



DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST – *Orthodox Church in America*

53RD DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 7, 2014, BROADVIEW HEIGHTS, OHIO

**Procedure for the Nomination of an  
Episcopal Candidate for the  
Diocese of the Midwest**

In accordance with Article VI, Section 8 of *The Statute of the Orthodox Church in America*, it has been announced that His Grace, Bishop Alexander will convene a Special Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest on the morning of Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at Archangel Michael Church in Broadview Heights, OH. The sole purpose of this Assembly shall be the nomination of a candidate for the vacant See of Chicago and the Midwest.

As stated in Article VI, Section 10 of the *Statute*:

*The election of the diocesan bishop shall proceed as follows:*

- a. The Diocesan Assembly shall nominate a candidate and submit his name to the Holy Synod;*
- b. If the Assembly falls [sic] to nominate a candidate acceptable to the Holy Synod, the Synod shall elect the bishop of the diocese;*
- c. Upon the approval of a candidate by the Holy Synod, he shall be summoned to a session of the Holy Synod for the canonical election.*

His Grace, Bishop Alexander, has presented for our consideration the candidacy of the Very Reverend Archpriest Paul Gassios. The Bishop's Council and Diocesan Council of the Midwest have also endorsed Fr. Paul as their candidate. Fr. Paul has been vetted by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, as well as by two different dioceses as part of their search processes—including our own, four years ago.

Let it be understood that Fr. Paul is not the only eligible nominee. The Holy Synod has provided us with a list of names of vetted candidates. This list is available to any Rector, Superior, or Priest-in-Charge in the Diocese of the Midwest by calling the Chancellor, Archpriest John Zdinak, at (216) 554-7282.

Indeed, delegates may cast their votes for any name—vetted or unvetted—as long as the nominee fulfills the qualifications outlined in Article VI, Section 9 of the

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*Statute*, i.e., a monastic, celibate, or widowed clergyman or layman, or a bishop who is not already a Diocesan bishop.

If any delegate intends to vote for a candidate other than the candidate presented by Bishop Alexander, the delegate should consider that it would be prudent to contact the candidate to see if they would be amenable to this nomination.

The Diocesan Assembly does not, in fact, conduct the election of a bishop. This is the *nomination* of a *candidate* to *present* to the Holy Synod for canonical election to the See of Chicago and the Midwest. As outlined in the *Statute*, the Holy Synod may or may not elect the candidate the Diocese presents—vetted or unvetted.

The voting will take place according to the following procedure. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy and the appointed prayers, the delegates will take their seats in the pews. Observers will take their place in a designated area set apart. There will be no nominations heard from the floor, but rather, after a brief verbal reiteration of the procedure here printed, the vote will be taken.

### **On the first vote:**

1. A blank ballot will be issued to each registered delegate.
2. Each delegate will write the name of a **single** candidate on his ballot.
3. The tellers will collect and tally the ballots.
4. If a candidate receives a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the vote, the chair will ask for a motion of acclamation by the Assembly for the majority candidate.
5. If, however, no candidate receives a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the vote, a second, “runoff” vote will be held between the two candidates who received the most votes.

### **On the second vote:**

1. Again ballots will be issued.
2. Again each delegate will write a **single** name—the name of one of the two remaining candidates.
3. Again the tellers will collect and tally the ballots.
4. Following the tally, the chair will announce the simple majority nominee and ask for a motion of acclamation by the Assembly for the majority candidate.

Any ballot containing two or more names will be disqualified.