

2019 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Metropolitan Council Report

It is an honor to serve as your representatives on the Metropolitan Council. The Council met two times in 2018: February 6-8, and September 18-21, at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Lloyd Harbor, NY. Minutes, summaries, and photos of those meetings are available on the OCA website: <https://oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-council-concludes-fall-session>.

Some Highlights:

OCA Chancery Restructuring:

The National Church finds itself in another time of administrative transition. After a series of assessments and a study of the Chancery, the two main officers of the Church (Chancellor and Secretary) were asked to step down. Subsequently, the Treasurer, also expressed her desire to move on, and is in the process of transitioning out of that position. To date, the position of Chancellor of the OCA is the only one that has been filled and Archpriest Alexander Rentel has assumed that role effective January 1. There is no Secretary or Treasurer in place, however, Fr. Eric Tosi will stay on for a bit to help with the transition, and there is a plan for the Treasurer in the works.

OCA Youth Director:

This past meeting much was discussed about the All-American Council's ground swell support for a National Church youth director. \$87,000 was pledged from the floor of the AAC. As of the last MC meeting, approximately \$35,000 has been collected. His Beatitude presented a proposal to the MC for a one-year pilot program for what the position could be. A resolution supporting His Beatitude's idea was passed unanimously.

50th Anniversary of St. Herman & Autocephaly:

Archbishop Benjamin presented a brief outline on the planning progress. Each diocese has been asked to appoint a lead coordinator to plan for their 50th Anniversary events. It was mentioned that there would be a celebration to take place at His Beatitude's cathedral in Washington DC. All autocephalous churches would be invited to attend with representation. A discussion also occurred around each diocese having an opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Alaska throughout the summer. A Church wide cruise to visit Kodiak and Sitka was discussed as well. If there is not a desire from a respective diocese for their own pilgrimage, they could "tag along" with another diocesan pilgrimage (*See the advertisement pamphlet for more information*).

Financial Report:

The 2019 budget was passed. The 2019 budget totals \$1,762,800 which is approximately \$82,000 lower than the previous year. This was mainly attributed to the funding resolution passed at the AAC. Two Mission Planting Grant renewal applications were approved. There were no new

applications for this year. An effort continues to get the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America (SOCA) up and running. Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak works part time to raise money for this fundraising arm of the OCA.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13-15, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

V.Rev. Timothy Hojnicky, Diocesan Clergy Representative
Susan Schlasta, Lay Representative