

Metropolitan Council Report

Diocese of the South Assembly

July 22, 2014

Your Eminence, Fellow Clergy and Lay of the Diocese of the South,

The Metropolitan Council Spring Session convened on February 4th, 2014 amid a serious winter storm in New York, resulting in several members not being able to travel to the meeting. During the course of the week, power went out on several occasions and battery powered candles had to be used to continue the discussions. A first and hopefully the last time such an event occurs.

The draft minutes from the meeting are attached and the various reports can be accessed on the OCA website. Of particular interest to members of the Diocese of the South will be the discussion on the mandatory participation in the pension plan of all clergy. This discussion has gone on for years with only slight improvement in the participation rate. While the Holy Synod agrees, in theory, that this is an important and pressing issue, there is still a lot of discussion about how to accomplish this goal with the best interests of the clergy in mind.

A second issue which deserves attention is the ongoing discussion on how to fund the central church administration and what role the diocese's play versus the central administration. The diocesan treasurers and chancellors continue to meet in an attempt to determine what is the best and most effective plan to reach the mandate of the last AAC to transition into a percentage based assessment. Part of this discussion centers on the lack of meaningful financial support from the ethnic dioceses and how to address this problem. At the meeting, the entire Metropolitan Council stressed their concern to the Holy Synod about the need to resolve this problem.

The 18th All American Council will be important in resolving several issues in the OCA and both Judge Ray Lanier and I urge you to participate in and be part of the discussions and solutions, which will better our church in many ways for the future.

Yours In Christ,

Fr Gleb McFatter