

**METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPORT TO 49<sup>TH</sup> DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY**  
**THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA**  
**ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**  
**ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH, BETHLEHEM**

Since the 48<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the Metropolitan Council formally met in the spring and the fall of 2012 and informally, in committee meetings and teleconferences throughout the year. The Diocese of Eastern PA is currently represented on the Charity, Ethics, Internal Governance, and Financial Development Committees; chairing two of the four. The Financial Development Committee, strongly supported by the diocesan representatives, crafted an appeal to raise funds to assist clergy from the Alaskan Dioceses with travel expenses. At the recommendation of Hieromonk David [Mahaffey] and Archpriest John Reeves to the Metropolitan Council, an appeal goal of over \$15,000 was realized to bring delegates to the 17<sup>th</sup> AAC in Parma, Ohio. The Financial Development Committee also crafted an Evangelization and Revitalization Appeal that began with the election of our new primate, Metropolitan Tikhon.

At the Fall Meeting, the Treasurer of the OCA, Ms. Melanie Ringa, presented a proposed budget with a decrease in assessment. Two versions of the decrease were presented with the final choice by the MC giving a reduction in the Central Assessment by \$10 per capita. However, the MC gave no opinion on what the individual dioceses were to do with the reduction. In fact, in the proposed budget, there was an increase included for both the Legal Department and Missions (increases of legal fees to \$120,000 and church planting grants to \$103,000). It was assumed that relief would be given to the parishes in each diocese where the per capita assessment was still collected.

There are twelve active and established committees and considerable talents that are given freely to our Central Church. Metropolitan Tikhon awarded a Gramota to Greg Nescott of the Legal Committee for his service and in recognition of his efforts leading a team of pro bono legal professionals with a combined 250 years of experience. The value of the legal council's donation of time and talent should greatly be appreciated by the entire body. One facet of the legal issues which affects the Diocese are the surveying and subdivision of lands on the lands of the former St Tikhon's Orphanage Property where the Diocesan Center resides. The Orphanage Parcel, in Wayne County, is currently being subdivided between the Monastery and the Diocese. This mandated action has been followed by both the Metropolitan Representatives, The Board of St Tikhon's Seminary and the Diocesan Council. The subdivision is planned to be approved this spring and, subsequently, the Orphanage Committee dissolved.

The Diocesan Representatives are available to answer any specific questions about the actions of the Metropolitan Council and can make available further information upon request. As always, detailed minutes are available for the Metropolitan Council on [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)

Respectfully Submitted

**Hieromonk David (Mahaffey)**

Diocesan Clergy Representative

**David M. Yeosock, PE**

Diocesan Lay Representative