

## MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

*Submitted by Father Thomas Mueller and Joseph Kormos*

In late 2015 His Grace Bishop PAUL renewed and revised the Diocesan Mission Committee.

Fr. Thomas Mueller is Mission Director. Joe Kormos is facilitator and consultant to the committee. Other participants in the committee are Fr Joel Weir, Fr Joel Wilson, Fr Elijah Mueller, Fr. Chris Maciolek, Fr Andrew Harrison and Fr Paul Albert, Gater Greenwill and Erik Hjelle.

Thus far two meetings have taken place with a third scheduled for mid-September (after the writing of this report.) A number of projects have begun.

### Mission Guidelines

A set of new mission guidelines summarizing roles, mission planting criteria, and the definition for chapels has been created, approved by His Grace Bishop PAUL and posted on the diocesan website.

### Mission Good Practices

The above document primarily prescribes guidelines on whether and how to establish a mission in the diocese. A document aggregating known good practices and actions (an enumeration of “do’s”) for missions to pursue to help them to develop into vibrant healthy parishes is being prepared.

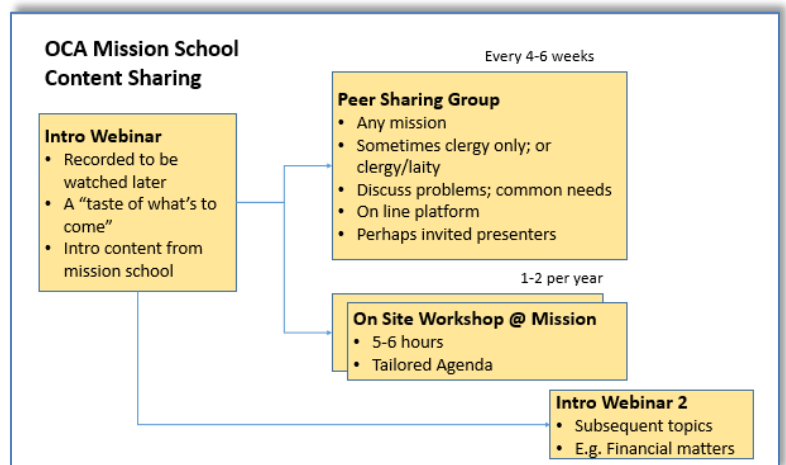
### Good Practices of Other Dioceses and Jurisdictions

As part of the effort to prescribe good practices the committee decided it would be good to explore how other OCA Dioceses and Orthodox jurisdictions help missions to be planted in fruitful locations and to develop. Fr Joel Wilson is surveying and contacting others to identify their good practices.

### Mission School >> Intro Webinar, In Parish Workshops; Peer Sharing Calls

In 2015 and 2016 the OCA has sponsored a Mission School attended by one priest and one layperson from each OCA Diocese. In 2016 Fr Joel Wilson and Erik Hjelle attended. In 2015 Fr Joel Weir and Gater Greenwill attended. On September 27 (8:00 PM EDT 7:00 PM

CDT) Fr. Joel Weir, assisted by others, will present a webinar titled “Introduction to the OCA



Mission School -- Apostolic Foundation and Koinonic Evangelism". The session will 1) attempt to connect webinar attendees with resources and strategies for healthy parish life as presented at the Mission School and 2) introduce initial plans for ongoing encouragement and stimulation of healthy mission parish life through on site workshops and regular peer sharing conference calls.

### Assistance with Property Acquisition and Planning

One problem facing most missions is long term facility planning. The committee will offer assistance from committee member Gater Greenwill to interested communities. Tips will be provided in a future webinar.

### Parish Health Grants

Four Parish Health grants were awarded by the Diocese in autumn of 2015:

- *Holy Myrrhbearers, St. Cloud, MN* – outreach/media project, including information about the history of Orthodoxy in Minnesota and the saints of Minnesota;
- *Holy Transfiguration, Livonia, MI* – 50% increase in hygiene kits supplied to a local outreach center;
- *SS Peter and Paul, Detroit* – partial funding of Sunday free meal program for a year, replacing funding of FOCUS, which pulled out of the program;
- *SS Cyril and Methodius, Milwaukee* – creation of a neighborhood "Prayer Garden," a place for quiet talk or prayer in a busy, urban neighborhood.

Grants were made for the second straight year to all mission priests and to some missions and parishes, totaling \$12,500. These grants were \$500 or \$1000.

Two grants of \$10,000 each were made to SS Peter and Paul, Detroit, to help pay the compensation of a resident priest, who is working to revive the parish and serve the non-parish community that participates in the Sunday meal. One of these was given in 2015 and the other in 2016.



*Over 100 meals are served every Sunday at the Hall of Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral in conjunction with the Pan Orthodox ministry "Orthodox Detroit Outreach"*

### Joint Stakeholders Discussion: Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral Detroit

In recent years the Diocese has invested time and \$ in rebirthing/replanting Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Detroit. (See Fr. Paul Albert's report.) On September 17 a facilitated discussion was held among Detroit Deanery Clergy, representatives of Orthodox Detroit Outreach (a pan Orthodox organization dedicated to expanding Orthodox witness to the inner city) and representatives of the Cathedral parish to explore each group's individual and common visions and to facilitate expanded seamless common efforts.

### Small Parish Forum

The Diocese once again co-sponsored the third annual Small Parish Forum. The event has grown in attendance and quality each year. This year the event was held at Holy Assumption Church in Canton OH. It was attended by 55 persons from many OCA Dioceses and multiple Orthodox jurisdictions.



*Attendees at Small Parish Forum in Canton OH*

### Consulting Assistance

Consulting assistance has been provided by Joe Kormos in conjunction with diocesan clergy for select Diocesan parishes at the direction of His Grace.