
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL of the ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

MINUTES
2025 Fall Session

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Hotel Belvoir, Springfield, Virginia

St. Luke Church, McLean, Virginia



These draft minutes are subject to approval at a subsequent meeting of the Metropolitan Council

PARTICIPANTS

CHAIRMAN

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

CHURCH OFFICERS (*EX OFFICIO*)

Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, *Chancellor* Priest David Bozeman, *Secretary*
Andrew Smith, *Treasurer*

MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL

Archpriest Sean Levine	Miho Ochiai Ealy
Archpriest Christopher Foley	Peter Bouteneff (<i>Wednesday afternoon only</i>)
	David Lane

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Diocese of Alaska

Archpriest Maxim Isaac

Albanian Archdiocese

Hieromonk Danaks (Rhodes)

Donna Dimitri

Bulgarian Diocese

Deacon Marc Schmidt

Daniel Ralich

Archdiocese of Canada

Archpriest Gregory Scratch

Jonathan Pageau

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Archpriest Nicholas Solak

Danalisa Radu

Diocese of the Midwest

Priest Daniel Greeson

Basil Kochan

Diocese of New England

Archpriest Patrick Burns

David Zavednak

New York/New Jersey

Archpriest David Garretson

Mary Buletza-Breton

Diocese of the South

Archpriest Peter Robichau

Genevieve Lyday

Archdiocese of Washington

Deacon Matthew Prentice

Gregory Honshul

Diocese of the West

Priest Andrew Smith

Kevin Duffy, Esq.

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Priest John Parker

Rebecca Danchenko

ABSENT *(for all meetings unless otherwise indicated)*

Archpriest Timothy Sawchak *(Member elected by the All-American Council)*

Crystal (Anastasia) Dushkin *(Diocese of Alaska)*

Peter Bouteneff *(Member elected by the All-American Council) – except Wednesday afternoon*

GUESTS *(for all meetings unless otherwise indicated)*

Archpriest John Dresko *(OCA Pension Board Trustee) – Wednesday, via zoom*

Archpriest Justin Patterson *(Project Manager for the OCA Departments)*

Archpriest Nicholas Solak *(Director- Office of Pastoral Life) - Wednesday, via zoom*

Protodeacon Peter Ilchuk *(All-American Council Manager) - Wednesday, via zoom*

Stephanie Crocenzi, CPA *(external auditor from Satty & Partners, CPAs, P.)*

- Wednesday, via Zoom

Evans Kyere *(Senior Accountant – Chazin & Company) - Wednesday, via zoom*

Mark Hamilton *(OCA General Counsel) – Wednesday, via zoom*

Cindy Larimore *(external auditor from Satty & Partners, CPAs, P.C.) - Wednesday, via zoom*

Alexis Liberovsky *(Recording Secretary)*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2025

A. Opening Prayer

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon celebrated a prayer service at 9:02 AM to open the meeting, convened at the Hotel Belvoir in Springfield, Virginia.

B. Call to Order

With His Beatitude's blessing, Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino called the meeting to order at 9:26 AM.

C. Agenda (attached) Introduction & Roll Call

Fr. Margheritino reviewed the attached agenda for the meeting, which was approved by consensus with minor changes. He then conducted the roll call, indicating guests who would be in attendance at the 2025 Fall Session. He indicated that Alexis Liberovsky, OCA Archivist Emeritus, would serve as Recording Secretary for the meeting.

D. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Fr. Margheritino presented for approval the attached draft minutes of the 2025 Spring Session of the Metropolitan Council convened by video conference on February 25 and 27, 2025 as well as the draft minutes of four Special Sessions of the Council on April 28, 2025, May 21, 2025, June 10, 2025, and June 17, 2025 which were also conducted by video conference. With minor revisions, the minutes of the five sessions were approved by consensus.

E. Metropolitan's Report (attached)

Metropolitan Tikhon presented his attached report along with the attached log of his travel and events as Primate since the Spring Session. He reflected on the enduring example of Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America, whose life and vision continue to inspire the Church's mission in this land. Drawing from Saint Tikhon's emphasis on conciliarity and collaboration among bishops, clergy, and laity, His Beatitude invited the Council to view its administrative responsibilities as expressions of unity in Christ and co-labor in the Apostolic work of the Church. He also expressed gratitude for the tireless efforts of the Chancery staff, whose small team continues to sustain the pastoral, canonical, and administrative life of the Church with dedication and humility. Extensive discussion took place and His Beatitude responded to questions from Council members.

F. Chancellor's Report (attached)

Fr. Margheritino presented his attached report with an overview of the work of the chancery, various personnel changes, reorganization in some of the departments and offices, and upcoming projects and priorities. Father Alessandro also reported on some of his recent domestic and international trips. Extensive discussion and questions from Council members followed.

Following a break at 11:07 AM, the meeting resumed at 11:37 AM.

G. Pension Board (attached)

Fr. John Dresko (Pension Board) presented the Board's extensive reports on the Pension Plan with attachments providing the Council with updates on Pension Plan membership, compliance status, and investment performance. Extensive discussion and questions ensued.

G. MC Liaison to Pension Board

David Lane, the MC Liaison to the Pension Board summarized the attached report on his activity as the Council's liaison to the Pension Board, particularly his presence at the Board's meetings. He noted the continuing evolving positivity of the relationship between the Council and the Board. A wide-ranging discussion took place.

Following a break for lunch at 12:20 PM, the meeting resumed at 1:32 PM.

H. External Audit (attached)

Andrew Smith introduced Stephanie Crocenzi, CPA and Cindy Larimore, representatives from Satty, Levine & Ciacco, CPAs, P.C., the external auditing firm for the OCA. Participating by Zoom, they delivered a PowerPoint presentation with the attached detailed overview of financial statements and the recent audit for 2024 conducted by Satty, Levine & Ciacco, CPAs, P.C., noting the audit's key findings and the healthy financial state of the Church. They also addressed questions from Council members. Andrew Smith then proposed the following resolution of acceptance of the external audit.

- H.1. MOTION SMITH/DIMITRI – WHEREAS, Satty, Levine, and Ciacco, CPAS, P.C., (Satty & Partners) has audited the financial records of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) for the year ended December 31, 2024; and, WHEREAS, Satty & Partners has produced draft financial statements with an unqualified opinion, noting that the “financial statements... present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Orthodox Church in America as of December 31, 2024...”; and, WHEREAS, Satty & Partners has presented these financial statements and their opinion to the Metropolitan Council on October 09, 2025, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Metropolitan Council accepts the results of the 2024 audit and authorizes the Chancellor to sign the Management Representation Letter for final issuance of the 2024 financial statements. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Metropolitan Tikhon indicated that he confirms the vote.

I. Legal matters

- I.1. MOTION MARGHERITINO/LANE – To move into executive session. CARRIED.**

In executive session, Mark Hamilton, OCA General Counsel, participating by Zoom, presented his report to the Metropolitan Council regarding current and pending legal matters affecting the Church. Questions and discussion ensued.

- I.2. MOTION MARGHERITINO/LANE - To move out of executive session. CARRIED.**

J. All-American Council (attached)

Protodeacon Peter Ilchuk, All-American Council Manager, presented his attached report regarding the recent 21st All-American Council in Phoenix, and also shared information about the next Council that will take place in Dallas, TX in July 2028. He noted that expenses for the recent council were under budget and the surplus funds will be available for the next Council.

K. OCA Departments (attached)

Archpriest Justin Patterson, newly appointed Project Manager for the OCA Departments, presented his attached report on his initial efforts as Project Manager, the current status of each department and a vision for his future work and further development of the departments. He also presented candidates and recommendations for the Church Planting Grants program. Wide-ranging discussion on various aspects of the program, including major restructuring, took place. The motion below was proposed and amended but the amendment was withdrawn. A vote on the original motion took place.

K.1. MOTION LANE/BROWNE - To approve the recommendations of two first-year Mission Planting Grant of \$40,000 each to St. Catherine the Great Martyr Mission Station in Columbus, Mississippi and St. Nina the Enlightener Mission in Azalea Park, Florida and a third-year Mission Planting Grant of \$24,000 to St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Mission in Palm Coast, Florida. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Metropolitan Tikhon indicated that he confirms the vote. After a break 3:23 PM, the meeting resumed at 3:40 PM.

Fr. Patterson delivered concluding remarks to his presentation.

L. Office of Pastoral Life (attached)

Archpriest Nicholas Solak, Director of the Office of Pastoral Life, presented his attached report providing updates on the various programs under the auspices of the Office. In particular, he spoke about clergy isolation, clergy wives and clergy financial health as key areas of the ministries of the Office. After some questions from Council members, the meeting was concluded at 4:03 PM.

An orientation session for Council members was conducted by the Church Officers and Mr. David Lane, Esq. an at-large Council member, focused on the Council's composition, duties, history, and on the legal fiduciary responsibility of its members.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025

Following the celebration of a Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Tikhon of Moscow and North America at St. Luke Church in McLean, VA at 9:00 AM, His Beatitude opened the meeting with prayer at 11:30 AM in the parish hall.

Fr. Margheritino called the meeting to order, reviewed the agenda and schedule for the day, and conducted the roll call. He indicated guests who would be present during today's deliberations.

M. Property Committee (attached)

Gregory Honshul, Committee Chair, presented the attached report Mr. Greg Honshul with an update on efforts the Westwood property in New York, where the OCA Chancery was formerly

located. He indicated that unless unforeseen complications should arise, the closing is expected to take place by mid-2026. The Council discussed various property issues.

N. Report of the Secretary (attached)

Priest David Bozeman presented his first report as OCA Secretary. He spoke of recent travel to Westwood with the Chancellor to assess work to be done there in conjunction with impending sale of the property. He noted no obvious operational deficiencies at the chancery. Among the issues discussed following the report were updating social media guidelines for clergy and the search for a permanent place to house the chancery.

O. Treasurer's Report (attached)

Andrew Smith highlighted the attached Treasurer's report and appendices that provided an overview of the Church's finances and investments. The Treasurer's report included presentation of the proposed OCA budget for 2026. Many aspects of the budget were extensively discussed. He then presented the following resolution regarding the spending rate applied to endowed and quasi-endowed funds:

O.1. MOTION LANE/RHODES - WHEREAS, over the years, donors have given just over \$1 million in permanently restricted (i.e. endowed) funds and the Metropolitan Council has designated another approximately \$1 million as quasi-endowment, both of which are intended to exist for the benefit of the OCA in perpetuity; and,

WHEREAS, these endowed and quasi-endowed funds are invested with the understanding that a modest amount of net earnings from the funds will be available for release from restriction each year; and,

WHEREAS, because of healthy investment returns and a modest spending rate, the current value of the investments (over \$5.1 million at 12/31/2024) associated with the endowment is much higher than the total endowed and quasi-endowed value of the associated funds (i.e., we now have a healthy ratio of investment value to permanently restricted value); and,

WHEREAS, at the Fall 2019 Metropolitan Council meeting, a 3% spending rate on the endowed and quasi-endowed funds was adopted, resulting in a modest release of funds to support the work of the OCA; and,

WHEREAS, current budget needs and the need for additional revenue sources are greater than they were in 2019; and,

WHEREAS, the industry standard for endowment spending rate is 5%.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

Beginning in 2026, the Metropolitan Council adopts an annual spending rate of 5% of the prior year-end value of endowed and quasi-endowed funds. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Metropolitan Tikhon indicated that he accepts the vote.

The following resolutions concerning the budget and housing allowances for chancery clergy were presented for adoption.

- O.2. MOTION DIMITRI/BURNS - To approve the budget of the Orthodox Church in America for 2026 as presented. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**
- O.3. MOTION DIMITRI/FOLEY – To approve housing allowance amounts within budgeted compensation for clergy employed by the OCA Chancery, as presented by the Treasurer in Appendix A of the 2026 budget proposal. CARRIED with 1 (one) abstention (Ralich).**

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Donna Dimitri proposed reappointment of the current members of the Auditing Committee.

- O.4. MOTION HONSHUL/BRETON - In accordance with Article V, Section 9 of the OCA Statute, to reappoint Sharon Hubiak, Maha Adranly and Diane Dorogy for an additional term as members of the internal Auditing Committee, CARRIED with 1 (one) abstention (Andrew Smith).**

Metropolitan Tikhon indicated that he accepts these votes.

P. Metropolitan Council schedule in 2026

Extensive discussion took place concerning schedule and format of Metropolitan Council meetings in the coming year. After several straw polls concerning format (in person, online or hybrid) and schedule, it was agreed that the Spring Session will convene by video conference on Mar 10 and 12 at 1-4 PM ET and the Fall Session will take place in person on October 14 and 15 in Springfield, Virginia with a possible additional half-day on October 16 to accommodate an educational component. Fr. Margheritino asked volunteers to serve on the Council's several Committees. Council members whose terms are ending at this meeting made final comments and were thanked for their years of service.

Q. Adjournment

In concluding remarks, Metropolitan Tikhon thanked the Council for its work, particularly in support of the chancery staff and enabling the church its various ministries with limited funding. He then closed the meeting and adjourned the Fall Session with prayer at 2:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary