

DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA & EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

2020 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY - Metropolitan Council Report

It is an honor to serve as your representatives on the Metropolitan Council. The Council met two times in 2019: February 13-15, and September 17-18, 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://www.oca.org/news/headline-news/minutes-reports-of-metropolitan-council-2019-spring-session-released>
- <https://www.oca.org/news/headline-news/metropolitan-council-concludes-fall-session2019>

Some Highlights:

New OCA Treasurer & Financial Report:

The New OCA Treasurer, Andrew Smith, was introduced to the Council and presented his first report, which included a balanced budget for 2020 which was unanimously adopted. This past year was a generally healthy one in the general operations of the National Church. There was a \$284,000 increase in overall assets realized, of which \$96,000 was increased in unrestricted funds. For more information, the full financial report is posted on the OCA website.

OCA Archives:

Mr. Alex Liberovsky, OCA Archivist, reported on the ongoing work of the archives digitization project, and the state of the physical space in which the archives are presently kept. The ongoing work on the actual OCA archives continues and is unresolved.

Youth Department:

Dimitrios Rentel, Youth Department intern, presented a detailed report on the department's listening project, "Ring the Bell" for youth ministry, and shared the results of the youth survey which received more than fifteen hundred responses from youth, parents and clergy from throughout the Orthodox Church in America

50th Anniversary of St. Herman & Autocephaly:

Plans for the Anniversaries are beginning to unfold. The Synod made a proclamation in November during the Holy Synod Meeting designating 2020 a year to reflect and celebrate the Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America, and the first fruits of that, the canonization of St. Herman of Alaska. They have announced that three celebrations will be held:

- The first will be at the Memorial Day Pilgrimage at St. Tikhon's Monastery, May 25, 2020.
- The second will be take place during the annual pilgrimage to Spruce Island, Alaska, August 9, 2020.
- The third will be at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the Fall Regular Meeting of the Holy Synod, November 14, 2020.

In addition to these Churchwide celebrations, dioceses and deaneries will also celebrate these anniversaries in different ways (Our Diocesan Celebration is set for August 7-8, 2020 at St. Herman's Church, Glenn Mills).

Relocation Committee:

His Beatitude called a small committee to look into the feasibility of relocating the Chancery to the area of Washington, D.C. There was not much discussion, as there was very little factual data to work with, but there was a desire to see if this is a good idea financially, and practically. More to be hopefully reported in the coming meeting.

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 4-6, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

V.Rev. Timothy Hojnicky, Diocesan Clergy Representative
Mat. Sharon Shingara, Lay Representative