

NOTICE OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

September 10, 2017
Following Church Services

AGENDA:

- Budget Update
- VOTE to pay off mortgage
- VOTE on amended Constitution and Bylaws
 - Update on Forsyte Endowment

Looking for Information?

Flyers, announcements, advertisements are posted on bulletin boards in the Church Hall. If you see something you like? Make a copy!

Meeting minutes and budget reports are posted monthly following Parish Council meetings. Want more? Ask! Have a complaint? Be prepared to discuss solutions and volunteer to help!!

September 2017 Newsletter



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Proposed Endowment Bylaws

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

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Friday, August, 18, 2017

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America has released the following statement in response to the events in Charlottesville, VA:

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America Response to Racist Violence in Charlottesville, VA

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America stands with all people of good will in condemning the hateful violence and lamenting the loss of life that resulted from the shameful efforts to promote racial bigotry and white supremacist ideology in Charlottesville, Virginia.

The Orthodox Church emphatically declares that it does not promote, protect or sanction participation in such reprehensible acts of hatred, racism, and discrimination, and proclaims that such beliefs and behaviors have no place in any community based in respect for the law and faith in a loving God.

The essence of the Christian Gospel and the spirit of the Orthodox Tradition are entirely and self-evidently incompatible with ideologies that declare the superiority of any race over another. Our God shows no partiality or favoritism (Deuteronomy 10:17, Romans 2:11). Our Lord Jesus Christ *broke down the dividing wall of hostility that had separated God from humans and humans from each other* (Ephesians 2:14). In Christ Jesus, the Church proclaims, there can be *neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female, but all are one* (Galatians 3:28). Furthermore, we call on one another *to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather to expose them* (Ephesians 5:11). And what is darkness if not hatred? *The one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness* (1 John 2:11)!

Furthermore, in 1872, Hierarchs from around the world assembled in Constantinople and denounced all forms of xenophobia and chauvinism (*phyletism*). They agreed that the promotion of racial or national supremacy and ethnic bias or dissension in the Church of Christ is to be censured as contrary to the sacred teachings of the Christian Gospel and the holy canons of the Church. It is formally condemned as heresy, the strongest category of false teaching.

Finally, such actions as we have witnessed in recent days, by self-proclaimed white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and various racists and fascists, betray the core human values of love and solidarity. In this, we pray wholeheartedly for the families of those who lost their lives or suffered in these tragic events. In like manner, we cannot condone any form of revenge or retaliation by any group or individual. Therefore, we fervently appeal to every person of good will, and especially the leaders of our great nation, to consider and adopt ways of reconciling differences in order to rise above any and all discrimination in our history, our present, and our future.

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 27	August 28	August 29	August 30	August 31	1 Beginning of Ecclesiastical Year <i>Cooking and Serving for River Food Pantry Community Meal</i> 4:30 - 8:30 pm	2 <i>Russian Orthodox Divine Liturgy</i> 9:00 am <i>Wedding at Church</i> 1:00 pm
3 13th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Philoptochos Meeting	4 <i>Labor Day</i>	5	6 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	7	8 Nativity of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy 9:00 am	9 <i>Fr. Michael out of town for the day</i>
10 Sunday Before the Holy Cross REGULAR HOURS Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Sunday School Begins John Forsyte Dinner General Assembly Be the Match	11	12	13 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy 9:00 am	15	16 <i>Russian Orthodox Divine Liturgy</i> 9:00 am
17 Sunday After the Holy Cross Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Sunday School Begins	18	19	20 Choir Practice 7:00 pm	21	22	23 First Saturday for assembling Spanakopita for Baklava Plus Sale <i>Wedding at Church</i> 1:00 pm
24 1st Sunday of Luke Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am	25	26	27 Choir Practice 7:00 pm 3	28	29	30 <i>Russian Orthodox Divine Liturgy</i> 9:00 am

September – November 2017 Liturgies and Services

September 3

13th Sunday of Matthew

Orthros 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24
Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

Prosforo: Georgia M

Coffee Hour: (Group 8) Nikki S,
Aleksandra T, Jenya

September 8

Nativity of the Theotokos

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Prosforo: Georgia M

September 10

REGULAR HOURS RESUME

Sunday Before the Holy Cross / Sunday School Begins

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18
Gospel: John 3:13-17

Prosforo: Anna F

Coffee Hour: (Group 9) Patti C,
Violetta C, Michelle B

September 14

Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24
Gospel: John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30

Prosforo: Anna F

September 17

Sunday After the Holy Cross Student Teacher Blessing and

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20
Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Prosforo: Elene P

Coffee Hour: (Group 10): Margo S,
Jenny J, Betty L

September 24

1st Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: 2 Timothy: 3:10-15
Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

September 24, con't.

Prosforo: Korinna H

Coffee Hour: (Group 11) Kerry M,
Barb K, Dori H

October 1

2nd Sunday of Luke Church Musicians Sunday

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Acts 9:10-19
Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

Prosforo: Kathy F

Coffee Hour: Choir Pancake
Breakfast

October 8

3rd Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

Prosforo: N Choles

Coffee Hour: (Group 12): Maria H,
Draga G, Gabriela C

October 15

Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15
Gospel: Luke 8: 5-15

Prosforo: Jane S

Coffee Hour: (Group 13) Traci L,
Nancy G, Christy C-B, Marinela M

October 22

6th Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Galatians: 1:11-19
Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

Prosforo: Ilektra A

Coffee Hour: (Group 14) Georgiana
W, Pelli K, Ilektra A

October 23

S^t. Iakovos (James) the Apostle

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19
Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58

Prosforo: ??

October 26

S^t. Demetrios the Myrrh-Streamer

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Prosforo: Ilektra A

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10
Gospel: John 15:17-27; 16:1-2

October 29

7th Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Galatians: 2:16-20
Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

Prosforo: Jenny G

Coffee Hour: (Group 1): Sue S,
Katerina P, Eleni G

November 5

5th Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18
Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Prosforo: Cathy G

Coffee Hour: (Group 2) Eleni P,
Korinna H, Jenny G

November 8

Synaxis of the Holy Archangels / Archangels Michael and Gabriel

Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

Epistle: Hebrews 2:2-10
Gospel: Luke 10:16-21

Prosforo: Cathy G

November 12

8th Sunday of Luke / Veterans Day

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Prosforo: Tom C

Coffee Hour: (Group 3) Nadya H,
Athena D, Valerie M

November 19

9th Sunday of Luke

Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22
Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

Prosforo: Georgia M

THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Georgiana Wilton, Parish Council President georgiana.wilton@gmail.com

Officers: Tom Cameron, Vice President; Bruce Hansen, Secretary, Niko Papadopoulos, Treasurer **Members:** Petros Anagnostopoulos, Christy Chappell Belkin, Conn Choles, Nico Fatsis, Dori Hosek, Georgia Marsh, Mike Smith, and Scott Storck Alternates: John Soloninka and Nick Topitzes

Happy Ecclesiastical New Year! I like the words from the Apolytikion of Beginning of the Indiction (Second Tone):

Creator of the universe, setting times and seasons by Your sole authority, bless the cycle of the year of Your grace, O Lord, guarding our rulers and Your nation in peace, at the intercession of the Theotokos, and save us.

Take the time to share the Ecclesiastical New Year with an Icon. Let's let everybody know the New Year is upon us! <http://www.iconograms.org/sig.php?eid=188>

I would like to thank Patti Cameron and our Philoptochos sisters for hosting such lovely such a lovely reception for our Names day celebration! Our guests (Clergy and visitors) were welcomed with a feast and the hospitality we are known for! Thank you!!

As we head into the New Year, we have much Church business to attend to, to keep us moving in a positive direction. Please note the upcoming events all taking place on Sunday September 10th—and join us!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

We have a lot going on that day (see below), but it is important to attend to receive updates on our budget and participate in some important votes. See Page 1 for the brief agenda. Included in this newsletter are two items we'll be voting on: Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church and AGOC Proposed Endowment Bylaws.

INNAUGURAL FORSYTE MEMORIAL ANNUAL DINNER:

Join us to kick off this annual dinner. Cost: \$5.00 per person. Menu: Pastitsio, Salad, Bread and Dessert.

BE THE MATCH:

There is a gentleman of Greek descent fighting Leukemia. The Rock River Valley Blood Center will be at Church on September 10th to test anybody who is interested (a simple cheek swab) to see if they can find a much needed match for a blood stem cell transplant. A flyer with more information is attached.

As always, thank you for your support, honest conversations and hard work for our community and Church family!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Patti Cameron, President pcameron@tds.net or pcameron10@gmail.com
Greek Fest^{PLUS} is behind us and another ecclesiastical year is upon us. I hope everyone had a healthy and happy summer.

Our first Philoptochos Meeting will take place on Sunday, September 3rd right after the Divine Liturgy. We always welcome new people to our meetings! Come learn what Philoptochos is all about and join in on some of our activities for the year. If you would like to be included in the Philoptochos email list or become a member of Philoptochos, please join us at this first meeting or email me at pcameron@tds.net or call me at 608-219-1659.

Coffee Hour: We always need help with our coffee hours on Sundays after the Divine Liturgy. This is a good way to get to know others and help with this festive, social time. The schedule is made up every June and allows each group of 3 – 4 women to serve 3 times/year. There are substitutes to call or you can switch with someone from another group if you find there is a conflict with your date. Please email or call me for more information.

For Coffee Hour Hostesses: Please see the new and revised Coffee Hour CHECKLIST posted in the kitchen for procedures and details for coffee hour hostesses. Alice Beneker and others have also put all the coffee hour supplies under the beautiful new counter in our church hall for our convenience.

Baklava Plus: The Fall brings our major fundraiser – Baklava Plus. We bake and prepare Greek and other ethnic delicacies to sell before the holidays. The Baklava Plus bakes sale is typically from 9-noon the Saturday before Thanksgiving – November 18th this year. We will need lots of hands to help in all the stages of getting this amazing & fun event off the ground! Maria Heide, our bake sale guru, will be chairing this event and will need all the help she can muster.

Local Activities:

Aug 19th – Visit to Mrs. Vasiliki Karabatsos's incredible farm in Brodhead and learned about candle making.

Aug-Sept 2017 – Emerson School Supply Drive

Aug 14th – Assumption Vespers and Reception

Aug 29 – Cooking and Serving for Homeless at Grace Episcopal

Sept 1st – Cooking and Serving for River Food Pantry Community Meal – we still need help!

Sept 3rd – First meeting at church after the Divine Liturgy

Sept 23rd – First Saturday for assembling Spanakopita for Baklava Plus

September Obligations (National and Metropolis)

Hellenic College/Holy Cross Scholarship Fund

Retired Clergy and Widowed Presvyteres Benevolent Fund

Outreach Committee

Emerson School Drive

Margo completed all the shopping this week with the **\$768.00** of donations....yes, not \$268.00 but **\$768.00!!!** The original \$268 was increased by a VERY generous \$500 donation by Nick

and Judy Topitzes. Nick wanted to pass on how much he supports the work that the Outreach/Philoptochos group is doing for the community, so a big thank you goes out to the Topitzes'!!

River Food Pantry

During Greek Fest we collected nonperishable food to donate to the pantry, in addition to donating unused /uncooked food left over from Greek Fest.

We are cooking again for the pantry this Friday, September 1st and volunteering during the Friday evening grocery run. If you can join us from 4:30 - 8:30, contact Nancy Briamis or Patti Cameron. We would like to support the pantry by volunteering as a group Friday evenings on a regular basis; please contact Nancy Briamis if you are interested in volunteering in the future.

You can support the River Food Pantry at these upcoming events! Visit their website at www.riverfoodpantry.org for more information on donating or volunteering.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT Challenge Match

Now through September 30, NEW and lapsed donors can DOUBLE the IMPACT of their donation to The River Food Pantry as part of a Second Harvest Food bank Challenge Match of \$5,000. Add "double" in the comment section online, or on the memo of the check. DONATE TODAY!

Join The River Food Pantry for the 8th annual Harvest Dinner for Hunger on Sunday, October 1st at The East Side Club (Monona Drive) from 4:30 - 8:00 p.m. Attendees will enjoy a multi-course meal and local flavors from Madison Originals restaurants, a silent auction, raffles, games, live music and inspirational stories told by those touched by The River. Tickets are \$65/person or \$520/table of 8.

The River is looking for volunteers to help work a concession stand during all home UW-Madison football games at Camp Randall. A portion of the sales from the concession stand benefits The River. It's fast and fun and for a great cause! Volunteers are needed the first home game Friday, September 1 and all other home games during the season.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jenny Josheff, Director, agocssdirector@gmail.com, Fr. Michael, Spiritual Advisor, frmichael@agocwi.org

The Sunday School teachers are pleased to welcome everyone back from the summer break. Sunday School will start on Sunday, September 10th. Parents, please plan on spending a minute or two filling out a registration form when you drop your child off that first day.

The Sunday School is looking for someone to lead the Christmas Pageant this year. The pageant is scheduled for December 16th. Please let Jenny Josheff know if you are interested.

JOY/GOYA

Michelle Bayouth, mbayouth@icloud.com

Greetings! I've been asked to attempt to restart the GOYA and JOY youth groups, and am looking forward to planning a kickoff event for early October.

GOYA is designed for youths aged 13-18, and JOY for youths aged 8-12. It is really important for our children to have activities that enrich the spiritual lives that we foster in our homes and our liturgical lives. These experiences ground our youth in the love of the Church, and align our service with the teachings of the faith.

As I am new to the parish, I simply do not know very many people, so I hope that you will help me meet your children in the coming weeks so that I can get to know them. Thank you!

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

Peli Galiti, pgaliti@yahoo.gr

There will be no spiritual meetings in September and I will be in Greece the whole month of October. The first spiritual meetings of this season will start on Thursday, November 16.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

J and M Home Helpers

AGOC's handymen, John and Mike, will do minor home repairs and maintenance for \$25/hour, with the money for their work being donated to the church.



Call Mike at (608) 516- 9188 and John at (608) 575-1014 today!



Bone Marrow Registry Drive

Meet Kosta!



Kosta, age 38, was recently diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. He enjoys baseball games with his nephew and is very active in the Greek community. Kosta needs a blood stem cell transplant in order to save his life. Please consider doing a simple cheek swab to test if you are a match for Kosta, or any patient with similar needs as Kosta. To join Be The Match registry, you can fill out a packet with your general contact info and do a simple cheek swab (takes about 5min). Be The Match is the world's leading nonprofit organization focused on saving lives through marrow and umbilical cord blood transplantation.

Sign up today!!
YOU Could Save a Life!

— When? —

September 10, 2017

10:00 am - ?

— Where? —

**Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church**

**11 N 7th Street
Madison, WI 53704**

Can't make it to the drive?

Register ONLINE!

www.bethematch.org

**PROMO CODE:
SWAB4LIFE**



**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF
THE ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
MADISON, WISCONSIN**

ARTICLE 1 – NAME OF CHURCH

Section 1: The Church will be named, known and styled as “Assumption Greek Orthodox Church,” and for purposes and convenience will be referred to hereafter as “the Parish.”

Section 2: The corporate name of the Church is “Hellenic Orthodox Community of Madison, Wisconsin”, a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

ARTICLE 2 – MISSION STATEMENT

Section 1: ~~Mission Statement to be developed from the Vision 2001 initiative.~~

We are a Greek Orthodox Christian Church that serves our diverse cultural and ethnic parish community by providing opportunities and means to joyfully grow spiritually through communal celebration and experience as faithful Christians in the image of Jesus Christ.

Section 2: The purpose for which the Parish is organized is for the worship of All Mighty God in accordance with the principals, doctrine, faith, creed, discipline and usage of the Greek Orthodox Church, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The Parish, its members and the Parish Council shall, at all times, be subject to the laws, rules, usage and priestly appointments of the Archdiocese.

ARTICLE 3 – LOCATION

Section 1: The principle office of the Parish shall be located in the County of Dane, State of Wisconsin, or at any other location designated by the stewards of the Parish with the approval of the Diocesan Bishop.

ARTICLE 4 – SEAL

Section 1: The official seal of the Parish shall be that of the Archdiocese.

Section 2: The official seal of the Parish shall remain in the care and custody of the Priest and is to be used only on documents and certificates pertaining to births, baptisms, marriages. The seal shall also be used for purposes required by law in the conduct of business related to the Parish property.

ARTICLE 5 – OWNERSHIP

Section 1: The Church shall exist perpetually and title to all Church property, whether real or personal, shall be vested in accordance with UPR.

ARTICLE 6 – OFFICERS

Section 1: The Executive Officers of the Parish Council shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, ~~and~~ Treasurer, **and Assistant Treasurer.**

Section 2: Any steward of the Parish who has reached the age of 18 and has been stewards of the Parish for three consecutive years prior to that election year, and has served as a member of the Parish Council for a period of at least one year and is a current member of the Council shall be eligible to hold Executive Office on the Parish Council.

Section 3: The Officers of the Parish Council shall be elected by a majority vote of the Parish Council Stewards present, at a special meeting called for the purpose of electing Officers. The Officers thus elected shall serve for a period of one year.

ARTICLE 7 – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Section 1: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Parish Council. He or she shall be responsible for the execution of all Orders and Resolutions of the Parish Council. He or she shall be responsible (together with the Treasurer) for the execution of all checks, bonds, mortgages, contracts, notes and other documents necessary for the conduct of orderly, necessary and customary Parish business.

Section 2: The President shall appoint and remove and Standing and Special Committees.

Section 3: The President shall be an ex-officio member of all Standing and Special Committees.

Section 4: The President shall issue the call for all meetings of the Parish Council. Meeting notices shall be given verbally, in writing, **by email**, or by printed notice and include the time, location and general topic of discussion. Meeting notices shall be given at least five days prior to such a meeting. If the President shall refuse to call such meetings, then the majority of the members of the Parish Council shall call such a meeting in accordance with the same meeting notice protocol.

Section 5: The President shall issue the call for all meetings of the general assembly. Meeting notices shall be presented in writing, **by email**, or by printed notice and include the time, location and **agenda** ~~general topic of discussion~~. Meeting notices shall be given at least **ten** ~~five~~ days prior to such a meeting.

Section 6: The President shall generally perform all acts authorized by these bylaws and those issued by the Archdiocese and he or she shall also perform all duties general pertaining to the office of President.

VICE PRESIDENT

Section 1: The Vice President shall assist the President in the performance of his or her duties.

Section 2: The Vice President shall, during the absence or disability of the President, preside at all meetings of the Parish Council.

Section 3: The Vice President shall have such powers as may be necessary to discharge the duties which may be assigned to him or her by the President.

Section 4: The Vice President shall also perform such other duties as generally pertaining to the office of Vice President.

SECRETARY

Section 1: The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the general assembly and of the Parish Council and shall act as clerk thereof. He or she shall record and preserve the minutes of each meeting in a minute book kept for that purpose (or official document recognized for that purpose). He or she shall give or cause to be given notice for all meetings of the general assembly and the Parish Council where such notice is required. The Secretary shall in addition thereto perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Parish Council or of the President under whose supervision he or she may then be.

TREASURER AND ASSISTANT TREASURER

Section 1: The Treasurer shall have custody of the Parish fund, securities and evidence of indebtedness. All disbursements of Parish funds must have the signatures of the Treasurer and one other Parish Board member.

Section 2: The Treasurer shall keep complete, accurate, and contemporary records of the Stewardship pledges and other charges paid the stewards of the congregation

and shall periodically send notice to members who are delinquent in their financial obligation to the Parish.

Section 3: The Treasurer shall render such written reports or other records as may be required by the Parish Council or the President. He or she shall also administer from such funds all payments and satisfactions of legal debt of the Parish.

Section 4: The Treasurer shall keep complete, accurate, and contemporary books of account, showing receipts and disbursements. These books and records shall be the exclusive property of the Church. He or she shall render to the President or the Parish Council, upon request, a full accounting of his or her acts as Parish Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Parish.

Section 5: The Treasurer shall deposit all Parish monies in a depository designated for such purpose by the Parish Council. Such an account shall be in the name of the Church. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may generally pertain to the office of the Treasurer.

Section 6: The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in all tasks, and can act as Treasurer in his/her absence. The Assistant Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may generally pertain to the office of the Assistant Treasurer.

ARTICLE 8 – PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1: The business of the Parish shall be managed by the Parish Council. The Council shall consist of the Priest, who is a non-voting member, and ~~twelve~~ **fourteen** stewards of the Parish in good standing. **Twelve stewards will be full voting members, and two stewards will be alternate members.**

Section 2: The Parish Council Stewards are elected ~~for a term not to exceed three years~~ by the stewards of the Parish who have met their stewardship financial obligations to the Parish. **The term of the twelve full voting members shall be three years, and the term of the two alternate members shall be one year.** Each year, one-third of the **full voting members and all alternate members** Parish Council membership shall be considered for re-election on a rotating basis. **The candidates with the highest number of votes will be elected as full Council members. The two candidates with the next highest number of votes will be elected as alternate members.** ~~In the event of a tie vote, a run-off vote consisting of the candidates who tied, will take place no sooner than one week and no later than three weeks after the original election date.~~

Section 3: The governing body of the Parish shall be the Parish Council. The Parish Council shall administer and manage the business of the Parish and shall exercise such

powers as are expressly granted to it by these bylaws and those of the Archdiocese. Without limiting the powers, general and specific, hereinbefore and hereinafter granted, the Parish Council shall also have the following powers:

- A) To appoint, suspend or remove such employees or agents as it may deem for the benefit of the Parish; to determine their respective duties and to adjust or modify at its discretion their duties and salaries.
- B) To manage business affairs of the Parish; to manage, control and do all things necessary for the conservation of the Parish property and the income therefrom, if any. The Parish Council shall establish fees for property usage and services.

Section 4: The Parish Council shall not sell, buy, pledge, mortgage or otherwise encumber the real property of the Parish; provided, however, that such acts may be performed upon the Parish Council having first been authorized to do so by proper resolution of the general assembly and the Diocesan Bishop. Refer to UPR for regulation affecting property transactions.

Section 5: The Parish Council shall hold regular meetings at least once a month. Such meetings shall be held at the call of the President. Notice of the regular meetings shall be given in accordance with the protocol provided in Article 7, Section 4.

Section 6: A majority of the Parish Council in office shall constitute a quorum and the act of the majority present shall be the act of the Parish Council. **If a Parish Council member is not in attendance, then an alternate member present shall take his or her place.** In the event a quorum is not present at a regular meeting of the Parish Council, or properly called special meeting, the Officers present, after a lapse of one-half hour, may adjourn the meeting.

Section 7: Vacancy on the Parish Council by reason of death, resignation, disqualification or other, shall be addressed in the manner provided in the UPR.

Section 8: Each Parish Council Stewards upon being elected, shall take an oath, administered by the Priest in the Church before he or she shall enter upon the duties of his or her office.

Section 9: Any Parish Council Stewards found not upholding the dogma, teaching, traditions, holy canons, worship or moral principles of the Greek Orthodox Church, as well as the constitutional charter, discipline and regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, can be removed from the Parish Council by a 5/6th majority vote of the Parish Council.

Section 10: Individuals who wish to address the Parish Council shall contact the President at least one day prior to the scheduled meeting date.

ARTICLE 9 – PARISH ASSEMBLY

Section 1: A Parish assembly is the general meeting of the stewards in good standing of the Parish.

Section 2: To be considered a steward in good standing of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, you must:

- A) Be in proper Sacramental order with the Church (as defined by the Canons of the Church).
- B) Be an Orthodox Christian (through baptism or confirmation).
- C) Have indicated your intentions on fulfilling some type of stewardship commitment to the Parish. This can be done by completing a stewardship pledge card and returning it to the Parish Treasurer or Priest.
- D) Be current to the previous quarter with your stewardship pledge.
- E) Must first apply to the Priest of the Parish in order that the spiritual status of such applicant may be determined to the Priest's approval. ~~If an applicant is not approved for membership in the Church, then all payments made by such unsuccessful applicant to the Parish shall be fully refunded to him or her.~~

Section 3: In order to have a Sacramental **Service** of the Church performed (wedding, baptism, sponsor, or best man), or to have a funeral performed, the following criteria must be met:

- A) Be a steward in good standing in this Parish ~~(or any other Parish in the Archdiocese or any other recognized by the Archdiocese) for a period of three years or greater. If a person has fulfilled that criteria, a pledge is then required to the Parish (or verification of a pledge from another parish in the Archdiocese as described above).~~
- B) If a person is not or has not been a steward of this Parish (or any other Parish in the Archdiocese), prior to having the Sacrament performed, a pledge will be required and a payment of one half as a sign of their intention of becoming a part of the fullness of the community life. Stewardship shall be considered valid for these persons upon fulfillment of three fourths of their total pledge. This does not apply to persons entering our Church through**

~~confirmation or those who wish to convert.~~ **Sacramental services for non-stewards shall be decided by the Priest for those requesting the particular service.**

- C) Cases of question or special circumstance shall be decided upon by the Parish Priest in the strictest confidence.
- D) No person shall be denied a Sacrament of the Church due to genuine financial difficulties.

Section 4: Those stewards in good standing are entitled to: serve on the Parish Council; vote in the Parish assembly; and receive Sacraments. ~~Those individuals not in good standing will be treated as non-members with regard to the use of the Parish facilities and therefore, subject to the fees identified in Article 8, Section 3 (B).~~

Section 5: "Friends of the Parish." Individuals who are not Orthodox Christians by baptism or confirmation and who wish to contribute to the Church and/or participate in non-sacramental activities, may do so by becoming a "Friend of the Parish."

Section 6: Thirty-three percent plus one of the existing stewards of the Parish in good standing, shall constitute a quorum of any meeting of the general assembly.

ARTICLE 10 – STEWARDSHIP POLICIES

Section 1: The policies of the Stewardship program are listed below and shall be available as public information to all parishioners. These criteria include:

- ~~A) A Stewardship Committee shall be considered a standing committee of the Parish Council, consisting of two members of the Parish Council appointed by the President.~~
- ~~B) The responsibility of the Stewardship Committee is to advise the Parish Council on the formulation, implementation, and, if needed, revision of the Stewardship program. Any major policy provisions are subject to the approval of the general assembly.~~
- C) Responsibility for the recording and keeping of Stewardship records shall be with the Treasurer. The Executive Officers of the Parish, and Priests shall be the only persons with access to the Stewardship records.
- D) Confidentiality of pledges from year to year shall be maintained. The records of Stewardship pledges shall be maintained for a period of at least seven calendar years.

- E) Financial statements as to the condition of the Stewardship program (and the Parish at large) shall be prepared by the Treasurer and sent to each parishioner on a semi-annual basis (July 1 and January 1).
- F) Individual **semi-annual** ~~quarterly~~ record verifications shall be mailed to each person who has pledged (January 1, ~~April 1,~~ **and** July 1, ~~and October 1~~) by the Treasurer with strict confidentiality maintained.
- G) Cash offerings received in envelopes shall be credited to the Stewardship ledger corresponding to that particular envelope number or name.
- H) Stewardship pledge cards shall be mailed to each parishioner by December 1 for the following year. Offering envelopes will be available at the Parish after this date.
- I) The Archdiocese roster shall be updated quarterly (April 1, July 1, October 1, December 31) by the Treasurer. Anyone who has not pledged by June 1 shall be omitted from the official roster (to be added when a pledge has been received.)
- ~~J) All policies with an explanation of the Stewardship program shall be printed in pamphlet form and mailed out to each parishioner immediately upon adoption of this revised program and given to new members~~

ARTICLE 11 – CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1: All clubs and organizations of the Parish shall work for the good of the Church. Any such organizations which violate the bylaws of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church and that of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese shall be subjected to control of the Parish Council and may, as an option of the Parish Council, be dissolved.

ARTICLE 12

Section 1: This Church shall forever remain Greek Orthodox and shall not default to any other faith.

ARTICLE 13 – AMENDMENTS

Section 1: These bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the Stewards in good standing who are present at a Parish assembly meeting, provided proper

notice of such meeting or mailing in compliance with these bylaws has been given to each member entitled to such notice.

Section 2: The bylaws if amended must receive approval by the Diocesan representative on behalf of the Archdiocese of America.

AGOC Proposed Endowment Bylaws

1. Investment Committee
 - a. Appointed by Parish Council
 - i. Can include non-council members
 - ii. All parishioners can provide input
 - b. Makes specific recommendations regarding investments
 - i. Goal: Select a well-established mutual fund company and well-established mutual fund(s), e.g. broad market index fund with low expenses, for long-term protection of principle and generation of income
 - ii. Makes asset allocation decisions (e.g. 80% stock and 20% bond)
 - c. Makes recommendation to Parish Council
 - d. Monitor allocations (annually), and make reallocation recommendations
2. Parish Council
 - a. Makes final investment decisions upon advice of Investment Committee
 - b. Controls all deposits and withdrawals, subject to the restrictions listed below
3. Control
 - a. Endowment owned by church corporation
 - b. Three signatures required for transactions: Priest, President, Vice-President
 - c. All withdrawals approved by Council and Assembly as described below
 - d. Treasurers, President, and Investment Committee review account statements
 - e. Account statements available to all parishioners upon request
4. Deposits into Endowment
 - a. Deposits can be made at any time
 - b. Requires recommendation by Parish Council
 - c. Requires majority vote of the Stewards in good standing who are present at a properly called General Assembly meeting
5. Withdrawals for Budget
 - a. Up to 4% of endowment value can be included in annual Budget as Income
 - b. Requires recommendation by Parish Council
 - c. Requires majority vote of the Stewards in good standing who are present at a properly called General Assembly meeting
6. Withdrawals for Repairs
 - a. Up to \$100,000
 - b. Requires recommendation by Parish Council
 - c. Requires majority vote of the Stewards in good standing who are present at a properly called General Assembly meeting
7. Withdrawals for non-repair Major Projects
 - a. Requires recommendation by Parish Council with two-thirds majority
 - b. Minimum two General Assembly meetings, first for discussion, second for vote
 - c. Requires two-thirds majority vote of the Stewards in good standing who are present at a properly called General Assembly meeting
8. The endowment bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Stewards in good standing who are present at a properly called General Assembly meeting