

2017 PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDATE PLEDGE

I understand that the aims and purposes of the Parish are to keep, practice and proclaim the Orthodox Christian Faith pure and undefiled. I understand that the Parish shall express the life of the Church in the local community according to the Eastern (Hellenic) Orthodox faith and tradition, sanctifying the faithful, and edifying the religious and ethical life of the faithful in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, the decrees and Canons of the Holy Apostles and the Seven Ecumenical Councils of the Ancient Undivided Church as interpreted by the practice of our Mother Church of Christ, the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople. I also understand that the diakonia (work and ministry) of the Parish will include proclaiming 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 their spiritual life; adding to their number instructing others and receiving them into the Church through baptism and/or Chrismation; educating them in the Orthodox faith and in the ethos of the Church through the establishment of programs, schools and philanthropic activities and implementing Christian ministries.

I understand that the Metropolitan will regularly bless and systematically supervise each Parish. I understand that the Priest or Proistamenos heads the Parish and exercises in its behalf the priestly duties, directing its orderly life, preserving its unity, keeping it faithful to its divine purpose, sanctifying his flock through the administration of the sacraments and performance of all other prescribed services of worship, proclaiming the teachings of the Apostles and the Dogma of the Fathers, 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. I understand further that the Priest, 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 Metropolitan for the whole life and activities of his Parish. I understand that the Parish shall be administered by the Priest and the Parish Council cooperatively and that the Parish Council is comprised of the Priest and the elected lay members of the Parish who have been ratified by the Metropolitan of the Metropolis.

I understand that the duties of the Parish Council include the following:

- To administer the affairs of the Parish in such a manner as to aid the Priest in the fulfillment of its aims and purposes, establish a stewardship program, appoint a stewardship committee to implement and expand the stewardship program of the Parish.
- To collect the revenue of the Church, issuing receipts thereof and paying by check the salaries of the Parish personnel, Parish expenses, budgetary grant-in-aid for Parish educational and philanthropic organizations and such sums as may be fixed by the Clergy-Laity Congress for the support of the Archdiocese.
- To buy, sell or mortgage Parish property as provided by the Uniform Parish Regulations.

PARISH COUNCIL CANDIDATE PLEDGE *(continued)*

- To submit a budget for approval to the first General Assembly of each year, to submit monthly to the Archdiocese the portion of the total commitment allocation for the Archdiocese and Metropolis Ministries and needs, to submit to the Metropolitan at the end of each year a report of stewardship and submit annually to the Archdiocese and to the Metropolis the Parish budget for the ensuing year and the audited financial statement for the prior year.

I will be a model for the Parish by conforming faithfully to the worship and sacramental life of the Church, its doctrines, and Canons, discipline, the Archdiocesan Charter, and the Special Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, and the encyclicals of the Church. I will model faithful membership with my stewardship of time, talents, and treasures. I will apply the tenets of the Orthodox faith in my daily life and activities, will seek personal spiritual growth, attend Divine Liturgy and other services of worship on Sundays and Holy Days, keep the rules and fasts of the Orthodox tradition, will frequently receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, will train and teach the young according to the faith and spirit of Orthodoxy, will respect the Clergy, the Ecclesiastical authority and all governing bodies of the Church, will be obedient in all matters of faith and Ecclesiastical order, and will cooperate in every way towards the welfare and prosperity of the Parish and the success of its sacred mission. I will attend all Parish Council meetings unless there is a justifiable reason for not doing so. I will attend all General Assemblies of the Parish unless there is a justifiable reason for not doing so. I will attend all meetings called by the Metropolitan for members of the Parish Council or the officers holding my position on the Parish Council, unless there is a justifiable reason for not doing so.

I am willing to affirm the following oath without any reservation if I am elected to the Parish Council:

“I do solemnly affirm 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 regulations of the Greek Orthodox Church of 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.”

If I fail to adhere to the foregoing, I understand that I may be removed from the Parish Council by the Metropolitan of the Metropolis.

On this ____ day of _____, 20____, I solemnly affirm that I understand and will to my best ability adhere to the foregoing if I am elected to become a member of the Parish Council.

Name (Please Print)

Signature

Church _____ Location _____

******For ratification, Election Committee please return this signed page to Metropolis of Atlanta.**