Orthodox Church in America
20th All-American Council

Plenary Session I
Monday, July 18, 2022

OPENING PRAYER SERVICE AND CALL TO ORDER

The 20th All-American Council (AAC), Plenary Session I, began at 7:25 PM with an opening prayer service. After the singing of “O Heavenly King” by the Council, His Beatitude Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, declared the 20th All-American Council open at 7:53 PM EDT.

APPROVAL OF CLERGY AND LAY CHAIRS AND COMMITTEES

His Beatitude asked Priest Alessandro Margheritino, Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America, to present to the assembly the appointments of Archpriest Andrew Jarmus as Clergy Vice-Chair; and Mrs. Hollie Benton as Lay Vice-Chair, Mr. Donald Garrett, MPB, PRP, as Parliamentarian, and David Lane, Esq., Metropolitan Council Legal Committee Chair. Fr. Margheritino also presented the following Committees:

SECRETARIAT

Priest Alessandro Margheritino, Stavropegial Institutions, CHAIR
Archpriest David Cowan, Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Priest Andrew Smith, Diocese of the West
Priest William Rettig, Diocese of the Midwest
Lynnell Brunswig, Diocese of the West
Philip Sokolov, Diocese of the Midwest
Alexis Liberovsky, Stavropegial Institutions

COUNCIL TELLERS

Priest Timothy Yates, Military Chaplains, CHAIR
Priest Seth Earl, Diocese of the South
Priest Jonathan Lincoln, Diocese of the Midwest
Priest Innocent Neal, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Sandra Tosca, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Tracey John Edson, Diocese of the West
Annette Miller, Diocese of the Midwest
Brian Preston, Diocese of the South
Paul Batz, Archdiocese of Canada
Kevin Fritts, Archdiocese of Washington

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

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

COUNCIL PRESS & INFORMATION

Priest Kyle Parrott, Archdiocese of Canada, CHAIR
Archpriest John Parsells, Archdiocese of Washington
Priest Joseph Lucas, Diocese of the South
Priest Alexander Koranda, Diocese of the Midwest

COUNCIL CREDENTIALS

Priest John Cox, Diocese of the South, CHAIR
Archpriest Michael Myers, Bulgarian Diocese
Priest Joshua Trant, Diocese of the South
Priest Stephen Osburn, Diocese of the West
Priest Peter Runyon, Diocese of the West
Donna Dimitri, Albanian Archdiocese
Kirk Ries, Diocese of the Midwest
Barry Migyanko, Stavropegial Institutions, CONSULTANT

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Archpriest Steven Voytovich, Diocese of New England, CHAIR
Archpriest Stephen Vernak, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Priest Theophan Whitfield, Diocese of New England
Priest Andrew Nelko, Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania
Ionut Alexandru Tudorie, Stavropegial Institutions
David Lane, Diocese of the West
Fr. Margheritino asked for and received the assembly’s approval of the Council Committees by consensus.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Metropolitan Tikhon, at the request of the Pension Board, and in consultation with the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council, moved to amend the agenda to shift the Pension Report from Wednesday to Tuesday immediately preceding the Pension Statute Amendment. Dn. Bogdan Popescu, St John the Baptist Romanian Orthodox Church, Los Angeles, seconded the motion. The Agenda as amended was approved unanimously.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

Fr. Cox, committee chair, presented the following report:

Hierarchs: 13
Clergy Delegates: 231
Lay Delegates: 206
Clergy Observers: 24
Lay Observers: 83
TOTAL: 557 (out of 692 total registrants)

WELCOME

Mrs. Benton, Lay Chair, introduced Archpriest Theodore Boback and Elizabeth Mikhalevsky, Clergy and Lay Chairs, respectively, of the Local Organizing Committee. Fr. Boback delivered welcome remarks.

ADDRESS OF THE METROPOLITAN

His Beatitude, at the outset of his address, congratulated His Grace Bishop Daniel, formerly of Santa Rosa, on his election today by the Holy Synod as Bishop of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest.

He spoke on the theme of this All-American Council, “Becoming Vessels of Grace,” outlining his vision of church life, past, present, and future.

HOUSEKEEPING AND ADJOURNMENT
Dn. Peter Ilchuk, Council Manager, made a number of housekeeping announcements.

Mrs. Benton declared Plenary Session I concluded at 9:01pm. The Session closed with the singing of “It is Truly Meet.”