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This Handbook has been prepared to help you to understand the role, structure, procedures and special features of the 20th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America, to be held at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland from July 18 to July 22, 2022. It also outlines your responsibilities as a delegate and the procedures related to your preparation for and participation at the 20th All-American Council.

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July 18, 2022

Dear beloved children in the Lord,

I greet you all as we gather in Baltimore this July 18–22, 2022 for the 20th All American Council of the Orthodox Church in America. This Council is an expression of the ongoing life of Christ’s Church on the North American continent and so we prayerfully entrust this gathering to the Holy Spirit, confident that He will guide our common work.

This Council takes as its theme “Becoming Vessels of Grace.” We know from the Apostle Paul that God, the great fashioner of all things, has fashioned us for His glory to become “vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory, even us whom he has called” (Rom. 9:23). It is the calling of all Orthodox Christians to bear the mercy and grace of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ in the vessels of our hearts. Furthermore, it is our sacred privilege to bring this grace with us into a dark and suffering world.

I ask that we all keep this perspective in mind as we do the important work of this Council for the continuous edification of the Church and the further proclamation of the gospel of Christ. This work will take many forms, notably our Plenary Sessions. However, the critical work of this Council does not stop with the meetings and resolutions. Most of all we look forward to our worship and times of prayer. We also ask God’s blessing upon all the presentations, the youth program, and our fellowship together and pray for the Holy Spirit to be ever present with us in our gatherings.

As we begin the work of the 20th All-American Council, I remind you of our Lord’s words: “Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matt. 18:19). May this Council be a time of up-building, refreshment, and “unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3) so that we might be stronger vessels of grace, useful for the Lord’s service.

Assuring you all of my archpastoral prayers,

I remain sincerely yours in the love of Christ,

+TIKHON
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada
17 July 2022

Your Beatitude, Your Eminences, Your Graces, Reverend Clergy, Matushki, Delegates, Observers and guests of the 20th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America and the 95th National Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America Convention in Baltimore, Maryland,

On behalf of the Local Committee here in Baltimore, we welcome you to the 20th All American Council of the Orthodox Church in America. This is the first time that the All-American Council will be held in Baltimore, Maryland.

Many events have taken place within our nation and church since our last All-American Council. The theme this year is: “Becoming Vessels of Grace”. Recently we celebrated the Feastday of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit descended in the form of fiery tongues upon the Apostles when they were gathered with each other in prayer. The Holy Spirit, which came on Pentecost, still comes today and dwells with us now. We begin our daily life in prayer: O Heavenly King, the Comforter the Spirit of Truth...Come and Abide in us...” The Holy Spirit comes as we open our lives, our hearts to Him and as He descends upon us – may He make us “Vessels of Grace”, using our talents and gifts always for the Glory of God.

In his book OF WHAT LIFE DO WE SPEAK?, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon writes: “The Church is often portrayed...as a ship. Christ holds the rudder and the breath of the Holy Spirit fills the sail as the ship sets course for the Father's Heavenly Kingdom...Our life on the hip is not simply a passive one, but rather an active participation that extends beyond a few hours a week that we spend in the Church or Icon corner...We are called to a new life in the Church and this requires a radical transformation and a willingness to devote our every breath sailing on that ship through both calm and choppy waters...we are called to unity, sanctity, to conciliarity, and to apostolic ministry.”

As we read the reports of the Chancery Officers, the reports of the Offices and Departments of the Orthodox Church in America and as we hear the reports and presentations at the All-American Council, let us reflect and discern how we might “Become a Vessel of Grace” fulfilling our vocation in ministry. May the Holy Spirit give us the power to be a true witness of Christ as we work within His Vineyard.

We also thank our local subcommittee chairs and volunteers who diligently worked and devoted countless hours to provide you with a positive Baltimore “Charm City” Welcome and enjoyable experience.

Yours in Christ,

Archpriest Theodore Boback, Jr. Lisa Mikhalevsky
Local Committee Clergy Chair Local Committee Lay Chair
2. Introduction

Welcome to the 20th All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America. We pray our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ that this will be a meaningful, prayerful, and productive gathering for the building up of His Church.

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 a regular Council every three years. Because of the public health crises connected to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 20th All-American Council has been delayed one year.

The Church assembles for many reasons: to pray together, to discuss the state of the Church, to share experiences, thoughts, and fellowship, and to deliberate and to make decisions affecting the life of the Orthodox Church in America. Historically, the Church has gathered to elect the primate, revise the statutes, hear reports on various aspects of the Church’s life and work and set priorities for that work.

This year’s Council will consider the theme of “Becoming Vessels of Grace” specifically in the context of vocations within the Church. The four forums, guided by panelists, will give us an opportunity to discern more in-depth what it means to be a vessel of grace in the four critical areas of Church life that will be discussed.

The theme of the 20th All-American Council echoes the exhortation of the Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Romans that we become “vessels of mercy” (Rom. 9:23). Becoming a vessel of the grace of God is the goal of all Orthodox Christians. That grace is taken into every place and situation both within the life of the Church and in the wider world. To become a vessel of grace is to bring our Lord’s merciful presence into every circumstance for the edification of the Church in addition to the healing of souls.

Delegates from previous All-American Councils will notice changes this year. The usual liturgical schedule has been modified to include a Divine Liturgy on Friday morning and a Panikhida on Wednesday remembering those we have lost since the last AAC. The Liturgies celebrated by the clergy of Alaska, the non-territorial dioceses, and Mexico will also be done according to their local customs and practices in order to highlight the various liturgical expressions present in the Orthodox Church in America.

Delegates from previous AACs will also notice the Council Agenda and Schedule have been separated so that possible updates to the schedule may not also affect the agenda that should remain unchanged once statutorily approved at the beginning of Plenary Session I. Following up on feedback received at the 19th AAC, the number of oral reports given has been reduced. All statutorily mandated reports are, however, available on the AAC website. A special exception
is being made for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) since the Council will gather in Baltimore which is the headquarters of this much beloved Orthodox organization.

Four Forums will be available on the afternoons of Tuesday and Wednesday. They will cover topics relating to the Diocese of Alaska, Thriving in Ministry (Office of Pastoral Life), the Diocese of Mexico, and addiction. Please note that these forums do not overlap each other so delegates will not be forced to choose one at the expense of another.

Once again, we look forward to this Council's Youth Program with almost 140 registered youths. The youth at the Council will enjoy outings to the Discovery Museum, the National Aquarium, and Six Flags amongst others. The youth will also have many opportunities to socialize and pray together with a daily Youth Compline service in the evenings.

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (FOCA) will again be holding its annual convention in conjunction with the All-American Council. You will hear about the work they are doing in supporting the Orthodox Church in America, and you will be offered new opportunities to support FOCA in their ministry to the Church. Please see their website for more information: www.orthodoxfellowship.org.

There will also be many other opportunities for fellowship during the Council which includes receptions, the Council Banquet and other outings in Baltimore. Responding to feedback from the 19th All-American Council, more time has been allocated for lunch.

We hope you will take advantage of all that this Council has to offer. We especially hope that your time at the 20th AAC will allow you to have prayerful fellowship with your fellow Orthodox Christians from around North America, to make new connections, and strengthen old friendships, encouraging each other to become the “vessels of grace” the Lord calls us to become.

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. This handbook has been prepared to help you with those responsibilities and to understand the various roles in the Council. Please take time to reflect and pray as you review this handbook.

We look forward to your presence and participation in a successful 20th 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 provision for representation from Church institutions and monasteries, the purpose of the Council is to allow the local Orthodox Church to gather regularly to prayer together, discuss various aspects of Church’s life, and deliberate on its legislate and administrative provisions.

By participating in the Plenary Sessions, Forums, and receptions, you will able to experience the broad activities of the Orthodox Church in America as a whole.

As preparation for the 20th All-American Council, participants and parishes are specifically asked to:

A. Prepare themselves through prayer and review of this handbook.

B. Be ready to engage the topics in the four forums.

C. Read and reflect on the proposed Statute amendments already published, as well as the Resolutions that will be published later.

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

E. Be active in discussions and activities throughout the All-American Council.

F. Be mindful that as a delegate you represent your respective parish, monastery, or institution and to conduct yourself accordingly.

G. Bring back to your parish, monastery, or institution your experience and the decisions of the All-American Council at the end of the AAC.

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 work towards a healthy future for the Church. We also pray that the discussions and results will enable us as a Church to expand the mission of the Orthodox Church in America.
4. **Features and Structures of the 20th All-American Council**

**A. The Four Forums**

There will be four forums at the 20th All-American Council. Only one forum will happen at a time so participants will not be forced to choose between two.

Two of the forums center on the Diocese of Alaska and the Diocese of Mexico and offer to participants a glimpse into the unique life of these two dioceses. There will be a forum on the work of the Thriving in Ministry program of the Office of Pastoral Life which will focus on clergy health. The final forum will be a panel discussion on the topic of alcohol addiction led by Archpriest Paul Jannakos, Dr. Albert Rossi, and Dr. Debra O'Beirne.

The forums will be on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 19 and Wednesday, July 20 from 3:00 to 4:00 PM and 4:00 to 5:00 PM in the Key Ballroom. Participation is not mandatory but is highly encouraged.

**Tuesday, July 19**
- Forum 1: Diocese of Alaska Presentation (3:00 PM – 4:00 PM)
- Forum 2: Thriving in Ministry Presentation (4:00 PM – 5:00 PM)

**Wednesday, July 20**
- Forum 3: Diocese of Mexico Presentation (3:00 PM – 4:00 PM)
- Forum 4: Panel Discussion on Addiction (4:00 PM – 5:00 PM)

In addition to the four forums, delegates and observers are welcomed to attend independent seminars that will be offered during the lunch breaks:

**Tuesday, July 19  1:00-3:00 PM**
- Addiction Seminar Peale C
- Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund (OCCIF) Johnson B
- Holy Trinity Publication Book Signing with Fr. Kevin Kalish Stone

**Wednesday, July 20  1:00-3:00 PM**
- Orthodox Christian Leadership Initiative Stone
- Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) Johnson A
- Clergy Wives Advisory Meeting Chase
B. Liturgical Services

The Liturgical services are at the heart of the 20th All-American Council as we gather together in Council. There will be services offered every day:

Tuesday, July 19
- 7:00 AM Divine Liturgy – Served by the clergy of the Diocese of Alaska
- 5:30 PM Vespers

Wednesday, July 20
- 7:00 AM Divine Liturgy – His Grace Bishop Andrei presiding with clergy from non-territorial dioceses concelebrating.
- 5:30 PM Panikhida

Thursday, July 21
- 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Friday, July 22
- 7:00 AM Divine Liturgy – Served by clergy of the Diocese of Mexico

There will be a daily compline for the youth each evening at 8:00 PM in which delegates are invited to attend.

All delegates should attend the liturgical services. Singers are encouraged to help sing the services with the mixed choir. Opportunities will be available for Confessions to be heard.

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 in business casual attire to all services and sessions as is appropriate for Church occasions.

Choir Rehearsals
Rehearsal times for singers will take place Tuesday, July 19 and Wednesday, July 20 at 7:00 PM. Both rehearsals will take place in the Chapel, located in the Key Ballroom of the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel. All singers attending the AAC are encouraged to participate in the rehearsals and sing in the choir for the liturgical services.
With the exception of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Thursday morning, the Alaskan, Mexican, and Non-Territorial Dioceses will be leading the various Divine Liturgies. These Liturgies will be served according to their respective traditions and practices.

Downloadable music is forthcoming and will be available on our website. Questions can be directed to Dr. Harrison Russin (hrussin@svots.edu).

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.

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 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 Commission on Statute and Canons, and thereafter publicized according to the procedures outlined in the present Statute.

Resolutions on other matters may be submitted prior to and during the Council itself after being duly reviewed by the Resolutions Committee. This committee will be appointed at the First
Plenary Session. These resolutions must be submitted to a Committee member, 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 posted on the large screens in the plenary hall during the actual vote on the resolution.

The 20th AAC will consider two statute amendments that are proposed by the Metropolitan Council, and which have been duly reviewed, edited, and endorsed by the Commission on Canons and Statute.

The first statute amendment is proposed in consideration of the reorganization of the Chancery following the work of the Ad Hoc Chancery Restructuring Committee in 2018. The second statute amendment emerges from the work of the Pension Subcommittee of the Metropolitan Council. This amendment aims at codifying some of the basic expectations of the Pension Plan’s regular reporting to the Metropolitan Council, and change the composition of the Pension Board to make for more direct representation of the key constituents, Plan participants and Employers.

D. Council Banquet/Receptions

There are several receptions, breakfasts, and formal dinners to be held during the 20th All-American Council. These are important opportunities to socialize and visit with each other outside of the formal Council sessions.

The Clergy Wives Breakfast will be on Tuesday morning beginning at 9:00 AM. All wives of our priests and deacons are invited to have breakfast with the Holy Synod in Holiday Ballroom 6. Please note attendance when checking in. The same evening, St. Vladimir’s Seminary Reception will begin at 8:00 PM in Holiday Ballroom 6, while the St. Tikhon’s Alumni Gathering will take place offsite at The Pratt Street Ale House at 8:00 PM.

The Grand Banquet is a formal dinner which will be held on Thursday evening in the Key Ballroom at 7:00 PM, preceded by a reception at 5:30 PM in the South Foyer. There will be a special program provided for the banquet. 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 Grand Banquet. Your meal choice should have been chosen when you registered. You will receive a ticket which should be brought to the banquet itself.

A cash bar will be open at the reception prior to the Grand Banquet. When possible, special dietary needs or requests will be honored if submitted in due time prior to the Council and the dinner itself.
Tuesday, July 19

- Clergy Wives Breakfast, Holiday Ballroom 6 (9:00 AM – 10:00 AM).
- St. Vladimir's Seminary Reception, Holiday Ballroom 6 (8:00 PM – 10:00 PM).
- St. Tikhon’s Seminary Alumni Gathering (offsite), The Pratt Street Ale House (8:00 PM)

Thursday, July 21

- Holy Synod Brunch with Youth, Holiday Ballroom 6 (11:00 AM – 12:00 PM).
- Youth Banquet, Offsite (5:30 PM – 8:00 PM).
- Reception [DETAILS?], South Foyer (5:30 PM – 6:30 PM).
- Grand Banquet, Key Ballroom (6:30 PM – 9:30 PM).

E. Displays and Vendors

Holiday Ballroom 1-5 has been designated for vendors and displays for the delegates and observers to visit. It is open to the public and is an opportunity for the departments and institutions of the Orthodox Church in America to highlight the work they do for the Church. Vendors from different companies will be offering items for sale. The exhibit area will be open from 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM, Sunday, July 17 through Thursday, July 21.

The St. Tikhon’s Museum will also be on display in the Blake room with artifacts and information from the Museum at St. Tikhon’s Monastery. They will be open from 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM, Sunday, July 17 through Thursday, July 21.

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. It is mandatory for clergy to wear a black riassa, and for priests to wear a pectoral cross in these photos. Every clergyman is encouraged to have his picture taken. The booth will be located outside of the main ball room.

A map and guide to the exhibits will be available upon registration.

F. Fellowship of Orthodox Christians

FOCA will be holding its annual convention beginning on Friday, July 15 through Monday, July 18. There will be numerous events that FOCA will be hosting that weekend including a banquet, dance, and excursions in Baltimore. The Plenary Session for FOCA will be held on Saturday and is for FOCA delegates. For more information visit: orthodoxfellowship.org
G. Youth Program

At the 20th All-American Council, the youth will have opportunities to make friends, go on excursions, and pray together. The program includes trips to Six Flags and the National Aquarium in addition to educational sessions.

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 accompanying them. All participants in the Youth Program will have specially designated shirts for the program.

The evenings of the Youth Program will be dedicated to various activities. 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 the service of Compline.

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. Delegates participate in discussions and vote on decisions made by the Council. Each parish may send a duly elected layperson as a delegate, as well as its assigned parish priest; parishes with more than one priest assigned may send an additional lay delegate for each additional assigned priest. Church institutions and monasteries have delegates representing them as well. Attached priests or deacons cannot be delegates with a right to vote but may attend and participate in the discussions as clergy observers. If there is a question on the voting status of a clergyman, please speak to your diocesan hierarch for clarification.

When arriving to the hotel where they have reserved their rooms, delegates will go to the hotel desk to check in. Any special requirements or needs including extended stay time must be handled directly by the delegate or observer.

Upon arrival at the Council, the delegates need to check in at the Council Registration Booths where they will get their registration name badge and bags. The Council Registration Booths can be found in the South Foyer. Check in will begin on Sunday, July 17 at 2:00 PM and continue into the evening. Check in will be open every day. Check in for Youth will also be at the South Foyer.
Registration Booths will be set up alphabetically according to last name. Upon check in, you will be given a badge with a QR 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 delegate will receive a bag containing additional material including maps, agendas, local information and items to assist at the plenary sessions; those who had requested a 3-ring binder during their online registration will receive it along with their bag. Reports must be downloaded from the website and will not be available at the Council. Following Registration Check In, each participant will proceed to the Banquet Booth to reserve their dinner seating.

Any special requests or needs can be addressed to Dn. Peter Ilchuk 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 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. Priests and deacons are required to wear the riassa and, if a priest, their pectoral cross throughout the AAC. Lay delegates should dress in business casual attire. 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.

There is also a restaurant in the hotel as well as a few options in the adjacent area around the hotel and in the inner harbor for meals in various price ranges. Responding to feedback from the last All-American Council, lunch times have been extended to two hours to give everyone more time for fellowship.

Delegates and paid observers will receive tickets for the Council Banquet on Thursday, July 21. All other meals are the responsibility of the individual delegate. A list of the many easily accessible restaurants in the area will be included in the registration packet.

6. Delegate Participation

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.

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. Time for resolutions will be given at the end of each Plenary Session as time allows. The following guidelines for consideration of a resolution will be used:

1. Delegates to the Council may submit resolutions in writing prior to the Council or at the Council.

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).
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. The discussion on the Pension Statute amendment will have double the number of speakers but each speaker is still limited to three minutes each. 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.

**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**

At the 20th All-American Council, delegates will be asked to vote on the following positions:

**Metropolitan Council**
- 3 Clergy members
- 3 Lay members
- 2 Alternates (1 Clergy and 1 Lay)

At-large members of the Metropolitan Council are elected for a term from one All-American Council through the next, excluding any extraordinary All-American Council.

**Pension Board**
- 2 Clergy members
- 2 Lay members
- 2 Alternates (1 Clergy and 1 Lay)

For the Pension Board positions, according to the Statute, the priest or deacon and the layperson who receive the highest number of votes are elected for a term from one All-American Council through the next two All-American Councils excluding any extraordinary All-American Council. The priest or deacon and the layperson who receive the next highest number of votes are elected for a term from one All-American Council through the next All-American Council excluding any extraordinary All-American Council.

As mentioned in a press release, the Nominating Committee started accepting nominations on June 23. Nominations will also be accepted at the Council by and no later than Great Vespers on Tuesday, July 19.
In order to facilitate the work of the Nominating Committee and allowing delegates to consider their vote for these church-wide positions carefully, the Preconciliar Commission encourages nominations to be submitted prior to the beginning of the Council. To that extent, a preliminary list with attached biographies will be posted on OCA.org on Monday, July 11. On Wednesday, July 20, before Plenary Session III, an updated list of nominees will be published on the website with attached biographies. That same morning, as they enter the ballroom for Plenary Session III, delegates will receive a hard copy of the final list of nominees but only the biographies received after July 11. This is done in the effort to minimize the use of paper.

Nominations are accepted only when received with the completed FORM which includes some brief biographical and professional information of the candidate.

Self-nominations are allowed. Verbal or written consent of the nominee must be received by the Nominating Committee before the name is added to the slate of candidates.

Please note that Article III, Section 4(g) of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America provides that the members of the Metropolitan Council are elected “from among the All-American Council delegates” which would require that they be attendees. Section 4(h) does not contain this restriction for the Pension Board who are not required to be present at nor delegates to the All-American Council.

Elections for the Metropolitan Council and Pension Board will be held on Thursday, July 21, at Plenary Session IV.

All those interested in running for one of the positions stated above are asked to carefully review the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, and especially Articles III (The All-American Council) and V (The Metropolitan Council) to learn about responsibilities, terms, and requirements of these positions. Interested individuals are also encouraged to speak with current members of the Metropolitan Council and Pension Board to learn more about these positions.

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. Likewise, you represent the All-American Council to your parish. Most of your fellow parishioners have not yet had the opportunity to be part of an All-American Council at work. Your experience is important to share with others when you return home.

We encourage you to share stories, Council materials, documents, and things you learned with your fellow parishioners. With the blessing of your rector, consider offering a presentation at your parish on the Council. When possible, help other parishioners understand the decisions
that were made and the implications for the life of the Orthodox Church in America and its ministry to the wider world.

Your positive attitude can serve as an example to others and help the Orthodox Church in America fulfill its mission.

8. Questions and Concerns

Any questions or concerns about the Council should be directed to aac@oca.org
# Tentative Agenda

## Monday, July 18 (Day 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</td>
<td>Plenary Session I</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Opening Molieben</em></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Call to Order</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Welcome/Organization</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Local Committee Welcome</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Metropolitan's Address</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Housekeeping</em></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Tuesday, July 19 (Day 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Room</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM - 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Plenary Session II</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Opening Prayer</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Nominations Procedures</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Resolutions Procedures</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Metropolitan's Report</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Statute Amendments</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Chancellor's Report</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Secretary's Report</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Questions/Discussions</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Resolutions, time permitting</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Housekeeping</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Wednesday, July 20 (Day 3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10:30 AM - 1:00 PM</th>
<th>Plenary Session III</th>
<th>Key Ballroom</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Prayer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer's Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audit Report</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Resolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pension Board Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stavropegial Monasteries Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Questions/Discussions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Resolutions, time permitting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housekeeping</td>
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</table>

### Thursday, July 21 (Day 4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1:00 PM - 3:30 PM</th>
<th>Plenary Session IV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Prayer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election Procedure</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCA Departments Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>IOCC Address</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Resolutions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vladimir's Seminary Report</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Tikhon's Seminary Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housekeeping</td>
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### Friday, July 22 (Day 5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10:30 AM - 1:00 PM</th>
<th>Plenary Session V</th>
<th>Key Ballroom</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Prayer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Chaplains Report</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Chaplains Report</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Business</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Next AAC Straw Poll</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Resolutions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing Molieben</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 20th All-American Council

**July 18-22, 2022**  
Baltimore, Maryland  
"Becoming Vessels of Grace"

## Tentative Schedule

### Sunday, July 17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
<td>Council Registration</td>
<td>South Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
<td>Council Exhibits/Displays</td>
<td>Holiday Ballroom 1-5 and Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM – 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Youth Registration</td>
<td>South Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 PM – 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Youth Registration Material Pickup and Parent/Staff Meeting</td>
<td>Paca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Youth Compline</td>
<td>Paca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Monday, July 18 (Day 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Staff, Parent &amp; Youth Meeting</td>
<td>Paca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 11:15 AM</td>
<td>Youth Session I</td>
<td>Council Youth Area 3rd Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 10:00 PM</td>
<td>Council Registration</td>
<td>South Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 AM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Youth Outing</td>
<td>K-5 Port Discovery Museum 6-12 Maryland Science Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Diocese of the South Assembly</td>
<td>Peale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Diocese of Eastern PA Gathering</td>
<td>Ruth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 PM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Diocese of the Midwest Assembly</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 PM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Diocese of Washington DC Gathering</td>
<td>Latrobe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM – 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Holy Synod/Met Council Dinner Meeting</td>
<td>Holiday Ballroom 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM – 9:00 PM</td>
<td>Plenary Session I</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 PM – 11:00 PM</td>
<td>Metropolitan’s Welcome Reception</td>
<td>Holiday Ballroom 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 PM</td>
<td>Youth Compline</td>
<td>Paca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Tuesday, July 19 (Day 2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 AM – 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (Diocese of Alaska)</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Council Registration</td>
<td>South Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Clergy Wives Breakfast</td>
<td>Holiday Ballroom 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Staff Meeting, Youth Morning Prayer</td>
<td>Paca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM – 11:15 AM</td>
<td>Youth Session II</td>
<td>Council Youth Area 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM - 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Plenary Session II</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 AM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Youth Outing</td>
<td>K-5 Maryland Zoo 6-12 Urban Air Adventure Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch Recess</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Orthodox Church Capital Improvement Fund (OCCIF)</td>
<td>Johnson B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM – 4:00 PM</td>
<td>FORUM 1 – Diocese of Alaska Presentation</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM – 5:00 PM</td>
<td>FORUM 2 – Thriving in Ministry Presentation</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM – 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Great Vespers</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM – 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Committee Meetings</td>
<td>Resolutions – Johnson A Nominations – Peale A Statutes – Johnson B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
<td>St. Vladimir's Seminary Reception</td>
<td>Holiday Ballroom 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM – 8:30 PM</td>
<td>Youth Compline</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Floor Youth Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
<td>Teen Crash Room</td>
<td>Paca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Wednesday, July 20 (Day 3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 AM – 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (Ethnic Dioceses)</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM – 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Staff Meeting, Youth Morning Prayer</td>
<td>Peale A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 AM – 11:15 AM</td>
<td>Youth Session III</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Floor Youth Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM - 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Plenary Session III</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 AM – 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Youth Outing</td>
<td>Six Flags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch Recess</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM – 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) workshop</td>
<td>Johnson A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM – 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Clergy Wives Advisory Meeting</td>
<td>Brent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 PM - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>FORUM 3 – Diocese of Mexico Presentation</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 PM - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>FORUM 4 – Panel Discussion on Addiction</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Room</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM – 6:30 PM</td>
<td>AAC Panikhida</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM – 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Committee Meetings</td>
<td>Resolutions – Johnson A Nominations – Peale A Statutes – Johnson B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
<td>Diocese of the West Assembly</td>
<td>Holiday Ballroom 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Youth Compline</td>
<td>Paca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
<td>Teen Crash Room</td>
<td>Paca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM – 10:00 PM</td>
<td>Private Confessions</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
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**Thursday, July 21 (Day 4)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Room</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:35 AM – 7:40 AM</td>
<td>Vesting for Liturgy</td>
<td>Pickersgill</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:45 AM – 8:00 AM</td>
<td>Procession</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 AM – 10:30 AM</td>
<td>Hierarchical Liturgy Synodal</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 AM – 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Holy Synod Brunch with Youth</td>
<td>Holiday Ballroom 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 PM – 5:30 PM</td>
<td>Youth Outing</td>
<td>National Aquarium or IOCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM – 3:30 PM</td>
<td>Plenary Session IV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM – 8:00 PM</td>
<td>Youth Banquet</td>
<td>Offsite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 PM – 6:30 PM</td>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>South Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 PM – 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Doors Open for Council Grand Banquet</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 PM – 9:30 PM</td>
<td>Council Grand Banquet</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 PM</td>
<td>Youth Compline</td>
<td>Paca</td>
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**Friday, July 22 (Day 5)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 AM – 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Diocese of Mexico)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Youth Prep for AAC Presentation</td>
<td>Paca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM – 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Plenary Session V</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM – 1:15 AM</td>
<td>Youth Council Presentation</td>
<td>Key Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 PM – 2:00 PM</td>
<td>Holy Synod/Metropolitan Council/ PCC Luncheon</td>
<td>Holiday Ballroom 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Information** *

*Thursday the exhibits/displays close at 7:00 pm*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday-Thursday, July 17-21</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 10:00 PM</td>
<td>Exhibits/Displays</td>
<td>Holiday Ballroom 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 10:00 PM</td>
<td>St. Tikhon’s Museum</td>
<td>Blake</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday-Friday, July 18-22</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 AM – 11:59 PM</td>
<td>Friends of Bill W</td>
<td>Peale C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM – 10:00 PM</td>
<td>Secretarial Room</td>
<td>Armistead</td>
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Process for Submitting Resolutions for the 20th All-American Council

In order to encourage wider discussion at the 20th All-American Council, the Preconciliar Commission has established a Resolutions Committee in accordance with Article III, Section 5.b of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America.

This Committee is now prepared to receive proposed resolutions for consideration. While resolutions can be made during a plenary session, parishes and other Church bodies—deaneries, dioceses, stavropegial institutions—are encouraged to submit proposed resolutions in advance to facilitate the work of the Resolutions Committee.

When receiving a proposed resolution:

- If necessary, the Resolutions Committee will discuss possible editorial changes with the submitting body.

- If substantially identical resolutions are submitted, the Committee will consolidate them into a single resolution, only after consultation with the submitting bodies.

- If, in the estimation of the Committee, a proposed resolution clearly lies outside the competence of the All-American Council, whether on canonical grounds or in conflict with the OCA Statute, the Committee will inform the submitting body appropriately, or refer the matter to the Holy Synod.

- If a proposed resolution is determined to lie outside the competence of the All-American Council, the Committee, in consultation with the Holy Synod and the proposing body, will consider alternative ways of bringing issues underlying the proposed resolution to the attention of the All-American Council.

Resolutions from parishes normally shall bear the signatures of the parish priest and the president of the parish council; those from deaneries, of the dean and other priests of the deanery; those from dioceses, of the bishop and the diocesan chancellor; those from Stavropegial institutions, of the abbot, president, dean or rector, and at least one other member of the institution in question.
In order to facilitate the work of the Committee, the Preconciliar Commission strongly encourages resolutions to be submitted before the beginning of the Council. The Resolutions Committee will begin to receive and consider proposed resolutions starting Monday, May 16, 2022.

The relevant resolution submissions should be sent via email to resolutions.20aac@oca.org or via mail to the Resolutions Committee, 20th All-American Council, c/o Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America, PO Box 675, Syosset, NY 11791.

The members of the Resolution Committee are:

Archpriest Timothy Sawchak, Diocese of the Midwest  CHAIR
Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Diocese of the Midwest
Protodeacon Jesse Isaac, Archdiocese of Canada
Anna Miller, Archdiocese of Canada
Sophia Sokolov, Diocese of the West
Michael Herzak, Stavropegial Institutions
Mark Linnehan, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Brief Biography for Election to Church-Wide Positions

Position (check one)

☐ Metropolitan Council
☐ Pension Board

Name of nominee: ____________________________________________

Parish/Institution/City, State: ________________________________

Hierarch's Signature of approval: _____________________________

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

Education:

Relevant Professional Experience:

Personal Statement
PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT
Chancery Restructuring

20TH ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL
Baltimore, MD – July 18-22, 2022

Rationale
This statute amendment is proposed in consideration of the reorganization of the Chancery following the work of the Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee in 2018.

The Chancellor, the Secretary, and the Treasurer serve as corporate officers of the Church, and are nominated for their positions by the Metropolitan, and confirmed by the Holy Synod upon endorsement by the Metropolitan Council. In the reorganized Chancery administration, the Chancellor functions as the Chief of Staff and the other two officers, the Secretary and the Treasurer, report to him.

While the reorganization has been in effect since 2019, the statute does not reflect it. This amendment aims at making the statute reflect but also guard the administrative structure that is already in place.

Current Statute: Article VI, Section 1—Church Officers
The Church Officers shall be a Chancellor, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. Church Officers assist the Metropolitan and the Holy Synod in the administration of the Church and work with the Metropolitan Council in carrying out its particular competence. The Chancellor, Treasurer, and Secretary, together with the Metropolitan, also serve as corporate officers of the Church. Those holding additional positions may be designated as Church Officers by the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council, as needed.

The Church Officers work under the direct supervision of the Metropolitan and report to him, the Holy Synod, and to the Metropolitan Council of which they are ex officio members.

Proposed Amendment
The Church Officers shall be a Chancellor, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. Church Officers assist the Metropolitan and the Holy Synod in the administration of the Church and work with the Metropolitan Council in carrying out its particular competence. The Chancellor, Treasurer, and Secretary, together with the Metropolitan, also serve as corporate officers of the Church. Those holding additional positions may be designated as Church Officers by the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council, as needed.

The Secretary and the Treasurer work under the direct supervision of the Chancellor and report to him, the Holy Synod, and the Metropolitan Council. The Chancellor works under the direct supervision of the Metropolitan and reports to him, the Holy Synod, and the Metropolitan Council. All three officers are ex officio members of the Metropolitan Council.
Background and Rationale

According to the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, the Pension Plan “is a retirement plan established and mandated by the Church for all eligible clergy and lay employees. The assets of the Pension Plan constitute property held in trust for beneficiaries of the Pension Plan and are not assets of The Orthodox Church in America (Article III, Section 16).” Further, the Plan is governed by a Board established by the All-American Council, with members elected to either 3- or 6-year terms at each All-American Council. The Board reports on the status of the Plan at each All-American Council triennially and to the Metropolitan Council at least annually.

In late 2020, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon asked Andrew Smith, Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, to help him understand the Pension Plan in light of questions that had arisen from different quarters within the church. Mr. Smith chaired an ad hoc committee which, through a good working relationship with the Pension Board and administration, produced a report for His Beatitude in mid-April 2021. His Beatitude subsequently authorized the release of this report to the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council. According to the report, the Plan has experienced a decline in funding status in recent years and faces challenges in three primary areas: plan structure, demographics, and investment performance.

The Metropolitan Council discussed this report and its conclusions extensively at a Special Summer 2021 Session and at its regular Fall 2021 Session. It has further authorized the consultation of an outside expert, Cheiron, Inc., to refine its understanding of the Plan and, perhaps more importantly, to help determine what steps are needed to improve the Plan going forward. A report from Cheiron is forthcoming.

The Metropolitan Council appointed a subcommittee among its members to continue reviewing the Pension Plan. This subcommittee has met routinely through late 2021 and early 2022. Among its observations are:

- The communication between the Metropolitan Council and the Pension Board in recent years has been inconsistent, with not all of the relevant information provided at times, and the format for the required information needs to be formalized;
- The Pension Board has, in the past, seen the need to make changes to the Plan (e.g., employer contribution rate increases), but did not propose the changes because of a sense that the changes would be unpalatable to the Metropolitan Council and the Church;
- There are two key categories of constituent of the Pension Plan (identified based on the requirement that they contribute to the Plan): Plan members and Employers;
- There is a sense that plan members and employers feel that they are not represented;
- The Plan and the Pension Board would benefit, particularly as it pertains to making key Plan changes, if each key category of constituent had direct representation on the Board; and,
- The macro-economic environment (broadly) and the defined benefit sector (specifically) are experiencing increasing instability. The Pension Plan, through its Board and the Board’s relationship to the Metropolitan Council and OCA Administration, needs the foundation and
support to act swiftly and adeptly in response to the prevailing environment.

The Pension Subcommittee sees an opportunity to address these challenges by amending the OCA Statute in two key ways:

1. **Codify some of the basic expectations of the Pension Plan’s regular reporting to the Metropolitan Council.**
   The proposed revised language would require that the Pension Plan report at each semi-annual meeting of the Metropolitan Council and that the reporting would specifically include assets, liabilities, actuarial funding ratio, market value funding ratio, surplus / deficit, and plan participation. It would further grant the Metropolitan Council the authority to ask for additional information. The Pension Board would continue to report triennially to the All-American Council. The Audit Committee would also include the Pension Plan’s financial statements in its annual review of OCA finances, in a manner similar to how it currently approaches Stavropegial institutions.

2. **Change the composition of the Pension Board to make for more direct representation of the key constituents, Plan participants and Employers.**
   The OCA would hold an election among Pension Plan participants to fill three spots and one alternate on the Pension Board. The Metropolitan, with counsel from the OCA officers, would appoint (with endorsement by the Metropolitan Council and subsequent confirmation by the Holy Synod) persons to fill three spots and one alternate on the Pension Board. The six members (excluding alternates) would appoint a seventh to serve as chair.

These changes would impact the OCA Statute in a number of sections--primarily Article III, Section 16 (Pension Board), but also sections pertaining to the competence of the Holy Synod, the All-American Council, the Metropolitan, and the Metropolitan Council, as well as the role of the Auditing Committee.

The changes proposed would strictly preserve the separation of the Pension Plan and the OCA. The Statute would continue to unequivocally state that the assets of the plan are held in trust for the beneficiaries of the Plan and the Pension Board would continue to have its fiduciary duty to those beneficiaries. But, in the view of the Pension Subcommittee, these changes would foster a kind of confidence that comes from direct representation and provide a foundation to adeptly navigate a changing environment.

We anticipate that the findings and conclusions of the aforementioned Cheiron report will help craft future actions that pertain to specific provisions of the Plan; however, as these sorts of changes are outlined in the Plan document and governed by the Pension Board, we think they are not within the scope of the OCA Statute and potential revisions.
Article II, Section 5: Competence of the Holy Synod

Current:

  t. Appointment and supervision of departments, commissions, committees, offices, and boards of the Church;
  u. Confirmation of the Metropolitan's nomination of the Chancellor, Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers of the Church whose competence or service extend beyond the boundaries of a single Diocese;
  v. Determination in consultation with the Metropolitan Council of the dates, location, and theme of the All-American Council.

Proposed:

  t. Appointment and supervision of departments, commissions, committees, offices, and boards of the Church;
  u. Confirmation of the Metropolitan's nomination of the Chancellor, Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers of the Church whose competence or service extend beyond the boundaries of a single Diocese;
  v. Confirmation of the Metropolitan's nomination of Pension Board members;
  w. Determination in consultation with the Metropolitan Council of the dates, location, and theme of the All-American Council.

N.b.: the other items in the current Statute would remain the same in content following new v., but would be given new alphanumeric letters in order.
Article III, Section 4: Competence of the All-American Council

Proposed:

Remove bullet point h. *Elect Members of the Pension Board and alternates.*

*N.b.: the other items in the current Statute would remain the same in content following the omission of h., but would be given new alphanumeric letters in order.*
Article III, Section 16: Pension Board

Current:

**Section 16: Pension Board**

a. **Definition**

The Pension Board is an autonomous executive body, established by the All-American Council, that supervises administration of The Orthodox Church in America Pension Plan, which is a retirement plan established and mandated by the Church for all eligible clergy and lay employees. The assets of the Pension Plan constitute property held in trust for beneficiaries of the Pension Plan and are not assets of The Orthodox Church in America.

b. **Composition**

i. The Board consists of seven (7) members. The Holy Synod appoints one bishop to membership on the Pension Board; the All-American Council elects the remaining members.

ii. The Pension Board appoints one or more trustees from its membership.

c. **Terms of Office**

The bishop appointed to the Pension Board shall serve at the pleasure of the Holy Synod. The other members of the Pension Board are priests or deacons and laypersons in equal number, with relevant professional experience, elected as follows:

i. At each All-American Council, if there are vacancies on the membership of the Pension Board to be filled by election by the All-American Council, the priest or deacon and the layperson who receive the highest number of votes are elected for a term from one All-American Council through the next two All-American Councils excluding any extraordinary All-American Council.

ii. The priest or deacon and the layperson who receive the next highest number of votes are elected for a term from one All-American Council through the next All-American Council excluding any extraordinary All-American Council.

iii. The All-American Council also elects two alternates, one priest or deacon and one layperson. The priest or deacon and the layperson who receive the next highest number of votes are elected as alternates for a term from one All-American Council through the next All-American Council excluding any extraordinary All-American Council.

iv. An alternate shall fill a permanent vacancy on the Pension Board, complete the balance of the vacated term of the person whom he or she replaces, and assume all member duties and privileges relating to reelection.
Members of the Pension Board may continue to be eligible for re-election by the All-American Council.

d. Periodicity

The Pension Board shall meet quarterly, or as often as is necessary to accomplish effective, professional, and prudent administration.

e. Competence

The following matters are within the competence of the Pension Board. The Pension Board shall:

i. Submit the Pension Plan and any proposed amendments to the Pension Plan to the Metropolitan Council for adoption;

ii. Uphold the provisions of the Pension Plan as defined by the Plan Document and comply with United States Internal Revenue Service regulations and any other applicable regulations that qualify it for favorable tax-exempt status as a qualified pension plan;

iii. Consult on a regular basis with professional investment, legal, actuarial, accounting and auditing providers, as it deems appropriate in order to evaluate plan provisions and capabilities, while securing the stability, financial security and viability of the Pension Plan, with a goal of providing optimum benefits for plan participants; and

iv. Report to the All-American Council on the activities and status of the plan and each year to the Metropolitan Council.

Proposed:

Section 16: Pension Board

a. Definition

The Pension Board is an executive body, established by the All-American Council, that supervises administration of The Orthodox Church in America Pension Plan, which is a retirement plan established and mandated by the Church for all eligible clergy and lay employees. The assets of the Pension Plan constitute property held in trust for beneficiaries of the Pension Plan and are not assets of The Orthodox Church in America.

b. Composition
i. The Board consists of seven (7) members. The Metropolitan, with the counsel of the officers of the Orthodox Church in America, shall appoint three (3) members; the plan participants elect three (3) members; These six (6) members appoint a seventh member to serve as chairperson.

ii. The Pension Board appoints one or more trustees from its membership.

c. Terms of Office

The members of the Pension Board are priests or deacons and laypersons, with relevant professional experience, appointed or elected as follows:

i. Within sixty (60) days of the conclusion of the 20th All-American Council, the Metropolitan, shall appoint, with the counsel of the officers of the Orthodox Church in America and the endorsement by the Metropolitan Council and subsequent confirmation by the Holy Synod, three (3) members and one (1) alternate who are not participants or beneficiaries in the Pension Plan. Two (2) shall be selected to serve until the next All-American Council excluding any extraordinary All-American Council (normally 3 years), while the third shall serve through the next All-American Council until the following All-American Council excluding any extraordinary All-American Council (normally 6 years).

ii. Additionally, within sixty (60) days of the conclusion of the 20th All-American Council, the Orthodox Church in America shall solicit nominations from, and hold an election by, Pension Plan members, who are participants or beneficiaries receiving benefits, to elect three (3) members and one (1) alternate from among their number. The member who receives the highest number of votes shall serve through the next All-American Council until the following All-American Council excluding any extraordinary All-American Council (normally 6 years). The remaining two members, elected with the second and third highest numbers of votes, shall serve until the following All-American Council (normally 3 years). The person receiving the fourth highest number of votes shall serve as an alternate.

iii. The chairman, the seventh member elected by the other six (6) members, shall serve until the next All-American Council excluding any extraordinary All-American Council (normally 3 years).

iv. For each All-American Council subsequent to the 20th All-American Council, vacancies shall be either appointed or elected (every three or six years, in accordance with paragraphs i. and ii., above) at least sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the Council. Such appointments and elections shall be announced at the All-American Council.

v. An alternate shall fill a permanent vacancy on the Pension Board, complete
the balance of the vacated term of the person whom he or she replaces, and assume all member duties and privileges relating to re-election.

Members of the Pension Board may continue to be eligible for re-appointment or re-election.

d. Periodicity

The Pension Board shall meet quarterly, or as often as is necessary to accomplish effective, professional, and prudent administration.

e. Competence

The following matters are within the competence of the Pension Board. The Pension Board shall:

i. Submit the Pension Plan and any proposed amendments to the Pension Plan to the Metropolitan Council for adoption;

ii. Uphold the provisions of the Pension Plan as defined by the Plan Document and comply with United States Internal Revenue Service regulations and any other applicable regulations that qualify it for favorable tax-exempt status as a qualified pension plan;

iii. Consult on a regular basis with professional investment, legal, actuarial, accounting and auditing providers, as it deems appropriate in order to evaluate plan provisions and capabilities, while securing the stability, financial security and viability of the Pension Plan, with a goal of providing optimum benefits for plan participants; and

iv. Report to each All-American Council and to the Metropolitan Council at its regular semi-annual meetings on the activities and status of the plan, including financial details such as assets, liabilities, market value funding ratio, actuarial value funding ratio, surplus/deficit, plan participation, and other relevant information as requested by the Metropolitan Council.
Article IV, Section 2: Competence of the Metropolitan

Current:

s. Nominate the Chancellor, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other officers of the Church for endorsement by the Metropolitan Council and subsequent confirmation by the Holy Synod;

t. Supervise Church Officers and receive regular reports from them;
u. Supervise and have pastoral care of Stavropegial Institutions;
v. Supervise the ministry of military and institutional chaplaincies and act as the Church's ecclesiastical endorser of chaplains;
w. Issue pastoral letters addressed to bishops, clergy, monastics, and laity of the Church; and
x. Exercise pastoral care with the right of initiative and pastoral intervention in all matters concerning the life of the Church within the framework of the Sacred Canons.

Proposed:

s. Nominate the Chancellor, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other officers of the Church for endorsement by the Metropolitan Council and subsequent confirmation by the Holy Synod;

t. Nominate, with the counsel of the officers of the Orthodox Church in America, three (3) members of the Pension Board, for endorsement by the Metropolitan Council and subsequent confirmation by the Holy Synod.
u. Supervise Church Officers and receive regular reports from them;
v. Supervise and have pastoral care of Stavropegial Institutions;
w. Supervise the ministry of military and institutional chaplaincies and act as the Church's ecclesiastical endorser of chaplains;
x. Issue pastoral letters addressed to bishops, clergy, monastics, and laity of the Church; and
y. Exercise pastoral care with the right of initiative and pastoral intervention in all matters concerning the life of the Church within the framework of the Sacred Canons.
Article III, Section 7: Competence of the Metropolitan Council

Current:

d. Supervise and review the audit of all financial reports and records of the Church and see to their prompt and transparent publication;

...  
t. Adopt and amend the Pension Plan of The Orthodox Church in America upon recommendation of the Pension Board, in accordance with Article III, Section 1:6; and

Proposed:

d. Supervise and review the audit of all financial reports and records of the Church, and see to their prompt and transparent publication;

e. Supervise and review the audit of all financial reports and records of the Pension Plan, and see to their prompt and transparent publication;

f. Supervise the collection of revenues as authorized by the All-American Council;

...  
l. Endorse for confirmation by the Holy Synod the Metropolitan’s selection of the Chancellor, Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers of the Church whose competence or service extends beyond the boundaries of a single Diocese;

m. Endorse for confirmation by the Holy Synod the Metropolitan’s selection of the three (3) members of the Pension Board;

n. Provide for publication and dissemination of materials for promoting the Orthodox Faith;

...  
t. Nominate and appoint members of the Auditing Committee and receive written reports from it in accordance with Article V, Section 9;

u. Adopt and amend the Pension Plan of The Orthodox Church in America in consultation with the Pension Board, in accordance with Article III, Section 16, (paragraph e. i.); and

v. Resolve disputes regarding the minutes of the All-American Council, as provided for in Article III, Section 1:2.

N.b.: The entire section following new e. would be given new alphanumeric letters in order.
Article III, Section 7: The Auditing Committee

Current:

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 Auditing 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.

Proposed:

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 financial statements of the Pension Plan and 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 Auditing 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.
Youth Schedule
July 17 – 22 (20th AAC in Baltimore)

Sunday
6PM – Youth Registration Material Pickup
7PM - Parent/Staff Meeting
8:00PM -Youth Compline
8:30 – 10PM Teen Crash Rooms (6th to 12th grades)

Monday
8:00AM – Staff Arrive (Meeting)
8:30 – Parent and Youth Meetings
9 – Morning Prayer, Metropolitan Address, Expectations Talk, and Ice-Breakers
10 – Music Session 1
10:30 – Education Session 1
11:30 – Depart for afternoon Activity
Port Discovery Childrens Museum (Grades K to 5)
Urban Air Adventures (Grades 6 – 12)
5PM Return
8PM –Met presentation in main council with 6th to 12th grades
9PM Social with the council
10PM Youth Compline

Tuesday
8:30AM – Staff Arrive
9AM – Morning Prayer
10AM – Music Session 2
10:30AM – Education Session 2
11:30AM – Depart for afternoon Activity
National Aquarium(all groups)
5PM Return
8 Youth Compline
8:30 – 10PM Teen Crash Room for 6th to 12th grades.

Wednesday
8:30AM – Staff Arrive
9 – Morning Prayer
9:30 – Rotations to Workshops (Music, Education, IOCC, and OCMC
11:30 – Depart for afternoon Activity
Six Flags (All groups)
6:00PM Youth Return
8:00PM Youth Compline
8:30- 10PM Teen Crash Room

Thursday
8AM – Heirarchical Liturgy
11:00 – Brunch with Bishops
1PM – Depart for afternoon Activity
Science Center
6PM – Arrive at Banquet Hall
(Dinner and Dance)
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
9:30PM – Youth arrive back at hotel
10PM – Youth Compline

Friday
8:30AM– Staff Arrive
9 – Morning Prayer
9:30 – Youth Prep for Council and Concluding Activities
10:30 – Council Presentations
Program Conclusion and child pickup by 11AM
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:
GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls let us pray to the Lord.

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.

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.

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.

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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by land, by sea, and by air, for the sick and the suffering, for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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: 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.

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.

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.

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.

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: 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.

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

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

Tone II

Soprano Alto

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast revealed the fishers of men as most wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit; through them Thou didst draw the world into Thy net, O Lover of man, glory to Thee.

Alaskan Melody

Tone I

Soprano Alto

O blessed Father Herman of Alaska,

Tenor Bass

North Star of Christ's holy Church; the light of your holy life and great deeds guides those who follow the Orthodox way. Together we lift high the Holy Cross you planted firmly...
Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**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: 

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 fulness 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
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.

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.
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.

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 lovest mankind.

People: Amen. Eis polla eti Despota!
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

O Heavenly King, the Comforter the Spirit

of Truth, who art everywhere and fillest all things;

Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life

Come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every

impurity, 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 heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, 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

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 4

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

We Thine unworthy servants, O Lord, grateful for

the blessings Thou hast given to us, always praise, bless,

and thankfully glory. Thy loving-kindness, crying to Thee with

love and humble submission, O Saviour and Benefactor, glory to Thee.

Tone 3

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Freely Thou dost grant us rich blessings, O Master,

though we are unprofitable servants, in all

our needs we run to Thee; Thou dost shower us with

many gifts! Now we thank Thee with all our heart.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
We glorify Thee, our Creator and Defender!

We cry to Thee from the depths of our soul:

Glory to Thee, O God, most bountyful

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

us with your protection! We your servants

gratefully cry out to you: Hall, Most Pure Virgin

Thou art kind! By your prayers deliver us from

every calamity, for you are a speedy

help in times of trouble.

O Mother of God help of Christians, you have favored
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, 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
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.