



The Orthodox Church in America  
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

**2022 Diocesan Council  
Secretary's Report**

In 2022, the Diocesan Council met in regular session three times:

- May 10th, 2022
- September 6th, 2022
- November 15th, 2022

The meetings were held in person at the Diocesan Center in Bath, PA.

The Diocesan Council is chaired by His Eminence, Archbishop MARK. While input from council members is encouraged, solicited and considered, His Eminence has the final say in all proceedings. The function of the Diocesan Council is to support our hierarch and share ideas, opinions and recommendations for his consideration. Our discussions are facilitated by His Eminence and our Diocesan Chancellor, the Very Rev'd. Raymond Martin Browne.

At each meeting, the archbishop presented a review of pre-meeting activity and highlighted important diocesan news and other issues requiring discussion. The chancellor, treasurer, auditors, and deans presented reports regarding their activities, and the Diocesan Council received information on the undertakings of the Holy Synod, Metropolitan Council and the Office of Pastoral Life. A summary of departmental reports may be found in the documentation presented at this Annual Diocesan Assembly.

In brief, topics of focus for the 2022 Diocesan Council included, but were not limited to:

- Clergy aging and retirement
- Pastoral transfers
- The OCA pension plan
- The administration, organization and funding of the St. Tikhon's Summer Camp, including digitizing records and conducting background checks
- Establishment and growth of the mission parish in Gettysburg
- Diocesan audits of St. John the Baptist (Edwardsville) and Ss. Peter & Paul (Uniondale)
- Term limits for parish councils
- The 2023 diocesan budget
- Retreats for clergy and laity
- Clergy fellowship, continuing education, and increased support for clergy wives
- Seminarian support
- Charitable giving, including donations to the Diocese of Sitka & Alaska, the Diocese of Mexico, the Pennsylvania Orphan Care Alliance and the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen

Diocesan Council meeting minutes are available on the diocesan website, [www.DOEPA.org](http://www.DOEPA.org), under the "Resources" tab. You may also contact the Diocese directly via email at [diocesoeopa@gmail.com](mailto:diocesoeopa@gmail.com), or telephone the office at 484-281-3406.

Respectfully submitted,

Daria Cortese  
Diocesan Council Secretary