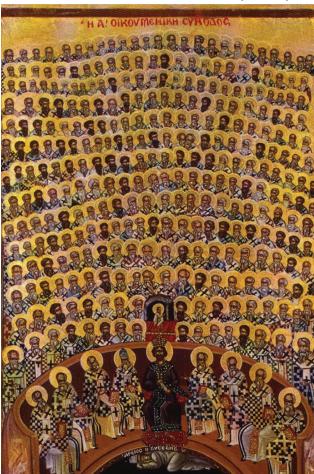


ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY

Annual Meeting and Program St Anna Greek Orthodox Church Cottonwood, Utah November 17-20, 2016

Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council (325AD)



"What the significance is and what the consequences are of this Council-the post -conciliar period will show, since the process of the reception of the Council and its decisions may take time, depending on the vitality of the ecclesiastical body, and the work of the local bishops among the people.... This reception (giving and receiving) of the Council depends primarily on the work of the local bishops among their flocks." (p 17-18)

"Diary of the Council" Bishop Maxim of Western America. Reflections from the Holy and Great Council at the Orthodox Academy

in Crete, June 17-26, 2016

Ecumenical Patriarch
Bartholomew video
address to 5th Assembly
of Bishops Dallas Texas
September15-19, 2014

"Move beyond words to actions... Putting our theology into practice... Moving beyond what is mine and yours, to what is ours."-Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Celebrating 29 Years of Service
UNITY • TRANSPARENCY • ACCOUNTABILITY • INVOLVED LAITY

A GRATEFUL WELCOME TO ALL!



George Matsoukas, Executive Director, Orthodox Christian Laity

On behalf of the Board and Advisors of Orthodox Christian Laity, thank you Metropolitan Isaiah for blessing OCL's 29th Annual Program Meeting and for participating in the events of this weekend's activities. His Eminence has been with us in prayer and direction, as a spiritual guide and father, since our formation. During the last 29 years, we have shared church concerns together. Also, thank you to His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel

for sharing your prayers, love, advice, time and fellowship with us for 15 years. You have been an exceptional wise counselor, spiritual father and friend and you have been present at almost every meeting despite your demanding schedule. Your patience has helped us to understand the phronima - common mind - of the Church. Recently, much needed levity has been provided by His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin with his wisdom and sense of humor.

Thank you to the new parish community, St Anna, under the pastoral guidance of Fathers Anthony Savas and Anatoli Kireiev. OCL appreciates your philanthropic and hospitality as well as the efforts of so many people who have worked with you to make this weekend memorable. Following the Holy and Great Council, held in Hania, Crete on June 17-26, 2016, we are in a historic and demanding conciliar era and need to be guided by Patriarch Bartholomew's advice "to move beyond words to action...putting our theology into practice... moving beyond what is mine and yours, to what is ours."

St Anna parish and OCL share the love and spirit of the Sovall Family. Bill, Kim, their children and grandchildren are role models for us that reflect hope and faith. We are blessed to have their time and talent.

For almost three decades OCL Annual Meetings have featured distinguished speakers, thoughtful panels and relevant topics. See the list that is included in this program booklet. Our guest speakers this year are not strangers to OCL. This is the third discussion and presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou and the second presentation by Dr. Helen Theodoropoulos. They are both brilliant scholars, theologians and activists. Helen graduated first in her class at Holy Cross School of Theology, Brookline, MA and Elizabeth has served as Vice Chair and Commissioner on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. (See enclosed biographical information). More importantly, both are devout Orthodox Christians who are active in the life of their parish communities. Dr. Prodromou was one of three women allowed to sit in meetings of the bishops attending the Holy and Great Council. We are grateful for their participation on this weekend.

The OCL Board and Advisors welcome you. Where are we going as a global, conciliar Orthodox Christian Church in the 21st Century? What is our role in the transformation and renewal of a unified, self-governing, canonical Orthodox Church in the USA? Join us in these critical discussions and pragmatic challenges that Orthodox Christian faithful face today.



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY

Orthodox Christian Laity

29th Annual Meeting and Program Schedule November 17-20

Hyatt Inn and St Anna Greek Orthodox Church

Cottonwood Heights, Utah

Bill and Kim Souvall Hosts and Community of St Anna

Thursday: November, 17th	6:00pm	Board Members and Guests Arrive Fellowship Dinner Meeting and Start of Board Meeting
Friday: November, 18th	9:00am	Arriving at St Anna Meeting Facilities Meeting called to Order 9:30 am / Adjournment 5:00pm Break for lunch at 12:00 pm
Friday Evening Vesper	6:00pm	St Anna Greek Orthodox Church followed by Pot Luck Dinner

7:30pm Program Begins with Introductions by President George Pontikes and

Greetings by Bill Souvall

Presentation and Presenter

"TO EACH IS GIVEN THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT FOR THE COMMON GOOD" (1 Cor 12:7).

Dr. Helen Theodoropoulos See Resume next page.

Saturday: November, 19th 9.00am St Anna Community Hall

Continental Breakfast: Greetings

10:00am Presentation begins

THE DAY-AFTER THE HOLY AND GREAT COUNCIL: PROCESS, OUTCOMES, AND TRANSFORMATION

Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou See Resume next Page

Reactions, Comments, Insights and Summaries offered by:

Their Eminences Isiah, Denver; Nathaniel. Detroit and Benjamin, Diocese of the West - SF, CA

Biographical Information Included

Audience COMMENT

Saturday: November, 19th 12:30pm OCL annual Meeting Election of Officers Sunday: November, 20th OCL Board Members who are not

catching flights Attend Divine

Liturgy St. Anna



Dr. Helen Creticos Theodoropoulos

Dr. Helen Creticos Theodoropoulos is a lifelong Orthodox Christian active in theological education for many years. She received the MTS from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and the MA and Ph.D. degrees in Theology from the University of Chicago. Dr. Theodoropoulos is currently adjunct professor at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox School of Theology and Lecturer at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/ Mundelein Seminary. In addition, Dr. Theodoropoulos has taught at both the graduate and undergraduate levels at several other schools, including Loyola University and Seabury-Western Seminary, teaches classes at her local Orthodox Church, and lectures to Orthodox and ecumenical religious groups on the local, diocesan, and national levels. Areas

of focus in Dr. Theodoropoulos's work are: Orthodox doctrine and theology, the study of the Church Fathers, and Christian spirituality. She is on the board of The St. Catherine Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, and the St. Phoebe Center for the Deaconess.



Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou

Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou is Visiting Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. She is a Senior Fellow in National Security and International Policy at the Center for American Progress (Washington, DC) and a non-resident Fellow at The Hedayah International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism (Abu Dhabi). Prodromou served a diplomatic appointment as Vice Chair and Commissioner on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (2004-2012), and was a member of the U.S. Secretary of State's Religion & Foreign Policy Working Group (2011-2015). Her research interests focus on the intersection of religion, democracy, and security, with particular expertise on religion and geopolitics in the Near

East and Southeastern Europe. Published widely in scholarly and policy journals and media, she is co-editor of and contributor to Eastern Orthodox Christianity and American Higher Education (forthcoming, 2016) and Thinking Through Faith: New Perspectives from Orthodox Christian Scholars (2008). She holds a Ph.D. and an S. M. in political science from MIT. She holds a B.A. in History and IR from Tufts University, an M.A.L.D. from The Fletcher School, and a Ph.D in Political Science from MIT. Prodromou was awarded a Distinguished Service Award by the Tufts University Alumni Association in 2008. Prodromou is married to Dr. Alexandros K. Kyrou and they are happy parents to their daughter, Sophia.



His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah

His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver was born in Portsmouth New Hampshire. After his primary and high school education, he served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean conflict. In the autumn of 1954 he enrolled at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary in Brookline, Massachusetts. Upon his graduation in 1960, he attended the Ecumenical Patriarchate Seminary of Halki in Istanbul, Turkey for graduate studies.

On February 25, 1962 Metropolitan Isaiah was ordained a deacon by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos at Saint Spyridon Church in San Diego, California, having been tonsured a monk on the previous day. He received his ordination to the holy priesthood from His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Olympus at Saint Sophia Cathedral in Los Angeles, California, on March 18, 1962. His

first assignment in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese was as assistant to the pastor at Holy Trinity Church in Salt Lake City Utah. In December of 1964 he was assigned as pastor at Saint John the Baptist Church in Youngstown, Ohio. On November 30, 1969 he was raised to the office of Archimandrite by Archbishop lakovos at the consecration services of the new church and community center in Youngstown.

Archbishop lakovos reassigned the Metropolitan to Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology as the Director of Student Life in August of 1971. Taking a leave of absence from his duties in February 1975, he enrolled as a graduate student at the School of Theology at the University of Thessaloniki, where he earned a master's degree in theology. He returned to the United States in July of that year and continued in his capacity as dean of students.

In September 1976 he was given additional responsibilities at the college seminary as the Dean of Administrative Affairs together with his position as Dean of Students. In October 1977 he assumed additional duties as the Interim Pastor at Saint Nicholas Church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Relinquishing all of these positions in March 1979, he was assigned as the Chancellor of the Diocese of Chicago under His Grace, Bishop Jakovos of Chicago.

Metropolitan Isaiah was elected to the rank of bishop by the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul (Constantinople), Turkey on April 10, 1986. He was consecrated a Bishop on May 25, 1986 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York City, and was given the title of Bishop of Aspendos, a former Christian city in southwestern Asia Minor. In September 1986, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos assigned him as the Chancellor of the Archdiocese in New York. Bishop Isaiah continued to function in this capacity until June 23, 1992 when he was elected Bishop of the Diocese of Denver by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, taking the new title on June 24, 1992 at special ceremonies in the Archdiocesan Chapel. He was enthroned as Bishop of Denver on September 10, 1992, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Denver, Colorado.

On November 24, 1997 the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate elevated him as Metropolitan of Proikonisos and Presiding Hierarch of

the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Denver. Metropolitan Isaiah was also appointed as President of Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology on July 1, 1997 by His Eminence Archbishop Spyridon of America. He accepted a one-year term which officially ended on August 14, 1998.

On December 20, 2002 the Ecumenical Patriarchate elevated the status of the Diocese to a Metropolis, and in 2003 elected Metropolitan Isaiah as Metropolitan of Denver.



His Eminence Nathaniel

His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit, was born in 1940 in Aurora, IL. He studied for the priesthood at Saint Procopius College, a Benedictine-operated liberal art school, and the "Pontifical Eastern Rite Center" in Lisle IL. Called to Rome, Italy, by the Romanian Byzantine Rite Catholic Bishop Vasile [Cristea], he studied at Gregorian University and resided at the Greek College of Saint Athanasius. Having completed his studies, he was ordained into the Holy Diaconate on July 17, 1966, at Colle de Tora, "San Anatolia" summer chapel of the "Collegio Greco" by Bishop Vasile. On October 23, 1966, he was ordained into the Holy Priesthood in the Romanian Catholic Church "San Salvatore" in Coppele, Rome, by the same hierarch. In January 1967, he returned to Aurora and appointed assistant priest of his home parish.

He was called to embrace the Orthodox Christianity. Having left the Aurora parish, through Father Vasile Hategan of New York, NY, and later Cleveland, OH, he was introduced to Archbishop Valerian [Trifa], who worked with him to be received into the ranks of the clergy of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America [ROEA]. He fully embraced the Orthodox Christian Faith in the Chapel of the Nativity of the Birthgiver of God at the Vatra Româneasca, Grass Lake MI, in the presence of Archbishop Valerian on February 15, 1968. For several years, he resided in a small monastic community on the Vatra property until he was appointed rector of Holy Cross Church, Hermitage PA.

An author of numerous articles, speaker, and lecturer, he also taught at the Episcopate's summer youth camps. He was confessor to the sisterhood of Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Ellwood City, PA, and was instrumental in the founding of an inter-Orthodox women's association in the Hermitage area. In April 1978, he was one of two representatives of the Orthodox Church in America [OCA] at the conference on monasticism in Cairo, Egypt. He also had served as spiritual advisor to the American Romanian Orthodox Youth and an active member of the Episcopate's liturgical commission, late vocations program, and Episcopate Council. In addition to these duties, he pursued the painting of icons on glass ("icoane pe sticla") in the Romanian peasant style and collected historical art & artifacts.

At the request of Archbishop Valerian for administrative assistance, he was called to the episcopacy at a special Congress of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate on September 20, 1980. His consecration to the episcopacy took place at Saint George Cathedral, Southfield/Detroit MI, on November 15, 1980. He was consecrated by Metropolitan Theodosius of Washington, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, Archbishop Valerian of Detroit and the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America; Bishop Kyrill of Pittsburgh [OCA-Bulgarian]; Bishop Dmitri of Dallas [OCA]; Bishop Christopher of the Eastern Serbian Diocese [Serbian Patriarchate]; Bishop Boris of Chicago [OCA]; and Bishop Mark of Boston [OCA]. He was installed the following day as Bishop of Dearborn Heights, with Saints Peter and Paul Church as his cathedral, and named an auxiliary Bishop for the Episcopate.

On Sunday, November 17, 1984, after the retirement of Archbishop Valerian, Bishop Nathaniel was enthroned at Saint George Cathedral as ruling Hierarch of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America. Since then, he has overseen the tremendous growth and expansion of the diocese with the establishment of dozens of new missions and parishes and monastic communities for women and men.

Archbishop Nathaniel is chairman of the V. D. Trifa Romanian American Heritage Center in Grass Lake MI; and organizer of the "Help for Romania Fund." In 1990, he co-founded the "Help the Children of Romania" project and, since 1991, he served as chairman of the Congress of Romanian Americans [CORA]. He has also served as President of the Board of the Center for Orthodox Christian Studies in Detroit and Spiritual Advisor for Orthodox Christian Laity [OCL]. He has served the Orthodox Church in numerous capacities including: Episcopal Moderator for the Pastoral Life Ministries Unit, and as Chairman of the Canonization as well as the Canons and Statute Commissions, and the Statute Revision Task Force.

In 1994, Archbishop Nathaniel fulfilled a desire to make a pilgrimage to Romania. In 1995, at the invitation of Patriarch Teoctist, he was a guest of the Patriarchate at festivities marking the 110th anniversary of the granting of autocephaly to the Church of Romania and the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Romanian Patriarchate. In May 2003, he traveled to Romania again, where he was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Oradea in recognition of his leadership of the Romanian Orthodox community in North America and of his humanitarian efforts in post-communist Romaniacopate.

Archbishop Nathaniel has been an active member of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America since his consecration, and he has represented the OCA at numerous events in North America and Europe. On Wednesday, October 20, 1999, in its fall session, the Holy Synod elevated him to the dignity of Archbishop.



His Eminence Benjamin

His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin, of San Francisco and the West, Archbishop Benjamin was born in 1954 and was baptized and chrismated at Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA on April 27, 1972. In 1982, he was awarded a Master of Divinity degree and Certificate in Liturgical Music from Saint Vladimir Seminary.

A prolific musician, he served as choirmaster at parishes in Detroit, MI and Los Angeles and as chairman of the Orthodox Church in America's Department of Liturgical Music. He was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on November 15, 1987 by Bishop Tikhon at his home parish, which he served for 10 years as deacon and youth and education director. The following year he was tonsured a riasophore monk by Bishop Tikhon

and further tonsured to the lesser schema by Archbishop [now Metropolitan] Herman at Saint Tikhon Monastery, South Canaan, PA. In 1991, he was elevated to the rank of archdeacon.

On July 19, 1997, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Bishop Tikhon. In 1999, Igumen Benjamin was transferred to the Diocese of Alaska, where he served as dean of Saint Innocent Cathedral and later as administrative dean of Saint Herman Seminary, Kodiak, AK. He was elevated to the rank of archimandrite in 2002. In January 2004, he was reassigned to Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral, Los Angeles, and appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of the West.

Archimandrite Benjamin was elected to the episcopacy by the Holy Synod of Bishops at its Spring Session in March 2004 as Bishop of Berkeley, Auxiliary for the Diocese of the West. Metropolitan Herman presided at the consecration of Archimandrite Benjamin [Peterson] to the episcopacy at historic Holy Trinity Cathedral on Saturday, May 1, 2004.

Upon the retirement of Bishop Tikhon a diocesan assembly nominated Bishop Benjamin as ruling hierarch on January 31, 2007. The Holy Synod of Bishops canonically elected him as Bishop of San Francisco and the West in March 2007. He was installed as ruling hierarch of the diocese on October 2, 2007. In addition to overseeing his own diocese, he provided archpastoral leadership for the Diocese of Alaska as its administrator in 2008-9 and as locum tenens from 2009 until early 2014.

He was elevated to the rank of Archbishop on May 9, 2012.

THANK YOU to our OCL ANGELS.

We also thank our members, supporters, and friends.
A special THANK YOU to our Board Members and
Advisory Board. Without you prayers and financial
support we could not continue our mission.

We are working toward the next 29 years.

We need your help in finding the next generation of committed board members who have a passion for Orthodox Christian jurisdictional unity and the reality of a self-governing, Church in the U.S.A..

If you are interested let us know via e mail, snail mail or phone **877-585-0245.**



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OCL Annual Meetings

(Incorporated 1987 501C3 nonprofit)

Program Themes

- January 14, 1989 Chicago, Illinois
 Organizational Meeting Ratification of By Laws.
- 2. June 4, 1989 Rye New York **Meeting with Archbishop Iakovos** who invited OCL to hold its Second Annual Meeting, Rye, November 10-11, 1989.
- 3. Third Annual Meeting, November 9-11, 1990, Chicago, Illinois. Theme: **Together We Care.**
- 4. Fourth Annual Meeting, October 25-27, 1991, Baltimore, Maryland. Theme: Orthodoxy: A New World Vision
- Fifth Annual Meeting, October 23-24, 1992,
 Louis, Missouri. Orthodoxy: Rediscovery and Renewal.
- 6. Sixth Annual Meeting, October 29-31, 1993, New York, New York. Theme: A Call to Unity: One Christ, One People
- 7. Seventh Annual Meeting, October 28-30, 1994, Skokie, Illinois. Theme: **Embracing our Spiritual Identity.**
- 8. Eighth Annual Meeting, November 17-19, 1995, Baltimore, Maryland. Theme: **Orthodox Unity in the Americas**.
- 9. Ninth Annual Meeting, October 11-13, 1996, Sarasota, Florida. Theme: **Transition-Renewal:** One Faith, One Church.
- 10. Tenth Annual Meeting, November 14-16, 1997, Boston, Massachusetts, Theme: The American Church and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- 11. Eleventh Annual Meeting, October 9-11, 1998, Los Angles, CA. Theme: Orthodoxy in the Next Millennium and the Role of the Orthodox Christian Laity.
- 12. Twelfth Annual Meeting, November 12-15, 1999, Berkeley, CA. Theme: The Ethos and Identity of American Orthodoxy: A Vision for the 21st Century.

- 13. Thirteenth Annual Meeting, October 12-15, 2000, Dallas, Texas. Theme: **Individual Responsibility in the Church.**
- 14. Fourteenth Annual Meeting, October 20-21, 2001, Oak Brook, Illinois. Theme: **Orthodox Christian Diversity...and the Unity We Seek.**
- 15. Fifteenth Annual Meeting, November 8-9, 2002, Detroit, Michigan. Theme: Returning Home: Bringing our Youth Back to Orthodoxy.
- 16. Sixteenth Annual Meeting, October 31-November 1-2, 2003, Cleveland, Ohio. Theme: **The Orthodox Christian Ministries Networking Conference.**
- 17. Seventeenth Annual Meeting, October 29-30, 2004, Oak Brook, Illinois. Theme: Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Intention of Ligonier.
- 18. Eighteenth Annual Meeting, October 7-9, 2005, Dedham, Massachusetts. Theme: How to do Pan-Orthodox Ministry Successfully Orthodox Christians United: Building Up the Body of Christ.
- 19. Nineteenth Annual Meeting, November 3-4, 2006, The College of Notre Dame, Doyle Hall, Baltimore, Maryland. Theme: The Present state and Future of Orthodoxy in North America.
- 20. Twentieth Annual Meeting, November 2-3, 2008, Chicago, Illinois, Saints Peter and Paul Fellowship Hall, Glenview, Illinois. Theme: The Need for a Great and Holy Council.
- 21. Twenty-First Annual Meeting, October 31-November 1, 2009, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Theme: Bringing Together Area College Students of Learn about establishing Orthodox Christian Fellowship Programs on their Campuses. Presenters included Rutgers University OCF.
- 22. Twenty Second Annual Meeting, October 29-31, 2009, Antiochian Village, Ligonier, PA. Theme: The Road to Unity From Vision to Action.

OCL Annual Meetings (Incorporated 1987 501C3 nonprofit) Program Themes

- 23. Twenty- Third Annual Meeting, October 15-16, 2010, Salt Lake City, UT. Theme: **Process of Building a Unified Orthodox Church in the United States.**
- 24. Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting October 7-8, 2011. Pittsburgh, PA, Theme: Remembering the work and leadership of the Council of Eastern Orthodox Youth Leaders of Americas: CEOYLA.
- 25. Twenty- Fifth Annual Meeting, October 25-27, 2012 Washington, D.C. Theme: Our Orthodox Past- Our Orthodox Present- Our Orthodox Future.
- 26. Twenty Sixth Annual Meeting October 31-November 1, 2013, Moraga, CA, Theme: The Assembly of Bishops and the Future of Orthodoxy in America.
- 27. Twenty Seventh Annual Meeting, October 23-25, 2014 St Vladimir's Orthodox Christian Seminary, Yonkers, New York, Theme: Open Forum Discussion led by Alexei Krindatch on the Progress: Assembly of Canonical Bishops of U.S. and Central America.
- 28. Twenty Eighth Annual Meeting, November 5-8, 2015, San Diego, CAST John of Damascus Orthodox Church Poway, CA. Theme:
 Orthodox Working Together Update on the Assembly of Bishops: Archbishop Nathaniel, Archbishop Benjamin and George Matsoukas. Inter Orthodox Cooperative Efforts Ben De La Riva, Executive Director of Project Mexico/St Innocent Orphanage and Andrew Kartalis on cooperative efforts in Cleveland Area in developing a model OCF Program. Board Members visited Project Mexico Site...



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY MISSION STATEMENT

Mission: Advocate for a Unified, Canonical. Autocephalous Orthodox Church in the United States that is accountable, transparent in administrative matters and respects the role of the laity in the governance of the Church.

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