

Orthodox Church in America
21st All-American Council
Plenary Session I
Monday, July 14, 2025
Arizona Grand Resort
Phoenix, AZ

Opening Prayer Service and Call to Order

The 21st All-American Council (AAC), Plenary Session I, began at 6:15 PM with an opening prayer service. His Beatitude Tikhon, Archbishop of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, declared the 21st All-American Council open at 6:48 PM.

Approval of Clergy and Lay Chairs and Committees

His Beatitude asked Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, to present the following Committees previously established by the Preconciliar Commission:

Council Credentials

Archpriest John Cox, Diocese of the South CHAIR
Priest Gabriel Bilas, Bulgarian Diocese
Priest Joshua Trant, Diocese of the South
Priest Phillip Beiner, Diocese of the New England
Priest Peter Runyon, Diocese of the West
Jane Cessna, Archdiocese of Washington
Sara Cattell, Diocese of the South
Barry Migyanko, Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania CONSULTANT

Nominations Committee

Priest David Bozeman, Diocese of the South CHAIR
Priest Andrew Nelko, Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania
Ray Steeb, Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania
Lori Kochan, Diocese of the Midwest
David Lane, Diocese of the West
Kevin Fritts, Archdiocese of Washington

Council Tellers

Archpriest Sean Levine, Military Chaplains CHAIR
Priest Seth Earl, Diocese of the South
Priest Simeon Johnson, Diocese of Alaska
Priest Innocent Neal, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Deacon Matthew Prentice, Archdiocese of Washington
Subdeacon Jeremy Pletnikoff, Diocese of Alaska
Katia Vansuch, Diocese of New York & New Jersey

Danielle Ilchuk, Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania
David Zavednak, Diocese of New England
Gregory Honshul, Archdiocese of Washington

Council Resolutions

Archpriest Timothy Sawchak, Diocese of the Midwest CHAIR
Archpriest John Hopko, Diocese of New England
Archpriest Victor Gorodenchuk, Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Anna Miller, Archdiocese of Canada
Sophia Sokolov, Diocese of the West
James Class, Archdiocese of Washington
Gust Mecera, Diocese of the South

Council Press and Information

Priest Kyle Parrott, Archdiocese of Canada CHAIR
Archpriest John Parsells, Archdiocese of Washington
Archpriest Joseph Lucas, Diocese of the South
Archpriest Justin Patterson, Diocese of the South

Fr. Margheritino also presented: Mr. Joe Neglia as Parliamentarian, and Mr. Mark Hamilton, General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America

Fr. Margheritino also presented to the assembly the names for appointment of Archpriest Andrew Jarmus as Clergy Vice-Chair; and Ms. Hollie Benton as Lay Vice-Chair, as well as the Secretariat:

Secretariat

Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, CHAIR
Archpriest David Cowan, Diocese of New York and New Jersey
Priest Andrew Smith, Diocese of the West
Priest John Thetford, Diocese of the Midwest
Elizabeth (Lisa) Mikhalevsky, Archdiocese of Washington
Alexis Liberovsky, Stavropegial Institutions

Fr. Margheritino asked for and received the assembly's approval of the Council Secretariat and by consensus.

Approval of the Agenda

Fr. Jarmus asked for the adoption of the agenda by verbal acclamation.

Welcome

Archbishop Benjamin welcomed delegates to the Diocese of the West.

Fr. Jarmus introduced Dn. John Weiss and Ms. Lydia Osolinsky, clergy and lay chairs, respectively, of the Local Organizing Committee. Dn. John delivered welcoming remarks.

Fr. Jarmus introduced Michael Pissos, representative of Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego. Mr. Pissos read a welcome letter from Mayor Gallego.

Credentials Committee Report

Fr. Cox, Committee Chair, delivered the following report:

Hierarchs: 14

Clergy Delegates: 258

Lay Delegates: 184

Clergy Observers: 33

Lay Observers: 90

Total: 579

Address of the Metropolitan

His Beatitude addressed the Council. The full text may be read here: <https://www.oca.org/holy-synod/statements/his-beatitude-metropolitan-tikhon/address-of-his-beatitude-metropolitan-tikhon-at-the-21st-all-american-council>.

Housekeeping and Adjournment

Protodeacon Peter Ilchuk, Council Manager, made a number of housekeeping announcements.

Ms. Hollie Benton declared Plenary Session I closed at 7:39 PM. Plenary Session I closed with the singing of "It Is Truly Meet."