

Metropolitan Council  
2018 Report to the Diocesan Assembly

With the fall session of the Metropolitan Council (MC) concluding, the terms of Archpriest John Dunlop and Subdeacon Patrick Pletnikoff came to an end. Both Fr. John and Subdeacon Patrick served two terms on the MC as the clergy and lay delegates. The statutes of the OCA limit each delegate to two consecutive terms on the MC.

Over the previous seven years there have been many changes in the OCA. Of that seven year period, their first MC meeting was the final meeting for His Beatitude Metropolitan Jonah prior to his retirement. After Metropolitan Jonah's retirement, the All-American Council (AAC) in Parma, Ohio elected His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon in 2012. The next two AAC's (Atlanta / St. Louis) were significant in the revision of the OCA by-laws and the national church funding resolution.

At the recent fall session of the MC, substantial work was completed regarding the development of a full-time youth coordinator for the OCA. The 19<sup>th</sup> AAC was highlighted by a presentation from the youth group and their appeal for the development of the youth program. The youth made it clear that the church leadership could do more to provide opportunities to bring the youth together in fellowship. Metropolitan Tikhon presented a proposal to the MC for a one-year pilot program for the development of what that position would be. A resolution supporting Metropolitan Tikhon's proposal was passed unanimously by the MC.

Current significant topics:

Background Checks

Compliance with background checks and their reporting continues to be an issue. It was noted that a few dioceses still struggle to be compliant with sending in reports. His Beatitude mentioned that he is going to begin taking a more active approach with the Holy Synod to get the entire OCA into compliance. It would be helpful to our Vladyka David if the clergy took this on as a priority in their parishes.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Planning for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (2020) of the canonization of St. Herman and the granting of autocephaly of the OCA are ongoing projects. 2019 marks the 225 anniversary of the landing of the missionaries on Kodiak Island. Each diocese has been asked to plan diocesan events to commemorate the anniversary. It is anticipated that each diocese will have an opportunity to visit Alaska on pilgrimage during the summer months. The Diocese of Alaska will play a key role in the celebration of these events.

OCA Pension Plan

As of the recent MC meeting, there are 349 active participating members and 189 monthly benefits recipients. Participation in the OCA plan has been required since 1976. The health of the pension is dependent on participation. Information on the pension plan can be found on the OCA website.

### Funding of the National Church

The 19<sup>th</sup> AAC in St. Louis passed an updated funding resolution for the next triennium. The non-ethnic dioceses contribute between 32-38% of their annual income to the OCA. It is the goal to get all non-ethnic dioceses to the same percentage by the 20<sup>th</sup> AAC. The Diocese of Alaska continues to tithe to the OCA at 10% of income.

### Restructuring of the OCA Chancery Office

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon announced at the recent AAC that he would be restructuring the officers of the OCA. The chancellor, secretary, and treasurer have all submitted resignation letters to Metropolitan Tikhon effective 12/31/18. The restructuring of the chancery will revert to a traditional set up with the chancellor acting as "Chief of Staff" for His Beatitude. The secretary and treasurer will report up through the chancellor. Recent structuring had all officers reporting directly to the Metropolitan rather than through the chancellor. Metropolitan Tikhon is in the process of selecting a chancellor which will be presented to the MC for endorsement and then to the Holy Synod for their blessing.

A joint reflection on serving as delegates on the MC.

1. It is critical for the Diocese of Alaska to have representation on the MC. The delegates should be prepared to actively participate on committees. While the meetings can be lengthy, the relationships fostered during the council are significant.
2. The outgoing delegates should help the incoming delegates to assist in their transition onto the MC. The learning curve can be steep.
3. Discussion between the delegates and His Grace, Bishop David should take place prior to each session of the MC. The delegates are there to vote on behalf of and request information for the benefit of the diocese. Input from Vladyka would assist the delegates in their responsibilities.
4. Reporting to the Diocesan Council and at the annual Diocesan Assembly from the MC delegates should continue.

It has been a wonderful experience serving as the clergy and lay delegates on the MC for the previous seven years. It is our opinion that the MC is a well-organized advisory board with a leader that values input from all of the members. Continued participation from the Diocese of Alaska is important especially during these next years as the planning for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the canonization of St. Herman as well as the granting of autocephaly to the OCA continue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Subdeacon Patrick Pletnikoff  
Archpriest John Dunlop

October 1, 2018