

**The Diocese of the South**  
**Orthodox Church in America**  
PO Box 191109 Dallas, TX

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Diocesan Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

9 AM - 12 PM (Noon)

Hyatt Place, St. Augustine/Vilano Beach, FL

(held in conjunction with the 48th Diocesan Assembly, July 20-24, 2026)

1. Opening Prayer: "O Heavenly King..."
2. Opening Remarks: Archbishop Alexander
3. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. June 16, 2026 Diocesan Council Meeting (Zoom)
  - b. May 4, 2026 Extraordinary Session
4. Special Assembly
  - a. Update on appointment of Locum Tenens (Metropolitan Tikhon - pending final decision)
  - b. Special Nominating Assembly, Friday, July 24 (St. Justin Martyr Orthodox Church, Jacksonville, FL)
    - i. Confirm single-item agenda: nomination of His Grace, Bishop Gerasim, as candidate for ruling bishop
    - ii. Confirmation of Special Assembly Officers & Secretariat
  - c. Continuity note: the current Diocesan Council remains in service through the conclusion of the Special Nominating Assembly (July 24); seating of newly elected members depends on the outcome of the Assembly bylaw votes
5. DOS Assembly 2026: Final Review
  - a. Plenary Session I & II Agenda – final confirmation
  - b. Presidium for the Plenary Sessions – status / remaining names (Lay Vice-Chair, Tellers, Secretariat); final confirmation occurs at the Assembly itself
  - c. 2025 Financial Report and 2026 Financial Update
  - d. 2027 Proposed Budget – status (no Council vote required; presented to the Assembly for approval)
  - e. Assembly Funding Assessment Review – Treasurer's recommendation (Missions/Parishes/Cathedrals – first adjustment since 2016)
  - f. Development Office Update – OSIF financing partnership, seminarian support program, OCA Lilly Foundation mission-planting grant
  - g. Metropolitan Council Update – Fr. Jason Foster (new DOS representative); Lay Delegate Report; DC-area chancery purchase discussion
6. Bylaws – status only (no further Council action required) \*
  - a. Three amendments already approved by Council via the online polling portal prior to June 16:

- i. Gender-neutral language for Secretary/Treasurer (immaterial; no Assembly vote needed)
  - ii. Dean and Deanery appointment flexibility (two-thirds Assembly vote required)
  - iii. Deanery nomination process for Diocesan Council / Metropolitan Council candidates (two-thirds Assembly vote required)
- 7. Diocesan Council Elections — procedure for Plenary Session II
- 8. Property & Administrative Matters
  - a. DOS Chancery & St. Seraphim Cathedral (Dallas) Zoning Update – Maureen Jury
  - b. Dean Stipend Restructuring - tabled from June 16 for decision today (base + per-parish/mission formula, plus separate coverage-support line; supersedes the flat \$1,600/month figure in the current 2027 budget draft)
  - c. New Deanery Proposal (Florida Reorganization)
- 9. Reports
  - a. Deanery Annual Reports (as submitted)
- 10. Upcoming Meetings and Assemblies
  - a. Thursday, July 23, ~2:00-4:00 PM – brief Diocesan Council meeting with the newly appointed Locum Tenens (following the Lesser Synod of Bishops)
  - b. Friday, July 24 – Special Nominating Assembly, St. Justin Martyr Orthodox Church, Jacksonville, FL
  - c. 2027 Pastoral Conference – Holy Apostles, Bixby, OK. We need to decide between February 8 - 12 and February 22-26.
  - d. 2027 DOS Assembly – will be at St Innocent, July 26 - 30, 2027.
  - e. Other Business
  - f. Miami Litigation Update [Executive Session]
- 11. Closing Prayer: Archbishop Alexander

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Note: Diocesan Council Lunch immediately follows, 12:00 – 1:00 PM.

Note: A Spiritual Court session is scheduled for 1:00 – 2:00 PM this same day. Council members serving as judges should keep the afternoon clear.