



Draft Minutes of the 2009 Fall Metropolitan Council Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 22 - Friday, Sept. 25, 2009

East Norwich Inn, East Norwich, NY

These draft minutes are subject to approval at a subsequent meeting of the Metropolitan Council.

ROLL CALL

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah

His Grace, Bishop Nikon

His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel

His Grace, Bishop Tikhon

His Eminence, Archbishop Job

His Grace, Bishop Benjamin

His Eminence, Archbishop Seraphim

His Grace, Bishop Alejo

His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek

V. Rev. Alexander Garklavs (Chancellor)

Bulgarian Diocese

V. Rev. Eric G. Tosi (Secretary)

V. Rev. Andrew Moulton

Rev. Michael Tassos (Treasurer)

Protodeacon Michael Myers

V. Rev. Theodore Boback

Archdiocese of Canada

Eleana Silk

David Grier

Rev. David Garretson

Dr. Faith Skordinski

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

V. Rev. Theodore Bobosh

V. Rev. John Onofrey

Protodeacon Peter Danilchick

Diocese of the Midwest

Diocese of Alaska

V. Rev. Michael Matsko

V. Rev. Michael Oleksa

Mark Stokoe

Anna Cheryl Andrew

Diocese of New England

Albanian Archdiocese

V. Rev. Robert Arida

V. Rev. Joseph Gallick

Rev. Dn. John Zarras

William Peters

Diocese of New York and New Jersey

Diocese of the West

V. Rev. Alexis Vinogradov

V. Rev. Matthew Tate

John Kozey

Diocese of the South
V. Rev. Gleb McFatter
Judge Ray Lanier

Diocese of Washington
V. Rev. Ray Valencia
Rosalie Luster

Dr. Dmitri Solodow

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania
V. Rev. John Reeves
Gregory Nescott

Guests: Rev. Thomas Moore [Alternate elected by the 15th All-American Council]; Rev. Antonio Perdomo, translator for His Grace, Bishop Alejo

Absent: V. Rev. Cyprian Hutcheon; Peter Bohlender

A. Approval of Agenda

A.1. MOTION TOSI/SOLODOW – To approve Agenda. CARRIED.

B. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Discussed

B.1. Item H.2. “without dissent” should be deleted.

B.2. A discussion ensued regarding whether or not there should be any records reflecting executive session proceedings.

Decided

B.1. MOTION – GARRETSON/REEVES: That executive session notes be stricken from these minutes and not be included in subsequent minutes. CARRIED

B.2. MOTION – GALLIK/MATSKO: To accept minutes as amended. CARRIED

C. Opening Remarks: Metropolitan Jonah

Metropolitan Jonah presented an outline of his recent work, noting in particular his recent visit to the Diocese of Alaska, issues involving inter-Church relations, the recent Chambesy statement, the impact of current legal issues on the life of the Church, and his work with OCA seminaries.

In discussion of Metropolitan Jonah's remarks it was noted that something more constructive regarding the relationship between St. Vladimir's and St. Tikhon's Seminaries could have been accomplished if it had been taken at a slower pace.

There was also a discussion of the nature of Church life in respect to its spiritual reality as the Body of Christ and the temporal/secular perspective of a not-for-profit institution. Specifically related to the hierarchy, it was noted that there is an administrative component to their work, but ultimately bishops are fathers and shepherds of their dioceses.

D. Officers' Reports

D.1. Chancellor – see attached

Discussed

In discussion on Fr. Alexander's report, several members of the Council opined that the team approach to the Chancery administration is not a workable model, in particular in relation to the limited roles and authority of the chancellor; also necessary is a clearer delineation of authority regarding signing contracts and hiring and releasing of employees.

D.2 Secretary – see attached

Discussed

Fr. Eric recommended that MC members listen to the “4 Hour Legal Training Program” CD series, as it offers excellent information on the responsibilities of boards.

He also reported that those mandated with presenting a report on Alaska Lands have requested to make their report at the next MC meeting. In response to a request on the specific information expected in the report, committee members were asked to present an inventory of what Alaska properties are at issue, what is their value and their income.

D.3 Director of Ministries and Communications – see attached

Discussed

In discussion of his report, Metropolitan Council members asked for further information on the proposed partnership between OCPC and SVS Press. Fr. Andrew said that the advantages of such a merger include a broader advertising base for OCPC materials and better administrative and financial oversight of OCPC.

Decided

D.3.1. MOTION – TATE/SOLODOW: The Metropolitan Council authorizes the officers of the Church, after review by the Legal Counsel, to sign and enact the proposal made by Fr. Andrew Jarmus contained in his report enabling OCPC to enter into a formal

partnership with SVS Press for the purposes of publishing and distributing OCPC materials. CARRIED

D.4 Approval of New Treasurer

Discussed

Search Committee Chair, Fr. Matthew Tate, presented the name of Melanie Ringa. Currently Chief Financial Officer at SVS, Ms. Ringa's candidacy has the support of the SVS administration and trustees to take on this position.

Details of Ms. Ringa's employment will be finalized after MC and HS approval.

Decided

D.4.1 MOTION – TATE/DANILCHICK: To present the name of Melanie Ringa to the HS for confirmation as Treasurer of the OCA. CARRIED.

D.4.2. MOTION – STOKOE/SOLODOW: The Metropolitan Council wishes to express its profound appreciation and gratitude to Fr. Michael Tassos as he completes his service as Treasurer of the OCA. In a period of serious crisis, Fr. Michael stepped forward both as a pastor and professional. His expertise, leadership and personal commitment these past years, often under the most difficult circumstances, made a profound difference in the restoration of order, accountability, transparency and integrity to the finances and financial structures of the central administration of the Orthodox Church in America. As he begins a new chapter in his life and ministry, we wish to publicly recognize his immense contributions to the central administration, this body, and the Orthodox Church in America as a whole, and pray that God will grant His good servant, the priest Michael, Many, Many Years! CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D.4.3. MOTION – TATE/SOLODOW: The Metropolitan Council would like to formally thank Mr. Robert Kornafel, Carol and Albert Wetmore and Deacon John Zarras for their invaluable, voluntary service to the Church during difficult times in the OCA. Members of the Council also send their deep sympathy to Carol Wetmore for her loss on the recent repose of Al. May the Lord grant his servant Albert who has fallen asleep Memory Eternal! CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

On Thursday, September 24, Melanie Ringa was present for the financial reports. She was welcomed by members of the Council and responded to several questions. His Beatitude noted that she is not only the first lay person serving as Treasurer in many years but she is also the first woman serving as Church officer.

D.5 Insurance Board

Discussed

Fr. Eric recommended that the MC select qualified individuals to form a board to assist the administration with insurance-related issues. If the MC approves, he asks that they recommend names for this board.

D.6 Blackbaud Implementation

Discussed

It was stressed that before any moves are made regarding BlackBaud, there must be a complete, systematic project management plan so that all stake holders know the involved costs, including finances and time. It was recommended that an outside consultant, other than Lambrides, be utilized for this project.

D.7 Update on Inter-Church Affairs

Discussed

D.7.1. MOTION – GARRETSON/GALLICK: Motion to move into executive session. CARRIED.

In Executive Session OCA Director of External Affairs, Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky, gave an update on current inter-Church issues faced by the OCA.

MOTION – GARRETSON/GALLICK: To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

E. Metropolitan Council Business

E.1 Report of Council Development – see attached

Discussed

There was a discussion as to the role of this Committee in selection of Metropolitan Council Committee members.

Members of the Council thanked Protodeacon Peter and his committee for their work on this much-needed resource for Council members.

Motion E.1.2. below to accept the Metropolitan Council Member Handbook was made on Thursday, September 24, and tabled by a motion, from Dr. D. Solodow, second by Fr. J. Gallik, until after other Committee charters had been discussed. The motion below to "receive" the Handbook was the result of discussions when it was untabled on Friday, September 25.

Decided

E.1.1. MOTION #1 (see Committee Report): That the charter of the Council Development Committee be as presented in the Committee report, with the revised wording, “assists the Metropolitan Council in assigning members to specific Council committees...”. CARRIED.

E.1.2. MOTION – DANILCHICK/SOLODOW: That the draft Metropolitan Council Member Handbook as distributed to the Metropolitan Council be received by the Metropolitan Council for placement on the Metropolitan Council online forum for use by Council members as they see fit. CARRIED with one opposed.

E.2 Approval of proposed Internal Audit Committee – see attached

Discussed

Dr. Faith Skordinski, who chaired the search committee, gave an overview of the selection process for the Internal Audit Committee.

Decided

E.2.1. MOTION – SKORDINSKI/TATE: The Metropolitan Council approve the candidates for Internal Audit Committee as presented. CARRIED.

E.2.2. MOTION – REEVES/GARRESTON: In dismissing the search committee, the Metropolitan Council thanks its members for its work.

E. 3 Report of Internal (Governance) Committee – see attached

Discussed

A question was raised as to whether there was a conflict of interest in the fact that certain members of the Internal Audit Committee, Ethics Committee and Internal Governance Committee sit on all three committees and are also members of the same parish.

MOTION – GARRESTON/DANILCHICK: To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, the Metropolitan Council discussed specific incidents outlined in the Committee report.

MOTION – NEScott/DANILCHICK: To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

Coming out of executive session, the Council discussed the charter for this committee as published in the Metropolitan Council Handbook. In particular, the Council discussed the authority and competency of this committee to review the performance of the Chancery administrative personnel.

Decided

E.3.1. ACTION ITEM: Mark Stokoe will examine whether there is a conflict of interest in the fact that members of the Internal Audit Committee, Ethics Committee and Internal Governance Committee are all members of the same parish.

E.3.2. MOTION – DANILCHICK/ZARRAS: To amend the charter of this Committee, striking "review annually the organizational structure of the administration, as well as the performance of the officers of the Corporation." IN FAVOR: 15; OPPOSED: 6 – CARRIED.

E.3.3. MOTION – STOKOE/SKORDINSKI: To accept the charter of the Internal Governance Committee as amended. CARRIED.

E.4 Report of Charity Committee – see attached

Discussed

Fr. John Reeves amended his report to note that Raphael House did acknowledge receipt of a charity grant.

E.5 Report of Ethics Committee – see attached

Discussed

Fr. Theodore Bobosh noted that, since presenting his report, there are several cases that the committee now has to consider.

E.6 Report of SIC Implementation Committee

Discussed

Fr. Eric informed the Council that an accountant has looked through the records of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey and has reported that a financial accounting of the diocese from the years 2001 to 2005 will not be fiscally possible as large amounts of financial records are missing. However, financial records for years before 2001 and after 2005 are in order.

Fr. Eric noted that other elements of the SIC recommendations are proceeding.

E.7 Report of Crisis Management Committee – see attached

Discussed

Dr. Dmitri Solodow outlined the difficulties in beginning the process of developing of a crisis management plan.

F. Legal Issues

F.1. Update of current legal issues

Discussion

The Metropolitan Council was joined by OCA General Counsel, Thaddeus Wojcik, and by attorney Jon Ward, for portions of the discussion on legal issues.

MOTION – NEScott/REEVES: To move into executive session at the conclusion of discussion of legal issues. CARRIED

The majority of agenda items regarding legal issues were discussed in executive session. Below is a record of motions to bring the Council out of executive session during the discussion of legal issues, the decisions that were made while out of executive session and motions to go back into executive session to continue discussing legal matters.

It is noted that Fr. R. Valencia left the meeting for the discussion on the Koumentakos law suit.

It is also noted that in Motion F.2., to indemnify Fr. A. Jarmus and Dr. F. Skordinski, was discussed on the evening of Wednesday, September 23, and tabled until Thursday, September 24 through a motion by Dr. D. Solodow, seconded by Fr. R. Arida. The record below represents result of the Thursday discussion of this motion.

Decided

F.1.1. MOTION – GALLICK/MYERS: To move out of executive session. CARRIED

MOTION – GRIER/OLEKSA: The MC instructs GC to file a motion for summary judgement in the Bishop Nikolai litigation no sooner than 30 days from this date unless the matter is otherwise resolved. CARRIED

MOTION – GARRETSON/SOLODOW: To move into executive session. CARRIED

F.1.2. GALLICK/STOKOE: To move out of executive session. CARRIED

MOTION – NEScott/TATE: In connection with the lawsuit brought by Robert Kondratich against the OCA, Fr. Andrew Jarmus ("Fr. Jarmus") and Dr. Faith Skordinski ("Dr. Skordinski") in the Supreme Court of New York in the County of

Nassau, Index No. 15320/2008 (the "Lawsuit"):

- (i) that the Metropolitan Council agree, and it hereby does agree, to the simultaneous representation of the OCA, Fr. Jarmus and Dr. Skordinski by Jon Ward of Sahn Ward and Baker, PLLC, the OCA's legal counsel in the Lawsuit;**
- (ii) and that the OCA assume the costs of such representation, and the costs of the fees and expenses incurred on the advice of counsel in connection therewith (provided, that the OCA shall be entitled to control the defense of such Lawsuit for all purposes in exchange for such assumption of costs, fees and expenses), in each case unless and until advised by counsel that an irreconcilable conflict between or among any of the parties may come to exist in such representation;**
- (iii) and that in the event of any such conflict, the OCA shall indemnify either or both of Fr. Jarmus and Dr. Skordinski (as the case may be) for the costs of independent counsel reasonably acceptable to the OCA and Fr. Jarmus or Dr. Skordinski (as the case may be) unless the party for whom such indemnification would otherwise be available pursuant to this Resolution shall be determined by the Metropolitan Council and Holy Synod to have wrongly caused such conflict;**
- (iv) and that the OCA indemnify Fr. Jarmus and/or Dr. Skordinski (as the case may be) for any judgment that may be rendered against him or her, or settlement agreed upon in connection with the Lawsuit (provided, that no settlement shall be subject to indemnification by the OCA unless the OCA shall consent in writing to the terms of such settlement, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld);**
- (v) and that all of the foregoing shall be subject to review, reconsideration and revision by the Metropolitan Council and Holy Synod in the event that the complaint filed by Robert Kondratich on which the Lawsuit is based is amended due, in whole or in part, to any improper act or omission by a party to be indemnified pursuant to this Resolution; (vi) and that the Metropolitan Council recommend that the Holy Synod approve the decisions set forth in this Resolution in their entirety. CARRIED.**

MOTION – MATSKO/ZARRAS: To move into executive session CARRIED

F.2. Sexual Misconduct Policy – see attached reports

Discussed

Fr. Michael Matsko stressed that the idea of a “pastoral” approach to situations of sexual misconduct allegations must be a multi-disciplinary approach, involving various issues, including spiritual, clinical, legal, among others. He also opined that even after any official secular investigations are over, the Church has the responsibility of continuing to investigate in areas specific to its life, in particular the spiritual and canonical ramifications of the case.

In order to be effective, this policy requires consistent implementation in all cases and at all levels, including the dioceses, and parishes, monasteries and other Church institutions. The key to compliance, it was noted, is to consistently hold parishes and institutions accountable to fulfilling this documentation.

Members of the Metropolitan Council also stressed that care must be taken to find a suitable professional or team of professionals to replace Fr. Alexy Karlgut in the work of investigating allegations of sexual misconduct for the OCA.

G. Pension Board Report – see attached

Discussed

The Metropolitan Council was joined by Pension Board members John Sedor, Pension Plan Administrator Maureen Ahearn, Pension Plan actuary John Ehrhardt, for the report of the Pension Board.

In discussion on his report, Mr Ehrhardt noted that two of the main benefits to the proposed restructuring of the OCA Pension Plan are that it makes the Plan more equitable for long-term contributors and helps recover losses as a result of the poor market performance.

It was also noted that the changes noted in the presentation are only illustrative examples.

In response to a question about how many contributors are in the plan it was reported that about 60% of clergy are currently participants.

Decided

H.1. MOTION -- MATSKO/SOLODOW:

WHEREAS, the Orthodox Church in America Pension Plan (“Plan”) was most recently amended and restated effective January 1, 2008;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 9, Section 9.01, of the Plan, the Metropolitan Council has authority to amend the Plan;

WHEREAS, the Pension Board has presented a unanimous recommendation that the Plan be restructured and restated to provide for the security of plan participants and to better provide future benefits to participants;

NOW THEREFORE, the following the attached Restatement is adopted, effective January 1, 2010, unless otherwise indicated. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. Finances

H.1. 2009 Report to August 31, 2009 – see attached

Discussed

Fr. Michael Tassos noted that, with the proposed revisions to the 2009 budget present by Fr. Matthew Tate and he, there is a projected surplus this year of \$170,867.10. However, from a cash flow perspective, accounting for the principal payments on the Honesdale loan, which are approximately \$90,000 per year, there is an anticipated cash surplus of approximately \$80,867.00

Fr. Michael reminded members of the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council that the need for budget revisions were to meet growing legal expenses that exceeded original budgeted projections for legal expenses.

Fr. Matthew Tate stated that having a budget surplus is essential because we need to start building up a savings of three to six months of operating expenses in the bank.

Protodeacon Peter Danilchik opined that ministries should be the priority, not take the bulk of the budget cuts. Frs. Michael and Matthew noted that these were proposed cuts; however, it is up to the Metropolitan Council to make final decisions on this and can choose different priorities.

Mark Stokoe noted that at the 2009 Spring Meeting, the Metropolitan Council decided to only print a limited run of "The Orthodox Church" magazine. He asked why a full run of the second issue was printed. In response, Fr. Andrew said that the administrative staff had been discussing with "TOC" managing editor, Fr. John Matusiak possible scenarios for printing a limited run, but as they were engaged in this discussion the deadline for the second issue was approaching. The decision was to go with a full run of the second issue and see if any funding could be found for a limited, or full, run of the third and/or fourth issues of "TOC" for 2009.

Deacon John Zarras reminded the Council members of their commitment at the 2009 Spring Meeting to support FOS.

The Metropolitan Council discussed parameters for 501 (c) (3) governing how and to whom they can make charitable donations.

Members engaged in a lengthy discussion of benefits issues related to the chancery staff, including the issue of SECA [Self-Employment Compensations Act] as related to chancery clergy.

Decided

H.1.1. MOTION – NEScott/LANIER: To approve the revised budget for 2009 as presented. CARRIED.

H.1.2. MOTION – REEVES/TATE: To postpone discussion of SECA and chancery staff benefits to the next meeting of the Metropolitan Council.

H.2. 2010 Budget – see attached

Discussed

Fr. Michael presented three budget scenarios for 2010.

It was asked why the Metropolitan Council is being asked to cover a transition of His Beatitude to Washington, DC, when this was not required by the Council and the Metropolitan Council has already covered his move to the New York City area. A long discussion ensued on the issue of Metropolitan Jonah's move to Washington.

Part of the above discussion included the wording of Motion H.2.7. The wording "the feasibility of Metropolitan Jonah's move" was used rather than "the feasibility of moving the OCA Chancery" because it was noted that the entire issue of moving should be reviewed, including both the location of the OCA Chancery and the location of the Primate's residence.

It was noted, however, that if the Diocese of Washington wanted to provide the Metropolitan, as diocesan bishop, with a residence it was entirely their prerogative to do so.

Regarding the request that the OCA offer financial support to Igumen Gerasim for his housing and board at St. Vladimir's Seminary this academic year, it was noted that this must be understood as the preparation of a potential episcopal candidate.

MOTION – TATE/NESCOTT: To move into executive session. CARRIED.

In executive session, Fr. Matthew discussed some of the challenges in preparing the 2010 budget.

MOTION – TATE/BOBACK: To move out of executive session. CARRIED.

Fr. Matthew asked the Council for direction regarding Church-wide appeals. This year's Church-Planting Grant appeal yielded only enough funding to provide a grant for one mission. Fr. Matthew asked whether it was the Council's will to run the Seminary Internship Appeal accepting the small funding of Church Planting Grant, or focus on the Planting Grant and not run the Seminary Internship appeal. Fr. Andrew noted that in the 2010 proposed budget, without a FOS Appeal there will be no ministries next year.

Decided

H.2.1. MOTION – TATE/BOLTON: That the Metropolitan Council approve budget Scenario 3, with \$100,000.00 added to legal, and with the Metropolitan Jonah Washington transition funds removed, as a provisional budget until the next meeting of the Metropolitan Council. CARRIED.

H.2.2. MOTION – TATE/MYERS: That \$45,000.00 of the salaries of Frs. A. Garklavs, E. G. Tosi, and A. Jarmus be allocated as housing allowance. CARRIED.

H.2.3. MOTION – TATE/MCFADDER: That \$5000.00 of the salary of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah be allocated as housing allowance. CARRIED.

H.2.4. MOTION – TATE/OLEKSA: That \$6,000.00 be taken from the restricted Education Fund and be used for housing and boarding costs for Igumen Gerasim at St. Vladimir's Seminary this academic year. CARRIED, with one opposition.

H.2.5. MOTION – TATE/GRIER: That the OCA run a FOS Appeal in 2009 for the year 2010, not run a Seminary Internship Appeal this year, and keep the Church Planting Grant at its currently funded level. CARRIED.

H.2.6. MOTION – NESCOTT/SKORDINSKI: That the budget be reopened to add a FOS income line and an equal amount for Ministries in the expenses line. CARRIED.

H.2.7. MOTION – TATE/ZARAS: The Strategic Planning Committee will form a task force to examine the feasibility of Metropolitan Jonah's move to the territory of the Diocese of Washington and what follows from that. This task force will be constituted of experts in related areas. CARRIED.

I. Insurance Presentation – Michael Herzak

Discussed

Mr. Herzak informed the Council about the state of OCA insurance policies at this time. Recently, after review with the officers of the Church, several updates were made to the Church's insurance policies to cover areas that were previously overlooked, among them D & O coverage and employment practices liability.

He noted that parishes should be naming bishops, dioceses and the central Church as additional insured on their policies. He said this should not cost any more. Responding to the question of whether a parish could be named in a suit against a Church leader above the hierarchy of the parish, he said that law suits are designed to go up hierarchies, not down.

J. Archives Investigation – see attached

Discussed

Eleana Silk suggests that this report be forwarded to the Strategic Planning Committee for incorporation into the feasibility study considering the OCA Chancery. It was noted that discussion on archives has been ongoing for many years. This is a critical issue and will need to be addressed as soon as possible.

K. 16th AAC

Discussed

Fr. Eric Tosi reported on preparations for the 16th All-American Council. Suitable locations in the West were under consideration, specifically Seattle and Denver. The selection of locations and dates for the Council are taking into account making it more accessible to delegates from Alaska. In discussion, the idea was raised to possibly time the Council so that delegates from other parts of the Church might use their proximity to Alaska as an opportunity to visit the Diocese after the AAC, possibly having the Council precede the St. Herman Pilgrimage.

In response to a question on what is required at this time for the 16th AAC, Fr. Eric outlined the following: Preconciliar Commission line item in the 2010 budget; recommendations of possible PCC members, guidance on the relationship between the work of the Strategic Planning Committee and the Council as a whole. He said that the deadline for this information will be the spring of 2010, as this will fall in the statutory timelines for the preparation and announcement of an All American Council.

L. Other Business

L.1. Recognition of out-going Metropolitan Council members

Discussed

During the discussion on legal issues, Fr. J. Gallick made a motion to go out of executive session, seconded by M. Stokoe. Out of executive sessions, on behalf of the Metropolitan Council, Fr. Eric Tosi thanked Fr. John Onofrey, outgoing MC representative from the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, for his six years of dedicated service on the Metropolitan Council. The Council returned to executive session through a motion by Fr. Gallick, seconded by Mr. Stokoe.

L.2. Population of MC Committees

Discussed

Fr. Eric Tosi outlined the appointment of new Council Members to MC Committees.

L.3. Formation of Human Resources Committee

Decided

L.3.1. MOTION – REEVES/SKORDINSKI: The Metropolitan Council endorses the concept of establishing a Human Resources Committee for the Central Administration of the Orthodox Church in America. It hereby requests the Metropolitan to appoint a task force comprised in equal numbers of clergy and lay members of the Metropolitan Council, with parity of males and females amongst the laity, to determine the scope and competency of such: to report back its findings and recommendations at the spring session of the Metropolitan Council for possible implementation. CARRIED

L.4. Location of Metropolitan Council Meetings

Decided

L.4.1. MOTION -- Garrettson/Tate: The Metropolitan Council asks the Metropolitan to explore options and possibilities of holding the Metropolitan Council itself in different regions of the Church US, Canada and Mexico. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

L.5. Church Planting Grant Recipient

Discussed

In Fr. Andrew Jarmus' absence, Fr. Eric Tosi presented the Department of Evangelization's recommendation that the 2010 Church Planting Grant be awarded to Holy Cross Mission

Greensboro, NC. This will be the second year that this mission receives a grant. The Council agreed unanimously and the Holy Synod of Bishop's blessed this recommendation.

L.6. OCA Chancery Maintenance issues

Discussed

Fr. Eric reported that, in addition to asbestos handling which is in the 2010 budget, two other immediate maintenance expenses for the OCA Chancery are \$15,000.00 to repair the fire escape, and approximately \$38,500.00 for the painting of the building and out buildings. These should be considered when the 2010 budget is addressed in February. In the near future the walls will need to be sealed as there is some leakage in the building. There is also a need to remove some dead tree limbs from the property. Additionally, there will be the need to purchase new dehumidifiers for the Archives.

L.7. Job Description of OCA Chancellor

Discussed

Discussion over the course of the meeting touched upon the roles and responsibilities of chancery administration several times, in particular those of the Chancellor. One of these roles, as senior priest at the Chancery, should be to coordinate the other administrators. In discussion, Fr. Eric Tosi voiced his support of this idea, noting the important contributions that Fr. Alexander Garklavs makes as Chancellor to the Chancery, its work and staff.

Decided

L.7.1. MOTION -- TATE/SOLODOW: "That the job description of the Chancellor be amended to include the fact that he is the senior officer of the Chancery Staff and that he coordinates the duties of the other officers for the Metropolitan. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

L.8. Legal Defense Fund

Discussed

The Metropolitan Council discussed the possibility of running a one-time Church-wide appeal for an OCA Legal Defense Fund. The majority of opinion was that at this time such an appeal is neither necessary or advisable.

L.9. Holy Cross Monastery, Weaverville, NC

Discussed

MOTION -- KOZEY/TATE: To move into Executive Session. CARRIED

In Executive Session, the history and status of Holy Cross Monastery in Weaverville NC was discussed.

MOTION -- SOLODOW/NESCOTT: To move out of executive session. CARRIED

L.10. Confidentiality of MC Meetings

Discussed

In a discussion on the boundaries of confidentiality of discussions during Metropolitan Council sessions it was noted that Metropolitan Council members are to be a conduit of information on the administration of the Church. In the past the Metropolitan Council agreed that the only areas that are confidential, and are discussed in Executive Session, are matters relating to legal issues and personnel. The other use for confidential discussions has been in open discussion, in particular in session with the Holy Synod, as part of the process of healing. The basic approach to material that has not been discussed in Executive Session is to utilize common sense in discussion but always in a spirit of openness and transparency.

MOTION -- GARRETSON/LANIER: That the Minutes of a Metropolitan Council meeting are not to be publicly published until accepted by the Council at a subsequent meeting. DEFEATED by Voice Vote.

M. MOTION -- SILK/LUSTER: To adjourn.

Meeting ended with a prayer on Friday, September 25, 2009 at 12:20 PM.