

Brief Biography for Election to Church-Wide Positions

Position (check one)



Metropolitan Council



Pension Board

Name of nominee: Priest Nikolai Breckenridge

Parish/Institution/City, State: St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, Bethlehem, PA

Hierarch's Signature of approval:

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education:

Diploma in Orthodox Theology - St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, 2010

Relevant Professional Experience:

Previous service on the Metropolitan Council as Diocesan Representative for Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania from 2013 - 2021.

Service on Archdiocesan Council for Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania from 2016 - 2021

Service on Diocesan Committee for proposing a new proportional model for Diocesan funding in 2017.

Personal Statement

Being given the opportunity to serve on the Metropolitan Council in the past was a distinct honor and blessing for me. And I believe that I served well, by God's grace. This previous service also gives me the advantage of being able to jump right into the work required.

My Diocesan Hierarch, Archbishop MARK suggested that I should submit my name, and I am willing to serve again.



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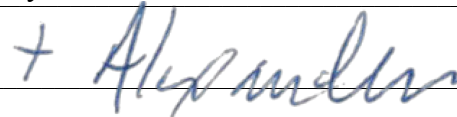
Metropolitan Council



Pension Board

Name of nominee: Archpriest Christopher Foley

Parish/Institution/City, State: Holy Cross Orthodox Church Kernersville, NC

Hierarch's Signature of approval: 

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education:

AA in Missiology/Cross-cultural Studies - Toccoa Falles College - 1993
BA in Studio Art/Graphic Design with a minor in Art History - Piedmont College - 1995
MDiv - St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary - 2006

Relevant Professional Experience:

- Served for 16 years a priest in charge of Holy Cross Orthodox Mission in Kernersville, NC.
- During that time this brand new mission has grown to over 100 faithful and are getting ready to build our new church and hall.
- Successfully completed the OCA planting grant and have been able to be a full time priest since that time.
- Helped implement and manage a successful capital campaign for our new building raising over \$1.2 million.
- Helped plant Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Mission in Hickory, NC.

Personal Statement

I am convinced that God is able to use the many experiences in our life to serve the Church. I have certainly seen this in parish and church planting ministry. I would hope to bring that to serving on the Metropolitan Council. I have a diverse background with school and work experience in missiology, church planting, construction, music industry, marketing, public speaking, and management. Also, I have 16 years of parish experience where I have learned a great deal about servant leadership, teamwork, building consensus, pastoral care, and parish administration. I have come to love the vision and mission of the OCA seeing my own mission grow and address the challenges of being committed to a truly indigenous expression of the Orthodox Faith in this land. If elected, I would be excited to serve the OCA on the Metropolitan Council because I truly believe that the OCA has a unique and vital mission of continuing to bring "the fullness of the Gospel of the Kingdom to the peoples of North America."



Brief Biography for Election to Church-Wide Positions

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Metropolitan Council



Pension Board

Name of nominee: Priest Edward Henderson

Parish/Institution/City, State: St. John the Baptist parish/Berkeley, CA

Hierarch's Signature of approval: _____

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education:

BA in Russian from Florida State University (1996)

MA in Russian Studies from University College London-School of Slavonic and
East European Studies (2004)

MDiv from Saint Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary (2009)

Relevant Professional Experience:

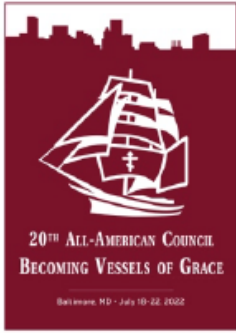
-Ordained to the diaconate and priesthood by His Eminence, Archbishop
Benjamin of San Francisco and the West in 2013

- Parish rector of Saint John the Baptist parish in Berkeley, CA since 2013

Personal Statement

I have been a priest and parish rector since 2013. I actively participate in the life of our local deanery and diocese. In addition, I have been involved with the local OCF at UC Berkeley. In 2021, I served as a representative of the Diocese of the West and the OCA as part of a delegation from Fort Ross to Russia, where we opened an exhibition in the village of Anga (Irkutsk region), which is the birthplace of Saint Innocent of Alaska, at the Saint Innocent Cultural Center, which focused on his brief ministry at Fort Ross.

"Hierarch authorized via email."



Brief Biography for Election to Church-Wide Positions

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Metropolitan Council



Pension Board

Name of nominee:

Archpriest Jonathan Ivanoff

Parish/Institution/City, State:

St. John the Theologian Church, Shirley, NY

Hierarch's Signature of approval:

+ Archbishop Michael

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education:

B.A., U.C.L.A., Political Science, 1980

M.Div., St. Vladimir's Seminary, 1986

Relevant Professional Experience:

In addition to my over 30 years in the diaconate and priesthood, I have 43 years of experience in corporate America working for software and IT-related firms; last nearly 15 years at a private liberal arts university working in the school's Center for Career and Professional Development as a Career Counselor, but also with terms in university's strategic development and accreditation committees. I also started a para-church ministry called Orthodox Natural Church Development and have worked for nearly 20 years with over 50 parishes of multiple jurisdictions in parish health and growth. Also spent 1998 to 2002 in the OCA Office of Church Growth and from 2002 to 2008 with the Department of Evangelism. I also worked at the OCA Chancery from 2002 to 2007.

Personal Statement:

As I will be very soon retiring, finally, from my long period of secular employment, I am considering how my time will be devoted and divided at that point between parish and any other possible interests that may present themselves. One of the areas of great interest that I have always had has been service on the Metropolitan Council. While I have never done such service, I did serve for about five years on Chancery staff from May of 2002 to September of 2007, and during that time (and even before) came to great interest and admiration in the work of the Council. Now that the AAC is soliciting nominations for the upcoming term, I would consider it an honor to seek to spend my years ahead in further service to our beloved Orthodox Church in America by serving on the Metropolitan Council.

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Metropolitan Council XX

Pension Board

Name of nominee: _____ Archpriest David Lowell

Parish/Institution/City, State: _____ St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Portland, OR

Hierarch's Signature of approval: _____

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education: B.A. Religion and Philosophy, Birmingham Southern College
Certificate in Non-Profit Management, University of San Francisco
M.A. Pastoral Theology, Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge UK

Relevant Professional Experience:

Parish Priest, Memphis, TN, 1976-1978 (pre-Orthodox, now an OCA parish)
Parish Priest, Atlanta, GA, 1979-1986 (pre-Orthodox, now an OCA parish)
Intake Coordinator, Raphael House of San Francisco Family Shelter, 1986-1991
Executive Director, Raphael House of San Francisco Family Shelter, 1991-2009
Assigned Priest, Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA 2000-2009; 2016-2021
Rector, Holy Transfiguration Cathedral, Denver, CO 2009-2013
Associate Priest, with Hierarchical blessing, St. Ephraim Orthodox Church (Diocese of Sourozh),
Cambridge, UK 2013-2014
Interim work, Diocese of the West, 2014 through present:
Nativity of the Holy Virgin, Menlo Park, CA 2014-2015
Holy Dormition Church, Calhan, CO 2017-2018
Holy Apostles Orthodox Church, Vancouver, WA 2017-2018
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Portland, OR, summer of 2019
Assistant Priest, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Portland OR 2021-present

Past Boards:

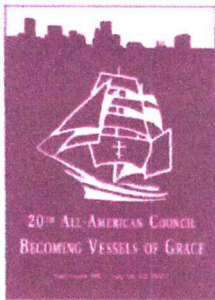
St. Herman of Alaska Seminary 2008-2013
Metropolitan Council, 2010-2013
Diocesan Council, DOW, 2002-2013
Raphael House of San Francisco, 1991-2009

Present Board Positions:

Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge, UK 2015-present
Raphael House of San Francisco, 2019-present
OCA Office of Pastoral Life (previously Department of Pastoral Life), 2015-present

Personal Statement: Not everyone likes administration and board work. I do.

Note from Nominations Committee: Blessing was conveyed electronically. Form will be updated with signature at the All-American Council.



Brief Biography for Election to Church-Wide Positions

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Metropolitan Council



Pension Board

Name of nominee: Archpriest Lawrence Margitich

Parish/Institution/City, State: Protection of the Holy Virgin/St Seraphim, Santa Rosa, CA

Hierarch's Signature of approval: _____

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page be concise

Education:

- Bachelor of Music from Berklee College of Music, Boston, 1980
- M. Div from St. Vladimir's, 1984

Relevant Professional Experience:

Various work experience, all relevant in some way:

- Choir directing:

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Boston, 1978-81

Holy Trinity, Springfield, VT, 1984-85

Protection of the Virgin, Santa Rosa, 1985-99

- On-air announcer for Vermont Public Radio, 1984-85

- Printing production manager and estimator, various firms, 1990-99

Personal Statement

As a longtime member of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West, I hope to bring whatever perspective that might be helpful to the OCA at large. It would be a very profound honor to serve on the Metropolitan Council, and I would endeavor to labor diligently, as asked.

"Hierarch authorized via email."



Brief Biography for Election to Church-Wide Positions

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Metropolitan Council

Pension Board

Name of nominee: Archpriest Thomas Moore

Parish/Institution/City, State: Retired, Holy Apostles, W. Columbia, SC

Hierarch's Signature of approval: *Archbishop Alexander*
[Archbishop Alexander \(Jun 29, 2022 16:44 EDT\)](#)

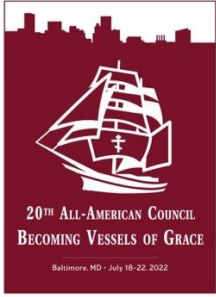
Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education: BS. Psychology USC, M.A. Family Counseling USF, M. Div. SVS

Relevant Professional Experience: Five years serving as a Deacon, and 25 years as a priest.
I helped start several missions, grew a Parish, and built a Church.
Recently retired as Rector of Holy Apostles and Dean of the Carolinas.
I have served on the Metropolitan Council for many years under four Metro

Personal Statement

I believe my long term Pastoral and Evangelical experience, coupled with the institutional knowledge I have gained from serving on the Metropolitan council for so many years has provided me with considerable skills to face the challenges facing the Church in the coming years.



Brief Biography for Election to Church-Wide Positions

Position:



Metropolitan Council

Name of nominee: **Archpriest David C. Rucker**

Parish/Institution/City, State: **St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Mission, Palm Coast, FL**

Current member of Metropolitan Council

Hierarch's Signature of approval: _____

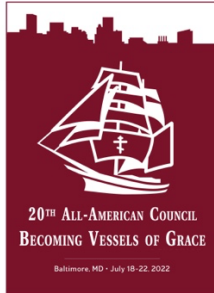
Education:

1978 – 1982	Asbury University, Wilmore, Kentucky, BA, Christian Education-Missiology
1986 – 1989	Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky, MDiv
1990 – 1993	Chinese University, New Asia Yale-in-China Centre, Hong Kong, Certificate
1993 – 1996	Asbury Theological Seminary, ESJ School of World Missions, DMiss (ABD)
2014 – 2016	St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, DMin studies
2020 – 2021	Coach Training Alliance (CTA), Life Coach Certification

Relevant Professional Experience:

2022 – Present	Priest-in-Charge, St. Alexis Orthodox Mission, Palm Coast, FL
2022 – Present	Facilitator, Clergy Peer Learning Groups, Thriving in Ministry
2021 – Present	At-large member of Metropolitan Council (elected 19 th AAC)
2020 – Present	Founder Synergy Life Coaching LLC (primarily for clergy and missionaries)
2013 – 2019	Priest/Missionary in Guatemala and St. Herman Theological Seminary, AK
2006 – 2013	Associate Director, Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)
2003 – 2016	Instructor for OCA Mission School, Dept. of Evangelization
1993 – 2006	Founder St. Athanasius Orthodox Church (OCA), Nicholasville, KY
1983 – 1996	Missionary, OMS International, Inc., World HQ, Japan, Hong Kong

Personal Statement: At the 19th AAC I was elected as the alternate at-large clergy member of the Metropolitan Council. In June 2021 I was called upon to fill the vacancy created by the falling asleep in the Lord of our beloved Fr. Antonio Perdomo. With the blessing of my Archbishop and if it be the will of the delegates of this 20th AAC, I am willing for continuity's sake to continue serving during the next three years, trusting in God to continue to "heal that which is infirm" and "complete that which is lacking" in my offerings. I thank God for the honor of serving you for the past year.



Brief Biography for Election to Church-Wide Positions

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Metropolitan Council

Pension Board

Name of nominee: Archpriest Justin J. Patterson

Parish/Institution/City, State: St. Athanasius Church, Nicholasville, Kentucky

Hierarch's Signature of approval: + Alexander

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education:

MDiv. St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, 2003-2005
Coursework at St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, 2002-2003

MA University of Florida (European History), 2000-2002

BA University of Florida (Russian Language & History), 1996-2000

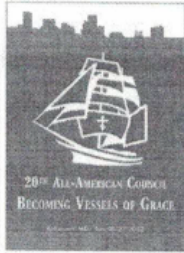
Relevant Professional Experience:

Rector, St. Athanasius Orthodox Church, 2006-present
Associate Priest, St. Anne Orthodox Church (Oak Ridge, TN), 2005-2006
Member, City of Nicholasville Ethics Board, 2016-present
Board Member & Officer, Jessamine County Food Pantry, 2016-2020
Board Member, Leadership Jessamine County, 2017-2022
Parish Manager, Telos Grant for Young Adult Ministry (Lilly Foundation), 2017-2022
Member, OCA Sexual Misconduct Policy Advisory Committee (SMPAC), 2022-present
Speaker at various church ministry conferences and fora, 2016-2022
Mission Planting Work, St. Nina Orthodox Mission Station (Berea, KY), 2021-present

Personal Statement

A priest since 2005, I am married to seminary graduate (SVOTS '05) and attorney Tamara J. Patterson. We have two sons (one grown and the other a teenager.) As a priest, I deeply enjoy cultivating a richly-layered parish life according to the vision and best traditions of our OCA. My contributions to the Metropolitan Council would likely be most closely related to my 16 years of experience helping a small mission grow into a thriving community of about 250 souls--including the development and implementation of administrative structures, policies, and procedures required for such growth.

*** PLEASE RETURN TO nominations.20aac@oca.org ***



Brief Biography for Election to Church-Wide Positions

Position (check one)

Metropolitan Council

Pension Board

Name of nominee: Fr Michael Shepherd

Parish/Institution/City, State: St Michael, Old Forge PA

Hierarch's Signature of approval: [Signature]

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education:

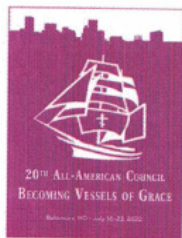
BS Criminal Justice - Troy St
MDiv - St Tikhon Seminary
ARMY Adjutant General Basic Officer Leader
ARMY Captain Career Course Human Resource Management

Relevant Professional Experience:

Retired Army Officer with 22 years of various schools in management and leadership.

Personal Statement

I would like to submit my name as a nominee for the MC.



Brief Biography for Election to Church-Wide Positions

Position (check one)



Metropolitan Council



Pension Board

Name of nominee: Very Reverend James Weremedic

Parish/Institution/City, State: St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Coaldale, PA

Hierarch's Signature of approval:

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education: Geisinger Medical Center, Chaplain Residency 2008-2009
3 Units of Level I CPE and 2 Unit of Level II CPE
St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity (cum laude) 1998-2001
Ordination to the Priesthood October 8, 2000
Lebanon Valley College, Annville, PA Bachelor of Science in Management 1985-1987
Polyclinic Medical Center, Harrisburg, PA Certificate in Radiologic Technology 1978-1980

Relevant Professional Experience:

Rector

St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Coaldale, PA 2017-Present
St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, Bethlehem, Pa 2015-2017
St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church Wilmington, DE 2010-2015
Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Church, Lebanon, PA Interim Priest, 2009-2010
Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church, Berwick, PA 2001-2008
Positions held prior to entering the St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary
Director of Outpatient Services (1997-1998), Administrative Director of Radiology and Radiation Oncology
(1989-1996), Radiology Manager (1987-1989) and Radiologic Technologist/Chief Technologist (1980-1985)
Personal Statement

As a member of the Metropolitan Council, I would bring a wide range of experiences from my clergy and from my laity years. Within my clergy years, I worked with college students at Lehigh University, University of Delaware and Bloomsburg University as an OCF chaplain. At Bloomsburg University, we started this OCF chapter. I served on the MC and served as the Dean of the Philadelphia Deanery. During my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), my focus went into the NICU and Women's Center where I became an active member of the Multiple-Disciplinary Conference (MDC) for the pre-natal Pediatric Team.

Prior to ordination, I served on the Pennsylvania College of Technology Advisory Board and the State of the Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technologists Board Member. Within in the community, I served on the Easter Seals Society, Centre County, PA Board Member and the Berwick Area United Way as a Board Member, Vice-President and President.