

# Archdiocese National Ministries Commitment

## General Information

The Greek Orthodox Church in America is our direct link to Christ Jesus and His Church. For more than 2,000 years we have had a continuous link to the one God, the one Church, and the one Faith – through our Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople.

Besides providing this direct connection to the Mother Church (established by the Apostle Andrew, the first called), the Archdiocese maintains a comprehensive organization of Departments, Metropolises and Parishes so that Orthodoxy is available to all who seek salvation.

The Archdiocese fosters a national presence for our Faith in the United States and beyond and develops programs in liturgical and religious education, outreach, youth and Internet ministries, all vital for our personal growth. Without the Archdiocese, there is No Apostolic Church ...No Metropolis...No Camp...No Priests... No Parishes.

Some of the important organizations that were developed and are nurtured through the leadership of the archdiocese are:

**Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology** —where clergy and laity are educated to provide us with Christ-centered individuals who understand the American ethos.

**St Basil's Academy**— Helping abandoned children.

**The Philoptochos** — Christian philanthropy in action.

**Missionary Parishes** — Evangelism in the US

The roles of the Archdiocese Departments and Ministries are defined on their website [www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments](http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments).

Metropolises are blessed with a caring spiritual father, the Metropolitan — as well as our parish priests, who provide us with local ministries and programs for the propagation of our faith...?

To be a Greek Orthodox Christian requires that we support our Parish, our Metropolis, and our Archdiocese. This is why we are called to support the Archdiocese, in order to provide funds for the Departments and Ministries of the Archdiocese. Parishes of the Metropolises and the Archdiocesan District are asked to provide their “fair share”. Prior commitment assessments were based on the number of parishioners and later based on parish income. These methods were not considered adequate and consequently the 2004 Clergy-Laity Congress charged the Archdiocese Finance Committee to develop a system of parish allocations that will provide stable revenues to the Archdiocese, its ministries, and the Metropolises while insuring fair and equitable parish assessments across the county.

The Archdiocese Finance Committee, which is a standing committee of the Archdiocesan Council, is comprised of volunteers from across the county as well as members from the Archdiocesan Council, developed and submitted an improved assessment process to the 2006 Clergy-Laity Congress held in Nashville and the process was adopted by the Congress and has been implemented in all Metropolises and the Archdiocesan District beginning with the calendar year 2007 parish allocations.

## **METROPOLIS FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Metropolis Finance Committee's primary responsibility will be for the implementation and maintenance of the parish allocation process. The Committee will have to make collective judgments such as appeal and enforcement decisions. It is likely to have to make tentative policy relative to the allocation process implementation until this policy can be ratified during the ensuing meeting of the Metropolis' parish representatives.

The Chair of the Committee is responsible for the day-to-day administration, including the supervision of the work of assigned staff and/or volunteers assisting in this process. The Committee should have at least five members, including the Metropolis Chancellor and Metropolitan Council Treasurer. As with all Metropolis committees, the Metropolitan presides over the committee at all times.

Annually, the Committee receives and reviews each parishes audited expenses to determine the net expenditures of the Metropolis. Each parish's net expenditure is combined with all the parishes in the Metropolis to determine its percentage of the total as shown in the hypothetical example below.

### **PARISH APPROVED NET-EXPENSES (WITHIN METROPOLIS EXAMPLE)**

<b>PARISH A</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>31.25%</b>
<b>PARISH B</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>17.58%</b>
<b>PARISH C</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	<b>6.25%</b>
<b>PARISH D</b>	<b>\$575,000</b>	<b>44.92%</b>
<b>TOTAL PARISH EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,280,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

If this allocation process is to be successful, the parishes must provide the Metropolis with accurate information concerning their total and detailed expenditures, particularly those expenditures that will be deducted from the total expenditures as the Net Expenditures is calculated. If parishes are to be committed to provide this accurate information on a timely basis, representatives of these parishes must be actively involved in the major decisions and understand all aspects of the allocation process

## **ARCHDIOCESE ALLOCATION TO THE METROPOLISES**

Upon receipt of net expenditures from all the Metropolises and the Archdiocesan District the Archdiocese determines the percentage of each with respect to the total net expenses within the Archdiocese. The hypothetical example below shows the Metropolis distribution.

## **METROPOLIS TOTAL EXPENSES (WITHIN THE ARCHDIOCESE)**

<b>METROPOLIS A</b>	<b>\$2,700,000</b>	<b>37.5%</b>
<b>METROPOLIS B</b>	<b>\$820,000</b>	<b>11.39%</b>
<b>METROPOLIS C</b>	<b>\$2,400,000</b>	<b>33.33%</b>
<b>METROPOLIS EXAMPLE</b>	<b>\$1,280,000</b>	<b>17.78%</b>
<b>TOTAL METROPOLIS EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$7,200,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

The resulting percentages are then applied to the amount that the Archdiocese needs to receive from all the assessments. For the purpose of the hypothetical example an amount of \$1,000,000 is assumed as the total obligation to the Archdiocese. The assessment amounts for the hypothetical Metropolises are shown below.

<b>METROPOLIS A</b>	<b>37.5%</b>	<b>\$375,000</b>
<b>METROPOLIS B</b>	<b>11.39%</b>	<b>\$113,900</b>
<b>METROPOLIS C</b>	<b>33.33%</b>	<b>\$333,300</b>
<b>METROPOLIS EXAMPLE</b>	<b>17.78%</b>	<b>\$177,800</b>
<b>TOTAL ARCHDIOCESE EXPENSES</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

These amounts are assessed to each Metropolis for distribution to their parishes.

## **METROPOLISES ALLOCATIONS TO THEIR PARISHES**

The amounts are increased to provide for a cushion in the event any parish has any unforeseen financial difficulties. For the hypothetical case the Metropolis Example amount of \$177,800 is increased by 10 percent to account for a cushion. This results in an amount of \$195,580 to be distributed to its parishes in accordance with the percentages of the total Metropolis expenses. Therefore the breakdown of the parishes in the Metropolis Example is as follows.

<b>PARISH A</b>	<b>31.25%</b>	<b>\$61,118.75</b>
<b>PARISH B</b>	<b>17.58%</b>	<b>\$34,382.96</b>
<b>PARISH C</b>	<b>6.25%</b>	<b>\$12,223.75</b>
<b>PARISH D</b>	<b>44.92%</b>	<b>\$87,854.54</b>
<b>TOTAL METROPOLIS EXPENSES</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$195,580</b>

## **ENFORCEMENT PROCESS**

If a parish intentionally submits inaccurate information, it is being unfair to its sister parishes in its Metropolis as the other parishes will be assuming an increased allocation to make up for the reduced allocation to this parish. While the vast majority of the parishes will not do this intentionally, a few will. In an effort to ensure that neither intentionally nor unintentionally inaccurate data is being submitted the Metropolis may select 5 parishes at random each year for financial review by the Metropolis finance committee. Any parish providing inaccurate information may also be subject to a financial review. Unfortunately, some parishes will not complete their allocation by the end of the year and will not commit to a plan to complete the allocation in a timely fashion during the new year while also paying toward the new allocation. Thus, a process is needed to deal with such parishes. The following process is being used by more than one Metropolis with great success:

Any Parish refusing/failing to meet its Archdiocese allocation is subject to the following actions:

1. Most recent Parish Council election will not be ratified
2. If appropriate action not taken, Metropolis Finance Committee shall meet with the Parish Council of the parish in question.
3. If appropriate action not taken, a complete audit of the parish's accounts and funds is conducted by a CPA at the parish's expense.
4. If appropriate action not taken, Metropolis Finance Committee meets with the Parish's General Assembly
5. If appropriate action not taken, Metropolis will apply the appropriate sanction to the parish

## **ARCHDIOCESE SUPPORT OF METROPOLISES**

Each Metropolis will allocate as a minimum to its parishes the total amount assigned to it by the Archdiocese. Each Metropolis will annually receive the greater of \$425,000 or 25 percent of the funds collected from its parish payments towards their allocations during the year. Thus, every Metropolis is ensured sufficient funds to provide the core services needed to serve its constituent parishes.

Each Metropolis will add a "cushion" on top of the Archdiocese Assigned amount due from that Metropolis. This cushion amount is usually decided by the local committee in conjunction with the Priests and Parish Council Presidents meeting of the Metropolis. This allows Metropolis to give any necessary relief during the course of the year while not falling short of the Archdiocese Assigned amount due. If the parishes of a Metropolis pay at least 100 percent of the Archdiocese-assigned amount, the Metropolis will receive an additional bonus of 2 percent of the total amount collected from the parishes during the calendar year. Further, the Metropolises receive 75% of every dollar over 100% as a bonus. If a Metropolis allocates only the assigned amount to the parishes, it will never be able to obtain the bonus as there will always be some parishes which do not meet their allocation by the end of the calendar year. Furthermore, if the Metropolis has an allocation appeal process, the total amount collected relative to the Archdiocese-assigned amount will fall short.

*We are followers of our Lord Christ Jesus. We are expected to put Him and His Church first (Honor your Lord God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your being). This means we all must make a major effort to support our National Church ---as well as our Metropolis and individual Parish. Should a parish find itself in an unforeseen financial difficulty, that parish can make an appeal to their Metropolis Chancellor and the Metropolis Finance Committee to request relief.*

**For more information, or for assistance, please contact the Chancellor of the Metropolis, who will assist you, or put you in contact with the appropriate committee members.**

Thank you for your dedication and stewardship to the Church, and for the unselfish stewardship of your parish towards God's work.