



MINUTES
Special Session of
the Metropolitan Council
of the Orthodox Church in America

Tuesday, May 11, 2021
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

MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL

Archpriest Thomas Moore

Katherine Vitko

Archpriest Kirill Sokolov

Lynnell Brunswig

Archpriest David Rucker

Mark Linnehan

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Diocese of Alaska

Archpriest David Askoak

Albanian Archdiocese

Archpriest Dennis Rhodes

Donna Dimitri

Bulgarian Diocese

Priest Gabriel Bilas

Bogdan Popescu

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Archpriest Timothy Hojnicky

Sharon Shingara

Diocese of the Midwest

Archpriest Elijah Mueller

Robert Graban

Diocese of New England

Priest Theophan Whitfield

Evelyn Kreta

Diocese of New York/New Jersey

James P. Kornafel

Diocese of the South

Archpriest Joseph Ciarciaglino

Christopher Lewis

Archdiocese of Washington

Archpriest Valery Shemchuk

Gregory Honshul

Diocese of the West

David Lane, Esq.

Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Priest Nikolai Breckenridge

Ray Steeb

ABSENT

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

Archpriest Michael Anderson (*Diocese of the West*)

Protodeacon Jesse Isaac (*Archdiocese of Canada*)

Dorothy Chaney (*Diocese of Alaska*)

Mark Petasky (*Archdiocese of Canada*)

GUESTS

Priest Alessandro Margheritino (*Acting Secretary*)

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

Alexis Liberovsky (*Recording Secretary*)

A. Call to Order

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon opened the session with prayer and called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM

B. Agenda: Introduction (attached) & Roll Call

Father Alexander Rentel reviewed the attached agenda for this Special Session of the Metropolitan Council and conducted the roll call.

C. Metropolitan’s Remarks (attached)

In his attached opening remarks, Metropolitan Tikhon greeted everyone with the joy of the paschal season and expressed optimism in conjunction with improvement in the global health crisis and the lessening of related restrictions. He paid tribute to the recently departed Archpriest Antonio Perdomo for his work as a member of the Metropolitan Council and his Spanish language ministry. “*Memory Eternal*” was sung for Father Antonio as well as Metropolitan Theodosius and Protopresbyter Daniel Hubiak, who played large roles in the work of the Metropolitan Council. Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed Archpriest David Rucker to the meeting. He was elected as an alternate for the Metropolitan Council at the last All-American Council and now becomes the newest Metropolitan Council member to replace the late Fr. Antonio Perdomo. Metropolitan Tikhon then commented on the meeting’s agenda and presented for endorsement by the Council Priest Alessandro Margheritino as his choice to be Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America.

D. Endorsement of OCA Secretary Candidate (attached)

Father Rentel indicated that the attached CV of Priest Alessandro Margheritino was distributed to the Metropolitan Council prior to this meeting. He then requested a motion from the floor to endorse the candidacy of Father Margheritino for the position of OCA Secretary

D.1. MOTION MUELLER/BRUNSWIG – In accordance with Article V, Section 7.1 of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, to endorse for confirmation by the Holy

Synod the Metropolitan’s selection of the Priest Alessandro Margheritino as Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Metropolitan Tikhon approved the endorsement by the Council and indicated it would be submitted to the Holy Synod for confirmation at its meeting next week.

E. Appointment of Internal Auditor (attached)

Father Rentel indicated that the attached CV of Matushka Sharon Hubiak was distributed to the Metropolitan Council prior to this meeting. He asked Mark Linnehan to present the candidacy of Matushka Sharon. Mr. Linnehan reviewed her strong professional qualifications. The following motion was then adopted.

- E.1. MOTION RHODES/POPESCU - In accordance with Article V, Section 7.s. and Article V, Section 9 of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, to appoint Sharon Hubiak as a member of the Internal Auditing Committee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Metropolitan Tikhon confirmed the vote. As such, Matushka Sharon Hubiak is appointed to fill the vacant position on the Internal Auditing Committee until the 20th All-American Council, scheduled for July 2022 in Baltimore, MD.

F. Property Committee Resolution (attached)

Ray Steeb provided an update on the realtor’s efforts to sell the Westwood property. There has been little interest of late due to several factors, including Covid restrictions, but it is expected that interest from possible buyers might increase in the summer months. Nevertheless, the Property Committee commends the hard work of Fran Mazer and proposes that her contract be extended. Extensive discussion ensued, particularly concerning the contract extension and contract language. A motion was made by Evelyn Kreta, but subsequently failed as it was not seconded, to table the prepared motion to allow for discussion of certain language and provisions with a local attorney. The motion proposed by the Property Committee was moved and seconded as presented (see attached). In discussion, amendment to the resolution was discussed. In order to ensure that all aspects of the contractual agreement with Fran Mazer and Compass Realty and the possible sale of Westwood take place with the approval of the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council, it was agreed to insert the words “*as previously authorized*” into the last sentence of the resolution proposed by the Property Committee.

- F.1. MOTION MUELLER/DIMITRI – to amend the proposed resolution by inserting the words “*as previously authorized*” into the last sentence. CARRIED with one (1) opposed (CIARCIAGLINO).**

The full text of the amended resolution was then adopted as follows.

- F.2. MOTION MUELLER/DIMITRI - WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America at the August 2020 meeting authorized the Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America to retain the services of Fran Mazer and Compass Realty, to assist with the sale of the Westwood property, for a limited period of 9 months, or until May 31, 2021, as noted on the executed contract; and WHEREAS, the Property Committee, being satisfied with the marketing and sales efforts put forth by Fran Mazer and Compass Realty; and WHEREAS, Fran Mazer and Compass Realty, continue to identify buyer prospects for the Westwood property, including ongoing interest by a prior developer prospect; and WHEREAS, the Property Committee has recommended the continuation of the service contract with Fran Mazer and Compass Realty, for a term to expire on December 31, 2021.**

BE IT NOW RESOLVED by the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America that the Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America be authorized to execute the extension of contractual services with Fran Mazer and Compass Realty on the same terms as previously authorized, to next expire on December 31, 2021. CARRIED with two (2) abstentions (CIARCIAGLINO, KRETA).

Metropolitan Tikhon confirmed the vote by the Council on this resolution

G. Pension Plan Subcommittee

Father Rentel reported that last year in response to questions that Metropolitan Tikhon was receiving regarding the Pension Plan, His Beatitude asked Andrew Smith, Treasurer of the Orthodox Church in America, to form an ad hoc committee to assist in answering these questions. The report of this ad hoc committee is finished and will be presented to the Holy Synod next week at their regular Spring 2021 Meeting.

In anticipation of this report being released to the Metropolitan Council, His Beatitude would like to form a smaller committee within the Metropolitan Council, working under the direction of Andrew Smith, to examine this report first, and then to present it to the Metropolitan Council later this summer.

In this regard, His Beatitude has asked Andrew Smith, Archpriest Joseph Ciarciaglino, David Lane, Donna Dimitri, and Robert Graban, to serve on this subcommittee of the Metropolitan Council.

With the blessing of His Beatitude, this subcommittee will a) review the report of the ad hoc committee once it has been released by the Holy Synod, c) meet with the ad hoc committee, and d) prepare the report and any additional materials for presentation to the Metropolitan Council at a special session to be held this summer.

The formation of this committee and its tasks are necessary preconditions to the work of the committee that will be formed as mandated by decisions of the Spring 2020 and 2021 sessions of the Metropolitan Council. In other words, this subcommittee will have to do its work first, before the previously agreed upon committee begins its work. The members of the Metropolitan Council expressed approval for the course of actions undertaken by His Beatitude to study matters pertaining to the Pension Plan.

H. Adjournment (attached)

Metropolitan Tikhon delivered his attached concluding remarks (included with the text of his opening remarks for this meeting) in which he thanked the Council for a productive meeting and announced that the Fall Meeting of the Metropolitan Council will take place, public health conditions permitting, in Cleveland, OH on October 18-20, 2021 and will include a day of joint session with the Holy Synod. After leading the Council in a closing prayer, he declared the Special Session of the Metropolitan Council adjourned at 9:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,
Recording Secretary