



OTSA Annual Meeting (June 11–13, 2026)

St Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary

(Yonkers, NY)

The Council of Crete (2016) after Ten Years

THURSDAY, June 11

2:30 – 3:00 pm Check-in and refreshments

3:00 pm **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**
(Very Rev. Dr. John Jillions, OTSA President)

3:15 – 4:45 pm **SESSION 1** (Moderator – Dr. Teva Regule)

- *“The Holy and Great Council of Crete After Ten Years: Re-evaluating the Orthodox Synthesis of Neoplatonic Emanationism as Energetic Procession.”* (Nathaniel) Edward Smulling, MA cand. (St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary)
- *“Christian Modesty in the Ante-Nicene Fathers.”* Elizabeth Bare, MA cand. (St. Sophia Ukrainian Orthodox Theological Seminary)
- **Crete I Roundtable: *The Mission of the Orthodox Church in Today’s World (Social teaching, peace, justice, and human dignity)***

5:00 – 6:00 pm **Vespers and memorial service for departed OTSA members**

6:00 – 7:00 pm Dinner

7:00 – 8:30 pm **SESSION 2** (Moderator – Dr. Jim Skedros)

- *“A Multi-Cultural Approach to Pan-Orthodox Unity.”* Dr. Chris Durante (Saint Peter’s University)
- *“Can These Seeds Grow?”* Very Rev. Dr. John Jillions (Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, Cambridge, UK)
- **Crete II Roundtable: *The Orthodox Diaspora (Ecclesiology of the diaspora and episcopal assemblies)***

8:30 – 9:30 pm Personal updates, interests, and research (*with dessert*)

FRIDAY, June 12

- 8:30 – 9:00 am** **Matins**
Breakfast snacks
- 9:15 – 10:15 am** **SESSION 3** (Moderator – Dr. Claire Koen)
- “The Council of Crete (2006) and Its Reception in the Romanian Orthodox Church: A Canonical Analysis of *Autonomy and the Means by Which It Is Proclaimed* and *The Orthodox Diaspora*.” Rev. Sabin Foca, PhD cand. (University of Bucharest)
 - **Crete III Roundtable: *Autonomy and the Means by Which it is Proclaimed (Ecclesial autonomy, autocephaly, and synodal procedure)***
- 10:15 – 11:30 am** **SPECIAL SESSION: BOOK PRESENTATION**
- Dr. Peter C. Bouteneff will present his new book, *Union Without Confusion: Councils and Christology Beyond the Chalcedonian. Divide* (Bloomsbury 2026).
 - Respondent: Rev. Dr. Stephen M. Meawad (Caldwell University)
 - Q&A (Moderator – Rev. Dr. Bogdan Bucur)
- 11:30 – 11:45 am** Coffee break
- 11:45 am – 12:30 pm** **SESSION 4** (Moderator – Very Rev. Dr. John Jillions)
- **Crete IV Roundtable: *The Sacrament of Marriage and Its Impediments (Canon law, mixed marriages, and pastoral practice)***
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm** Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:00 pm** **SESSION 5** (Moderator – Very Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Ready)
- **Crete V Roundtable: *The Importance of Fasting and Its Observance Today (Ascetic tradition, liturgical discipline, and contemporary life)***
- 2:00 – 2:30 pm** **Introduction of new OTSA members**
(Moderator – Dr. Helen Theodoropoulos)
- 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm:** **OTSA Business Meeting** (Chair – Very Rev. Dr. John Jillions)
(*Provisional members may attend but not vote.*)
- 4:00 – 4:30 pm** Coffee break
- 4:30 – 5:30 pm** **Vespers**
- 5:30 – 6:30 pm** Dinner

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm 2026 Georges Florovsky Lecture: “The Council of Crete after Ten Years”

- Moderator – Dr Ionuț-Alexandru Tudorie, Dean, St Vladimir’s Seminary
- His Grace, Bishop Maxim (Vasiljević) of Los Angeles and Western America (Serbian Orthodox Church)
- Very Rev Dr Nicolas Kazarian, Ecumenical Officer and Director of the Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America)
- Dr Elizabeth H. Prodromou, Professor of the Practice, International Studies Program, Boston College
- Very Rev Dr Alexander Rentel, Fr Alexander Schmemmann Professor of Liturgical Theology and Canon Law, St Vladimir’s Seminary

Q&A

Reception

SATURDAY, June 13

8:30 – 9:00 am Matins

Breakfast snacks

9:15 – 10:45 am SESSION 6 (Moderator – Rev. Dr. Bogdan Bucur)

- “On a Common Date for Easter.” Fr Harry Pappas, PhD (Retired Pastor, Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan District and Independent Scholar)
- “Unfinished Business: Comparing Catholic and Orthodox Approaches to Jewish-Christian Relations in Conciliar Context.” Fr. Geoffrey Ready, PhD (Trinity College, University of Toronto)
- **Crete VI Roundtable: *Relations of the Orthodox Church with the Rest of the Christian World (Ecumenism, dialogue, and Orthodox ecclesial self-understanding)***

10:45 – 11:00 am Coffee break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Discussion and Workshop: “The Council of Crete after Ten Years: Recommendations to the Assembly of Bishops?” (Moderator – Very Rev. Dr. Peter Baktis)

12:30 – 1:30 pm Lunch and departure