

# **PART ONE**

## ***Organization***

### **Article I**

#### **NAME AND NATURE OF ORGANIZATION**

Section 1. **Name.**

The name of this Parish is the "*Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George*".

Section 2. **Nature Of Organization.**

This Parish is a religious corporation organized pursuant to the laws of the State of Illinois, and in compliance with the usages, customs and canons of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Section 3. **Parish Formation Background.**

A. The Parish was formed on May 23, 1923 by the following Incorporators:

1. Reverend Daniel Golemis
2. Spyros Mannousopoulos
3. Michael J. Makakos
4. George Vatsineas
5. James J. Pappas
6. P.C. Papakostas

B. The Articles of Incorporation were recorded with the Cook County Recorder of Deeds on May 25, 1923 as Document Number 7949993 in Book 349 of Records at page 234-235 at 2:17 p.m.

### **Article II**

#### **AIMS AND PURPOSES**

Section 1. **Aims And Purposes.**

The aims and purposes of this Parish are to keep and proclaim pure and undefiled the Orthodox Christian Faith and traditions in conformity with the doctrine, canons, worship, discipline, usages and customs of the Church.

Section 2. **Work And Ministry.**

The diakonia (work and ministry) of this Parish consists of proclaiming the Gospel in accordance with the Orthodox Christian Faith, sanctifying its members through worship, the Divine Liturgy and the other sacraments, adding to their numbers by instructing others and admitting them to the Church through Baptism and/or Chrismation, educating in the Orthodox Faith and in the language of the Church through the establishment of appropriate schools and needed philanthropic institutions, and carrying on conscientiously philanthropic activities.

**Article III**

**FAITH AND ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY**

Section 1. **Faith And Canons.**

The Faith and Canons of this Parish, unchangeably and irrevocably, are those of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Section 2. **Ecclesiastical Authority.**

This Parish recognizes without limitation and irrevocably the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as its Ecclesiastical Authority.

**Article IV**

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THIS PARISH  
AND ITS ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY**

Section 1. **The Archdiocese.**

This Parish at all times shall be subject and inferior to its Ecclesiastical Authority, namely, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Section 2. **Conformity.**

This Parish shall in all respects, obey, conform with, and observe the Faith, Canons, Constitution, Government, Discipline, Worship, Customs, Regulations and Ordinances of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Uniform Parish Regulations (2005), hereinafter, the “Uniform Parish Regulations,” are hereby incorporated into these By-laws by this reference. In the event any conflict exists between these By-laws and the provisions of the Uniform Parish Regulations, the Uniform Parish Regulations shall govern.

Section 3. **Participation.**

This Parish shall participate in and send representatives to the Clergy-Laity Congresses of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and shall conform with, be bound by, and subject to the proceedings and regulations adopted thereat irrespective of whether it was represented or not.

## **PART TWO**

### ***Membership***

#### **Article I**

#### **MEMBERS**

Section 1. **Definition.**

Any person eighteen years of age or older, who was Baptized according to the rites of the Church, or who was received into the Church through Chrismation, who lives according to the Faith and Canons of the Church, who has met his or her yearly pledge of a financial obligation to this Parish or remains current with same, and abides by the By-Laws of this Parish, is a member in good standing of this Parish. Any person under the age of 22 who is still a student and living at home with their family shall not be required to pay separate membership dues, provided their family is current in their membership dues under the existing family membership plan offered by the Parish.

Section 2. **Member Of More Than One Parish.**

A person qualifying as a member pursuant to Section 1 of this Article, and wishing to be a member of this Parish or member of other Parishes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America must meet his or her pledged financial obligations to each Parish.

Section 3. **Limitation.**

No person shall be accepted as a member in this Parish while retaining membership in an Orthodox Parish which defies the jurisdiction or the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, or a non-Orthodox church, or any Christian denomination, or in a non-Christian religion who deliberately disregards and transgresses the moral law as may be determined by a spiritual court.

Section 4. **Transfers.**

When transferring from this Parish to another, a member shall be given a certificate of transfer by the Priest which shall include all the pertinent information contained in the register of this Parish. When transferring to this Parish from another Parish of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the member shall present to the Priest a certificate of transfer signed by his or her former Priest which shall include all the pertinent information contained in the Parish register.

Section 5. **Duties Of A Member.**

The religious, moral and social duties of a member are to apply the tenets of the Orthodox Faith to his or her life and 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 of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, 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 this Parish and the success of its sacred mission.

Section 6. **Obligations Of Members.**

The obligations of a member in good standing are to satisfy his or her yearly pledged financial and any other commitments made to this Parish and to remain current with same.

Section 7. **Waiver of Financial Obligation.**

The Priest shall judge cases of indigence or other special circumstances justifying the waiver of a member's yearly pledged financial obligation.

Section 8. **Rights Of Members.**

The rights of a member in good standing are to attend all regular and special Parish Assemblies, to take part in the discussions thereat 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 this Parish and in the direction of its life and activities.

## **Article II**

### **THE PARISH ASSEMBLY**

Section 1. **Definition.**

The Parish Assembly is the general meeting of the members of this Parish.

Section 2. **Meetings.**

Parish Assemblies shall be convened by the Parish Council at least twice 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 in good standing of this Parish submit a written petition for a Special Parish Assembly to the Parish Council stating the purpose thereon for such a meeting.

Section 3. **Notice Of Meetings.**

The members are summoned to Parish Assemblies by written notice, published in the weekly bulletin of the Parish, posted on the bulletin board of the Parish and mailed first class at least fifteen (15) days prior thereto, and limiting the agenda of the Parish Assembly thereon.

Section 4. **Composition Of Parish Assembly.**

A Parish Assembly consists of the members of this Parish in good standing who have satisfied or have remained current with their yearly pledged financial obligations to this Parish as of the date of the Parish Assembly. A member whose name appears on the membership records but who is in arrears in the satisfaction of his or her yearly pledged financial obligation or who is not current with his or her yearly pledged financial obligation to this Parish may take part in the Parish Assembly by satisfying such obligations. New members may exercise their vote at Parish Assemblies when they have been members in good standing for a period of time of at least three (3) consecutive months. The Priest shall be a non-voting member of the Parish Assembly. Proxies shall not be permitted at Parish Assemblies.

Section 5. **Quorum.**

Ten percent (10%) of the members of this Parish who are present and in good standing shall constitute a quorum for a Parish Assembly. If such a quorum is not present, the Parish Assembly shall be called a second time within twenty-eight (28) days at which time a quorum of members in good standing of this Parish shall not be necessary. Decisions may be taken at such time by the number of members in good standing of this Parish present with the exception of matters which pertain to the purchase, sale or encumbrance of property of this Parish in which case a quorum shall be required and the conditions of Part Three, Article II, Section 4 shall be adhered to.

Section 6. **Chairman and Recording Secretary**

Provided a quorum of the Parish Assembly is present as set forth in Section 5 of this Article, the Chairman and Recording Secretary of all Parish Assemblies shall be elected by a majority vote of the Parish Assembly prior to any Parish Assembly meeting. The

Recording Secretary shall prepare and keep the minutes of the meetings thereof, and record said minutes in the minute books and records of this Parish.

Section 7. **Minutes.**

The minutes of the Parish Assembly shall be signed by the Priest, the Chairman of the Parish Assembly and the Secretary of the Parish Council of this Parish.

Section 8. **Rules of Order.**

The meetings of the Parish Assembly shall be conducted under *Robert's Rules of Order*.

## **PART THREE**

### ***Administration***

#### **Article I**

#### **PARISH ADMINISTRATION**

Section 1. **Administration.**

This Parish shall be administered by the Priest and the Parish Council cooperatively in accordance with Chapter Three, Article 30, Section 2 of the Uniform Parish Regulations and the By-Laws of this Parish.

Section 2. **Parish Programs.**

The Priest by virtue of the ecclesiastical authority vested in him, shall guide and oversee the total program of this Parish, and is ultimately responsible with the Parish Council to the Bishop or Metropolitan of the Metropolis for the whole life and activities of this Parish. (For purposes of these By-laws, the terms "Bishop" and "Metropolitan" shall be used interchangeably throughout and shall in any event refer to the highest ranking ecclesiastical authority of the Church.)

Section 3. **Parish Register.**

The Parish register shall include the following available information concerning each member of this Parish: baptismal and family names, professions, date of baptism, Chrismation and marriage, complete family record of spouse and children, date of entry into this Parish, indicating if transferred from another Parish, record of payment of

yearly pledged financial obligations to this Parish, and the date of death or date of transfer, if known, closing said register records.

Section 4. **Dispute Resolution.**

Should a problem arise between a Priest and the Parish Council, the matter shall not be brought before the Parish Assembly. The Priest and/or the Parish Council shall have the right to refer the matter to the Metropolitan of the Metropolis for resolution and whose decision shall be final.

## **Article II**

### **PARISH PROPERTY**

Section 1. **Use of Property.**

Church edifice and other buildings constituting the property of this Parish shall be used to serve the religious, educational, recreational and philanthropic needs of this Parish.

Section 2. **Title To Property.**

The Property of this Parish shall be held subject to, and at all times administered in accordance with the by-laws of this Parish, and the laws of the State of Illinois. This Parish shall hold title to all of its real and personal property in its corporate name of the "*Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George*".

Section 3. **Administration of Property.**

The Parish Council shall administer all properties of this Parish in trust on behalf of and for this Parish.

Section 4. **Purchase, Sale Or Encumbrance Of Property.**

This Parish may purchase real property, or sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber its real property upon approval of two-thirds of the members in good standing present at a Parish Assembly, duly called for that purpose upon written notice published in the weekly bulletin of the Parish, posted on the bulletin board of the Parish and mailed first class at least fifteen (15) days prior thereto. In the event this Parish acquires realty for the purpose of erecting a church or other structure thereon, or acquires realty with existing improvements thereon, a request for the consent of the Metropolis Council for such acquisitions shall be made in writing and shall include verification of the affirmative decision of the Parish Assembly, a survey of the realty and improvements, if any, a description of the surrounding area and such other information as may be pertinent or thereafter requested by the Metropolis Council. The decision of the

Metropolis Council shall be rendered in writing within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of this Parish's request for consent. The consent of the Metropolis Council shall be deemed to have been granted should it fail to render its decision in writing within thirty (30) calendar days. Notwithstanding anything contained in these By-laws to the contrary, the renewal of any loans properly ratified pursuant to this Section 4 may be approved by the Parish Council upon the majority vote of its members at any regular or special meeting, provided said renewal is listed as an agenda item.

Section 5. **Artistic And Architectural Standards.**

Before this Parish proceeds to have final plans prepared for the erection of a church structure or other Parish buildings, or undertakes major structural alterations to its existing Church structure or other buildings of this Parish, or undertakes the decoration, including iconography, of said Church structures, in order to maintain an Archdiocesan standard for architectural, iconographic and artistic integrity, this Parish shall submit the preliminary plans for the above to the Metropolitan of the Metropolis who shall forward same to the Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church of America for approval. All final plans by this Parish for such construction, alteration, and/or decoration, shall be submitted to the Metropolitan of the Metropolis in a like manner for approval by the Archbishop before this Parish can enter into any contract for the accomplishment of such work.

Section 6. **Schism Or Defection.**

In the event of heresy, schism, or defection from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, that segment of members of this Parish in good standing which remains loyal to the Church and the Archdiocese shall retain title to the property of this Parish and the corporate name of this Parish.

**Article III**

**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Section 1. **Composition.**

The Board of Elections shall consist of not less than three (3) members in good standing of this Parish elected at the last Parish Assembly meeting preceding an election from those who are not candidates for election to the Parish Council. Immediate family members and spouses of candidates and incumbent Parish Council members are not eligible to serve on the Board of Elections.

Section 2. **Orientation.**



The Proistamenos shall conduct an orientation and instruction session with the members of the Board of Elections to inform them of their responsibilities and as to the procedures required in the performance of their duties.

Section 3. **Term.**

The term of office of the members of the Board of Elections shall be one (1) year. A new Board of Elections shall be selected annually at the last Parish Assembly meeting preceding the Parish Council elections.

Section 4. **Duties.**

The Board of Elections, in accordance with Chapter Three, Article 32, Section 2 of the Uniform Parish Regulations, shall, in cooperation with the Priest, verify all applicants for candidacy to the Parish Council and Parish Committees to determine if they meet all qualifications pursuant to these By-Laws, notify all eligible members concerning the elections, prepare the ballots, set the date and location of the elections on the premises of this Parish, supervise the elections and tabulate and report the results.

Section 5. **Tabulation of Election.**

The Board of Elections shall tabulate and have recorded in the minute book of this Parish the results of the elections, with the names of all candidates and the votes each candidate received recorded therein, and affix their signatures thereto.

Section 6. **Vacancy.**

A vacancy on the Board of Elections shall be filled by the Parish Council by electing a successor therefore from amongst the members of the Parish in good standing who are not candidates for election.

Section 7. **Electioneering.**

At no time shall a member of the Board of Elections engage in electioneering or express support for any candidate for the Parish Council prior to or during the conduct of election.

## **Article IV**

### **BOARD OF AUDITORS**

Section 1. **Composition.**

The Board of Auditors shall consist of at least three (3) members in good standing elected annually at the last Parish Assembly meeting of the year. Immediate family members and spouses of Parish Council members for the year being audited as well as

candidates for election to the Parish Council are not eligible to serve on the Board of Auditors.

Section 2. **Orientation.**

The Parish Council President shall conduct an orientation and instruction session with the members of the Board of Auditors to inform them of their responsibilities and as to the procedures required in the performance of their duties.

Section 3. **Term.**

The term of office of the members of the Board of Auditors shall be one (1) year. A new Board of Auditors shall be selected annually at the last Parish Assembly meeting preceding the Parish Council elections.

Section 4. **Duties.**

The Board of Auditors, in accordance with Chapter Three, Article 33, Section 2 of the Uniform Parish Regulations, shall audit the financial records of the Parish and its organizations for the preceding year and present a financial report at the Spring Parish Assembly meeting detailing all income and expenses for the preceding year. The Board of Auditors shall also audit the accounting records of this Parish and its organizations when requested by the Parish Council, and prepare and publish their report of such audits for presentation at any duly called Parish Assembly meeting.

Section 5. **Report to Ecclesiastical Authorities.**

Copies of reports of audits by the Board of Auditors shall be transmitted to the Metropolitan and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America by the Parish Council after presentation to the Parish Assembly.

Section 6. **Vacancy.**

A vacancy on the Board of Auditors shall be filled by the Parish Council by electing a successor therefore from amongst the members in good standing of this Parish for the unexpired portion of the term of such vacancy.

**Article V**

**FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORTS AND BUDGET**

Section 1. **Fiscal Year And Report.**

The Parish fiscal year shall be the calendar year. As set forth in Article IV, Section 4 above, the Board of Auditors shall present a financial report covering all income and expenses for the preceding year at the Spring Parish Assembly meeting.

Section 2. **Budget.**

The budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall be presented by the Parish Council at the first Parish Assembly of the year and approved by the Parish Assembly.

Section 3. **Archdiocesan Commitment.**

This Parish shall remit monthly to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America that portion of its total commitment allocation for Archdiocesan and Diocesan needs as determined by the Clergy-Laity Congresses.

Section 4. **Appropriations For Representation.**

The budget of this Parish shall include Appropriations, as hereinafter defined, for its representatives to the Clergy-Laity Congresses of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and Metropolitan Assemblies. "Appropriations" shall be defined as registration fees only. Reimbursable expenses incurred by the Priest related to the Clergy-Laity Congresses for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and Metropolitan Assemblies are set forth in Part Four, Article I, Section 7 below.

## **PART FOUR**

### ***Duties Of Clergy And Parish Council***

#### **Article I**

#### **CLERGY**

Section 1. **Ministry Of The Priest.**

The Priest, by virtue of his canonical ordination and episcopal appointment, is the head of this Parish, exercising on behalf of this Parish the priestly function. The ministry of the Priest consists in shepherding this Parish which has been entrusted to his pastoral care, directing its orderly life, preserving its unity, keeping it faithful to its divine purpose, sanctifying his flock through the administration of the sacraments and the performance of all other prescribed services of worship, proclaiming the kerygma 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 Orthodox Christian life.

Section 2. **Assignment And Transfers Of Clergy.**

The clergy of this Parish are assigned or transferred by the Metropolitan of this Metropolis by virtue of the authority of his office and in accordance with the canons, ecclesiastical procedure and the needs of the Metropolis. Prior to the assignment or transfer of a Priest, the Parish Council shall be informed by the Metropolitan regarding his decision.

Section 3. **Duties Of The Priest.**

The Priest of this Parish shall have charge of all matters of divine worship and the personnel connected therewith and he shall keep the Parish registers of marriages, baptisms, Chrismations and deaths in accordance with Part Three, Article I, Section 3 of these By-Laws.

Section 4. **Succession.**

When transferred, dismissed or suspended from this Parish by the Metropolitan of this Metropolis, the Priest shall deliver to his successor the sacred vessels and all Parish registers and religious records of this Parish.

Section 5. **Proistamenos.**

When there is more than one Priest in this Parish, the head of the Parish clergy is the Proistamenos. The other members of the clergy are his assistants and are directly responsible to him.

Section 6. **Remunerative Standards.**

This Parish shall make every effort, whenever possible, to comply with the established remunerative standards of the Clergy by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as set forth in the Uniform Parish Regulations, Chapter One, Article 17, Section 8(A)2.

Section 7. **Expenses.**

The budget of this Parish shall include amounts set aside for registration fees and all travel, lodging and meal expenses for the Priest so that he may attend the Clergy-Laity Congresses for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and Metropolis Assemblies as set forth in the Uniform Parish Regulations, Chapter One, Article 17, Section 8(A)7.

Section 8. **Minutes.**

All minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council, and of the Parish Assembly shall be attested to by the Priest.

Section 9. **Parish Council And Parish Assembly Meetings.**

The Priest shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Parish Council and of the Parish Assembly. The Priest shall receive notice of all meetings and shall have the right to express his opinions at such meetings.

Section 10. **Parish Committees**

The Priest shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of the all Parish Council Committees, and shall receive notice off all Parish Council Committee meetings. The Priest shall not have the power to dismiss any member of any Parish Council Committee.

## **Article II**

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

Section 1. **Defined.**

The Parish Council is the administrative body of this Parish.

Section 2. **Composition.**

The Parish Council shall consist of the Priest, and members of this Parish, twenty-one (21) of which are to be duly elected in accordance with the provisions of Article III of Part Four of these By-Laws. All voting members of the Parish Council must be members of this Parish in good standing.

All past presidents of this Parish who have not been elected to the Parish Council shall be deemed honorary members of this Parish Council. The Parish Council, by two-thirds vote of its members, may designate other members as honorary members, who have served on the Parish Council of this Parish and who have served this Parish in an exemplary manner, and who are members in good standing of this Parish for at least one year continuously immediately preceding the date of the election and who live his or her life and activities in accordance with the faith and canons of the Church. All honorary members may appear and speak at any Committee meeting when observed by the Committee Chairman. All honorary members of the Parish Council shall be non-voting members.

Section 3. **Responsibilities Of The Parish Council.**

The Parish Council is responsible to the Parish Assembly for conducting all affairs and in keeping with the aims and purposes of this Parish pursuant to Part One, Article II, of these By-Laws. In accordance with the Chapter Two, Article 28, Section 1 of the Uniform Parish Regulations, the Parish Council shall hold regular meetings at least once a month.

Section 4. **Miscellaneous Committees.**

The President, with the approval of the Parish Council, may create miscellaneous committees from time to time of varying size, as they deem fit, to assist with any Parish related activity. The President shall retain the right to appoint committee chairmen to oversee and administer such committees and shall also retain the right to remove any committee chairmen at his or her discretion. Additionally, the President shall retain the right to appoint or remove committee members at his or her discretion.

Section 5. **Term Of Office.**

After the initial adoption of these By-laws, and the 2007 Parish Council elections, certain Parish Council Members shall serve a one (1) year term pursuant to Part Four, Article III, Section 1 of these By-laws. For every Parish Council election thereafter, the term of office of the members elected to the Parish Council shall be two (2) years or until the successor Parish Council member takes office, a period not to exceed three (3) years. Elections shall be staggered as more fully described below in Part Four, Article III, Section 1 below.

Section 6. **Officers.**

The Officers of the Parish Council shall be the President, the Vice-President, the Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary, the Treasurer, and two (2) Assistant Treasurers.

Section 7. **Employees.**

No salaried employee or immediate family member or spouse of any salaried employee of this Parish shall serve on the Parish Council.

Section 8. **Husband And Wife.**

A husband and wife shall not serve concurrently on the Parish Council.

Section 9. **Age.**

A person under eighteen (18) years of age shall not serve on the Parish Council.

Section 10. **Quorum.**

A majority of all voting members of the Parish Council shall constitute a quorum.

Section 11. **Vacancy On the Parish Council.**

A vacancy on the Parish Council shall be considered to exist under any of the following circumstances: the death or resignation of a member, the physical or mental incapacity of a member, the invalidation of the election of a member, the failure of a member to be current in his financial obligations to this Parish as determined by the Treasurer, absences from meetings without justifiable cause pursuant to Section 12 of this Article, the determination by a Spiritual Court of the Metropolis that a member 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 the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as its duly constituted ecclesiastical authority, or the determination by a Spiritual Court of the Metropolis that a Parish Council member is guilty of a serious moral transgression or has violated his or her oath of office. The following procedures shall be used in declaring and filling any vacancy pursuant to this Section 10.

- A. First, either at any regularly scheduled Parish Council meeting, provided it is listed as an agenda item and proper notice has been sent to the Parish Council members, or any special meeting called by the President or Parish Council, the Parish Council shall vote to determine whether a vacancy exists. A majority vote by the Parish Council shall be required to declare a vacancy;
- B. Second, upon the affirmative vote by a majority of the Parish Council that a vacancy exists, the President shall appoint a committee consisting of no fewer than five (5) Parish Council members which shall be responsible for recommending one or more possible candidates for said vacancy (hereinafter, "Parish Council Vacancy Committee");
- C. Third, the Parish Council Vacancy Committee shall be required to post notice of the vacancy on the bulletin board of the Parish for a period of no less than two (2) weeks. The notice shall request written submissions for candidacy from any member in good standing of the Parish for at least one year continuously and immediately preceding the date the vacancy was posted, and as further set forth in Article III, Section 2;
- D. Fourth, the Parish Council Vacancy Committee shall undertake to interview the eligible candidates. Once the respective candidates have been interviewed, the Parish Council Vacancy Committee shall present its recommendation to the entire Parish Council. The Parish Council shall then vote and the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes, and also receiving at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the total votes

cast, shall be declared by the Parish Council as elected for the unexpired portion of the term of the vacated Parish Council member. A Parish Council vacancy under this Section shall not remain vacant for a period of longer than sixty (60) days. The Parish Council Vacancy Committee shall be responsible for and use its' best faith efforts in ensuring any vacancy is filled within said sixty (60) day period.

**Section 12. Vacancies of Executive Officers.**

A vacancy of any Parish Council officer position other than President, after the Parish Council officers have taken their respective oaths of office, shall be filled by the Parish Council by electing a successor from amongst the voting elected members of the Parish Council in good standing for the unexpired portion of the term of office of such vacancy.

**Section 13. Absences.**

When a member of the Parish Council has been absent without justifiable cause for more than three (3) of its meetings per year, he or she may be relieved of his or her duties upon the resolution of the Parish Council to that effect. When a member of the Parish Council refuses to participate as a member of any of the committees of the Parish Council, he or she may be relieved of his or her position upon the resolution of the Parish Council to that effect. When a member of the Parish Council fails to attend divine services regularly and fails to participate in the sacramental life of the Church, he or she may be relieved of his or her duties upon the resolution of the Parish Council to that effect.

**Section 13. Chairman.**

The President of the Parish Council shall act as Chairman of all Parish Council meetings.

**Article III**

**ELECTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Section 1. Staggered Elections.**

Elections shall be staggered so that ten (10) members of the Parish Council shall be elected in odd numbered years (hereinafter, "Parish Council Member A" positions), and eleven (11) members of the Parish Council shall be elected in even numbered years (hereinafter, "Parish Council Member B" positions). Determination of Parish Council Member A and Parish Council Member B positions shall initially be decided in the following manner:



A. Beginning with the 2007 election, (which shall be held no later than the second Sunday of December in 2006) when all Parish Council member positions shall be up for reelection pursuant to these By-laws, the ten (10) candidates who receive the highest vote total shall be considered Parish Council Member A members. Parish Council Member A positions will then be up for reelection in the years 2009, 2011, 2013 and every odd numbered year thereafter. The remaining eleven (11) members elected to the Parish Council in 2007 shall be considered Parish Council Member B members and those positions will be up for reelection in the years 2008, 2010, 2012 and every even numbered year thereafter. The rights, duties and obligations of Parish Council Member A members and Parish Council Member B members shall at all times be equal, with neither class of Parish Council positions having more rights than the other.

Section 2. **Time Of Election.**

The election of Parish Council Member A and Parish Council Member B positions of the Parish Council shall be held no earlier than the first Sunday in November, and no later than the second Sunday in December, in the respective year in which the elections are to occur in accordance with Section 1 of this Article III.

Section 3. **Candidates.**

A candidate for the Parish Council must be a member in good standing of this Parish for at least one (1) year continuously immediately preceding the date of the election and live his or her life and activities in accordance with the faith and canons of the Church. Only applicants who meet these qualifications shall be deemed candidates for the Parish Council. In no event shall a Priest's Family Member, as hereinafter defined, be a candidate for the Parish Council. For purposes of these By-laws, the term "Family Member" shall be defined as any parent, spouse, sibling, child, nephew, niece, cousin, aunt, uncle brother-in-law or sister-in-law. (The intent of this prohibition is not to restrict the Priest's Family Members in participating in the governance and administration of the Parish, but to foster open dialogue amongst Parish Council members for those who wish to speak at meetings openly and honestly and without apprehension.)

Section 4. **Notice.**

Notice of Parish Council elections and Parish Council candidacy requirements shall be mailed to all Parish members together with notice of the Fall General Assembly meeting.

Section 5. **Seminars.**

All candidates shall attend a seminar conducted by the Proistamenos prior to the election at which the Proistamenos shall discuss the Uniform Parish Regulations and the

By-Laws of this Parish and explain them to the candidates, particularly the oath of office. At the conclusion of the seminar all candidates will acknowledge by signing a statement that they understand the Uniform Parish Regulations and the By-Laws of this Parish, and, if elected, will abide by them and the oath of office. If a candidate for the Parish Council refuses to attend the seminar and sign the statement, their name shall be deleted from the list of candidates.

Section 6. **Conduct of Election.**

The election shall be conducted by the Board of Elections pursuant to Part Five, Article I, of these By-Laws and in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

Section 7. **Place And Time Of Election.**

Elections shall be held at a time and place on the premises of this Parish previously announced by the Board of Elections. All voting shall be conducted by secret ballot and shall begin after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy and shall terminate at four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day. The Board of Elections shall prepare the ballots, listing the candidates in a random order.

Section 8. **Retention of Ballots.**

All ballots shall be retained under lock and key by a designee of the Board of Elections until ratification of the election by the Metropolitan of the Metropolis.

Section 9. **Who Can Vote.**

Each spouse enrolled under a family membership is entitled to one (1) vote. Senior citizens, and single members are entitled to one (1) vote each. A member who may still be enrolled in the membership roster of this Parish, but who may be delinquent or not current in satisfying his or her yearly pledged financial obligation, may vote in the election by satisfying such obligation at any time prior to the balloting. A new member of this Parish may vote in an election if he or she has pledged and has been current in or has satisfied his or her pledge for a period of at least three (3) months prior to the election.

Section 10. **Election Results.**

The election results shall be entered in the minute book of this Parish and shall show the number of votes cast for each candidate, and shall be signed by each member of the Board of Elections. The results of the election shall also be posted on the premises of this Parish within seven (7) days.

Section 11. **Those Declared Elected.**

The candidates receiving the greatest number of votes, and also receiving at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the total votes cast in the election, shall be declared by the Board of Elections as elected for the ensuing term. By way of example only, if 100 ballots were distributed, in order for a candidate to be elected, he or she must have received a greater number of votes than his or her opponent, plus he or she must have received at least 25 votes. In the event of a tie, a majority vote cast by the members of the incoming Parish Council, at their first meeting, shall determine the winner. The tied candidates, if otherwise found to be qualified, shall be provisionally approved by the Metropolitan of the Metropolis when he ratifies the election results pursuant to Part Four, Article IV, of these By-Laws, with the winner upon his or her selection, taking and subscribing to the prescribed oath of office and participating in the election of officers. In the event a candidate receiving the greatest number of votes fails to obtain twenty-five percent (25%) of the total votes cast, the remaining vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote of the Parish Council after the ratification and taking of office pursuant to Part Four, Article IV, of these By-Laws, of the Parish Council. Vacancies on the Parish Council must be filled from among those eligible members in good standing with this Parish.

Section 12. **Protest of Election.**

Any member in good standing of this Parish who questions the validity of any election may within five (5) days after such election lodge a written protest with the Metropolitan of the Metropolis as set forth in Chapter Two, Article 25, Section 9 of the Uniform Parish Regulations. Such protest shall be made to the Metropolitan of the Metropolis through the Priest of this Parish and shall be signed by the questioning member in good standing and at least four (4) other members in good standing of this Parish. The decision of the Metropolitan concerning such protest shall be considered final.

Section 13. **Failure Of Member Elect To Take Office.**

In case of the resignation of any member-elect of the incoming Parish Council, or vacancy for any other reason which may occur in the interim between the day of the elections and the election of officers, the members of the incoming Parish Council may, after the election of officers, elect a new member from among the eligible members in good standing of this Parish to fill the vacancy in accordance with Part Four, Article II, Section 10 of these By-laws.

Section 14. **Insufficient Number of Candidates.**

In the event that an insufficient number of candidates exists for election to the Parish Council, the election of those candidates who applied shall take place in accordance with the election procedures established by these By-Laws. The Parish Council after the ratification and taking of office pursuant to Part Four, Article IV, of these By-Laws, shall proceed to fill any vacancies on the Parish Council from among those eligible members in good standing of this Parish. Those so chosen by the Parish Council shall

be ratified by the Metropolitan of the Metropolis and shall serve the term of office that a member duly elected by this Parish would have served.

#### **Article IV**

### **RATIFICATION OF ELECTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL AND OATH OF OFFICE**

#### **Section 1. Ratification of Election.**

Within six (6) days after the election, the Priest of this Parish shall forward the results to the Metropolitan of the Metropolis for his review and ratification. The Metropolitan shall ratify the election after it shall be confirmed by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America that this Parish has met its financial obligations to the Archdiocese. The Priest shall at the same time verify in writing that all candidates were qualified and that the election was conducted in accordance with the By-Laws of this Parish.

#### **Section 2. Protests.**

The election shall be ratified if the conditions of Section 1 of this Article are met, and in the absence of the lodging of any protest pursuant to Part Four, Article III, Section 12, of these By-Laws. In the event that such a protest is properly lodged and such protest is upheld, the Metropolitan of the Metropolis will declare the protested election void and a new election will be ordered.

#### **Section 3. Time Of Administration of Oath.**

On the first Sunday of December, and after ratification of the election has been received from the Metropolitan of the Metropolis, a special ceremony shall be held at the close of the Divine Liturgy in which all the members-elect, as well as seated members of the Parish Council shall take the oath of office jointly. The oath shall be administered by the Priest and shall be repeated by the members-elect and seated members of the Parish Council.

#### **Section 4. Oath Of Office.**

Each member-elect and seated 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, teachings, 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 Archdiocese 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."

Any member-elect or seated member refusing to take the oath and subscribe to same shall not assume the duties as a member of the Parish Council or be elected as an officer of the Parish Council.

## **Article V**

### **ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS**

**Section 1. Time Of Election.**

The Parish Council shall elect its officers by majority vote at the first regularly or specially scheduled Parish Council meeting as designated by the Proistamenos, following the administration of the Oath Of Office.

**Section 2. Chairman During Election Of Officers.**

The Priest shall act as Chairman during the election of officers of the Parish Council at its first regularly or specially scheduled meeting following the administration of the Oath of Office who shall not have a vote.

**Section 3. Office Of President.**

The office of President may not be held by the same person for more than six (6) consecutive years, except by special permission of the Metropolitan.

**Section 4. Other Offices.**

No member of the Parish Council may hold the same office for more than six (6) consecutive years, except by special permission of the Metropolitan.

**Section 5. Succession.**

In the event that the office of the President of the Parish Council shall become vacant by the demise, permanent incapacitation or resignation of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the office of President. The succession thereafter shall be the Recording Secretary and Treasurer. In the event this line of succession reaches the Treasurer, and the Treasurer assumes the office of the President, but thereafter vacates the office of the President for any of the aforementioned reasons, the Parish Council shall elect new Parish Council Officers to fill any and all existing vacancies at the next duly called Parish Council meeting.

## Article VI

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. **The President.**

The President shall uphold and carry out these By-Laws; shall call all meetings of the Parish Council and preside over same; shall appoint all Committee Chairmen and shall oversee all secular matters of this Parish.

Section 2. **The Vice-President.**

The Vice-President shall assist the President in the performance of his duties, subject to his direction. In the absence of the President, or in the event the President is unable or refuses to act, the Vice-President shall act in their stead.

Section 3. **The Recording Secretary**

The Recording Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Parish Council and shall prepare and keep the minutes of the meetings thereof. The Recording Secretary shall keep the minute books and records of this Parish. The minute books and records of this Parish shall remain inside the Parish facilities at all times.

Section 4. **The Corresponding Secretary**

The Corresponding Secretary shall notify Parish Council members of all meetings, attend all meetings of the Council and the Parish Assembly, handle all correspondence related to the Parish and provide copies of all documents to be considered at Council meetings in advance of meetings.

Section 5. **The Treasurer.**

The Treasurer shall receive and collect the monies of this Parish; shall deposit the monies of this Parish in its name at such financial institutions as may be designated by the Parish Council; shall keep neat and accurate books and accounting of receipts, income, disbursements and expenditures of this Parish; and shall prepare and make a report of the finances of this Parish at all Parish Council and Parish Assembly meetings. The Treasurer shall present a financial report at any duly called Parish Assembly meeting detailing all forecasted income and expenses for the current year and shall also present a financial report at the first Parish Assembly meeting of each year detailing all income and expenses for the preceding year.

Section 6. **The Assistant Treasurers.**

Two Assistant Treasurers shall assist the Treasurer in the performance of all of his duties, subject to his direction. In the absence of the Treasurer, or in the event the Treasurer is unable or refuses to act, the Assistant Treasurers shall act in his stead.

## **Article VII**

### **DUTIES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Section 1. Duties.**

The Parish Council shall have the following duties: to attend divine services regularly and participate in the sacramental life of the Church thereby setting an example for this Parish, to administer the affairs of this Parish in such manner and in cooperation with the Priest as to aid in the fulfillment of its aims and purposes, to collect the revenues of this Parish, issuing receipts thereof, and paying by check the salaries of the personnel of this Parish, to administer Parish expenses for the educational and philanthropic organizations of this Parish, and such sums as may be fixed by the Clergy-Laity Congresses of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for the support of the Archdiocese, to buy, sell or encumber the property of this Parish as hereinbefore provided, to submit to the Metropolitan of this Metropolis at the end of each year a report of its membership and to submit annually to the Archdiocese and to the Metropolis the budget of this Parish for the ensuing year and the financial statement for the prior year.

**Section 2. Transmittal of Records.**

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 this Parish. Such transfer shall be effected by letter of transmittal, a copy of which shall be sent to the Metropolitan of this Metropolis.

**Section 3. Additional Authority.**

The Parish Council and its officers may exercise all additional authority consonant with the By-Laws of this Parish, the Uniform Parish Regulations, and the limitations imposed by the laws of the State of Illinois in which this Parish is incorporated.

## **Article VIII**

### **MEETINGS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Section 1. **Time Of Meetings.**

The Parish Council shall hold regular meetings at least once each month, and special meetings whenever the Priest, President, or a majority of the Parish Council deem it necessary.

Section 2. **Minutes of Meetings.**

The minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council shall be signed by the Priest, the President and the Secretary.

Section 3. **Rules of Order.**

The meetings of the Parish Council shall be conducted under *Robert's Rules of Order*.

## **PART FIVE**

### ***Committees And Auxiliaries***

#### **Article I**

#### **GREEK SCHOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Section 1. **Composition.**

The Greek School Education Committee (“Education Committee”) shall consist of three (3) members. Members of the Education Committee shall be appointed by the Parish Council President.

Section 2. **Duties.**

The Education Committee shall be responsible for appointing a Steering Committee, as hereinafter defined, the number of members of which shall be determined by the Education Committee. The composition of the Steering Committee shall be based on the requirements and necessities of the school. The Education Committee shall also be responsible for approving changes in staff structure, approving salary and benefit recommendations, and the hiring and firing of all school employees. The hiring and firing of school employees shall be done with the consent of the Parish Council and Priest in accordance with Chapter Two, Article 29, Section 2 of the Uniform Parish Regulations. The Education Committee shall also be responsible for reporting the status of the school to the Parish Council at regular Parish Council meetings.



Section 3. **Term of Office.**

The term of office for members of the Education Committee shall be one (1) year or until a successor is appointed, whichever shall occur later.

Section 4. **Vacancy.**

A vacancy on the Education Committee shall be filled by the Parish Council President by appointing a successor therefore from amongst the members of the Parish Council in good standing. A vacancy on the Committee shall be considered to exist under any of the following circumstances: the death or resignation of a member, the physical or mental incapacity of a member, the failure of a member to be current in his or her financial obligations to the Parish as determined by the Parish Treasurer, or the failure of a member to be loyal to the doctrines, constitution, practices or customs of this Parish or the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as determined by the Parish President.

## **Article II**

### **GREEK SCHOOL STEERING COMMITTEE**

Section 1. **Purpose.**

The purpose of the Greek School Steering Committee (“Steering Committee”) is to give assistance to the school’s administration, while working towards promoting the interests of the children, parents and Parish. The Steering Committee shall also work toward ensuring the school is operating to the highest possible standards.

Section 2. **Composition.**

The Education Committee shall determine the composition of the Steering Committee as set forth in Part Five, Article I, Section 2 above.

Section 3. **Duties.**

The Steering Committee shall aid the school principal in all administrative duties related to the day-to-operations of the school. Such duties shall include, but are not limited to: preparing and maintaining an annual budget, overseeing procurement of school equipment and supplies, maintaining school property and equipment, making tuition recommendations to the Education Committee, overseeing the collection of tuition, coordinating fundraising activities, overseeing the school’s accounting system, overseeing the registration process, preparing and distributing a school calendar, preparing and distributing a school directory, establishing age and behavioral restrictions for the pre-school, coordinating all school related curriculum and recreational activities at the pre-school, grade school and high school levels, creating standardized forms for all school related activities and procedures, establishing safety

and security rules and procedures, enhancing relations and communications between the school and church, and enhancing communications between the school and parents on current events within the school.

Section 4. **Term of Office.**

The term of office for members of the Steering Committee shall be two (2) years or until a successor takes office, a period not to exceed three (3) years.

Section 5. **Selection of New Members**

The selection of new members to the Steering Committee by the Education Committee, shall take place every two years. Notices shall be sent by the Education Committee to all parents of children attending the St. George Greek Orthodox School soliciting candidates for selection. Any parent of a child who attends school at the St. George Greek Orthodox School, and may be a member in good standing at any Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Parish, may be a candidate. Notices shall be sent no later than March 30<sup>th</sup> of the selection year. Candidates will have three (3) weeks from that date to submit an application to the Education Committee. Thereafter, applications shall not be accepted. The Education Committee will have three (3) weeks after the application period to make appointments to the Steering Committee. Those members appointed by the Education Committee will be notified in writing of their appointment to the Steering Committee. Although it is understood that the school year begins in September of each year, those appointed to the Steering Committee shall begin their duties on or about June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. This is due to the fact that prior to the commencement of the school year, the Steering Committee members shall be responsible for, among other things, such duties as overseeing the registration process, preparing and distributing a school calendar and coordinating school curriculum. It is further understood that outgoing members of the Steering Committee shall train all new members appointed to the Steering Committee for a reasonable period of time in the performance of Steering Committee duties.

Section 6. **Failure Of Member To Take Office.**

In case of the resignation of any member of the Steering Committee, or vacancy for any other reason which may occur in the interim between the day of the selection and the day the member takes office, the members of the Education Committee may, after the selection of officers, appoint a new member from among the eligible members in good standing of this Parish to fill the vacancy.

Section 7. **Vacancy.**

A vacancy on the Steering Committee after appointment to the Committee, but prior to the conclusion of a member's term shall be filled by the Education Committee by appointing a successor therefore from amongst the members of the Parish in good standing. A vacancy on the Committee shall be considered to exist under any of the

following circumstances: the death or resignation of a member, the physical or mental incapacity of a member, the failure of a member to be current in his or her financial obligations to the Parish as determined by the Parish Treasurer, or the failure of a member to be loyal to the doctrines, constitution, practices or customs of this Parish or the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as determined by the Parish President.

### **Article III**

#### **BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Section 1. **Composition.**

The Building Committee shall consist of not less than three (3) members in good standing of this Parish appointed by the Parish Council President.

Section 2. **Orientation.**

The Parish Council President shall conduct an orientation and instruction session with the members of the Building Committee to inform them of their responsibilities and as to the procedures required in the performance of their duties.

Section 3. **Duties.**

The Building Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the maintenance of the Parish facilities, which includes developing a repair policy detailing when damage should be repaired and how it should be repaired, overseeing any improvements made to the Parish facilities, identifying contractors and soliciting bids to perform work on the building, and overseeing the landscaping of the Parish property.

Section 4. **Bidding Procedures.**

When work is to be performed on the Parish facilities, the Building Committee, on a job by job basis, shall appear before the Parish Council at any duly called Parish Council meeting and inform the Parish Council of its recommendations. The Parish Council shall then direct the Building Committee as to the number of bids to solicit for each particular job. The determination of the number of bids to be solicited shall be dependent on the nature and complexity of the work to be performed. With the exception of Emergency Situations set forth in Part Five, Article III, Section 5 below, the Parish Council shall have final approval over all expenditures related to the Parish facilities.

Section 5. **Emergency Situations.**

The Building Committee, with the consent of the Parish Council President, shall be permitted to spend up to \$3,000.00 to remedy any defective, dangerous or hazardous condition existing on Parish property and deemed to be in immediate need of repair by the Building Committee and Parish Council President. Any expenditure in excess of \$3,000.00 shall require the approval of the Parish Council.

Section 6. **Vacancy.**

A vacancy on the Building Committee shall be filled by the Parish Council President by appointing a successor therefore from amongst the members in good standing of this Parish for the unexpired portion of the term of such vacancy.

## **Article IV**

### **STEERING COMMITTEE FOR FUTURE REQUIREMENTS**

Section 1. **Composition.**

The Steering Committee for Future Requirements (“Future Requirements Committee”) shall consist of not less than ten (10) members. Three (3) members shall be appointed by the Parish Council President. The remaining seven (7) members shall be appointed by the Parish Council from among the members in good standing of this Parish. Once the committee has been fully seated, the members shall select a committee chairman.

Section 2. **Orientation.**

The Parish Council President shall conduct an orientation and instruction session with the members of the Future Requirements Committee to inform them of their responsibilities and as to the procedures required in the performance of their duties.

Section 3. **Duties.**

The Future Requirements Committee shall be responsible for studying future social, economical or educational issues that may affect the Parish. By way of example only, the Future Requirements Committee may be called by the Parish Council to do any of the following in examining the future needs of the Parish: study the demands of the Parish for additional property or improvements to existing property, examine the effectiveness of, and potential improvements to the various Greek School programs; study the need for continuing educational programs for adult Parish members, identify and resolve potential areas of conflict that may arise between this Parish and other local Greek Orthodox parishes or the neighboring community; study new methods for increasing Parish membership rolls; consider alternative uses for Parish facilities; and improve or establish new community and senior outreach programs. The Future

Requirements Committee shall be called to duty as needed by the Parish Council. Provided it is listed as an agenda item, the Chairman of the Future Requirements Committee shall be responsible for reporting the status of any potential projects or studies to the Parish Council at any duly called Parish Council meeting.

Section 4. **Term of Office.**

The term of office for members of the Future Requirements Committee shall be five (5) years or until a successor takes office, a period not to exceed six (6) years.

Section 5. **Vacancy.**

A vacancy on the Future Requirements Committee shall be filled by the Parish Council President by appointing a successor therefore from amongst the members in good standing of this Parish for the unexpired portion of the term of such vacancy.

## **PART SIX**

### ***Miscellaneous***

#### **Article I**

##### **AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws may be amended by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Parish Council, and with the written consent of the Metropolitan of the Metropolis, and the further approval of the members in good standing, at any regular or special Parish Assembly meeting provided such amendment or amendments are listed as an agenda item.

#### **Article II**

##### **REORGANIZATION OF PARISH**

This Parish shall not be reorganized except by the written permission of the Metropolitan of the Metropolis and of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and in compliance with his directions and in such manner as he shall approve, subject to the laws of the State of Illinois.

### **Article III**

#### **MERGER OF PARISH**

When it is determined by the Parish Council that it would be in the best interests of this Parish to merge with another Parish of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and to have only one Parish, approval of two-thirds of the members in good standing at a Parish Assembly duly called upon written notice published in the weekly bulletin of the Parish, posted on the bulletin board of the Parish and mailed first class at least fifteen days prior thereto, and the consent of the Archdiocesan Council is mandated.

### **Article IV**

#### **DISSOLUTION OF PARISH**

Subject to the laws of the State of Illinois, when it is determined by the Parish Council that this Parish is incapable of sustaining itself and wishes to be dissolved, a Parish Assembly shall be called. If three-fourths of the attending members in good standing favor dissolution the Parish shall be dissolved or disbanded and its properties shall devolve to the Metropolis. If this Parish has been disbanded and a Parish Assembly cannot be called, the Metropolitan of the Metropolis shall have the power to declare this Parish dissolved or disbanded and its properties shall devolve to the Metropolis.

### **Article V**

#### **RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES**

In the event of any dispute, misunderstanding or disagreement between any members in good standing of this Parish, the Parish Council and/or the Clergy, concerning the administration of this Parish, or with respect to the interpretation or meaning of these By-Laws, such dispute, misunderstanding or disagreement shall be brought to the Metropolitan of the Metropolis for resolution. The decision made by the Metropolitan regarding such dispute, misunderstanding or disagreement shall be considered final.