

Metropolitan Council Report, December 3, 2011
Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania Representatives:

- Archpriest David Mahaffey – Clergy
Mr. David Yeosock, P.E. – Lay

The Metropolitan Council met three times in 2011. Spring, Fall and Pre-Council for the All-American Council in Seattle. All three meetings were attend by both diocesan representatives. Below is a summary of these three meetings.

Spring Session

- Held in Chicago in following the consecration of Bishop Mathias with the Holy Synod at Christ the Savior Church (Diocese of the Midwest Bishop’s Chapel).
- Originally scheduled to be held in March, it was postponed by Metropolitan Jonah following the events of the February Bishop’s Retreat in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- Outcomes from the Spring Session of the MC are as follows:
 - Heard the report of the Metropolitan on the Bishop’s Retreat and resolutions of the Holy Synod.
 - Heard the reports of the Interim Chancellor, Bishop Melchizedek, Secretary Fr. Eric Tosi, and Treasurer, Melanie Ringa, as well as various department chairs of the OCA.
 - Heard the report of the SMPAC (Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee) with the outcome that only qualified and credentialed counselors in the field of sexual misconduct will be approved for work with the Metropolitan, Central Administration and all OCA departments.
 - Approved the Revised Strategic Plan of the OCA as presented by Fr. John Vitko, Chair of the Strategic Planning committee.
 - Approved a continuing plan to deal with the situation created by the dismissal (resignation) of the previous Chancellor, Fr. Alexander Garklavs. This plan allows Fr. Garklavs to remain in an advisory role with the Central Administration until a suitable Parish is found for his placement. His salary and benefits will continue until he has found a parish “appropriate to the excellence and length of his priestly ministry”. A four month severance package that includes salary and housing allowance was also approved with three abstentions.
 - Approved two changes to the OCA Pension Plan; one dealing with housing for St. Vladimir’s Seminary employees, and one dealing with disability/retirement benefits.
 - Approved the Agenda for the 16th All-American Council to be held in Seattle, Washington Oct. 31-November 4, 2011

Fall Session

- Held in Syosset, New York at the East Norwich Inn and Chancery of the OCA, September 28-29, 2011.
- Fr. David Mahaffey was asked to Co-chair the meeting by Metropolitan Jonah, approved by the MC.
- Prior to the opening of the Fall Session of the MC, the properties known as “The Alaska Lands” was returned to their rightful owners, the people of the Diocese of Alaska.
- Outcomes from the Fall Session of the MC are as follows:
 - Heard the report of Metropolitan Jonah on various topics including the relationship of the OCA to other autocephalous churches, the continued good relations with the other major Orthodox Churches in North America, the cordial relations with both the Moscow Patriarch and ROCOR, the situation at our Representation Church in Moscow and our representative there, and the counting work of the SMPAC committee.
 - Heard the reports of the Interim Chancellor, Bishop Melchizedek, Secretary Fr. Eric Tosi, and Treasurer, Melanie Ringa, as well as various department chairs of the OCA.
 - Heard and unanimously approved the report and recommendation of the Human Resources Committee of Archpriest John Jillions as the next Chancellor of the OCA.
 - Approved a motion with one abstention: “To express thanks to Dr. Faith Skordinski and Mark Stokoe for their tireless and principled service to the Orthodox Church in America during their years of service on the Metropolitan Council.”
 - After a presentation by Treasurer, Melanie Ringa, a motion was passed: “To approve the budget at the \$105 per capita assessment level as amended.” CARRIED by a vote of 20 for, 3 against, no abstentions. In addition, there was a motion “That the Finance Committee prepare excursions around the budget at \$50, \$90 and \$125 per capita assessment levels.” It carried unanimously.

The final meeting of 2011 took place before the opening of the All-American Council in Seattle, Washington. The meeting was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the site of the AAC, on October 31, 2011. The only major work at this meeting was the approval of the final Agenda for the AAC. There were objections to some changes suggested by the Secretary of the OCA, Fr. Eric Tosi, and the Agenda remained approved as previously recorded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fr. David Mahaffey

Mr. David Yeosock