

2026-2027 HOLY TRINITY PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

ARTICLE 24 / PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1: To serve on a Parish Council is a ministry and all those who serve are called to represent Christ and the Orthodox Faith to all whom they meet in all aspects of life. The Parish Council shall consist of the Priest, as the head of the Parish, and a number of elected lay members fixed by the Parish Bylaws or by local statute according to the needs of the Parish. The Parish Council is responsible to the Parish Assembly and to the respective Hierarchy for conducting all Parish affairs in keeping with the mission, aims and purposes of the Church as set forth in the Charter and these Regulations. 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 be a nonvoting member of the Parish Council.

Note: According to local Parish Bylaws, 13 members are to serve for the two calendar years following the election; 6 to be elected for even years and 7 for odd years.

ARTICLE 25 / ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1: Members of the Parish Council shall be elected by parishioners in good standing of the Parish in accordance with the Regulations and the Parish Bylaws. 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 parishioner in good standing of the Parish for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the election and must live his or her life in accordance with the Faith and canons of the Church. The Priest determines whether the Parishioners are in canonical and financial good standing as specified in Article 18, Sections 1 through 3.

Section 3: Candidates for election to the Parish Council shall be nominated in accordance with the provisions of the Parish Bylaws.

A. All candidates shall attend a seminar conducted by the Priest prior to the election at which the Priest shall discuss and explain to the candidates the Uniform Parish Regulations, and the significance of the affirmation of office.

B. At the discretion of the respective Hierarchy, such seminar may be held locally or regionally, provided that candidates are given appropriate advance notice and more than one reasonable opportunity to attend the seminar in a location within close proximity to the applicable Parish.

C. In the event that an otherwise eligible candidate(s) cannot attend the scheduled seminar(s) for justifiable cause, the Priest shall meet privately with such individual(s) to provide the seminar.

D. At the conclusion of the seminar all candidates must sign a statement acknowledging that they understand the Regulations and will abide by them and the affirmation of office. If a candidate for the Parish Council does not attend a seminar and sign the statement, his/her name shall be deleted from the list of candidates.

I (print name) _____ have read and understand the above mentioned.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor 1(Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor 2(Print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have met with the candidate and affirm that he/she is in ***canonical and financial*** good standing as specified in Article 18, Sections 1 through 3. **Parish Priest Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Note: In accordance with the parish bylaws, the candidate must submit a brief biography and statement of reasons for running to be included in the mailed announcement. Both sponsors must be members in good standing as defined therein. All nominees must meet with the Parish Priest and return the completed packet to the church office no later than **3 p.m., Friday, November 14, 2025.**

DATE & TIME RECEIVED: _____

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Biography:

Statement:

Metropolis of Atlanta
Parish Council – The Nomination Process
Attachment H: Parish Council Pledge

I understand that the aims and purposes of the Parish are to keep, practice and proclaim the Orthodox Christian Faith pure and undefiled. I understand that the Parish shall express the life of the Church in the local community according to the Eastern (Hellenic) Orthodox faith and tradition, sanctifying the faithful, and edifying the religious and ethical life of the faithful in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, the decrees and Canons of the Holy Apostles and the Seven Ecumenical Councils of the Ancient Undivided Church as interpreted by the practice of our Mother Church of Christ, the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople. I also understand that the diakonia (work and ministry) of the Parish will include proclaiming the Gospel in accordance with the Orthodox faith, sanctifying the faithful through God's grace in worship, the Divine Liturgy and the other Sacraments; enhancing their spiritual life; adding to their number instructing others and receiving them into the Church through baptism and/or chrismation; educating them in the Orthodox faith and in the ethos of the Church through the establishment of programs, schools and philanthropic activities and implementing Christian ministries.

I understand that the Metropolitan will regularly bless and systematically supervise each Parish. I understand that the Priest or Proistamenos heads the Parish and exercises in its behalf the priestly duties, directing its orderly life, preserving its unity, keeping it faithful to its divine purpose, sanctifying his flock through the administration of the sacraments and performance of all other prescribed services of worship, proclaiming the teachings 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. I understand further that 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 Metropolitan for the whole life and activities of his Parish. I understand that the Parish shall be administered by the Priest and the Parish Council cooperatively and that the Parish Council is comprised of the Priest and the elected lay members of the Parish who have been ratified by the Metropolitan of the Metropolis.

I understand that the duties of the Parish Council include the following:

- To administer the affairs of the Parish in such a manner as to aid the Priest in the fulfillment of its aims and purposes, establish a stewardship program, appoint a stewardship committee to implement and expand the stewardship program of the Parish.
- To collect the revenue of the Church, issuing receipts thereof and paying by check the salaries of the Parish personnel, Parish expenses, budgetary grant-in-aid for Parish educational and philanthropic organizations and such sums as may be fixed by the Clergy-Laity Congress for the support of the Archdiocese.
- To buy, sell or mortgage Parish property as provided by the Uniform Parish Regulations.
- To submit a budget for approval to the first General Assembly of each year, to submit monthly to the Archdiocese the portion of the total commitment allocation for the Archdiocese and Metropolis Ministries and needs, to submit to the Metropolitan at the end of each year a report of stewardship and submit annually to the Archdiocese and to the Metropolis the Parish budget for the ensuing year and the audited financial statement for the prior year.

I will be a model for the Parish by conforming faithfully to the worship and sacramental life of the Church, its doctrines, and Canons, discipline, the Archdiocesan Charter, and the Special Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, and the encyclicals of the Church. I will model faithful membership with my stewardship of time, talents, and treasures. I will apply the tenets of the Orthodox faith in my daily life and activities, will seek personal spiritual growth, attend Divine Liturgy and other services of worship on Sundays and Holy Days, keep the rules and fasts of the Orthodox tradition, will frequently receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion, will train and teach the young according to the faith and spirit of Orthodoxy, will respect the Clergy, the Ecclesiastical authority and all governing bodies of the Church, will be obedient in all matters of faith and Ecclesiastical order, and will cooperate in every way towards the welfare and prosperity of the Parish and the success of its sacred mission. I will attend all Parish Council meetings unless there is a justifiable reason for not doing so. I will attend all General Assemblies of the Parish unless there is a justifiable reason for not doing so. I will attend all meetings called by the Metropolitan for members of the Parish Council or the officers holding my position on the Parish Council, unless there is a justifiable reason for not doing so.

I am willing to affirm the following oath without any reservation if I am elected to the Parish Council:

"I do solemnly affirm 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 Church 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."

If I fail to adhere to the foregoing, I understand that I may be removed from the Parish Council by the Metropolitan of the Metropolis.

On this ____ day of _____, 20____, I solemnly affirm that I understand and will to my best ability adhere to the foregoing if I am elected to become a member of the Parish Council.

Name --printed

Signature

Parish Name/City/State