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# **METROPOLITAN COUNCIL of the ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA**

**MINUTES**  
2025 Special Session

**Tuesday, June 10, 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, *Chancellor*

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

Archpriest Justin Patterson

Archpriest Lawrence Margitich

Lynnell McFarland

Alexis Liberovsky

### **DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **Diocese of Alaska**

Archpriest Maxim Isaac

#### **Albanian Archdiocese**

Donna Dimitri

#### **Bulgarian Diocese**

Deacon Bogdan Popescu

#### **Archdiocese of Canada**

Archpriest Gregory Scratch

#### **Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania**

Archpriest Raymond Martin Browne

Danalisa Radu

#### **Diocese of the Midwest**

Archpriest John Baker

Basil Kochan

#### **Diocese of New England**

David Zavednak

#### **Diocese of New York and New Jersey**

Archpriest David Garretson

#### **Diocese of the South**

Archpriest Peter Robichau

**Archdiocese of Washington**

Deacon Matthew Prentice

Gregory Honshul

**Diocese of the West**

Archpriest Andreas Blom

Kevin Duffy

**Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania**

Priest John Parker

**ABSENT**

Archpriest Patrick Burns (*Diocese of New England*)

Archpriest Christopher Foley (*Member elected by the All-American Council*)

Hieromonk Danaks (Rhodes) (*Albanian Archdiocese*)

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

Rebecca Danchenko (*Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania*)

Anastasia Dushkin (*Diocese of Alaska*)

Elizabeth Mikhalevsky (*Member elected by the All-American Council*)

Jonathan Pageau (*Archdiocese of Canada*)

Daniel Ralich (*Bulgarian Diocese*)

Andrew Smith (*OCA Treasurer*)

**Guests**

Mark Hamilton (*OCA General Counsel*)

**A. Opening Prayer**

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon led the meeting participants in prayer at 7:04 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. He stated that a quorum of members was present.

**D. Metropolitan's Remarks**

Metropolitan Tikhon conveyed paschal greetings to all and noted that this is a third special session since the regular Spring Session and has a single item on its agenda. He welcomed Fr. Margheritino to his first meeting since his appointment as Chancellor. Metropolitan Tikhon indicated that he has found a suitable candidate for OCA Secretary who has been interviewed. His name will be presented to the Metropolitan Council for approval in the coming weeks. His

Beatitude noted that should the Statute amendments regarding Pension be adopted at the upcoming All-American Council (AAC), this would require action by the Metropolitan Council (MC) to implement these amendments. If the adoption does occur, MC meetings to decide on such action would likely be convened during the AAC. In regard to the legal matter being discussed today, he noted that the Standing Synod supports OCA participation in the case and the Diocese of the West has indicated its intention to participate.

#### **E. Washington State legislation**

Fr. Margheritino introduced Mark Hamilton, OCA General Counsel, who summarized the major points of his previously distributed memorandum regarding a proposed law in Washington State that would require mandatory reporting by clergy in cases of sexual and other abuses that would oblige clergy to break the confidentiality of confession. It was noted that as the law will go into effect on July 27, it is urgent to try to stop it. Other Orthodox jurisdictions have joined the lawsuit initiated by the ADF and are waiting for the OCA to join. Should the OCA join the case, the OCA would become the lead plaintiff. The OCA Diocese of the West intends to participate in the lawsuit whether or not the OCA as a whole participates. It seems likely that the legislation will be overturned on constitutional grounds whether or not the OCA participates. Extensive discussion took place with a variety of opinions expressed both in favor and against OCA participation. After long discussion of the motion below and related issues, a motion from the floor for an immediate vote on the matter received the required two-thirds majority.

**E.1. MOTION BLOM/BROWNE - In accordance with Article V, Section 7.k. of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, the Metropolitan Council authorizes legal counsel to enable OCA participation as a plaintiff in this lawsuit. CARRIED with 14 (fourteen) votes in favor, 4 (four) votes opposed, and 3 (three) abstentions.**

His Beatitude indicated that he confirms the vote.

#### **F. Adjournment**

Metropolitan Tikhon thanked the Council for fruitful discussion on a difficult issue. We must remember to be faithful to the Gospel and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit

**F.1. MOTION BROWNE/MCFARLAND – To adjourn the Special Session. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

His Beatitude closed the meeting with prayer at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,  
Recording Secretary