



21st ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL

July 14-18, 2025

Brief Biography for Election to Church-Wide Positions

Position (check one)



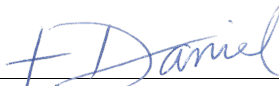
Metropolitan Council



Pension Board

Name of nominee: Archpriest Timothy Sawchak

Parish/Institution/City, State: Holy Trinity Overland Park, KS

Hierarch's Signature of approval: 

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education: BA Architectural Studies University of Kansas 1990
BGS History University of Kansas 1990
M. Div. St. Vladimir's Seminary 1993

Relevant Professional Experience:

Administrative Assistant OCA Chancery 1993-1994
Pastor: Holy Trinity New Salem, PA 1994-1997
Pastor: Ss. Peter & Paul Lakewood, OH 1997-2005
Pastor: Holy Trinity Overland Park, KS 2005-present
Clergy Chair 19th AAC St. Louis, MO

Personal Statement

I am a son of the OCA. I have either lived in, or pastored churches in 4 Dioceses of the OCA. As a priest for 31 years, I have had joys and sorrows, successes and failures. I pray I can continue to help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in serving on the Metropolitan Council with a spirit of humility and service to the Church.

Signed: 



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Metropolitan Council



Pension Board

Name of nominee: Archpriest Christopher Foley

Parish/Institution/City, State: Holy Cross Orthodox Church, Kernersville, NC

Hierarch's Signature of approval: + Alexander

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education:

AA in Missiology/Cross-cultural Studies - Toccoa Falls College - 1993
BA in Studio Art/Graphic Design with a minor in Art History - Piedmont College - 1995
MDiv - St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary - 2006

Relevant Professional Experience:

- Served for 19 years as Rector of Holy Cross Orthodox Church in Kernersville, NC.
- During that time Holy Cross has grown to over 160 faithful and in 2024 moved into our new church.
- Successfully completed the OCA planting grant and have been able to be a full time priest since that time.
- Helped implement and manage a successful capital campaign for our new building raising over \$1.2 million.
- Helped plant Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Mission in Hickory, NC.
- Served as a clergy delegate for the All-American Council on the Metropolitan Council from 2023-2025.

Personal Statement:

I am convinced that God can use the many experiences in our lives to serve the Church. I have certainly witnessed this in parish and church planting ministry. I hope to bring this to my service on the Metropolitan Council. I possess a diverse background with educational and work experiences in missiology, church planting, construction, the music industry, marketing, public speaking, and management. Additionally, I have 19 years of parish experience during which I have learned a great deal about servant leadership, teamwork, building consensus, pastoral care, and parish administration. I have come to love the vision and mission of the OCA, seeing my own mission grow and meet the challenges of being committed to a truly indigenous expression of the Orthodox Faith in this land. I have already served one term on the Metropolitan Council, and I have grown to love the conciliar work of the church at the national level. If elected, I would be excited to continue to serve because I genuinely believe that the OCA has a unique and vital mission of continuing to bring "the fullness of the Gospel of the Kingdom to the peoples of North America."

Signed: V. REV. FATHER CHRISTOPHER FOLEY



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Metropolitan Council



Pension Board

Name of nominee:

Rev. John Joseph Kotalik IV

Parish/Institution/City, State:

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Canonsburg, Penna.

Hierarch's Signature of approval:

[Handwritten Signature]

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education:

Master of Divinity, 2015
St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary

Graduate Studies in Philosophy, 2010-11
Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Psychology, & History; 2009
Seattle University, Seattle, WA

Relevant Professional Experience:

- Rector, St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Canonsburg, PA, 2019-Present
Led parish to grow by over 110 people in my time there by increasing frequency and fullness of liturgical services, developing outreach programs (including an active Orthodox Christians for Life ministry), and building up social/communal programs and life within the parish.
- Vice President, St. Tikhon's Alumni Association, 2024-Present
- Member of Uniform Parish Bylaws Committee, Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania, 2021-22
- Deacon & Pastoral Assistant, St. Seraphim Cathedral (Santa Rosa) and Holy Trinity Cathedral (San Francisco), 2018-19
- Administrative Assistant, OCA Diaconal Vocations Program, 2018-19
- Choirmaster, St. Spiridon Cathedral, Seattle, WA, 2015-18
- "Road Manager", St. Tikhon's Mission Choir, 2013-15
- An unofficial position; I worked with the 20+ parishes to be visited each year, as well as a 10-day trip to California, to determine travel schedules, organize lodging, and address other logistical issues. This helped me to build connections with clergy and faithful at dozens of parishes.
- Assistant Administrator of 99-unit assisted living facility in Washington State, 2008-2012

Personal Statement

As has always been the case, the coming years are likely to bring new challenges to our Orthodox Church in America. We will have to dynamically seek to connect our Orthodox dogmatic and canonical Tradition to the pastoral needs of the contemporary Church in America, employing new ideas while remaining faithful to that Tradition. Moreover, we face the continued challenge of helping us all to fully understand our missionary calling to do the apostolic work of the Church, rather than just serving the immediate and insular needs of our parish communities. As the rector of a rapidly growing legacy parish in Western Pennsylvania, I have had to do just this, both delving into the depths of our tradition while leading and encouraging my parishioners to find new ways to help connect us with that tradition, all while helping the parish to understand our Orthodox Church in America's mission and vision. If the All-American Council would have me, I would like to bring my experiences within the parish to the Metropolitan Council, and to contribute to working to address these struggles faced by the entire OCA.

In particular, I am concerned about the impending clergy shortage facing our OCA - a challenge already besetting us here in Western PA. I would like to help find ways for our Church to address this issue, which is why I have been part of the Intentional Discipleship for Ministry discussions led by Fr. John Parker (Dean of STOTS). I hope that I might be able to bring some of these insights to the discussion of the broader Church, if called upon to do so as a member of the Metropolitan Council.

Signed: _____



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Metropolitan Council



Pension Board

Name of nominee: V. Rev. Sean A. Levine, Chaplain (LTC) US Army

Parish/Institution/City, State: Military Chaplain, US Armed Forces Deanery

Hierarch's Signature of approval: 

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education:

Bachelor of Arts, New Testament Literature, Minor in Pastoral Care, Oral Roberts University, 1989
Master of Arts, Theological Studies, Asbury Seminary, 2003
Master of Arts, Biblical Studies, Asbury Seminary, 2008
Master of Divinity, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, 2010
Chaplain Captains Career Course, 2015
Master of Science, Marriage and Family Therapy, Texas A&M, 2017
U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, 2019
Doctor of Ministry, Erskine Theological Seminary, 2023

Relevant Professional Experience:

I have served as a priest in the OCA since May 16, 2009. Twice I have served in the Archdiocese of Washington, having been assigned to the Military District of Washington, and on both occasions, I have been able to serve a numerous parishes across the Archdiocese. As well, in every location where the Army has stationed me, I have served in local OCA parishes and in those of other jurisdictions. This has given me a wide view of the OCA and of Orthodoxy in America. I have also served Orthodox service members from America and Coalition partners in Afghanistan. As a marriage and family therapist, I have encountered the needs of Orthodox Christians in many diverse pastoral situations. As an Army Officer, I have served on countless councils, working groups, and operational planning teams. At this stage in my career, I serve at the strategic planning level at the Headquarters of the Department of the Army in the Pentagon.

Personal Statement

I would count it a great honor and high responsibility to serve on the Metropolitan Council, and I believe that my education and professional experiences posture me to provide a unique perspective on the work of the Church. My regular contact, as a priest serving in the Armed Forces, with the day-to-day workings of the military and the lives of servicemen/women and their families gives me a specialized vantage from which to view American culture; the culture within which the OCA seeks to proclaim and embody the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. I hope to contribute to the mission of the Church as a member of the Metropolitan Council by putting these experiences and perspectives to work for His Beatitude and for the OCA.

Signed: _____





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Pension Board

Name of nominee: Archpriest Justin Mathews

Parish/Institution/City, State: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church (Attached, Overland Park, KS)
St. Maria of Paris Chapel (Priest-in-Charge, Kansas City, MO)

Hierarch's Signature of approval: 

Note: Keep information limited to the space provided on this page—be concise

Education:

Masters in Divinity, St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, 2004-2007

Bachelors in Business Administration / Audio Engineering, Belmont University, 1997-2000 (Cum Laude)

Kauffman Foundation, FastTrac Entrepreneurship Program, 2012

Indiana University School of Fundraising, CFRE Coursework, 2009-2010

Relevant Professional Experience: I'm an Orthodox priest with 18 years of pastoral experience in diverse communities, a nonprofit executive, and a social entrepreneur with 25 years leading mission-driven organizations. I serve as CEO of Reconciliation Services (\$5M budget, 30 staff) in Kansas City's urban core, where we serve 3,500+ clients annually through social & mental health care, social enterprise, and community-building. I founded Thelma's Kitchen, KC's first pay-it-forward café, and recently led a \$15.5M redevelopment of our 26,000 sq/ft facility. I was founding Executive Director of FOCUS North America, am an Aspen Institute Civil Society Fellow, co-founder of the Social Venture Studio, author of The Social Leader e-course, and serve on multiple national and local boards of directors.

Personal Statement: In service to Christ and inspired by the dynamic missionary vision of the Orthodox Church in America, I would be honored to serve on the Metropolitan Council if elected. For over 25 years, I've worked to integrate faith with action to advocate for the poor and marginalized, which is central to our Church's mission and witness in America. At Reconciliation Services, I strive to express our Orthodox faith through strategic leadership and creative programs that sustainably and measurably extend God's mercy and love "to the end and without exceptions" (St. Maria of Paris). I hope to bring the perspective and lived experience of those I have served in these ministries to the Council's work, along with my deep experience in governance, development, and social entrepreneurship to support the Church's mission.

Signed: 