

Orthodox Church in America

Metropolitan Council
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Statement of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America

Oyster Bay Cove, NY (OCA): The Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America, meeting at its regular fall session at the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America, Oyster Bay Cove, New York on November 18, 1999 discussed the ongoing life of the Church. Among other issues it considered the current conversations with the Church's auditors, both internal and external.

At the heart of current concerns is the Primate's discretionary fund, composed exclusively of donations designated for discretionary use by the Primate, and not related in any way to the Church's operating budget. The discretionary fund has been used and is intended to be used to assist worthy charitable, medical, and missionary causes without being bound by the limited financial resources of the Church's operating budget.

To address the issues connected with the discretionary fund, the Church's legal counsel met on July 8, 1999 with the Audit Committee and with a representative of the Church's external auditor. At this meeting procedures were agreed upon to

- satisfy the confidential and discretionary nature of the account
- ensure that transactions in the account are properly documented
- enable the Church auditors to certify that the Church's financial statements meet all legal and auditing requirements

The action plan includes utilizing an independent CPA firm to perform a summary review to determine whether all disbursements from the account have been made for the purposes consistent with state and federal law.

The Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, His Beatitude, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS, as well as the Acting Treasurer of the Church, His Eminence, Archbishop HERMAN, reported that the mechanisms for carrying out the understandings of the summary review have been created under the direction of the Church's legal counsel. Archbishop HERMAN further reported that the Church's legal counsel has engaged an independent CPA firm to conduct the summary review. The Primate pledged that the summary review of the discretionary fund would be a regular part of the audit process.

The Metropolitan Council concurs with the steps that are being taken for the appropriate summary review of the discretionary fund of the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. The statement by our Primate that "we will do what is right, and we will do it in the right way" received the unanimous support of the Council.