

In October 1997 I discovered for the first time that a \$250,000 check from one of the above mentioned foundations was not deposited into the audited bank accounts of the Orthodox Church in America. I consequently refused to prepare any further financial reports on the St. Catherine's Project for Mr. Andreas and prepared a confidential memo for Metropolitan Theodosius, Father Kondratick and Father Strikis – a memo which in hind-site cemented my removal. The memo detailed the consequences of not recording the grant money into the audited accounts of the church, and concluded with the following:

While I overlook a great amount of indiscretion with regard to the accountability of the finances of the Church, I cannot and will not tolerate a blatant disregard for our system of checks and balances. Further, while I recognize that Protopresbyter Robert S. Kondratick is my direct superior, I, as the Treasurer, am still responsible, before the All-American Council, the Holy Synod of Bishops, the Metropolitan Council and the faithful of the Church for reporting on the financial integrity of the Orthodox Church in America. Your action compromises my ability to truthfully report on the financial integrity of the Church.

The tension only continued to grow over the coming year as no improvement was shown in the area of financial transparency. Each requisition for a petty cash check and each American Express statement without adequate back-up turned into a shouting match and door slamming event with Father Kondratick. I further refused to sign off on the financial reports of the Orthodox Church in America for the years 1997 and 1998 and while the audits still took place, only draft reports were submitted to the administrative bodies of the church. I was further forbidden to include in my reports to the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council any mention of the managerial comments made by the auditors during this period of time. And, I was still driven by the idea that I could solve this problem without taking it “*outside of the family*”.

-Protodeacon Eric A. Wheeler

A Call for Accountability, 10/17/2005 (Excerpted from page 3)