

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Uniform Regulations of the Archdiocese

ARTICLE 9 GOVERNANCE OF THE METROPOLIS

Section 1: Each Metropolis of the Archdiocese is governed and administered in accordance with the Faith, Tradition and Holy Canons of the Church together with the provisions of the Charter, these Regulations and the decisions of the Synod and of the Congress.

Section 2: Each Metropolis is incorporated under applicable civil law pursuant to uniform Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws provided by the Archdiocese.

Section 3: Until such time as “Uniform Bylaws” are provided by the Archdiocese to the Metropolises, the Uniform Metropolis Regulations, as may be amended from time to time, shall be deemed the Metropolis Bylaws.

ARTICLE 10 RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF THE METROPOLITAN

Section 1: Each Metropolitan within his ecclesiastical district and the Archbishop in his Direct Archdiocesan District have the rights and responsibilities of a Bishop in accordance with the Holy Canons and the long established life, praxis and order of the Church as well as the provisions of this Charter, including the exclusive right to occupy the throne behind the altar (*Synthronon*).

Section 2: Among other rights and responsibilities, each Metropolitan:

- A. Attends meetings and participates in the work of the Synodal Committees, as a member of the Eparchial Synod.
- B. Reports to the Archbishop to whom he forwards an annual report on the diakonia and spiritual well-being of his Parishes, and informs the Priests, the Local Council, and his Parishes of these matters.
- C. Ordains, assigns and transfers Clergy within his Metropolis, by virtue of the authority of his office and in accordance with the Canons, Charter and ecclesiastical procedures.
- D. Distributes to the Parish Priests the Holy *Myron* (Chrismation Oil), received from the Ecumenical Patriarchate, through the Archbishop and issues the ecclesiastical licenses and certificates for all sacraments within the Metropolis.
- E. Has his *pheme* (Bishop’s Anthem) canonically chanted during the Divine Liturgy.
- F. Presides at the Spiritual Court of the First Instance.
- G. Receives from each Priest in his Metropolis a yearly report of his ministry.

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ARTICLE 10

RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF THE METROPOLITAN (continued)

- H. Issues the final decision on any problem which may arise between a Parish Priest and the Parish Council.
- I. Ratifies elections of the Parish Councils and may grant special permission to the President or Treasurer of a Parish Council to serve in such office for more than six consecutive years.
- J. In the event he declines to ratify the election of one or more of the persons elected to the Parish Council, he shall state his reason for such action and shall direct the Parish to conduct a special election to fill the vacancy(ies) thus created. He may appoint persons to serve as interim members of the Parish Council until such election is held. In the event he declines to ratify the election of a majority or more of the members of a Parish Council, he shall first consult with the Archbishop, except in a situation in which a Parish does not meet its Total Commitment financial obligation and/or reporting requirements as set out in Article 34, Section 8.
- K. May dismiss any member of the Parish Council from office whenever in his judgment there is sufficient cause for such action, as specified in Article 24, Section 5.A. In the event he needs to remove a majority or more of the members of a Parish Council, he shall first consult with and obtain the consent of the Synod. In the event of any such removal, the Metropolitan shall appoint an interim Parish Council or interim members thereof, designate the time when elections may be scheduled to fill the vacancy(ies) thus created and determine whether any person(s) removed from office may be a candidate(s) for office.
- L. Receives annually from each Parish Council a financial statement for the ensuing year as well as a budget and balance sheet for the prior year certified by the Parish Audit Committee.
- M. Approves the purchase, sale, lease, mortgaging or other encumbrance of the real property of a Parish. (See Article 16, Section 3 for procedure.)
- N. Receives and reviews all applications for permission to organize a new Parish and may grant such permission after reviewing the information provided, consulting with existing neighboring Parishes and otherwise obtaining and reviewing such information as he deems appropriate. Upon the issuance of an Ecclesiastical Charter by the Archdiocese, he shall assign a Priest to the Parish.
- O. Has the responsibility and authority to recommend to the Archbishop revocation of the Ecclesiastical Charter of a Parish in the event that he deems it necessary.
- P. Will oversee each Parish in his Metropolis, evaluating its life and progress, advising it and ensuring its conformity with the faith, tradition, and holy canons of the Church, together with the provisions of the Charter and these Regulations.