembly due to the extended travel of one of its members. They expect to have the audit complete sometime in December.

Report of the Missions Board – Fr. Mark Koczak: During the past year, Fr. Mark has been able to visit two of our three missions. They are doing OK. Holy Archangels (Annapolis MD) is in its second year of an OCA Missions Grant. Fr. Mark is not in favor of tailoring mission stipends to our perception of their individual needs. All the missions have needs and we need to support them. In fact, parishes may want to consider using their parish charity dollars to support missions. Fr. Mark also feels that missions should be a priority of the Assembly of Bishops.

A question was raised asking whether we shouldn't also be addressing parish revitalization for some of our parishes that have experienced significant losses. There are several good existing programs that parishes can adapt (e.g. the Parish Health Inventory Model; the Natural Church Development model). Plus, in his written report, His Beatitude suggested that we might want to consider revitalization as a shared diocesan activity.

Sexual Misconduct – Fr. Ian Pac-Urar: Fr. Ian, the head of the newly created OCA Department of Continuing Education gave a very brief summary of the material he had covered at the full day Clergy Retreat the day before. His key message was that "our goal is not primarily to avoid law suits, but to make the Church a safe place. The Church is a hospital and people should be able to see the face of Christ in us."

Diocesan Benefactors Fund (Appendix G) – Fr. John Parsells: drawing on recommendations from an Archdiocesan Treasurer's Meeting and from the Archdiocesan Council meeting in September, Fr. John proposed the creation of a Diocesan Benefactors Fund (DBF). The intent of this fund is to use voluntary donations from parishioners throughout the Archdiocese to fund activities not funded in the baseline Archdiocesan Budget, such as seminaries, additional mission support, charitable outreach or other activities. Allocation of fund will be determined by a committee consisting of the Archbishop, Chancellor, Treasurer and 4 members (2 clergy, 2 lay) elected by the Assembly.

Fr. John's proposal in Appendix G was amended 'on the floor' to: (1) add the Archbishop to the DBF Committee; (2) specify the number of members to be elected at the assembly; and (3) specify their terms: each are elected for 1 yr.

M-4: (Lisa Mikhalevsky/Walter Alesevich): Move to accept the proposal for the creation of a Diocesan Benefactor Fund as amended, i.e. the DBF Committee to consist of the Archbishop, the Chancellor, the Treasurer and 4 members (2 clergy and 2 lay) each elected for a term of one year. Motion passed.

The Assembly then entertained nominations for the DBF Committee. The following were nominated and accepted the nomination: Fr. John Parsells, Fr. Mark Koczak, Yuriy Dzambosow and Noel Brockett.

M-5 (Jamie Magruder/Walter Alesevich): Move that we accept the slate of Fr. John Parsells, Fr. Mark Koczak, Yuriy Dzambosow and Noel Brockett for election to the Diocesan Benefactors Committee. Motion passed.

The next step will be for His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, to convene the Committee and for them to establish their initial structure and direction.

Resuming ‘publication’ of the Kathedra – Fr. Dennis Buck: in the 1990s, the Diocese published a diocesan magazine, known as the Kathedra, that came out 3-4 times per year. The recent Archdiocesan Council proposed resuming the publication of the Kathedra as a way of improving communication across the Archdiocese. Fr. Dennis volunteered to lead this activity provided that each parish would identify a ‘parish correspondent’. In the ensuing discussion, it appeared that the best way to publish the Kathedra would be via the Archdiocesan website (wdcoca.org) with each parish then printing off copies for those who would prefer hard copies.

Election of Clergy Delegate(s) to the Metropolitan Council and Lay Member of the Auditing Committee: Fr. John Vitko was elected as the clergy delegate to the Metropolitan Council and Fr. Dennis Buck as the alternate delegate to the Metropolitan Council. Matthew Matyuf was elected as the lay member of the Auditing Committee. All three were elected for 3 year terms.

Report from the Metropolitan Council (Appendix H) – Lisa Mikhalevsky, the lay delegate to the Metropolitan Council presented the attached written report and fielded any questions from the Assembly. The main question concerned the nature of the new Stewards of the OCA program. It was explained that due to budgetary cutbacks associated with the reduced OCA assessments called for by the 16th AAC, the new Stewards of the OCA was a voluntary giving fund that would be used to help support the programs of the OCA. To date, \$40,000+ has been raised just from the contributions of the Metropolitan Council members and their parishes.

Web Content Manager: more attention needs to be paid to providing content for the Archdiocesan website so that it can serve as a more valuable communication vehicle. Fr. John Parsells handles the technical aspects of getting content onto the web. But what is needed is a ‘web wrangler’ to nudge contributions out of the various ‘parish correspondents’. No-one at the Assembly volunteered to do this – but, instead, it was suggested that we look beyond the Assembly to the parishes for a ‘web content manager’.

FOCA – Walter Alesevich: Walter provided a brief overview of all the important work that the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America does. While a national organization, there are 3 parishes in the Archdiocese (St. Andrew, St. Mark, and the

Cathedral). FOCA provides an opportunity that goes beyond the parish to develop lifelong friendships and to support the needs of the Church. To date, FOCA has provided more than \$3 million in financial assistance, including more than \$300,000 for married student housing at St. Tikhon.

Motion to Adjourn:

M-6 (Walter Alesevich, Kathy Parrish) moved to adjourn. Motion passed.

The Assembly was adjourned with a prayer at 4:55pm and followed by Great Vespers.

Respectfully submitted:

Fr. John Vitko, Archdiocesan Secretary

And approved by

Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington D.C.

APPENDIX A: Metropolitan's Report

REPORT of METROPOLITAN TIKHON

Archdiocese of Washington Diocesan Assembly
St Matthew Orthodox Church, Columbia, Maryland
November 16, 2013

To the Clergy and Delegates of the Diocesan Assembly:

Christ is in our midst!

I would like to express my deep regret at not being with you today due to my ill health. I am nevertheless pleased to report that my latest x-ray was clear and the pneumonia seems to have been effectively treated by the antibiotics. Nevertheless, my lungs are still irritated and the doctor has prescribed further rest for me in order to fully recover. I am grateful for your continued prayers and understanding. The past two weeks have been a reminder to me of the importance of pacing oneself in this hectic world that we live in and of devoting the necessary attention to one's own spiritual, mental and physical well-being.

In accordance with the OCA Statute, I have appointed Fr. Gregory Safchuk to preside at this Diocesan Assembly. I will also be available by telephone should there be any immediate issues that require an action or a blessing on my part. In addition, I am willing to answer any broader questions that the clergy or delegates might raise during today's deliberations and am prepared to answer them in writing at an appropriate time.

GENERAL THOUGHTS

As you know, this past Thursday marked the first anniversary of my election as Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. I will speak a little more about happenings on the national and international level later in this report. First, I would like to offer some reflections on my past year as Archbishop of Washington and as your diocesan bishop. While the demands of the primatial office have certainly been heavy, I have tried to fulfill my promise to you at last year's Assembly that I would take my responsibilities as a diocesan bishop as seriously as my other duties and that I would not neglect the diocese and her needs.

Over the past year, I have been more or less successful in maintaining a presence here in the Archdiocese. I have made a pastoral visit to every parish and mission at least once and I was working on a second round of visits. My goal still remains **to visit each parish at least twice each year**. At the same time, I feel that it is important to expand beyond these individual pastoral visits and to develop a stronger sense of our diocesan identity and mission. For this, I ask for the help of all of you and offer my willingness to participate in the life of our parishes and missions beyond the formal hierarchical visits.

Compared to the other dioceses of the Orthodox Church in America, ours is geographically and numerically small. Yet, from my visits over the past year, I have a strong sense that we are nevertheless not much different from the other dioceses: we have a strong group of clergy and a great pool of laypeople which place a wealth of **experience and talent** at our disposal; we also face the same challenges that most of the rest of the Church is facing: declining membership, a transient population, lack of funds and all the cares of modern life. I am confident that the next year will provide us with many opportunities to use our talents to tackle the challenge that will confront us.

If there is one overarching goal that I would propose for our diocese over the next year, it would be to focus on **action**. Our meetings and gatherings are important to our life in the Church, but they should only serve as momentary pauses in our on-going work: a time to reflect upon previous actions and to prepare for future ones. Fifteen years ago, I made a pilgrimage to the Holy Mountain and one of the monastics told me: “Wherever your are, you must act according to the Word of God and according to the Fathers. You should read the Word of God, and pray for enlightenment, strength and knowledge, but above all, you must act upon that knowledge.”

I ask for your support in taking the common actions that will help our diocese to grow and will help us be a living witness to the light of Christ and to the healing offered by the Holy Orthodox Church. I see this action as taking place in two major areas within our Archdiocese: clergy health and parish health.

CLERGY BROTHERHOOD AND HEALTH

As the Diocesan Bishop, the spiritual, emotional and physical **health** of my clergy is of primary importance to me, and along with this, the need to foster a better sense of clergy **brotherhood**. Both of these are related, as the personal health of each clergy contributes to an overall sense of communion with the brothers and a strong brotherhood strengthens each priest in his and his family’s own struggles and challenges.

To help in these areas, I have proposed the following to our clergy:

1) I will be scheduling **bi-monthly meetings** with all the clergy, to be held on a rotating basis at varying places within the Archdiocese. These will be opportunities to gather on a more informal basis for discussion with the bishop. There will not necessarily be any agenda, although certain specific topics may be relevant. The first of these was to have been held yesterday during our clergy retreat. Although I was not there, I had forwarded a number of questions to be raised for discussion and it is my understanding that a good discussion took place and we will follow up on those discussions at our next meeting.

2) I have also adapted a **Clergy Questionnaire** which I used in the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. The purpose of the questionnaire is to provide me, as the diocesan bishop, with information that would help me to better address the needs of my clergy. It is an anonymous questionnaire and is a way for me to get an overall sense of where each of the

clergy are and where they might need assistance. I had this questionnaire presented to the clergy yesterday to give them the opportunity to offer their thoughts and suggestions.

On a final note, I would simply ask all the lay delegates present today to remind your respective parishes of the crucial importance of supporting your priest. Although financial support is a large portion of this, I am speaking on the broader level of offering your support for the ministry and labors of the priests and deacons of our parishes and missions, and of actively participating, with your own gifts and talents, in the necessary work of sharing the Gospel, ministering to the poor and outcast and being true reflections of good news of salvation to the world around us.

PARISH DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION

I have seen first hand the hard work of our clergy and their dedication to the health and growth of their parishes. The challenges of **Parish Development and Revitalization** do not fall exclusively to the clergy. Every member of our parishes and missions is called to assist in this work so that collectively, we can arrive at concrete solutions to help our entire diocese retain its vibrancy and its strength.

The financial difficulties we face are only the concrete expression of our Diocese's and parishes overall health and I believe that it would be helpful for us, as a diocese and as individual parishes and missions, to begin a process of self-evaluation and self-analysis so that we might determine where we are now and where we want to go in terms of our life as a diocese. I hope that this discussion can begin today at our Assembly.

This is an area where we don't have to re-invent the wheel. There are already several Orthodox models available to assist us, such as the Parish Health Inventory Model [PHIM] (developed by Mr. Joe Kormos) and Orthodox Natural Church Development [ONCD] (adapted from the NCD model by Fr. Jonathan Ivanov). My former diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania took the first of these (PHIM) and adapted it to their particular needs within the context of Revitalization Committee.

Our Archdiocese may want to consider one of these options as a basis for further refinement within our parishes. Because we are a small diocese, we may find that a cooperative effort among our parishes and missions might be more effective than each parish tackling the process in isolation. These are just thoughts for us to ponder and hopefully act upon in due time. The purpose of these is not to provide a magic bullet solution but to provide us with a concrete self-evaluation of where we actually are as parishes and communities, which can in turn offer us some hope for moving forward.

A more immediate way for us to engage in the process of revitalization is to take action now in the various **ministries and outreach opportunities** that are already in place in our Archdiocese, such as the Christ House ministry at St Nicholas Cathedral and other local initiatives that are taking place in our parishes. The more we can encourage each other to participate in these worthwhile endeavors, the more we will grow in our common

work together and the more the world around us will be introduced to the life of Orthodox Christianity.

I am grateful that there are already many in our small diocese who are actively engaged in this work on the local and OCA level. In particular we should take advantage of the examples offered by Donna Karabin, who is the Chairperson of the OCA's Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid, along with Popadija Kitty Vitko; Matushka Alexandra Safchuk, who is actively involved in the Department of Christian Education; and Fr. Theodore Boback, who is our OCA Dean of Military Chaplains. The OCA Departments, and the clergy and faithful who serve within them, are provided for the benefit of our parishes and diocese. We should both take advantages of the resources they offer us and also make the effort to offer our own contribution to the work they are doing, even if it is in a small way.

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Event though we are a small diocese, we need to make a more concerted effort to be in compliance with the various **administrative requirements** of our Church, on the level of the Central Administration, the Archdiocese and our local parishes and mission. It is difficult to make the appropriate decisions for our diocese and to have an accurate self-assessment of our diocese.

One of the ways we can begin accomplishing this is to make sure that every parish and mission submit various administrative documents to the Archdiocesan Office.

1. Parish By-laws on file
2. Annual census numbers submitted
3. Report of Annual Parish Meetings with election results, financial reports and budgets.
4. Compliance with the *Policies, Standards and Procedures on Sexual Misconduct*
5. Written submission of plans for major building, renovation or liturgical art projects.
6. Continuing Education 20 hours with 5 from Central Administration

FINANCES

I will not say much about the financial questions, which I am sure will occupy quite a bit of our discussions today. We are facing some serious financial problems in our Archdiocese, which are directly related to the health of our parishes and missions.

It is important that we take a pastoral and brotherly approach to these issues and not limit them to questions of money. At the same time, those parishes and missions that are struggling need to also need to keep in mind their pastoral and spiritual responsibility to remain faithful to the structures that all parishes are equally responsible for.

One of the items that will be discussed today is a proposal for a **Diocesan Benefactors Fund**. I look forward to hearing the discussion brought about by this proposal and hope

that this Assembly will ultimately move forward with this endeavor. Should this proposal be accepted by the Assembly, I am prepared to make my own personal contribution of \$5,000.00 to the fund.

COMMUNICATIONS

One area that is in great need of improvement is the area of communication. In particular, our Archdiocesan website is in need of some attention. Fr. John Parsells has graciously developed and overseen the current website, but there is only so much he can do.

At the same time, the website requires input from the clergy and parishes of our diocese. There is nothing that even a full time communication person can do if he does not have content from throughout our diocese. It would therefore be good if each of our parishes and missions could locate

Another option would be to find one or two individuals who might be willing to volunteer to oversee the website in a more direct and proactive manner. A long term goal might be for us to provide a small salary or stipend to a person who could function in this capacity on a regular basis. But in any case, the need for each parish and mission community to share their good news is paramount.

ARCHDIOCESAN ADMINISTRATION

I have tried to maintain regular contact with the Archdiocesan Officers. We got off to a sporadic start, but we have now established a pattern of a monthly meeting with our Chancellor and Secretary, which we have followed since June. We recently held a teleconference with the participation of our Treasurer, Michael Hydock, in preparation for our recent Diocesan Council and this Assembly.

I must say that I have been very pleased with the work of the officers. **Fr. Gregory Safchuk** has been invaluable as my Chancellor over the past year and it is only reluctantly that I have accepted his request to be relieved of this responsibility. He is a genuine pastor who has care for those he ministers to and this has been evident to me in the many pastoral and administrative matters that we have addressed together over the past year.

Fr. John Vitko, our Diocesan Secretary, has likewise been a wonderful asset and a very competent organizer on many different levels. He has been very able in his communication with the clergy and with the parishes and I am thankful for his contribution to the life of the Archdiocese.

Michael Hydock, our Diocesan Treasurer, was appointed at last year's Assembly for a three year term. Michael is willing to continue in this position but would be grateful for someone to take over at some point. I am not eager to lose his professional and wise advice in matters of finances, but I agree that it would be good for our diocese, if not at this Assembly, then over the next few months, to try to find someone with Michael's

competence and skill, who might assist him and be trained by him for future work in the diocese.

Having said all of the above, I would like to announce my appointment of Chancellor. This appointment is not permanent, but I have not defined a term for the position. Nevertheless, I am pleased to appoint Fr. John Vitko as our Archdiocesan Chancellor. Since he is presently the Secretary, I will relieve him of that appointment, and will appoint a new Secretary in the near future.

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Challenges. Since the turn of the century, the Orthodox Church in America has gone through a great period of turmoil and unrest, weathering difficult periods of financial and administrative upheaval which would affect not only finances and administration, but the entire body of the Church.

Some have made the claim that, because of all these temptations, the Orthodox Church in America has been wounded and has suffered a diminishing of her stature within world Orthodoxy. Perhaps this is so. Nevertheless, it is my conviction that the Orthodox Church in America, though wounded, has remained faithful to Christ and His Holy Church through the steadfastness of her hierarchs and clergy and through the prayers and labors of the faithful.

Hope. This same period of struggle has seen the strengthening of the fiduciary responsibility of the Metropolitan Council and the solidifying of a sense of brotherhood among the bishops. It has forced us to look closely at ourselves and at our institutional structures and attitudes. It has brought us into a new realm of dialogue with our Orthodox brothers and sisters in North America through the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in North and Central America. Our seminaries continue to prepare clergy and servants not only for the OCA but for all jurisdictions. There are other areas of strength and growth that we could speak about, just as there are other areas of weakness that we could ponder on. But our goal should be to focus on the actions that asked of us by the Lord and by the Church, learning from our mistakes and encouraging each other in what God has blessed us to accomplish.

International Relations. My travels abroad were limited over the past year: I travelled to Rome for the Inauguration of Pope Francis and to Russia/Ukraine/Belorus for the celebration of the 1025th Anniversary of the Baptism of Rus'. Each event offered an opportunity for me to be present as the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America and to offer the prayers and greetings of the bishops, clergy and faithful of our humble Church in North America. In particular, the gracious invitation of His Holiness, Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, offered me an opportunity to serve with the Patriarchs and Representatives of all the Autocephalous Churches. In addition, I was the only North America hierarch present for significant meetings with the Presidents of all three countries: Mr. Vladimir Putin of Russia, Mr. Yanokovich of Ukraine and Mr. Lukashenko of Belorus.

In Kiev, I had the opportunity to briefly greet the outgoing American Ambassador to Ukraine and in Washington, I have also had the opportunity to meet with several Ambassadors and to offer the willingness of the Orthodox Church in America to dialogue positively on issues that affect us as Orthodox Christians throughout the world.

Sexual Misconduct. Our response to sexual misconduct matters is one of the most critical pastoral and legal issue facing the Church today. Our Archdiocesan Clergy yesterday received a 5-hour long training session in healthy boundaries and it is something that each of us needs to take seriously. I was pleased to be able to present a report of 100% compliance with the Policies Standards and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct (PSP) to the Holy Synod. Nevertheless, there are areas where our diocese needs to become more compliant, especially in the area of developing a diocesan wide program of education and training. Within the next few days, the OCA website will be posting a new page which will include the revised PSPs which were adopted by the Holy Synod at its Fall Session several weeks ago. These will need to be adopted by every parish council and read by every person in our parishes who is involved with working with young people. This is an **annual** requirement and we need to get used to making this a normal part of our administrative responsibility as parishes.

My impressions. It has been said that the past year has provided a period of calm and stability. Glory to God for such periods in our often turbulent and difficult lives. In my travels and pastoral visits throughout the OCA, I felt this calm and stability – but I have also felt the zeal and the energy of our clergy and faithful: zeal to do the work of Christ and the energy to sacrifice their own comfort and stability for the sake of the Kingdom. I have perceived a healthy violence that is waiting to take that Kingdom by force. This is reflected in the prayers, words and actions of all those who labor sacrificially for the spreading of the Gospel in the Orthodox Church in America.

CONCLUSIONS

The past 11 months of my primatial ministry have made several things clear to me on a personal level. The first of these things is the need for **prayer**: we cannot hope to accomplish anything good or anything of value, if we do not allow ourselves, individually and as parishes, to pray earnestly in our hearts before the Lord.

The second is the importance of **conciliarity**: there is nothing that one person, whether he be a bishop, priest or small child, can do on his own. The work that is before us as a Diocese, the actions that are required of us, demand that we engage in a radical re-examination of what it means to truly work together for the glory of God.

The third is the need to **slow down**. The OCA's struggles of the last decade have rightfully, at times, required a speedy and direct response. At the same time, there may have been, in the more recent years, an unhealthy sense of urgency and an over-swiftness to address perceived and potential threats or problems. Without neglecting the need to act

quickly when appropriate, I think it is crucial that we also remember when we need to take a break.

On one of my yearly visits to my newly-departed Grandmother, I asked her what the secret to her long life consisted of. She replied:

“In the old days, farmworkers lived a long time and in good health because they rested during the day. They worked hard, but they knew when to take a break, and have a little nap under the apple tree.” She pointed out that the work people do today (pushing papers and having meetings) is perhaps even more difficult than farm work because people are falsely led into the notion that they can do it for a long time without a break.

So I would end by exhorting all of us to focus on the actions that we need to take over the next year, but to approach these actions with prayer, with love and respect for one another and with an appreciation of when it might be good for us to take a break.

APPENDIX B: Chancellor's Report (Archpriest Gregory Safchuk)

**Chancellor's Address
Assembly of the Archdiocese of Washington DC
November 16th. 2013**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome all delegates and observers. Thank you for taking time to prepare for and participate in this annual assembly of our Archdiocese. Thank you, Fr. Constantine, Dn. Sergius and faithful parishioners for hosting us today; and congratulations both on your parish feast day and on the celebration of the 25th anniversary of St. Matthew Church tomorrow.

This will likely be the last report from me to you as Chancellor of the Archdiocese. As such, I'd like to thank all of you for the work you have done in your own parishes and missions, as well as for your efforts concerning those projects and events which involved our larger membership. It has been an honor to serve you and work with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon this year.

2013 has been a difficult year in some ways for our tiny archdiocese which was made smaller by the loss of the clergy and a majority of the lay membership of Christ the Savior Mission in Stafford, VA. After a decline in membership, our Cathedral of St. Nicholas seems to be stable and recovering. The Archdiocese faces a challenge now in establishing a realistic and balanced budget with the continued depletion of reserves and the loss of some assessment income. A legal defense may also have to be made as the Archdiocese has been named in a recently filed lawsuit.

There is much good work being done in our parishes and missions. A review of the updates reveals vibrant and faithful communities with solid liturgical lives, much charitable work as well as educational and social programs and events. Although the status of the Bulgarian Orthodox communities in the Washington DC area remains unresolved, a recent meeting with members from Ss. Cyril & Methodius Mission, Metropolitan Tikhon and myself seemed quite positive and yielded some good suggestions.

I remain optimistic for the future and believe that better days are ahead for our archdiocese as we come together to work out solutions to our problems and resolve the difficulties that have been identified. We continue to ask God's blessings upon our archpastor, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon. May he be guided by God's wisdom and strengthened by the Grace of the Holy Spirit to provide good and loving leadership so that our parishes and missions may grow and prosper to the Glory of God.

In Christ,

Archpriest, Gregory Safchuk

APPENDIX C: Assembly Participants

Parish	Clergy Delegate	Clergy Observer	Lay Delegate	Lay Observer
All Sainnts of N. America				
Robert Paduchik			X	
Christ the Savior, MD				
Fr. John Parsells	X			
George Kaloroumakis			X	
Kathy Parrish			X	
Cheryl Kokkinos				X
Constantine Mitsopoulos				X
Holy Archangels Mission				
Fr. Robert Miclean	X			
Noel Brockett			X	
Holy Trinity				
Susan Matyuf			X	
Matthew Matyuf				X
St. Andrew				
Fr. Ted Boback	X			
Yuriy Dzambasow			X	
Jamie Magruder			X	
St. Catherine				
Fr. Dennis Buck	X			
Peter Mazikins			X	
St. Luke				
Fr. John Vitko	X			
Alexia Kolias			X	
Hossan Aberra			X	
Donna Karabin				X
St. Mark				
Fr. Gregory Safchuk	X			
Fr. Mark Koczak		X		
Dn. David Phelps		X		
Dn. Matthew Prentice				
Michael Hydock			X	
Gene Jacobsen			X	
Marcella Hydock				X
Mat. Jan Koczak				X
St. Matthew				

Dn Sergius Miller		x			
William Hinsche				X	
John Jubinski				x	
St. Nicholas Cathedral					
Fr. George Kokhno	X				
Fr. Valery Shemchuk	X				
Claire Noble				X	
Michele Smith				X	
Walter Alesevich				X	
Fr. Daniel Hubiak		X			
James Luster					X
Rosalie Luster					X
Metropolitan Council					
Lisa Mikhalevsky				X	
TOTAL	8	5	18	8	39

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APPENDIX D Financial Reports for 2012

	<u>Jan - Dec 2012</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
registration	0.00	1170.00
observer	0.00	455.00
Income		
Assembly12	806.05	
Assessments12	71200.96	76160.00
Total Income	<u>72007.01</u>	<u>76160.00</u>
Total Income	<u>72007.01</u>	<u>77785.00</u>
Expense		
Assembly	0.00	1729.71
Missions		
OCF	3000.00	3000.00
Holy Archangels Mission	5000.04	5000.00
Christ the Savior, VA	5000.04	5000.00
Christ the Savior Berlin, MD	5000.04	5000.00
All Saints of N. America	5000.04	5000.00
Total Missions	<u>23000.16</u>	<u>23000.00</u>
Administrative		
AAC Metropolitan Council	2642.09	
Miscellaneous	0.00	250.00
Banking charges	103.40	100.00
Printing, Copying	116.06	250.00
Postage, Mailing Service	203.80	100.00
Supplies	20.99	250.00
Travel & OCA fees	0.00	1500.00
Metropolitan Council	480.60	1000.00
Insurance - Liability	3100.00	3270.00
Total Administrative	<u>6666.94</u>	<u>6720.00</u>
Operations		
Episcopal		
Living Expense	1980.00	2160.00
Discretionary	0.00	500.00
Total Episcopal	<u>1980.00</u>	<u>2660.00</u>
Housing Allowance		
Fuel Oil	1459.54	1500.00
Water	485.59	600.00
gas	155.46	325.00
Electricity	802.90	3400.00
Telephone & Internet	888.42	2400.00
Housing Allowance	36000.00	36000.00
Total Housing Allowance	<u>39791.91</u>	<u>44225.00</u>

Total Operations	<u>41771.91</u>	<u>46885.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>71439.01</u>	<u>78334.71</u>
Net Ordinary Income	568.00	(549.71)
Other Income/Expense		
Other		
Income		
Pass Thru -OCA assessment		
16th All American Council	(0.02)	
Holy Archangels Mission	0.00	0.00
Christ the Savior Berlin, MD	(3150.00)	0.00
St. Matthew	(3412.50)	0.00
Ss. Cyril & Methodius	(192.50)	0.00
All Saints N. America	0.00	0.00
St. Catherine, Hagerstown	(350.00)	0.00
Holy Trinity, Reston	0.00	0.00
St. Nicholas Cathedral	(2003.75)	0.00
St Luke, McLean	0.00	0.00
St. Andrew, Baltimore	0.00	0.00
Christ the Savior, Stafford	0.00	0.00
St Mark, Bethesda	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Pass Thru -OCA assessment	<u>(9108.77)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Other Income	<u>(9108.77)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Other Income	<u>(9108.77)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Income Gain/(Loss)	<u>(8540.77)</u>	<u>(549.71)</u>

Balance Sheet for 2012

		<u>Dec 31, 2012</u>
1	ASSETS	
2	Current Assets	
3	Checking/Savings	
4	M&T Bank Diocese	<u>39,321.83</u>
5	Total Checking/Savings	<u>39,321.83</u>
6	Total Current Assets	<u>39,321.83</u>
7	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>39,321.83</u>
8	LIABILITIES & EQUITY	

9	Equity	
10	Unrestricted Net Assets	47,862.60
11	Net Income	<u>(8,540.77)</u>
12	Total Equity	<u>39,321.83</u>
13	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>39,321.83</u></u>

Statement of Cash Flows
Period January 1 through December 31,2012

	<u>Jan - Dec 2012</u>
1	OPERATING ACTIVITIES
2	Net Income
3	Adjustments to reconcile Net Income
4	to net cash provided by operations:
5	Accounts Receivable
	<u>(11,252.99)</u>
6	Net cash provided by Operating Activities
	<u>(8,540.77)</u>
7	Net cash Increase for period, Gain/(Loss)
	(8,540.77)
8	Cash at beginning of period
	<u>47,862.60</u>
9	Cash at end of period; Gain(Loss)
	<u><u>39,321.83</u></u>

APPENDIX E: Financial Reports for 2013 thru Nov. 8, 2013

	<u>Jan 1 - Nov. 8, 2013</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Other (OCA for Met Jonah housing)	5,000.00	
Assessments13	42,668.92	58,100.00
Total Income	<u>47,668.92</u>	<u>58,100.00</u>
Expense		
Missions		
OCF	3,000.00	3,000.00
Holy Archangels Mission	5,500.00	6,000.00
Christ the Savior, VA	0.00	6,000.00
Christ the Savior Berlin, MD	5,500.00	6,000.00
All Saints of N. America	5,500.00	6,000.00
Total Missions	<u>19,500.00</u>	<u>27,000.00</u>
Administrative		
Miscellaneous	1,423.87	250.00
Banking charges	71.55	150.00
Printing, Copying	0.00	250.00
Postage, Mailing Service	0.00	150.00
Supplies	0.00	200.00
Travel & OCA fees	0.00	1,400.00
Metropolitan Council	464.30	1,000.00
Insurance - Liability	2,965.00	3,300.00
Total Administrative	<u>4,924.72</u>	<u>6,700.00</u>
Operations		
Outreach		2,500.00
Episcopal		
Pension	1,080.00	1,080.00
Expense	0.00	2,420.00
Living Expense	18,090.00	18,000.00
Discretionary	0.00	400.00
Total Episcopal	<u>19,170.00</u>	<u>21,900.00</u>
Total Operations	<u>19,170.00</u>	<u>24,400.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>43,594.72</u>	<u>58,100.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	4,074.20	0.00
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
designated support		
diocesan missions	500.00	
Clergy	250.00	

Total designated support	750.00	
Pass Thru -OCA assessment		
All Saints N. America	2,375.00	2,850.00
Holy Archangels Mission	651.42	1,140.00
Christ the Savior Berlin, MD	0.00	2,850.00
St. Matthew	10,291.70	12,350.04
St. Catherine, Hagerstown	3,516.70	3,800.04
Holy Trinity, Reston	2,691.70	3,230.04
St. Nicholas Cathedral	0.00	11,874.96
St Luke, McLean	4,037.50	4,845.00
St. Andrew, Baltimore	7,520.80	9,024.96
St Mark, Bethesda	16,625.00	19,950.00
Total Pass Thru -OCA assessment	<u>47,709.82</u>	<u>71,915.04</u>
Total Other Income	48,459.82	71,915.04
Other Expense		
Charities	(1,150.00)	
OCA assessment paid		
All Saints of N. America, VA	2,612.50	
Holy Archangels mission	1,045.00	
Christ the Savior, Berlin	2,612.50	
St. Matthew	11,320.87	
St. Catherine, Hagerstown	3,483.37	
Holy Trinity, Reston	2,960.87	
St. Nicholas Cathedral, Wash.	10,885.38	
St. Luke, MCLean	4,441.25	
St. Andrew, Baltimore	8,272.88	
St. Mark, Bethesda	18,287.50	
Total OCA assessment paid	<u>65,922.12</u>	<u>71,915.04</u>
Total Other Expense	<u>64,772.12</u>	<u>71,915.04</u>
Net Other Income	<u>(16,312.30)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Income		
Gain/(Loss)	<u>(12,238.10)</u>	<u>0.00</u>

Balance Sheet for 2013

		<u>Nov. 8, 2013</u>
1	ASSETS	
2	Current Assets	
3	Checking/Savings	
4	M&T Bank Diocese	<u>27,083.73</u>
5	Total Checking/Savings	<u>27,083.73</u>
6	Total Current Assets	<u>27,083.73</u>

7	TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>27,083.73</u></u>
8	LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
9	Equity	
10	Unrestricted Net Assets	39,321.83
11	Net Income	<u>-12,238.10</u>
12	Total Equity	<u><u>27,083.73</u></u>
13	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>27,083.73</u></u>

Statement of Cash Flows
Jan 1, Nov. 8, 2013

14		<u>Jan 1 - Nov 8, 13</u>
15	OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
16	Net Income	(12,238.10)
17	Net cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>(12,238.10)</u>
18	Net cash increase for period	(12,238.10)
19	Cash at beginning of period	<u>39,321.83</u>
20	Cash at end of period Gain/(Loss)	<u><u>27,083.73</u></u>

Statement of invoice account summary
Jan 1, to Nov. 8, 2013

21	Parish/Mission	<u>Nov 8, 13</u>		** Year	Amount
22	All Saints of N. America	422.13			
23	Christ the Savior, Berlin	16,783.38	**	2011	4,433.36
24	Holy Archangels	680.06		2012	5,700.00
25	Holy Trinity	478.41		2013	<u>6,650.04</u>
26	St. Andrew Orthodox Church	1,336.73			16,783.40
27	St. Catherine Orthodox Church	562.84			
28	St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church	717.61			
29	St. Mark Orthodox church	2,954.88			
30	St. Matthew Orthodox Church	1,829.21			
31	St. Nicholas Cathedral	<u>22,973.18</u>	**	** 2012	3625.83
32					
33	TOTAL	<u><u>48,738.43</u></u>			

APPENDIX F: Proposed Budget and Assessments for 2014 (revised per Motion M-3)

	Diocesan funding is 2.867% of adjusted parish income	
753	Includes missions increase to \$7,000 per yr	
	OCA computed on \$92 per member	
		Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		2014
Income		
		#
Diocese Benefactor Foundation		25,000.00
Assembly		500.00
Diocese		56,453.00
Total Ordinary Income		<u>56,953.00</u>
Expense		
Missions		
OCF		3,000.00
Holy Archangels Mission		7,000.00
Christ the Savior, DE		7,000.00
All Saints of N. America		7,000.00
Total Missions		<u>24,000.00</u>
Administrative		
Miscellaneous		250.00
Banking charges		100.00
Printing, Copying		300.00
Postage, Mailing Service		150.00
Supplies		100.00
Metropolitan Council		1,000.00
Travel & OCA fees		2,000.00
Insurance - Liability		3,000.00
Total Administrative		<u>6,900.00</u>
Operations		
Outreach		500.00
St. Nicholas 3 Yr payment plan		0.00
Total operations		<u>500.00</u>
Episcopal		
Pension 8.0%		1,680.00
Support/rent		21,000.00
Discretionary		400.00
Total Episcopal		<u>23,080.00</u>
Total Ordinary Expense		<u>54,480.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income/Expense		2,473.00
Other Income		
Pass thru		
OCA assessments At 92 /member,737 membris		67,804.00
Total Other Income		<u>67,804.00</u>
Other expense		
OCA assessments		69,276.00
Total other expense		<u>69,276.00</u>
Net other Income/expense		(1,472.00)
Total Expense		<u>123,756.00</u>
Net Income Gain/(Loss)		<u>1,001.00</u>

APPENDIX G: Proposal for a Diocesan Benefactors Fund

Purpose:

1. to reduce the financial strain on the small number of parishes and missions, which currently carry the full burden of funding the Archdiocese of Washington;
2. to develop greater awareness at the individual and family level of the diocese's activities, as well as the special needs of particular churches, clergy, individuals, or ministries within the diocese, thereby fostering an increased sense of togetherness, providing stewardship/charitable opportunities, and strengthening the unity of the Archdiocese of Washington;
3. to increase the contributor pool by encouraging the families, individuals and other entities (businesses, organizations, institutions, etc.) to financially support the Archdiocese of Washington.

Method:

Elect a committee, consisting of clergy and lay people (the chancellor and treasurer being ex-officio members) from within the Archdiocese of Washington, at each annual diocesan assembly for the purpose of overseeing the DBF. The committee would be subject to the diocesan council and be tasked with:

1. generating awareness and support for the DBF, through presentations at parishes and missions, the website, a mailing list, and other forms of communication;
2. encouraging both earmarked and unrestricted donations at various levels of stewardship, for example: \$1 to \$99, \$100 - \$499, \$500 to \$999, etc.;
3. receiving donations into the diocesan treasury and enrolling donors on the benefactor list; posted as the name of the donor, "for the health/repose of...", or anonymous.
4. issuing letters of thanks and appropriate tax-related documentation for donations.
5. ensuring that earmarked funds are distributed in a timely manner and as specified;
6. discerning how unrestricted funds should be held and/or distributed;
7. reporting the account balance as well as all income to and expenditures from the DBF, both earmarked and unrestricted, through the website, mailing list, regular diocesan council meetings, and the annual diocesan assembly.

The DBF account would be secured and audited as all other diocesan financial holdings.

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APPENDIX H: Report from the Metropolitan Council

The Metropolitan Council has had a busy year. The clergy representative, Fr. John Vitko and lay representative, Lisa Mikhalevsky were able to attend both meetings this year as well as a retreat on conflict resolution in September 2013. The Metropolitan Council accomplished many tasks over the year including, approving a financial settlement for Metropolitan Jonah (ret), setting the dates for the next All American Council, and passing a budget for 2014.

The Metropolitan Council (MC) met twice in 2013, once in February and again in September. Both sessions met over 4 days and included discussions on a variety of topics. Immediately preceding the September meeting, many members of the Metropolitan Council were able to attend a retreat at Fr. Kishkovsky's parish in Sea Cliff, New York, on conflict resolution.

In February, the MC authorized the hire of Cindy Davis as coordinator for the Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegations (ORSMA) and we were able to see how much work had been accomplished at the September meeting. It should be noted that ORSMA is completely separate but functions with SMPAC (Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee) to guide policy, office communication on active cases, as well as misconduct prevention and education.

At the February meeting the MC was asked to come up with a financial package for the retirement of Metropolitan Jonah (ret). After much active discussion a final package was recommended to the Holy Synod of Bishops. Full details of this decision are found at: <http://oca.org/cdn/PDFs/metropolitancouncil/2013/spring-metcouncil/spring13mcdraftminutes.pdf>.

At each meeting the MC hears updates from the various committees and the Chancery. Between the February and September meetings, the Chancery lost three staff members, including the newly departed Greg Sulich. May his memory be eternal! Greg had been a long time member of the chancery team and his work will be sorely missed. Andrew Boyd and Jessica Linke also left the Chancery this year, moving on to other employment. Both continue to volunteer at the Chancery, Andrew will continue his ministry with young adults and Jessica continues to help with the web site. The Chancery continues to manage without these vital members of their staff. It is undecided at this time, when or if these positions will be staffed.

At each meeting the MC learned that the work of the Strategic Planning Committee along with the Post Conciliar Committee of the 16th All American Council (AAC) has progressed well. Beginning this year clergy are required to have 20 hours of continuing education annually. These hours are to be reported to the newly created Department of Continuing Education of the OCA. Additionally, the Administrative implementation team is nearing completion of sample financial working papers to assist parishes that are looking for guidance. The Youth team has developed a Facebook page that seeks to provide a daily liturgical presence and already has more than 1200 "likes". Importantly, all these activities are transitioning into the natural life of the church – some at the level

of the OCA Departments and others at the Diocesan and Deanery levels. Given this successful transition into the everyday life of the Church it is the intent of the Strategic Planning Committee to phase out its activities by the time of the 18th All American Council (AAC).

The Metropolitan Council also heard updates from a number of Departments of the OCA, including Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid (CSHA), chaired by Donna Karabin of St. Luke parish, McLean, VA. Thanks to the hard work of Donna, Fr. Steven Voytovich and Nancy van Dyken, CSHA has nearly completed their development of a program known as Compassion in Action to help parishes develop ministries.

The Metropolitan Council, with the blessing of the Holy Synod, decided that next All American Council, the 18th AAC will be held from July 20-24, 2015 at the Hilton Atlanta in Atlanta GA. A Preconciliar Committee has been formed to oversee AAC planning and implementation. Lisa Mikhalevsky of the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. will be the lay representative from the MC. Importantly, the youth activities are to be reinstated with a full and active youth program. The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians will hold its annual meeting just prior to the AAC and will share convention space. This cooperation should help both groups negotiate better rates.

The Treasurer, Melanie Ringa, and the Metropolitan Council have also been working hard to implement the resolution from the 16th AAC calling for a decrease in assessments. This has only been possible through reducing or not funding some programs. At the September meeting we were informed by the Treasurer, during her presentation of the 2015 budget, that the officers of the OCA have chosen to take a 5% cut in salary in an effort to balance the budget for that year. Recognizing the need for additional funding for some of our programs, but also the constraints on assessments, the OCA is seeking to implement a Stewards of the OCA program.

Many more decisions were made at these meetings, too many to include in this report. Various arms of the Church come to us for decisions, such as the Pension Board. Please review the full minutes of these meetings at the OCA website. The work of the MC is vital to our church on the local, diocesan and national levels. A full understanding is essential for all as we move forward with the reduction in assessments. The minutes are available at <http://oca.org/cdn/PDFs/metropolitancouncil/2013/spring-metcouncil/spring13mcdraftminutes.pdf> (February) and <http://oca.org/cdn/PDFs/metropolitancouncil/2013/fall-metcouncil/fall13mcdraftminutes.pdf> (September).

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Mikhalevsky
Lay Representative to the Metropolitan Council
Fall 2013