

2018 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY Metropolitan Council Report

It is an honor to serve as your representatives on the Metropolitan Council. The Council met two times in February and September, 2017 at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Lloyd Harbor, NY. The theme and focus of both meetings was planning for the future of the OCA. Minutes, summaries, and photos of those meetings are available on the OCA website.

His Beatitude continues to expand his "Four Pillar" plan (Spiritual Life, Stewardship, Relationships with others, and Outreach/Evangelism). He presented this with his explanations in a booklet for that he hopes to have published for distribution at the AAC in St. Louis this July.

The National Church continues to be served by Melanie Ringa as treasurer, who is doing an excellent job. 2016 ended with a \$26k surplus. Support from the Dioceses was \$29k higher than budgeted with each of the ethnic dioceses increasing their support. Efforts continue to reduce Chancery expenses. The Finance Committee presented the proposed 2018 Operating Budget of \$1.75 mil. This is a reduction from the 2017 Budget of \$1.77 mil (2016 was \$1.7 mil).

Plans for the upcoming AAC in St. Louis are in full swing. The theme for the All American Council (AAC) is ***For the Life for the World*** based on the book by the Very Rev. Alexander Schmemmann. Discussion regarding the planning of the events for the AAC were discussed including a Youth Program, FOCA meeting, and presenting the IV Pillars to the attendees. Registration opened on January 1, and will close on June 29, 2018. The Agenda was presented and approved by the council and submitted to the Holy Synod for their final approval and blessing.

An effort continues to get the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America (SOCA) up and running. Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak works part time to raise money for this fundraising arm of the OCA.

The next meeting is scheduled for the first week of February, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted January 15, 2018

V.Rev. Timothy Hojnicky, Diocesan Clergy Representative
Susan Schlasta, Lay Representative