

Metropolitan Council Representative Report
June 16, 2015

Spring meetings of the Metropolitan Council took place Tuesday, February 10 through Thursday, February 12, 2015 at the Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington NY, Minutes and all reports generated for and by these meetings are available on OCA.org

Apart from the regular reports given by Metropolitan Tikhon, chancery officers and Committee heads, the most important reports given had to do with the convening of the OCA's All American Council (AAC) in Atlanta, GA in July. Fr. Eric Tosi presented highlights of the planning taking place under the guidance of the Pre-Conciliar Committee and presented a draft agenda for the week. FOCA's annual convention will be combined with the AAC.

Two items of special importance to be addressed by the AAC will be the adoption of updated Statutes for the Church and the resolution formulated for funding the work of the OCA:

On Statute Revisions: The MC heard reports of the Statute revision Committee given by Fr. Alexander Rentel and Judge E.R. Lanier. As of the time of this meeting, the document was being reviewed by a legislative editor and with the blessing of the Holy Synod it will be posted for review by the entire Church. If there are any revisions or corrections suggested during this review they will be included as appropriate. The intention of the Task Force is to present this document to the AAC for an up or down vote because any more detailed discussion of the document which is 50 pages in length would be virtually impossible to manage. The statute revisions do not propose or include any structural changes to the OCA. Rather, they take into account the history and challenges that we have faced as an autocephalous church over the past 45 years for which we have had little or no statutory guidance. The MC supports this revision and the adoption of this document is highly recommended. Again, this document is easily available online.

The other issue of importance that the AAC will undertake is the funding of the Church over the next triennium. As you recall, the last regular AAC in Seattle saw the adoption of a funding resolution that reduced the annual assessments and which supposedly had the intention of increasing funding by encouraging increased stewardship/proportional giving as opposed to the long relied upon "head tax". This approach has been embraced by the Dioceses of the West and the South. I believe that Fr. John Jillions, OCA Chancellor, and Ms. Melanie Ringa, OCA Treasurer will be present for our Diocesan

Council meeting on June 16 in order to share background and the rationale of the funding resolution. Funding the work of the Church has and continues to be an extremely difficult issue. Many parishes and dioceses are struggling to fund their work. An additional problem has been the desire on the part of some to convey the message to Central Church Administration that they must “live within their means”.

Administration in Syosset is not bloated as it was in the past. Costs have been cut and staffing has been tremendously reduced. In the end, we need to focus on better stewardship and foster generosity on every level of the Church: parish, dioceses and Central. I hope that the desire to do this will be an integral feature of our next AAC with its theme of expanding the mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta