

12th All-American Council – The Orthodox Church in America

Official Minutes – First Plenary Session

Monday AM, July 26, 1999

1. Following the celebration of a Service of Thanksgiving and the singing of "The Grace of the Holy Spirit, His Beatitude, Metropolitan THEodosius declared the Twelfth All-American Council open at 11:30 AM.
2. His Beatitude called upon Mr Gregory Nescott who introduced Mr Tom Murphy, Mayor of Pittsburgh, who welcomed the delegates to the city.
3. Archbishop KYRILL, host hierarch for the Council, offered words of welcome to the delegates.
4. Bishop JOB, *Chairman of the Preconciliar Commission*, outlined the Commission's work. His Grace then introduced Mr Joseph Kormos, who reviewed the format and agenda for the Council.
5. His Grace, Bishop JOB then presented nominations for the organization of the Council, as follows:
 - a. **Clergy Vice-Chair**
Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
 - b. **Lay Vice-Chair**
Mr Michael Herzak
 - c. **Council Secretariat**
Archpriest Dennis Rhodes, *Chair*
Priest Paul Jannakos

Archpriest Andrew Morbey
Priest Basil Zebrun
Ms Mary Ann Bulko
Ms Joan Stroner
 - d. **Parliamentary Procedure**
Jonathan Russin, *Chair*
Archpriest Robert Arida
Priest David Brum
Hon Harold Kalina
 - e. **Tellers**
Archpriest Eugene Vansuch, *Chair*
Mr Sam D'Fantis
Dr Frank Kulik
Priest Ian Pac-Urar
Priest Timothy Sawchak
Mr Coy Williamson
 - f. **Credentials**
Priest William Evansky, *Chair*
Mrs. Evelyn Krempasky
Archpriest David Shewczyk
Ms Daria York
 - g. **Press and Information**
Archpriest John Matusiak, *Chair*
Archpriest John Dresko
Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky

Mr Gregory Nescott
Mr Martin Paluch
Dr George Pazin

h. **Resolutions**

Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko, *Chair*
Mr John Erickson
Priest John Garvey
Archpriest Alexander Garklavs
Archpriest George Gray
Mrs Evelyn Kreta
Archpriest Laurence Lazar
Dr Paul Meyendorff
Priest Dennis Pihach
Priest Dennis Schutte
Archpriest Constantine White
Mrs Katherine Vitko

i. **Nominations**

Dr Alice Woog, *Chair*
Mr Paul Hunchak
Priest John Memorich
Archpriest Paul Kucynda
Archpriest Gregory Pelesh
Mrs Donya Platoff
Archimandrite Nikolai Soraich
Priest Victor Sokolov
Archpriest Jaroslav Sudick

His Grace then moved the acceptance of the nominations, seconded by Fr Nicholas Boldireff. The motion was unanimously accepted.

- j. His Grace, Bishop Job then reviewed the Procedures on Resolutions, as follows:

Resolutions submitted prior to the Council shall be discussed during Plenary Sessions on topics already scheduled for discussion.

Floor Resolutions: Resolutions on topics not already scheduled for discussion in Plenary Sessions may be presented to the Chair, in writing, at any session, prior to the close of the Open Forum on Wednesday afternoon. Such resolutions will be presented to the Holy Synod, then referred to the Resolutions Committee, without debate. The Resolutions Committee will report on action taken on said resolutions during the Resolutions portion of the Eighth Plenary Session on Friday morning.

Procedures: During the appropriate Plenary Session, the Resolutions Committee will present the resolution(s), prepared prior to the Council that is related to the topic of that session. The introduction will serve to give background information and formally to place the resolution before the Council.

The debate on the resolution shall be limited to no more than six speakers, three in favor, three in opposition, speaking alternately, as recognized by the Chair. Each speaker shall be entitled up to three minutes to discuss the resolution.

Delegates may speak only once on any pending matter.

Once before the Council, all resolutions will be open for general debate and possible amendment. Amendments must be presented to the chair in writing but need not be submitted to the Resolutions Committee in advance; they must be germane.

Debate on any amendments shall be subject to the same limitations as for resolutions; when an amendment is the pending order of business, the delegates shall speak to the merits of the amendment only.

If, during the consideration of a resolution or an amendment, it appears to the Chair that a period of informal discussion would be appropriate, s/he may propose such. If the Council agrees, then a five-minute period of round table discussions will take place.

Once an amendment has been disposed of (i.e., adopted or rejected) debate shall resume where it left off on the proposed resolution, as (possibly) amended.

If appropriate, the Chair may call upon qualified persons to speak to technical points of a resolution or amendment; these interjections shall not be considered as part of the six-person debate.

All debate, resolutions, and amendments shall be conducted in accordance with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, and pursuant to these rules as supplemented by Roberts Rules of Order.

Fr Theodore Boback moved the adoption of the rules and the Council agenda, seconded by Mr Glen Mules. The motion was accepted.

- k. His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius then reviewed the procedures for nomination and elections to Church-wide positions, as follows:

In accordance with the Statute and resolutions of the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth All-American Councils, this Council must elect four persons to the Metropolitan Council and four to the Pension Board. One priest and one layman are elected for a six-year term; and one priest and one layman are elected for a three-year term. The priest and layman with the highest vote will receive six-year terms. In addition, the Council must elect two members of the Auditing Committee for six- and three-year terms. The person with the highest vote will receive a six-year term.

During the Fifth Plenary Session (Wednesday morning), nominations will be received from the floor for possible candidates (who are Council

delegates) for Church-wide positions. If the nominee accepts the position, he or she will complete and submit a biographical information form to the Nominations Committee by the close of Open Forum on Wednesday afternoon.

The Committee will meet Wednesday evening and/or Thursday morning and review the resumes of the nominees.

During the Seventh Plenary Session on Thursday afternoon, each delegate will receive a voting form. This form will include the names and resumes of all those who were nominated on Wednesday.

He then reviewed the current holders of those positions and their status:

Metropolitan Council

Archpriest Gregory Safchuk, term expires at the 13th All-American Council

Archpriest Paul Suda, term expires at this Council, eligible to run again
Archpriest Eugene Vansuch, term expires at this Council, eligible to run again

Archpriest Paul Ziatyk, alternate, term expires at this Council, eligible to run again

Dr Alice Woog, term expires at the 13th All-American Council

The Hon Harold Kalina, term expires at this Council, eligible to run again

Dr Paul Meyendorff, term expires at this Council, ineligible to run again

Mr Gregory Nescott, alternate, term expires at this Council, eligible to run again

Pension Board

Archpriest Dimitri Oselinsky, term expires at the 13th All-American Council

Archpriest John Mason, term expires at this Council, ineligible to run again

Archpriest Peter Pawlack, term expires at this Council, eligible to run again

Priest William Evansky, alternate, term expires at this Council, eligible to run again

Mr Milos Konjevich, term expires at the 13th All-American Council

Mr John Sedor, term expires at this Council, eligible to run again

Mr Gregory Shesko, term expires at this Council, eligible to run again

Mr Stephen Gidus, alternate, term expires at this Council, eligible to run again

Auditing Committee

Mr John Kozey, term expires at the 13th All-American Council

Mr Peter Junda, term expires at this Council, eligible to run again

Mr Frank Tkacz, term expires at this Council, eligible to run again

1. Fr Robert Kondratick introduced the Council participants on the dais and other Council guests.

m. Fr. William Evansky, Chairman of the Credentials Committee, presented the Committee's report, as follows:

a. Pre-registration as of Sunday afternoon, July 25:

Bishops	13
Clergy Delegates	284
Lay Delegates	267
Observers	455
<i>Total</i>	1,019

b. Attendance at this session:

Bishops	13
Clergy Delegates	230
Lay Delegates	237
Observers	154
<i>Total</i>	634

n. Mr. John Erickson introduced the report of the Statute Commission regarding the proposed amendments to the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America.

a. As background for the amendments, Fr Eugene Vansuch described the task, findings and recommendations of the Subcommittee on Membership of the Metropolitan Council.

o. Mr. Erickson introduced Statute Amendment Proposal I.

Fr. David Brum then read Proposal I, as follows:

Article X, The Parish
Section 5: Parishioners

a. Parishioners are those who, by virtue of their Baptism and Chrismation, are members of the Body of Christ and strive to live in accordance with their high calling (Eph 4:1) as Orthodox Christians. No one can be a parishioner of the parish if he openly betrays the teaching of the Orthodox Church or if he leads a life or acts in a manner condemned by the Holy Canons as incompatible with the name of Orthodox Christian.

b. A "voting member" of the parish is a parishioner [as defined in Article X, Section 5(a)] at least eighteen years of age, who partakes of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion in his home parish at least once a year; has belonged to the parish for a period as may be fixed by the parish; and regularly fulfills such financial obligations as may be established by the All-American Councils, Diocesan Assemblies, and parish.

Fr Brum then moved adoption of the proposed amendment, seconded by Fr Joseph Gallick. The motion passed.

c. The First Plenary Session was adjourned at 1:00 PM.