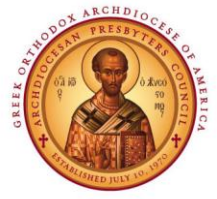




ARCHDIOCESAN PRESBYTERS COUNCIL

“BROTHERS WHO LOVE AND SERVE ONE ANOTHER”

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APC FALL 2016 MEETING SUMMARY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALL METROPOLIS CLERGY SYNDESMOI

(November 14, 2017) The APC met October 31 through November 2, 2016, at the Lansdowne Resort in Leesburg, Virginia, at the site of the APC 2017 National Clergy Retreat. This brief summary highlights the major issues addressed and motions adopted.

The APC Vision and Mission Statements

Our Vision: “Brothers who love and serve one another.”

Our Mission: “The mission of the Archdiocese Presbyters Council is to serve the clergy by edifying and supporting our priests in the ministry through spiritual growth, educational development and personal wellness. This mission is accomplished through retreats, liturgical life, continuing education, brother-to-brother outreach, ministry development and benevolence.”

Representatives

The APC representatives for the 2016-2018 term gathered for the first of the four biannual meetings, along with representatives from their affiliated ministries: the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres (NSP), the Retired Clergy Association (RCA), the Archdiocese Benefits Committee (ABC), the HC/HC Alumni Association (AA) and Hellenic College/Holy Cross (HCHC). Also present were representatives from the Archdiocese Chancellor’s office and the Center for Family Care.

Theme

The theme for the meetings was drawn from 3 John 1.1-8: “Fellow workers in the truth.” That theme applied to all aspects of the meetings and the ministry of the APC, from working with brother clergy around the Archdiocese to coordinating and cooperating with all parts of the Church as “fellow workers in the truth.”

The APC 2017 National Clergy Retreat

- Location: Leesburg, Virginia
- Dates: The Retreat will be held Tuesday, October 31-Friday, November 3, 2017
- Cost: \$350 early registration until September 30, 2017.
- Facility: The meetings were held at the same location chosen for the APC 2017 National Clergy Retreat. The site was evaluated with great enthusiasm by the APC representatives. The Lansdowne management and staff have offered the APC gracious hospitality and are looking forward to hosting all the retreat participants. They have also offered a very favorable rate of \$155 for single or double occupancy.
- Theme: The theme for the Retreat is “Fathers. Brothers. Men of God.” and the sub-theme is “Time to Power Up.”
- Speakers, Schedule, Features: The Retreat Team is working on all those details and will be announcing them as they develop. Dates to watch for:

January 15 – Promotional Video; April 19 – Brochure mailed; May 1 – Retreat Registration and Hotel Reservations open; September 30 – Early Registration expires.

- Attendance Goals: The APC continues to pursue its goal of having every clergyman of the Archdiocese attend the Retreat. Each Metropolis has set a target number for attendance.

“Fellow Workers” with Hellenic College/Holy Cross

Father Christopher Metropulos, President of HC/HC, presented a formal tentative proposal titled, **“Initial Project Plan Office of Continuing Education and Online Learning (Distance Education) Program.”** The goal of this project is to provide continuing education opportunities for both clergy and laity through distance learning and on-campus opportunities in areas of ministry, technology, missions, parish administration, parish finances, facilities management and other areas of need in parish life and ministry. The APC and the AA will have representatives on the Continuing Education Advisory Committee to help develop and monitor the program. To emphasize its full support for this important development, the APC passed the following motion:

“The APC expresses its full support and endorsement of the new “Continuing Education Online” program at Hellenic College and Holy Cross. We commit to working closely with them to develop a curriculum and provide input to bring this program to fruition and raise it to the level of required participation for all clergy. We also pledge to promote and encourage our brothers to enroll. We look forward to a strong offering of Continuing Education for the strengthening of our clergy, our churches and ultimately our Holy Archdiocese.”

Father Christopher also encouraged all the clergy of our Archdiocese to continue promoting the school and sending the names of potential students to the Admissions Office.

“Fellow Workers” in Supporting One Another

Father Chrysostom Panos of the Archdiocese Office of the Chancellor presented a number of important issues from His Grace Bishop Andonios, including developing more effective ways of ministering to brother clergy who are either without assignments for extended periods of time or who are facing the difficult decision of transitioning out of active clergy status into lay vocations.

“Fellow Workers” with the NSP

The APC and NSP jointly administer the APC/NSP Benevolent Fund, whose purpose is to provide confidential short-term financial assistance for clergy and clergy families in need. Requests for assistance may be made confidentially to the Presidents or Vice-Presidents of either the APC or NSP. So far this year, over \$13,000 in assistance has been provided.

“Fellow Workers” with the Center for Family Care

Father Costas Sitaras offered an extensive presentation on a new project titled the **“Clergy Financial Literacy Program.”** This new effort, funded by a substantial grant from the Lilly Foundation, is designed to provide financial education, financial assistance, financial literacy, financial planning tools from seminary to retirement for all clergy. It is also designed to educate our parishes and administration concerning the financial needs of the clergy. To fully support that effort, the following motion was passed:

“The Archdiocesan Presbyters Council officially expresses its gratitude and endorsement of the ‘National Initiatives to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders’ program being developed by the Center For Family Care and offers its encouragement, participation, support and prayer for its successful implementation.”