



21st ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL

July 14-18, 2025

## Brief Biography for Election to Church-Wide Positions

Position (check one)



Metropolitan Council



Pension Board

Name of nominee: Archpriest Christopher Foley

Parish/Institution/City, State: Holy Cross Orthodox Church, Kernersville, NC

Hierarch's Signature of approval: + Alexander

*Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise*

### Education:

AA in Missiology/Cross-cultural Studies - Toccoa Falls College - 1993

BA in Studio Art/Graphic Design with a minor in Art History - Piedmont College - 1995

MDiv - St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary - 2006

### Relevant Professional Experience:

- Served for 19 years as Rector of Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Kernersville, NC.
- During that time Holy Cross has grown to over 160 faithful and in 2024 moved into our new church.
- Successfully completed the OCA planting grant and have been able to be a full time priest since that time.
- Helped implement and manage a successful capital campaign for our new building raising over \$1.2 million.
- Helped plant Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Mission in Hickory, NC.
- Served as a clergy delegate for the All-American Council on the Metropolitan Council from 2023-2025.

### Personal Statement:

I am convinced that God can use the many experiences in our lives to serve the Church. I have certainly witnessed this in parish and church planting ministry. I hope to bring this to my service on the Metropolitan Council. I possess a diverse background with educational and work experiences in missiology, church planting, construction, the music industry, marketing, public speaking, and management. Additionally, I have 19 years of parish experience during which I have learned a great deal about servant leadership, teamwork, building consensus, pastoral care, and parish administration. I have come to love the vision and mission of the OCA, seeing my own mission grow and meet the challenges of being committed to a truly indigenous expression of the Orthodox Faith in this land. I have already served one term on the Metropolitan Council, and I have grown to love the conciliar work of the church at the national level. If elected, I would be excited to continue to serve because I genuinely believe that the OCA has a unique and vital mission of continuing to bring "the fullness of the Gospel of the Kingdom to the peoples of North America."

Signed: V. REV. FATHER CHRISTOPHER FOLEY



21st ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL

July 14-18, 2025

## Brief Biography for Election to Church-Wide Positions

Position (check one)



Metropolitan Council



Pension Board

Name of nominee:

Rev. John Joseph Kotalik IV

Parish/Institution/City, State:

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Canonsburg, Penna.

Hierarch's Signature of approval:

*[Handwritten Signature]*

*Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise*

### Education:

Master of Divinity, 2015  
St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary

Graduate Studies in Philosophy, 2010-11  
Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Psychology, & History; 2009  
Seattle University, Seattle, WA

### Relevant Professional Experience:

- Rector, St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Canonsburg, PA, 2019-Present  
Led parish to grow by over 110 people in my time there by increasing frequency and fullness of liturgical services, developing outreach programs (including an active Orthodox Christians for Life ministry), and building up social/communal programs and life within the parish.
- Vice President, St. Tikhon's Alumni Association, 2024-Present
- Member of Uniform Parish Bylaws Committee, Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania, 2021-22
- Deacon & Pastoral Assistant, St. Seraphim Cathedral (Santa Rosa) and Holy Trinity Cathedral (San Francisco), 2018-19
- Administrative Assistant, OCA Diaconal Vocations Program, 2018-19
- Choirmaster, St. Spiridon Cathedral, Seattle, WA, 2015-18
- "Road Manager", St. Tikhon's Mission Choir, 2013-15
- An unofficial position; I worked with the 20+ parishes to be visited each year, as well as a 10-day trip to California, to determine travel schedules, organize lodging, and address other logistical issues. This helped me to build connections with clergy and faithful at dozens of parishes.
- Assistant Administrator of 99-unit assisted living facility in Washington State, 2008-2012

### Personal Statement

As has always been the case, the coming years are likely to bring new challenges to our Orthodox Church in America. We will have to dynamically seek to connect our Orthodox dogmatic and canonical Tradition to the pastoral needs of the contemporary Church in America, employing new ideas while remaining faithful to that Tradition. Moreover, we face the continued challenge of helping us all to fully understand our missionary calling to do the apostolic work of the Church, rather than just serving the immediate and insular needs of our parish communities. As the rector of a rapidly growing legacy parish in Western Pennsylvania, I have had to do just this, both delving into the depths of our tradition while leading and encouraging my parishioners to find new ways to help connect us with that tradition, all while helping the parish to understand our Orthodox Church in America's mission and vision. If the All-American Council would have me, I would like to bring my experiences within the parish to the Metropolitan Council, and to contribute to working to address these struggles faced by the entire OCA.

In particular, I am concerned about the impending clergy shortage facing our OCA - a challenge already besetting us here in Western PA. I would like to help find ways for our Church to address this issue, which is why I have been part of the Intentional Discipleship for Ministry discussions led by Fr. John Parker (Dean of STOTS). I hope that I might be able to bring some of these insights to the discussion of the broader Church, if called upon to do so as a member of the Metropolitan Council.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_