



**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA  
FIFTY-SIXTH ARCHDIOCESAN CONVENTION**

Convened at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona  
July 24–30, 2023

**Thursday, July 27, 2023 • 11:00 a.m., sharp**

1. Opening of the General Assembly with Prayer
2. The Declaration of a Quorum – Archdeacon Emile Sayegh, Chancellor
3. Introduction of North American Hierarchs and Patriarchal Delegation
4. Appointment of the Convention Sergeants-at-Arms
5. Introduction of the Officers and Members of the Archdiocesan Board of Trustees
6. Acceptance of the Minutes of
  - a. the 54<sup>th</sup> Archdiocesan Convention held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in July 2019;
  - b. the Zoom General Assembly held in July 2021; and
  - c. the Special Nominating Convention held in Dallas, Texas, in January 2023.
7. Message of His Beatitude JOHN X, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East
8. Report of the Department of Finance – Mr. Salim Abboud, CFO/Treasurer  
Presentation and Approval of the Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2022  
Presentation and Approval of the Proposed Budget for FY 2024  
Fr. Michael Tassos, Comptroller

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

Finance Committee Reports:

- a. Real Estate and Capital Improvement – Mr. Dan Braun
- b. Planned Giving, Outreach and Endowments – Ms. Mary Winstanley O'Connor
- c. Investment – Mr. Roger David
- d. Charitable Outreach – Dr. Anne Bourjaily Thomas
- e. Assessment – Fr. Paul Matar
- f. Financial Strategic Planning and Budgeting – Dr. George Thomas
- g. Internal Audit – Ms. Darlene Haddad

9. Lunch Break

10. Organizational Reports

- a. Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch – Mr. Roger David
- b. Antiochian Women – Kh. Suzanne Murphy
- c. Teen SOYO – Ms. Sophia Salamy

11. Departmental Reports (not more than 5 minutes except the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries)

- a. Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Christian Education, Youth Ministry, Camping, Young Adult Ministry) – Fr. Nicholas Belcher, Fr. Philip Rogers, Ms. Anna-Sarah Farha, Ms. Erin Ghata, and Mr. Khalil Samara (20 minutes)
- b. Department of Clergy Insurance and Retirement – Fr. Michael Ellias
- c. Department of Internet Ministry – Deacon Christian Manasseh
- d. The WORD Magazine – His Grace Bishop JOHN
- e. Western Rite Vicariate – His Grace Bishop JOHN
- f. Department of Chaplain and Pastoral Counseling – Dr. Sarah Byrne-Martelli, APBCC
- g. Ancient Faith Ministries – Kh. Melinda Johnson
- h. Department of Inter-Orthodox and Inter-Faith Relations – Fr. Thomas Zain and Fr. David Barr
- i. Department of Liturgics – Fr. Thomas Zain and Deacon Peter Samore

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

- j. Department of Communications – Deacon Peter Samore
- k. Department of Statistics and Credentials – Fr. Thomas Zain and Fr. Paul Matar
- l. Department of Missions and Evangelism – Fr. John Finley
- m. St. Athanasius Academy – Fr. Adam Roberts and Fr. John Finley
- n. Department of Convention and Conference Planning – Mr. Raed Sweiss and Ms. Carol Jazzar
- o. Department of Marriage & Parish Family Ministry – Kh. Maggie Hock
- p. Department of Homeschooling – Fr. Noah Bushelli
- q. Antiochian House of Studies – Fr. Fadi Rabbat
- r. Department of Liturgical Translations – Fr. Damaskinos Issa
- s. Antiochian Village Camp and the Heritage and Learning Center – Mr. Dimitri Zeidan and Ms. Amy Stiffler
- t. Department of Sacred Music – Ms. Mareena Boosamra-Ball
- u. Department of Stewardship – Mr. William Morrison
- v. Department of Lay Ministry – Dr. Antony Bashir and Dr. Richard Robbat
- w. Department of Prison Ministry – Fr. David Randolph

**Friday, July 28, 2023 • 11:00 a.m., sharp**

12. The Address of Metropolitan SABA to the 56<sup>th</sup> Archdiocesan Convention

13. Presentation of Proposed Resolutions for Adoption by the Assembly –  
Archdeacon Emile Sayegh, Chancellor

14. Old Business

15. New Business

- a. Report on new children’s magazine named “Farah” or “Joy” –  
Fr. Peter Ackle

- b. Report on the upcoming 2025 Archdiocesan Convention in Chicago, Illinois, and 2027 Archdiocesan Convention in Anaheim, California

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

- c. Discussion on 2029 convention site – Mr. Raed Sweiss and Ms. Carol Jazzar, Department of Convention and Conference Planning
- d. Report from the Nominating Committee for the Board of Trustees – Fr. Thomas Zain, Chairman
- e. Casting of ballots for Members of the Board of Trustees (Committee is excused to count ballots; results to be announced at Vespers)
- f. Appointment by Metropolitan SABA of five (5) appointed members of the Board of Trustees

## 16. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238  
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F