

THE 18TH ALL AMERICAN COUNCIL



**HOW TO EXPAND
THE MISSION**
JULY 20-24 2015 • ATLANTA, GA

Orthodox Church in America

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His Grace Bishop Mark

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Michaela Staskiewicz

Co-Lay Chair

Barbara Massoudi

Co-Lay Chair

All American Website
<http://18aac.oca.org>

January 21, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On behalf of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, and the Preconciliar Commission, we offer this official announcement and instructions for registering for the 18th All-American Council, which will be held on July 20–24, 2015 at the Hilton Atlanta. This year, the registration process will be different in that it will all be done online through the official AAC website located at <http://18aac.oca.org>. [This letter serves as the instructions for registering for the All-American Council.] **Please note that there will be no registration packet mailed to the parish, but rather each delegate (clergy and lay) as well as any observers are responsible for registering online.** If the registration is accepted, an email will be sent confirming the registration.

Please note that the procedures for selecting clergy and lay delegates remains unchanged according to [Article III](#), Section 2 and 6 of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America. In addition, all parishes need to submit their AAC assessments to the Orthodox Church in America in order to be approved for attendance at the AAC. Please note that the assessment covers the expenses for the clergy and lay delegate **excluding travel, hotel and food costs**. The delegates are responsible for these costs. The costs for the formal dinner on Thursday evening are covered by the assessment. Observers can register, if approved by the parish priest, and must cover their own costs of attending the AAC. The registration process will show the different options which include daily and weekly costs as well as the option for observers to attend the formal dinner on Thursday evening.

In order to register for the 18th All-American Council, please go the AAC website at <http://18aac.oca.org>. On the upper right hand side there will be a link to “Register”. Click on that link and it will bring you to a page which has a link for registering for the Council and registering for a hotel. This needs to be done separately. Please note that in order to register for the Council, a valid email address is required, as this will be how the system will identify and communicate with you.

Instructions for Delegates:

Please note that each parish will be allowed to have a clergy delegate for every assigned priest and an equal number of lay delegates (deacons count as lay delegates unless specifically assigned and financially supported by the parish in a manner approved by the diocesan hierarch). For example, if there is one priest assigned then there is one lay delegate allowed. If there are two priests assigned to a parish then there are two lay delegates allowed. Attached and retired clergy do not qualify as “assigned”. “Assigned” is defined as the priest being assigned by the diocesan hierarch and being financially supported by the parish in a manner approved by the diocesan hierarch.

The online registration program will guide the selected delegate through a series of choices and questions in order to register. Among the choices will be which of the nine workshops the delegate would like to attend and the meal selection for the formal dinner. There will also be information sessions on Monday afternoon on various topics. Please note that these workshops will count as Continuing Education credit for clergy. All of the questions must be answered before the system will accept the registration. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided. Registration will not be completed until it is confirmed by two critical steps. First, the Council Team will ensure that the parish has paid the assessment. Once that is confirmed, the names of the delegates from the parish will be sent to the diocesan hierarch for approval as delegates. These two matters as this will be handled by the Council Team. Once these have been confirmed by the Council Team, an email will be sent approving the registration and with additional instructions for checking in at the Council itself.

Registration for Observers:

There are plenty of opportunities for people to participate at the Council who are not delegates. These participants are classified as observers. Observers must be approved by their parish priest and the diocesan hierarch to attend the Council. They will be seated in a special section and do not have the right to speak at the Council. Observers can register for the entire week, for a single day, or for a series of days. Each have their associated costs which can be paid online through the registration program or by check to the OCA Treasurer. Daily Observers can also pay to attend the formal dinner on Thursday evening. If you are a weekly observer or a retired clergyman, the fee will cover the formal dinner. Retired clergy are given the right to sit with the delegates and have a voice but not a vote. Observers are responsible for their own travel, hotel and food costs.

Registering for the Council as an observer is similar to registering as a delegate. Simply follow the instructions and register in one of the several observer categories, including answering a series of questions. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided. Registration will not be completed until it is confirmed by two critical steps. First, the Council Team will ensure that the observer fee has been paid by the observer either online or by check to the OCA Treasurer. Once that is confirmed, the observer's name will be sent to the diocesan hierarch for approval. These two matters will be handled by the Council Team. Once these have been confirmed by the Council Team, an email will be sent approving the registration and with additional instructions for checking in at the Council itself.

Registration for Youth Delegates:

The 18th All-American Council will feature a youth program for all youth ages. They will be provided a safe space to learn about their Faith, go on field trips to expand their horizons and participate in a unique manner at the All-American Council. Highlights include a breakfast with the Holy Synod and an address by the Youth of the Church to the Council at the final Plenary Session on how they have come to understand "expanding the mission." All Youth Workers are volunteers who have been carefully screened and trained. All of the youth events will take place in a secure designated place at the hotel with safety control measures in place. All of their meals and trips during the day will be provided as part of their registration fee. They will also be provided with transportation and other items while participating in the Council. Youth delegates will be responsible for their own travel to and from the Council as well as their own hotel accommodations. It is strongly recommended that they come to the Council accompanying their parents or a specially designated legal guardian.

Registering as a Youth Delegate must be done by the parent or legal guardian using the parent/guardian's email address. Go to the AAC website and click on the Youth Delegate Registration link. All of the questions must be filled out as they give permission for certain events. The fee for a Youth Delegate can be paid through the online registration or by check to the OCA Treasurer. Once the registration is complete, the Council Team will review

and contact the parish priest for authorization. A confirmation email with additional instructions will be sent to the designated email.

Hotel Registration and Transportation:

The Hilton Atlanta has set up a specially designated website for reserving hotel rooms for the All-American Council. That link is provided as a separate link in the registration portion of the AAC website. The Hotel has provided a discounted price of \$124 plus tax a night for the rooms. **Hotel rooms must be reserved separately from registration for the AAC.** Rooms are limited so it is best to register early. There will be an overflow hotel provided if needed. The hotel registration link is <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/18thaac>.

The hotel is located in the heart of downtown Atlanta. It can be accessed by public transportation such as Atlanta’s MARTA system or by taxis or airport shuttles. The hotel does not provide a shuttle to and from the airport. There are numerous places of various price ranges for eating around the hotel, all of which can be accessed by air-conditioned corridors that link many of the area’s hotels and malls. A map and directions will be provided upon check-in.

Also note that the Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta is one of the largest and busiest in the world. There are plenty of cheap flights in and out of the airport at various times during the day. Delta has provided a discounted rate for AAC attendees so make sure you mention the Orthodox Church in America and the 18th All-American Council. For more specific information go to **FOS Tours** at <http://fostours.com> or see the attached flyer.

Additional Instructions:

If you have any questions on these matters please contact the Council team at 18aac@oca.org or call the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America at (516) 922-0550. This will be the first time that the Council registration will be online and we believe it will make for an easier registration experience. We look forward to seeing everyone in Atlanta.

Yours in Christ,



Archpriest Eric G. Tosi
Secretary
Orthodox Church in America

The official travel agency of the 18th All American Council
Atlanta, GA ~ July 20-24, 2015



Friends **O**ver **S**eas **T**ours & **T**ravel

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Delta Airlines is the official air carrier for the Eighteenth All-American Council. Delta based in Atlanta, GA is offering substantial savings for Council participants. Travel dates are from July 17 – 27, 2015.

DELTA AIRLINES:

Delta Airlines is offering Council members a varied *discount* depending on their published or promotional fare that is available during the travel dates. Delta is also providing ZONE FARES. These fares provide the council members that are not staying over a Saturday, but at least a 2 night minimum with a lower fare than some published rates. These Zone Fares are valid on Delta flights only – not on code-share flights.

Delta's discount varies between 2 – 5% depending on the class of service that is booked. The lower the fare (classes U, T, V, X), the discount offered is 2%; A discount of 5% will apply for bookings using fare classes of B, M, S, H, Q, K, L. 10% discount will apply to business and first class fares.

(Contract fares are not valid with other discounts, certificates, coupons or promotional offers. Not all fares may be applicable to the above discount.)

(All tickets are non-refundable and all applicable fare rules apply)

Sample ZONE FARES via Delta Airlines – reservations must be made at least 7-days prior to departure. These sample fares do not include taxes and surcharges:

Zone A: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio – from \$543

Zone B: Connecticut, Washington, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, North Carolina, New York, New Jersey – from \$552.00

Zone C: Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, North & South Dakota, Wisconsin – from \$639

Zone D: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana – from \$561

Zone E: Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington – from \$678

Zone F: Alaska \$1082

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

These discounted fares are available by calling FOS Tours & Travel, Inc. (booking fee \$15 applies) Delta's call center at 1-800-328-1111 (fee of \$25 applies) or by booking online at www.delta.com and using the contract number in the **promotional code box – 423039**. Discounts do not apply to Internet fares. Certain restrictions may apply and seats are limited. *For groups of 10 or more traveling together, please call FOS Tours & Travel, Inc. and we will negotiate a group rate with Delta or other airlines.*

For tickets, call FOS Tours & Travel
516-937-7757 | 1-800-367-3450 | e-mail to info@fostours.com