

**BY-LAWS OF THE
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY
THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA**

ARTICLE I

THE DIOCESE

The Diocese of New York and New Jersey (hereinafter “the Diocese”) is the local manifestation and ecclesial body of The Orthodox Church in America consisting of the geographical territory defined by the Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America as constituting the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. It is comprised of all parishes, mission parishes, missions, chapels, monasteries, and institutions of The Orthodox Church in America within the states of New York and New Jersey, excluding church institutions canonically exempt from diocesan jurisdiction.

The Diocese is a not-for-profit corporation chartered under the laws of the state of New York as the Diocese of New York and New Jersey.

The Diocese is administered by the canonically elected Bishop of New York and New Jersey who is a member of the Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America.

The Diocese is governed by the canons and canonical discipline of the Orthodox Church, the Statute of The Orthodox Church in America as adopted at the Second All-American Council of October 19-21, 1971 or as amended at any subsequent All-American Council (hereinafter, “the Statute”); its own diocesan By-Laws; and the laws of the states of New York and New Jersey as they pertain to not-for-profit religious corporations. These By-Laws shall be interpreted as consistent with the Sacred Canons of the Orthodox Church and the Statute and shall be amended when necessary to comply with the Canons, Statute and civil law whenever they conflict therewith. In such cases as there may exist a discrepancy between these By-Laws and the Canons or Statute, the Canons and Statute shall always prevail.

ARTICLE II

THE DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP

- 1 The Diocese is administered by the Diocesan Bishop (hereinafter, “the Bishop”). The Bishop is nominated, elected, consecrated and installed according to the norms provided

in the Statute. By virtue of his episcopal consecration and canonical appointment, the Bishop possesses full hierarchal authority within the Diocese.

- 2 At the request of the Bishop and in accordance with the Statute, an Auxiliary Bishop may be appointed in order to assist him in fulfilling his archpastoral duties within the Diocese. The Auxiliary Bishop's duties and functions within the Diocese are determined by the Bishop.
- 3 The Chancellor is appointed by and serves at the discretion of the Bishop. The Chancellor's responsibilities and duties are determined by the Bishop. The Chancellor serves as an ex-officio voting member of the Diocesan Council and all its committees.
- 4 The Secretary of the Diocese is appointed by the Bishop. The Secretary is an ex-officio non-voting member of the Diocesan Council, unless appointed from among members who have been elected. The Secretary shall perform such duties and shall have such powers as may be prescribed by the Statute and by these By-Laws and as may not be inconsistent with law. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Diocesan Council. The Secretary shall record all the proceedings of the meetings of the Diocesan Council in books provided for that purpose, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to the Secretary by the Bishop and Diocesan Council. In general, the Secretary shall perform all the duties generally pertinent to the office of Secretary, subject to the oversight of the Bishop and of the Diocesan Council.
- 5 The Treasurer of the Diocese is appointed by the Bishop. The Treasurer is an ex-officio non-voting member of the Diocesan Council, unless appointed from among members who have been elected. The Treasurer shall perform such duties and shall have such powers as may be prescribed by the Statute and by these By-Laws and as may not be inconsistent with law. The Treasurer shall have custody of all the funds and securities of the Diocese, and shall keep full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Diocese. The Treasurer shall deposit all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Diocese in such depository or depositories as may be designated by the Bishop and Diocesan Council. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Diocese as may be ordered by the Bishop and Diocesan Council, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements. The Treasurer shall render to the Bishop and the Diocesan Council, whenever either of them so requests, an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Diocese. The Treasurer shall perform all the duties generally pertinent to the office of the Treasurer, subject to the oversight of the Bishop and the Diocesan Council.
- 6 The Auditing Committee of the Diocesan Council, consisting of three members, shall be elected by the Diocesan Assembly for three years. The Auditing Committee shall audit semi-annually the accounts of the Treasurer or of the diocesan administration with

respect to all diocesan funds of all Church-related institutions within the Diocese and report to the Diocesan Council. Members of the Auditing Committee attend sessions of the Diocesan Council only to make their reports. Vacancies in the Auditing Committee are filled by the Bishop.

- 7 The Diocesan Council may establish additional committees or commissions to serve specific purposes and functions, according to the needs of the Diocese, as it deems necessary and proper. Membership in such committees or commissions is open to all members of the Diocese. Committee Chairs may attend Diocesan Council Meetings, but without the right to vote. Appointment of all committees and their chairmen shall be made by the Bishop.

ARTICLE III

THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

- 1 The Diocesan Assembly (hereinafter “the Assembly”) is the annual administrative meeting of the Diocese and is presided over by the Bishop or other person(s) specifically appointed by him. If there is no ruling Diocesan Bishop or if the Diocesan Bishop is incapacitated, then the *Locum Tenens* shall preside over the Assembly. The time and place of the annual Assembly is determined by the Diocesan Council with the approval of the Bishop and announced at least ninety days prior to the meeting. The meeting agenda for the Assembly shall be fixed in advance by the Diocesan Council with the approval of the Bishop and sent to all delegates at least thirty days in advance.
- 2 Special Assemblies may be called by decision of the Bishop and the Diocesan Council or as provided for in the Statute.
- 3 The Bishop shall appoint two co-chairs for the Assembly, one priest and one layperson.
- 4 The Bishop shall nominate and the Assembly shall approve the secretariat.
- 5 The Assembly shall consist of:
 - a. The Bishop;
 - b. The Auxiliary Bishop(s);
 - c. The members of the Diocesan Council and the members of the Auditing Committee;
 - d. The senior priest of the Diocesan Cathedral and the Abbots of diocesan monasteries;
 - e. The priests and deacons of each parish, ex-officio, and an equal number of lay delegates elected by their respective parish meetings or parish councils;
 - f. Priests not having parishes if accredited by the Diocesan Council;
 - g. One Lay Delegate from each parish not having a priest;

- h. Retired bishops and priests residing in the Diocese with the right to attend and the right of consultative voice, but without the right to vote; and
 - i. Additional persons invited to attend by the Bishop or by the Diocesan Council with the approval of the Bishop, with or without the right to participate in the discussions but without the right to vote.
- 6 Every parish in the Diocese which has remitted all established assessments determined by previous All-American Councils of The Orthodox Church in America for the support of the Central Church Administration and all assessments determined by previous Assemblies for the support of the Diocese is entitled to elect, for a term of one year, lay delegates equal in number to the priests and deacons assigned to the parish. Disputes concerning delegates must be addressed in writing to the Diocesan Council at least two and one-half months prior to the Annual Assembly.
- 7 Lay Delegates of the Assembly must be elected by a parish or parish council, be a voting member of the parish in good standing, and be accredited according to the Statute, Article VIII, Section 7.
- 8 Parishes not having a priest are entitled to one lay delegate.
- 9 Any member of the Diocese in good standing with his or her parish and approval of the parish priest who has registered according to established registration procedures, has the right to attend Assemblies as a non-voting Observer.
- 10 The Assembly:
 - a. Nominates candidates for Diocesan Bishop at special Assemblies as provided for in the Statute.
 - b. Elects one priest and one layperson from each Deanery to serve as members of the Diocesan Council for a term of three years. Candidates must meet election and qualification requirements as put forth in Article VIII, Section 7 of the Statute. Nominations for clergy Diocesan Council members should be forwarded to the Diocesan Council by the respective Deans no later than 45 days prior to the Assembly. Nominations for lay members should be forwarded to the Diocesan Council by the respective Deans no later than 45 days prior to the Assembly. Candidates must be present at the Assembly to be elected. Nominations from the floor of persons present shall be accepted.
 - c. Elects one priest and one layperson from the Assembly at-large to serve as Diocesan representatives to the Metropolitan Council for a term of three years.
 - d. Approves measures to strengthen the Orthodox Faith, religious education initiatives, and charities of the Diocese.
 - e. Participates in the implementation of the All-American Council decisions on the diocesan and parochial levels.

- f. Approves the annual Budget and annual Diocesan assessments.
 - g. Authorizes the Diocesan Council to acquire, encumber, or otherwise dispose of diocesan properties.
 - h. Elects three members, one clergy and two laypersons, as Auditors of the Diocese for a term of three years.
- 11 The Diocesan Council shall propose and the Assembly shall confirm the voting procedures to be observed. Unless overturned by a simple majority, voting for candidates for office is by secret ballot and voting for resolutions is by show of hands or voice. In all cases, a simple majority is required. Disputes are settled by the appointed co-chairs with the approval of the Bishop.

ARTICLE IV

THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

- 1 The Diocesan Council is the body which assists the Bishop in matters of diocesan administration between annual sessions of the Assembly. The chairman of the Diocesan Council is the Bishop or in his absence, the Auxiliary Bishop or priest appointed by the Bishop. The Diocesan Council consists of the Chancellor, the District Deans, one priest and one lay person from each Deanery, the Diocesan Secretary, and the Diocesan Treasurer. The Secretary and the Treasurer may be appointed from elected members in which case they are voting members of the Council. The Council also includes the non-voting clergy and lay delegates to the Metropolitan Council elected by the Assembly.
- 2 Deans are elected by and from among the rectors of the Deanery and confirmed by the Bishop for a term of three years. Deans are voting members of the Diocesan Council.
- 3 Deanery representatives are elected at the Assembly to act as voting members of the Diocesan Council for a term of three years, after which time they may stand for re-election.
- 4 The Diocesan Council shall meet at least quarterly or as deemed appropriate by the Bishop. The Secretary shall provide notification to all Council members at least twenty-one days prior to each meeting.
- 5 For all meetings, together with the Bishop or presiding officer, one-half of the members shall constitute a quorum. Members must be present to vote. Majority vote of all members present shall determine all decisions, subject to confirmation by the Bishop. In the event of a tie in votes, the Bishop or presiding officer shall cast the deciding vote.

- 6 For just cause and to respond to an unforeseen need, extraordinary sessions are convened by the decision of the Bishop or, with his approval, at the request of a majority of the Council membership, and do not require a specific period of notification. If an extraordinary session cannot be scheduled with a quorum, a vote of members of the Diocesan Council may be conducted by either regular or electronic mail or by any other means deemed appropriate. In this case, the Secretary shall distribute to each Diocesan Council member the text of the resolution and any background information required to make an informed decision. The Secretary shall compile the results from the voting members, report them to the Bishop for his confirmation and disseminates them to all the members of the Council. The Secretary shall record the results in the minutes of the next Diocesan Council meeting.
- 7 The Diocesan Council shall:
- a. Promote and defend the Holy Orthodox Church, encouraging spiritual formation in the Orthodox Christian way of life, communally and personally, among the members of the Diocese, its parishes, and institutions;
 - b. Implement decisions of The Orthodox Church in America's All American Council as they impact the Diocese;
 - c. Assist the Bishop in implementing the decisions of the Assembly, and his archpastoral directives, for the parishes and institutions of the Diocese;
 - d. Identify, enable, and encourage the use of programs and resources within the Diocese which will increase the knowledge of God for the Diocese, its parishes, and institutions;
 - e. Provide for the establishment and maintenance of institutions of charity and education within the Diocese;
 - f. Provide for the maintenance of diocesan administrative bodies and the allocation of general diocesan funds;
 - g. Determine the allocations, when necessary, of general diocesan funds to parishes, monasteries, convents, missions, or other diocesan institutions;
 - h. Take the initiative in diocesan fund-raising projects;
 - i. Attend to legal matters affecting the interests of the Diocese;
 - j. Forward diocesan legal and sexual misconduct matters to the Chancery Office of the Central Church Administration;
 - k. Examine the financial reports of the Diocese;
 - l. Supervise the collection of assessments fixed by the Assembly;
 - m. Render a final decision regarding the authenticity of the minutes of the Assembly when a discrepancy arises;
 - n. Make preparations for the Assembly.
- 8 The Auditing Committee shall perform an annual audit of the accounts of the Treasurer or of the diocesan administration with respect to all diocesan funds of all Church-related

institutions within the Diocese and report its findings to the Diocesan Council. Members of the Auditing Committee attend sessions of the Diocesan Council only to make their reports.

ARTICLE V

THE DEANERY

- 1 Deaneries are specified districts within the boundaries of a diocese which are established by the Bishop.
- 2 The District Dean is the priest who is the head of a Deanery. While subordinated to the Bishop, he has the responsibility of leading the life of the Deanery and is the first instance of appeal when disputes arise.
- 3 Subject to the instructions of the Bishop, the District Dean has competence in:
 - a. Directing the affairs of the Deanery;
 - b. Supervising the activities of the clergy of the Deanery;
 - c. Giving directives and explanations in matters of pastoral services, with the right to direct, counsel, and admonish, in a strictly private and circumspect manner, rectors and clergymen within his Deanery whenever their personal conduct or manner of discharging duties indicates the need of such action;
 - d. Receiving and investigating complaints against rectors or other clergymen, as well as protests against the decisions of the parish bodies, which complaints or protests he submits with his report to the Diocesan Bishop;
 - e. Convoking Deanery meetings;
 - f. Filling temporary vacancies in parish clergy with the consent of the Diocesan Bishop;
 - g. Receiving the minutes of the Annual and Special Parish Meetings held within his Deanery, within 30 days of the aforementioned meetings, with the right to make recommendations to the Diocesan Bishop;
 - h. Taking part in parish meetings upon commission of the diocesan authority or the request of the Rector or the Parish Council;
 - i. Aiding and planning the organization of new parishes within his Deanery;
 - j. Acting on all other matters submitted to him by the Diocesan Bishop;
 - k. Submitting the minutes of every meeting of the clergy of the Deanery to the Diocesan Bishop;
 - l. Submitting an annual report on the status of his Deanery to the Diocesan Bishop and Diocesan Assembly, stating not only the achievements, but also instances of serious negligence;

- m. Negotiating with the parish and the assigned priest the salary and fringe benefits needed by the priest in agreement with the ability of the parish to meet these requests.
 - n. The competence and duties of the Dean of Orthodox Military Chaplains will be the same as above insofar as this is applicable to the military structure.
- 4 The Dean is elected from among the rectors of the Deanery and confirmed by the Bishop for a term of three years.

ARTICLE VI

THE PARISH

- 1 The Parish is a local community of the Church having at its head a duly appointed priest and consisting of Orthodox Christians who live in accordance with the teachings of the Orthodox Church, comply with the discipline and rules of the Church, and regularly provide for the material support of their parish. The parish is a component part of the Diocese under the jurisdiction of the Bishop and is canonically subject to him.
- 2 The organization and administration of a parish are subject to the Holy Canons of the Orthodox Church; the Statute; and the diocesan by-laws.
- 3 The Parish is established by decision of the Diocesan Bishop within whose diocese it is constituted. A local group may petition the Bishop to start a parish. After they have demonstrated to the Bishop that the proposed parish is self-supporting and stable, he may guide them in securing their pastoral and liturgical needs, developing a charter and by-laws, and fulfilling other canonical and legal requirements as are consistent with civil law, the Holy Canons, the Statute, and these By-Laws. Every parish charter or set of by-laws must provide the mechanics for implementing all decisions of the All-American Council. No charter or by-laws of a parish shall be effective unless approved by the Diocesan leadership. According to the teaching of the Orthodox Church, the Bishop is the head of all parishes which constitute his Diocese. He appoints parish clergy, has the obligation and right of regular and special visitations to the parish, approves received reports on parish life, and in case of conflicts and disorders within the parish, takes all necessary measures consistent with the Holy Canons.

The Bishop assigns, transfers, and approves the retirement of parish clergy, has the obligation and right of regular and special visitations to the parish, approves received reports on parish life, and in case of conflicts and disorders within the parish, takes all necessary measures consistent with the Sacred Canons, the Statute, and Diocesan By-Laws.

- 4 At the head of the parish is the Rector, who is assigned by the Bishop. The Rector is the spiritual father and teacher of his flock and the celebrant of the liturgical worship as established by the Church. He teaches and edifies the faithful entrusted to his spiritual care and assures that all activities within the parish serve the mission of the Church. No activities in the parish can be initiated without his knowledge, approval, and blessing; neither should he do anything pertaining to the parish without the knowledge of his parishioners and duly elected parish officers, so that always and everywhere there may be unity, mutual trust, cooperation, and love.

In conformity with his teaching office, the Rector shall have final authority over the church school.

To be free from material preoccupations and wholly committed to his sacred ministry, the priest must be compensated by the parish, the amount of his compensation being clearly agreed upon by the District Dean and the Parish Council at the time of his appointment, informed by the Diocesan clergy compensation guidelines, and subject to annual increase based on performance and budgetary capacity.

- 5 Parishioners are those who, by virtue of their Baptism and Chrismation, are members of the Body of Christ and strive to live in accordance with their high calling as Orthodox Christians. No one can be a member of the parish if he is openly opposed to, betrays, or lives in a manner contrary to the teaching of the Orthodox Church, or if he leads a life or acts in a manner condemned by the Holy Canons as incompatible with Orthodox Christian teachings.

A Parishioner who is at least 18 years of age, who receives the Sacrament of Confession at least once a year in his home parish or, with the permission of the parish Rector, elsewhere; who receives Holy Communion at least once a year in his home parish; has belonged to the parish for a period as may be fixed by the parish; and regularly fulfills such financial obligations as may be established by the All-American Councils, Diocesan Assemblies, and parish; is afforded the privilege of voting at parish meetings. The final determination of who qualifies as a member of a particular parish, for the purposes both of the privilege to vote at parish meetings and of inclusion in the census required by Section 6 below, as defined by the Statute, shall be made by the parish Rector, in consultation with any Parish Council members with whom he may need to consult. The census of members of a parish submitted to the Diocesan Treasurer shall be conclusive for all purposes.

- 6 The Parish shall remit monthly to the Diocesan Treasurer its required financial support to the Diocese and to The Orthodox Church in America. This required financial support shall be determined by the number of parishioners of the parish who are eighteen years of

age and over. The parish is also responsible for submitting a census of such parishioners to the Bishop annually, by a deadline determined by the Diocesan Council.

- 7 Since all members of the Body of Christ are responsible for the preservation of the Faith and the building up and growth of the Church, the by-laws of each parish shall provide for regular annual meetings (hereinafter, “parish meeting(s)”) or special meetings of voting parishioners in good standing. At these meetings all matters pertaining to the life of the Parish may be discussed and acted upon, all necessary measures for the spiritual and material welfare of the parish initiated and approved, and officers and members of the Parish Council and other parish bodies provided for in the parish by-laws nominated and elected. All regular and special parish meetings must be announced by the parish priest from the Ambo on the three consecutive Sundays prior to the scheduled meeting date, and published in the church bulletin. The parish rector presides at the parish meeting.

In the case of the rector’s disagreement with any decisions of the parish meeting(s), his disagreement and motivated opinion must be recorded in the minutes and the whole matter submitted to the Bishop. Parish officers may state their motivated opinions, first to the District Dean, who shall relay them to the Bishop.

- 8 The parish meeting shall elect a Parish Council to assist the Rector in the administration of the parish and to execute the decisions of the parish meeting. The Parish Council shall consist of as many officers and members as provided for in the parish by-laws, in compliance with the Statute of The Orthodox Church in America and these Diocesan By-Laws.

All officers and members of the Parish Council shall, after their election at the parish meeting and approval by the Bishop, be duly installed by the Rector, making a solemn commitment to uphold their office for the wellbeing of the Church.

No meetings of the Parish Council may be held without the knowledge and blessing of the Rector who, as the head of the parish, must take part in the discussion and resolution of all parish affairs. While the priest is the head of the parish, he may appoint others to act as chairpersons of parish meetings.

The minutes of all meetings of the Parish Council shall be signed by the Rector and the senior elected officer of the parish. In the case of the Rector’s disagreement with one or several decisions of the Parish Council, his motivated opinion shall be recorded in the minutes and the matter referred to the parish meeting.

The Parish Council shall be responsible not only for the spiritual and material needs of the parish, but also for the parish’s responsibility to participate in the life and mission of

the Diocese and the Church, for each parish is called to manifest the unity of the Body of Christ, and each carries responsibility for the whole Church.

- 9 The parish or parish corporation is the sole owner of all parish property, assets, and funds. In administering them, however, the parishioners and the officers elected by them must always remember the religious nature, purposes, and goals of the parish and act as trustees of that which is entrusted to their stewardship. The parish, with the whole Church, serves Christ and continues His work in the world, and all decisions concerning parish property must be inspired by that care and by the spiritual needs of the Church.

In the event of apostasy from the Orthodox Faith, schism, or defection of a parish from the canonical jurisdiction of The Orthodox Church in America, the Bishop, in consultation with the Diocesan Council, shall have the power to declare the parish in canonical disorder and shall immediately assume the administration and control of its properties and funds, or delegate such administration and control to the District Dean, until the Bishop, in consultation with the Diocesan Council, declares the parish to be in canonical order. In the event that this does not occur, the Bishop may declare the parish to be dissolved and canonically suppressed. This decision may be appealed by the parish to the Holy Synod, which has final jurisdiction in all matters of canonical order. In the event that a group in a parish decides to withdraw from the jurisdiction of The Orthodox Church in America, that segment of the parish which remains loyal to the jurisdiction of The Orthodox Church in America shall retain full title to all the parish assets and property.

When it is determined by the Bishop or by the Parish Council that the parish is incapable of sustaining itself and/or wishes to be dissolved, an Annual or Special Parish Meeting shall be called in accordance with the terms of the parish by-laws. If three-fourths of the existing members in good standing vote in favor of such dissolution or in the event that a parish has been disbanded and a Parish Meeting cannot be called, the Bishop may declare said parish dissolved.

In the case of a declaration of dissolution of a parish by the Bishop, all parish property, real and personal, shall devolve to the Diocese and shall be subject to appropriate disposition as the Bishop sees fit (unless otherwise legally pre-determined by parish by-laws). All sacred items, including the Holy Antimension, the Tabernacle, the Holy Icons and the Sacred Vessels, must be immediately surrendered to the Bishop or to the District Dean.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, the canonical provisions of this Section cannot be amended, altered, changed or modified.

ARTICLE VII

THE EFFECTIVE DATES OF DECISIONS

All decisions of the Diocesan Council, the Diocesan Assemblies, and Annual and Special Parish Meetings are in effect only after approval and confirmation by the Bishop. Minutes of the aforementioned meetings at which the Bishop is not present must be mailed to the Bishop and the Dean within 30 days of the meeting. Installation of Parish Council members may not proceed until the Rector has received written approval for their installation from the Bishop.

ARTICLE VIII

THE DIOCESAN MINUTES, RECORDS, AND SEAL

The Diocese shall keep, at its principal office, a Book of Minutes of all meetings of the Diocesan Council; a Book of Minutes of all Diocesan Assemblies; a book of the accounts of the Diocese, containing a general ledger of the accounts of the Diocese, with accurate and adequate records of the business transactions of the Diocese as well as diocesan properties, assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses; and true copies of all records relevant to the value, and cost, of all property which the Diocese owns, claims, possesses or controls.

The minutes of all meetings, both of the Diocesan Assemblies and the Diocesan Council, shall contain the following: the date, time and place of the meeting, the names of those present, the notice given for this meeting and the proceedings thereof.

The Book of Minutes and the General Ledger shall be open to inspection by any member of the Diocesan Council or the Diocese, or agent or attorney thereof, at any reasonable time, upon written demand to the Secretary of the Diocesan Council. Such inspection must be made in person and the right of inspection includes the right to make extracts.

The Diocesan Council shall provide for the preparation and submission to the parishes, for distribution to the members, of an annual diocesan report which includes a financial statement. Such report shall summarize the Diocese's activities for the preceding year and activities projected for the coming year. The financial statement shall consist of a balance sheet as of the close of business of the preceding year, and a summary of receipts and disbursements, and shall be prepared in such manner and form as is sanctioned by sound accounting practices, and shall be certified by the Auditing Committee. This report shall be distributed to all parish communities at least 30 days prior to the Assembly.

The fiscal year of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey shall be the Calendar year.

The Diocesan Council shall provide a corporate seal, which shall be in the following form:
(To be provided)

Such seal shall be affixed to all corporate instruments, but failure to affix it shall not affect the validity of any such instrument.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

- 1 These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any Assembly. The text of any proposed changes, amendments, or additions to the Diocesan By-Laws must be mailed to all parishes for distribution to the membership at least sixty days before the Assembly.
- 2 Amendments to these By-Laws may be proposed by the Diocesan Council or by parishes of the Diocese by decision at Parish Annual Meetings, and sent to the Office of the Bishop at least 45 days prior to the Assembly.
- 3 These By-Laws may be amended by decision of the All-American Council or the Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America insofar as they do not conflict with the laws of the States of New York and New Jersey.
- 4 Any proposed amendment must be voted on at the Assembly meeting at which it is presented provided a quorum of delegates is present.

These By-Laws were adopted by unanimous consent at the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, duly convened on December 11, 2012.