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# METROPOLITAN COUNCIL of the ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

MINUTES  
2024 Special Session

Wednesday, January 24, 2024  
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*

Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino, *Secretary*

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

Archpriest Justin Patterson  
Archpriest Lawrence Margitich  
Archpriest Christopher Foley

Elizabeth Mikhalevsky  
Lynnell McFarland  
Alexis Liberovsky

### **DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **Diocese of Alaska**

Archpriest Maxim Isaac

#### **Albanian Archdiocese**

Archpriest Dennis Rhodes

Donna Dimitri

#### **Bulgarian Diocese**

Deacon Bogdan Popescu

Daniel Ralich

#### **Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania**

Archpriest Nicholas Solak

#### **Diocese of the Midwest**

Archpriest John Baker

Basil Kochan

#### **Diocese of New England**

David Zavednak

#### **Diocese of New York/New Jersey**

Mitchell VanDuyn

#### **Diocese of the South**

Archpriest Joseph Ciarciaglino

Joshua Godbold

#### **Archdiocese of Washington**

Deacon Matthew Prentice

Gregory Honshul

**Diocese of the West**

Archpriest Matthew Tate

David Lane, Esq.

**Diocese of Western Pennsylvania**

Priest John Parker

Ray Steeb

**ABSENT**

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

Priest Patrick Burns (*Diocese of New England*)

Anthony Lekanof (*Diocese of Alaska*)

Danalisa Radu (*Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania*)

**GUESTS**

Mark Hamilton, Esq. (*OCA General Counsel*)

Jon Winzelberg (*RIPCO Real Estate LLC*)

**A. Call to Order**

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon opened the session with prayer at 2:05 PM and Archpriest Alexander Rentel then called the meeting to order. He noted that Mark Hamilton, the new OCA General Counsel, is present at a Metropolitan Council meeting for the first time and Jon Winzelberg, our realtor, has been invited to attend during discussion of the possible sale of the Westwood property.

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

Fr. Rentel conducted the roll call and indicated that a quorum was in attendance.

**C. Metropolitan's Remarks**

Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed all participants and noted that today's meeting would consider approval of a purchase agreement for the Westwood property as well as an unrelated legal matter. He especially welcomed new Council member David Zavednak and Mark Hamilton, the new OCA General Counsel. He briefly reported on his recent and upcoming archpastoral activities and indicated that a full report would be presented at the upcoming Spring Session of the Council.

**D. Property Committee**

**D.1. MOTION RENTEL/POPESCU - To move into executive session. CARRIED.**

In executive session, Gregory Honshul and Ray Steeb presented a confidential report and documents pertaining to the possible sale of the Westwood property. Extensive discussion ensued and a proposed resolution on the matter was revised and adopted.

**D.2. MOTION RENTEL/STEEB - To move out of executive session. CARRIED.**

For the record, Fr. Rentel announced that the following resolution was revised and adopted in executive session.

**D.3. MOTION PRENTICE/MIKHALEVSKY –**

**WHEREAS, the OCA is proposing to enter into a Contract of Sale (the “Contract of Sale”) to sell its building and property located at 6850 Northern Boulevard, Oyster Bay Cove, NY 11791 (the “Property”); and**

**WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council and OCA believe it is in the best interest to enter the proposed Contract of Sale.**

**NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Council approves the sale of the Property to Purchaser, pursuant to the Contract of Sale, with such changes, revisions as the Metropolitan Council, OCA, and its counsel deem appropriate and in the best interests of the OCA, subject to the final review and approval of The Holy Synod of Bishops; and**

**RESOLVED, the terms of the Contract of Sale, including the purchase price to be received, are fair and reasonable in all respects and the purposes and interests of the OCA will be promoted by such sale; and**

**RESOLVED, the dissolution of the OCA is not contemplated by this sale; and**

**RESOLVED, the proceeds of the sale shall be used to pay outstanding debts of the OCA in connection with the Property, as reflected on the books and records of the OCA as of the closing date and for costs and expenses to be incurred in furtherance of its religious purposes; and**

**FURTHER RESOLVED, that Archpriest Alexander Rentel, Chancellor of the OCA, be hereby authorized and directed to execute the Contract of Sale and all documents described therein, including, but not limited to, a Petition to the New York State Attorney General and/or Supreme Court of the State of New York requesting approval of the Contract of Sale and all transactions contemplated thereunder, together with all closing documents or transaction documents in connection with the sale, and such other and further instruments required in connection with the sale of the Property, all in the form approved by legal counsel to the OCA, and to take all such other and further acts as may be necessary or reasonably appropriate in the opinion of legal counsel to the OCA to consummate the aforesaid transaction as contemplated or required by the Contract of Sale, or by the Attorney General/Court Order approving this transaction. CARRIED with twenty-six (26) votes in favor, none (0) opposed, one (1) abstention (Liberovsky).**

Fr. Rentel indicated that he, Mark Hamilton, Gregory Honshul and Ray Steeb would continue contract negotiations with the buyer and if there are any material changes in the text of the contract, it would be subject to further review by the Metropolitan Council. The final version is to be approved by the Holy Synod. He thanked the Property Committee for its diligent work

**E. Legal Matters**

**E.1. MOTION RENTEL/STEEB - To move into executive session. CARRIED.**

In executive session, Mark Hamilton reported briefly on the status of litigation involving SS. Peter and Paul Church in Miami, Florida. Having received this information regarding litigation, the Council issued appropriate instructions

**E.2. MOTION RENTEL/GODBOLD – To move out of executive session.  
CARRIED.**

**F. Conclusion**

Fr. Rentel reviewed the schedule for the regular sessions of the Metropolitan Council this year. The Spring Session will take place by video conference on March 5 and 7 at 1 PM both days. Budgetary constraints do not allow for the Spring Session to be an in person meeting, as had been requested by the Council. The 2025 budget will provide for both regular sessions in 2025 to be conducted in person. The agenda for March 5 includes the reports of the Metropolitan and the church officers. On March 7, after the report of the internal Auditing Committee, the remaining time will be devoted to various aspects of the Pension Plan. A full agenda will be distributed soon. The 2024 Fall Session is scheduled for October 9-11 in Springfield. The meeting will begin with Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Tikhon of Moscow, Enlightener of North America, which is the name day of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon.

To conclude the meeting, Metropolitan Tikhon thanked everyone for their work, especially the Property Committee, leading to today's significant decision regarding Westwood. He declared the Special Session of the Metropolitan Council recessed and closed the meeting with prayer at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Liberovsky,  
Recording Secretary