
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL of the ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

MINUTES
2025 Special Session

Monday, April 28, 2025
Conducted by video conference



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 Alessandro Margheritino, *Acting Chancellor & Secretary*
Andrew Smith, *Treasurer*

MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL

Archpriest Justin Patterson

Elizabeth Mikhalevsky

Archpriest Christopher Foley

Lynnell McFarland

Alexis Liberovsky

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Diocese of Alaska

Archpriest Maxim Isaac

Albanian Archdiocese

Igumen Danaks (Rhodes)

Donna Dimitri

Bulgarian Diocese

Deacon Bogdan Popescu

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Archpriest Raymond Martin Browne

Diocese of the Midwest

Basil Kochan

Diocese of New England

David Zavednak

Diocese of New York/New Jersey

Archpriest David Garretson

Diocese of the South

Archpriest Peter Robichau

Joshua Godbold

Archdiocese of Washington

Gregory Honshul

Diocese of the West

Archpriest Andreas Blom

Kevin Duffy, Esq

Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania

Rebecca Danchenko

ABSENT *(for all meetings unless otherwise indicated)*

Archpriest John Baker *(Diocese of the Midwest)*

Archpriest Patrick Burns *(Diocese of New England)*

Archpriest Lawrence Margitich *(Member elected by the All-American Council)*

Archpriest Gregory Scratch *(Archdiocese of Canada)*

Priest John Parker *(Archdiocese of Western PA)*

Deacon Anthony Lekanof *(Diocese of Alaska)*

Deacon Matthew Prentice *(Archdiocese of Washington)*

Jonathan Pageau *(Archdiocese of Canada)*

Daniel Ralich *(Bulgarian Diocese)*

Danalisa Radu *(Diocese of Eastern PA)*

Mitchell VanDuyn *(Diocese of New York/New Jersey)*

A. Opening Prayer

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon led the meeting participants in prayer at 1:04 PM to open the Special Session of the Metropolitan Council conducted by video conference.

B. Call to Order

With His Beatitude's blessing, Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino called the meeting to order.

C. Agenda Introduction & Roll Call

Fr. Margheritino reviewed the attached agenda for the meeting and conducted the roll call

D. Metropolitan's Remarks

Metropolitan Tikhon conveyed paschal greetings to all and noted that this is a special meeting with a focused agenda. He noted that Fr. Alessandro is currently in Rome, where he attended the funeral of Pope Francis with Bishop Andrei on Saturday. He noted that his own travel was largely limited to his own diocese during Great Lent. He indicated that the search for a new chancellor was continuing. He expressed gratitude to Fr. Margheritino for his current work as both Acting Chancellor and Secretary.

E. Temporary Chancery Lease Renewal

Fr. Margheritino provided updates on the possible purchase of the Maury Lane property in Alexandria, Virginia for a permanent chancery and continuing developments in the steps toward the closing of the sale of the Westwood property in New York, where the chancery had been located. He then presented an addendum to the lease agreement for the temporary chancery property in Springfield, with a clause allowing for premature termination on favorable terms of the three-year lease in the eventuality of the purchase of a permanent chancery building.

E.1. MOTION GARRETSON/MIKHALEVSKY – To approve the lease renewal as presented and to empower the officers of the OCA to execute it. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Metropolitan Tikhon indicated that he confirms the motion.

F.1. 21st All-American Council Funding Resolution

OCA Treasurer Andrew Smith introduced a resolution regarding funding of the OCA Central Administration for the coming three years, which is due to be presented for consideration and approval at the 21st All-American Council. He provided background on the percentage giving rates and indicated that the provisions of the resolution have been approved by the Finance Committee and diocesan officials.

F.1. MOTION DIMITRI/BROWNE – The Metropolitan Council recommends the following funding resolution for adoption by the 21st All-American Council:

For the budget years 2026 and following, until the next All-American Council, each territorial diocese with the exception of Canada, Mexico and Alaska shall remit its annual financial obligation for the work of the Synodal Chancery at the rate of 34% of their current year “budgeted net operating revenue”.

For the budget years 2026 and following, until the next All-American Council, the Archdiocese of Canada and the Diocese of Alaska shall remit their annual diocesan financial obligation at the rate of 10% of their current year “budgeted net operating revenue”.

The financial arrangements of the non-territorial dioceses (Romanian Episcopate, Albanian Archdiocese, and Bulgarian Diocese) are based upon agreements made when they entered the OCA and are within the competency of the Holy Synod, subject to periodic review.

“Budgeted net operating revenue” is defined as all revenue budgeted for the current year by the diocese, with the exception of pass-through activity that benefits a third party or funds a special initiative (e.g., scholarship funds, capital campaigns, revenue

or expenses associated with donor-restricted funds unless the restriction is for operations). CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Metropolitan Tikhon indicated that he confirms the motion.

G. Metropolitan Council candidates at the 21st All-American Council

Fr. Margheritino initiated a discussion concerning the issuance of a news release to solicit candidates to run for the Metropolitan Council. After discussion, it was agreed to refer the matter to the Preconciliar Commission, as it would be more appropriate for the Commission to issue such a release.

H. Adjournment

In concluding remarks, Metropolitan Tikhon thanked the Metropolitan Council for its work and wished everyone to continue abiding in the joy of the Paschal season. He noted the particular increase this year in baptisms and receptions into the Church and expressed hope that this apostolic work would continue.

H.1. MOTION BROWNE/FOLEY – To adjourn the Special Session. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Metropolitan Tikhon closed the meeting with prayer at 1:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary