



St. Louis, Missouri
July 23-27, 2018

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 Nineteenth All-American Council of The Orthodox Church in America, to be held in St. Louis, Missouri from July 23 to July 27, 2018. It also outlines your responsibilities as a delegate and the procedures related to your preparation for and participation at the 19th 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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1. Letters of Welcome

Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate



May 21, 2018

To the Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, Monastics, Distinguished Stewards, and the entire family of the Orthodox Church in America:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We are but two months away from the moment when we will come together as a family, gathered by the grace of the Holy Spirit, in council and as Church, to proclaim to the world the joy that comes with being a disciple of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. My prayer is that our assembly will be pleasing to Him, and will be a witness to those searching for eternal life.

Every three years, the bishops, clergy and lay delegates of the Orthodox Church in America assemble as the highest legislative and administrative authority to take decisions on the life of our local Church. As we convene the 19th All-American Council -- the 32nd conciliar gathering of the Orthodox Church in North America -- we should reflect upon the fact that it was our former Archpastor, Saint Tikhon the Confessor of Moscow and Enlightener of our lands, who put forth the vision of a conciliar gathering of bishops, priests and laity, each using their unique talents and treasures to chart a path for the continued witness and expansion of Orthodox Christianity in North America.

When we gather in Saint Louis this July, we will consider how we -- collectively as the Orthodox Church in America, locally in our dioceses and parishes, and personally in our own lives -- might share with the world the new life that Christ offers to us and how we might contribute to the Apostolic work of bringing living water to a dry and barren world. It is my hope that all the participants, from the youngest child in the youth program to our most senior members of the clergy and laity, will leave this council prepared to engage in this work with humility yet boldness, so that all mankind might hear the Good News of the resurrection.

May the 19th All-American Council -- the fruit of much prayer and work -- be for all of us a source of inspiration and encouragement. And may it be, for our Orthodox Church in America, a dynamic resource in our ongoing quest to expand the mission of Christ and His Church "for the life of the world."

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Tikhon", with a cross symbol to the left.

+TIKHON
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Lay Chair

Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces, Delegates, and Observers of the 19th All-American Council and the 92nd National FOCA Convention gathered in St. Louis,

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

On behalf of the Diocese of the Midwest, I welcome you to this All-American Council. The Diocese of the Midwest is the host of this year's Council. I pray and hope this will be a fruitful and upbuilding experience for you by time you leave.

As I was contemplating what to write in this note, the following words from Father Alexander Schmemman's *For the Life of the World* have stuck in my mind:

"It is because of us, Christians, that the world in which we live has literally no time. Is it not true that the more 'time-saving' devices we invent, the less time we have? The joyless rush is interrupted by relaxation ('sit back and relax!'), but such is the horror of the strange vacuum covered by this truly demonic word, 'relaxation,' that men must take pills to endure it..."
(*For the Life of the World*, p. 49)

Father Alexander wrote these words in 1963 or 1973. I find them to be truly prophetic words. We live today in world of tweets, Instagrams, and snapchats. We live in a time that truly has no time, despite all the conveniences we have at our disposal to "make time," or "make life easier." But the reality is that they have had the opposite effect. People need to have things sent to them in short and sweet words. Even reading a four-page article is difficult because there is no time, or we no longer have the attention span for it. Addictions to opioids, narcotic, and prescription drugs have reached frightening numbers, with tragic deaths ensuing.

The theme of this Council, *"For the Life of the World,"* is a very timely and relevant theme. Father Alexander's book reminds us of the need to see the food of our Lord's Body and Blood, given in joy and received with gratitude, as being the center of how we can address our stewardship of time in this world. This is how we transform the world—by living this Eucharistic life. As we partake of the food of the First Day of the New Creation, we are then called to enter the time of the so-called "real world" to sanctify and reveal it to be the "very good" of creation. This is an invitation to ask ourselves, how do we understand that we are stewards of time? This is an invitation to repent and examine, How and to what end do we use the time that has been given to us? As Saint Paul says in his letters to the Ephesians and Colossians:

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:15-16)

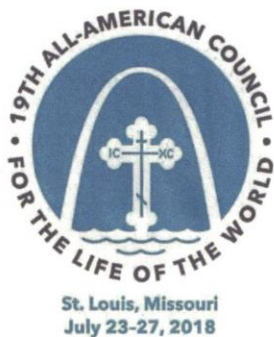
Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. (Colossians 4:5)

May the week we spend here in St. Louis equip us with the knowledge and wisdom we so greatly need in order to redeem the time that is set before us.

With love in Christ, the unworthy

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'P'.

Paul
Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest
Chair of the Preconciliar Commission



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Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces, Delegates, and Observers of the 19th All American Council and the 92nd National FOCA Convention gathered in St. Louis:

On behalf of the Local Committee here in St. Louis and the Kansas City Deanery, we welcome you to the 19th All American Council of the Orthodox Church in America!

This is the second time St. Louis has hosted an All American Council, the first being in 1989. Some things have changed since 1989 and some have remained the same. The one constant is our Clergy Lay Chair for the Council. Bob Butchko served in this capacity in 1989 so well, he returns for a second stint this year! And Fr. Timothy Sawchak, still in college in 1989, served on the Local Committee as Signage Chairman!

Amazing change has happened in the Deanery since 1989. St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Springfield, MO just began to have regular monthly services in 1989 with supply priests (Fr. Thomas Succarotte, Fr. Paul Sawchak, Fr. John Platko, and Fr. Gregory Dye—all of blessed memory) and now they are about to embark on building their own church building. Our communities in Quincy, IL; St. James, MO; Ash Grove, MO, Lawrence, KS; Joplin, MO; and Lincoln, NE did not exist in 1989 and now each of them has a resident pastor.

We pray that this will be a fruitful Council, guided by the Holy Spirit, and that each of you enjoys your visit to St. Louis!

With love in Christ,

Fr. Timothy Sawchak
Clergy Chair

Robert Butchko
Lay Chair

2. Introduction

As mandated by the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, 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 discuss the state of the Church, to share experiences and thoughts, and then to deliberate and to make decisions affecting her life. Historically, the Church has gathered 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 one of transition as the Church looks forward to the next triennium and beyond in the structuring and operation of the Orthodox Church in America. As such the forums will be built around Metropolitan Tikhon's *What Life Do We Speak?: Four Pillars for the Fulfillment of the Apostolic Work of the Church* commonly referred to as the "Four Pillars" document which will be the guiding framework for the Holy Synod to enable the Church to strategically plan for the future. The six forums will allow the Synod to hear the concerns of the faithful of the Church in the critical areas of the life of the Church. They will be assisted by a group of expert panelists who will guide the discussions. The goal of these discussions will be to enable the Holy Synod to plan initiatives in order to focus the operation of the Church.

There will also be a new finance resolution presented which has been developed in conjunction with the annual Chancellor/Treasurer meeting held each year, with the recommendation of the Metropolitan Council and the blessing of the Holy Synod. This resolution will continue to build upon the finance resolution passed at the 18th All-American Council in Atlanta which shifted the Church to proportional giving. Other resolutions will be voted on at the Council which will continue to build upon the current operation of the Church. In addition, there will be some important Statute amendments which further strengthen the revised OCA Statute which was adopted at the 18th All-American Council.

The theme of the 19th All-American Council was taken from celebrated book by Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*, which was published over 45 years ago. This book had a major impact in the Orthodox world as it began the process for liturgical renewal and engagement with secular society. The theme was chosen because the Holy Synod strongly believed that the Orthodox Church in America has a unique position in North America to actively engage the current society as the local Church in North America. The theme also fit with the "Four Pillar" documents as Metropolitan Tikhon's reflected on how the Church can more effectively engage society through the Church. It is strongly recommended that delegates to the Council take the time to read this important book as they prepare for the 19th All-American Council.

The Holy Synod had directed the Preconciliar Committee to specifically have a Youth Program at the Council as had been done in the past. There has been much planning that has gone into the Youth Program so that it mirrors the theme of the Council. It is strongly recommended that all delegates attend the final Plenary Session on Friday as the Youth of the Church will present their reflection on the theme of the Council. **Please note that the Youth Delegate area is off limits to delegates unless they have specific approved business or a youth in the program.**

Another highlight is that the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians (FOCA) will again be holding its annual convention in conjunction with the Council. There will be much information on their good work in supporting the mission of the Orthodox Church in America as well as new opportunities for individuals and parishes to participate in FOCA. All delegates are invited to attend FOCA events on the weekend before the Council. For more information see the FOCA website at <http://www.orthodoxfellowship.org>.

An addition to the All-American Council is the Diocesan reports as the respective hierarchs report on their dioceses. As such each diocese of the OCA will have an opportunity to reflect before the Council how their own diocese is working to integrate “For the Life of the World” in practical ways so that these could be shared and utilized throughout the Church. Other Church-wide departments, institutions and programs will be addressing the Council with the Council theme as the foundation of their reports.

There will also be numerous opportunities for fellowship during the Council which includes receptions, the formal dinner and other outings. Please take advantage of all that this Council has to offer. It is difficult to fit in everything into a five day program as well as address all the concerns and issues in the Church. However, this Council has made a balance between the work that needs to be done, the work that can be done and the work that should be done. Participation in the many facets of the Council will make such a balance successful.

Being a delegate to the All-American Council is an honor and responsibility. You have been chosen by your parish or institution to act 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 plenary sessions. For this purpose, the Preconciliar Commission has prepared this handbook as well as the Report Book. It will help you understand our roles and responsibilities as delegates as well as ensure you come to the Council as informed as possible. Please spend

some time reading it before your arrival in St. Louis and ensure that any question you may have are already addressed. We look forward to a successful 19th All-American Council.

3. Role of the All-American Council

According to the Statute of The Orthodox Church in America, *"The All-American Council is the highest legislative and administrative authority within the Church. The Council brings together the various elements of the Church to bear witness to her identity, unity, and mission. I"* (Article III, Section.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.

Every Council agenda is packed. This is a reality of gathering together and trying to fit as many programs and pieces together as possible. This does not mean that everyone has to participate in every event. However, it was decided that by offering as much as we can at this Council, we will give a positive picture of the OCA and also allow as many interests and special concerns as possible to be addressed. By going to the Plenary sessions, Forums, and receptions, you will be able to experience the lively and broad activity of the Church.

As preparation for the 19th All-American Council, participants and parishes are specifically asked to:

A. Prepare through prayer for the All-American Council and ask for wisdom and guidance for all participants.

B. Read the book and reflect on the theme of "For the Life of the World" as it will guide our discussions before, during and after the Council.

C. Read Metropolitan Tikhon's "Four Pillar" document and be ready to engage the topics in the six Forums.

D. Read and reflect on the Proposed Funding Resolution, Statute amendments as well as all of the submitted resolutions.

E. Share insights, concerns, and hopes on a variety of issues affecting the life of the Church not only on a Church-wide level but also on a local and individual level.

F. Explore and propose concrete plans and actions by which the Orthodox Church in America can actualize the theme on a local level.

G. Contribute to an open, honest and transparent dialogue between clergy, laity, parishes, dioceses and the Church.

H. With your fellow parishioners and in your personal life, determine to pray for and support the work of the All-American Council.

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 in the subsequent 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 expand the mission of the Orthodox Church in America, the autocephalous Orthodox Church in this land.

4. Features and Structures of the 19th All-American Council

The 19th All-American Council will try to address as many required reports as possible while still allowing for a thorough discussion of such initiatives as the Proposed Finance Resolution and other such resolutions and Statute amendments as well as the other concerns from the delegates at large. But it also seeks to allow for smaller discussions in the Forums on the “Four Pillars” which will bring back recommendations and initiatives to the Holy Synod. Thus, there will be less time for reports and more time for small group discussion. It is hoped that this will give the Council a different feel. There are a few agenda items that need to be accomplished such as the 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 from many people, 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.

A. The Six Forums

The Holy Synod has directed the Preconciliar Commission to have six forums at the 19th All-American Council. These forums are based off of the document *Of What Life Do We Speak?: Four Pillars for the Fulfillment of the Apostolic Work of the Church* authored by His Beatitude. This document will be the study guide for the 19th AAC and was sent out to all parishes and institutions prior to the AAC. Parishes and Institutions can utilize this in preparation for the forums and the actual structures of the forums will be based on this document.

The forums will be on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Each forum will be chaired by at least two hierarchs and have a panel of four to five experts in the particular area of discussion. Every delegate is expected to register for a forum on each day with a different one for the next day so that the widest possible engagement can be had. Each forum has a specific topic with guidance from His Beatitude's "Four Pillars" document in order to prepare the participants for the discussion as well as a proposed activity to take place within the forum with some expected outcomes. The ultimate goal of the forums is to enable an honest discussion with members of the Holy Synod that they can utilize in their deliberations on the future of the Orthodox Church in America. There may also be resolutions that will come out of the forums which can be presented to the Council as a whole for enacting within the Church with the blessing of the Holy Synod. The following are the outline of the six forums:

Forum 1 : Spiritual Life – How Can We Improve Our Personal Relationship to Christ ?

"To help us along our path toward healing, the Church has given us many tools to use and examples to guide us. Chief among these are the ascetical and liturgical traditions within which we participate in the Holy Mysteries. The liturgical cycles and hymns of the Church are rich and complex. Yet, there are simple movements that flow within this complexity: ascent, descent, joy and sorrow, praise and repentance. These movements are not dependent on extremes of our external existence, but are provided to bring our hearts closer to Christ in the midst of those extremes."

Metropolitan Tikhon on Pillar 1: The Spiritual Life

Guidance: Metropolitan Tikhon exhorts, *"I would like to see every parish in the Orthodox Church in America make the spiritual life a priority, not only in their personal life with Jesus Christ, but in the life of their community, by developing their outreach through services to the community, addressing our current crisis in choral and liturgical singing and growing in the bond of love."*

Activity: This forum will focus on the applying guidance on developing a stronger spiritual life to the practical application in the personal and communal life of the parish. These applications can include such areas as developing a stronger personal spiritual life but also how can the Church encourage the monastic vocation, better theological education on all levels including the parish and seminaries and providing a consistent liturgical witness. The forums should focus on specific ways in which the Church develops these and more effective applications for the future.

Bishops: Archbishop Melchisedek, Archbishop Alexander

Panel:

Forum 2: Spiritual Life – How Can We Better Care For Our Clergy?

“If the center of our lives as Christians is the holy Altar of the Church, then the center of our responsibility as members of the Church should be to care for the health of those who stand and serve before that altar and impart to us the Holy Mysteries.”

Metropolitan Tikhon on Pillar 1: The Spiritual Life

Guidance: Metropolitan Tikhon exhorts, *“It is important to renew our efforts at fostering clergy health – physical, spiritual, emotional – so that our parishes and institutions may be guided by pastors and lay leaders who have a deep understanding of the therapeutic and pastoral aspects of the Patristic tradition so that the broken people of the world might find healing.”*

Activity: This forum will focus on how we can better take care of the clergy who serve the faithful. This includes a discussion on how to foster vocations, ensure that there are properly educated clergy with the necessary skills to lead the parish and to provide for their continuing education and development while they are clergy. Such topics to be discussed are clergy compensation and benefits, programs to support spiritual and emotional renewal, as well as development and implementation of necessary pastoral skills in a parish.

Bishops: Archbishop Nikon, Bishop Paul

Panel:

Forum 3: Stewardship – How Do We Properly Steward What God Has Entrusted to Us?

“If our Church attendance is simply a routine that we follow, if our receiving of the mysteries is simply an act, if our prayer does not lead to a change in our hearts, then we are failing to give value to our very life and existence and to become

authentic human beings; if our life of prayer does not flow into care for God's creation and the recognition that it as a window to the Creator, then we fail to give proper honor to God Himself; and if we do not guard the patrimony of the Church as reflected in her saints, their experience and their writings, her teachings and her holy mysteries, then we have failed in our sacramental stewardship of that which has been given to us."

Metropolitan Tikhon on Pillar 2: Stewardship

Guidance: Metropolitan Tikhon exhorts, *"It has been frequently emphasized that stewardship is not about money, but about our responsibility to care for and nurture the gifts that have been given to us by God. My hope is that the clergy and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America might continue to build an understanding of stewardship as the sacrificial giving back of the first fruits of the many blessings that God has given each of us and that we might ensure that the talents of the clergy and the faithful are utilized in the most effective manner."*

Activity: This forum will focus on how we, as stewards of the world and the Church, can better care of that which has been entrusted to us. While this topic needs to discuss such practical aspects such as finances and caring for a parish and institution, it must be contextualized into a larger examination into the care of the person and related modern issues, Creation and the environment and the patrimony of the Church as a whole. The forum should focus on these practical issues but in the perspective of how, as an Orthodox Christian, we are stewards of the Church and the world.

Bishops: Archbishop Mark, Bishop David

Panel:

Forum 4: Relation With Others – How Can We More Effectively Communicate And Interact With The World, North America, Non-Orthodox Groups and The Community?

"The Church has always had an ambiguous relationship with the surrounding culture and the society within which she sojourns. Much has been written and recommended about the proper balance for this relationship, and much more will be written and recommended in the future. But we ought to consider the experience of St. Mary of Egypt, who, though she left the world and , in fact, did not encounter any humans or even animals for 47 years, yet is compelled to ask Zosima about that very world and its inhabitants and leaders."

Metropolitan Tikhon on Pillar 3: Relations with Others

Guidance: Metropolitan Tikhon exhorts, *"'Why can't we all just get along?' This is a refrain we hear repeatedly in our age of utopian longing for peace, love and understanding. Certainly, there is a human desire for unity, which is reflected in the past decades through songs, movies and in the general culture. And yet,*

those same decades have not seen a decrease in global violence and division. What is the approach of the Orthodox Church to this universal quest for love and peace in the world and what part can we play as Orthodox Christians and as parishes and communities?”

Activity: Certainly this area is a very broad topic which involves elements on an international, national and local level. There are a number of Pan-Orthodox, ecumenical and other bodies that the Church participates in on each of these levels. This topic not only needs to discuss the Church's involvement in these different bodies but also how the involvement of the Church advances the mission of the Orthodox Church in America. On a practical basis there should be discussion as to how the local parish can and should be involved and to what degree is that involvement. The discussion should also revolve around what are the basic principles of the Orthodox Church and how can the Church boldly and humbly champion those principles and causes.

Bishops: Archbishop Irene, Bishop Daniel

Panel:

Forum 5: Evangelization – How Can We More Effectively Establish Missions and Revitalize Our Churches

“With realistic statistics, there are about 1,000,000 Orthodox in the United States, which is a very small fraction of the 325,000,000 people in that country. In North America, the population is 500,000,000. It is time for us, as the Orthodox Church in America, to develop a strategy that will enable us to expand the mission of the Church, so increase our spiritual life and to share the healing that we have received in Christ. All of the pillars are interrelated and interdependent. But there is one in particular, this one, which is impossible to implement or act upon without some effort in the other three pillars. There can be no missionary outreach, no way to reach those who are broken, without our having first entered into the arena to become a genuine person in the image of Christ, without exercising good stewardship and without serving as a good witness to the world. It is here that we fulfill most clearly our Apostolic ministry.”

Metropolitan Tikhon on Pillar 4: Outreach and Evangelism

Guidance: Metropolitan Tikhon exhorts, *“Our goal is not simply one of recruitment and expansion, but one of spiritual growth. Spiritual growth will not take place without our efforts on every level of the Church. The third pillar is outreach and evangelism and this concerns the most central goal of the Church, which is to be Apostles to the nations and bearers of Christ's healing and salvation to a broken and hurting world.”*

Activity: This particular forum is dedicated to examining and reflecting on the task of mission and evangelism. There are certainly a number of programs on a

variety of levels in the Church and some have been quite successful. Not only should this forum discuss what does the Church mean by outreach, mission and evangelism but how they are to be practically put into practice on a parish, diocesan and Church-wide level. The creativity and success in both establishing new missions as well as revitalizing established parishes will be examined as models of what can be implemented throughout the Church.

Bishops: Archbishop Benjamin, Archbishop Michael

Panel:

Forum 6: Evangelization – How Can We More Effectively Reach Our Parishioners?

“The unfortunate reality is that we have too often abandoned our young people and failed to provide them with the nourishment – intellectual, emotional, and spiritual – to help them face the world, let alone find life within the world. The more we ask ourselves: ‘why have our children left the Church?’, the more we confirm that we have failed, not merely to keep them in the Church, but to have meaningfully engaged with them as human persons in the image of Christ. I would suggest that this is because we have simultaneously failed to understand ourselves what it means to be a person in the image and likeness of Christ, what it means to be a Christian, and how to find healing and salvation in Christ.”

Metropolitan Tikhon on Pillar 4” Outreach and Evangelism

Guidance: Metropolitan Tikhon exhorts, It involves communication, but not simply the external modes of communication that modern technology places at our disposal, but rather the prayerful Christian manner in which we shine the eternal truth of Christ through the living and preaching of the Gospel, the sharing of the Orthodox patristic and ascetical experience and the Christian care and love we extend to our neighbors, to strangers and to our enemies. It is about preaching the Resurrection.

Activity: This forum mainly deals with what may be termed “internal evangelism” or how to more effectively reach our own Orthodox faithful. This involves not just growing spiritually and liturgically in the Church but asking some difficult questions about why some faithful have left the Church. This involves an examination on how to reach the Church’s youth, the person in the pew and those Orthodox who are on the perimeter of Church life. There are a number of examples of how this has worked effectively in parishes but the focus of this forum should be a discussion on what are the challenges the Church faces and how can it more effectively respond to those challenges to spiritually grow the faithful but attract the wandering Orthodox back into the Church. A special emphasis should be what tools are needed by the faithful on all levels to confront the challenges in today’s world.

Bishops: Metropolitan Tikhon, Archbishop Nathaniel, Archbishop Alejo

Panel:

As His Beatitude concludes the “Four Pillars” documents, *“The Four Pillars I have outlined present us with some enduring goals for which we might strive as a Church so as to further strengthen the young tree that is the Orthodox Church in America. At the same time, they provide us with a guide to meaningfully incorporate and incarnate the experience of our beloved saints into our own context and our own lives. I invite you to join me in setting off upon the path of life which, though it may seem uncertain or even treacherous to us at times, nevertheless has been traveled already by those who went before us.”*

B. Liturgical Services

The Liturgical services are at the heart of the 19th All-American Council as we gather together in Council. To honor the local region, many parishes will close for the weekend prior to Council for Great Vespers on Saturday evening and a joyful Hierarchical Liturgy at the hotel on Sunday morning. The Great Vespers will be held in the Grand Ballroom on Saturday, July 21 at 5:00 PM and the first Hierarchical Liturgy will be in the Grand Ballroom of the hotel on Sunday, July 22 at 9:00 AM. All local clergy and faithful are encouraged to attend the Liturgy with the Holy Synod of Bishops. Serving clergy will be by invitation.

The Council will be integrating a number of services into its agenda. All services, unless indicated, are at the Grand Ballroom. There will be daily Vespers on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 5:00 PM. There will be daily morning Liturgy on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:00 AM served by the monastics of the Church. There will be an Akathist on Tuesday morning at 7:30 AM dedicated to the Wonderworking Icon of Our Lady of Sitka who will be present. On Wednesday morning there will be an Akathist at 7:30 AM to the Wonderworking icon of St. Anne which will also be present. On Thursday morning there will be the Hierarchical Liturgy at 8:30 AM with serving clergy by invitation. Finally on Friday morning at 7:30 AM there will an Akathist to the Tikhvin Icon, a copy which will be present. There will be daily compline for the youth each evening at 10:30 PM in which delegates are invited to attend. We will also have the relics of the different North American saints present for veneration

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 directed 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 directed to wear black cassock, black riassa and pectoral cross for all sessions, other ranks of clergy are directed to wear black cassock and black riassa (if appropriate) or black cassocks alone during the sessions. Lay people are directed to dress conservatively to all services and sessions as is appropriate for Church occasions.

C. Proposed Statute Amendments and Resolutions

As provided in the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, the All-American Council provides the opportunity to consider Statute Amendments and Resolutions for the Church. The proposed Statute amendments will be taken into consideration during the Second Plenary Session on Tuesday morning. The Proposed Finance Resolution will also be taken into consideration at the Second Plenary Session on Tuesday morning. Other resolutions will be assigned a place during all of the plenary sessions by the Resolution Committee for consideration by the Council.

Statute Amendments have a specific procedure as determined in both the Charter of the Orthodox Church in America which was passed by the New State Senate on May 24, 1972 (Laws of the State of New York, Chapter 519 of the Laws of 1972) and the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America approved at the 18th All American Council on July 21, 2015 and in effect as of November 1, 2015 (Article XVIII). Article XVII specifically outlines the procedures for amending the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America. These instruments specifically require that “A proposed amendment must be submitted to the Commission on Canons and Statutes at least ninety (90) days prior to the date set for the convening of an All-American Council. The Commission on Canons and Statutes shall consider proposed amendments and may either approve, consolidate, or return proposed amendments” (Article XVII, Section 2) Article XVII, Section 4 requires, “An amendment of the Statute requires a two-thirds majority of the delegates of an All-American Council present and voting.”

According to the present Statute there can be no Statute Amendments from the floor or otherwise considered for this Council since such floor amendments could by definition not meet the mandatory requirements of the current Statute. The attached Statute Amendments in this Handbook’s appendix represents the following of these Statutory procedures and are released in accordance with Article XVII, Section 3 which states, “Final drafts of proposed amendments, together with recommendations of the Commission on Canons and Statutes, shall be disseminated at least sixty (60) days prior to the date set for the convening of the All-American Council.”

The Statute amendments have been reviewed by the appointed Statute Commission, thereafter submitted in timely fashion and then approved by the

Holy Synod and have been publicized according to the procedures outlined in the present Statute.

Resolutions on other matters may be submitted prior to and during the Council itself. Those resolutions that have been submitted, signed by the Diocesan hierarchy and reviewed by the Resolutions Committee are included in the Appendix. Other resolutions may be submitted on the floor but must be first cleared by the Resolutions Committee. This committee will be appointed at the First Plenary Session. These resolutions must be submitted to a Committee member on the official form, signed by a hierarchy, reviewed by the Resolution Committee and approved by the Holy Synod. There will be opportunities at every session of the Council to offer and to vote on resolutions. The procedures are found later in this handbook. The resolutions will be printed and distributed prior to any vote by the Council and will be posted on the large screens in the plenary hall during the actual vote on the resolution.

D. State of the Church/Diocesan Reports

The Statute of the Orthodox Church in America states that the reports of the Church must be distributed thirty days prior to the Council. These will be posted on the OCA website. It is strongly recommended that each delegate download the reports and print them. A notebook with dividers will be provided for all delegates at the Council. The reports 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 oral reports from a number of these will be spread throughout the Plenary Sessions. The written reports should be read beforehand. The Metropolitan will give an opening address. The officers will give a short oral report at the Council and then open the floor for discussion. There will also be a report by members of the Metropolitan Council on their work and a report from the different department chairpersons. Each Plenary session will conclude with a spiritual reflection by a person chosen by His Beatitude.

Each Diocese has been asked to present a report on the work in their respective diocese. This may be done by the diocesan hierarchy or a designated person. Other reports will be presented which have been blessed by the Holy Synod as in the interest of the Church. Among such are reports on different Church-wide initiatives as well as reports by IOCC, OCMC and OCCIF.

The Treasurer and financial team will present their reports during the Second Plenary Session as these will relate to the Proposed Funding Resolution. The written reports will be distributed with the other reports. Incorporated in these reports are the financial statements to date, the proposed budgetary considerations and the report of the Internal and External Auditors. There will

also be a report by the Pension Board. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussions about these reports with the financial team. Integral to the reports will be the adoption of a resolution regarding the assessments to support the work of the Church. It is recommended that any resolutions relating to the financial aspect of the Church be held until the end of the financial report.

E. Formal Dinner/Receptions

There are two scheduled receptions to be held during the 19th All-American Council. This first reception will be on Tuesday evening at 8:00 PM at various locations in the hotel. This reception is in honor of the three OCA Seminaries and opportunity to hear about their good work and to participate in their plans for the future. The reception is open to everyone. Each Seminary will also have a booth in the display area that may be visited at any time. Alumni groups may hold a separate meeting which will be announced.

The second reception will be held on Wednesday evening at 8:00 PM at the hotel. This reception is to honor those supporters of the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America and to elicit new support for the programs and initiatives of the Church. The reception is open to everyone and people are encouraged to attend and become a Steward of the Church.

There are two special breakfasts provided for at the Council. The first is on Tuesday morning at 8:30 AM where all clergy wives (of our Priests and Deacons) are invited to have breakfast with the Holy Synod in the Regency Ballroom C. Attendance should be noted when registering.

The other breakfast is on Thursday morning after the Hierarchical Liturgy. The Youth Delegates and Volunteers will have breakfast with the Holy Synod also in the Regency Ballroom C at the conclusion of the Hierarchical Liturgy.

A Formal Dinner will be held on Thursday evening in the Grand Ballroom at 7:00 PM. It will be preceded by a reception at 6:30 PM. There will be a special program provided for the formal 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 register for the Council then proceed to the formal dinner reservation table to make your seating selection. Your meal choice should have been chosen when you registered. You will receive a ticket which should be brought to the formal dinner itself. There will be a reception prior to the formal dinner with a cash bar. The dinner reservations table will be open until 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.

F. Displays and Vendors

The Midway has been designated for vendors and displayers for the delegates and observers to visit. It is a unique open location in which all delegates have to walk through in order to get to the plenary sessions. It is open to the public. There may also be displays located throughout the area. Displayers will normally be departments and institutions of The Orthodox Church in America that highlight the work being done in the Church. The exhibit area will normally be open daily from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM beginning on Sunday and ending on Friday morning. Vendors from different companies will be offering items for sale to the delegates. St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's bookstores will each be present. There will also be special displays of selected Assembly of Bishops organizations.

A highlight of this All-American Council will be the presence of artifacts and displays from the Museum at St. Tikhon's Monastery as well as other collections from around the country. It will be located in a designated room which will be announced.

There will also be a portrait booth so that clergy (priests and deacons) can have their formal portrait taken for inclusion in the clergy directory of the website. Every clergyman is encouraged to participate and the booth will be located outside of the main ball room.

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

G. Fellowship of Orthodox Christians

FOCA will be holding its annual convention beginning on Friday, July 20 in the evening through Monday, July 23 in the afternoon. There will be numerous events that FOCA will be sponsoring that weekend including a golf tournament, excursions to St. Louis and a dinner dance on Sunday evening. Delegates are invited to participate in these events and learn about the good work of FOCA. The Plenary Session for FOCA will be held on Monday morning and is for FOCA delegates. There will also be an information booth in the display area to learn more about their work and how to open a FOCA chapter in your area. For more information go to their website at:

<https://www.orthodoxfellowship.org/national-convention/>

H. Youth Program

The Youth Program will be an exciting part of the 19th All-American Council. It will gather youth from around the Church in fellowship and education. A dedicated team of Youth Program Volunteers have put together an exciting program which combines outings to the sites of St. Louis. The program is open to all youth from Pre-School to 12th Grade. For information on the program and how to register, go <https://19aac.oca.org/> The cost for the youth program has been kept low in order to facilitate participation. Youth Delegates are responsible for their own travel and hotel rooms.

All of the youth activities will take place on cordoned off section of the hotel and is off limits to delegates. All Youth Program Volunteers have been screened and trained in Youth Protection Policies. The Youth Delegates will be signed in at the beginning of the day and signed out when the day is complete. Only approved parents or guardian will be able to sign the youth in or out of the sessions. Preschool children must be accompanied with at least one of their parents/guardians. For those sessions which are outside of the hotel, there will be a number of chaperones to ensure a proper ratio of chaperone to youth. All participants in the Youth Program will have specially designated shirts for the program.

The Youth Delegates will also have a special breakfast with the Holy Synod on Thursday, July 26 after the Hierarchical Liturgy. They will have a chance to talk to the Synod and ask questions.

The evenings of the Program will be dedicated to movies, activities, or sports. The Teens will have a special and supervised “crash room” for them to relax. The program will end each day for the older youth with Compline in the Chapel at 10:00 PM. The Seventh and final Plenary Session of the Council will have a special presentation by the Youth on how they understand “For the Life of the World.”

5. 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 corresponding laypersons are also permitted to attend as delegates. Church institutions and monasteries are represented as well. Attached clergy or deacons cannot be considered delegates with a right to vote. If there is a question on the voting status of a clergyman, please speak to your diocesan bishop for clarification. All delegates are expected to register for the Council at the 19th AAC website at <https://19aac.oca.org/>. The registrations are reviewed and approved by email from the parish rector (for lay persons) or the Preconciliar Commission

for special delegates. Once approved the names are 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 assessment according to the procedures within their diocese in order to have voting privileges. Again, any questions on assessments should be addressed as soon as possible to the diocesan treasurer. Once the delegates and observers are approved and financial status is confirmed, an email will be sent approving their attendance and participation. Delegates are responsible for their own hotel and travel arrangements unless otherwise indicated. There are special rates available from the St. Louis Union Station Hotel that will extend for three days prior to and three days before and after the Council. Upon arrival to the hotel, delegates need to go to the hotel registration to get their rooms. The individual 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 where they will get their registration name badge and bags. Registration for the Council can be found in the Midway (by the exhibits) at the far end. It will be clearly marked. Registration will begin on Sunday, July 22 at 2:00 PM and continue into the evening. Registration will be open every day. For those arriving late, registration will be moved to the secretarial room located in the Station Master/Conductor rooms on Tuesday. Registration for Youth and FOCA members will be at separate booths at the Midway apart from the AAC registration.

Registration Booths will be set up alphabetically according to last name. Upon registration, you will be given a badge with a bar code. This badge will serve as your entry into all events. The Badge will be scanned upon entrance. **There will be no Plenary Session tickets.** Volunteers will be stationed at the entrance doors to the Grand Ballroom. Each type of delegate (clergy, lay and observer) will enter by the marked doors. There will be special passes issued for guests, VIPs or special observers but these do not have voting privileges.

Each delegate will receive a bag containing a notebook with additional material including maps, agendas, local information and items to assist at the plenary sessions. **It is vital that delegates bring the reports downloaded from the website 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 Secretarial Room (Station Master/Conductor 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. There will be signs posted throughout the hotel directing people to different locations as well as an electronic bulletin board to assist in finding different locations and to post important messages.

This Council we will have various food trucks outside the Midway which will offer a variety of meal choices as a low cost option. There is also a large restaurant in the hotel as well as many places in the adjacent area around the hotel for meals in all prices ranges. They are all within walking distance. We have provided longer meal breaks so that people can move to any of the locations to eat. Delegates and paid observers will receive tickets for the Formal Dinner on Thursday evening. All other meals are on one's own. A list of the many easily accessible restaurants in the area will be included in the registration packet.

6. Delegate Participation

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

- Remitted all financial obligations to their respective dioceses and the dioceses have paid 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 the forums. In addition, there are Church Ministries' displays, diocesan displays, bookstores, vendors and fellowship activities for you to take part in.

A. Plenary Sessions and Considerations of Resolutions

Two vice-chairpersons assist the Metropolitan as presiding officer and Chair of the Council, one vice chairperson from the clergy and one vice chairperson from the laity, in conducting the proceedings of the Council in an orderly manner. This Council will have the General Counsel of the Church and an external professional parliamentarian to advise the Chair and vice-chairpersons on questions of procedure. The parliamentarian is a consultant with whom the Chair and vice-chairpersons can consult as necessary for clarification and guidance on matters of procedure and order. Decisions on such procedural matters are the responsibility solely of the Chair and vice-chairpersons. Any appeal of any decision by a vice-chairperson on such matters will be determined by the Chair,

i.e., the Metropolitan in conjunction with the Holy Synod. As with all other actions taken by the Council, the ultimate and final blessing and approval of the Holy Synod will be required. 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.

Any Statute amendments must be adopted by a 2/3 majority according to the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America (Article XVIII). According to the Statute there can be no Statute Amendments from the floor or considered for this Council. They are posted online at the AAC website and are included in the Appendix.

Resolutions can be submitted prior to and at the Council itself. Those resolutions that have been submitted, signed by the Diocesan hierarchy and reviewed by the Resolutions Committee are included in the Appendix. Other resolutions may be submitted on the floor but must first be approved by the Resolutions Committee. This committee will be appointed at the First Plenary Session. These resolutions must be submitted to a Committee member on the official form, signed by a hierarchy, reviewed by the Resolution Committee and ultimately approved by the Holy Synod. There will be opportunities at every session to offer and to vote on resolutions. 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.

The adoption of the Proposed Funding Resolution and all other resolutions and matters before the Council will be by a simple majority vote as provided for in the Statute, Article III, Section 14 which states that "Resolutions and decisions made in plenary sessions of the All-American Council shall require a majority vote..."

Both "round table" discussion and floor debate can be employed at the discretion of the presiding Chair or vice-chairpersons 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 self-evident reasons, floor debate must be reasonable, respectful and focused in terms of both content and duration. Presumptively, the following guidelines for consideration of a resolution will be used:

1. Delegates to the Council may submit resolutions prior to the Council or at the Council. A resolution must be submitted in writing on the official form, signed by a bishop and must first go to the Resolutions Committee.
2. The Resolutions Committee will assess the propriety 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.

3. During the appropriate Plenary Session, the Resolutions Committee will present the proposed resolution(s) 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.

4. Once before the Council, all resolutions will be open for general debate and possible amendment. Such proposed amendments must be presented to the presiding Chair or vice-chairperson in writing but need not be submitted to the Resolutions Committee in advance; they must be germane. The requirement for the submission of proposed amendments to a resolution made from the floor must be in writing and shall not be waived.

5. The debate on resolutions shall be strictly limited to no more than ten speakers, five in favor, and five in opposition, speaking alternately, as recognized by the presiding Chair or vice-chairpersons. Each speaker shall have up to but not more than three minutes to discuss the resolution. If deemed necessary, additional speakers may, in the sole discretion of the presiding Chair or vice-chairpersons, be invited to speak.

6. 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.

7. A delegate may speak on a resolution or proposed amendment thereto only once. Any delegate who has already spoken to any main motion will not thereafter be permitted to speak from the floor as to any amendments to that motion.

8. If, during the consideration of a resolution or an amendment, it appears to the presiding Chair or vice chairpersons 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.

9. 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.

10. If appropriate, the presiding Chair or vice chairperson 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 ten-person debate.

11. 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.

General principles of parliamentary law will be followed during all sessions of the Council where these will reasonably aid and expedite the accomplishment of the work of the Council. Any appeal from the ruling of a vice chairperson will be directed to and resolved by the presiding Chair (i.e., the Metropolitan). As is the case with all other actions taken by the Council, the ultimate approval of the Holy Synod is required.

The following rules have been determined by the Holy Synod to pertain to the consideration of the Proposed Revised Statutes.

1. The proposed Statute amendments will be considered as a whole and not *seriatim* (i.e. line by line).
2. There will be no amendments or changes allowed to any proposed Statute amendments from the floor as they have been vetted by the Statute and Canons Commission and blessed by the Holy Synod. Small changes such as scrivener's errors in spelling or grammar or clear editorial mistakes may be proposed.
3. Debate from the floor of the Council on any proposed Statute amendments must be on the merits of the amendment relating to the Statute, including questions relating to inaccuracy or confusion relating to language or phrasing, or questions of clarification. Discussion must be addressed to reasons on the merits to adopt or reject the proposed Statute amendment.
4. The debate on all proposed amendments shall be ten speakers, five in favor, and five in opposition, speaking alternately, as recognized by the presiding Chair or vice-chairperson. Each speaker shall have up to three minutes to discuss the amendment. If deemed necessary in the discretion of the Presiding Chair or vice-chairperson, additional speakers may be invited to speak.
5. The final vote on any proposed Statute amendment will be a simple vote of approval or disapproval. There will need to be 2/3 majority for approval. That number will be determined and announced prior to the vote.

B. Other Business

Any other matters may be brought up to the assembly during the time allotted for "Other 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.

C. Nominations to Church-Wide Positions

In accordance with the Statute and resolutions of former All-American Councils, delegates of the 19th All-American Council will elect people to positions on the:

1. Metropolitan Council (2 clergy position for a three year term and 1 clergy alternate, 2 layperson position for a three year term and 1 layperson alternate). The 2 persons with the highest vote total will receive a three-year term and third highest vote will be the alternate.
2. Pension Board (1 clergy positions for a six year term, 1 clergy to a three year term and 1 clergy alternate, 1 layperson position for a six year term, 1 layperson position for a three year term and 1 layperson alternate). The persons with the highest vote total will receive a six-year term, the next highest will receive the three year term and the third will be designated as alternate.
3. Due to the OCA Statute passed at the 18th All-American Council there will be no election for an Auditing Committee which is now appointed by the Metropolitan Council of qualified professionals. See the OCA Statute for exact wording of this amendment.

Only delegates present at 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.

Following each Plenary Session on Tuesday and Wednesday, nominations can be submitted to the Nomination Committee for possible candidates (who are Council delegates) for Church-wide positions. Nominations must be submitted on the official form each member of the Nomination Committee will distribute and returned to a member of the committee as soon as possible. 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 Wednesday's sessions.

The Nominations 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 the 6th 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 Wednesday. Election results will be announced at the 6th Plenary Session on Thursday morning, with the installation of members to the

Metropolitan Council and Pension Board at the beginning of the 7th Plenary Session on Friday.

7. After the Council

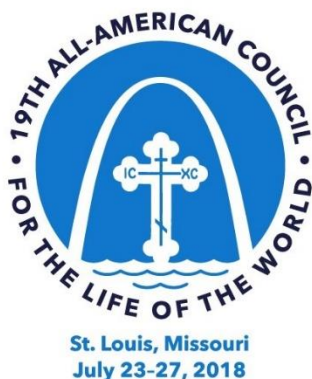
As a delegate to the All-American Council, you represent your parish to the entire body of The Orthodox Church in America giving account for your parish's life and witness, its stewardship of resources and vision for the future. Likewise, you represent The Orthodox Church in America to your parish. Most 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 on the OCA website. 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.

8. 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.



19th All-American Council

July 23-July 27, 2018
St. Louis, Missouri
“For the Life of the World”

Projected Agenda

Friday, July 20 (Pre-Council)

Time	Event	Room
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM	FOCA Golf Outing	Local Golf Course
Noon – 4:00 PM	FOCA Registration	Foyer A
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Meet with Hotel Staff	TBD
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM	FOCA Board of Trustees	Midway 1 & 2
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Meet with Executive Committee	Station Master Room
8:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Seminarian Team Meeting	Midway 1 & 2
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	FOCA “Meet Me at the Fair” Welcome Reception	Regency Ballroom C

Saturday, July 21 (Pre-Council/FOCA)

Time	Event	Room
All Day	Youth Program Arrival/Setup	Midway Suites 5 - 9
8:30 AM – 11:00 AM	FOCA Registration	Foyer A
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	FOCA Plenary Session I	Grand Ballroom A – C
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Baba’s Auction	Regency Ballroom B
10:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Exhibits Setup Secretarial Room Setup	Midway Station Master/Conductor
12:45 PM – 1:15 PM	Greeting of the Metropolitan	Main Lobby
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Grand Ballroom D – F
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Great Vespers	Grand Ballroom D – F
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Confession	Grand Ballroom D – F
6:30 PM – 10:00 PM	FOCA “Dine Under the Stars” Outing	McDonnell Planetarium

Sunday, July 22 (Pre-Council)

Time	Event	Room
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Vesting for Liturgy	Regency Ballroom A
8:50 AM – 9:00 AM	Procession	Grand Ballroom
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Hierarchical Liturgy with Local & FOCA Clergy	Grand Ballroom
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Holy Synod Brunch/Meeting	Illinois Central/ New York Central
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Baba's Auction/Sales	Regency Ballroom B
2:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Council Registration Exhibits/Displays Secretarial Room St. Tikhon Museum	The Midway The Midway Station Master/Conductor Switchman
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Youth Office Open	Midway Suites 7 - 8
2:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Synod Outing to Arch and FOCUS NA	Lobby
6:00 PM – 11:00 PM	FOCA Gateway Banquet and Ball	Grand Ballroom A – D
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Youth Program Meetings with Staff	Midway Suites 7 - 8
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Youth Program Meetings with Staff and Parents	Midway Suites 7 - 8
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Teen Crash Room	Midway Suites 9

Monday, July 23 (Day 1)

Time	Event	Room
8:00 AM – 11:59 PM	Friends of Bill W	Knickerbocker
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Holy Synod Breakfast/Meeting	Illinois Central/ New York Central
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Staff, Parent & Youth Meeting	Midway Suites 7 - 8
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Youth Session I	Midway Suites 5 - 9
11:45 PM – 4:30 PM	Youth City Site-Seeing	Offsite – Meet in Lobby
9:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Council Registration Secretarial Room Displays/Vendors	The Midway Station Master/Conductor The Midway
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM	St. Tikhon Museum	Switchman
9:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal Room	Midway 4
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	FOCA Plenary Session II	Grand Ballroom A – C
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Holy Synod	Illinois Central/ New York

	Lunch/Meeting	Central
1:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Diocesan Assemblies	
	Albanian Diocese	Regency A
	Diocese of South	Regency B
	Diocese of West	Regency C
	Archdiocese of DC Meeting	Frisco/Burlington
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Daily Vespers	Grand Ballroom
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Holy Synod/Met Council Dinner Meeting	Illinois Central/ New York Central
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM	Council Plenary Session I	Grand Ballroom
	<i>Opening Molieben</i>	
	<i>Call to Order</i>	
	<i>Welcome/Organization</i>	
	<i>PCC Bishop/Local Welcome</i>	
	<i>Welcomes and Greetings</i>	
	<i>Serge Schmemann Greeting</i>	
	<i>Introduction Film</i>	
	<i>Metropolitan's Address</i>	
	<i>Questions to Metropolitan</i>	
	<i>Housekeeping</i>	
10:00 PM	Youth Compline	Grand Ballroom

Tuesday, July 24 (Day 2)

Time	Event	Room
6:00 AM – 11:59 PM	Friends of Bill W	Knickerbocker
6:00 AM – 7:15 AM	Divine Liturgy	Grand Ballroom
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Akathist to Sitka Icon	Grand Ballroom
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Clergy Wives Breakfast	Regency Ballroom C
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Staff Meeting, Late Parent & Youth Meeting	Midway Suites 7 - 8
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Youth Session II	Midway Suites 5 - 9
9:00 AM – 9:00 PM	Secretarial Room Council Registration	Station Master/Conductor Station Master/Conductor
9:00 AM – 9:00 PM	Choir Room	Midway 4
9:00 AM – 9:00 PM	Clergy Common Room	Midway 3
9:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Displays/Vendors	The Midway
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Plenary Session II	Grand Ballroom
	<i>Opening Prayer</i>	

	<i>Diocesan Films</i>	
	<i>Nominations Procedures</i>	
	<i>Resolutions Procedures</i>	
	<i>Statute Amendments</i>	
	<i>Chancellor's Report</i>	
	<i>Secretary's Report</i>	
	<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	
	<i>Auditors' Report</i>	
	<i>Finance Resolution</i>	
	<i>ORSMA</i>	
	<i>Statute Amendments</i>	
	<i>Reflection</i>	
	<i>Housekeeping</i>	
11:30 AM – 4:30 PM	Youth Outing	Offsite – Meet in Lobby
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch Recess	Food Trucks/Pegram Council Cafe
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Holy Synod Lunch/Meeting	Illinois Central/New York Central
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Celibate Clergy Luncheon	Wabash Cannonball
12:30 PM – 4:30 PM	St. Tikhon Museum	Switchman
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Plenary Session III	Forums
	<i>Forum 1: Spiritual Life</i>	<i>Regency A</i>
	<i>Forum 2: Care of Clergy</i>	<i>Regency B</i>
	<i>Forum 3: Stewardship</i>	<i>Regency C</i>
	<i>Forum 4: External Affairs</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom A</i>
	<i>Forum 5: Mission</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom B</i>
	<i>Forum 6: Community</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom C</i>
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Daily Vespers	Grand Ballroom
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Holy Synod Dinner/Meeting	Illinois Central/New York Central
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Statute Committee Resolutions Committee Nominations Committee	Texas Special Colorado Eagle Wabash Cannonball
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	St. Vladimir's Seminary Reception	Regency Ballroom A
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	St. Tikhon's Seminary Reception	Regency Ballroom B
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Crash Room for Teens	Midway Suites 9
10:00 PM	Youth Compline	Grand Ballroom

Wednesday, July 25 (Day 3)

Time	Event	Room
6:00 AM – 11:59 PM	Friends of Bill W	Knickerbocker

6:00 AM – 7:15 AM	Divine Liturgy	Grand Ballroom
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Akathist to St. Anne Icon	Grand Ballroom
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Holy Synod Breakfast/Meeting	Illinois Central/New York Central
9:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Secretarial Room	Station Master/Conductor
9:00 AM – 9:00 PM	Choir Room	Midway 4
9:00 AM – 9:00 PM	Clergy Common Room	Midway 3
9:00 AM – 10:00 PM	Displays/Vendors	The Midway
9:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Youth Session III	Midway Suites 5 - 9
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Plenary Session IV	Grand Ballroom
	<i>Opening Prayer</i>	
	<i>Diocesan Films</i>	
	<i>Pension Board</i>	
	<i>Metropolitan Council</i>	
	<i>Monasteries</i>	
	<i>Seminaries</i>	
	<i>OCCIF</i>	
	<i>IOCC</i>	
	<i>OCMC</i>	
	<i>OCPM</i>	
	<i>Resolutions</i>	
	<i>Reflection</i>	
	<i>Housekeeping</i>	
11:30 AM – 8:00 PM	Youth Outing to Six Flags	Offsite – Meet in Lobby
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch Recess	Food Trucks/Pegram Council Cafe
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Holy Synod Lunch/Meeting	Illinois Central/New York Central
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Ethnic Parish Clergy Luncheon	Wabash Cannonball
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Plenary Session V	Forums
	<i>Forum 1: Spiritual Life</i>	<i>Regency A</i>
	<i>Forum 2: Care of Clergy</i>	<i>Regency B</i>
	<i>Forum 3: Stewardship</i>	<i>Regency C</i>
	<i>Forum 4: External Affairs</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom A</i>
	<i>Forum 5: Mission</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom B</i>
	<i>Forum 6: Community</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom C</i>
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Daily Vespers	Grand Ballroom
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Dinner	Local Sites
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Holy Synod Dinner/Meeting	Illinois Central/New York Central
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Statute Committee Resolutions Committee Nominations Committee	Texas Special Colorado Eagle Wabash Cannonball
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Stewards of OCA	Regency Ballroom A & B

	Reception	
8:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Crash Room for Teens	Midway Suites 9
10:00 PM	Youth Compline	Grand Ballroom
10:30 PM – 11:30 PM	Private Confessions	Grand Ballroom

Thursday, July 26 (Day 4)

Time	Event	Room
6:00 AM – 11:59 PM	Friends of Bill W	Knickerbocker
7:45 AM – 8:15 AM	Vesting for Liturgy	Regency Ballroom A & B
8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Procession	Grand Ballroom
8:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Hierarchical Liturgy with Chancellors/MC/Seminary	Grand Ballroom
11:00 AM – 6:00 PM	Secretarial Room	Station Master/Conductor
11:00 AM – 7:00 PM	Choir Room	Midway 4
11:00 AM – 7:00 PM	Clergy Common Room	Midway 3
11:00 AM – 7:00 PM	Displays/Vendors	The Midway
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Holy Synod Breakfast with Youth	Regency Ballroom C
12:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Plenary Session VI	Grand Ballroom
	<i>Opening Prayer</i>	
	<i>Diocesan Films</i>	
	<i>Election Procedure</i>	
	<i>Elections</i>	
	<i>Forums Feedback/ Recommendations</i>	
	<i>External Affairs</i>	
	<i>Assembly of Bishops</i>	
	<i>Departments</i>	
	<i>Election Results</i>	
	<i>Resolutions</i>	
	<i>Reflection</i>	
	<i>Housekeeping</i>	
1:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Youth Outing and Dinner at Holy Trinity Serbian Church	Offsite – Meet in Main Lobby
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Pension Board Meeting with clergy	Midway 1 & 2
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Military Chaplains Meeting	Wabash Cannonball
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM	CSHA Meeting	Texas Special
4:30 PM – 6:30 PM	St. Tikhon Museum	Switchman
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Reception	Foyer A
7:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Doors Open for Formal Dinner	Foyer A

7:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Formal Dinner	Grand Ballroom
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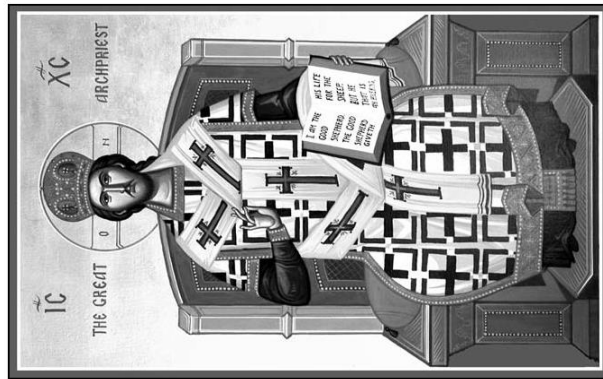
Friday, July 27 (Day 5)

Time	Event	Room
6:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Friends of Bill W	Knickerbocker
6:00 AM – 7:15 AM	Divine Liturgy	Grand Ballroom
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Akathist to Tikhvin Icon	Grand Ballroom
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Holy Synod Breakfast/meeting	Illinois Central/New York Central
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Secretarial Room	Station Master/Conductor
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Youth Prep for AAC Presentation	Midway Suites 5 - 9
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Plenary Session VII	Grand Ballroom
	<i>Opening Prayer</i>	
	<i>Diocesan Films</i>	
	<i>Installation of Council</i>	
	<i>Youth Presentation</i>	
	<i>Military Chaplains</i>	
	<i>Institutional Chaplains</i>	
	<i>FOCUS NA</i>	
	<i>Other Business</i>	
	<i>Open Discussion</i>	
	<i>Final Resolutions</i>	
	<i>Closing Moleben</i>	
11:00 AM – 12:30 AM	Youth Session IV	Midway Suites 5- 9
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Holy Synod/ Metropolitan Council/ PCC Luncheon	Illinois Central/New York Central

Appendix A: Service for Opening /Closing of a Sacred Council

**Service of Prayer at the
Opening of a Sacred Council**

**Service of Prayer at the
Closing of a Sacred Council**



A Service of Prayer at the Opening of a Sacred Council

Deacon: Bless, Most Blessed Master.

Hierarch: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People:

Tone 6

Common Chant
arr. from Lvov-Bakhmetev

A - men. O Heav - en - ly King, the Comforter the Spl - rit

of Truth, who art everywhere and fill - est all things;

Treasury of bless - ings and Gi - ver of Life:

Come and a - bide in us, and cleanse us from every

im - pur - i - ty, and save our souls, O Good One!

GREAT LITANY

Deacon:	In peace, let us pray to the Lord.	Deacon:	That He will hear the voice of petition of the members of the Sacred Council and fulfill all of their good desires and intentions, let us pray to the Lord.
People:	Lord, have mercy.	People:	Lord, have mercy.
Deacon:	For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls let us pray to the Lord.	Deacon:	That He will send down the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding upon the members of this Sacred Council, opening their minds and lips and enlightening their hearts, let us pray to the Lord.
People:	Lord, have mercy.	People:	Lord, have mercy.
Deacon:	For our Metropolitan _____, for the Holy Synod of Bishops, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy, and people, let us pray to the Lord.	Deacon:	That He will grant them the Wisdom which stands by His Throne, making it abide in their hearts and teaching them what is for the good of His Holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.
People:	Lord, have mercy.	People:	Lord, have mercy.
Deacon:	For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.	Deacon:	That they may wisely remain constant in the Orthodox Faith and in all good works, a joy and comfort to all people and a strengthening of the Holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.
People:	Lord, have mercy.	People:	Lord, have mercy.
Deacon:	For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.	Deacon:	That He will look down with His merciful eye on His Church and upon this Sacred Council, bestowing the grace of wisdom upon its endeavors in the successful building up of the life of the Church of our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
People:	Lord, have mercy.	People:	Lord, have mercy.
Deacon:	For seasonable weather, for the abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.	Deacon:	For the members of this Sacred Council gathered from throughout this continent, awaiting the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and needful of God's help and protection, let us pray to the Lord.
People:	Lord, have mercy.	Deacon:	

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will instill in the members of this Sacred Council oneness of mind, harmony of spirit, good intentions and wise action for the benefit of His Holy Church, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: To Thee, O Lord.

Hierarch: For to Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

GOD IS THE LORD

Deacon: In the 8th Tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself unto us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good: for His mercy endures forever.

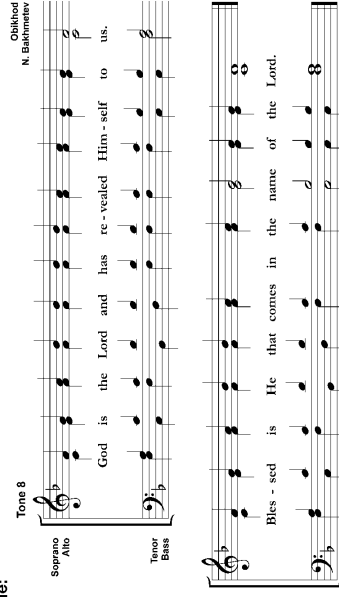
People:

Tone 8

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Olshad N. Bakhteyev



Deacon: All nations surrounded me; in the Name of the Lord I withstood them!

People: Repeats "God is the Lord."

Deacon: I shall not die, but shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord!

People: Repeats "God is the Lord."

Deacon: The stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; and it is marvelous in our eyes!

People: Repeats "God is the Lord." then sings the troparions.

TROPARIONS

Tone 8
 Oblivion
 N. Bakhtmetev

Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

Bles - sed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast
 re - vealed the fish - er - men as most wise by send - ing
 down up - on them the Ho - ly Spir - it through them
 Thou didst draw the world in - to Thy net, O
 Lov - er of man glo - ry to Thee.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 4
 Alaskan Melody

Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

O blessed Father Herman of A - las - ka,
 North Star of Christ's ho - ly Church; the light of
 your holy life and great deeds guides those
 who follow the Orth - o - dox way. Together we lift
 high the Ho - ly Cross you planted firmly

in A - mer - i - cu. Let all behold and glo - ri - fy

Je - sus Christ sing His Holy Re - sur - rec - - - - - tion.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6

Soprano Alto Tenor Bass

Oblitos N. Bakhtiev

Steadfast protectress of Christ - i - ans, con - stant

advocate before the Cre - a - tor: do not despise

the cry of us sin - ners, but in your

goodness come speedily to help us who call on

you in faith. Hasten to hear our petition and

to intercede for us, O The - o - - - - to kos,

for you always protect those who ho - nor you.

PROKEIMENON / EPISTLE / GOSPEL

Deacon: Let us attend!

Hierarch: Peace be unto all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone: Let the radiance of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands!

Reader: Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations!

People: Repeats the Prokeimenon

Reader: Let the radiance of the Lord our God be upon us

People: Finishes the Prokeimenon

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians.

Deacon: Let us Attend!

People:

Reader: Brethren, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power in us who believe, according to the working of His great might which He has accomplished in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and

made Him sit at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come; and He has put all things under His feet and has made Him the head over all things for the Church, which is His Body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all.

Hierarch: Peace be unto you, reader.

Reader: And to your spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

People:

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Hierarch: Peace be unto all!

People: And to your spirit.

Hierarch: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

People: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!

Deacon: Let us attend!

Hierarch: At that time Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said: "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth having accomplished the work which Thou

LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATIONS

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for His Beatitude, Metropolitan _____, for the Holy Synod of Bishops, for priests, deacons, monastics; and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray to the Lord our God, that He will look with mercy upon the members of this Sacred Council, and will send down into their hearts, their minds, and their lips the spirit of wisdom, of understanding, of godliness and of His fear; enlightening their minds with the light of His gracious understanding, that they may be adorned with all good works for the glory of His most holy name; for the benefit of His Holy Church; let us say: O Lord, hearken and mercifully have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Hierarch: Hear us, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those who are far off upon the sea; and show mercy, show mercy, O Master, upon us sinners, and be merciful unto us. For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

13

gavest Me to do; and now, Father glorify Thou Me in Thine own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou gavest Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy name, which Thou hast given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth. As Thou didst send Me into the world so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate Myself, that they also may be consecrated in truth. I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me. The glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one.'

People: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

12

Deacon: Again and again, falling down on our knees before our Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Hierarch: O God, our God! Thou hast adorned us with Thine image and given us a free will. When Thou didst enter into the Temple in the middle of the feast, O most compassionate Master, Thou didst teach the people who were amazed at Thy doctrine, for David says: Come to me, children, and I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Thou didst also teach wisdom to Solomon. Look down even now, O Maker and Creator, upon the members of this Sacred Council, and grant them wisdom and understanding that they may learn Thy holy will; warm their hearts in love for Thee and for their neighbors; guide them on the way of truth and righteousness, keeping their hearts from all evil; unite them in one mind and in one heart, and let mutual brotherly love abide in their midst; bless them for the doing of good and useful things. We pray Thee, O most merciful Lord our God, the God of every compassion and consolation: Do not turn away Thy face from them, nor deny them their longing, for they have set their hope on Thee. Grant them peace and serenity, a unity of spirit, concord and fruitful action, and all those things needful for their temporal and eternal life. Thou knowest our needs, and dost grant and fulfill our requests even before we make them.

For Thou art the God powerful in mercy and gracious in strength, and to Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

14

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

Hierarch: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

People: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, True Theotokos we magnify You!

Hierarch: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our sure hope, glory to Thee!

People: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Most Blessed Master, Bless!

Hierarch: May He Who sent the most Holy Spirit from heaven upon His holy disciples and apostles, in the form of fiery tongues, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, of the holy glorious, and all-laudable apostles; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loveth mankind.

People: Amen. Eis polla eti Despota!

15

A Service of Prayer at the Closing of a Sacred Council

Deacon: Bless, Most Blessed Master.
Hierarch: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto
ages of ages.
Reader: Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!
People:

Tone 6
Common Chant
arr. from Lvov-Bakhmelev

O Heav - en - ly King, the Comforter the Spi - rit
of Truth, who art everywhere and fill - est all things;
Treasury of bless - ings and Gi - ver of Life:
Come and a - bide in us, and cleanse us from every
im - pur - i - ty, and save our souls, O Good - One!

Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!
(3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! Lord, cleanse us from
our sins! Master, pardon our transgressions! Holy One, visit
and heal our infirmities, for Thy name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy
Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heav-
en. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our tres-
passes, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Hierarch: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory: of
the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and
ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

GOD IS THE LORD

Deacon: In the 4th Tone: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself
unto us! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!
O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good: for His mercy
endures forever.

People:

Tone 4

Soprano Alto Oshkod N. Bakhmetev

God is the Lord and has re vealed Him-self to us.

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

Deacon: All nations surrounded me; in the Name of the Lord I with-
stood them!

People: Repeats "God is the Lord."

Deacon: I shall not die, but shall live, and recount the deeds of the
Lord!

People: Repeats "God is the Lord."

Deacon: The stone which the builders rejected has become the head
of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; and it is marvelous
in our eyes!

People: Repeats "God is the Lord." then sings the troparions.

TROPARIONS

Tone 4

Chorus
N. Bakmeister

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Tone 3

Chorus
N. Bakmeister

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

We glorify Thee, our Creator and De - fend - er!

We cry to Thee from the depths of our soul:

Glory to Thee, O God, most boun - - - ti - full!

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages, Amen.

Tone 3

Soprano
Alto

Obkhod
N. Bakhteev

O Mother of God help of Christ - ians, you have favored

Tenor
Bass

us with your pro-tec - tion! We your ser - vants

grate-ful - ly cry out to you: Hail, Most Pure Virgin

The - o - to - - kos! By your prayers deliver us from

every ca - la - mi - ty, for you are a speedy

help - er in times of trou - ble.

LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATIONS

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Furthermore we pray for His Beatitude Metropolitan _____, for the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, for priests, deacons, and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: We Thine unprofitable servants, give thanks to Thee with fear and trembling, O Lord, our Savior and Master, for Thou hast poured Thy blessings upon us abundantly. We fall down in worship before Thy loving mercy and praise Thee as our God, fervently crying to Thee: Deliver Thy servants from all calamities, and in Thy mercy, grant all our requests which are unto salvation, we beg Thee, O Lord: hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Thou hast mercifully listened to the prayers of Thy servants, O Lord; Thou hast shown us Thy tender compassion and love for man. Do not forsake us in the days to come, but fulfill all the good desires of Thy faithful people. Reveal Thy rich mercy to us, disregard our sins, and attain glory for Thy name, we beg Thee, O Lord: hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: May our thanksgiving be as sweet-smelling incense before Thy majesty, most merciful Master. In Thy love for mankind, always send down Thy rich blessings upon Thy servants. Deliver us from the assaults of our visible and invisible enemies; preserve Thy Holy Church; and grant all Thy people health, virtue, and length of days, we beg Thee,

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most bountiful King; incline Thine ear to our prayer, and speedily show mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: O Lord, who didst accompany Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus, and didst make them to return to Jerusalem with their hearts burning with the joy of Thy Resurrection; send Thy grace and divine blessing to accompany Thy servants, all the participants in this All-American Council, as they return to their homes and guide them in every good work, to the glory of Thy Holy Name. Preserve them in health and bring them safely to their destinations, we beg Thee, our merciful protector, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Hierarch: Hear us, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth, and of those who are far off upon the sea; and show mercy, show mercy, O Master, upon us sinners, and be merciful unto us.

For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Hierarch: O Lord, Jesus Christ our God, the God of all mercies and bounties, Whose mercy cannot be measured, and Whose love for man is an unfathomable deep; with fear and trembling, we fall down in adoration before Thy majesty, unprofitable servants that we are. We humbly thank Thee for the blessings Thou hast given Thy servants who have participated in this All-American Council. We glorify Thee, we praise Thee, we sing to Thee, our Lord and Master and

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Defender; we fall down before Thee and beg Thy boundless mercy. As Thou hast graciously received Thy servants' prayers and granted them, so also deliver Thy Church and preserve us from every hostile assault. Grant us peace and tranquility, that Thy faithful people may grow in virtue and love for Thee, and may partake of Thy benefits, and so we will always offer thanksgiving to Thee, together with Thine Unoriginate Father, and Thy Most Holy, and Good and Life-Giving Spirit, God glorified in Three Persons, and will joyfully sing to Thee: Glory to Thee, O God our Savior, unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

Hierarch: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

People: More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God the Word, True Theotokos we magnify You!

Hierarch: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our sure hope, glory to Thee!

People: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen!

Lord, have mercy. (3x)
Most Blessed, Master Bless!

Hierarch: Gives the dismissal of the day.

People: Amen. Eis polla eti Despota!

“Many Years” is intoned by the deacon and sung by the people.

B. Submitted Statute Amendments

(Note: **BOLD** indicates the changes for reference purposes only)

1. Holy Synod Amendment on Periodicity of AAC

Submitted by the Holy Synod at the Fall 2017 Meeting

Endorsed by the Metropolitan Council at the Spring 2018 Meeting

Reviewed and Recommended by the Commission on Statutes and Canons

Background: In the course of the recently concluded Fall Session of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America, convened at the Chancery during the period November 13-17, 2017, the members of the Holy Synod under the chairmanship of the Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church in America undertook the review of a series of measures and initiatives considered to be beneficial to the interests of the Orthodox Church in America. Among these was a matter regarding potential revision to the amendment of the present terms of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America as adopted in Atlanta, Georgia, by the 18th All-American Council on July 21, 2015.

As a result of these deliberations of the Holy Synod in this regard it was determined by a consensus of the members of the Holy Synod that a proposed amendment to the 2015 Statute be submitted to the Commission on Canons and Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America in accordance with the provisions of Section 2, Article XVII, of the Statute for its approval, consolidation, or return, as provided in the terms of that Article and Section.

This proposal for amendment to the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America of the Holy Synod is stated below.

Current Statute: The current text (Article III, Section 3) states: “*The All-American Council shall be convened periodically, normally at intervals of **three years**. In extraordinary circumstances, such as the unexpected vacancy in the office of the Metropolitan, for which provisions are made in Article IV, Section 3, an extraordinary All-American Council shall be summoned. The place and precise time of the next meeting of the All-American Council shall be determined by action of the Metropolitan Council with the approval of the Holy Synod.*”

Amendment: The Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church in America hereby proposes that the current Article III, Section 3, of the Statute be repealed in its entirety and that a proposed amendment to Article III, Section 3, of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America be substituted in its place, as follows: “*The All-American Council shall be convened periodically, normally at intervals of **four years**. In extraordinary circumstances, such as the unexpected vacancy in the office of the Metropolitan, for which provisions are made in Article IV, Section 3, an extraordinary All-American Council shall be summoned. The place and*

precise time of the next meeting of the All-American Council shall be determined by action of the Metropolitan Council with the approval of the Holy Synod."

2. Metropolitan Council Amendment to Change the Periodicity for Audits by the Audit Committee of All Accounts of the Orthodox Church in America

Submitted by the Metropolitan Council on September 21, 2017 at the Fall 2017 Meeting

Blessed by the Holy Synod on April 17, 2018 at the Spring 2018 Meeting

Reviewed and Recommended by the Commission on Statutes and Canons on May 4, 2018

Background: This amendment to Article V, Section 9, Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, is intended to reduce the recurring costs and expenses of a semiannual audit by the Audit Committee of the Metropolitan Council of all accounts of the Orthodox Church in America by providing that the duties of the Audit Committee shall be to audit all accounts of the Orthodox Church in America on an annual basis, instead of a semiannual basis.

Current Statute: The current Statute (Article 5, Section 9) states *"The Committee's duties shall be to audit all accounts of the Orthodox Church in America on a **semiannual** basis, to review the audited accounts of all stavropegial institutions on an annual basis..."* We recommend that the statute be amended to read, *'The Committee's duties shall be to audit all accounts of the Orthodox Church in America on 'at least an annual' basis, to review the audited accounts of all stavropegial institutions on an annual basis...'"*

Amendment: The Metropolitan Council recommends the submission of the proposed Statute Change as outlined in the August 10, 2017 report of the Internal Audit Committee to the Statute Committee for consideration at the 91th All-American Council. Unanimously adopted on Thursday, September 21, 2017. The recommendation reads as follows:

*"An Auditing Committee, consisting of three persons with relevant professional experience, shall be appointed by the Metropolitan Council at its first meeting following adjournment of a normally convened All-American Council. Members of the Auditing Committee shall serve for a term from one All-American Council through the next, excluding any extraordinary meetings of the All-American Council. The Committee's duties shall be to audit all accounts of The Orthodox Church in America on an annual basis, to review the audited accounts of all stavropegial institutions on an **annual** basis, and to present written reports to the Metropolitan Council. The Chair of the Auditing Committee shall attend sessions of the Metropolitan Council solely to make the Committee's reports. An Audit Committee member may succeed himself/herself for one additional term, and may be removed only for cause by a two-thirds vote of the Metropolitan Council.*

Any vacancy in the Auditing Committee shall be filled in a timely fashion by the Metropolitan Council."

3. Holy Synod Amendment on Clarification of the Election of At-Large Members of the Metropolitan Council

**Submitted and Blessed by the Holy Synod at the Spring 2018 Meeting
Reviewed and Recommended by the Commission on Statutes and Canons**

Background: This amendment to Article III, Section 4.g intends to clarify that At-Large members of the Metropolitan Council are elected from among the delegates of the All-American Council.

Current Statute: The current text (Article 3, Section 4.g) states: *"Elect six (6) at-large members of the Metropolitan Council and two alternates; and"*

Amendment: It is recommended that the Article III, Section 4.g be amended to read: *"Elect six (6) at-large members of the Metropolitan Council and two alternates **from among the All-American Council delegates**;"*

4. Holy Synod Amendment on Clarification of the Right to Canonical Process

**Submitted and Blessed by the Holy Synod at the Spring 2018 Meeting
Reviewed and Recommended by the Commission on Statutes and Canons**

Background: This amendment to Article XV, Section 1 adopts more formal language in the wording.

Current Statute: The current text (Article XV, Section 1) states: *"Every member of the Church, whether cleric, monastic, or lay, is entitled to canonical process in the courts of the Church and **can** defend and vindicate their legitimate rights in the competent ecclesiastical forum according to the norm of law."*

Amendment: It is recommended that the Article XV, Section 1 be amended to read *"Every member of the Church, whether cleric, monastic, or lay, is entitled to canonical process in the Courts of the Church and **may** defend and vindicate their legitimate rights in the competent ecclesiastical forum according to the norm of law."*

5. Holy Synod Amendment on Clarification of the Composition of the Synodal Court

Submitted and Blessed by the Holy Synod at the Spring 2018 Meeting

Reviewed and Recommended by the Commission on Statutes and Canons

Background: This amendment changes Article XV, Section 7 so as to reflect the actual practice of the Holy Synod and include auxiliary bishops of the Orthodox Church in America as needed in the composition of the Synodal Court.

Current Statute: The current text (Article XV, Section 7) states: *“The Synodal Court, comprised of the members of the Holy Synod and presided over by the Metropolitan, shall be convened at regular sessions of the Holy Synod and at other times, as necessary, to address judicial matters that are within its competence. If judgment requires the augmentation of the number of bishops, Diocesan Bishops from other Orthodox Churches shall be invited to participate.”*

Amendment: It is recommended that Article XV, Section 7 be amended to read: *“The Synodal Court, comprised of the members of the Holy Synod and presided over by the Metropolitan, shall be convened at regular sessions of the Holy Synod and at other times, as necessary, to address judicial matters that are within its competence. If judgment requires augmentation of the number of bishops, **Auxiliary Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, or** Diocesan Bishops from other Orthodox Churches shall be invited to participate.”*

6. Holy Synod Amendment on Correction of Typographical Errors

Submitted and Blessed by the Holy Synod at the Spring 2018 Meeting Reviewed and Recommended by the Commission on Statutes and Canons

Background: This amendment corrects typographical errors in Article III, Section 2.c and Article XII, Section 4.a.

Current Statute: The current text (Article III, Section 2.c) states: *“The Parish Priest and Associates Priests, if any, of each Parish and an equal number of lay delegates from that Parish;”*

Amendment: It is recommended that Article III, Section 2.c be amended to read: *“The Parish Priest and Associate Priests, if any, of each Parish and an equal number of lay delegates from that Parish;”*

Current Statute: The current text (Article XII, Section 4.a) states: *“An Associates Priest is a Priest who has been appointed to a Parish by the Diocesan Bishop, receives compensation from the Parish, and carries out ministries within the Parish as directed by the Parish Priest in consultation with the Parish Council. His role in the governance of the Parish is determined by the established Diocesan procedures and norms.”*

Amendment: It is recommended that Article XII, Section 4.a be amended to read: *“An Associate Priest is a Priest who has been appointed to a Parish by the Diocesan Bishop, receives compensation from the Parish, and carries out ministries within the Parish as directed by the Parish Priest in consultation with the Parish Council. His role in the governance of the Parish is determined by the established Diocesan procedures and norms.”*

C. Submitted Resolutions

1. Metropolitan Council Finance Resolution

Submitted by the Metropolitan Council at the Spring 2018 Meeting
Blessed by the Holy Synod at the Spring 2018 Meeting
Reviewed and Recommended by the Resolution Committee

Background: *The Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America affirms the important role of the Synodal Chancery in the work of the OCA. We also encourage the continuing transition to proportional giving as the best means of supporting the work of the Church. At the 18th All-America Council held in Atlanta, Georgia in July 2015, this body passed a funding resolution, recognizing that each diocese was at a different place in this process. For the year 2018, the territorial dioceses, with the exception of the Dioceses of the West and South, are contributing 46% of their “net operating budgets” to the work of the Synodal Chancery, while the Dioceses of the West and South contribute 34% of their “net operating budgets”. To this end, and to continue working toward a common contribution rate for all territorial dioceses, we recommend the adoption of the following financial resolution:*

Resolution: For the budget years of 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 each territorial diocese with the exception of Canada, Mexico and Alaska shall remit its annual financial obligation for the work of the Synodal Chancery according to the following formula:

Dioceses contributing at a rate greater than 34% of their “net operating budgets” shall decrease their annual diocesan financial obligation by 2% annually from 2019 through 2022, not to fall below 34%.

Dioceses contributing at the 34% rate of their “net operating budgets” shall continue to remit their annual financial obligation at the 34% rate from 2019 through 2022.

For the budget years 2019 through 2022, the Archdiocese of Canada and the Diocese of Alaska shall remit their annual diocesan financial obligation at the rate of 10% of their net operating budget.

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.