

## Orthodox Church in America Synod concludes Spring 2019 Session



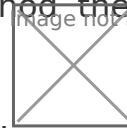
The Spring Session of the Holy Synod of Bishops, which convened at the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America May 7-10, 2019, opened with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at Saint Sergius of Radonezh Chapel, at which His Grace, Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa, presided. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon celebrated a Trisagion for the departed family members of the Holy Synod.

Metropolitan Tikhon the opened the first plenary session with his address to the Holy Synod.

Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed Archpriest Alexander Rentel to his first meeting of the Holy Synod since his appointment as Chancellor. He went on to express gratitude to long-time Subdeacon Roman Ostash for his faithful service, and once again expressed gratitude for the work of the former Chancellor, Archpriest John

Jillions. His Beatitude also reported on the upcoming appointment of a committee to study the possible relocation of the OCA Chancery.

In her report to the Holy Synod, Melanie Ringa, Treasurer, updated the Holy Synod on financial matters for through March 31, 2019, in which she indicated that year-to-date total assets were \$3,847,296.00 with total liabilities of \$197,035.00 and net assets of \$3,650,261—an increase of \$475,198.00 for the quarter. The Lilly Foundation “Thriving in Ministry Grant” in the amount of \$347,500.00 was received during this period. Metropolitan Tikhon went on to thank Melanie for her years of devoted service as Treasurer. Members of the Holy Synod then confirmed the



appointment of Andrew D. Smith as the new OCA Treasurer.

Archpriest Eric G. Tosi, Secretary, offered a presentation on the current status of the archives renovation project.

His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin reported on the latest plans for the celebration of the 50th Anniversaries of the Granting of Autocephaly and the Glorification of Saint Herman of Alaska in 2020. Detailed information will be forthcoming.

Archpriest Leonid Kishkovsky briefed the members of the Holy Synod on matters of external relations. In response, the Holy Synod issued a statement reaffirming its earlier position, issued in January 2019.

Metropolitan Tikhon presented the report of the manager of the 20th All-American Council, Deacon Peter Ilchuk, and Archpriest Eric G. Tosi.

Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed to the meeting Archpriest Chad Hatfield, President of Saint Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY and Archpriest John Parker, Dean of Saint Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, South Canaan, PA, who reported on the work of the seminaries. His Eminence, Archbishop David reported on the work of Saint Herman’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kodiak, AK.

Also heard were reports on the current status of each diocese, the ongoing website redesign, legal affairs, the Saints Cosmas and Damian Home, the OCA Pension Board, and continuing education.

During the gathering, His Grace, Bishop Matthew of Sourozh was the guest of the Holy Synod. The Holy Synod also met with 2019 OCA graduates of Saint Tikhon’s and Saint Vladimir’s Seminaries.

On behalf of the members of the Holy Synod, His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel,

offered gratitude to Metropolitan Tikhon and his staff for the outstanding organization and preparation of the Spring Session.

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— Source: [Orthodox Church in America](#)