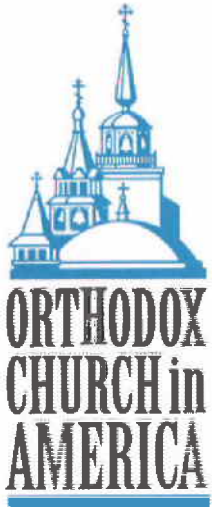


MEMORANDUM from the Statute Revision Task Force regarding the Release of the Final Draft Version of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America

The current Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, amended by subsequent All-American Councils, was adopted at the end of the Second All-American Council in October 19, 1971. With the passing of forty-three years, the Holy Synod of Bishops recognized that the time had come to provide the Church with a new governing document that would more accurately reflect the life and practice of the Church in those areas governed by the Statute. To this end, the Statute Revision Task Force was established by the Holy Synod at its October 2013 meeting to provide a draft of a revised statute that would eventually be brought to the Church at large for review and input prior to the anticipated adoption of a final version at the 18th All American Council, to be held in Atlanta, GA, in July 2015.



Since its appointment in October 2013, the Statute Revision Task Force, comprised of Archbishop Nathaniel, Bishop Daniel, Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Archpriest John Erickson, Archpriest Dmitri Cozby, Priest Ioan Cozma, Judge Ray Lanier, and Mr. Alexis Liberovsky, has met in plenary session on five separate occasions and has continued its work between those sessions through small group meetings, conference calls, and email communication.

At the outset, it was determined that the work of the Task Force would be transparent. To this end, regular reports on this work have been posted on the Church's website at oca.org. Also during the revision process, reports by individual members of the Task Force have been presented to the Church at various levels: the Holy Synod, the Metropolitan Council, Diocesan Assemblies, Deanery and Parish meetings, clergy gatherings, etc.

One of the guiding principles of the Task Force's work has been that the revised statute should reflect the life, mission, and experience of the Church at this juncture in its history. This meant adding several new articles, e.g. a new article on Stavropegial Institutions and a new article on the Officers of the Church, as well as providing consistent use of language and terminology, e.g. definitions and clearly-defined composition of various church institutions, offices and bodies. Further, it was determined that in several instances more correct and precise language should be used to eliminate any potential ambiguities or the possibility of misinterpretations. We believe this has been accomplished in the current draft.

With the blessing of the Holy Synod, the Statute Revision Task Force's final draft is now being presented for review and comment. It is our hope that the work that has been accomplished will provide for a greater understanding of how we, as the Orthodox Church in America, live and work together for the building up of the Kingdom, and will enable us to more effectively fulfill the mission to which the Church has been called.

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