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# METROPOLITAN COUNCIL of the ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

MINUTES  
Special 2021 Fall Session



Monday, November 22, 2021  
Via Teleconference

*These draft minutes are subject to approval at a subsequent meeting of the Metropolitan Council*

**PARTICIPANTS**

**CHAIRMAN**

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

**CHURCH OFFICERS (*EX OFFICIO*)**

Archpriest Alexander Rentel, *Chancellor*  
Andrew Smith, *Treasurer*

Priest Alessandro Margheritino, *Secretary*

**MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL**

Archpriest Thomas Moore  
Archpriest Kirill Sokolov  
Archpriest David Rucker

Katherine Vitko  
Lynnell Brunswig  
Mark Linnehan

**DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES**

**Diocese of Alaska**

**Albanian Archdiocese**  
Archpriest Dennis Rhodes

Donna Dimitri

**Bulgarian Diocese**  
Priest Gabriel Bilas

Bogdan Popescu

**Archdiocese of Canada**

**Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania**  
Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky

Sharon Shingara

**Diocese of the Midwest**  
Archpriest Elijah Mueller

Robert Graban

**Diocese of New England**  
Priest Theophan Whitfield

Evelyn Kreta

**Diocese of New York/New Jersey**

James P. Kornafel

**Diocese of the South**  
Archpriest Joseph Ciarciaglino

Joshua Godbold

**Archdiocese of Washington**  
Deacon Matthew Prentice

Gregory Honshul

**Diocese of the West**

David Lane, Esq.

**Diocese of Western Pennsylvania**

Ray Steeb

**ABSENT**

Archimandrite Joseph (Hoffman) (*Diocese of New York/New Jersey*)  
Archpriest Michael Anderson (*Diocese of the West*)  
Archpriest David Askoak (*Diocese of Alaska*)  
Protodeacon Jesse Isaac (*Archdiocese of Canada*)  
Dorothy Chaney (*Diocese of Alaska*)  
Priest John Parker (*Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania*)  
Mark Petasky (*Archdiocese of Canada*)

**GUESTS** (*for all meetings unless otherwise indicated*)  
Judge ER Lanier

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2021**

**A. Call to Order**

Metropolitan Tikhon opened the session with prayer and called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

**B. Agenda: Introduction & Roll Call**

Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Chancellor, welcomed the members of the Metropolitan Council and indicated that this meeting is conducted via teleconference in light of the recent in-person meeting that took place in Cleveland, OH, back in October. Fr. Rentel reviewed the agenda for the meeting consisting of three items: 1. the adoption of a resolution to engage Cheiron, Inc., for a review of the OCA pension plan and in response to the resolution approved by the Metropolitan Council at the Regular Fall 2021 Session; 2. The renewal of Church Planting Grants for 2022; 3. Two brief updates on matters that were discussed at the Regular Fall 2021 Session: a) the sale of the Westwood Property, and b) the matter of the relocation of the archives.

**C. Pension Plan Review**

Fr. Rentel called Mr. Andrew Smith, Treasurer, to present the proposal submitted by Cheiron, Inc., in response to the Request For Proposal that the Pension Plan Subcommittee of the Metropolitan Council distributed to three different companies. Mr. Smith noted that Cheiron's is the only proposal that was received. Mr. Smith answered questions from the Council.

- C.1. MOTION GRABAN/RUCKER – To authorize the Chancellor to enter into an agreement with Cheiron, Inc. to conduct a review of the OCA pension plan, as discussed at this meeting and in accordance with the Request for Proposals process recently conducted by the Pension Subcommittee of the Metropolitan Council. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **D. Renewal of Church Planting Grants**

Fr. Rentel presented the proposal for Church Planting Grant funding in 2022 totaling \$56,000, and prepared by Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Project Manager for OCA Departments. Fr. Rentel stated that both Fr. Soroka and Priest Alessandro Margheritino, Secretary, recommend that the Metropolitan Council consider an increase to the amount of the grants, which have not seen an increase since the program began. The current amounts may, in fact, be a deterrent for mission priests to apply, especially because recipients of the Church Planting Grants may not work in secular employments while receiving the Grants. Fr. Rentel anticipates that this will be further discussed and considered at the Regular Spring 2022 Session. The proposed recipients for the 2022 Church Planting Grants are: St. John the Merciful Mission, Kissimmee, FL (third year); Archangel Gabriel Mission in Azle, TX (second year); St. Cyril of Jerusalem, The Woodlands, TX (second year).

**D.1. MOTION RHODES/HOJNICKI - To approve funding for three planting grants in 2022 as presented totaling \$56,000. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **E. Relocation of the archives**

In light of the resolution approved by the Metropolitan Council at the Regular Fall 2021 Session—but deferred to the Holy Synod by Metropolitan Tikhon—regarding the relocation of the Archives, Fr. Rentel asked Fr. Margheritino to offer an update on the relocation process. Fr. Margheritino informed the Council that, upon his return from the meeting in Cleveland, he was contacted by Dr. Scott Kenworthy of Miami University, OH, who related to him that the University is no longer able to receive the OCA Archives for financial reasons. Fr. Margheritino stated that we are left with only three proposals: St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, and the proposal from the OCA Archivist, Alexis Liberovsky. Fr. Margheritino also acknowledged the recent press release from St. Vladimir's that states the vote of its Board of Trustees to relocate the Seminary to another part of the country. He informed the Council that he was recently reassured by Archpriest Chad Hatfield, President of St. Vladimir's, of the Seminary's willingness to receive the Archives even in the nearest future, in spite of the possible future relocation of the Seminary. If the Seminary receives the Archives now, they would simply be relocated along with the Seminary. Fr. Margheritino answered a couple of question from the Council.

#### **F. Update on the sale of the Westwood Property**

Fr. Rentel informed the Council that, in consultation with Fr. Margheritino, Ray Steeb, Gregory Honshul, and with the blessing of Metropolitan Tikhon, he recently signed a contract with our realtor, Fran Mazor and Compass Realty, for the Westwood Property to be listed as a commercial listing. The additional listing contract will target commercial land use buyers, thus, expanding our opportunities to market Westwood, beyond our residential listing. The contract, like the other, expires on December 31, 2021. After this date, the Chancery property will not be on the market. Fr. Rentel anticipates that the Council will renew its discussion on the next steps at the Regular Spring 2022 Session. Fr. Rentel and Ray Steeb addressed a couple of questions from the Council.

#### **G. Concluding remarks and Adjournment**

Metropolitan Tikhon thanked Andrew Smith and the Pension Subcommittee for their important and timely work in issuing the request for proposal for the pension plan review.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon declared the Special Fall Session of the Metropolitan Council adjourned and closed the meeting with prayer at 3:17 PM.