

## **Minutes of the 2005 Business Meeting of the Orthodox Theological Society in America**

1. The 2005 Business Meeting of the Orthodox Theological Society in America was held on Friday morning, June 10 during the Society's 2005 Annual Meeting on the campus of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, 9-11 June 2005. The theme of the Annual Meeting was *Universal Church-Local Church: Contemporary Ecclesiological Issues and Challenges*. The Annual Georges Florovsky Lecture was delivered by Vigen Guroian with the title of "I Confess the Cross because I know of the Resurrection." The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am.
2. The minutes of the 2004 Business Meeting were approved as ammended.
3. Dr. S. Harvey, President of OTSA, opened the meeting by offering thanks to the Board of OTSA for their hard work in putting together the Annual Meeting and to St. Vladimir's for hosting this year's meeting. President Harvey especially thanked Fr. John Behr for his hard work and assistance with this year's meeting.
4. Dr. A. Vrame distributed and discussed the Treasurer's report (attached). The report was approved as presented.
  - President Dr. S. Harvey raised the issue of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society coming up in 2006 and suggested that the Society might consider utilizing some of its funds to provide a larger, more international, annual meeting in 2006.
5. Dr. A. Vrame distributed the 2005 OTSA Member Directory.
6. Dr. J. Skedros presented the following candidates for membership in the Society:

Rev. Deaon Nicholas Denysenko	Rev. Vitaly Dudkin
V. Rev. Cyprian Hutcheon	Rev. Andrew Jarmus
Rev. Charles Joanides	Brother Christopher Savage
Dn. Kevin Smith	Lucian Turcescu

All eight applicants were approved for membership.

- B. Haddad raised the issue of more stringent requirements for admission into the Society and was supportive of such a move. Fr. J. Behr noted that OTSA membership requirements have informally moved from members holding a terminal doctoral degree in theology or a related field to members holding a masters degree who are working towards a doctoral degree.
7. Fr. N. Apostola presented a draft bylaws (attached) for the Society. Fr. Apostola had been commissioned by the 2004 Annual Meeting to produce such a draft. The bylaws are necessary for OTSA to hold legal incorporation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Significant discussion followed. Motion made to adopt bylaws as amended. Motion seconded. Motion to adopt bylaws as amended passed unanimously (See #9 below).

8. Fr. N. Apostola, chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the following slate of officers for election:

President:	Fr. John Behr
Vice-President:	Dr. A. Vrame
Treasurer:	Dr. D. Katos
Secretary:	Dr. G. Roeber

There being no further nominations, the slate was elected by acclamation.

Due to time constraints, President Harvey adjourned the Business Meeting and called for the meeting to be reconvened after lunch at 1:30 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

The continuation of the Business Meeting of the Society was called to order by President Harvey at 1:30 pm.

9. Father N. Apostola presented the revised copies of the new bylaws with various typographical errors and revisions that had been discussed in the morning session corrected. These specifically dealt with Article IV Section 1 line 55; Article V Section 2 line 106; Article V section 5 line 120, Article VII section 3 line 178, Article X section 1 line 200 and Article XI section 1 line 212. All were accepted unanimously with one or two additional typographical errors noted and corrected.

#### 10. New Business

- T. Vrame showed the members in attendance the copies of One Calling in Christ, the new publication from the Patriarch Athenagoras Institute that contains most of the papers and commentary from last year's annual meeting. Tony will announce via e-mail how members can obtain copies of the book.
- President S. Harvey noted that the Board had received the invitation from the Department of Internet Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese to provide videotaping/webcasting of our meetings. The officers had strong reservations about this invitation and pointed out that we would essentially have no control of the webcast or uses it might be put to by those not present. The issue was then opened for discussion by the membership. Equally strong opposition emerged in the discussion based on the concern that the open discussion of theological issues that characterize the Society might be compromised by the awareness that the proceedings were being recorded and/or broadcast. T. Vrame also reminded everyone that the Society does work as part of SCOBA but that once we accede to the request to record or webcast proceedings, this is being done on behalf of the Church at large, not OTSA--and we do lose control over production rights or any restrictions. Some members pointed out that we might consider the request and that politically, it would be good not to refuse point blank to consider the request, but that we should limit it to the Florovsky Lecture which is its own event. Others expressed concern and were willing to consider this possibility only if explicit prior permission of the Lecturer were obtained first. Others pointed out the value of videoarchiving the Society's meetings, but the Board pointed out that this is our responsibility, and not the purpose of the offer from the Department of Internet Ministries. After much discussion, the Board was requested to contact the Department of Internet Ministries to discuss the possibility of taping or webcasting the Florovsky Lecture only, and only with the proviso that the Lecturer give prior explicit consent to

this. This request was formally put as a resolution, moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

11. In conclusion, President Harvey raised the date of next year's meeting, pointing out that this will be the 40th year Anniversary of OTSA. Various topics were proposed as the theme for the meeting, including "Care of the Soul, Care of the Person," with a possible book topic focus on Orthodox Psychotherapy. Other topics that surfaced included Religion and Science, with some special attention to bioethics, and yet others asked that an international dimension to the Meeting receive attention. Other members pointed out that the Roman Catholic/Orthodox Consultations that usually precede our meeting might provide an opportunity to devote a session to this issue that might also encompass the international dimension. Still others suggested that rather than seeking a tightly-focused theme, the anniversary meeting should provide a chance for reflecting on a wide variety of topics OTSA has looked at over 40 years. The Board noted all of these desiderata, and promised to be in touch with the membership shortly. Due to complications stemming from the date of the Catholic/Orthodox consultations, a precise date could not be fixed at this meeting. Most probably the meeting (to be held at Holy Cross Seminary) will occur between June 1st and June 7th.

12. The meeting was brought to a close at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Skedros  
Secretary

A. Gregg Roeber  
Secretary (*pro tempore*)