

# Plenary Session VI

July 18, 2025



# Opening Prayer

His Beatitude Metropolitan TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All American and Canada



**21st ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL**

---

July 14-18, 2025



# Agencies of the Assembly of Bishops

Priest Nicholas Anton,  
Director of Operations, Assembly of  
Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the  
United States of America





ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL  
ORTHODOX BISHOPS

---

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA





# The Vision





# The Approach





# Our Agencies



**IOCC®**

*International Orthodox Christian Charities*



**OCF**



Orthodox Christian  
**PRISON MINISTRY**



**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN  
MISSION CENTER**



**OVC**

Orthodox Volunteer Corps





# Our Agencies



# IOCC®

---

*International Orthodox Christian Charities*

---





# Our Agencies



**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN  
MISSION CENTER**



# Our Agencies







## Our Agencies



Orthodox Christian  
**PRISON MINISTRY**



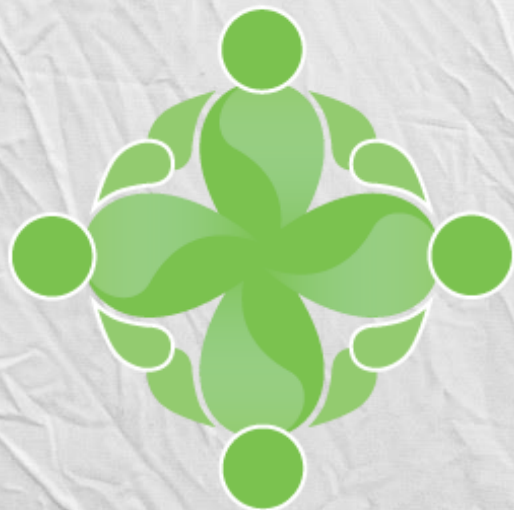
# Our Agencies







# Our Agencies



# OVC

Orthodox Volunteer Corps









# Mental Health Ministries











# Accessibility Ministry








# The Future







Inter-Parish Associations promote communication, camaraderie, and cooperation across Orthodox Christian parishes of all jurisdictions in a given geographical area.









# AoB Mobile App

## Koinonia: Life in Christ

*The AoB mobile app reimaged*

### Learning from Community



### Connecting Communities





# THANK YOU!



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL  
ORTHODOX BISHOPS

---

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Email: [communications@assemblyofbishops.org](mailto:communications@assemblyofbishops.org)  
Web: [www.assemblyofbishops.org](http://www.assemblyofbishops.org)



@AssemblyofBishops



# Military Chaplains Report

Archpriest Ted Boback,  
Dean and Executive Director,  
Military & Veterans Administration  
Chaplains





# ***Air Force Chaplaincy***

---



**Ch, Maj Thaddaeus J. Werner**  
**Deputy Wing Chaplain**  
**90th Missile Wing**

**U.S. AIR FORCE**

---





# *Overview*

- **Mission**
- **Religious Accommodation**
- **Spiritual Fitness**
- **Leadership Advisement**

**U.S. AIR FORCE**



## ***90th Missile Wing – F. E. Warren Air Force Base***

---

- **1 of 3 of the Air Force's Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile Wings**
  - Work takes place in the missile fields
  - Winds of the High Plains
  - Cheyenne Wyoming, 6,600 ft elevation
- **~4,000 Airmen/Civilians**
  - ~5,500 family members
- **Lead 12 person team, supervise 4 Active, 3 Reserve Chaplains**

**U.S. AIR FORCE**

---





# Religious Accommodation



Hijab



Yarmulke



Turban



Visible Markings



Tallit

- Services/Holy Days
- Dietary Restrictions



Heathen/Asatru



Jewish



Muslim



Eastern Orthodox  
or Other Christians



Other (Sikh,  
Rastafarian, etc)



Christmas Tree  
Lighting



Bible on POW/  
MIA Table

FORCE





# ***Spiritual Fitness***

- **Spiritual Fitness Events**
  - Belief, Values, Virtues, Purpose, Meaning, Fulfillment
- **Religious Rites, Death Notifications, Memorial Services**
- **Unit Engagement**
- **Suicide Prevention and Postvention**
- **Crisis Intervention/Faith Based Counseling**
  - 100% Confidentiality
- **Relationship Events**
  - Marriage and Single Airmen events



**U.S. AIR FORCE**





# *Spiritual Fitness*





# ***Leadership Advisement***

---

- **Religious Practices**
- **Ethical Issues**
- **Moral Leadership**
- **Character**
- **Matters of Morale**



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

---



# Institutional Chaplains Report

Archpriest Steven Voytovich,  
Director, Office of Institutional  
Chaplaincy





## **21st ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL**

July 14-18, 2025

# Office of Institutional Chaplains

21<sup>st</sup> All-American Council

July 18, 2025

Archpriest Steven Voytovich, Director



# 2025: 100th Anniversary of Clinical Training

- Early pioneers eventually led to two originating bodies.
- Early steps were taken in 1925 that are considered the birth of clinical training. Clinical here is understood literally as “at the bedside”.
- Chaplaincy, already functioning in military contexts, and now in institutional contexts, included chaplains being part of the interdisciplinary treatment team.
- I am grateful that for the first time in the twenty years of this office’s existence, institutional chaplains joined military chaplains at Wednesday’s Divine Liturgy!

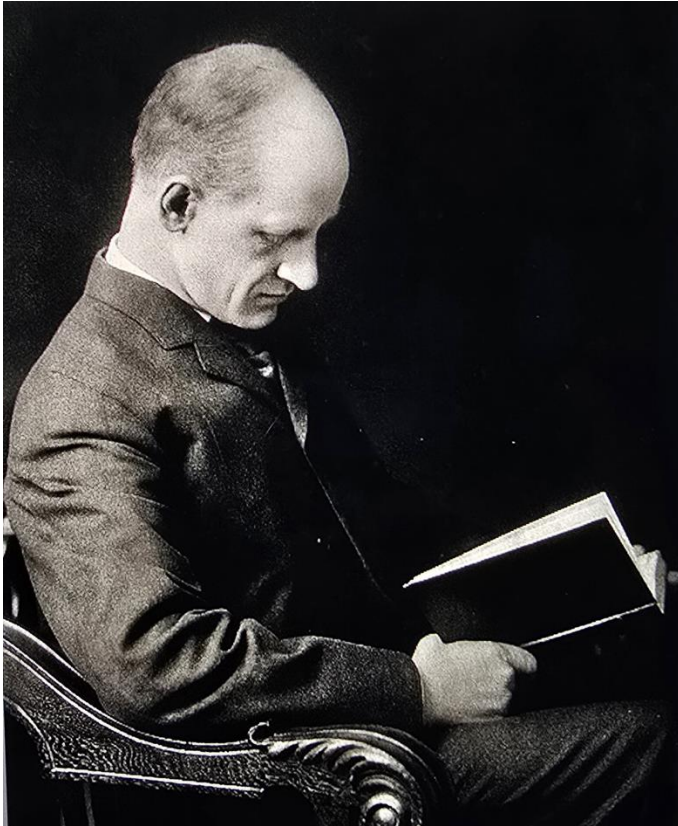
## Two Origins: Boisen and Dunbar



- The Rev. Anton Boisen, a Presbyterian Minister serving in Congregational Contexts, was hospitalized for psychiatric illness, seeing his experience through a ***religious lens*** of reaching greater depth of personhood.
- Out of his experience, he invited a number of students to come and attend to psychiatric patients in 1925.
- Among them was Dr. Helen Flanders Dunbar, who is largely known as the founder of **psychosomatic medicine**. They worked closely together for many years. They would eventually found the **Council for Clinical Training**.



## Two Origins: Cabot



- Dr. Richard Cabot, who was a physician and founder of case study methodology (Mass. General Hospital, 1905), was also a founder of social work case work.
- In 1920, he left full-time medical work to teach social ethics at Andover Theological Seminary and the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Boston. He founded hospital social work and worked with Anton Boisen to start the CPE program at Worcester State Hospital in 1925.
- Cabot was a recognized pioneer in efforts to define the physician's role in human well-being; and, in his work at seminaries, he promoted that for theological students. His "Plea for a Clinical Year in the Course of Theological Study" that came out in the fall of 1925 was a major factor toward founding the clinical pastoral education movement.
- He would later be the leader of the **Institute for Pastoral Care**.

# Creative Tension (we know about this!)

- The **Institute for Pastoral Care** adopted an emphasis on case study methodology and skill development, following Cabot's lead.
- The **Council for Clinical Training**, following Boisen and Dunbar, focused on recovery of soul and studying "living human documents".
- Though Cabot and Boisen would eventually part company, the tension between these two approaches led to many others' involvement in the early movement.



# Setting the Stage for Brief Reflection



- As a chaplain resident at Bridgeport Hospital (1992-1993), the CPE Supervisor offered a didactic on an entity identified as the **COMISS Network**, a national round table for pastoral care and counseling.
- From that moment on, I envisioned our Orthodox Church one day being represented at this table, as so often we are not.
- Expressing gratitude to His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel, while at the chancery he completed the necessary national church elements for our application to join the COMISS Network in 2005.
- This January, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of clinical training, the first in-person gathering since the pandemic, and I was blessed to be completing my term as Chair of this body at this day-long event.
- Organizational members include credentialing bodies, endorsers, those employing chaplains, and others, including theological schools.

# We gathered at SDA Center in Silver Spring MD

This was our leadership team. To my left is Rev. Denise Parker Lawrence, once my trainee, now current chair!



The main presenter was **Dr. Robert Charles Powell**, a psychiatrist who is also a leading historian of the origins of Clinical Training!





# I presented at this Conference as well

Plenary Presenter



Referencing the importance of clinical training bodies working together, utilizing this very roundtable



# Memorable Moment and Opportunity

Steven's CPE Supervisor from 30 years ago, who referenced COMISS, was present at this gathering, Rev. Robert G. Anderson!

Joining me was Robert Cooke, co-chair of Pastoral Psychotherapy Roundtable (PPR)





## Update from this Presentation



- Robert, another colleague, and I began a dialogue, while serving as COMISS chair, about the future of the **pastoral psychotherapy** discipline following the demise of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC).
- Five states license this discipline, and I invited Robert to speak, during my presentation time, to our current effort to seek a pathway forward, utilizing the COMISS Network roundtable
- In addition to endorsing chaplains, this office may one day be engaged in endorsing pastoral psychotherapists, if this initiative continues to proceed, with a planned September conference.

# Thanks be to God for all things...

- We continue to be grateful for the service of our institutional chaplains, supported by this office
- They bear witness to the Orthodox Christian Faith in pluralistic caregiving contexts
- Again, you can find further information through our Institutional Chaplaincy website: <https://orthinc.oca.org/>

Archpriest Steven Voytovich, D.Min., LPC, Chair  
Office of institutional Chaplains



# Final Resolutions

Archpriest Timothy Sawchak, Chair,  
Resolutions Committee



**21st ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL**

---

July 14-18, 2025

# Installation of Metropolitan Council

His Beatitude Tikhon  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and  
Canada





Adjournment of  
the 21<sup>st</sup>  
All-American  
Council





# Closing Molieben

His Beatitude Tikhon  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and  
Canada





# Housekeeping

Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino  
Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America

Protodeacon Peter Ilchuk  
21<sup>st</sup> All-American Council Manager



**21<sup>st</sup> ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL**

---

July 14-18, 2025

# Departure

С Богом!



**21st ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL**

---

July 14-18, 2025