



2023 Diocesan Council Secretary's Report

In 2023, the Diocesan Council met in regular session three times:

- May 22nd, 2023
- August 17th, 2023
- November 2nd, 2023

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

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

Each meeting began with an arch pastoral review of pre-meeting activity, important national and diocesan news, and other notable issues for discussion. The chancellor, treasurer, deans and auditors also presented their reports, and the Council received updates on the activities of the Metropolitan Council and the Office of Pastoral Life. A summary of these departmental reports may be found in the documentation for this Annual Assembly.

Topics of focus for the 2023 Diocesan Council included:

- Clergy aging and retirement
- Clergy compensation
- The OCA pension plan
- The 2024 diocesan budget
- Amendments to the diocesan bylaws
- Archpastoral directives and liturgical notes for clergy
- Retreats for clergy and laity, including a women's retreat and winter youth retreat
- Charitable giving, including donations to Off the Streets Ministries, the Shipley family and Eleana Silk.
- Clergy fellowship, continuing education, and increased support for matushki
- Upcoming ordinations
- Seminarian support
- The administration and functioning of the St. Tikhon's Summer Camp
- The establishment and growth of the Heavenly Host youth program
- The funding and activities of the Gettysburg Mission
- Issues regarding the relationship between Orthodoxy and social media

Diocesan Council meeting minutes are available on the diocesan website, www.DOEPA.org, under the "Resources" tab. You may also contact the Diocese directly via email at dioceseoepa@gmail.com, or via telephone at 484-281-3406.

Respectfully submitted,

Daria Cortése
Diocesan Council Secretary