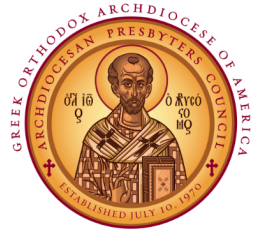




ARCHDIOCESAN PRESBYTERS COUNCIL

“BROTHERS WHO LOVE AND SERVE ONE ANOTHER”

c/o Saint Mark Greek Orthodox Church, 2100 NW 51st Street, Boca Raton, FL 33431
Tel.: 561-994-4822 · Web: apc.goarch.org · E-mail: apc@mail.goarch.org



2020-2022

COUNCIL MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis

VICE-PRESIDENT

Rev. Fr. Paul Kaplanis

TREASURER

Rev. Fr. George Gartelos

SECRETARY

Rev. Fr. Michael Ellis

ADVISOR/ IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Rev. Fr. John Touloumes

REPRESENTATIVES

ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

Rev. Fr. Elias Villis
Rev. Fr. John Lardas

METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Rev. Fr. Paul Kaplanis
Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis

METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

Rev. Fr. Thomas Chininis
Rev. Fr. Costin Popescu

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

Rev. Fr. Stephen Bithos
Rev. Chrysanthos Kerkeres

METROPOLIS OF DENVER

Rev. Fr. George Gartelos
Rev. Fr. Mario Giannopoulos

METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

Rev. Fr. Larry Legakis
Rev. Fr. Nicolaos Kotsis

METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

Rev. Fr. Dimitrios Antokas
Rev. Fr. Louis J. Noplos

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

Rev. Fr. Michael Ellis
Rev. Fr. Andrew Lentz

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Rev. Fr. Photios Dumont
Rev. Fr. Apostolos Hill

August 26, 2020

The Holy Martyrs Adrian and Natalie

“All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.” (2 Cor. 4:15)

Dear Brother Clergy, Presvyteres and Clergy Families,

The Vision Statement of the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council (“APC”) is “Brothers Who Love and Serve One Another.” Embraced within that love is the concern for the security and dignity in retirement of the clergy who have served our Holy Archdiocese and given their lives to the service of the Holy Church of Christ.

From the founding of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese (“GOA”) in 1922 until the establishment of the Pension Plan in 1973, our beloved clergy - who helped build and grow their parishes and the Archdiocese - labored and served with no church-sponsored financial safety net for their retirement years. That resulted in many of them after retirement subsisting on meager savings and enduring great concerns about how to provide for their wives and families during the remainder of their lives and after their repose.

In 1973, the GOA created “The Pension Plan for Clergymen and Lay Employees of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America” (“The Pension Plan”) to ensure the long-term financial security and dignity in retirement of the clergy throughout the Church and the lay employees of the Archdiocese. As a Define Benefits (“DB”) plan, it depends on three legs of support: personal contributions from the clergy and lay employees (currently up to 6.5% of their salary per month, mandated for clergy), employer contributions from the parishes or Archdiocese for each participating employee (currently \$700 per person per month), and supplemental contributions from the Archdiocese as required over time to stabilize the plan.

As documented in the Pension Plan Document, the Administration Committee of the Archdiocese Benefits Committee (“ABC”) is charged to “control and manage the operation and administration of the Plan.” The funding needed to sustain the Plan beyond the clergy, employee and parish contributions, however, is the responsibility of the GOA as the Employer, which shall “make such contributions from time to time, which...it shall deem necessary to provide the benefits of this Plan.”

It has now been documented and reported by the ABC that the GOA has failed to meet that commitment in various ways over the past 20 years, leaving the Plan and the financial future of every participating clergy and clergy family at risk. The result has been a Pension Fund that is \$65.9 million underfunded. The officers and representatives of the APC have worked closely with our brothers on the ABC to validate and report that information and we fully concur with their findings. We are deeply thankful for their tremendous efforts in producing this information and proposal.

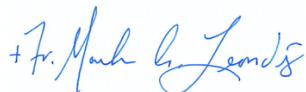
The ABC, in consultation with professional finance and retirement consultants, proposed a plan to rescue the current Pension Fund as a Defined Benefits plan, which it presented in a communication to all clergy of the GOA on August 24, 2020. On that same day, the APC convened a meeting of its representatives to receive a full presentation from the ABC on its findings and recommendations. Representatives of the Retired Clergy Association (“RCA”) and the National Sisterhood of Presbyteres (“NSP”) were also present. As a result, the following motion was **UNANIMOUSLY** approved:

MOTION: The Archdiocesan Presbyters Council wholeheartedly supports the excellent work, analysis and recommendation of the Archdiocese Benefits Committee regarding the current crisis of the Pension Fund.

It is vital to note that during this process, both the APC and the ABC, representing the clergy, clergy families and lay employees of the GOA, have worked with and had the full and unwavering support of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. We are thankful for the focus His Eminence has placed on the Pension Plan as one of this top three priorities and we have his full assurance that he is, and will continue to be, our advocate in rescuing and stabilizing it now and for years to come. His personal and pastoral support are a great blessing to all our Clergy families.

We respectfully implore the leadership of the Archdiocese, including our Holy Eparchial Synod, the Clergy-Laity Congress and the Archdiocese Council and its committees to offer their full support to His Eminence and the proposal offered by the ABC and to implement the recommendations in the report immediately.

With gratitude in the Lord for the love and support of all whom we serve in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we remain, The Representatives of the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council,



Rev. Fr. Mark Leondis, President
Rev. Fr. Paul Kaplanis, Vice-President
Rev. Fr. George Gartelos, Treasurer
Rev. Fr. Michael Ellis, Secretary
Rev. Fr. John Touloumes, Past-President

APC Representatives:

Rev. Fr. Elias Villis	Rev. Fr. Larry Legakis
Rev. Fr. John Lardas	Rev. Fr. Nicolaos Kotsis
Rev. Fr. Thomas Chininis	Rev. Fr. Dimitrios Antokas
Rev. Fr. Costin Popescu	Rev. Fr. Louis J. Noplos
Rev. Fr. Stephen Bithos	Rev. Fr. Andrew Lentz
Rev. Chrysanthos Kerkeres	Rev. Fr. Photios Dumont
Rev. Fr. Mario Giannopoulos	Rev. Fr. Apostolos Hill