DRAFT AGENDA
2026 Assembly of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

St. Luke Orthodox Church, 6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101

Saturday, September 26, 2026

8:00 am	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy	Church
10:00 am	Brunch	Social Hall

Archdiocesan Assembly

(in Social Hall)

10:30 am	SESSION I	
	Call to order and Opening Prayer	Metropolitan Tikhon
	Report of Credentials Committee	
	Election of Clergy & Lay Vice-Chairs	Metropolitan Tikhon
	The Clergy Chair will facilitate Session I	
	The Lay Chair will facilitate Session II	
	Roll Call Attendance	
	Review & Approval of the Agenda	
	Approval of 2025 Assembly Minutes	
	Metropolitan's Address & Q&A	Metropolitan Tikhon
	Report of the Chancellor	Fr. Alessandro Margheritino
	Report of the Dean	Fr. Gregory Safchuk
	Report of the Treasurer	Fr. Nicholas Roth
	Report of the Auditing Committee	Mat. Ann Prentice
12:00 pm	BREAK	
12:15 pm	SESSION II	
	Report of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors	Gregory Honshul
	Report from the Metropolitan Council	Dn. Matthew Gregory Honshul
	Election of Auditors	
	Approval of 2027 Budget	Fr. Nicholas Roth
	Discussion on Topic from Parish Reports	
	Date for Next Year's Meeting	Metropolitan Tikhon
	Other New Business from the floor	
	Update on FOCUS activity in DC	Fr. John Vitko
1:45 pm	Closing Prayer	Metropolitan Tikhon

Archdiocese of Washington, DC
Orthodox Church in America
6801 Georgetown Pike McLean, VA 22101

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
September 27, 2025

OPEN: Metropolitan Tikhon led the Assembly at St. Matthew Orthodox Church, Columbia, in singing, "O Heavenly King" at 10:57 am.

ROLL CALL: The secretary, Deacon James Magruder, called the roll of following persons present: Archdiocesan officers Met. Tikhon; MC Delegate Dn. Matthew Prentice; Archpriest Sean Levine and Lisa Mikhalevsky from All Saints Orthodox Church, Alexandria; Archpriest John Parsells from Christ the Savior Orthodox Church, Berlin, MD; Fr. Robert Miclean from Holy Archangels Mission, Annapolis; Sheryl Belinski and Lawrence Niu observing from Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Ashburn; Archpriest Theodore Boback and James Nicholas with Matushka Hope Boback observing from St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Baltimore; Archpriest Dennis Buck and Jonathan Metcalf from St. Catherine Orthodox Church, Hagerstown; Priest Nicholas Roth and Jane Cessna from St. John the Theologian Orthodox Mission, Fairfax Station; Archpriest John Vitko and Ron Kecman from St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, McLean; Archpriest Gregory Safchuk and Thomas Jenkins with Samuel Estrada, Jill Stevens, Victor Lutes, and Matushka Alexandra observing from St. Mark Orthodox Church, Bethesda; Archpriest Constantine White and Cooper Pappas from St. Matthew Orthodox Church, Columbia; Archpriest Valery Shemchuk and Sebastian Negrusa from St. Nicholas Cathedral, DC; Dn. John Jubinski of the Finance Committee; and Matushka Ann Prentice and Dee Young of the Audit Committee; Lisa Mikhalevsky represented the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor Fund.

CHAIRS: Metropolitan Tikhon nominated Fr. Gregory Safchuk to be Clergy Vice-Chair and Jane Cessna to be Lay Vice-Chair. Fr. John Vitko moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the proposed chairpersons. The vote was unanimously approved by acclamation.

AGENDA: The Metropolitan proposed removing Auditors from the Elections agenda item, as they are due to be elected next year.

MINUTES: The reference to *Archdiocese* of Eastern Pennsylvania should be changed to *Diocese* of Eastern Pennsylvania. Fr. Sean Levine moved to accept the Minutes with that correction. Fr. Ted Boback seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

METROPOLITAN'S REPORT: Having enjoyed the heavenly banquet and a tasty brunch, Metropolitan Tikhon thanked Fr. Gregory Safchuk and the faithful of St. Mark Orthodox Church for providing gracious hospitality. He went on to explain the unique situation of the Archdiocese of Washington as the primatial diocese and a local territorial expression of the Church, which is a particular vocation. Just as each territorial diocese has a particular vocation tied to its place, so the Archdiocese of Washington expresses a dual vocation: it is both territorial, encompassing the parishes and missions of the region, and non territorial, encompassing the military chaplains and

stavropegial institutions – just as the Metropolitan himself serves as both diocesan bishop and Primate. as well as the cathedral. His Beatitude rehearsed some of the peculiar history of the Archdiocese, which was established by the Holy Synod in 1980 to move to the District of Columbia to align with our national capital in line with the Holy Canons. A year later, in 1981, the Holy Synod more precisely delineated its territorial jurisdiction as the District of Columbia, Maryland, northern Virginia and extreme eastern West Virginia, in addition to oversight of military chaplaincy and stavropegial institutions. However, in 2005 the territory was conglomerated with the Diocese of New York and New Jersey under Metropolitan Herman, then devolved to its original borders under Metropolitan Jonah in 2009. Unfortunately, when the Metropolitan was not residing in the capital, some of the original provisions of the Holy Synod's 1981 decision were forgotten or left unexpressed.

The Metropolitan proceeded to state his intention to move toward expressing all these functions through a single Chancellor overseeing three deaneries, each headed by its own dean: a territorial deanery, military chaplaincy deanery, and stavropegial deanery. Each deanery would be led by a dean and have its own accounts. Fr. Alessandro Margheritino was invited to sit at the head table as the Metropolitan's Chancellor over these deaneries. His Beatitude's national Secretary also would take over some local functions during this period of transition. Fr. David Bozeman will facilitate Archdiocesan communications and will fulfill some of the duties of the eventual Dean during this transition. Separately, Metropolitan Tikhon reported that he had spoken by phone earlier in the week with Matt Matyuf, our Treasurer (who was traveling and unable to attend today), and that Fr. Nicholas Roth has been appointed interim Treasurer effective October 1, noting Matt's nine years of dedicated and exemplary service in this capacity.

His Beatitude asked Fr. Nicholas to pass around sample forms of parish information as they could be posted on the Internet to facilitate interconnection. The website would be used to share timely information on events etc. to keep parishes connected. The Archdiocese also needs to attend to clergy welfare, which is why Fr. Nicholas Solak has been invited to speak about the Office of Pastoral Life's initiatives on clergy health. Two Archdiocesan priests are completing the pilot program on clergy financial health. Currently three parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington are served on an interim basis: All Saints of North America by Fr. Sean Levine, St. John the Theologian Mission by Fr. Nicholas Roth, and Holy Trinity by Fr. Denis Buck mainly on Saturdays. His Beatitude is working with parishes to prepare them for supporting a priest. He also is looking at the possibility of bringing seminarians from other dioceses, perhaps with the help of the Fr. Michael Koblosh Vocations Fund of the DDB.

Efforts to support the youth of the Archdiocese have yielded four attendees at the Fall Youth Retreat and five at the Winter Teen Retreat, and at least fifteen campers at St. Tikhon's summer camp, with three adult volunteers from the Archdiocese of Washington contributing to the programs sponsored by the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania. 2025.The upcoming Fall Teen Retreat will be held at Camp Hebron in Halifax, Pennsylvania, November 14-16, 2025, with a Winter Retreat to follow January 30-February 1 at Refreshing Mountain in Stevens, Pennsylvania. Funds remain in the Archdiocesan budget and DDB to help assist teens attend the retreat. We also might work with the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops' new Orthodox Youth and Young Adult Ministries (OYM) on retreats in our area, such as the Orthodox Connect retreat coming up next weekend with the help of Victor Lutes.

His Beatitude also is in conversation with Orthodox Christians for Life to expand their ministry, encouraging each parish and mission to identify a liaison for OCL and to establish supportive materials for clergy and women. This year was exciting for the glorification of a new North American saint, the election of a new diocesan bishop, church!and the recognition of a sister autocephalous Church — all against the backdrop of this year's 21st All-American Council!

Question: Fr. Constantine White noted that there was a deanery of Washington, DC in the past but presented some duplication of effort. The Metropolitan noted that he hopes to understand the past structures in thoughtfully implementing new ones. *Question*: Is Delaware included in the Archdiocese of Washington's historical boundaries? No, it is not listed in the original canonical establishment of the Archdiocese. However, recent missions in Virginia raise the need to define canonical boundaries more precisely in consultation with the hierarchs of neighboring dioceses. *Question*: Aren't seminarians automatically under stavropegial jurisdiction? Yes, they are under stavropegial supervision at our seminaries, but the hierarchy always has treated them as ultimately being sent by – often in terms of direct monetary support – and returning to the authority of a particular diocesan bishop. *Question*: His Beatitude mused that the Koblosh Fund probably should be listed as the Fr. Michael Koblosh Fund. He was asked whether it is just for seminarians or vocations generally, including seminarians? His answer was both purposes are appropriate to the fund. Fr. John Vitko asked about the clergy "pipeline," noting both statements about need and large seminary classes this year. Metropolitan Tikhon noted that the statistics are not clear. Fr. Alessandro Margheritino explained that recent reports are misleading, reporting just current vacancies (now one hundred and twenty in the OCA) and recent seminary graduations. However, not every graduate is ordained immediately, and many vacancies are parishes that cannot support a priest yet. The process of matching candidates to parishes is dynamic, so we should focus on getting parishes ready to support priests, when they are available to parishes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cooper Pappas noted that those at the Assembly should have received the report Tuesday evening and the Treasurer, Matt Matyuf, had to be absent for family reasons. The Auditors have reviewed the financial positions of the Archdiocese of Washington and found them to accurately reflect financial positions.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Cooper Pappas noted again that two parishes paid their Firstfruits Giving at the beginning of the year, leading to a relatively fuller income than the current position of expenses. The financial position of the Archdiocese is solid, with the DDB funding the background checks for new deacons and many expenses being anticipated through current withholding of funds in accounts for the future expenses ("escrow"). The new income formula for Firstfruits Giving subtracts clergy compensation and mortgage payments, as well as pass through payments collected for other organizations. The budget is broken into priorities, such as Must Haves that we have to pay, largely episcopal support and support of the national church, which currently stands at 34% of Archdiocesan income. The cost of Software leases has risen substantially this year. The Diaconal Vocations item is $0, as the DDB is funding background checks for new deacons. The Recommended category is for items that are key to sustaining continuing operations, and Desirable expenses are those that are useful to long-term growth of Archdiocesan ministry. In the coming year the Archdiocese largely will fund these subsidiary expenses out of Firstfruits Giving, rather than from the Metropolitan's Initiative Fund. The deferred items that are the lowest category, Desirables, will be funded out of extra income above the budget.

AUDITORS: Matushka Ann Prentice stated that the Audit Committee performed a financial review of the the Archdiocesan positions this summer and concluded that the books are in order, accurately reflecting the financial positions of the Archdiocese of Washington. While there is a need to generate 1099 forms for reimbursement over $600 this year, that threshold will become

$2,000 next year. PayPal is not flexible enough for the Archdiocese at this point, so we should consider another online payment vendor. There also is a need to tighten payment procedures to avoid handling petty cash. *Question*: Are we collecting cash? Sometimes. A third-party took cash from a person and wrote a check to the Archdiocese in one instance, a case that we hope to avoid.

OFFICE OF PASTORAL LIFE: Fr. Nicholas Solak, chair of the OPL, described the mission and work of the Office to provide space and extend supportive relationships among priests and their wives not only to avoid burnout but also to help them continue to grow in ministry. He then fielded several questions.

DDB: Greg Honshul could not be with us, as his elderly mother went into the hospital yesterday.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL: Dn. Matthew Prentice noted that the MC is *sobornost* (that is, conciliarity) in action. The Metropolitan Council convened several times in both regular and special sessions over the past year. The Council has devoted considerable attention to matters concerning the Pension Board in recent years, which are now moving in a positive direction with regular communication among the Council, the Board, and the national Church, which now is headed in a positive direction with regular communications among the Council, Board and national Church. One issue discussed recently by the Metropolitan Council was the question of copyright trolls.

ELECTION: Metropolitan Tikhon noted that Dn. Matthew Prentice had expressed his willingness to serve again as our Metropolitan Council clergy representative but asked for any further nominations. Hearing none, a voice vote was taken and Dn. Matthew was unanimously re-elected to the post. Congratulations and many years!

BUDGET: Cooper Pappas proposed a $118,000 budget for the coming year. Fr. John Vitko suggested that the Youth monies that were unspent this past year carry over towards future participation in camps and retreats, rather than to national programming organizations for youth, such as the Orthodox Youth and Young Adults Ministry (OYM). Fr. Ted Boback further suggested that a category of Young Adult Ministry (over 18 years of age) be made separate from Youth Ministry (under 18 years of age) to help clarify how money was spent. Lisa Mikhalevsky noted that such separation might be overly restrictive in the future. A discussion ensued regarding the Metropolitan's spending priorities and ability to use funds between Assemblies. It was clarified that the Metropolitan and Archdiocesan Council have some flexibility in spending funds throughout the year, but the Assembly ultimately sets the budget. Dn. James Magruder reminded the Assembly that the DDB has a discrete category for youth events, so this body could focus on funding ongoing youth programming, while relying on the DDB to fund extraordinary youth events. Fr. John Vitko noted that youth retreats and camps were specified in past Archdiocesan meetings as a key vehicle for youth engagement in the Archdiocese of Washington. Fr. Robert Miclean further spoke to the powerful personal impact of these venues on children and parish life, asking the Assembly to remain focused on personal funding over high-level programming. His Beatitude recommended adjusting the payment for the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops down to $500 from $900 and foregoing any Desirable spending for the ACOB which is listed as $2,044 at the moment. Tom Jenkins so moved, and Fr. Nicholas Roth seconded the motion. *Discussion*: If the national Chancellor, Secretary etc. are going to represent the territorial Archdiocese of Washington, should they also not receive a stipend from the

Archdiocese? Perhaps, eventually. The vote of the budget amendment was approved. Lisa Mikhalevsky moved to place the remaining $456 into savings, which was seconded by Dn. Matthew Prentice. Cooper Pappas noted that retained earnings automatically were placed in savings *pro forma*. The amendment was withdrawn, and Lisa then moved to place the unallocated money in the Clergy Wellbeing item. Fr. John Vitko seconded the amendment, which passed unanimously.

Cooper then asked about donating to a pan-Orthodox Church School program that a Greek Orthodox friend was starting. Fr. John Vitko recommended we assess interest online. Fr. Ted Boback noted that he has recommended a formal process to assess the state of Church School programs and needs in the Archdiocese. Finally, Dn. Matthew Prentice called the question to vote on the amended budget, and Fr. Sean Levine seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Cooper moved to authorize the Archdiocesan Treasurer to make up any short fall of funds for the budget out of Operational Reserves. Fr. Dennis Buck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

ST. LUKE ORTHODOX CHURCH: Fr. John Vitko presented an introduction to the parish, along with pictures of the new temple that was consecrated in June. The parish formed as a Serbian Orthodox parish in 1961, meeting first at the Episcopalian National Cathedral in the crypt. By 1964, the parish bought the current Georgetown Pike land outside of Washington, DC, building the hall and chapel. Although the parish kept exploring building a traditional Orthodox Christian temple since 1968, the process only restarted in earnest in 2014. The process almost did not get off the ground, as parishioners were torn between the intimacy of their current chapel and building a bigger structure. They decided to build a flexible temple that could seat one hundred and fifty people for major feast days but did not have funding experience. By the grace of God they found Anthony Scott, who was an experienced fundraiser. Then God brought a trained builder, Ivan Iliasky to build a freestanding classic temple at a price they could afford, though without classrooms. As a builder who had grown up in Serbia, he walked them through the proportions and other decisions of a classic Serbian temple, with a new iconostasis from Serbia that accommodated their previous iconostasis icons from Serbia. They now normally seat about eighty people on Sunday but many more on feasts. Glory to God for all things!

OTHER: Fr. John Vitko mentioned that FOCUS wants to build a center for philanthropic work in the DC area, so they are holding information meetings at St. Marks on November 8, St. Luke's on December 5 and St. Mary's (Romanian Diocese) on December 6.

NEXT MEETINGS: Metropolitan Tikhon proposed the following events for the upcoming year: Archdiocesan Council meetings by Zoom on February 12, 2026, from 6 to 8 p.m. and on August 20, 2026, at the same time, as well as an annual Assembly on September 26, 2026, to be held at St. Luke's Serbian Orthodox Church (OCA).

ADJOURN: Dn. James Magruder moved to adjourn the meeting, and Fr. John Vitko seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned with the Assembly singing "It is Truly Meet" at 3:05 p.m.

REPORT OF THE METROPOLITAN

Annual Archdiocesan Assembly
Saint Luke Orthodox Church
September 26, 2026

1. *Introduction*. The annual Assembly of the Archdiocese of Washington will take place on Saturday, September 26th at St Luke's Orthodox Church in McLean, Virginia. In advance, I am providing the following report of the highlights of my activities in the Archdiocese and throughout the Orthodox Church in America over the past year. At the Assembly, I will offer an address that will more directly focus on our Archdiocesan priorities for the coming year and I will be prepared to receive any questions or comments on both my address and this written report.

2. *Gratitude*. I offer my sincere appreciation for the ministries of all the clergy who faithfully pastor our parishes and missions and for the contributions of the lay leaders who are instrumental in helping our Archdiocese to blossom for the glory of the Kingdom. As always, I am grateful for the sacrificial work and assistance of my Archdiocesan administrative team: Fr. Alessandro Margheritino, our Chancellor, Fr. Gregory Safchuk, our Dean, Fr. Nicholas Roth, our Treasurer, and Dn. James Magruder, our Secretary. This past year has been a time of administrative transition on many levels, and I have been both strengthened and encouraged by the support I have received from each of them individually and from our collective deliberations on matters affecting the life of the Archdiocese. I also extend my thanks to Greg Honshul for his oversight of the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors, and to both Greg and Deacon Matthew Prentice for their service as our Metropolitan Council representatives.

3. *Clergy changes.* The past year has seen a number of clergy changes within the Archdiocese:
    a. I transferred Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino from his position as Rector of All Saints in Alexandria and assigned him to Saint Nicholas Cathedral, where he has further been appointed Dean, a position that has been vacant for the past 15 years.
    b. I assigned Archpriest David Bozeman, the Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America, as Associate Priest at Saint Nicholas Cathedral, where he will assist the Dean, along with Archpriest Valery Shemchuk who remains assigned as Associate Priest.
    c. Fr. George Kokhno, who had been serving as Associate Priest at St Nicholas Cathedral, accepted assignment at Holy Trinity Church in Ashburn, which had been without a rector since the time of the falling asleep of Fr. Paul Harrilchak, of blessed memory.
    d. I am also grateful to Fr Dennis Buck who has been extremely faithful in providing interim pastoral care and liturgical services to Holy Trinity during a long time of

transition. He has been relieved of his service at Holy Trinity and will continue his pastoral care for Saint Catherine's.

e. In August, we welcome Father John and Matushka Lila (Maria) Stiff and their children into the Archdiocese. Fr. John has been assigned as Acting Rector of All Saints Orthodox Church in Alexandria and will also be working at the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America, serving as my personal secretary. I invite you to warmly welcome Fr. John and his family into the clergy brotherhood and the life of the Archdiocese of Washington.
f. Father John fills the position that was less vacant by the departure of Deacon Alexander Woodill who, together with Juliana and their extended family have relocated to St. Tikhon's Monastery where Juliana has accepted the position of Director for the Monastery's music program.
g. While remained retired, Fr. Joseph and Matushka Woodill have also relocated (along with the extended family) to St. Tikhon's Monastery. We wish all the Woodills God's choicest blessings in their new place of residence.
h. Archpriest Sean and Matushka Jennifer Levine have also left this area for a military assignment at Fort Knox. While Fr. Sean continues to serve primarily as a military chaplain, we are grateful for his service to the parishes and missions of the Archdiocese, as well as to Matushka Jennifer's contributions to the life of the Archdiocese of Washington and the administration of the Orthodox Church in America. We miss them and wish them well in their new assignment.
i. Although he was no longer directly serving the Archdiocese, the former priest John Mikitish, made the decision to leave the Orthodox Church and has been deposed by the Holy Synod.

4. *Archdiocesan Choir.* I make particular note of my gratitude to Julian Woodill for her faithful service as the initiator and director of the Archdiocesan Choir. Under her capable leadership, the choir has grown in numbers and in talent, offering responses at many Archdiocesan liturgical events, gathering for numerous rehearsals, and arranging some very inspiring concerts within a few short years. We recognize her tremendous contribution to the life of the Archdiocese and also offer our thanks to Mr. Kevin Fritts who has accepted to serve as interim director for the Archdiocesan Choir. We look forward to hearing them at the Assembly as they offer the responses at the Divine Liturgy.

5. *Travel within the Archdiocese of Washington*. Within the Archdiocese of Washington, I continue to make pastoral visits to our parishes and missions, either serving or simply presiding. I remain grateful for the opportunity to visit my communities with regularity. Of

particular significance over the past year was a) the first Archdiocesan celebration of the newly-glorified Saint Olga of Kwethluk on October 27, 2025, b) our annual celebration of Bright Saturday Matins and Liturgy at Saint Nicholas Cathedral, and, most recently c) a memorial service for all who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, on the 25th anniversary of that tragic day.

6. *Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America*. As noted in the report of the Metropolitan Council representatives, we are still delayed in the process of selling the Westwood property on Long Island. At the same time, I can report that we have made some real progress on identifying a permanent chancery location here in the greater DC area, which I hope to report on more fully at the Assembly.

7. *International Travel.* I continue to represent the Orthodox Church in America on the international level, though occasions for travel have been limited due to ongoing geopolitical conflicts and ever-present ecclesiastical tensions. Because of this, my only international travel related to external relations was to the Republic of Georgia for the funeral services of Patriarch Ilia II in March. Within the Orthodox Church in America, I crossed the Southern border in January for my annual visit to the Diocese of Mexico for the blessing of waters at Theophany, and, in July, I crossed the Northern border to participate in the Archdiocese of Canada's assembly in Calgary. In June, I continued my annual practice of taking a personal pilgrimage to the French Alps to spend time in my family home there.

8. *Orthodoxy in North America.* The Orthodox Church in America maintains her participation in the Assembly of Canonical Bishops in the United States. The fourteenth annual assembly took place last November in Denver, Colorado, and this year, Assembly XV is scheduled for October 3-6 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The budget for the Archdiocese of Washington continues to reflect a modest contribution of $500 a year to the work of the Assembly which is appreciated. In addition to the Assembly, I participated with bishops of the Moscow Patriarchate and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia at the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Fort Ross in California last October and served with Metropolitan Nicholas at the ROCOR Cathedral of Saint Nicholas in New York City for the Sunday of the Cross in Lent.

9. *Travel to other dioceses.* In addition to my travel to the Dioceses of Mexico and Canada, I travelled in June to Cincinnati, Ohio for the 50th anniversary celebrations of Christ the Savior/Holy Spirit Church there, which happens to be the home parish of our own Fr. Dennis Buck who also attended. I travelled to Jacksonville, Florida at the end of July this year for the special nominating assembly of the Diocese of the South. As was reported, His Grace Bishop

Gerasim was unanimously nominated by the assembly and I will present his name to the Holy Synod in November for possible canonical election as the next Bishop of Dallas. From Jacksonville, I flew to Cleveland to participate in the 99th Annual Convention of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America which was held at Holy Archangel Michael, in Broadview Heights.

10. *Activities in the Nation's Capital.* I attended the Annual March for Life in January and led the marchers in the molieben before the March itself, as I have done for the past 13 years. I was joined by our own Archbishop Michael and Bishop Andrei, and the Assembly delegation was headed by Bishop Irinej of the Serbian Orthodox Church. On April 30, I offered the invocation at a gala sponsored by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI) in Washington, DC. More recently, I was a guest at an ecumenical gathering which was organized as a welcome to the newly-appointed papal nuncio, Archbishop Gabriele Giodano Caccia.

11. *Stavropegial Institutions*. I continue to maintain a schedule of regular visits to my stravropegial institutions which include two seminaries and three monasteries. I presided at the commencement exercises for both seminaries and, at the beginning of this academic year visited St Tikhon's for their week of orientation and St Vladimir's for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.

12. *Memory Eternal.* I ask your prayers for all in our parishes and missions who have fallen asleep in the Lord during the past year. I especially ask for your prayers for the repose of Barbara Honshul, Greg's mother, and Larissa, the daughter of Matushka Nadia Koblosh, both of whom fell asleep in the Lord since the time of our Assembly.

13. *New Seminarian*. I conclude with the joyful announcement that the Archdiocese of Washington, after many years, finally has been blessed with a seminarian: Eduardo Valentin-Morales. Together with his wife, Margaret, they are parishioners at Saint Mark's in Bethesda, and have started the new semester at Saint Vladimir's Seminary. The Archdiocese will be financially contributing to their support while at seminary but above all, I ask for your prayers on their behalf, wishing them strength and wisdom as we look forward to their return to serve within the Archdiocese of Washington, should this be God's will.

14. *Conclusion.* I look forward to celebrating the liturgy with all the delegates at our upcoming Assembly and to discussing other aspects of the future growth and expansion of the Archdiocese of Washington.

Archdiocesan Assembly of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC
St. Luke Orthodox Church, McLean, Virginia
September 26, 2026

REPORT OF THE CHANCELLOR

Your Beatitude, Reverend Fathers, and Delegates to the Archdiocesan Assembly:

With gratitude to Almighty God, I offer this report on the life and work of the Archdiocese of Washington during a year of transition and continued growth.

I wish first to express my gratitude to His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon for his leadership and archpastoral care for our clergy, faithful, and parish communities. I am also grateful to my fellow officers: Father Gregory, our Archdiocesan Dean; Father Nicholas Roth, our Treasurer; and Deacon James, our Secretary. Their commitment and collaboration have been essential as we have worked together to strengthen the administration of the Archdiocese in support of its pastoral mission.

Approximately one year ago, His Beatitude announced a transition in our administrative structure, giving fuller expression to the model envisioned by the Holy Synod for the Archdiocese of Washington. This has included clarifying the responsibilities of the Chancellor and Dean, changes in the financial office, and a period of transition for the Archdiocesan Choir.

I am pleased to report that this work has been proceeding well. Father Gregory, Father Nicholas, and I communicate regularly and meet to address the needs of the Archdiocese, reporting to His Beatitude and meeting with him as appropriate. These relationships have helped us coordinate our responsibilities and respond to the questions that naturally arise during a transition. There is further work to do, but we have established a good foundation for continued cooperation.

The growth evident in many of our parishes is a particular source of encouragement. Recent visits and conversations have offered opportunities to see this at Christ the Savior, St. John's in Fairfax Station, All Saints, and Holy Trinity under Father George's pastoral care. At St. Nicholas Cathedral, we are also experiencing a period of renewed activity and welcoming newcomers into the community. These are only a few examples of the life unfolding throughout our Archdiocese. Glory to God for the people he is bringing into his Church and for the clergy and faithful who receive and care for them.

This growth also places a responsibility before us. Those who come to our parishes need patient instruction, personal attention, and opportunities to become part of the community's life in Christ. Supporting our clergy and parish leaders in this work must remain central to our shared efforts.

We are also beginning to see encouraging fruit in the cultivation of vocations, with a first seminarian and expressions of interest from others considering theological study and service to the Church. I ask our parishes to keep these individuals in prayer and to encourage those who may be discerning such a calling.

Among the tasks ahead is a review and revision of the Archdiocesan By-laws. As His Beatitude has indicated, we will work on this task in the coming months. In due course, we will also need to consider the method by which the Archdiocese is funded, with attention to sustaining its ministries.

I wish to offer particular thanks to Father Nicholas for his extraordinary work in the Treasurer's office during this transition. The care and effort he has devoted to this responsibility have been a significant service to the Archdiocese.

Finally, I thank the members of the Archdiocesan Council and the clergy and faithful of our parishes for their service. May our Lord Jesus Christ guide our work, deepen our unity, and make our common efforts fruitful for the salvation of those entrusted to our care.

In Christ,

Archpriest Alessandro Margheritino
Chancellor

Archdiocesan Council Meeting

August 20th 2026

Report of the Dean

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am now in my eighth month of appointment as interim dean for the parishes and missions of the Archdiocese of Washington. I continue to meet with, communicate and work with His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon, Fr. Alessandro Marghertino, Fr. David Bozeman and Fr. Nicholas Roth on a regular basis within the administrative structure of our archdiocese. My primary responsibility remains to facilitate communication and to handle day-to-day administrative matters essential to the health and function of the parishes and clergy of our deanery.

I am pleased to report that we will now have a seminarian from our archdiocese beginning his studies at St. Vladimir's Seminay in September. Eduardo Valentin from St. Mark Church has been accepted into the three year Masters of Divinity Program and will begin classes on September 7th. He has indicated his intention if approved for and called by God to be ordained to the Holy Priesthood and to return and serve in our archdiocese. Please keep him and his wife, Margaret, in your prayers as they begin this new phase of their lives together.

This past week saw the return of Samuel Estrada, a young adult from St. Mark parish who represented our Archdiocese at the recent Suprasl World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth gathering in Poland. He described the event in glowing terms, learned much, and was very grateful for the opportunity to meet dozens of other fellow Orthodox young adults from around the globe.

In my last report, I mentioned the assignment and reassignment of several priests which affected three of our parishes – St. Nicholas Cathedral in DC, Holy Trinity Church in Ashburn, and All Saints in Alexandria.

Following up on those pastoral changes, I'm pleased to say that the recent assignment of Fr. John Stiff to All Saints of North America parish in Alexandria is going very well. He and his family have relocated to the Washington DC area and are settling in to their home and new parish community. They are deeply grateful for the warm welcome extended to them by the council members and faithful. He has informed me that attendance for services

there has remained consistent with no noticeable drop off during these summer months. In addition, like many other parishes, they have welcomed 5-10 new people each Sunday who are attending the Orthodox Divine Liturgy for the first time.

Since his reassignment last February, Fr. George Kokhno has been serving the faithful of Holy Trinity parish in Ashburn. Although they have faced some considerable increases in expenditures, attendance at liturgical services has risen noticeably and progress is being made in the transition to new pastoral leadership. Please keep them all in your prayers as they continue to build upon the legacy and foundational work of Fr. Paul Harrilchak.

Also dating from last February are the formal assignments of Frs. Alessandro Margheritino and David Bozeman to St. Nicholas Cathedral. They then joined Fr. Valery Shemchuk in providing pastoral care, a full schedule of liturgical services, education and administrative leadership to this complex multicultural community. These past six months have been a time of mutual assessment and discovery for both the parish community and newly assigned clergy. So far things having been going well with liturgical services, and educational classes being well received.

I am pleased to report that to the best of my knowledge the remaining parishes and missions within our deanery continue to thrive and grow. By your prayers, I look forward to serving the remainder of my tenure as interim dean.

With gratitude in Christ,

Fr. Gregory

The Orthodox Church in America

Archdiocese of Washington

Audit Report 2026 September 21, 2026

The two members of the audit committee met in August and early September 2026 to conduct the financial review for the Archdiocese of Washington (ADoW), Orthodox Church in America.

Since the last report for the period ending December 31, 2024, Father Nicholas Roth has taken over as treasurer of the ADoW finances, and Ms. Lisa Mikhalevsky has taken over as treasurer of the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDB) finances. The change was made at the 2024 assembly but did not take place until late 2025 and into the first part of 2026. Mr. Matt Matyuf continued as treasurer until records were transferred. The transition between the incoming and outgoing treasurers resulted in segmented record-keeping, which temporarily impacted our retrieval timelines.

This committee was tasked with completing the annual financial review for the period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. We were provided access to records and documentation which included: Quickbooks records, Bank of America account statements, PayPal records, check registers, check stubs, invoices, expense reports, deposit receipts, and other related information. We also reviewed the recommendations made in prior audit reports to determine if they were implemented.

To identify key transactions for review, we applied the following methodology to our audit process:

1. Reviewed the check register for non-repeating entries.
2. Reviewed the check register for funds released to individuals.
3. Reviewed for large dollar transactions (deposit or funds released)
4. Reviewed the check register for voided entries.
5. Compared ending bank statement balance to machine reports.
6. Reviewed machine reports for accuracy.
7. Utilized random sampling for all transactions reviewed.

ADoW Transactions

We reviewed a sampling of transactions from several months throughout the year. All transactions were verified on the monthly statements and by examining the supporting documentation in the files. There were no voided entries.

The only issue noted was a check issued to the Archdiocese of Washington for $1,000 which was not cashed and was intended for the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. The check was in the files and did not have any notations with it about whether any follow-up was done and whether the check should have been voided. No other discrepancies were noted.

We also examined the recurring internal transfers to the funds set aside for the ADoW amount toward the All-American Council expenses and for the All-American Council travel fund. In addition to the recurring expenses for Adobe, Intuit, and Microsoft. No discrepancies were noted.

DDB Transactions

We reviewed a sampling of transactions from several months throughout the year. All transactions were verified on the monthly statements and by examining the supporting documentation in the files. Transactions were also verified in Quickbooks. There were no voided entries.

For some transactions the supporting documentation was still not as detailed as we had recommended, but we saw evidence of an improvement in the quality of supporting documentation towards the latter part of the year.

Accounting Best Practice Observations and Review of Prior Recommendations

Overall, we did not find any evidence of misappropriation of funds. However, while examining the ADoW accounts we again found existing practices and procedures that could still be improved and/or established to ensure that funds are appropriately accounted for. Implementing these best practice observations will help improve operations and administrative efficiency, ultimately protecting and strengthening the integrity of the ADoW finances.

1. We continue to recommend that a 1099-MISC be issued for anyone paid for services performed for the ADoW/DDB in excess of the IRS threshold. This recommendation was implemented for the 2025 tax year.
2. We continue to recommend that PayPal and other donations be deposited in the DDB General fund unless otherwise designated by the donor. This recommendation was implemented more fully in 2025.
3. We continue to recommend that PayPal donations are reconciled monthly to ensure accurate distribution to the DDB projects. This recommendation was implemented more fully in 2025.
4. We continue to recommend implementing a second person to assist the treasurer in check writing and making deposits.
5. We continue to recommend that all funds donated to the ADoW/DDB must be maintained in ADoW accounts. Collected donations/funds should not be held in individual accounts and transferred later or be used to pay for expenses. Disbursements from unofficial accounts reduces the opportunity for appropriate responsible financial stewardship controls to include proper authorization and documentation (receipts, invoices, etc.).
6. We continue to recommend that cash advances not be issued, except in exceedingly rare and extreme circumstances. We saw no evidence of this during this financial review.
7. A previous recommendation included establishing formal cash collection procedures for ADoW activities. This recommendation was implemented by the end of the audit period with the implementation of the “Event Collection Reporting Form,” which requires details about the event, amount collected, and the names and signatures of two people who counted the collected funds.

8. We continue to recommend that all deposits be made in the original form of collection. All deposits were incompliance with this recommendation during the review period.
9. A previous recommendation included implementing a formal reimbursement form. This recommendation was implemented by the end of the audit period with the use of the "Expense reporting form/Request for Reimbursement," which requires details of the expense including date and receipts. We recommend more detailed invoices if the expense is for hourly amounts, to include the number of hours worked and the hourly rate rather than a total amount.

Based on the review of the 2025 banking transactions, and the information presented, we have no further concerns to report about the financial materials reviewed.

Timing Challenges

In last year's write-up of audit recommendations, we noted that because of the timing of the audit and the Archdiocesan Assembly that it was highly likely that recommendations would be repeated for the 2025 audit given that there was not enough time to implement recommendations. We have noted above where improvements in the processes have occurred and see signs that this trend will continue to improve operations, strengthen financial stewardship, and reduce the potential for fraud and errors.

Respectfully submitted,

Mat. Ann Prentice	Dee Young
Lay Audit Member	Lay Audit Member
St. John Mission	St. John Mission

Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor Fund

Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

ASSEMBLY REPORT
September 2026

Most Blessed Master, Bless!

Your Beatitude, Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with deep gratitude that the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactor Fund (DDB) may report gifts received this year now total over $13,387.16. It is through the generous kindness and dedication of our committed Benefactors that programs and outreach, vital to our Archdiocesan Mission, continue to prosper.

We are blessed to have been called upon to disburse over $ 7,333.08 of financial support for programs directly benefiting our mission. Our 2026 DDB account balance for month ending July was $56,480.79.

Last year, we announced our desire to establish a series of funds to support ministries identified as critically important to the needs of the Archdiocese of Washington D.C and beyond.
In response to that call, the DDB collects donations and distributes funds for these programs

Clergy & Parish Emergency | Koblosh Vocations | Youth Ministry | Music Ministry | General

Our goal is to establish each key program with a designated minimum level of funding. We are pleased to report on our progress towards meeting these goals:

	Goal	% to Goa
CLERGY EMERGENCY Fund	$ 20,000	
KOBLOSH VOCATIONS Fund	$ 30,000	
GENERAL Fund	$ 8,000	
○ GEN – MUSIC Ministry	$ 8,000	219
○ GEN – YOUTH Ministry	$ 5,000	215

Fully funding these key programs to prescribed target levels will better position the DDB to address requests for financial assistance as they occur. Your continued support to achieve these goals are critical for our success, and especially to help *build up* our Koblosh Vocations Fund.

We are pleased to welcome V. Rev. Gregory Safchuk as our new member to the DDB Board of Directors and already we are benefiting by his thoughtful contributions to our mission. Behind the scenes, we remain focused on transitioning our accounting systems (thank you Fr Nicholas and Lisa for your dedicated efforts!) , responding to the growing needs of the ever-popular Archdiocesan Music Program, upgrading our giving tools, enhanced outreach to benefactors and building upon our existing Youth and Vocations Programs.

Since established, the DDB Committee gratefully acknowledges that with ongoing heartfelt support from parishes and benefactors, gifts disbursed now exceed over $150,000. Please help us to help others and if you are not already a Benefactor, consider making a one-time gift or better, becoming an ongoing subscriber.

The DDB is thriving and we *rejoice and give thanks* for
your trust and abundant generosity
offered to Christ's Church.

With love in Christ,

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon
V. Rev. Gregory Safchuk
Dn. James Magruder, Secretary
Lisa Mikhalevsky, Treasurer
Gregory Honshul, Chairperson

UPDATED DDB MAILING ADDRESS for DONATIONS:

Archdiocese of Washington, DC
The Orthodox Church in America
ATTN: Treasurer
PO BOX 31409
Alexandria, VA 22310

The Orthodox Church in America

Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

Metropolitan Council Summer Delegates Report 20 August 2026

Most Blessed Master, Bless!

Your Beatitude, Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pension Plan
Michael Steglitz, Administrator for our Pension Plan, released the Summer Update in July and the news from the Pension Office continues to be encouraging. The marketable securities portfolio, under the guidance of Morgan Stanley, earned 9.27%, net of fees for the 12-month period May 31, 2025-May 31, 2026. The actuarial benchmark for the Plan is 7%, with budgeted gains for 2026 expected to be $605,000, up from the 2025-year gain of a respectable $585,000.

Fair Market Value of Assets

January 1, 2025	$26,648,556
May 31, 2026	$30,289,481

The Actual funded ratio continues to improve and is trending upward from 38.1% in 2023 to 40.4% in 2024 to 42.9% in 2025 to (projected) 45.3% in 2026. The Actuarial projection is expected to be fully funded in 2036 (100%) even if participation were to remain at current levels; sooner if the plan grows membership. As of June 15, 2026, there were 426 active participating members.

Additionally, there is an ongoing effort to control expenses and improve services. The Pension Board is actively exercising their due diligence with a review of current vendors and submitting Requests For Information (RFI) to available competitors seeking competitive bids.

Westwood Property

We are experiencing an unfortunate delay in the expected closing of the Westwood property, and the OCA continues to work diligently with all parties involved to resolve all contingency issues. We are laser focused in our resolve to close on the Westwood property in 2026 and remain confident in our professional service partners to overcome challenges and bring the disposition of Westwood to closure.

2026 Metropolitan Council Meetings
Fall: Scheduled to occur in-person on October 14 - 16th, 2026, in Springfield Virginia.

Please contact either Dn. Matthew Prentice or Greg Honshul for any questions you may have regarding the activities of the Metropolitan Council. Thank you for your support and interest.

Respectfully Submitted:

Deacon Matthew Prentice

Gregory Honshul

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Denton, MD 21629
262-844-2369
www.AnnapolisCollegeMinistry.org
Fr.RobertMiclean@gmail.com

*Established in **2004***
*Now in our 22nd **year**!*

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you..." (St. Matthew 28:19-20).

Summer 2026

Dear Friends of Annapolis Pan-Orthodox College Ministry (ACM):

1 Fr. Robert meeting with the new class of midshipmen (plebes) this summer

Glory to Jesus Christ! We're excited to share with you how God has been working through ACM since our last newsletter. Thank you for your continued, steadfast support of ACM making a difference in the lives of so many students and midshipmen in Annapolis. We are now in our 22nd year of ministry to the students of St. John's College and the midshipmen of the U.S.N.A.

Fr. Robert is on each of the campuses weekly meeting with students, teaching two different Bible and Patristic studies, leading services and hearing confessions. Rides are coordinated and provided weekly to Divine Liturgy at Holy Archangels Orthodox Church in Denton, MD through the ministry, where Fr. Robert also meets with students and midshipmen surrounding the divine services.

Plebe Summer Ministry 2026

2 Fr. Robert meeting the new Orthodox plebes this summer, Alumni Hall, USNA

Fridays this summer (and other times), Fr. Robert ministered to the incoming class of midshipmen (plebes) at the U.S. Naval Academy, offering services, teaching, answering questions about the Orthodox Faith, and hearing confessions. Ministry also included helping several of these new mids to 'own' their Orthodox Faith for the first time. Others began their journey to Christ and His holy Orthodox Church. Our ministry to them continues throughout the academic year, beginning in August.

Six New Catechumens, one baptized, through the ministry:
Since our last newsletter, FIVE more midshipmen have been brought into the catechumenate, one newly commissioned Marine officer has been baptized.

Those already Orthodox have come to 'own' their faith in Christ in His Church on a deeper level through the ministry. Catechumens, inquirers and those already Orthodox are given opportunities for adult education:

weekly Bible studies, Patristic studies, services at the Academy, and a bi-monthly catechumen/inquirer class taught by Fr. Robert. As of this writing, four more mids have asked to be brought into the Catechumenate. This is the most catechumens we have ever had at one time!

3 Newly baptized officer, USMC, Noah Green

Annual March for Life

A large contingency of students journeyed to D.C. with Fr. Robert to stand for the unborn and to pray for the sanctity of life and victims of abortion. This is an important witness of the Church's teaching that ACM has participated in for many years.

Holy Week and Pascha 2026

Many students and midshipmen joined parishioners from Holy Archangels to journey with our Lord Jesus Christ to His holy Passion and Resurrection. Transportation was coordinated and provided through the ministry for the daily services as well as Pascha.

4 Some of our catechumens from the USNA during the prayer for the catechumens in the Divine Liturgy

ACM Quick Facts

- Annapolis Pan-Orthodox College Ministry (ACM) was founded in 2004
- Approximately 50 midshipmen and St. John's students have been brought to the Orthodox Faith through the ministry over the years.
- Fr. Robert ministers on both campuses weekly, providing weekly services, Bible or Patristic studies, hearing Confessions, individual meetings for pastoral counseling, catechism.
- ACM coordinates and provides rides for midshipmen and students to attend the Divine Liturgy Sundays at Holy Archangels Orthodox Church
- Bi-monthly catechumen and inquirer classes on the Orthodox Faith are also provided
- Currently, 7 of 20 catechumens at Holy Archangels are from the college ministry.
- Five of these catechumens are midshipmen, highest number in 22 years of the ministry with an additional 4 who have asked to join the catechumenate from this summer's ministry.
- One newly commissioned marine, Noah, was baptized Sunday of All Saints of North America.
- Your generous support enables Fr. Robert's ability to work on the college ministry half-time, supports office expenses, and meeting for coffee with students/midshipmen.

5: Midshipman Wesley Schafer (USNA) retrieves the cross from Tuckahoe Creek on Theophany

Your faithful support is more important than ever and makes ACM's ministry possible, enabling Fr. Robert to be on the campuses and ministering to the students half-time. Our young people face many challenges today to keep and grow in their Orthodox Christian Faith in an often hostile world. The Church's ministry to them is crucial. Many of ACM's original supporters have departed this life. New supporters are always needed. The fruit of your support is seen in the great numbers of young people availing themselves of the ministry and coming to Christ and His holy Orthodox Church. Please consider increasing your support to help sustain this ministry as we begin our *22nd year this Fall!*

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you!