
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL of the ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

MINUTES
2022 Special Session

Conducted by video conference

Monday, April 11, 2022



PARTICIPANTS

CHAIRMAN

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

CHURCH OFFICERS (*EX OFFICIO*)

Archpriest Alexander Rentel, *Chancellor*
Andrew Smith, *Treasurer*

Priest Alessandro Margheritino, *Secretary*

MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL

Archpriest Thomas Moore
Archpriest Kirill Sokolov
Archpriest David Rucker

Katherine Vitko
Lynnell Brunswig
Mark Linnehan

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Diocese of Alaska

Archpriest David Askoak

Albanian Archdiocese

Archpriest Dennis Rhodes

Donna Dimitri

Bulgarian Diocese

Priest Gabriel Bilas

Bogdan Popescu

Archdiocese of Canada

Protodeacon Jesse Isaac

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Archpriest Nicholas Solak

Danalisa Radu

Diocese of the Midwest

Archpriest Elijah Mueller

Robert Graban

Diocese of New England

Evelyn Kreta

Diocese of New York/New Jersey

James P. Kornafel

Diocese of the South

Archpriest Joseph Ciarciaglino

Archdiocese of Washington

Deacon Matthew Prentice

Gregory Honshul

Diocese of the West

Archpriest Michael Anderson

David Lane, Esq.

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Priest John Parker

Ray Steeb

ABSENT

Archimandrite Joseph (Hoffman) (*Diocese of NY/NJ*)

Priest Theophan Whitfield (*Diocese of New England*)

Dorothy Chaney (*Diocese of Alaska*)

Joshua Godbold (*Diocese of the South*)

Mark Petasky (*Archdiocese of Canada*)

GUESTS

Judge E.R. Lanier (*OCA General Counsel*)

Alexis Liberovsky (*Recording Secretary*)

A. Call to Order

Metropolitan Tikhon opened the session with prayer at 2:04 PM and Archpriest Alexander Rentel then called the meeting to order.

B. Agenda Introduction & Roll Call

Fr. Rentel reviewed the agenda for the Special Session and noted that it has been convened to review proposals of possible Statute amendments for consideration at the upcoming 20th All-American Council. He then conducted the roll call, indicating that Judge E.R. Lanier (OCA General Counsel) and Alexis Liberovsky (OCA Archivist) as recording secretary are present for the meeting as guests.

C. Metropolitan’s Remarks

Metropolitan Tikhon presented his introductory remarks. He reported on the grave illness of Archbishop Paul, his own visit to see Archbishop Paul and asked for prayers for His Eminence. He noted that the resolutions adopted at the Spring Session of the Metropolitan Council regarding Chancery relocation and Archives relocation were approved by the Holy Synod and he reported on actions moving forward. While in Washington, DC for Holy Week and Pascha, Metropolitan Tikhon stated that he intends to look at rental properties for his future residence.

D. Chancellor’s Report

Archpriest Alexander Rentel, OCA Chancellor, delivered an oral report focused on the recent appeal for funds for refugees from Ukraine in conjunction with the war there. He indicated that this was the largest fundraising effort in OCA history. He reported on his recent travel to Poland to see the assistance to refugees being provided by the ELEOS Orthodox Charity Agency, where the proceeds of the OCA Ukrainian Appeal have been directed, and, with Bishop Andrei of Cleveland, to Romania, where a donation of \$10,000 from the OCA has been sent by decision of the Metropolitan Council. He indicated the possibility of a future appeal whose proceeds would be directed to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Questions and discussion ensued.

E. Proposed Statute amendments

Fr. Rentel read the provisions of the OCA Statute governing the process for proposing amendments to the Statute and invited Priest Alessandro Margheritino, OCA Secretary, to present two amendment proposals for initial review by the Metropolitan Council. Fr. Margheritino introduced the first proposal that attempts to prevent possible conflicts of interest of Metropolitan Council members who are also employed by the Central Administration. Extensive discussion ensued.

- E.1. MOTION RUCKER/POPESCU – To propose for consideration at the 20th All-American Council a Statute amendment of Article V, Section 2 that would exclude from membership in the Metropolitan Council anyone who is also employed by the Central Administration in view of possible conflicts of interest. DEFEATED with two (2) in favor, twenty-two (22) opposed and two (2) abstentions.**

Fr. Margheritino then introduced a second statute amendment proposal to allow the Statute to reflect chancery structure reorganization that has been in practical effect since 2019. Revisions to the text of the presented draft Statute amendment were proposed, but a motion to adopt these revisions received only four votes in favor. A motion to approve the Statute amendment as originally presented was carried as follows.

- E.2. MOTION MUELLER/GRABAN - To propose for consideration at the 20th All-American Council a Statute amendment of Article VI, Section 1 codifying chancery structure reorganization as it relates to the authority of the Chancellor that has been in practical effect since 2019. CARRIED with twenty-four (24) votes in favor and three (3) opposed.**

Andrew Smith provided an update on the review of the Pension Plan by Cheiron, Inc. that is underway by mandate of the Metropolitan Council.

He then presented draft Statute amendments concerning OCA Pension Board governance and Pension Plan accountability with extensive background information. The complexity of the proposed stipulations requires extensive amendments in articles II and III of the Statute. After deliberation resulting in some revision of the draft texts of the proposed amendments concerning OCA Pension Board governance and Pension Plan accountability, the texts were approved.

- E.3. MOTION MUELLER/BRUNSWIG – To propose for consideration at the 20th All-American Council Statute amendments of Article III, Section 16 and other related Statute provisions concerning OCA Pension Board governance and Pension Plan accountability. CARRIED with twenty-two (22) votes in favor and three (3) abstentions.**

F. Adjournment

Fr. Rentel reminded all Metropolitan Council members to register for the All-American Council. In concluding remarks, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon noted the significance of amending the Statute and, in particular, thanked Andrew Smith and the Pension Ad-hoc Committee for their hard work. He expressed gratitude for the generosity in donations for the Ukraine Refugee Appeal. His Beatitude wished everyone a blessed Holy Week and Pascha. He declared the Special Session of the Metropolitan Council closed and adjourned the meeting with prayer at 5:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary