

~~BY-LAWS~~BYLAWS
OF
SAINT DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
Seattle, Washington

Revised ~~June 15, 2020~~December 4, 2020

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ARTICLE I - PARISH

Section 1: The Parish is the local eucharistic community of the Church in a given locality; organized under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese whose ecclesiastical authority is its canonically consecrated Hierarchy. Locally, the Parish is headed by a canonically ordained and duly appointed Proistamenos. The assignment of such appointed Proistamenos shall bind the Parish to the Archdiocesan Regulations, Uniform Metropolis Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations ([“Uniform Regulations”](#)) with the same force and effect as if the same were formally approved and adopted by the Parish. [In the event of any conflict of these Bylaws and the Uniform Regulations, the Uniform Regulations will govern.](#)

Section 2: The aims and purposes of the Parish are to keep, practice and proclaim the Orthodox Christian Faith pure and undefiled.

Section 3: Parishes shall be governed in accordance with the holy canons, the Archdiocesan Charter and Regulations promulgated thereunder, and, as to canonical and ecclesiastical matters, by the decisions of the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Eparchial Synod of the Archdiocese. In accordance with the Charter, the Parish shall express the life of the Church in the local community according to the Orthodox Christian Faith and Tradition, sanctifying the faithful through the Divine Liturgy and the Holy Sacraments. It shall edify the religious and ethical life of the faithful in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the decrees and canons of the Holy Apostles and the Seven Ecumenical Councils of the Church, as interpreted by the practice of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Section 4: The diakonia (ministry) of the Parish will include proclaiming and teaching the Gospel in accordance with the Orthodox Faith; sanctifying the faithful through God's grace in worship, the Divine Liturgy and the other sacraments; enhancing its parishioners' spiritual life; and adding to the numbers of the faithful by receiving persons into the Church through instruction, baptism and/or chrismation. In addition, the Parish shall establish educational and philanthropic activities to foster the aims and mission of the Parish and to edify its parishioners in the Faith and ethos of the Church. The Parish shall also engage in such inter-Orthodox, ecumenical and interfaith activities as are consistent with the policies of the Archdiocese.

Section 5: The Parish shall conform faithfully to the worship, sacramental life, doctrines, canons and discipline of the Church. It shall also adhere to the Archdiocesan Charter, the Regulations and all Hierarchical encyclicals.

Section 6: Any non-conformance with the foregoing shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the canons. The Archbishop, upon the recommendation of the local Metropolitan, shall have the authority to revoke the ecclesiastical charter of a Parish, if, in his judgment, there is sufficient cause for such action. In each such case, notice of the revocation, stating the cause for such action, shall be forwarded to the Parish Council in writing.

Section 7: The Parish shall furthermore abide by the decisions of the Clergy-Laity Congresses irrespective of whether it was represented thereat, the administrative determinations of the Archdiocesan Council, and such interim legislation as may be adopted between Congresses by the Archdiocesan Council.

Section 8: Each Parish shall be known as the (name) Greek Orthodox Church of (locality). Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church of Seattle is the name of the parish. Each Parish shall use the authorized logo of the Archdiocese and the name of the respective Archdiocesan District/Metropolis on its stationery and publications, in accordance with the Archdiocesan Graphics Standards Manual.

ARTICLE II – PARISH PROPERTY

Section 1: The Church edifice and other buildings constituting Parish property shall be used in accordance with the Charter to serve the religious, educational, cultural and philanthropic ministries of the Parish. Parish property shall be held and used by the Parish to carry out the purposes of the Orthodox Christian Faith as defined in Article 15.

Section 2: The Parish shall hold title to all its real estate and personal property in its corporate name and no other, except as otherwise required by any applicable civil law. The personal property shall only include property which is deemed to be real estate or which may create a lien upon real estate under the provisions of local law or any provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. The Parish Council, in consultation with the Proistamenos shall administer such property for the benefit of the Parish.

Section 3: The Parish may purchase real and personal property, or sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber its real property, or construct a church edifice or other buildings upon approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the parishioners in good standing present at a Parish Assembly duly called (with at least ten (10) days prior written notice) for that purpose, provided that approval from the respective Hierarch is received, [within Thirty \(30\) days of receipt of such request for approval and is received](#) as follows:

- A. The Parish's request for approval to the respective Hierarch shall be in writing and shall include the following documents:
 1. A copy of the notice of the Parish Assembly certifying the date of mailing.
 2. A copy of the minutes of the Parish Assembly signed by the Proistamenos, Chairman and Secretary of the Assembly.
 3. A survey of the realty and improvements, if any.
 4. A description of the surrounding area, including its relationship to other Parishes, if any.
 5. Financial statements as to the financing of the property/projects including, but not limited to, the cost, the manner and terms of purchase, and the contemplated sources of income for payment and maintenance thereof; and
 6. Such other information as shall be pertinent or as may be requested by the respective Hierarch.
- B. The respective Hierarch shall consult with the Archdiocesan District/Metropolis Council in reviewing the Parish's request and may also appoint an ad hoc committee comprised of persons with expert knowledge and experience in finance, real estate, building construction and such other matters to advise him and the Local Council executive committee in their review. In the event that the respective Hierarch determines that additional information is needed from the Parish in order to appropriately review its request, he shall request any such information from the Parish within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the Parish's submission.

Section 4: Parishes shall maintain the architectural, iconographic and artistic integrity of all Church edifices in accordance with Orthodox tradition. For that reason, Parishes shall submit to the respective Hierarch, for his prior approval related to aesthetic and dogmatic concerns, all preliminary plans for:

- A. The erection of a church structure or other Parish building.

- B. The iconography or any appointments of a Church structure.
- C. Any major structural alteration to an existing church structure or other Parish building.

All final plans shall also be submitted to the respective Hierarchy for his prior approval. A Hierarchy's review and approval under this Section shall be limited solely to aesthetic and dogmatic issues and no review by the Hierarchy shall be deemed to extend to or constitute a review or approval of engineering, architectural or mechanical plans, state or local safety or building code compliance or any other structural matter.

Section 5: All special contributions, bequests, gifts, and devises beyond Stewardship shall be used by the Parish only for the purposes for which they were made.

Sections 6: Based on the recommendation of the local Metropolitan, that a Parish is in heresy, schism, or defection from the Archdiocese, the Archbishop may declare the Parish in canonical disorder and may assume the administration of the Parish and control of its properties until the Archbishop, in consultation with the Metropolitan, declares the Parish to be in canonical order. In the event that the Archbishop, in consultation with the Metropolitan, determines that the Parish cannot be restored to canonical order, the title to properties shall vest in the Archdiocese. If under applicable law, title may not vest automatically in the Archdiocese, title shall vest in an ecclesiastical corporation controlled by the group of parishioners that the Archdiocese determines remains loyal to it.

Section 7: In the event that a Parish is deemed to be in canonical disorder and title to the Parish properties is vested in the Archdiocese, the Archbishop and the respective Hierarchy are authorized to sign any deed or other document as may be necessary.

ARTICLE III – PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Section 1: Each Parish shall be administered by the Proistamenos and a Parish Council.

Section 2: The Proistamenos as head of the Parish, by virtue of the ecclesiastical authority vested in him, shall guide and oversee the total Parish program, and is ultimately responsible with the Parish Council to the Bishop for the whole life and activities of his Parish.

ARTICLE IV - CLERGY

Section 1: The Proistamenos, by virtue of his canonical ordination and episcopal appointment, heads the local Parish of the Church and exercises in its behalf the Proistamenos's function. The ministry of the Proistamenos consists in shepherding the Parish entrusted to his pastoral care, directing its orderly life, preserving its unity, keeping it faithful to its divine purpose, sanctifying its flock through the administration of the sacraments and the performance of all other prescribed services of worship, proclaiming the kerygma, preaching the Word, teaching the commandments of the New Life, imparting a knowledge of the doctrines, traditions, canons and disciplines of the Church, and guiding the growth, progress and enlightenment of the congregation in the Christian life.

ARTICLE IV - PARISHIONERS

Section 1: Any person who was baptized according to the rites of the Church, or was received into the Church through Chrismation, who lives according to the Faith and Canons of the Church, and abides by the regulations of the Archdiocese, is a Parishioner.

Section 2: A parishioner has the right to partake in all sacraments of the Church, participate in all-religious activities and attend Parish Council meetings, and all regular and special Parish assemblies and take part in discussions.

Section 3: Any person, eighteen years of age or over, or who is emancipated, who was baptized according to the rites of the Church, or was received into the Church through Chrismation, who lives according to the Faith and Canons of the Church, abides by the regulations of the Greek Archdiocese of North and South America and the By-laws of the Parish, and fulfills his or her financial obligations as defined in Section 4, is a member in good standing of the Parish.

Section 4: Financial obligations of a member, in order to be a Member in Good Standing, shall be met by the member making a financial commitment by signing a Stewardship Pledge Card for the current year, and for the preceding two years signing a stewardship pledge card, and making payments on and those fulfilling those pledges;

A Parishioner can satisfy the Requirements for signing a Stewardship pledge card and making payments on those pledges (or verifiable donations) for the preceding two years by providing verification that he or she has done so in another parish of the Archdiocese.

Section 5: All members in good standing as defined in Section 3 above, have the right to vote at all Parish assemblies on all matters before the assemblies, be elected a member or officer of the Parish Council and in such position to take part in the administration of the Parish and in the direction of its life and activity.

ARTICLE VI – PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Section 1: The Parish Assembly is the general meeting of the members of the Parish.

Section 2: The regular Parish General Assemblies shall be convened by the Parish Council at least twice each year at dates fixed by the Parish Council. Special Parish General Assemblies shall be held when the Proistamenos and/or Parish Council deem it necessary, or when ten percent of the Members of the Parish submit a written petition thereof to the Parish Council stating the purpose thereon for such meeting.

Section 3: The members are summoned to Parish Assemblies by written notices, mailed at least ten days prior thereto and listing its agenda thereon.

Section 4: A Parish General Assembly consists of the Members of the Parish as defined in Article VI, Section 3.

Section 5: The quorum for a Parish Assembly shall consist of a minimum based on 10% of the Parishioners who have met the requirements to be a Member In Good Standing of forty-five members of the Parish as defined in Article VI, ~~Section 3~~. If a quorum is not present, the Parish Assembly shall be called a second time within twenty-one days. At such time decisions may be taken therein regardless of the number of members present, except for the purchase, sale, mortgage, or encumbering of any part or all the Parish real estate properties.

Section 6: The Chairman of the Parish Assembly shall be elected by the members present.

Section 7: The minutes of the Parish Assembly shall be signed by the Proistamenos, the Chairman of the Parish Assembly and the Secretary and they shall be recorded in a permanent book.

Section 8: Meetings by Communications Equipment. Meetings of the Parish Assembly may be held by any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other during the meeting. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

ARTICLE VII – PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1: The management of the secular businesses of the Parish shall be vested in a Parish Council consisting of an odd number of members with a minimum of nine(9) members and up to a maximum of fifteen (15) members of the Parish elected as hereinafter prescribed, together with the duly constituted Pastor-Proistamenos of the Parish as an ex-officio member without a vote. To serve on a Parish Council is a ministry and all those who serve are called to represent Christ and the Orthodox Faith to all whom they meet in all aspects of life. The Parish Council shall consist of the Proistamenos, as the head of the Parish, and a number of elected lay members fixed by the Parish Bylaws or by local statute according to the needs of the Parish. The Parish Council is responsible to the Parish Assembly and to the respective Hierarchy for conducting all Parish affairs in keeping with the mission, aims and purposes of the Church as set forth in the Charter and these Regulations. The Parish Council shall be deemed to also mean Board of Trustees or Board of Directors when such designations are required by local statute. The Proistamenos shall be a non-voting member of the Parish Council.

Section 2: The officers of the Parish Council shall be a President, ~~two Vice Presidents~~one (1) or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 3: A candidate for the Parish Council must be a Member of the Parish as defined in Article VI, Section 3 and must comply in his or her life and activities with the faith and canons of the Church.

Section 4: No salaried employee of the Parish may serve on the Parish Council, the Board of Auditors, or the Board of Elections.

Section 5: The Parish Council shall be comprised of individuals that represent the diversity of the parish in terms of ethnicity, demographics, age and gender and ~~that bring expertise to include governance, strategic growth, finance, and building facilities knowledge and other areas of expertise that will contribute to the growth of the parish.~~

ARTICLE VIII – ELECTIONS FOR PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1: Each year the eligible Members of the Parish shall elect one-third (1/3) of the five ~~(5)~~ Members of the Parish Council by secret ballot to serve for a period of three years or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 2: The election of such Members of the Parish Council shall be held at the parish premises ~~and shall~~and shall be held no earlier than the first Sunday in November, and no later than the second Sunday in December. All candidates shall attend a seminar conducted by the Proistamenos prior to the election at which the Proistamenos shall discuss and explain to the candidates the Uniform Parish Regulations, and the significance of the affirmation of office.

Section 3: Such Council Members shall be elected from a slate of at least ~~ten (10)~~ two (2) nominees for each open position of the Parish Council, submitted by the Nominating Committee to the Last General Assembly, prior to the election for approval, and such other Members as are nominated from the floor at the General Assembly.

Section 4: In the event that an insufficient number of candidates shall be nominated for election to the Parish Council, or the number nominated is equal to the number of vacancies, the election of those nominated shall take place in accordance with the election procedures established by these Regulations. The Parish Council, after the ratification and the taking of office of any new members, and the election of officers shall proceed to fill any vacancies on the Council from among the Parish's parishioners in good standing. Those elected by the Parish Council shall, in such order as may be determined by the Council, and following ratification by the respective Hierarchy, serve the term that a member duly elected by the Parish would have served.

Section 5: No person shall be eligible for nomination or election to the Parish Council who is not a Member of the Parish as defined in Article VI, Section 3.

Section 6: No person shall be eligible for re-election to the Parish Council who has served in that capacity for six (6) consecutive years.

Section 7: Only those Members of the Parish as defined in Article VI, Section 3 shall be eligible to vote. A parishioner in good standing and duly enrolled in the Parish Record but delinquent in his or her Parish stewardship obligations for the current year may vote in the election by meeting his or her stewardship obligation prior to the election, unless Parish Bylaws have established alternate deadlines in this regard. If a Parishioner is delinquent for more than the current calendar year, he or she may vote in the Parish Council elections only if he or she has met his or her unfulfilled stewardship financial obligations at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the elections.

Section 8: Eligible Members of the Parish may vote by mail in a manner to be prescribed by the Board of Elections and announced in the Church Bulletin at least two weeks prior to the election date.

Section 9: The elections results shall be documented in writing and maintained in the Parish records. ~~entered in the minute book of the Parish~~The documentation shall indicate, showing the number of votes cast for each ~~candidate, and candidate and~~ candidate and shall be signed by each ~~of Member s-~~ of Member s- of the Board of Elections. The ~~five (5)~~ five (5) candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected for the ensuing term and to fill the open parish council positions.

Section 10: Any Member of the Parish questioning the validity of any election may, within five days after such election, lodge a written protest with the ~~Bishop of the Diocese~~Metropolitan of the Metropolis of San Francisco ("The ~~Bishop~~Metropolitan") through the Parish Proistamenos. Such protest shall be signed by the questioning Member and at least four (4) other Members. The decision of The ~~Bishop~~Metropolitan thereon shall be final.

ARTICLE IX – RATIFICATION OF ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL AND OATH OF OFFICE

Section 1: Within five (5) business days after the election, the Proistamenos shall forward the results to The Bishop for review and ratification. The Proistamenos shall at the same time verify in writing that all candidates were qualified, and that the election was conducted in accordance with the regulations herein and the Parish ~~By Laws~~Bylaws.

Section 2: The election will be ratified upon receipt of the verification hereinbefore provided for ~~in their the absence of~~absence of the filing of any protest thereto. In the event that a protest is

filed and such protest is upheld, The Bishop will declare ~~the protested~~ the protested election void and a new election will be ordered.

Section 3: On the first Sunday after ratification of the election by The Bishop, a special ceremony shall be held at the close of the divine liturgy in which all the Members of the Parish Council shall take the oath of office jointly. The oath shall be administered by the Proistamenos and shall be repeated by all the Members of the Parish Council.

Section 4: Each Member of the Parish Council is obliged, without exception, to take the following oath of office and thereafter subscribe his or her name thereto: _____

"I do solemnly swear that I will uphold the dogma, teaching, traditions, holy canons, worship, and moral principles of the Greek Orthodox Church, as well as the constitutional charter, discipline, and regulation of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, and that I will fulfill faithfully and sincerely the duties and obligations required of a Member of the Parish Council. So help me God."

ARTICLE X – ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

Section 1: Following the administration of the oath of office, the Parish Council shall convene immediately thereafter under the chairmanship of the Proistamenos to elect its officers.

Section 2: The office of President may not be held by the same person for more than three (3) consecutive years, except by special permission on the Diocesan Council.

ARTICLE XI – VACANCY ON PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1: A vacancy on the Parish Council shall ~~be~~ be considered to exist under any of the following circumstances: The resignation of a Member thereof, the invalidation of the election of a Member thereof, the determination by an ecclesiastical tribunal of the ~~Diocese~~ [Metropolis](#) that a Member thereof is not or has ceased to be loyal to the doctrines, canons, worship, discipline, constitution, administrative rulings, customs, practices, regulations and encyclicals of the Archdiocese, or that he or she does not recognize its duly constituted ecclesiastical authority, the physical or mental incapacity of a Member thereof, and the determination by an ecclesiastical tribunal of the ~~Diocese~~ [Metropolis](#) that a Member thereof is guilty of a serious moral transgression.

Section 2: When a member of the Parish Council has absented himself without justifiable cause from more than three of its meetings consecutively, he or she may be relieved of his or her duties upon a resolution of the Parish Council to that effect.

Section 3: A vacancy on the Parish Council shall be filled by the Parish Council by electing a successor thereof from amongst the Members of the Parish as defined in Article VI, Section 3 for the unexpired portion of the term of such vacancy.

ARTICLE XII – MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1: The Parish Council shall hold regular meetings at least monthly, and special meetings whenever the Proistamenos, the President, or a simple majority of the Parish Council shall deem it necessary.

Section 2: Parish Council Members shall be given advance notice of at least five (5) days for the regular meetings and two (2) days for the special meetings. An agenda for each meeting shall be prepared and distributed to the Members-in advance, and Members shall have studied the materials prior to the meeting.-

Section 3: A simple majority of the Members of the Parish Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Voting to approve motions/decisions shall require a simple majority of those present assuming a quorum.

Section 4: The minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council shall be approved by the Council, signed by the Proistamenos, the President and the Secretary; and, recorded in and a permanent copy maintained both in writing and electronically, and book that may be available for inspection in the Office of the Church to any Member.

Section 5: Members of the Parish Council or any committee designated by the Parish Council may participate in a meeting of such Parish Council or committee by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communication by which all Parish Council members participating in the meeting can hear each other during the meeting. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Section 6: Meetings by Communications Equipment. Meetings of the Parish Council may be held by any means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other during the meeting. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

ARTICLE XIII – POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1: The Parish Council shall conduct all the secular affairs of the Parish in furtherance of the aims and purposes of the Church in accordance with the provisions of these ~~By-Laws~~Bylaws and the Canons of the Archdiocese. The members of the Parish Council shall attend the Divine Liturgy regularly and participate in the sacramental life of the Church, thereby setting an example for the Parishioners. Under the leadership of the Proistamenos, the Parish Council shall:

- A. Assist the Proistamenos in the administration of the affairs and ministries of the Parish.
- B. Establish temporary or permanent committees as appropriate,
- C. Finance, Fundraising, Planning and Real Estate committees.
- D. Utilize the Stewardship material provided by the Archdiocese to implement and expand the Parish Stewardship program and ministries.
- E. Prepare budgets for the Parish's administration and ministries and collect the revenue of the Parish.

- F. Provide for the Proistamenos' ~~'s~~ remuneration and benefits in accordance with the Clergy
- G. Compensation Plan of the Archdiocese.
- H. Provide financing for the salaries of the Parish personnel.
- I. Provide financial resources for the Parish's administration and for the Parish's
- J. spiritual, educational and other ministries and expenses.
- K. Buy, sell or mortgage Parish property, subject to the approval of the Parish
- L. Assembly and the provisions of these Regulations.
- M. Provide for payments and assessments for support of the Archdiocese as fixed by the Congresses.
- N. Submit to the respective Hierarchy and the Archdiocese, at the end of each year, the financial statement of the Parish for that year (certified by the Parish's Board of Auditors) and the Parish budget for the ensuing year.
- O. Submit annual Parish profile reports that may be required by the Archdiocese and the respective Archdiocesan District/Metropolis; and
- P. Adhere to the Charter, the Regulations and decisions promulgated at the Congresses.

Section 2: Each Member of the Parish Council shall attend meetings of such Council regularly; those missing three consecutive meetings shall, upon written notification, be disqualified and dropped from membership unless they shall forthwith present in writing a justifiable excuse for such absence which shall be acceptable to the Council.

Section 3: None of the newly elected Members of the Parish Council shall undertake any of the duties of said Council unless and until each shall take an oath administered by the Proistamenos to faithfully execute the duties of said office.

Section 4: The Parish Council shall have and is hereby granted the power, upon proper resolution of the assembly of the eligible Members of the Parish, to purchase, sell and mortgage real estate, to contract for the purpose of any and all personal property necessary to the proper operation and maintenance of the physical assets of the Parish.

Section 5: The Parish Council shall prepare annually a detailed budget of operation along with sources of income to be presented to the General Assembly of the eligible Members of the Parish for approval.

Section 6: The Parish Council shall have the power to purchase such supplies as are necessary to the conduct of church services and functions in the amounts not to exceed the provisions of the approved budget, and in the manner hereinafter provided.

Section 7: All purchases and financial transactions must have the authorization of the Council prior to each purchase or financial transaction, except as provided in Section 8 that follows.

Section 8: The Parish Council ~~may shall~~ authorize an annual budget for the Proistamenos to make purchases as are necessary for the conduct of church services and functions ~~in an amount of \$300.00 each month or \$3,600.00 annually.~~

Section 9: The Parish Council shall, through the Treasurer, keep complete records of all financial transactions, and, with the assistance of a professional accountant, prepare annually a balance sheet to be made available to the members of the Parish.

Section 10: The Parish Council through the President shall, from time to time, appoint such committees as shall be necessary to carry on the business of the Parish which shall be discharged upon completion of their respective duties; in addition to the aforesaid committees, the Parish, through the President, shall appoint the following standing committees:

- A. Bylaws Committee
- B. Facilities Committee.
- C. Finance Committee
- D. Nominating Committee.
- E. Real Estate Committee
- E.F. Religious Education Committee (see Article XIII, Section 12)
- G. Stewardship Committee
- F.H. Strategic Planning Committee
- G.I. VIP Committee

The powers, duties and composition of each of the committees shall be determined by the Parish Council. A Parish Council member shall lead each standing committee.

Section 11: There shall be ~~an permanent standing executive advisory~~ committee that reports to the Parish Council President and consisting of former Parish Council Presidents, current Parish Council President and the Proistamenos, for the purpose of ~~formulating and reviewing~~ advising on long-range planning for the Parish. ~~The working membership of the committee can be expanded by the committee or by the President of the Parish Council. Such Committee shall report to the Parish Council.~~

Section 12: There shall be a permanent standing Religious Education Curriculum Committee consisting of the Proistamenos, the Sunday School Superintendent, representative from YAL, GOYA, Philoptochos and such other Parishioners appointed by the Proistamenos for the purpose of coordinating religious education programs sponsored by various parish organizations, and organizing and implementing additional religious programs. The Committee shall present a calendar of the religious education curriculum for the entire year at the Parish Assembly in the fall of each year.

Section 13: All Parish Personnel, including schoolteachers, are engaged by the Parish Council with the consent of the Proistamenos.

Section 14: In the case of any matter and/or disagreement in the Parish which the Proistamenos and Parish Council are unable to resolve, the same shall be referred to The Bishop. His decision thereon shall be deemed final.

Section 15: Upon the expiration of its term, the Parish Council shall surrender to the succeeding Parish Council all Parish records, including membership lists, Electronic files, bank books, journals, financial records, and all other property of the Parish. Such transfer shall be affected by letter of transmittal.

ARTICLE XIV – BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Section 1: The Board of Elections shall consist of no fewer than three (3) members in good standing and that are elected at a Regular Parish Assembly within the same year as the election from among those who are not candidates for election to the Parish Council. Immediate family members of candidates and incumbent Parish Council members are not eligible to serve on the Board of Elections.

Section 2: The Board of Elections shall, in cooperation with the Parish Proistamenos, verify the eligibility of the list of candidates, notify all eligible Parishioners concerning the elections supervise the elections and tabulate and report the results. The Proistamenos shall be advised of all meetings of the Board of Elections, which he may attend if he so desires. The Proistamenos shall certify that all the candidates are Parishioners in good standing as specified in Article 19, Sections 1 and 2.

Section 3: A vacancy on the Board of Elections shall be filled by the Parish Council by electing a successor therefor from among the parishioners in good standing who are not candidates for election to the Parish Council.

ARTICLE XV – FINANCIAL REVIEW BOARD

Section 1: The ~~Board of Auditors~~Financial Review Board shall consist of at least three parishioners none of whom are members of the Parish Council. The ~~Board of Auditors~~Financial Review Board shall be elected at the last Parish Assembly preceding an election from among those who have not served on the Parish Council for the year being audited and who are not candidates for election to the Parish Council. The ~~Board of Auditors~~Financial Review Board shall have the financial competency to properly execute its responsibilities and its members shall have a demonstrated financial background, and at least one (1) member shall have a formal accounting background, and preferable be a Certified Public Accountant.-

Section 2: The Board of Auditors shall audit financial records of the prior year and prepare a report of such audit for presentation to the Parish Assembly. After review by the Parish Assembly, the Parish Council shall transmit copies of the final audit to the respective Hierarch and the Archdiocese.

Section 3: A vacancy on the Board of Auditors shall be filled by the Parish Council by electing a successor therefor from amongst the parishioners of the Parish in good standing for the unexpired portion of the term of such vacancy.

ARTICLE XVI – FISCAL YEAR, FINANCIAL REPORTS AND BUDGET

Section 1: The Parish fiscal year shall be the calendar year. At the first Parish Assembly of each year, the Parish Council shall present a financial report covering all income and expenses for the preceding year.

Section 2: The budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall likewise be submitted for approval at the first regular Parish Assembly of the year.

Section 3: Each Parish Member's annual financial obligation to the Parish shall be based upon his or her voluntary commitment to the Parish Stewardship Program by signing a Stewardship pledge card in an amount to be at the discretion of each individual and making payments on that pledge.

Section 4: The Parish shall remit annually to the Archdiocese, on a monthly basis, for Archdiocesan and Diocesan needs, and amount determined by the Archdiocese. ~~for~~

~~Archdiocesan and Diocesan needs, an amount determined by the Parish Council to be the Parish's "fair share" commitment.~~

ARTICLE XVII – PARISH MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1: All Parish ministries and organizations shall be under the supervision of the Proistamenos.

Section 2: Any adult communicant of the Church desiring to join any Parish organization shall be required to first become a Parishioner.

Section 3: A communicant under 18 years of age may be a member of any Parish youth organization, irrespective of whether his or her parents are parishioners in good standing of the Parish, upon approval of the Proistamenos.

Section 3: It shall be the concern of the Parish to endeavor to have the following ministries: Chanter(s), a Choir; Acolytes; a Sunday (Catechetical) School; a Greek Language Cultural School; chapters of the Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA); Young Adult League (Y.A.L.), a Junior Orthodox Youth (JOY) program; a chapter of the Ladies Philoptochos Society; and Outreach and Evangelism Ministry; and such other ministries as are necessary to meet the spiritual and cultural needs of the Parish. ~~a Ladies Philoptochos Society, a youth organization to be known as the Greek Orthodox Youth of America, A Young Adult League, and such other organizations as meet the needs of the Parish.~~

Section 4: The local By-Laws of the Parish organizations such organization shall comply with the Uniform Parish By-laws of the said organizations as approved by the Archdiocese and shall be subject to the approval of the Proistamenos, Parish Council and the Archdiocese. ~~—~~

ARTICLE XVIII – AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

Section 1: Amendments and revisions of these ~~By-Laws~~Bylaws may be adopted by a vote of two-thirds of those Members present in a General Assembly.

Section 2: Such amendments and revisions shall become effective 30. days after enactment thereon or as otherwise indicated within the body of the amendment or revision, after approval of the Bishop.