

CAUSE NO.07-03807D

**JOHN DOE I, JOHN DOE II,
THROUGH HIS MOTHER AS
NEXT FRIEND OF JOHN DOE II,
A VULNERABLE (NON COMPOS
MENTIS) ADULT, JOHN DOE III,
JOHN DOE IV AND JOHN DOE V,**

Plaintiffs,

VS.

**REVEREND NICHOLAS E. KATINAS,
PASTOR (FORMERLY) OF HOLY
TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH; THE GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF DENVER BY AND
THROUGH BISHOP ISALAH OF DENVER
IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY, AND THE
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE
OF AMERICA BY AND THROUGH
ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS IN HIS
OFFICIAL CAPACITY,**

Defendants.

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT

95th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DALLAS COUNTY TEXAS

**APPENDIX OF EVIDENCE
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSES TO
DEFENDANTS' MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

EXHIBIT 14

NLC

Special Regulations
and
Uniform Parish
Regulations

OF THE
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA



1978
NEW YORK

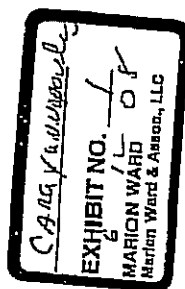


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PREAMBLE

The Charter of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America provides for the promulgation of regulations to implement the Charter and govern the Archdiocese.

Chapter I contains the Special Regulations which implement the establishment by the Charter of the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laiety Congress, the Archdiocesan Council, the Diocesan Clergy-Laiety Assembly and the Diocesan Council.

Chapter II contains the Uniform Parish Regulations which govern the parishes of the Archdiocese.

The Special Regulations and the Uniform Parish Regulations are hereinafter referred to as "these regulations."

DEFINITION OF TERMS

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH or CHURCH	The total organized body of communicants of the Greek Orthodox Faith.
THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN THE AMERICAS	The total organized body of Greek Orthodox communicants in North and South America.
THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA or ARCHDIOCESE	The highest spiritual and governing authority of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Americas.
SYNOD OF BISHOPS	The hierarchical authority of the Archdiocese.
ARCHDIOCESAN CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS	The highest legislative body of the Archdiocese.
ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL	The advisory and consultative body to the Archbishop.
DIOCESAN CLERGY-LAITY ASSEMBLY	The meeting of the parishes within each Diocese.
DIOCESAN COUNCIL	The advisory and consultative body to the Bishop.
SPIRITUAL COURTS	The judicial bodies of the Archdiocese and the Dioceses having jurisdiction over spiritual and canonical matters.
THE PARISH	The local organized body of communicants of the Church.
PARISH ASSEMBLY	The general meeting of the members of the Parish.
PARISH COUNCIL	The administrative body of the Parish.

CHAPTER I

SPECIAL REGULATIONS

ARTICLE I

ARCHDIOCESAN CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS

Section 1: The Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress is comprised of the following, each having one vote: the Archbishop, the Bishops, the clergy and laity representatives of the parishes, and the members of the Archdiocesan Council.

Section 2: Each parish shall be represented by four delegates, each having one vote, and shall include the Priest, the President of the Parish Council and in his absence the Vice President or in his absence any member of the Parish Council designated by it, and two members of the parish elected by the Parish Assembly.

Section 3: Except for questions of a doctrinal or canonical nature, the Clergy-Laity Congress shall concern itself with all matters affecting the life growth and unity of the Church, her institutions, her finances, her administration, educational and philanthropic concerns, and her growing role in the religious life of the nations of the western hemisphere.

Section 4: The presiding officer of the Clergy-Laity Congress shall be the Archbishop or his appointed representative. The Secretariat shall be appointed by the Chair.

Section 5: A majority of the accredited registered delegates shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business of the Congress.

Section 6: The Clergy-Laity Congress shall be convened biennially by the Archbishop. It may be convened in extraordinary session if need be. The time and place of the Congress shall be fixed by the Archdiocesan Council.

Section 7: The decisions of the Clergy-Laity Congresses after ratification by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, shall be transmitted in Greek and English texts to the parishes of the Archdiocese.

ARTICLE II

ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL

Section 1: The Archdiocesan Council is the advisory and consultative body to the Archbishop. It interprets and implements the decisions of the Clergy-Laiety Congresses and these regulations, administers the temporal and financial affairs of the Archdiocese and possesses interim legislative authority between Clergy-Laiety Congresses.

Section 2: The Archdiocesan Council shall be comprised of not less than fifty-one members, including the following: the Archbishop, the Bishops, one priest and two lay members from each Diocese appointed by the Bishop, and the remainder to be appointed by the Archbishop. The members of the Archdiocesan Council shall serve for a two-year term starting at the end of each Clergy-Laiety Congress.

Section 3: The Archbishop convenes the Archdiocesan Council at least twice each year.

Section 4: In addition to the Archbishop as Chairman, the Archdiocesan Council shall have a Vice Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such additional officers as it may require, elected at its first meeting following the biennial Clergy-Laiety Congress.

Section 5: From the membership of the Archdiocesan Council the Archbishop shall appoint an Executive Committee of nine which shall have in the interim between meetings of the Archdiocesan Council all of its authority, excluding legislative powers, and shall meet at the direction of the Archbishop.

Section 6: In the event interim legislation is required between Clergy-Laiety Congresses, the Archbishop shall convene the Archdiocesan Council for the purpose of adopting such legislation.

ARTICLE III

DIOCESAN CLERGY-LAIETY ASSEMBLY

Section 1: The Diocesan Clergy-Laiety Assembly concerns itself with all matters affecting the life and growth of the Church within the Diocese.

Section 2: The Diocesan Clergy-Laiety Assembly is comprised of the following, each having one vote: the Bishop, the clergy and laity representative of the Parishes, as provided in Section 3, and the members of the Diocesan Council.

Section 3: Each parish shall be represented by three delegates, each having one vote and shall include the Priest, the President of the Parish Council and in his absence the Vice President or in his absence any officer of the Parish Council and any member of the Parish Council designated by it.

Section 4: The Diocesan Assembly shall be convened by the Bishop annually in order that Parishes shall have the opportunity to discuss matters of common concern and to submit proposals and recommendations to the Archdiocese for submission to the next Clergy-Laiety Congress.

Section 5: The presiding officer of the Diocesan Clergy-Laiety Assembly shall be the Bishop or his appointed representative. The Secretariat shall be appointed by the Chair.

ARTICLE IV

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Section 1: The Diocesan Council is the advisory and consultative body to the Bishop.

Section 2: The Diocesan Council shall be comprised of the Bishop and five clergymen and nine lay members appointed by the Bishop.

Section 3: The Diocesan Council shall be convened at least twice each year by the Bishop. Its members shall serve for a one year term starting at the end of each Diocesan Clergy-Laiety Assembly.

Section 4: In addition to the Bishop as Chairman, the Diocesan Council shall have a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such additional officers as it may require elected at its first meeting following the annual Diocesan Clergy-Laiety Assembly.

CHAPTER II

UNIFORM PARISH REGULATIONS

PART ONE

ARTICLE I

PARISH

Section 1: The Parish is the local body of communicants of the Church in a given locality, organized under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese, whose ecclesiastical authority is its canonically consecrated Bishop. Locally, the Parish is headed by a canonically ordained Priest heretofore duly appointed by the Archbishop or hereafter duly appointed by the Bishop in the Diocese in which the Parish is located. The assignment of such appointed Priest shall bind the Parish to the Archdiocesan Special and Uniform Parish Regulations (hereinafter referred throughout as "these regulations") with the same force and effect as if the same were formally approved and adopted by the Parish.

Section 2: The members of the Parish, the Clergy and the Parish Council shall conform faithfully to the doctrines, canons, worship, discipline, charter, these regulations and the administrative rulings and encyclicals of the Church.

Non-conformance shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Canons. The Archbishop shall have the power to revoke the ecclesiastical charter of a Parish and/or to suspend or remove the Parish Council from office whenever, in his judgment, there is sufficient cause for such action after consultation with the Bishop. In each case of such a revocation, suspension or removal, notice of the same shall be forwarded to the Parish Council in writing stating the cause for such action. The Parish shall furthermore abide by the decisions of the Clergy-Laity Congresses irrespective of whether it was represented thereat, the administrative determinations of the Archdiocesan Council, and such interim legislation as may be adopted between Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congresses by the Archdiocesan Council.

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Section 3: Each Parish shall be known as the Greek Orthodox Church of (name and locality) and its corporate seal shall, unless proscribed by local statute, follow the form for such seals established by the Archdiocese.

Section 4: A Parish shall have only one Church unless otherwise determined by the Archdiocesan Council.

ARTICLE II

AIMS AND PURPOSES OF PARISH

Section 1: The aims and purposes of the 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: The diakonia (work and ministry) of the Parish consists of proclaiming the Gospel in accordance with the Orthodox 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

PARISH PROPERTY

Section 1: Church edifice and other buildings constituting Parish property shall be used to serve the religious, educational, recreational and philanthropic needs of the Parish. Parish property shall be held subject to and at all times administered in accordance with the regulations herein, the by-laws of the Parish, and the laws of the state in which the Parish is incorporated.

Section 2: The Parish shall hold title to all of its real and personal property in its corporate name and no other. Parish Councils shall administer such property in trust for the Parishes they represent.

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Section 3: The Parish may purchase real property, or sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber its real property upon approval of two-thirds of the members present at a Parish Assembly duly called for that purpose upon ten days written notice and the subsequent consent of the Diocesan Council. In the case of the acquisition of realty for the purpose of erecting a church or other structure, or the acquisition of realty with existing improvements thereon, the request for the consent of the Diocesan Council shall be in writing and 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 shall be pertinent or thereafter requested by the Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council shall render its decision in writing within thirty days of the receipt of the Parish's application for such consent. In the event that no response is received within such a time, the said consent shall be deemed to have been granted.

Section 4: In order to maintain an Archdiocesan standard for architectural, iconographic and artistic integrity, before a Parish shall proceed to have final plans prepared for the erection of a church structure or other parish buildings, the major structural alteration to an existing church structure or other parish buildings, or the decoration, including iconography, of a church structure, it shall submit the preliminary plans therefor to the Bishop who shall forward the same to the Archbishop for approval. All final plans for any such construction, alteration and/or decoration, shall be submitted to the Bishop in a like manner for approval by the Archbishop before the Parish enters into any contract for the accomplishment of such work.

Section 5: All special bequests, gifts, and devises shall be used by the Parish only for the purposes for which they were made.

Section 6: In the event of heresy, schism, or defection from the Archdiocese, that segment of the Parish which remains loyal to the Church and the Archdiocese shall retain title to the Parish property.

ARTICLE IV

CLERGY

Section 1: The Priest, by virtue of his canonical ordination and episcopal appointment, heads the local Parish of the Church and exercises in its behalf the priestly function. The ministry of the Priest consists in shepherding the Parish 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 Christian life.

Section 2: The clergy are assigned or transferred by the Bishop within his Diocese by virtue of the authority of his office and in accordance with the canons, ecclesiastical procedure and the needs of the Diocese. In accordance with the aforementioned canons and ecclesiastical procedure, neither the Parish Council nor the Parish Assembly is authorized to dismiss a Parish Priest. Prior to the assignment or transfer of a Priest, the Parish Council of the respective Parish shall be informed by the Bishop regarding his decision. Clergy entering the Archdiocese from the Holy Cross Theological School or otherwise shall be initially assigned by the Archbishop at the request of the Bishop of the Diocese. Clergy may be transferred between Dioceses in accordance with the provisions of Article XX of the Archdiocesan Charter.

Section 3: The Priest shall have charge of all matters of divine worship and the personnel connected therewith and he shall keep the registers of marriages, baptisms, Chrismation and death.

Section 4: When transferred, or if dismissed or suspended from a Parish by the Bishop, the Priest shall deliver to his successor the sacred vessels and all registers and religious records.

Section 5: Where there is more than one Priest in a 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: The Archdiocese has established remunerative standards for the Clergy including provisions for annual increments and cost of living increases. The Parish shall also assume the following obligations:

1. To provide a parish home or housing allowance including the payment of all utilities where applicable.
2. To provide a Blue Cross-Blue Shield Family Plan and Major Medical Plan or similar coverage, if such plans are not established and maintained by the Archdiocese. The standards for such plans shall be established by the Archdiocese.
3. To pay at least one-half of the cost of Social Security coverage.

4. To provide travel and automobile allowances.

5. To defray all expenses incurred in attending Clergy-Lay Congresses or Diocese Clergy-Lay Assemblies.

6. To provide for an annual vacation period of fifteen days plus an additional week for each five years of ordained service to a maximum of five weeks, irrespective of the time served in the Parish, provided he has obtained from the Bishop written permission to absent himself from his Parish.

Section 7: A Priest's remuneration may not be withheld or lowered without the consent of the Bishop. Should a Priest become ill while in the service of a Parish, he shall be compensated fully during such illness for a period of at least three months. When a Priest is assigned to a Parish, his moving and travel expenses are assumed by that Parish.

Section 8: Following every fifth year of ordination, each Priest shall participate in the ongoing education program of the Archdiocese by attending a three-week seminar at Hellenic College or any other place selected by the Archdiocese.

Section 9: It shall be mandatory for each Priest to join and maintain membership in the Archdiocesan Pension Program in accordance with the provisions of said program.

ARTICLE V

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Section 1: The Priest as head of the Parish, by virtue of the ecclesiastical authority vested in him, shall guide and oversee the total Parish program, and is ultimately responsible with the Parish Council to the Bishop for the whole life and activities of his Parish.

Section 2: Each Parish shall be administered by the Priest and a Parish Council cooperatively.

Section 3: If a problem should arise between a Priest and the Parish Council, the matter shall not be brought before the Parish Assembly. The Priest or the Parish Council shall have the right to refer the matter to the Bishop whose decision shall be final.

ARTICLE VI

PARISHIONERS

Section 1: Any person, eighteen years of age or over, 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 financial obligation 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 persons under twenty-one shall not serve on the Parish Council when such service is contrary to local law.

Section 2: 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 3: 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 4: 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 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 5: When transferring from one Parish to another, the Parishioner shall present to the Priest of the new Parish a certificate of transfer signed by his or her former Priest, which shall include all the pertinent information hereinbefore recited in Section 4 of this Article.

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 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, 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.

Section 7: The obligations of the parishioner are to pay such regular financial obligations and special assessments as the parish may establish.

Section 8: The Priest and the Parish Council shall judge cases of indigence or other special circumstances justifying the waiver of a parishioner's financial obligations.

Section 9: 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.

ARTICLE VII

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 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 per cent 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, made at least ten days prior thereto, and listing its agenda thereon. 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 as of the date of such Parish Assembly. 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. New members may exercise their vote at Parish Assemblies if they have been members in good standing for at least three months. The Priest shall be a non-voting member of the Parish Assembly.

Section 5: The quorum for a Parish Assembly is such number of members as its by-laws may determine. If a quorum is not present, the Parish Assembly shall be called a second time within twenty-one days. At such time decisions may be taken by the number of members present with the exemption of matters pertaining to the purchase, sale or encumbering of Parish property in which case a quorum of members shall be required.

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

Section 7: The minutes of the Parish Assembly shall be signed by the Priest, the Chairman of the Parish Assembly and the Secretary.

ARTICLE VIII

PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1: The Parish Council shall consist of the Priest, and a number of elected lay members fixed by the Parish by-laws

ARTICLE IX

ELECTIONS OF PARISH COUNCIL

or by local statute according to the needs of the Parish and is responsible to the Parish Assembly for conducting all Parish affairs in keeping with the aims and purposes as hereinbefore set forth. The Parish Council shall be deemed to mean also Board of Trustees or Board of Directors when such designations are required by local statute. The Priest shall not have a vote.

Section 2: The officers of the Parish Council shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Parish by-laws require.

Section 3: The members of the Parish Council are elected for a term not to exceed three years by the members of the Parish who have met their financial obligations to the Parish.

Section 4: The Parish Council may be appointed by the Bishop upon the request of a two-thirds majority of the Parish Assembly.

Section 5: No salaried employee of the Parish may serve on the Parish Council, the Board of Auditors, or the Board of Elections.

Section 6: 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 the Parish, the determination by a Spiritual Court of the Diocese that a member is not or has ceased to be loyal to the doctrines, canons, worship, discipline, constitution, administrative rulings, customs, practices, these regulations and encyclicals of the Archdiocese, or that he or she does not recognize its duly constituted ecclesiastical authority, or the determination by a Spiritual Court of the Diocese that a Parish Council member is guilty of a serious moral transgression or has violated his or her oath of office.

Section 7: When a member of the Parish Council has been absent without justifiable cause for more than three of its meetings consecutively, he or she may be relieved of his or her duties upon the resolution of the Parish Council to that effect.

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 1: The election of the members of the Parish Council shall be held no earlier than the first Sunday in November, and no later than the second Sunday in December.

Section 2: A candidate for the Parish Council must be a member of the Parish for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the election and lives his or her life and activities in accordance with the faith and canons of the Church.

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 a nominating 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: Parish by-laws may provide for absentee balloting only in the case of elections of the Parish Council. Such ballots must be in the hands of the Board of Elections not later than the commencement of voting and shall be opened and tabulated with the ballots personally cast.

Section 7: Elections shall be held at a place on Parish premises previously announced by the Board of Elections and voting shall be by secret ballot. Voting shall begin after the conclusion of the divine liturgy and shall terminate at five o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

Section 8: 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

Section 4: Each member or member-elect 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, teaching, traditions, holy canons, worship, and moral principles of the Greek Orthodox Church, as well as the constitutional charter, discipline, and regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South 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."

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

ARTICLE XI

ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

Section 1: Following the administering of the oath of office, the Parish Council shall convene immediately to elect its officers under the chairmanship of the Priest who shall not vote.

Section 2: The office of President may not be held by the same person for more than six consecutive years, except by special permission of the Diocesan Council.

Section 3: 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 or if more than one the First Vice President, shall assume the office of the president.

ARTICLE XII

MEETINGS OF PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1: The Parish Council shall hold regular meetings at least once each month, and special meetings whenever the Priest, the President, or a majority of the Parish Council shall deem it necessary.

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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 9: Any member of the Parish questioning the validity of any election may within five days after such election lodge a written protest with the Bishop through the Parish Priest. Such protest shall be signed by the questioning member and at least four other Parish members. The decision of the Bishop thereon shall be final.

Section 10: 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 the 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.

ARTICLE X

RATIFICATION OF ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL AND OATH OF OFFICE

Section 1: Within six days after the election, the Priest shall forward the results to the Bishop for review and ratification. The Bishop shall ratify the election after it shall be confirmed by the Archdiocese that the 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 these regulations and the Parish by-laws.

Section 2: The election will be considered ratified upon receipt of verification hereinbefore provided for in the absence of the filing of any protest thereto. In the event that a protest is filed and such protest is upheld, the Bishop will declare the protested election void and a new election will be ordered.

Section 3: On the last Sunday in December, and after ratification of the election has been received from the Bishop a special ceremony shall be held at the close of the divine liturgy in which all the 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 all the members of the Parish Council.

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- Section 2: A majority of the members of the Parish Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- Section 3: The minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council shall be signed by the Priest, the President and the Secretary.

ARTICLE XIII

DUTIES OF PARISH COUNCIL

- Section 1: 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, 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 sums as may be fixed by the Clergy-Lay Congresses for the support of the Archdiocese, to buy, sell or mortgage Parish property, as hereinbefore provided, to submit to the Bishop at the end of each year a report of its stewardship and to submit annually to the Archdiocese and to the Diocese the Parish budget for the ensuing year and the audited financial statement for the prior year.
- Section 2: All Parish personnel, including school teachers, are engaged by the Parish Council with the consent of the Priest.
- Section 3: 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.
- Section 4: The Parish Council and its officers may exercise all additional authority consonant with the regulations herein, the Parish by-laws, and the limitations imposed by the laws of the state in which the Parish is incorporated.

ARTICLE XIV

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

- Section 1: The Board of Elections shall consist of no less than three members elected at the last Parish Assembly preceding an election from among those who are not candidates for election to the Parish Council.
- Section 2: The Board of Elections 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 3: 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.

ARTICLE XV

BOARD OF AUDITORS

- Section 1: The Board of Auditors shall consist of at least three members elected at the last Parish Assembly preceding an election from among those who have not served on the Parish Council for the year being audited and who are not candidates for election to the Parish Council.
- Section 2: The Board of Auditors shall audit regularly the accounting records of the Parish and prepare a report of such audit for presentation to the Parish Assembly, copies of which shall be transmitted to the Bishop and the Archdiocese by the Parish Council.
- Section 3: A vacancy on the Board of Auditors 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.

ARTICLE XVI

FISCAL YEAR, FINANCIAL REPORTS AND BUDGET

- Section 1: The Parish fiscal year shall be the calendar year. At the first Parish Assembly of each year the Parish Council

ARTICLE XVIII

DISSOLUTION OF PARISH

Section 1: When it is determined by the Parish Council that the Parish is incapable of sustaining itself and wishes to be dissolved, a Parish Assembly shall be called. If three-fourths of the existing members in good standing favor such dissolution or in the event that a Parish has been disbanded and a Parish Assembly cannot be called, the Archbishop shall have the power to declare the said Parish dissolved or disbanded and its properties shall devolve to the Archdiocese.

ARTICLE XIX

MERGER OF PARISHES

Section 1: When it is determined by the Parish Councils of two or more Parishes that it would be in the best interests of such Parishes to merge, and to have only one Church, approval of two-thirds of the members present at a Parish Assembly of each Parish duly called upon ten days written notice, and the consent of the Archdiocesan Council shall be required.

PART TWO

ARTICLE I

ORGANIZATION OF PARISHES

Section 1: New Parishes shall be organized according to the following procedures: Greek Orthodox communicants wishing to organize a Parish must first file with the Bishop of the Diocese an application for permission to organize. The application must be signed by the heads of more than fifty Greek Orthodox families and provide sufficient evidence to satisfy the Bishop that a Parish can be sup-

shall present a financial report covering all income and expenses for the preceding year.

Section 2: The budget for the ensuing fiscal year shall likewise be submitted for approval at the first regular Parish Assembly of the year.

Section 3: Each Parish shall remit monthly to the Archdiocese the portion of its total commitment allocation for Archdiocesan and Diocesan needs as determined by the Clergy-Lay Congresses.

Section 4: The Parish budget shall include appropriations for its representatives to the Clergy-Lay Congresses and Diocesan Assemblies.

Section 5: The Archdiocesan Council shall have the power to suspend or otherwise discipline a Parish for its failure to meet its Archdiocesan financial obligations as hereinbefore set forth.

Section 6: The Archdiocesan Council shall have the authority to make special provisions in the matter of the financial obligations of Parishes wherever necessary.

ARTICLE XVII

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1: All Parish organizations shall be under the supervision of the Priest.

Section 2: Any adult communicant of the Church desiring to join any Parish organization shall be required first to become a member of the Parish. A communicant under 18 years of age may be a member of any Parish Youth Organization, irrespective of whether his or her parents are members of the Parish, upon the approval of the Priest.

Section 3: It shall be the concern of each Parish to have a Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, a youth organization and such other organizations as meet the needs of the Parish.

Section 4: The local by-laws of such organizations shall comply with the uniform Parish regulations of the said organizations as approved by the Archdiocese.

ARTICLE II

REORGANIZATION OF PARISHES

- Section 1: A Parish which has not been organized in conformance with the requirements of the Archdiocese must execute the Archdiocesan Agreement to Organize and vote to adopt these regulations in order to qualify for the issuance to it of an ecclesiastical charter by the Archdiocese.
- Section 2: If a discrepancy exists in a Parish between its ecclesiastical charter from the Archdiocese and its certificate of incorporation, the certificate of incorporation unless contrary to statute shall be promptly amended to eliminate such discrepancy so that it may fully comply thereafter with the ecclesiastical charter. Until such certificate of incorporation is amended, the Parish shall meanwhile be bound to the disciplines, these regulations and the directives of the Clergy-Laity Congress, the Archdiocese, the Archdiocesan Council and the Diocese with the same force and effect as if the same were fully recited therein.

PART THREE

ARTICLE I

PARISH BY-LAWS

- Section 1. Each Parish shall have the right to append to the regulations herein in the form of by-laws such additional provisions as local needs may require provided the same do not conflict with the matters dealt with the regulations herein, provided such by-laws are consistent with the spirit of the regulations herein, and provided further that such by-laws are approved in advance by the Bishop.

ported in that locality. The prospective Parish shall form an Organizational Committee with several subcommittees as follows:

1. A planning Committee to study, analyze and formulate an overall program and prepare a proposed budget for the community.
2. A Fund-Raising Committee.
3. A Real Estate Committee to investigate, select and arrange buildings and other facilities for the parish's most urgent and immediate needs.
4. A Membership Committee to prepare a complete list of the families and number of children to be served by the Parish.

- Section 2: If permission is granted by the Bishop to organize a new Parish after consultation with the existing Parishes in the immediate area, a representative designated by the Bishop shall call an organizational meeting of those who executed the application for such permission and the representative shall preside at such meeting. An interim Parish Council shall be elected at such meeting until such time as it is fully organized and accepts these regulations.
- Section 3: Upon acceptance by the new Parish of the Archdiocesan Agreement to Organize, and these regulations, and upon the recommendation of the Bishop, the Archdiocese will grant to the said new Parish an ecclesiastical charter and the Bishop will appoint a Priest therefor if one is available.

- Section 4: The Priest and the interim Parish Council shall be authorized by virtue of the issuance of the said ecclesiastical charter to take all the necessary steps required under state law to incorporate the said Parish. A permanent Parish Council shall thereafter be elected in the prescribed manner hereinbefore provided.

- Section 5: If a new Parish is unable to fulfill its organizational objectives, or fails or refuses to comply with the Archdiocesan Agreement to Organize and these regulations, the Charter of the Parish may be revoked by the Archdiocese.

PART FOUR

ARTICLE I

REVISION OF REGULATIONS AND OFFICIAL TEXT

Section 1: These regulations may be amended by the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congresses and such amendments shall become effective immediately following their ratification by the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Section 2: The English Text of these regulations shall be deemed for all purposes the official text.