

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPORT TO 51ST DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY
THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, JANUARY 29- 30TH , 2015
ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH, BETHLEHEM**

Reverend James Weremedic
Diocesan Clergy Representative
David M. Yeosock, PE
Diocesan Lay Representative

The Metropolitan Council Representatives of the Diocese attended the Spring and Fall Joint Session of the Metropolitan Council and the Lesser Synod. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, presided and opened with a refocused “statement into three main areas: missions and evangelism, clergy health and the strengthening of the Church’s institutions, particularly monasteries and seminaries. He reflected on the period since the 2011 All-American Council leading up to next year’s All-American Council as one of the most productive in terms of consistency, implementation and follow-up between Councils, which has been accomplished through the Strategic Plan Post-Conciliar Committee and throughout the Church. He thanked both the Statute Revision Task Force and the Office of the Treasurer for efforts to develop a funding system transition from assessments; for their hard work in preparation for the upcoming All-American Council next year.”

Of particular importance in the message delivered is that of The Statute revision process. Council Members heard a presentation from Very Rev. Alexander Rentel including some of the minutia of potential wording and the vigorous consideration that must be given to the wording or rewording to convey the meaning of certain articles. The timeline precludes delivery of the Revised Statute other than those noted and prescribed within the Articles therein. It is anticipated the Revised Statute will be delivered ninety (90) days prior to the council. A lively discussion ensued for the actual delivery of the Revised Statute to the Floor of the AAC and more information will be provided in the upcoming Spring Meeting.

Highlights of discussions with in the Metropolitan Council’s purview included: review of the 18th All American Council Plans, The Statute revision process, 2015 proposed and approved budget, the Military Chaplains and the Liturgical Music and Translations presented their future requirements including the Military Chaplains need for new Liturgical Items. The Liturgical Music and Translations need qualified people for training choir directors and singers.

Of primary importance to the Metropolitan Council’s commitment to Stewardship, the Internal Governance Committee presented an optional retreat day prior to the convening of

the Fall Session. V. Rev. Robert Holet led the day long retreat which was extremely well attended by the Council. Father Robert's dynamic presentation conveyed to those in attendance the depth of responsibility of a steward as both sacrificial offering as well as a gift. A copy of the book: Fr. Robert Holet, The First and Finest: Orthodox Christian Stewardship as a Sacred Offering was prescribed reading for each member prior to the retreat. Fr. Robert expounded profoundly on the concepts from his book and, in so doing, raised to a deeper level the participants understanding of Stewardship.

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Respectfully Submitted
January 23, 2015