

The Reverend Canon Charles H. Nalls, J.D., S.T.L.
1400 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Suite 350
Washington, D.C. 20036

Writer's Direct: (202) 262-5519

September 14, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Mr. George Michalopoulos
Monomakhos Blog
George@monomakhos.com

Re: Status of Metropolitan Jonah

Dear Mr. Michalopolous:

Thank you for your inquiry on behalf of your readers concerning the status of Metropolitan Jonah. There apparently has been some confusion caused by various changes to the OCA website over the last several weeks with regard to whether His Beatitude has "retired".

As canon lawyer and counsel to His Beatitude, I can assure you and your readers that he has not in any way retired and very much remains an active Archbishop in the OCA. I very much appreciate your letting us know of this most recent error on the OCA website. I have notified the Chancellor of the OCA and asked for its immediate correction.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles H. Nalls +".

Canon Charles H. Nalls

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Archpriest John Jillions
Chancellor
The Orthodox Church in America
6850 N. Hempstead Turnpike
Syosset, NY 11791

Re: Active Status of Metropolitan Jonah

Dear Fr. Jillions:

As you know, I serve as ecclesiastical and civil counsel to His Beatitude +Jonah. We received an inquiry yesterday as to His Beatitude's status as and Archbishop, specifically as to whether he had "retired". There apparently has been some considerable confusion caused by various changes to the OCA website over the last several weeks with regard to whether His Beatitude has retired or remains an OCA Archbishop. Indeed, at one point, His Beatitude was dropped from the episcopal list, subsequently was restored and now, erroneously, appears on the retired list. *See* <http://oca.org/holy-synod/retired>

While His Beatitude stepped aside in July as Primate, he has not in any way "retired and remains" an active Archbishop in the OCA. As websites frequently are maintained by individuals unfamiliar with ecclesiastical matters, I am sure that this is simply an oversight.

However, given the increasing confusion amongst clergy, laity and the general public, I must ask you, in your capacity as Chancellor of the OCA, for an immediate correction to the website and all other clergy lists to accurately reflect His Beatitude's status as an active Archbishop and member of the Synod.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles H. Nalls +".

Canon Charles H. Nalls