

20931 Glenburn Terrace  
Ashburn, VA 20147  
May 15, 2011

V. Rev. Fr. Theodore Bobosh  
Chairman, Ethics Committee  
Metropolitan Council  
Orthodox Church in America  
8711 Centerridge Pt  
Dayton, OH 45458

Dear Fr. Theodore:

Christ is risen!

I wish to file a formal request that the Metropolitan Council's Ethics Committee recommend that His Grace Bishop Matthias remove for cause Mr. Mark Stokoe as the lay representative of the Midwest Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America to the Metropolitan Council.

Mr. Stokoe has disqualified himself from further service on the Metropolitan Council by publishing on his online blog ("OCANews") private correspondence from a priest's Gmail account between that priest and a retired bishop, which Mr. Stokoe obtained from a third party (perhaps surreptitiously) without the approval or knowledge of either principal. Irrespective of the contents of those e-mails or their wider ramifications for the Orthodox Church in America, Mr. Stokoe's wanton display of them for the entire world to see, accompanied by his unflattering editorial comments, constituted egregious behavior unbecoming of a member of the Metropolitan Council.

Specifically, Mr. Stokoe has violated the following provisions of two key official documents pertaining to service on the Metropolitan Council:

- That "all Metropolitan Council ('Council') members, administrative management, staff (paid and unpaid), auditors elected by the All American Council, (hereinafter referred to as 'the Governance Body' of the OCA) shall act with **honesty, integrity and openness** in all their dealings as representatives of the OCA."

[OCA *Best Practice Principles and Policies for Financial Accountability*  
(December 31, 2008): B. THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
ETHICS POLICY—II PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY]

- "The OCA Ethics Policy requires the Holy Synod, all Metropolitan Council ('Council') members, the Pension Board members, administrative management, staff (paid and unpaid), auditors elected by the All American Council, (hereinafter referred to as 'the Governance Body' of the OCA) to observe **the highest standards of honesty and integrity** in the conduct of their duties and

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responsibilities as well as to comply with all applicable laws and regulations, the Charter of the Orthodox Church in America, and the Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America.”

[*OCA Best Practice Principles and Policies for Financial Accountability*  
(December 31, 2008): F. ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY—I PREAMBLE ]

- “MC membership is an honor and privilege. It is an honor because an invitation to serve is an affirmation that the Church, whether expressed by the Dioceses or the All-American Council, is willing to entrust a significant part of its future to the judgment, work and resources of the persons elected. **The Church can bestow no greater honor than to offer such a trust to an individual it deemed worthy.** It is a privilege because the opportunity to help ensure the future of the Church is offered to very few outstanding men and women. Honor and privilege carry with them many serious obligations.”

[Orthodox Church in America Metropolitan Council, *Council Member’s Handbook* (December 2009): CHAPTER 1 (pp. 8-9)—  
Expectations of Metropolitan Council Members\*]

- “The mission of the Church as expressed in the Holy Gospel and Holy Tradition should be understood and constantly brought to mind by each Council member as his/ her own personal mission in life. Communion with God, nurtured through liturgical worship and participation in the sacramental life of the Church, is an essential aspect of Council membership. Members should grow in their knowledge of the faith, being involved in the educational life of the Church, and **live in accordance with the Gospel.**”

[Orthodox Church in America Metropolitan Council, *Council Member’s Handbook* (December 2009): CHAPTER 1 (pp. 8-9)—To Understand and Implement the Mission of the OCA in One’s Own Life]

The sections of the excerpts above that I have placed in boldface highlight the seriousness of the offense. Mr. Stokoe’s unscrupulous deed, though perpetrated on his personal but very public online blog, concerns issues of OCA governance and the roles of prominent OCA clergy and cannot, therefore, be divorced from his status as a member of the Metropolitan Council. Mr. Stokoe’s public action was gratuitous, mean-spirited, unfair, indecent, unethical, lacking moral integrity, and directly opposed to the ethos of the Gospel—a clear abuse of the “trust” placed in him and a flagrant disregard for the “highest standards” of service on the Metropolitan Council.

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I appeal to the consciences and good sense of the members of the Ethics Committee to seek a just remedy through Bishop Matthias and to restore a spirit of charity, fairness, and decorum to the Metropolitan Council.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Alexander F. C. Webster". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Archpriest Alexander F. C. Webster, PhD  
Chaplain (Colonel), U.S. Army Reserve (Retired)