

Orthodox Church in America
21st All American Council
Plenary Session III
Tuesday July 15, 2025
Arizona Grand Resort
Phoenix, AZ

Opening Prayer

The session was convened at 3:05 PM with the singing of “O Heavenly King.”

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Andrew Smith gave his report to the council (see attached). He specifically referenced Exhibit A and gave some key highlights from his report.

Financial Report

Mr. Smith indicated there is a comprehensive financial report of Stavropegial Institutions included in the Financial Reports booklet.

Auditing Committee Report

Matushka Sharon Hubiak, Auditing Committee Chair, invited the other members of the Auditing Committee to introduce themselves. She referenced the full audit report (attached).

Credentials Report

Archpriest John Cox, Committee Chair, delivered the following report regarding this session:

Hierarchs: 12

Clergy Delegates: 275

Lay Delegates: 236

Total Voters: 531

Clergy Observers: 19

Lay Observers: 63

Total Present: 605

Funding Resolution

Mr. Andrew Smith presented the resolution. Before reading the resolution, he spoke to the process over the past two All-American Councils of moving from a head tax funding model to a proportional giving model for the territorial Dioceses.

Mr. Smith read the full text of the resolution to the Council:

“For the budget years 2026 and following, until the next All-American Council, each territorial diocese with the exception of Canada, Mexico and Alaska shall remit its annual financial obligation for the work of the Synodal Chancery at the rate of 34% of their current year ‘budgeted net operating revenue’.

“For the budget years 2026 and following, until the next All-American Council, the Archdiocese of Canada and the Diocese of Alaska shall remit their annual diocesan financial obligation at the rate of 10% of their current year ‘budgeted net operating revenue’.

“The financial arrangements of the non-territorial dioceses (Romanian Episcopate, Albanian Archdiocese, and Bulgarian Diocese) are based upon agreements made when they entered the OCA and are within the competency of the Holy Synod, subject to periodic review.

“‘Budgeted net operating revenue’ is defined as all revenue budgeted for the current year by the diocese, with the exception of pass-through activity that benefits a third party or funds a special initiative (e.g., scholarship funds, capital campaigns, revenue or expenses associated with donor restricted funds unless the restriction is for operations).”

Ms. Hollie Benton, Lay Vice-Chair, reported that the Metropolitan Council recommends the resolution. The floor was opened for discussion.

Proponent: Bob Graban, Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia, MI, said that looking back at past councils there has been much debate as to the various levels of funding. Now we see greater equality and financial health. Glory to God.

Proponent: Deacon Matthew Prentice, St. John the Theologian Mission, Fairfax Station, VA, asked for a point of clarification: The Diocese of Mexico is not mentioned – is this intentional?

Mr. Smith: Yes, the Church is intentionally silent on that, as there is no expectation of contribution.

Opponent: Mr. Daniel Ralich, St. Elia the Prophet Church, Akron, OH, questioned the fairness of asking for a 10% contribution from the Diocese of Alaska, given the economic struggles facing many Alaskans. Mr Ralich proposed that their commitment of 10% should be covered by the Romanian Episcopate, Albanian Archdiocese, and Bulgarian Diocese specifically.

Ms. Benton called the matter to a vote: the resolution passed by verbal acclamation.

Pension Board Report

Pension Board Chair Matushka Mary Buletza Breton delivered the Pension Board Report (attached).

She clarified two points:

- 1.) Pension benefits vest after five years.
- 2.) The Pension Board does not recommend the adoption of the proposed Statute amendment regarding pension matters.

Stavropegial Monasteries Report

Archimandrite Sergius (Bowyer), Igumen Christopher (Savage), and Mother Cecelia (Harvey) gave their respective reports from the Stavropegial Monasteries (attached).

In addition to the content of their written reports, Igumen Christopher gave a small snapshot of the life of the monastics at the Monastery of New Skete; Mother Cecelia (Nuns of New Skete – Our Lady of the Sign) spoke from the perspective of the female community at New Skete; and Archimandrite Sergius noted that St. Tikhon of Zadonsk Monastery was founded precisely on July 15, 1905. He also affirmed that St. Tikhon Monastery is a force for good in the world and thanked those who support the monastery.

Questions/Discussions

Ms. Benton opened the floor to questions on the Pension Board Report and the Stavropegial Monasteries Report – there were none.

Resolutions

There were no resolutions presented at this time.

Housekeeping

Protodeacon Peter Ilchuk made a number of housekeeping announcements.

Ms. Benton declared Plenary Session III closed at 4:13 PM. Plenary Session III closed with the singing of “It Is Truly Meet.”