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# METROPOLITAN COUNCIL of the ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

MINUTES  
2023 Special Session

Thursday, May 4, 2023  
Conducted by video conference



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

Priest Alessandro Margheritino, *Secretary*

**MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL**

Archpriest Justin Patterson  
Archpriest Lawrence Margitich

Elizabeth Mikhalevsky  
Alexis Liberovsky

**DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES**

**Diocese of Alaska**

Archpriest Maxim Isaac

**Albanian Archdiocese**

Archpriest Dennis Rhodes

**Bulgarian Diocese**

Deacon Bogdan Popescu

**Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania**

Danalisa Radu

**Diocese of the Midwest**

Robert Graban

**Diocese of New England**

Priest Patrick Burns

Evelyn Kreta

**Diocese of New York/New Jersey**

Mitchell VanDuyn

**Diocese of the South**

Archpriest Joseph Ciarciaglino

**Archdiocese of Washington**

Deacon Matthew Prentice

Gregory Honshul

**Diocese of the West**

David Lane, Esq.

**Diocese of Western Pennsylvania**

Priest John Parker

**ABSENT**

Archpriest John Baker (*Diocese of the Midwest*)

Archpriest Christopher Foley (*Member elected by the All-American Council*)

Archpriest David Garretson (*Diocese of NY/NJ*)

Archpriest Nicholas Solak (*Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania*)

Archpriest Matthew Tate (*Diocese of the West*)

Protodeacon Jesse Isaac (*Archdiocese of Canada*)

Donna Dimitri (*Albanian Archdiocese*)

Joshua Godbold (*Diocese of the South*)

Anthony Lekanof (*Diocese of Alaska*)

Lynnell McFarland (*Member elected by the All-American Council*)

Mark Petasky (*Archdiocese of Canada*)

Daniel Ralich (*Bulgarian Diocese*)

Ray Steeb (*Diocese of Western Pennsylvania*)

**GUESTS**

- none -

**A. Call to Order**

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon opened the session with prayer at 7:06 PM and Priest Alessandro Margheritino then called the meeting to order.

**B. Agenda, Introduction & Roll Call**

Fr. Margheritino reviewed the attached agenda for this Special Session of the Metropolitan Council and indicated that the sole purpose of the meeting is to adopt a resolution to approve the date and place of the 21<sup>st</sup> All-American Council, as mandated by the OCA Statute. He apologized for the short notice of the meeting, which was dictated by the need to sign a contract with the proposed venue as soon as

possible. Fr. Margheritino then conducted the roll call and noted that, in spite of numerous members of the Metropolitan Council being unable to participate today, a quorum is in attendance.

**C. 21<sup>st</sup> All-American Council memorandum and resolution**

Fr. Margheritino presented an overview process of finding a suitable location for the 21<sup>st</sup> All-American Council. Two options were discussed at the Spring Session of the Metropolitan Council. As there was a general agreement that the Chicago option would not work, Frs. Rentel and Margheritino visited the location in Phoenix in late March. Having a positive impression of the venue, contract negotiations were pursued. With the assistance of Conference Direct, a favorable room rate and a number of other incentives were obtained. At its recent Spring 2023 Spring Session, the Holy Synod of Bishops confirmed the nominations proposed by the Metropolitan Council of the members of the Preconciliar Commission and approved the Arizona Grand Resort as the site of the 21<sup>st</sup> All-American Council to be convened on July 14-18, 2025. The Preconciliar Commission met on May 1, and unanimously proposed the Phoenix site for the Metropolitan Council to approve, as indicated in the attached memorandum. While the Phoenix option was discussed in March, the Metropolitan Council did not formally vote. As the resort is asking us to sign the contract this coming Friday, May 5, it is necessary for the Metropolitan Council to approve this now. The approval of the Metropolitan Council is a statutory requirement to move forward with the signing of the contract. Discussion ensued and Fr. Margheritino provided clarifications in response to questions from Council members. He stressed that the final version of the contract would be reviewed by the Legal Committee before it is executed. He then presented the following resolution.

**C.1. MOTION MARGHERITINO/BURNS –**

**WHEREAS, according to Article III, Section 5.a. of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, the Preconciliar Commission shall “Recommend to the Metropolitan Council and Holy Synod, for their approval and confirmation, the dates, location, and theme of the All-American Council”; and**

**WHEREAS, on May 1, 2023, the Preconciliar Commission has unanimously recommended the Arizona Grand Resort as the site of the 21<sup>st</sup> All-American Council to take place on July 14-18, 2025;**

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:**

**The Metropolitan Council accepts the recommendation of the Preconciliar Commission, recorded in the Memorandum from the Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon on May 2, 2023, that the 21<sup>st</sup> All-American Council will be held on July 14-18, 2025, at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix, AZ. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Metropolitan Tikhon indicated that he confirms the vote.

**D. Adjournment**

Metropolitan Tikhon thanked everyone for the fruitful discussion and action at today's meeting. He declared the Special Session of the Metropolitan Council closed and adjourned the meeting with prayer at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,  
Recording Secretary