



**MEMBERS OF ONE
ANOTHER IN CHRIST**



**15th All-American Council of the
Orthodox Church in America
November 10-13, 2008
Pittsburgh, PA**

DELEGATE HANDBOOK

***Bring this handbook to the AAC and place
it in the notebook provided at registration***

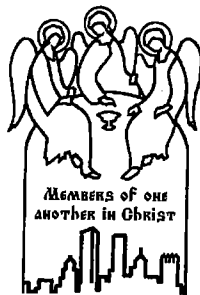


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The Preconciliar Commission has prepared this Handbook to help you to understand the role, structure, procedures and special features of the Fifteenth All-American Council of The Orthodox Church in America, to be held in Pittsburgh, PA from November 10-13, 2008. It also outlines your responsibilities as a delegate and the procedures related to your preparation for and participation at the 15th All-American Council.

In anticipation, we welcome you to the Council, and prayerfully hope that it will be a meaningful and productive gathering for The Orthodox Church in America.

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Orthodox Church in America 15th All-American Council

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Once again the Orthodox Church in America will gather together in conciliarity at the upcoming 15th All-American Council. We will come together from across this continent to Pittsburgh to discuss the important matters of the Church. Many of us may come with a sense of trepidation knowing that serious issues, that have affected the whole life of the Church, will be discussed. All of us come together, however, with a deep and abiding love for Christ and the vine that he planted with His Right Hand from His holy dwelling place here in this land. We all desire that the Church, this Church, the Orthodox Church in America, be a productive witness to the truths of Christ's Church and transparent to His kingdom.

We do not expect that all the present issues of the Church will be solved during those three days and that the Church will immediately return to wholeness. But we have every right to expect that the discussions in Pittsburgh will be enlightening, open, forward thinking and will begin the process for us to recover our original vision and will begin the healing of our church life. In order for that course of action to begin, we must prepare ourselves through prayer, fasting and reflection before we arrive. In this way we will come with the right spirit, a spirit seeking healing and a restoration to wholeness, while trusting in God's continuing and unending love for us and be confident that His will be done.

This delegate handbook is an important step in the process of a productive All-American Council. I encourage you to read it thoroughly and to discuss it in each of your parishes, deaneries and dioceses. In addition, as each report comes out, review them carefully and be prepared to ask questions or offer commentary. This will ensure that the Council will be fruitful and positive. All of us have, as members of the Royal Priesthood, the great responsibility of exercising stewardship over the Orthodox Church in America and have an obligation to attend and to give this Council our very best.

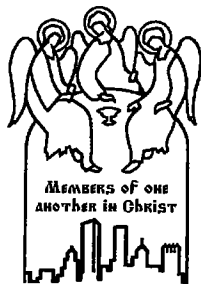
Remember that one of the greatest benefits of the Council is not the reports and discussions, the initiatives and the planning, but rather the spiritual joy of being together. We come together as the Body of Christ as brothers and sisters. We will share in the Eucharistic fellowship as a bond that is founded on the unity of the Holy Trinity. Our fellowship together is just as important as each of the plenary sessions. With that, we can say with one voice together with the Apostle Peter, "Lord it is good for us to be here." Assuring you of my archpastoral blessings, I remain

Yours in Christ:

+ Dmitri,

DMITRI
Archbishop of Dallas and the South
Locum Tenens of the Metropolitan See

"Therefore, putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry, and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:25-32)



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Orthodox Church in America 15th All-American Council

October 1, 2008

To the Participants of the 15th All-American Council

Your Eminences, Your Graces, Reverend Fathers, Faithful Monastics, Beloved Brothers and Sisters:

On behalf of the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, I welcome you with great joy and great sobriety to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for the Fifteenth All-American Council.

We gather with great joy, because it is always a joy for us to come together as a Church family; and we gather with great sobriety, because we have all been humbled by the events of the past three years.

As Orthodox Christians, we understand by experience the spiritual principle of mournful joy, by which we attain true and deep repentance. Concerning this, Saint John of the Ladder writes: *"Keep a firm hold of the blessed gladdening sorrow of holy compunction, and do not stop working at it until it raises you high above the things of this world, and presents you pure to Christ."* (Step 7:9)

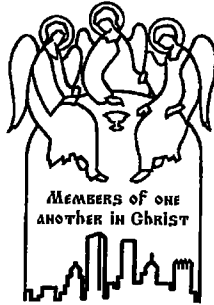
Our task during this week will be to preserve this spirit of compunction as we reflect upon the past, address serious concerns presently affecting us and pray for guidance in the future. We will also participate in the election of a new Primate for the Orthodox Church in America, join in liturgical worship and share in fellowship. In all of these labors as *"members of one another in Christ,"* our task will be to balance our joy in Christ with our sorrow over our recent struggles.

May our Lord Jesus Christ bless our deliberations at this All-American Council and may the grace of the All Holy Spirit guide us on our journey towards the Kingdom of Heaven.

With the love of Christ,

+TIKHON
Bishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania
Locum Tenens of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania

"Therefore, putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry, and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." (Ephesians 4:25-32)



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Orthodox Church in America 15th All-American Council

My Dear Brother Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

Christ is in our Midst! He is and always shall be.

As Chair of the Preconciliar Commission I warmly and enthusiastically invite you to attend and participate in the Fifteenth All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America, November 10-13, 2008 in Pittsburgh, PA.

This All-American Council includes several retreat-like elements of prayer, meditation and fellowship, so that all of our time together might be guided by a fervent desire to discern God's will for the Orthodox in America.

To me it seems most appropriate that we begin these deliberations just as we approach the Pre-Nativity Fast as a sign of divine reconciliation to which our Lord calls all of us.

The Council is our opportunity to rebuild trust in one another; revitalize our zeal for evangelization; and renew our love and faith in Jesus Christ. Our task at the Council is to elect a new Metropolitan, address our most pressing issues, and chart a course for the work of building up the Body of Christ. It goes without saying that we have weathered a difficult time that has profoundly affected everyone in the Church, on all levels, and three days in Pittsburgh cannot solve all of our problems, but it is a vital moment for a new beginning. Through the Cross and the Resurrection, God "*worked salvation in the midst of the earth*" turning the darkest day in human history into the brightest day in human history. Please join with me and your fellow Orthodox in praying that Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ would guide and strengthen us to do His work at the Fifteenth All-American Council.

I am profoundly grateful to all of the clergy and faithful who attended the Town Meetings and who thoughtfully and passionately expressed both their frustrations with, and their hopes and dreams for, the Orthodox Church in America. Also, I offer my sincere thanks to the members of the Preconciliar Commission who have worked so hard to prepare for the Council. A council destined to shape our future evangelistic mission on this continent.

I am looking forward to spending time together. Please join us in Pittsburgh for the All American Council where, by God's grace, we shall make a new beginning.

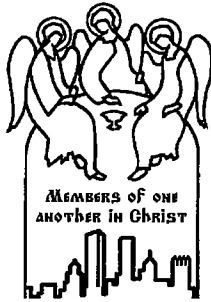
With my Love, Prayers and Blessings,

+ NIKON

Bishop of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese

Chairman, Pre-Conciliar Commission

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Orthodox Church in America 15th All-American Council

12 September 2008

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November 10-13, 2008
Pittsburgh, PA

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It was in November, 250 years ago, when British General John Forbes, Colonel George Washington, and their troops assumed possession of Fort Duquesne at the confluence of our three mighty rivers. The Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel, site of the 15th All-American Council, overlooks this historic site commonly known as, "The Point." The spectacular "Golden Triangle" view awaits you with its newly renovated Point State Park and its dramatic fountain, the largest one in America.

As we prepare for your arrival in November, Pittsburgh will be celebrating its 250th anniversary with the theme, "Imagine what you can do here!" How fitting that you, as delegates, will soon gather together, "As Members of One Another in Christ," to pray, imagine, and plan for the future of the Orthodox Church in America. Pittsburgh is a city of firsts and we are honored to be the first city to serve for the third time as host to an All-American Council.

We are a region diversely rich in religious heritage – including Holy Orthodoxy. There are well over 110 Orthodox parishes located in the immediate metropolitan Pittsburgh region. Our own Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, the first missionary diocese of North America, is humbly proud to welcome you "home."

Perhaps this will be your first All-American Council. So, to help you connect with our "City of Bridges," we have created another "bridge" of sorts – a blog – to connect you from here to wherever you are. Before your arrival, please take a moment to visit www.15aac.blogspot.com to learn more about our Steel City, its restaurants, parking, public transportation, and Council information.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our local subcommittee chairs and the many volunteers who have worked tirelessly to provide you with a positive Pittsburgh welcome and who hope to "Steel" your heart in the process.

Yours in Christ,

Archpriest William Evansky
Local Committee Clergy Chair

Matushka Myra Oleynik
Local Committee Lay Chair

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Introduction

Every three years, the bishops, clergy and lay delegates of the Orthodox Church in America gather together in Council. The Church assembles for various reasons: to pray together, to hear about the state of the Church, to share, and then to deliberate and to make decisions affecting her life. Historically, the Church gathers to elect the primate, revise the statutes, hear reports on all aspects of the Church's life and work and thus set priorities for that work. Just as importantly, we gather to pray, to learn from one another and have fellowship. This year's Council is critical as we gather to discuss the past and chart the future realized through the election of a new Metropolitan. It is hopefully a time of prayer, forgiveness, unity and honesty.

Clearly, some Councils have had very particular tasks to perform, as was the case in Orlando in 2002 when we nominated and elected a new Metropolitan. Other councils may not have such particular tasks but nevertheless are as important, for they give us the opportunity to reflect together about the life of our Church. Councils give us the opportunity to gather, as the local Orthodox Church in America, to affirm what we are called to be here in North America. Thus, the very act of gathering together every three years is an essential aspect of what it means to be the autocephalous Orthodox Church in North America.

We are gathering at this 15th All-American Council at a time of some confusion and uncertainty. As a consequence of irregular financial management, questions have been raised about the nature and structure of church governance. Are we simply a collection of parishes or a confederation of dioceses? To what extent does the Orthodox Church in America have a collective vision and a purpose that necessarily concerns all of her members? We must all ask each other if we are truly, as St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians states, "*Members of one another in Christ*"? Since we are truly "*members of one another*" then as a family we must come together in love. And as St. Paul further states in Ephesians, "*walk in love as Christ also has loved us...*"

As we gather together, let us seriously consider the unique legacy, which has been entrusted to us by our forefathers, the bishops, priests, and faithful who brought Orthodoxy to North America. Let us remember the sacrifices and efforts of those who built churches, monasteries and seminaries so that future generations would preserve Orthodox Christian traditions in this New World. Let us not forget the inspired bishops and teachers who articulated a theological and pastoral vision of North American Orthodoxy. Let us rise to the task of making that vision a reality, a light for the whole world to see.

To accomplish the great challenge set before us, we necessarily need to meet together, and this will be accomplished at the forthcoming Council. That meeting is not only an opportunity for discussions and elections, rather we gather around the Holy Table in sacramental fellowship first of all, and we perpetuate our vision by communal prayer. And our speaking and sharing with each other is likewise conducted in an atmosphere of

Christian love. The words of the Holy Apostle Paul are as appropriate for us as any occasion: *“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails...and now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”* (1 Cor 13:4ff)

Being a delegate to the All-American Council is an honor and responsibility. You have been chosen by your parish or institution to ask on their behalf at the deliberations that will occur. However, you will also function as the representative of the Council to your parish or institution. The conciliar process of arriving at decisions, made in truth and love, can only come about when we are open, honest and respectful with each other, and also willing to accept the “will of the Holy Spirit,” as it becomes manifest at the Council. For this to happen, you are encouraged to spend time in quiet prayer and reflection before the Council. Please also spend some time in preparation for it by learning about how the Council works and what will occur during its sessions. For this purpose, the Preconciliar Commission has prepared this handbook. It will help you understand our roles and responsibilities as delegates. Please spend some time reading it before your arrival in Pittsburgh.

Role of the All-American Council

According to the Statute of The Orthodox Church in America, *“the highest legislative and administrative authority within the Church is the All-American Council”* (Art. III, Sec. 1). All parishes are required to send delegates to the All-American Council.

Composed of the bishops, the parish clergy and an equal number of lay delegates, with limited provision for representation from church-related institutions, the purpose of the Council is to represent, to make present the local Orthodox Church, which is in communion with other local churches worldwide.

This year’s All-American Council is unique in that the Preconciliar Commission held a series of “Town Hall” meetings across North America during the summer months. These enabled the Commission to better understand the concerns of the Church utilizing a cross section of the membership. Parts of the Town Hall meetings were used to determine the vision, agenda and operation of the Council. While not every suggestion and comment could be used, there was a clear consensus on some critical issues. These were integrated into the planning of the All-American Council. Both before and during the 15th All-American Council, participants and parishes are asked to:

- ✓ Prepare through prayer for an election of a new Metropolitan
- ✓ Reflect on the theme of “Members of One Another in Christ” as it will guide our discussions before, during and after the Council.

- ✓ Participate in the “Members of One Another” Bible Study prepared by the Preconciliar Commission (available on the OCA website).
- ✓ Read and discuss the Study Papers written in preparation for the Council (also available on the OCA website)
- ✓ Share insights, concerns, and hopes on a variety of issues affecting the life of the Church not only on a continental level but also on a local and individual level.
- ✓ Explore and propose concrete plans and actions by which The Orthodox Church in America can recover a vision that will continue to bring the Church to all people.
- ✓ Contribute to an open, honest and transparent dialogue between clergy, laity, parishes, diocese and the Church.
- ✓ With your fellow parishioners and in your personal life, determine to pray for and support the work of the All-American Council as we collectively recover and rejuvenate the life of our Church.

It is not the goal of this All-American Council to resolve all the issues that we face as a Church but rather to set a clear path that we will all follow as we move forward for the next three years. The dialogue, initiatives, resolutions and information that are gathered from the Council will be utilized and implemented over the next three years to ensure a healthy future. We also pray that the discussions and results will enable us as a Church to restore trust and prayerfully grow into what our vision of The Orthodox Church in America is...being the autocephalous Orthodox Church in this land.

Features and Structures of the 15th All-American Council

The 15th All-American Council will be much reduced in character and time. Thus, there will be less space for exhibitors but also for formal gatherings. It is hoped that this will give it a different feel but also allow more discussion. There are a few agenda items that need to be accomplished such as the election of a new Metropolitan, reports on the work of the Central Administration and Departments, budgetary issues and the election to Church-wide offices. But it is also hoped that more issues will be dealt with in a positive and proactive manner through discussions and resolutions. Especially after hearing comments at many of the Town Hall meetings, the Preconciliar Commission was committed to planning a more open feel to this Council. Some people also felt that reports took too much time and that there was little opportunity for discussion. This AAC will see a mixture of limited reports being presented with other reports being the responsibility of the delegates to read beforehand to allow more time for discussions. There will be plenty of time provided for initiatives and resolutions to be debated.

As a note, special arrangements have been made with Ancient Faith Radio to podcast the sessions over the Internet so that the faithful in the Church may follow the Council. There will also be interviews and discussions on the events featured on the OCA website and Ancient Faith Radio. The entire Council will also be video and audio taped.

Election of a New Metropolitan

The guidelines for the nomination and election of the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America have been posted online and are in the appendix of this handbook. The Holy Synod of Bishops has approved these guidelines in order to ensure the orderly nomination and election of the Metropolitan of All-America and Canada at the 15th All-American Council. This election will select the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America to succeed His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN, whose voluntary retirement, effective on September 4, 2008, was accepted and announced to the Church by the Holy Synod. The actual procedures can be found in the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America - Article IV, Sections 3 and 4. The nomination and election is scheduled to take place at the 5th plenary session on Wednesday, November 12, 2008.

Liturgical Services

The Liturgical services are at the heart of the 15th All-American Council and form the basis for all that we do together. The Council will begin on Monday evening with Vespers. There will also be an opening Moleben at the 1st plenary session. A different aspect of this Council will be Matins with a meditation and Canon of Repentance on Monday evening. Following this Matins, the Chapel will remain open through the night for Psalm and/or Gospel reading, or for serving akathists. This all-night vigil will strengthen our resolve to conduct the Council in a true manner of spiritual integrity.

Hierarchical Divine Liturgies will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. After the Tuesday morning Liturgy there will be a special Litiya remembering the departed soldiers in honor of Veterans/Remembrance Day.

All delegates should attend the liturgical services. Singers are encouraged to help sing the services with the mixed choir. The Council will also afford us the opportunity to hear sermons and scriptural reflections from various clergy in the OCA. Time will be set aside in the evenings for confession in the Chapel.

All clergy who will be asked to serve are requested to bring gold vestments. Those clergy who desire to receive communion are asked to bring gold cuffs and stoles. Deacons will wear a full set of gold vestments when either serving or receiving communion. Clergy are asked to wear black cassock, black riassa and pectoral cross for all sessions, other ranks of clergy are asked to wear black cassock and black riassa (if appropriate) or black cassocks alone during the sessions. Lay people are asked to dress conservatively to all services and sessions as is appropriate for Church occasions.

Forums and Discussions

Built into the agenda of the 15th All-American Council are opportunities for open discussion. Each plenary session will have a set amount of time for discussion and questions. The first three plenary sessions will be dedicated to the Town Hall meetings and the contents of the Special Investigative Committee Report (SIC). Representatives from the Holy Synod will be at each of these sessions. There will be plenty of time to ask questions to those involved in the Town Halls meetings and the SIC. These discussions will take whatever time is necessary even if it runs into other allocated time. There will also be opportunities at 4th and 5th plenary sessions to ask questions of the officers of the Church after they present a short report on the work of the Central Church Administration.

A number of workshops and luncheon forums on specific areas of concern for the Church have been scheduled. A list of these will be provided in the agenda prior to the Council. People are free to choose to go any one of these forums that hold a particular interest to them. A specialist in that area will moderate the forums and there will also be an opportunity to ask questions and share experiences and information. These forums are open to all the delegates and observers. Bag lunches will be available on Tuesday for those who are attending the luncheon forums.

Statute Changes and Resolutions

As provided in the Statute of The Orthodox Church in America, the All-American Council provides an opportunity to consider Statute Amendments and Resolutions for the Church. Statute Amendments were submitted, reviewed by the Statute Committee and have been publicized according to the Statute. They are posted online and are included in the Appendix. According to the Statute, there can be no further amendments considered for this Council. The Statute Amendments will be voted on at the first plenary session since they can affect the operation of the Council.

Resolutions can be submitted prior to and at the Council itself. Those resolutions that have been submitted and reviewed by the Resolutions Committee are included as an appendix to this handbook. Other resolutions may be submitted on the floor but must be cleared by the Resolutions Committee. This committee will be appointed at the first plenary session. There will be opportunities at every session to vote on these resolutions. The procedures are found later in this handbook. The resolutions will be printed and distributed prior to the vote and will be posted on the large screens in the plenary hall during the actual vote on the resolution.

State of the Church

The Statute of the Orthodox Church in America states that the reports of the Church must be mailed thirty days prior to the Council. Enclosed in this mailing are those reports.

They are divided into a number of sections. There are the reports of the Central Church officers as well as from each of the departments, committees, commissions and institutions. The 4th plenary session is dedicated to these reports. The written reports should be read beforehand. The officers will give a short oral report at the Council and then open the floor for a panel discussion.

The Treasurer and financial team will present their reports during the 6th plenary session. The written reports are included in this mailing. Incorporated in these reports are the financial statements to date, the proposed budget and the report of the Pension Board. The financial team will also give an oral report at the 6th plenary session. There will be a chance for questions and discussions about these reports with the financial team. Integral to the reports will be the passing of the assessments to fund the budget. It is recommended that any resolutions relating to the financial aspect of the Church be held until the end of the financial report.

Among the recommendations of the Special Investigative Committee Report is the development of a strategic plan for The Orthodox Church in America. This would include an in-depth review of the Statute, a study of the relations between the Central Church and dioceses, a study of the relations between the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council and an articulation of what vision we have for our Church as we proceed into the twenty-first century. A goal would be to present a strategic plan with recommendations at the next All-American Council. Therefore, the discussions at this Council will be key to establishing and guiding this plan.

Formal Dinner

A Formal Dinner will be held on Wednesday evening. In part, this will honor the newly elected metropolitan. During the Dinner there will be a presentation by the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), followed by a special collection. This money will be used as a donation to IOCC and for a local charity supported by the clergy of Western Pennsylvania. Local faithful are also invited to the Dinner.

The dress code for the dinner will be black cassock, black riassa and pectoral cross for clergy and business attire for lay people. All delegates are strongly encouraged to attend the formal dinner, as it was included in the assessments. The procedure for the dinner reservation is that after you have made your meal choice and sent it in to the appropriate place, the dinner committee will reserve your place. Upon registering for the Council, a voucher will be given to you. You will bring it to the dinner reservations table to select a seat. If you would like to sit with specific people, bring their vouchers with you to ensure that you will sit together. The dinner reservations table will be open until 3:00 PM on Tuesday in order to facilitate preparation. Any special dietary needs or requests will be honored if submitted in due time prior to the Council and the dinner itself.

Displays and Vendors

There will be rooms designated for displayers and vendors for the delegates to visit. Displayers will normally be departments and institutions of The Orthodox Church in America that highlight the work being done in the Church. Vendors from different companies will be offering items for sale to the delegates. St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's bookstores will each have a separate room. There will also be special displays of selected SCOBA organizations.

There will be plenty of time to peruse the exhibitors and they will normally be open between sessions. A map and guide to the rooms will be available upon registration.

Instructions for Delegates and Observers

Every parish and institution of the Orthodox Church in America is to be represented at the All-American Council. Each parish is allowed by the Statute to send its rector and a lay delegate to the Council. Assigned associate priests and a corresponding layperson are also permitted to attend as delegates. Church institutions and monasteries are represented as well. Attached clergy or deacons cannot be considered delegates. If there is a question on the status of a clergyman, please speak to your diocesan bishop for clarification. All delegates are expected to register for the Council and to send the registration forms to the Chancery. These will be reviewed and forwarded to the appropriate bishop for approval. Any problems with registrations should be addressed as soon as possible. According to the Statute, each parish and institution sending delegates must be current on their assessments in order to have voting privileges. Again any questions on assessments should be addressed as soon as possible. All registration forms can be found at the OCA website. Delegates are responsible for their own hotel and travel arrangements unless indicated. There are special rates available from the Pittsburgh Hilton and FOS Tours. The delegates must handle any special requirements or needs including extended stay time at the hotel.

Upon arrival at the Council, the delegates need to register for the Council. Registration can be found in the foyer outside the Grand Ballroom on the second floor. Registration will begin at Monday, November 10 at Noon and continue into the evening. For those arriving late, registration will be moved to the secretarial room on Tuesday.

Booths will be set up alphabetically according to last name. Upon registration, you will be given a badge with entrance tickets for the plenary sessions. These tickets must be presented to the Credentials Committee representatives before each session to ensure control and rapid count. They will be stationed at the entrance doors to the grand ballroom. These tickets will be color coded to enable easy counting of different delegate status. Do not lose these tickets, as you will not be allowed entrance to any session

without them. There will be special passes issued for guests, VIPs or special observers but they do not have voting privileges.

Each delegate will receive a bag containing a notebook, additional material including maps, agendas, local information and items to assist at the plenary sessions. **It is vital that delegates bring the reports mailed to them in this packet, as they will not be available at the Council.** Each delegate must also register for their dinner seating.

Any special requests or needs can be addressed to the secretariat room during the Council. Minutes of the plenary sessions will be approved by the bishops each day and distributed at the next plenary session. Other documents to include resolutions, reports, and election material will be made available in a timely manner to each delegate at the sessions.

Each delegate is asked to come to the sessions in a timely manner prior to the session beginning and to dress appropriately. The foyer is very small and will be crowded after the sessions. There will be dedicated elevators to assist movement between floors. Delegates are asked to move from the foyer as soon as possible and to be patient. There will be signs posted throughout the hotel directing people to different locations. There will also be some work being done on the hotel during the Council but this should not interrupt or interfere with the Council itself.

Continental breakfasts will be provided following the Divine Liturgies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Delegates and paid observers will receive tickets for the Formal Dinner on Wednesday night. All other meals are one's own. A list of the many easily accessible restaurants in the area will be included in the registration packet.

Delegate Participation

In order to have delegates seated at the Council, parishes must have:

- ✓ Remitted all financial obligations to The Orthodox Church in America, including the All-American Council assessment, and
- ✓ Filed the necessary registration information with the Preconciliar Commission.

When you arrive at the Council, you must register to verify that your credentials are in order. You will receive voting cards, an official folder for your Council papers, and other information. As a delegate you are expected to be present at all plenary sessions of the Council and participate in as many workshops and luncheon discussion forums as you can. In addition, there are Church Ministries' displays, diocesan displays, bookstores, vendors and fellowship activities for you to take part in.

Plenary Sessions and Considerations of Resolutions

Two vice-chairpersons assist the presiding officer of the Council, one from the clergy and one from the laity, in conducting the proceedings of the Council in an orderly manner. A parliamentarian clarifies rules of order and matters pertaining to the Statutes. There will be a secretariat that will take the official minutes of the Council.

As provided by the Statute, a simple majority vote shall determine most decisions of the All-American Council. Voting is usually done by a show of cards, but certain matters, including elections, will be decided by secret ballot.

Both "round table" discussion and floor debate can be employed during plenary sessions. With such a large number of people participating, round table discussion enables everyone to speak freely, while floor debate moves a resolution to a decision.

For obvious reasons, floor debate must be reasonable, respectful and focused. If necessary, the following guidelines for consideration of a resolution will be used:

- ✓ Delegates to the Council may submit resolutions prior to the Council or at the Council. A resolution must be submitted in writing and must first go to the Resolutions Committee.
- ✓ The Resolutions Committee will judge the merits of the resolution and if they deem it appropriate, will recommend it to the Holy Synod. The Resolutions Committee may also deem it appropriate to consolidate resolutions and redraft them if necessary. If the Holy Synod deems the resolution appropriate for consideration by the Council, it will be brought to the floor of the Council.
- ✓ During the appropriate Plenary Session, the Resolutions Committee will present the proposed resolution(s), which is related to the topic of that session. The introduction will serve to give background information, to explain the development of the resolution, and formally to place the resolution before the Council.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The debate on the resolution shall be limited to no more than six speakers, three in favor, and three in opposition, speaking alternately, as recognized by the Chair. Each speaker shall have up to three minutes to discuss the resolution.
- ✓ Debate on any amendments to resolutions 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.

- ✓ A delegate may speak only once on any pending matter.
- ✓ If, during the consideration of a resolution or an amendment, it appears to the Chair that a period of informal discussion would be appropriate, he may propose such. If the Council verbally 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.
- ✓ In compliance with the Statute, the resolutions of each session are examined by the Holy Synod at the end of the session and voted upon. No resolution shall be valid unless approved by a vote of at least a majority of the bishops attending the Council. Their approval, or reason for disapproval, is then reported to the Council at the beginning of the following plenary session.

Roberts Rule of Order will be strictly followed during all sessions of the Council.

New Business

Any other matters may be brought up to the assembly during the time allotted for "New Business." However, these matters may not be resolved by the enactment of impromptu resolutions. Those concerns will be minuted and referred to the appropriate office or department for further study or action.

Nominations to Church-Wide Positions

In accordance with the Statute and resolutions of former All-American Councils, delegates of the Fifteenth All-American Council will elect people to positions on the:

- ✓ Metropolitan Council (1 clergy position for a six year term, 1 clergy position for a three year term, 1 clergy alternate, 1 layperson position for a six year term, 1 layperson position for a three year term and 1 layperson delegate). The persons with the highest vote total will receive a six-year term.
- ✓ Pension Board (2 clergy positions for a six year term, 1 clergy position for a three year term, 1 clergy alternate, 1 layperson position for a six year term, 1 layperson position for a three year term and 1 layperson delegate). The persons with the highest vote total will receive a six-year term.

✓ In addition, the Council will elect members of the Audit Committee (3 members, either clergy or laity), 1 for a six-year term and 2 for three-year terms and 1 alternate. The person with the highest vote total will receive a six-year term and the lowest will be the alternate.

Only delegates to the All-American Council may be nominated for election. Delegates who have reached the statutory limitation of their service in a Church-wide office are not eligible to be nominated or elected. See the Statute for these limitations.

During the 1st to 4th plenary sessions, nominations will be received from the floor for possible candidates (who are Council delegates) for Church-wide positions. If the nominee accepts the nomination, he or she will complete and submit a biographical information form to the Nominations Committee by the end of Tuesday's sessions.

The Nomination Committee will meet Wednesday and review the resumes of the nominees. Based upon this review, the Committee will then prepare a slate of candidates and present the slate to the Council during 7th plenary session to be held on Thursday morning.

During this plenary session, each delegate will receive a voting form. This form will include the names and resumes of all those who were nominated by the end of day on Tuesday. Election results will be announced at the 7th plenary session on Thursday afternoon, with the installation of members to the Metropolitan Council, Audit Committee and Pension Board at the end of the session.

After the Council

As a delegate to the All-American Council, you represent your parish to the entire body of The Orthodox Church in America giving account for your parish's life and witness, its stewardship of resources and vision for the future. Likewise, you represent The Orthodox Church in America to your parish. Most of your fellow parishioners will never have the opportunity to witness a Council at work. Your impressions, as much as the details of the decisions and resolutions, are important to share with others when you return home.

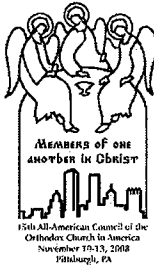
Set aside some time when parishioners can look over your materials, can hear about the Council actions which affect them, can even re-debate some of the issues based on the direction decided upon at the Council. Help your parishioners understand the implications of the Council's decisions for their own spiritual life and ministry, and for the parish community's life and witness. Bring home the message that the diocese and the Orthodox Church in America support the mission of the parish. Continue to call attention to the fruitfulness of the Council as you see articles that indicate progress and accountability in *The Orthodox Church* and other publications. Your positive attitude can serve as an example to others and help The Orthodox Church in America fulfill its mission.

Not only do you have the responsibility to share what you have seen and heard and done at the Council, but having participated in the passage of the All-American Council decisions, you also bear some responsibility for their being understood and implemented by your parish. Whether you personally voted for or against a matter, once it is enacted by the Council and approved by the bishops, it represents the "mind of the Church" on the matter and thus deserves your support as you present it to your parish and follow its implementation. At that point you are, in effect, a spokesperson for The Orthodox Church in America to your parish, bearing witness to its conciliar decision-making process.

Questions and Concerns

Any questions or concerns about the Council can be brought to the attention of the Holy Synod of Bishops, Central Church Administration, Metropolitan Council, the Preconciliar Commission or the Local Committee.

If there are concerns or issues during the Council, they may be addressed to members of the Preconciliar Commission who will meet each evening during the Council itself. Other immediate issues should be brought to the attention of the Local Committee or the Central Church Administration.



Guidelines for the Election of the Metropolitan of All-America and Canada at the 15th All-American Council in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on November 12, 2008

Introduction

These guidelines have been compiled to prepare for the nomination and election of the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. The Holy Synod of Bishops has approved these guidelines in order to ensure the orderly nomination and election of the Metropolitan of All-America and Canada at the 15th All-American Council that will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This election will select the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America to succeed His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN, whose voluntary retirement, effective on September 4, 2008, was accepted and announced to the Church by the Holy Synod. The following is a practical description, step by step, of the procedure defined in the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America - Article IV, Sections 3 and 4.

Election of the Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Whereas canonically and juridically, His Beatitude Metropolitan HERMAN has retired and the vacancy of the office was officially declared by the Holy Synod (Statute - Article IV, Section 3); and

Whereas the Holy Synod at its session on September 4, 2008 has already accepted such retirement and declared it to be effective on September 4, 2008; and

Whereas, following the retirement of His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN the Holy Synod has met and declared formally the office of Metropolitan of All-America and Canada vacant, and elected a Locum Tenens in the person of Archbishop DIMITRI to preside at the election of the new Primate; and

Whereas, the Holy Synod resolved that the election of the Metropolitan of All-America and Canada will take place on November 12, 2008, during the 15th All-American Council; and

In addition, whereas this election is to take place at a regular and not extraordinary All-American Council, the Holy Synod of Bishops has resolved that the following procedure is to be observed:

I. Opening of the All-American Council

1. On Monday, November 10, 2008, after the delegates have assembled for its first plenary session in the All-American Council Chapel, following the opening Service of Prayer, His Eminence, Archbishop DIMITRI, shall formally declare the 15th All-American Council in session.

2. Thereupon, the Council shall proceed with customary business of organizing itself in compliance with Article III of the Statute. It shall hear and act upon the report of the Preconciliar Commission, elect its vice-chairmen, the Council Secretariat, Tellers and members of its other committees, and shall hear the report of the Credentials Committee.

3. The All-American Council will conduct the business of the agenda through the fourth plenary session.

4. When the fifth plenary session opens, the Locum Tenens shall announce the appointment, with the concurrence of the Holy Synod, of one of the Vice-Chairmen to direct the 15th All-American Council in the procedure established for the nomination and the election of the new Metropolitan. For the record, the Secretary of the Holy Synod shall read the Holy Synod's decision accepting Metropolitan HERMAN's retirement and the Holy Synod's resolution formally declaring the see of the Metropolitan vacant and electing a Locum Tenens. The Locum Tenens shall direct the Council to adopt as the next item on its agenda the election of the new Metropolitan. The Council shall immediately proceed with the election as prescribed in the OCA Statute - Article IV, Section 4.

II. Election Procedure

1. The election shall begin with the Council singing the prayer, "The Grace of the Holy Spirit..."

2. The section of the OCA Statute defining the election procedure shall be read along with any additional guidelines from the Holy Synod. Questions from delegates regarding the voting procedure shall be answered.

3. Upon receiving the blessing of the Locum Tenens, the chairman of the session shall ask the chairman of the Credentials Committee to give a report on the number of delegates registered and present at this session. Based on the number of registered delegates (hierarchs, clergy and laity) in attendance at this session, the two-thirds majority required by the OCA Statute to nominate a candidate on the first vote (OCA Statute - Article IV, Section 4b) shall be established and posted. The doors of the Chapel shall be kept closed and no one will be allowed to leave or enter during the balloting process.

4. The chairman of the session shall ask all persons who are not accredited delegates but have been accredited as observers to the 13th All-American Council to remain in the specially designated area reserved for accredited observers. Only accredited delegates and accredited observers will be allowed to remain in the Chapel. All others will be asked to depart from the Chapel.

5. The chairman of the session shall then order the tellers elected at the first plenary session to receive from the Secretary and to distribute to all delegates (hierarchs, clergy and laity) of the Council, one per delegate, the ballots prepared and certified by the Secretary.

6. "On the first vote, one single name may be written on each ballot." (OCA Statute - Article IV, Section 4b). Therefore, any ballot with more than one name or with anything else written on it except the name of one candidate shall be considered invalid.

7. When voting, the delegates of the Council must remember that, in the words of OCA Statute - Article IV, Section 4,

"If not already a bishop, a candidate for the office of Metropolitan must fulfill the canonical, moral, and educational requirements stated in Article VI, Section 9:

- a. The candidate for the office of diocesan bishop must satisfy all the requirements of the Holy Canons pertaining to this highest of all ecclesiastical offices. In addition, it is preferable that he has completed a course of study in a Graduate School of Orthodox Theology and that he be conversant in the English language.
- b. If he is not already a bishop, he can be nominated only from among the monastic or celibate clergy or laymen;
- c. If at the moment of his nomination he is a layman or a celibate or widowed priest, he shall pronounce at least the first monastic vows (rasophoria) before his election and consecration as a bishop.

8. Upon completion of the vote, the tellers shall collect the ballots and place them in a box, which shall be sealed by the chairman of the session and handed over to the chairman of the tellers appointed to count the votes.

9. The tellers shall then proceed to a specially prepared place where the counting of ballots shall then take place. They shall not leave the counting place, nor shall anyone who is not a teller be at the counting place, until the tabulation is completed and the results are transcribed on a report signed by all tellers. If a candidate has received a number of votes equal to or greater than two-thirds of the total number of votes, this shall also be registered on the report presented by the tellers. No teller shall give any information about the results of the voting until the chairman of tellers is ordered to present the official report to the Council.

10. During the counting and tabulation of ballots, the Council shall sing appropriate hymns from a booklet prepared for the occasion.

11. Immediately after the tabulation is completed and the report is signed, the chairman of tellers shall place the ballots in the box, seal it, and deliver it to the Secretary of the Council after presenting his report to the Council. The box shall be in the custody of the Secretary of the Council until the election is completed, at which time the Secretary in the presence of the members of the Secretariat shall destroy the ballots.

12. Upon being officially informed by the chairman of tellers that the tabulation has been completed, the chairman of the session shall order the chairman of tellers to proceed to

the podium and to present his report to the Council. This report shall contain the names of the candidates with the number of votes received by each of them, presented in order of pluralities, greater to lesser.

13. If the report has clearly established that a candidate has received the two-thirds or more of the votes required by the Statute, the chairman of the session shall make the following declaration:

This All-American Council, acting in full compliance with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America has nominated (name and title) for the office of Metropolitan of All America and Canada and now prayerfully submits this candidacy to the Holy Synod for canonical approval and action.

14. Immediately after this declaration, the members of the Holy Synod, with the Locum Tenens acting as Chairman, proceed into the sanctuary where they elect the Metropolitan by secret ballot, the votes being counted by the Chairman. Although all hierarchs of the Orthodox Church in America proceed into the sanctuary, only diocesan bishops are voting members of the Holy Synod (OCA Statute - Article II, Section 2). Therefore, auxiliary and retired hierarchs do not participate in the vote by the Holy Synod to elect the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. If the single nominee submitted for canonical election to the Holy Synod, based on a two-thirds majority of the first vote of the Council, is a voting member of the Holy Synod, he shall not participate in the election by the Holy Synod.

15. If the nominee who has received two-thirds majority or greater is not elected by the Holy Synod, the Holy Synod shall formally state the reasons that motivated the rejection (OCA Statute - Article IV, Section 4, b).

16. If no nominee has received the required two-thirds of the ballots of the first vote by the Council, the chairman of the session shall make the following declaration:

Since no candidate has received the number of ballots required for nomination to the Office of Metropolitan of All-America and Canada, this All-American Council, in compliance with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, shall proceed with the second vote.

17. If there is a second vote, the results of the first vote have no effect on the procedure of the second vote.

18. The procedure of the second vote shall be the same as described in numbers 4 through 12 with the following difference:

"Two names shall be written on each ballot; the tellers shall not count any ballot on which fewer or more than two names are written." (OCA Statute - Article IV, Sec. 4d)

19. After the results of the second vote have been officially announced and the report of

the tellers has been accepted, the Chairman of the session shall make the following declaration:

This All-American Council, acting in full compliance with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, prayerfully submits the names of (name and title) and (name and title) to the Holy Synod for approval, canonical election, and appointment of him whom God has chosen to be the Metropolitan of All-America and Canada.

20. Immediately after this declaration and while the Council sings "O Heavenly King..." and "The Grace of the Holy Spirit has assembled us today..." and other appropriate prayers, the members of the Holy Synod, with the Locum Tenens acting as chairman, proceed into the sanctuary where they elect the Metropolitan by secret ballot, the votes being counted by the Locum Tenens. Although all hierarchs of the Orthodox Church in America proceed into the sanctuary, only diocesan bishops are voting members of the Holy Synod (OCA Statute - Article II, Section 2). Therefore, auxiliary and retired hierarchs do not participate in the vote by the Holy Synod to elect the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. If one or both of the nominees submitted for canonical election to the Holy Synod, based on the results of the second vote of the Council, are voting members of the Holy Synod, they shall not participate in the election by the Holy Synod.

21. The name of the newly elected Metropolitan is then written into a specially prepared Act to which all members of the Holy Synod affix their signatures and which is sealed with the Seal of the Church.

22. Upon the signing of the Act of Election, the Locum Tenens (or another hierarchy designated by the Holy Synod) opens the Royal Doors and, with all participants of the All-American Council standing, he reads the Act:

*In the Name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, the Trinity one in essence and undivided. It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to this Sacred Council of the Holy Orthodox Church in America to elect, on this 12th day of November, two thousand and eight, to the office of the Metropolitan of All-America and Canada (name and title).
Axios!*

23. To this announcement, the Council shall respond by singing three times: "Axios," and if the newly elect is a bishop: "Ton despotin kai archiereia imon..."

Note: If the Metropolitan-elect is not a bishop, the procedure comes to an end at this point. All necessary steps are then taken by the Holy Synod to consecrate him to the episcopacy and to enthrone him as Metropolitan.

24. If the Metropolitan-elect is already a bishop, he stands in the sanctuary while all other hierarchs of the Orthodox Church in America vested in their mantiyas stand on the solia. The senior hierarchy, vested in his mantiya and omophorion, shall stand in front of the Royal Doors and conduct the following service:

Archdeacon: Bless, Most Blessed Master.

Senior Hierarch: Glory to the Holy Consubstantial...

Council: Amen. O Heavenly King...

Archdeacon: - In peace let us pray to the Lord

- For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord

- For the peace of the whole world and the welfare of the holy churches of God...

- For our newly elected Metropolitan, His Beatitude (name)...

- That our God who loveth mankind will grant him to exercise his holy office without stain or blame, let us pray to the Lord

- That He will deliver us from all tribulation, wrath, danger or necessity, let us pray to the Lord

- Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace

Council: Lord have mercy (after each petition)

Archdeacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves, and each other and all our life, unto Christ our God

Council: To Thee, O Lord.

Senior Hierarch: For unto Thee are due...

Council: Amen

Archdeacon: God is the Lord... (tone 8 with verses)

Council: God is the Lord... (four times in response to verses)

The troparion of Pentecost Glory...Now and Ever...

The troparion to All Saints of North America

Archdeacon: Again and again, on bended knees let us pray to the Lord.

Council: Lord have mercy (3)

Senior Hierarch: O Lord our God who hast chosen Thy servant Metropolitan (name) to be the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, make him to be an imitator of Thee, the true Shepherd, Who didst lay down Thy life for Thy sheep; to be a leader of the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a reprover of the unwise, a teacher of the young, a lamp to the world. That, having perfected the Church entrusted to him, he may stand unashamed before Thy throne, and receive the great reward which Thou hast prepared for those who have contended valiantly for the preaching of Thy Gospel. For Thine it is to show mercy, and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Council: Amen

Archdeacon: Have mercy upon us... (litany)

Council: Lord have mercy (three times in response to each petition)

Senior Hierarch: Hear us, O God...

Council: Amen

Then the two hierarchs, next in seniority, shall enter the sanctuary and lead the Metropolitan-elect through the Royal Doors to the cathedra in the center of the Chapel.

Then the two hierarchs, next in seniority, shall present the second panagia, saying: Axios!

Council: Axios (three times)

The two hierarchs, next by seniority shall vest the Metropolitan in the blue mantiya, saying: Axios!

Council: Axios (three times)

The next two hierarchs by seniority shall present the white klobuk, saying: Axios!

Council: Axios (three times)

The Senior Hierarch shall present the staff, saying: Axios! (and may address brief remarks to the new Metropolitan)

Council: Axios (three times)

Archdeacon: Wisdom

Senior Hierarch: Most Holy Theotokos save us.

Council: More honorable than the cherubim...

Senior Hierarch: Glory to Thee...

Council: Glory ...now and ever... Lord have mercy (3)... Most Blessed Master bless.

Senior Hierarch: dismissal

Council: Amen. Eis polla eti despota.

Archdeacon: Diptychs of all Primates (except the newly-elected OCA Primate)

Council: repeats each petition of the diptychs

Archdeacon: To the Most Blessed (name), Archbishop of Washington and New York, Metropolitan of All-America and Canada, Many years!

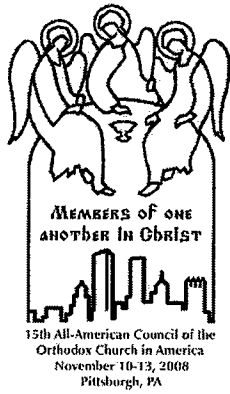
Council: To the Most Blessed (name), Archbishop of Washington and New York, Metropolitan of All-America and Canada, Many years!

25. Following the conclusion of the service, the newly elected Metropolitan may deliver brief remarks. All hierarchs, in turn, then approach him to offer congratulations, followed by all delegates and participants of the 15th All American Council.

26. The 15th All-American Council reconvenes in regular session on Wednesday afternoon, November 12, 2008.

27. The Enthronement of the new Metropolitan of All-America and Canada will take place at the Cathedral of Saint Nicholas, Washington, DC, on a date to be announced.

These guidelines will remain in effect for the election of the Metropolitan at the 15th All-American Council, unless the proposed Statute amendment on the election of the Metropolitan is passed at the Council prior to the election.



Proposed Amendments to the OCA Statute

The Commission on Canons and Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America received two proposed Statute amendments to be considered at 15th All-American Council. The proposed amendments are as follows.

Article III, Section 15 (Concerning the Auditing Committee)

The present text reads as follows.

An auditing committee (consisting of three members of the All-American Council) shall be elected at the All-American Council. Its duties shall be to audit the accounts of the Treasurer and the funds of all Church-related institutions on a quarterly basis and to report to the Metropolitan Council. Members of the auditing committee attend sessions of the Metropolitan Council only to make their reports. Vacancies in the auditing committee are filled by the Metropolitan.

The proposed amendment reads as follows.

An auditing committee consisting of three members shall be nominated and appointed by the Metropolitan Council at its first meeting following the election of Metropolitan Council members at the All-American Council. The term of service shall be from appointment to the end of the next All-American Council. Its duties shall be to audit all accounts of The Orthodox Church in America on a semiannual basis and review the audited accounts of all stavropegial institutions on an annual basis and to report same to the Metropolitan Council. The Chairman of the auditing committee shall attend sessions of the Metropolitan Council only to make the committee's reports. At least one auditor shall have relevant professional experience. An auditor shall succeed himself for only one additional term, and may only be removed for cause by a two thirds vote of the Metropolitan Council. Vacancies in the auditing committee are filled by the Metropolitan Council.

Article IV, Section 4 (Concerning the Election of the Metropolitan)

The present text reads as follows.

When a vacancy has occurred in the office of Metropolitan, the bishop senior by rank and date of consecration shall convene the Holy Synod. After the formal vote declaring the vacancy, the Holy Synod will proceed with the election of a locum tenens. Within a period not exceeding three months (unless some unavoidable necessity forces a prolongment of this period), the locum tenens will convene an All-American Council at which a successor shall be elected. If not already a bishop, a candidate for the office of Metropolitan must fulfill the canonical, moral, and educational requirements stated in Article VI, Section 9. The election shall take place according to the following order:

- a. The Council nominates candidates by secret ballot, without previous discussion of names. A blank paper ballot shall be distributed to each member of the Council before the vote.*
- b. On the first vote, one single name may be written on each ballot. If the name of a candidate is written on a number of ballots equal to at least two-thirds of the total number of members in attendance at the*

Council, his name shall be submitted to the Holy Synod for approval by majority vote; in case of rejection, the Holy Synod shall formally state the reasons which motivated the rejection.

c. If no candidate receives a number of ballots equal to at least two-thirds of the total membership in attendance, or if the person receiving that number of ballots fails to receive the approval of the Holy Synod, a second vote shall be taken.

d. In the second vote, two names shall be written on each ballot; the tellers shall not count any ballot on which fewer or more than two names are written. The names of the two candidates who receive the highest number of ballots on the second vote shall be submitted to the Holy Synod for their choice by majority vote.

Upon his election, and before the dismissal of the All-American Council, the new Metropolitan will be enthroned according to the established ritual.

The proposed amendment reads as follows.

The election (of the Metropolitan) presided over by the ranking member of the Synod of Bishops shall take place according to the following order:

a. The Council nominates candidates by secret ballot, without previous discussion of names. A blank paper ballot shall be distributed to each member of the Council before the vote.

b. Each Council member writes three names on the ballot.

c. The ballots are counted and the names of the three men receiving the most votes are announced to the Council, with the number of votes each man has received.

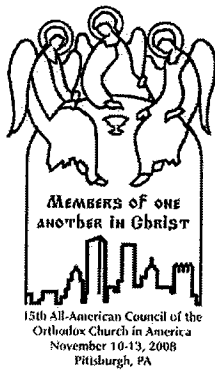
d. Should any of the men so nominated not already be a bishop, his name is given to the Synod of Bishops for canonical clearance. If the Synod determines that the nominee is not canonically qualified to be consecrated a bishop, they announce the reason for his disqualification, and the procedure for electing nominees is repeated according to the above rules until three nominees are secured.

e. The Synod of Bishops receives the acceptance of nomination from each of the nominees. Should any refuse, the procedure is repeated until three nominees are secured whose names are written on three identical sheets of paper, identically folded, put into an appropriate vessel, covered, and placed on the Altar Table.

f. After the Divine Liturgy is celebrated by the locum tenes and the Synod of Bishops, followed by a Service of Prayer, a member of the Church appointed by the Synod of Bishops picks one paper from the vessel.

g. The new Metropolitan, chosen by lot, is immediately enthroned in office according to the established ritual. Should he not be a bishop, the Synod of Bishops announces the time and place of his episcopal consecration and enthronement as primate of the Orthodox Church in America.

The Statute Commission submits these proposed amendments with no recommendation. At the same time it notes that the issues under consideration in these proposed amendments will have to be taken up again in the near future in the context of a complete revision of the Statute.



Proposed Resolutions

The Preconciliar Commission of the Orthodox Church in America received four proposed resolutions to be considered at 15th All-American Council. These have been approved by the diocesan bishops. Other resolutions may be proposed from the floor during the plenary sessions. The proposed resolutions are as follows.

Resolution #1

Subject of Resolution: Admission of Responsibility

Submitted to: Preconciliar Commission Resolutions Committee

Submitted by: Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania,

THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA,

BELIEVING that humility remains part-and-parcel of our salvation,

AFFIRMING that there remains a lack of trust between some of the Orthodox Church in America's (OCA) faithful and the Synod of Bishops,

EXPRESSES ITS HOPE that the Holy Synod of Bishops, Clergy and Lay Leaders accept their own proper responsibility for the OCA's woes,

ASKS that the Holy Synod of Bishops increase the timeliness and forthrightness of its communication with the faithful to reestablish some measure of trust, and in turn requests that the faithful continue to pray for the Holy Synod and express their opinions in public forums, e.g. the internet, in language and sentiments that are civil and dignified and befit the substance and subjects of the discussion.

Resolution #2

Subject of Resolutions: Revision of Statutes

Submitted to: Submitted to: Preconciliar Commission Resolutions Committee

Submitted by: Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA,

ACUTELY AWARE that for the past three years, the Orthodox Church in America has been undergoing a period of great suffering and confusion on all levels of Church life,

ACKNOWLEDGING that our present situation is the result of a multitude of interrelated historical, administrative and personal causes and failures therein,

SUBMITTING that one of the causes of the present crisis is the result of confusions arising from both the content and the interpretation of the Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America,

REQUESTS that the Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, through its own deliberations and by means of the previously constituted Committee on Statutes Revisions, provide the guidance to the Church for the next triennium in the area of Statutes Revision,

And further REQUESTS that particular attention be given to the relationship of the Dioceses to the Central Church Administration, and to the definitions and responsibilities of specific offices, e.g.: the Metropolitan, the Central Church Administration, the Metropolitan Council and the All American Council,

And further REQUESTS that, under the guidance of the Holy Synod, appropriate experts in canon law, church history and legal matters be brought in to offer recommendations in this process and that consideration be given to seeking such help from experts from other local churches.

Resolution #3

Subject of Resolution: Renewal of Church Life

Submitted to: Preconciliar Commission Resolutions Committee

Submitted by: Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania,

THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA,

RECALLING that our Lord Jesus Christ desires all Christians to attain perfection through a life of repentance, asceticism and virtue,

RECOGNIZING that the Holy Orthodox Church has always expected this Christ-like perfection in particular from her leaders (Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Lay leaders),

AND FURTHER RECOGNIZING that, although certain earthly leadership qualities may have been bestowed upon individuals as a natural gift at birth, Christ-like leadership qualities (such as obedience, humility and love) are more particularly acquired within a community setting,

RECOMMENDS that the Orthodox Church in America, gathered at the All American Council in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, renew her commitment and support to the following communal institutions of the Church for the fostering of Christ-like leadership:

1) Monasteries – because the health of a local church has always been equated with the health of her monastic life;

2) Seminaries – because it is in our seminaries that mortal men are trained and guided into the awesome life of the priesthood, whose work, according to St John Chrysostom, “is ranked among the heavenly ordinances;”

3) Diocesan, Deanery and Parish life – because the work of our leaders is offered for the life of the faithful which itself is lived within the beauty of our liturgical life, through community outreach and missionary work and through education and service;

4) Family life – because the patristic witness is that the family is a little Church within which we can work out our salvation,

and FURTHER RECOMMENDS that this commitment and support be offered by every member of the Orthodox Church in America, not simply through a verbal acknowledgement, but through the concrete and sacrificial offering of their lives, their time, their effort and their financial support for the health of these communal institutions of the Church.

Resolution #4

Subject of Resolutions: Assessments (Fair Share) Reduction

Submitted to: Preconciliar Commission Resolutions Committee

Submitted by: Diocese of Western Pennsylvania,

Whereas the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America gives to the All-American Councils, the authority to set the rate of assessments to fund the Church:

Be it resolved that the 15th All-American Council fix the fair share amount of each of the participating dioceses at an amount not to exceed \$50.00 per capita of the 2009 census of the participating dioceses for the next triennium.

And be it further resolved that the Metropolitan Council shall develop and prepare its budgets for the next triennium (2009-2011) at a level which is equal to no more than \$50.00 per capita of the 2009 census of the participating dioceses.

