



Orthodox Christian Laity

Serving as a catalyst for Orthodox Christian Unity in America

Together We Thrive: Annual Conference & Year-End Giving Campaign

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Your contributions, whether physical, moral, spiritual or financial, continue to make all of OCL's activities possible. If OCL's vision resonates with you and your circumstances allow, we appreciate any donation you are able to make at this time.

Annual Meeting and Conference

The OCL Board of Directors held the organization's **38th annual business meeting and conference on October 10-11, 2025, hosted by Saints Constantine & Elena Orthodox Christian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana**, a thriving and growing parish community under the care of His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel, ruling hierarch of The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America (OCA). The Archbishop has also generously and faithfully served as an OCL Advisory Board member for over 20 years. The Board members and Advisors met on Friday, October 10 in the parish's Saint Andrew Hall to review the activities of 2025 and plan the focus of OCL's efforts in 2026. **(A major event is in the works bringing numerous organizations together to collaborate on unity as we concurrently celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in the U.S.A.).** At the end of the meeting, acclaimed author, speaker and OCL Advisory Board member, **Khouria Frederica Mathewes-Green, gave a spiritually edifying talk on the Jesus Prayer.** That evening, the board, conference speakers, the parish priest and his wife enjoyed fellowship together at a local restaurant.

On Saturday, October 11, fifty participants gathered in Saint



OCL Board Members at the Annual Meeting



Kh. Frederica Mathewes-Green and Fr. Stephen Mathewes team up for the main presentation.

Andrew Hall to hear and interact with esteemed presenters on the theme: **“Orthodox Christian Unity in Action!”** Following a bountiful continental breakfast, President William Souvall invited Fr. David Wey, parish priest, to offer the opening prayer. He welcomed the attendees and then introduced **Khouria Frederica Mathewes-Green** and her son, **Fr. Stephen Mathewes**, who told the fascinating story of [Christ the Saviour Greek Orthodox Church in Bluff City, Tennessee](#), in their presentation entitled: **“Behold How (Mostly) Good It Is: A Surprise Experiment in Jurisdictional Unity.”** A lively Q&A followed the talk.



Spyridoula Fotinis speaking about the IPAs

Our second presenter, **Ms. Spyridoula Fotinis**, Director of [Inter-Parish Associations \(IPAs\)](#) for the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the U.S.A., provided an excellent overview of the IPA Project, entitled **“Inter-Parish Associations: A Futuristic Vision,”** and engaged the audience in an interactive activity that encouraged the attendees to collaborate and provide feedback on a series of topics.

The final presenter, **Mr. Alexei Krindatch**, is a sociologist of religion specializing in Orthodox Christianity in the United States, and also Coordinator for the National Census of Orthodox Christian Churches & US Religion Census (usreligioncensus.org). His slide presentation, entitled **“There is Always Room for Surprise: New Findings about US Orthodox Churches from the EPIC Study,”** provided some new and surprising statistical results that he shared with the public for the first time.



Alexei Krindatch

Following a delicious catered lunch and time for fellowship, the presenters assembled for a **Panel Discussion** led by OCL Advisory Board member, **Reverend Father Nicholas Greanias**, parish priest of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Kankakee, Illinois, who was instrumental at OCL's inception. Fr. Greanias posed various questions to the presenters and allowed the audience to ask questions during the hour-long session. The Conference ended with the participants reciting the “Prayer for Orthodox Christian Unity in America” from the Conference Program, a closing prayer, and the veneration of the relics of newly-canonized St. Olga of Alaska, while Archbishop Nathaniel and participants sang hymns dedicated to saints of America.



Panel Discussion

View the **Photos & Conference video recordings** at <https://bit.ly/OCL38Media> or point your smart phone at the QR code to the right →



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Wishing a Blessed Christmas season and joyous New Year to you and your loved ones! We appreciate your spiritual and financial support. We welcome your comments and feedback (ocladmin@ocl.org), and “thank you” for your support!

William P. Souvall, President

Argo Georgandis-Pyle, Secretary

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