



*Orthodox Church in America*  
**DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST**

**54th Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest**  
**Atlanta, GA**  
**July 20, 2015**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

With the blessing of our Hierarch, His Grace, the Right Reverend Paul, Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest, it was decided to convene the 54<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest in conjunction with and at the same venue as the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council in Atlanta GA. This decision was made in an effort to reduce expenses for parishes for which travel to two separate gatherings would present a challenge.

Therefore, I would first of all like to direct you to the website of the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council at <http://18aac.oca.org/>. There you will find all crucial information regarding air flights, ground transportation, accommodations, registration, and schedules for the AAC.

The Assembly will meet in a single session on Monday, July 20, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

All the most up-to-date information and assembly materials may be found on the Diocesan Assembly webpage at <http://domoca.org/assembly.html>.

### **Registration**

The composition of delegates from each parish is made up of the *assigned* priests and deacons, and an equal number of lay delegates. One lay delegate is allowed from each parish not having an assigned priest. Lay delegates are elected by a parish meeting or parish council (consult parish bylaws). Others may attend as observers. Further information may be found in *The Statute of the Orthodox Church in America*, Article 7, The Diocesan Assembly: <http://oca.org/statute/article-vii>.

This year, there will be NO registration form and NO registration fee for the Diocesan

Assembly. It is assumed that most parishes will be sending the same delegates to the Diocesan Assembly that they are sending to the All-American Council. Therefore, delegates will simply be accredited on the basis of the registrations for the All-American Council. **Registration closes on July 10<sup>th</sup>; anyone registering after that date will need to contact Bishop Paul personally for a blessing to register for the Council.** If a parish intends to send different delegates to the Assembly than to the AAC, it is their responsibility to notify the Diocese.

## Materials

Minutes, reports, and forms pertaining to the Diocesan Assembly may be downloaded from the Diocesan Assembly webpage at <http://domoca.org/assembly.html>. In order to save costs and trees, printouts will *not* be passed out at the Assembly. All delegates are asked to review these materials online in advance, and print their own hard copies if necessary.

Please note that, due to the timing of this year's Assembly, parish and monastery reports will not be requested prior to the Assembly. They will be due in September, as usual.

## Schedule

The entirety of the Diocesan Assembly will take place on Monday, July 20, 2015, in the Crystal Ballroom on the first floor of the Hilton Atlanta. Delegates are instructed to arrive in Atlanta on the prior evening, Sunday, July 19.

- 8:15 am - Assembly Registration opens
- 9:00 am - Plenary Session convenes with opening prayers.
- 12:30 pm - Diocesan Assembly ends.

N.B.: Registrants are responsible for their own meals. There are numerous options in all price ranges in and within walking distance of the hotel.

## Elections

This year's Diocesan Assembly will be a very abbreviated assembly in comparison to an assembly conducted on our Diocesan territory. Therefore, with the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Paul, the Diocesan Council has resolved that the 54<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the

Diocese of the Midwest will conduct NO elections. The term of office for ALL Diocesan Council members and elected Auditors will be extended one additional year, and regular elections conducted at next year's Diocesan Assembly in October of 2016.

However, a vacancy has been created due to the resignation of our Lay Metropolitan Council Delegate, Mr. Samuel D'Fantis, and the inability of the Alternate to fulfill his term. Therefore, the Diocesan Council has decided that an election will be held to fill the seat of the Lay Metropolitan Council Member. This position will expire at next year's Diocesan Assembly in October of 2016 (i.e., it is solely to complete the current term).

### **Resolutions**

To submit a resolution, follow the directions given on the Resolution Form, which may be downloaded from the Diocesan Assembly webpage.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to call Philip Sokolov in the Chancery Office at (312) 202-0420 or by email: [chancery@domoca.org](mailto:chancery@domoca.org).

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. John Zdinak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Archpriest John Zdinak  
Chancellor