

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PARISH BY-LAWS REVISED NOVEMBER, 1994

ACCEPTED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECEMBER, 1994

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:

Peter A. Angelas, Chairman

Dan Dallas

Tula Georgeson

John Liadas

Soter Liberty

Ed Power

Revised Nov 14, 1994

PARISH BY-LAWS

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

25225 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan

ARTICLE 1 - PREAMBLE

Section 1: The Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America are hereby adopted.

Section 2: The Parish By-Laws are established in accordance with Part 3, Article 1, Section 1 of the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America and shall supersede any previous by-laws enacted by Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church.

Section 3: All references to Archdiocese shall mean the Archdiocese of North and South America. Parish shall mean Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church of Farmington Hills, Michigan. Parishioners shall mean members in good standing as established by the Archdiocese and the Parish. Uniform Parish Regulations shall mean the current Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America as established and properly amended.

ARTICLE II - PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1: A Parish Council shall be established consisting of eleven (11) Parish Members who shall be elected by the Parish Assembly for a term of three (3) years.

Section 2: The officers of the Parish Council shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and a Treasurer. The Parish Council shall elect all the officers.

The President may appoint his or her own administrative assistants and chairpersons of the various committees to assist in implementing the programs of the Church. All appointments made by the President must be approved by simple majority of Parish Council.

Section 3: For the election of the 1995 Parish Council, there will be seven (7) Parish Council seats open. The four (4) persons receiving the most votes shall serve a term of three (3) years.

The next three (3) persons elected shall serve a term of two (2) years. Thereafter, the terms shall be alternated for election as set

forth in Article II, Section 1.

Section 4: The Parish Council shall develop a program and an annual budget for approval by the general assembly. This program and annual budget shall be prepared for a vote by the general assembly before the end of the first quarter of each calendar year. In addition, the Parish Council under the leadership of the Priest shall have the following duties: to attend divine services regularly and to participate in the sacramental life of the Church thereby setting an example for the Parish, to administer the affairs of the Parish in such 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 grants-in-aid for the Parish educational and philanthropic organizations and such aims as may be fixed by the Clergy-Laity Congresses for the support of the Archdiocese, to buy, sell or mortgage

Parish property, as herein provided.

All Parish personnel, including school teachers, are engaged or discharged by the Parish Council with the consent of the Priest. Upon the expiration of its term, the Parish Council shall surrender to the succeeding Parish Council all Parish records, including membership lists, minute books, bank books, check books, journals, financial records, and all other property of the Parish. Such transfer shall be effected by letter of transmittal a copy of which shall be sent to the Bishop.

The Parish Council and its officers may exercise all additional authority consonant with Regulations herein, the Parish by-laws, and the limitations imposed by the laws of the state in which the Parish is incorporated.

Section 5: No person shall be eligible to serve on the Parish Council for consecutive terms. It is the intent of this section that a person not be eligible for re-election until two (2) years after expiration of term.

Section 6: The Parish Council shall meet at least once a month.

Section 7: A simple majority of the members of the Parish Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 8: A vacancy on the Parish Council, after the Parish Council Officers have been sworn in shall be filled by the Parish Council by electing a successor therefor from amongst the members of the Parish in good standing for the unexpired portion of the term of such vacancy.

Section 9: Any Church officer may be recalled or impeached when two-thirds (2/3) of a quorum of the Parish Assembly so decide, subject to the approval of the Archdiocese.

Section 10: Parish Council shall approve and govern all Parish organizations not mandated by the Uniform Parish Regulations. Such approval shall require a set of proposed by-laws from any such Parish organization seeking approval.

ARTICLE III - ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1: Annually, a three to five person Board of Elections Committee shall be established by the General Assembly.

Section 2: The Board of Elections Committee shall assume the responsibility for nominating Parish Council candidates and administering the elections as defined in the Archdiocese Uniform Parish Regulations.

Section 3: Candidates for election to the Parish Council shall be nominated at the last Parish Assembly preceding the election. Nominations may be made by the Board of Elections Committee and/or by members of the Parish in good standing.

Section 4: A member duly enrolled in the Parish register but delinquent in his or her Parish financial obligations may vote in the election by meeting his or her financial obligations at any time prior to balloting.

Section 5: A new member of the Parish may vote in the election if he or she has been enrolled at least three months prior thereto.

Section 6: Elections shall be held at a place on Parish premises previously announced by the Board of

Elections Committee and voting shall be by secret ballot. Elections shall be held annually, no earlier than the first Sunday of November or no later than the second Sunday in December.

Absentee ballots will be considered only in special circumstances upon application to Parish Council. It will be within the Parish Council's discretion to rule on these applications.

Within each family in good standing, the husband and wife each have a right to vote.

Single members in good standing are entitled to one vote.

Section 7: The Board of Elections Committee shall, in cooperation with the Priest and the Parish Council check the list of candidates, notify all eligible members concerning the elections, supervise the elections and tabulate and report the results.

Section 8: A vacancy on the Board of Elections shall be filled by the Parish Council by electing a



successor therefor from amongst the members of the Parish in good standing.

Section 9: The election results shall be entered in the minute book of the Parish, showing the number of votes cast for each candidate, and shall be signed by each member of the Board of Elections. The candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected for the ensuing term. In the case of a tie, a majority vote ballot by the other members of the incoming Parish Council at its first meeting will be necessary to determine the winner. The tied candidates if otherwise found to be qualified, shall be provisionally approved by the Bishop when he ratifies the election results and the winner shall, upon his or her selection, take and subscribe to the prescribed oath of office and participate in the election of officers.

Section 10: Any member of the Parish questioning the validity of any election may within five (5) days after such election lodge a written protest with the Board of Elections Committee and the Parish Priest. Such protest shall be signed by the questioning member and at least four (4) other Parish members. If the protest

is not satisfied, it will be forwarded to the Bishop by the Parish Priest for final disposition. The decision of the Bishop thereon shall be final.

Section 11: In case of the resignation of any member-elect of the incoming Parish Council, or vacancy for any other reason, in the interim between the day of elections and the election of officers, the members of the incoming Council shall, after the election of officers, elect a new member from among the eligible Parish members to fill the vacancy.

Section 12: In the event that an insufficient number of candidates, shall be nominated for election to the Parish Council, the election of those nominated shall take place in accordance with the election procedures established by the Archdiocese. The Parish Council after the certification and the taking of office of any new members shall proceed to fill any vacancies on the Council from among the eligible Parish members. Those chosen by the Council shall, in such order, be determined by the Council, and following certification by the Bishop, serve the term that a member duly elected by the Parish would have served.

#### ARTICLE IV - PARISHIONERS

Section 1: Our Parish will operate on a stewardship program and is based on the fair share pledge commitment. The fair-share commitment is used for the expenses of the Parish. All parishioners must commit annually in accordance with their sincere ability to pay the fair-share of the approved budget.

Section 2: Any person, eighteen (18) years of age or older, 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, who has met his/her financial obligations to the Parish and abides by the regulations herein and the by-laws of the Parish, is a member in good standing of the Parish, except that person under twenty-one (21) shall not serve on the Parish Council when such service is contrary to local law.

Section 3: A person qualifying for membership as above and wishing to be a member of more than one Parish must pay his or her financial obligations to each Parish.

Section 4: No person shall be accepted for membership in

a Parish while retaining membership in a non-Christian religion, or in an Orthodox Parish which defies the jurisdiction or the ecclesiastical authority of the Archdiocese, or who deliberately disregards and transgresses the moral law as may be determined by a spiritual court.

Section 5: The Parish register should include the following information concerning each member: baptismal and family name, profession, date of Baptism, Chrismation and Marriage, complete family record of wife (husband) and children, date of entry into the Parish, indicating if transferred from another Parish, record of payment of Parish and Archdiocesan financial obligations, and date of death closing the said register record.

Section 6: The religious, moral and social duties of a parishioner are to apply the tenets of the Orthodox faith to his or her life activities, to attend the Divine Liturgy and other services of worship faithfully on Sundays and Holy days, to keep the rules and fasts of the Orthodox tradition, to receive frequently the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, to train and teach the young according to the

faith and spirit of Orthodoxy, to respect the clergy, the ecclesiastical authority, and all governing bodies of the Church, to be obedient in matters of faith and ecclesiastical order, and to cooperate in every way towards the welfare and prosperity of the Parish and the success of its sacred mission. It is strongly encouraged that all individuals eighteen (18) years of age and older participate in the financial aspects of Church life.

Section 7: The Priest shall judge cases of indigence or other special circumstances justifying the waiver of a parishioner's financial obligations.

Section 8: The rights of a parishioner are to attend all regular and special Parish Assemblies, to take part in its discussions and to vote therein, and 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 activities. A parishioner shall have the right to attend Parish Council meetings.

**ARTICLE V - PARISH ASSEMBLY**

- Section 1: The Parish Assembly is the general meeting of the members of the Parish.
- Section 2: The regular Parish Assemblies shall be convened by the Parish Council at least twice (2) each year at dates fixed by the Parish Council. Special Parish Assemblies shall be held when the Priest and/or Parish Council deem it necessary, or when ten percent (10%) of the members of the Parish submit a written petition therefor to the Parish Council stating the purpose thereon for such meeting.
- Section 3: The members are summoned to Parish Assemblies by written notice, via U.S. mail - first class, made at least ten days prior thereto, and listing the agenda for regular Parish Assemblies as preferred by the Parish Council. Proxies shall not be permitted at Parish Assemblies.
- Section 4: A Parish Assembly consists of the members of the Parish who have met their financial obligations to the Parish in accordance with the Parish By-laws. A person whose name appears on the membership rolls but who is in arrears in the payment of his or her financial

obligations may take part in the Parish Assembly by meeting such obligations by the meeting day. New members may exercise their vote at Parish Assemblies if they have been members in good standing for at least three (3) months. The Priest(s) shall be non-voting member(s) of the Parish Assembly.

Section 5: Holy Cross quorum is determined as one-tenth (1/10) of all parishioners. The exception hereto is found at Article V, Section 11.

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

Section 7: The Parish Assembly shall follow Robert's Rules of Order. Only the Parish Assembly Secretary shall have the option of using a tape recorder for transcription purposes only. Upon approval of the minutes of the Parish Assembly meeting, the audio tape shall be destroyed.

Section 8: The minutes of the Parish Assembly shall be signed by the Priest, the Chairman of the Parish Assembly and the Secretary of the Parish Assembly.

Section 9: Notwithstanding any previous provisions, all Parish Assembly meetings pertaining to the

discussion of the sale, purchase, lease, mortgage and/or encumbrance of real property shall require a quorum determined as one-third (1/3) of the current Parish membership. If this one-third (1/3) quorum is not achieved there will be a reversion to Uniform Parish By-Laws, Article V, Section 5.

At such Parish Assembly specific proposals pertaining to the sale, purchase, lease, mortgage and/or encumbrance of real property shall be determined for final subsequent approval upon a written vote with at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the current Parish membership participating in such vote.

Notice of any Parish Assembly pertaining to the sale, purchase, lease, mortgage and/or encumbrance of real property will be via U.S. mail, first class, sent at least ten (10) days prior to such Parish Assembly. Such notice shall contain general information on the real estate matter to be discussed.

The voting on these specific proposals pertaining to the sale, purchase, lease,



mortgage and/or encumbrance of real property shall be through the use of written pre-printed ballots which shall be available at the Church office for at least twenty (20) days subsequent to the issuance of written notice sent via U.S. mail, first class. Absentee ballots shall be available upon request to the Parish Assembly Chairperson and Parish Assembly Secretary charged with administering such election. The ballots shall be tabulated and verified by said Parish Assembly Chairperson, Parish Assembly Secretary and Parish Priest. The Parish Priest shall maintain the ballots for a minimum of one (1) year. Of the fifty-one percent (51%) who participate in such a vote, two-thirds (2/3) approval shall be necessary for the proposal to pass.

All decisions pertaining to the sale, purchase, lease, mortgage and/or encumbrance of real property shall be contingent upon Diocesan consent obtained subsequent to balloting in conformance with the Uniform Parish Regulations.

In the event fifty-one percent (51%) of the members fail to respond within the time allotted, a second balloting shall be conducted under the supervision of the Parish Assembly President, Parish Assembly Secretary and Parish Priest with ballots mailed to each Parish member in good standing to be returned within twenty-one (21) days. Two-thirds (2/3) of the respondents to this second balloting in favor of a proposal shall be required to pass the proposal. There is no requirement that a minimum number of ballots be cast on this second balloting. The voting provisions of this section shall be invoked for any proposal to alter this section.

**ARTICLE VI - CHURCH SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS**

Section 1: All Church services and sacraments shall be available to Parishioners at no cost.

Section 2: Special Church Services and sacraments shall be available to non-member Orthodox Christians only if approved by the Parish Council and/or Parish Priest.

**ARTICLE VII - RELIGION, EDUCATION, ATHLETICS AND SOCIAL EVENTS**

Section 1: Religious, educational, athletic and social facilities and activities may be subsidized by the Parish at the discretion of the Parish Council.

Section 2: Non-Parishioners may use such facilities only with the approval of the Parish Council.

**ARTICLE VIII - RELIGIOUS ARTICLES AND PLAQUES**

Section 1: Everyone shall be given the opportunity to donate to specific items and/or furnishings. Memorial donations, donations for new approved religious articles and/or furnishings will be recognized in a uniform manner.

Section 2: The uniform manner to recognize the above referenced donations shall be by inscription on the Holy Cross Church plaque boards.

**ARTICLE IX - OFFERINGS AND CANDLES**

Section 1: A permanent offering box will be available in the Narthex.

Section 2: There will be no collection trays passed in Church. Except, trays shall be passed on four specific occasions, i.e., Christmas Eve,

Easter, Good Friday, and Holy Cross Day. In addition, trays shall be passed on two additional occasions at the discretion of the Parish Council.

Section 3: Occasionally an offering tray will be made available in the Narthex or other suitable location when the Diocese, Archdiocese and/or Parish Council request special collections. The Priest may announce, at the Parish Council's request, that such an offering tray is available.

Section 4: Standard sized candles will be made available but shall not be priced.

#### ARTICLE X - BY-LAWS

Section 1: These by-laws shall be interpreted and followed with Christian good faith, and all irreconcilable problems and difficulties hereunder shall be resolved by the Parish Assembly.

Section 2: The Parish Assembly shall have the sole power to alter, amend or revoke these by-laws subject to the approval of the Diocese consistent with Article V, Section 5.

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church of Farmington Hills, Michigan  
General Assembly Minutes  
Sunday, June 23, 2002

Meeting Chairman: Jim Heller

Nominated by John Liadis and seconded by George Fekaris

Father Dean opened the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was called to order at 11:55 A.M. A list of members who signed the attendance sheet is attached. The customary agenda was not followed to allow for discussion of proposed motions:

**I. Revision of Article VIII Sections 1 & 2 of the local Parish Bylaws**

The proposed revision was as follows:

- Section 1: Everyone shall be given the opportunity to donate to specific items and /or furnishings. Memorial donations, donations for new approved religious articles and/or furnishings will be recognized in a uniform manner.
- Section 2: The uniform manner to recognize the above referenced donations shall be by inscription on the Holy Cross Church plaque boards.

Parishioners were notified by mail of the proposed changes prior to the meeting. There was a discussion of the changes. Ed Power made a motion to accept the revisions, however, in response to inquiries by Pan Pesaros and others, he withdrew his motion. The consensus of those present was that Section 1 was acceptable as proposed, but that the manner of recognizing donations be changed. Peter Angelas offered a modified version of Section 2 to read as follows:

**The uniform manner to recognize the above referenced donation shall be determined by the priest, donor(s) and the church council. Acknowledgement may include but need not be limited to an inscription on or near the donated item.**

Peter Angelas made a motion to accept this revised revision and the motion was seconded by Ed Power. A unanimous vote resulted in adoption of the revisions.

2009

**PROPOSED PARISH  
BY LAWS CHANGES  
VOTE 40 YES 2 NO PASSED ON MAY 10**

Original

Article II Section 1

*" A Parish Council shall be established consisting of (11) Parish Members who shall be elected by the Parish Assembly for term of (3) years.*

Proposed Change- Back to 9

We have been back to 9 for the past 12 years

Need to make it official

*" A Parish Council shall be established consisting of (9) Parish Members who shall be elected by the Parish Assembly for term of (3) years.*

Original

Article II Section 5

*"No person shall be eligible to serve on the Parish Council for consecutive terms. It is the intent of this section that a person not be eligible for re-election until two (2) years after the expiration of term"*

Proposed Change- 1 year off not 2

difficulty in filling Council positions

*"No person shall be eligible to serve on the Parish Council for consecutive terms. It is the intent of this section that a person not be eligible for re-election until one (1) year after the expiration of term"*