

New Archbishop of America welcomes top US diplomat as his first official visit



The new Archbishop of America, His Eminence Elpidophoros, on Wednesday received US Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback, at his office in New York City, his first official meeting since his enthronement on Saturday. The US diplomat briefed the new Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America over Washington's positions and actions in favor of religious freedoms, while also inviting the latter to a State Department ministerial meeting in the US capital next month, on the subject of defending religious freedoms.

Following his meeting with Archbishop Elpidophoros, Amb. Brownback said:

"...I was delighted to meet His Eminence. I congratulated him on his new position. I'm excited about the prospects for working together with the Orthodox Community. It is a fabulous community in the United States and around the world."

In return, Archbishop Elpidophoros said: "...I was honored to have as a first official

guest, in my office after my installation as the new Archbishop of America, Mr. Brownback... I'm grateful for that. And I'm moreover grateful that this visit had to do with human rights and religious freedom, which is so important for the center of the Orthodox Christian world, our Ecumenical Patriarchate."



