



**Holy Myrrhbearers**  
ORTHODOX MISSION

**Parish Constitution  
and Bylaws**

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## PREAMBLE — INTRODUCTION

**Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Mission** is an English-language mission of the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church (see Article X — Glossary and General Provisions below for terms and definitions) in Toronto, Canada, under the spiritual protection of His Eminence Archbishop Irénée, the Archbishop of Ottawa and the Archdiocese of Canada of the Orthodox Church in America.

Our mission was founded in May 2016 but is built on the prayerful labours of many people who have worked tirelessly over very many years to proclaim our Orthodox Christian faith in English in this great city.

We are a small, but vibrant and apostolic, community, and we warmly welcome Orthodox Christians and enquirers from all backgrounds to join us for our services and activities.

Based at Trinity College at the University of Toronto, home of a graduate Orthodox School of Theology, our mission is pan-Orthodox in scope and seeks to support and further the work of all Orthodox churches in this city, equipping the people of God for apostolic labour and the service of His Kingdom.

Please visit our website at [www.myrrhbearers.ca](http://www.myrrhbearers.ca) for more information.

*(Please note that this preamble does not form an official part of the Parish Bylaws and, being provided for introductory information only, may be amended at any time.)*

## **ARTICLE I — NAME**

The name of this Parish, located in the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, is Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Mission.

## ARTICLE II — PURPOSE, CANONICAL ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION AND ADMINISTRATION

The purpose of the Parish is to advance religion:

- i by providing for and fostering religious worship in accordance with the faith and rites of the Orthodox Christian Church;
- ii by teaching the religious tenets and doctrines of the Orthodox Christian Church;
- iii by being a welcoming and healing community of faith; and
- iv by fulfilling the Orthodox Christian sacramental worldview through loving outreach and the rendering of charitable aid and works of mercy to people in need.

More fully, the Parish strives corporately to worship Almighty God in the Holy Trinity — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One in Essence and Undivided, — and to forgive and love one another in community as Jesus Christ has loved and forgiven us, and to offer healing to the world by proclaiming in our loving words and deeds the Gospel of Jesus Christ as it is revealed in the scriptural tradition of the Orthodox Christian Church.

This Parish is a local community of Orthodox Christians and a part of the Orthodox Church in America within the Archdiocese of Canada.

The Orthodox Church in America is an autocephalous Church with territorial jurisdiction in the United States of America and Canada. Its doctrine, discipline and worship are those of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church as taught by the Holy Scriptures, Holy Tradition, the Ecumenical and Provincial Councils, and the Holy Fathers. The Orthodox Church in America is referred to in these Bylaws as “the Church” (Article I, *Statute of the Orthodox Church in America*).

The purpose, course of conduct, organisation and administration of this Parish and its members are those of the Orthodox Church in America, and are subject to the *Statute of the Orthodox Church in America*, as adopted at the

Second All-American Council of October 19-20, 1971, and as amended at any subsequent All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America (referred to in these Bylaws as "the Statute").

This Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Canada Orthodox Church in America, a Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America; this Parish and its members are thereby governed by the Diocesan Bishop with the assistance of a Diocesan Assembly and a Diocesan Council (Articles IX and X, the Statute), and this Parish and its Members are subject to the Bylaws of the Archdiocese.

This Parish and its members shall operate according to the Parish Bylaws as duly ratified by the Parish and as ultimately approved and effected by the Diocesan Bishop; provided however, nothing in these Bylaws shall allow for a course of conduct, or shall be construed, defined or interpreted in a manner contradicting, contravening, superseding or lacking harmony with the Purpose, the Statute, the Bylaws of the Archdiocese and the Canonical Ecclesiastical Authority of the Orthodox Church in America.

The Parish is designated a charitable organisation for the objective of the advancement of the Orthodox Christian faith (religion). As such, the Parish shall be carried on without purpose of gain for its members and any profits or other gains to the Parish shall be used in promoting its objectives.

## ARTICLE III — PARISH

In accordance with the teachings of the Orthodox Church, the Bishop is the Diocesan Authority and the head of this Parish and its Parish Priest and all the Parishes which constitute his diocese. He appoints this Parish's clergy, maintaining with them a relationship that is at once hierarchical and conciliar, marked by obedience and collaboration. He has the obligation and right of visitation to the parish and receives and approves regular reports on parish life. In case of conflict and disorder within the Parish, he takes all necessary measures to resolve them consistent with the Sacred Canons and the Statute.

This Parish, having been established by decision of the Diocesan Bishop, is a local Orthodox Eucharistic community with a vision for proclaiming the Kingdom of God and making its healing presence felt in the world, having as its head a duly appointed Parish 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 support their Parish. Being subordinate to the Diocesan Authority, it is a component part of the Diocese (Article VII, the Statute) and a component part of the Deanery and subordinate to the District Dean (Article XI, the Statute).

## ARTICLE IV — PARISH PRIEST

The Parish Priest, also referred to as rector or priest-in-charge, by virtue of his ordination and canonical appointment, serves as the spiritual father and teacher of that portion of the flock of Christ entrusted to him, the first among the Parish clergy, and presides over liturgical worship in accordance with the tradition and the norms of the Church.

By virtue of the authority delegated to him at his appointment by the Diocesan Bishop, the Parish Priest, as head of the parish, shall:

- i Teach, exhort, and edify the faithful entrusted to his spiritual care with compassion to enable them to grow in sanctification and maturity in the faith;
- ii Provide for the administration of the sacraments and the celebration of all liturgical services;
- iii Ensure that all activities including educational, evangelistic, philanthropic, social, and cultural activities within the Parish or of the Parish are consistent with the compassionate and 'myrrh-bearing' mission of the Church;
- iv Head and administer the Parish consistent with the provisions of the Statute, the governing documents of the Diocese and Parish, and the directives of the Diocesan Authority in cooperation with the Parish Council. 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 the appropriate Parish bodies, so that always and everywhere there may be mutual trust, cooperation, unity, and love, thus endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4.3);
- v Normally preside over the Parish Assembly and Parish Council, except in cases when the Bishop is present or when the Bishop's delegate is present for this purpose;

vi Head the Parish office and be entrusted with the care, custody, and maintenance of sacramental and administrative records, inventories, and the official Parish seal; and

vii Represent the Parish before local civil and judicial authorities and other third parties, either personally or through his delegate.

The Parish Priest shall be at liberty to be present at all Parish meetings, councils, groups, and gatherings. He is a Voting Member in good standing, a member of Parish Council and all other councils, groups and gatherings *ex officio ecclesiae*.

The Parish shall compensate the Parish Priest. His compensation shall be determined according to established diocesan procedures and norms. His compensation is to be clearly agreed upon prior to his appointment.

The Parish Priest possesses the rights and exercises the responsibilities stipulated by the Sacred Canons, the Statute, and the directives of the Holy Synod and the Diocesan Authority.

The Parish Priest cannot vacate his Parish, change his status, or seek to transfer to another parish or Diocese without the permission of the Bishop.

## ARTICLE V — OTHER PARISH CLERGY

An associate priest is a priest who has been appointed to the Parish by the Bishop, receives compensation from the Parish, and carries out ministries within the Parish as directed by the Parish Priest in consultation with the Parish Council. His role in the governance of the Parish is determined by the established diocesan procedures and norms.

An assigned deacon is a deacon who has been appointed by the Bishop to service within the Parish, receives compensation from the Parish, and carries out ministries within the Parish as directed by the Parish Priest in consultation with the Parish Council. His role in the governance of the parish is determined by the established diocesan procedures and norms.

Attached clergy are priests or deacons who are canonically attached to a Parish by the Bishop without necessary compensation from the Parish and without involvement in Parish governance.

Like the Parish Priest, all Parish clergy, including those in minor orders, possess the rights and exercise the responsibilities stipulated for their order by the Sacred Canons, the Statute, and the directives of the Holy Synod and the Diocesan Authority.

All Parish clergy are Voting Members in good standing, but apart from the Parish Priest, they do not belong to the Parish Council or hold any position *ex officio ecclesiae*. They may however be elected to Parish Council or appointed to other committees according to the normal procedures set out in these Bylaws.

Parish clergy cannot vacate the Parish to which they are assigned or attached, change their status, or seek to transfer to another Parish or Diocese without the permission of the Diocesan Bishop.

## ARTICLE VI — PARISH MEMBERSHIP

A Parishioner is one who, by virtue of Baptism in the Name of the Holy Trinity and Chrismation, is a member of the Body of Christ, the Church, and incorporated into the Parish as a Parish member.

Parishioners have a reasonable expectation for pastoral care in accordance with the tradition of the Orthodox Christian faith. They enjoy full benefits of participation in Parish life. They have the duty to sustain, strengthen and witness to the Orthodox Christian faith, to live according to the teaching of the Church, to participate in the religious services, to partake of the Holy Sacraments, to fulfil acts of Christian mercy and charity, and to support and help the Church.

Parish membership may be suspended or revoked by the Parish Priest or the Diocesan Bishop for due cause, such as:

- i Open rejection of the Orthodox Christian faith;
- ii Public and open defamation of, defiance of, or rebellion against ecclesiastical authority;
- iii Grave moral transgression; or
- iv Formal association with a non-Orthodox religious body.

A Voting Member of the Parish is a Parishioner who:

- i Is at least eighteen years of age;
- ii Receives the Sacrament of Confession at least once a year in the parish or, with the permission of the Parish Priest, elsewhere;
- iii Receives Holy Communion at least once a year in the Parish;
- iv Has been a Parishioner for at least three months; and
- v Fulfils financial obligations as established by the All-American Councils, Diocesan Assemblies, and the Parish.

Voting Membership shall be denied if these criteria are not met.

A Voting Member has accepted the right, privilege, and responsibility to vote in Parish Assemblies. A Voting Member may be considered for election to office in appropriate Parish bodies. A Voting Member is eligible for election as a delegate to the Diocesan Assembly and the All-American Council.

## ARTICLE VII — PARISH PROPERTY

The Parish holds legal title to all Parish property, assets, and funds. In administering them, the parishioners and the officers elected by them must always remember the religious nature, purposes, and goal of the Parish and act as trustees of such property dedicated to the service of God and the use of the Church.

All Parish property, assets and funds are and shall be owned and held by the Parish in trust for the use, purpose, and benefit of the Archdiocese of Canada of the Orthodox Church Parish in its administration of such property, assets, and funds in accord with the faith, governance, and discipline of the Orthodox Church in America.

The Parish may purchase, lease, sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber real property in the name of three trustees, duly elected at the annual Parish Assembly and sworn and bound to the will of the Parish (see Article VIII). Purchasing, leasing, selling, mortgaging or otherwise encumbering of real property may take place upon the happening of the following:

- i an ordinary resolution by the Parish Council or a resolution by a Voting Member in good standing properly on the Agenda of a Parish, Annual or Special meeting, and;
- ii a special resolution of the voting members in good standing present at a Special or Annual Meeting, duly called, convened and constituted; and
- iii the approval of the Bishop.

Bequests, gifts or devises for special purposes should be used for that special purpose as far as reasonably practical, provided however that the Parish is not bound to accept such bequest, gift or devises nor bound to such special purpose unless the bequest, gift or devise is, in writing specifically made with the special purpose as a pre-condition.

Upon the Abolishment or the Withdrawal of the Parish, the Archdiocese of Canada of the Orthodox Church in America shall be and shall become the owner of all Parish properties, assets and funds. All Parish properties, assets and funds shall be transferred, assigned, given to, the Bishop and to be held and/or disposed of by him for the Archdiocese of Canada of the Orthodox Church in America for the accomplishment of the religious nature, purpose and goals of the Church.

The Parish and its members, the Parish Council and the Rector shall do all things and execute all documents necessary to accomplish such ownership, transfer, assignment and giving, and shall not do anything or execute any documents to accomplish any other purpose.

A document signed by the Bishop, setting out the following:

- i that he is the Bishop of the Archdiocese of Canada Orthodox Church in America;
- ii the Parish is dissolved or has withdrawn;
- iii specifying the Parish property, assets or funds to be transferred, assigned or given;
- iv that he, as Bishop, will hold and/or dispose of the property, assets or funds for the Archdiocese of Canada of the Orthodox Church in America for the accomplishment of the religious nature, purpose and goals of the Church shall be conclusively deemed and accepted as good, full and sufficient proof of the statements made therein, and as constituting full power and authority of the Parish and the Archdiocese to transfer, assign and give the said property, assets or funds to the Bishop.

In the event of dissolution, all remaining assets will be given to a registered Canadian charity or another qualified Donee described in paragraph 149.1 (1) of the *Income Tax Act*.

## ARTICLE VIII — PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Parish Assembly, also known as the Parish Meeting, meets at least annually to consider matters pertaining to the life of the parish and to conduct necessary elections relating to the parish as a whole. The Parish Assembly is comprised of the Voting Members of the parish, normally meeting under the presidency of the Parish Priest, or the Bishop or the Bishop's delegate. The Parish Priest together with the Parish Council may invite additional persons with or without the right to speak but without the right to vote.

The Parish Priest together with the Parish Council, or the Diocesan Bishop, may call a special Parish Assembly to consider matters of specific concern. A special Parish Assembly will also be called upon the written request, signed by 25 % of the voting members in good standing, submitted to the Parish Priest, or the Bishop.

Since it is the sacred duty of the Parish Priest to guide the whole life and all activities of the Parish for which he is responsible before God:

i Notice of Parish Assembly meetings shall be announced according to canonical procedure by the Parish Priest from the ambo on the three consecutive Sunday Divine Liturgies prior to the said meetings; special resolutions shall not be voted upon unless notice of the resolution was given as part of the notice of the Parish Assembly.

ii No Parish Assembly may be held without the approval and blessing of the Parish Priest, or the Bishop.

iii All items on the agenda and topics for discussion must be submitted to and approved by the Parish Priest.

iv Unless the Bishop or his delegate is present, the Parish Priest shall preside over all Parish meetings; the Parish Priest may appoint a voting member in good standing to preside for all or part of the meeting.

v Any matter touching upon the person or role of the Parish Priest may only be an agenda item or topic for discussion with the knowledge and

consent of the Bishop. The Bishop or his nominee shall preside at such meeting.

vi The Parish Priest is at liberty to submit all decisions arising from any Parish Assembly meetings to the Diocesan Bishop or the canonically appointed Diocesan Authority for final approval or disapproval.

The following matters are within the competence of the Parish Assembly. The Parish Assembly shall:

i Hear and approve annual or special reports by committees and Parish organisations;

ii Consider and decide on matters concerning the purchase, improvement, or sale of real property; investment of Parish funds (other than in savings accounts); and the transfer of any interest in or change of ownership and the incurring of indebtedness or otherwise encumbering parish funds or property, subject to the approval of the Diocesan Authority;

iii Approve the annual operating budget submitted by the Parish Council;

iv Provide for the adoption and amendment of Bylaws, if this is not otherwise provided for; and

v Elect members of the Parish Council, the auditing committee, and the lay delegates to the Diocesan Assembly and to the All-American Council, if the latter is to meet in that current year.

All matters of Orthodox Christian Faith, morals and practice are outside the competency and jurisdiction of the Parish and Parish Assembly, as the Truths of Holy Orthodoxy are entrusted to us by God; canonical ecclesiastical order and administration are outside the competency and jurisdiction of the Parish and Parish Assembly, and are the responsibility of the Diocesan Bishop.

In case the Parish Priest disagrees with one or more decisions of the Parish Assembly, his reasoned opinion shall be recorded in the minutes and the matter submitted to the Bishop. So also, if an officer of the Parish Council disagrees with one or more decisions of the Parish Assembly, his or her

motivated opinion shall be recorded in the minutes and the matter submitted to the Bishop.

No Parish Assembly, either annual or special, shall take any action which is contrary to or not in accord with the Statute. Should there be any such conflict, the Statute shall prevail. Should there be a question whether an action of a Parish Assembly is valid or lawful under this Statute, the issue shall be submitted to the Diocesan Authority for determination.

The quorum for all Parish meetings shall be 50 % of the voting members in good standing present in person. In the absence of a quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned and notice of the meeting shall be given again as set out above. No quorum shall be required at the adjourned meeting, excepting for extraordinary resolutions.

The decision-making process within the Parish as within the whole Church is to be understood as a course of conduct leading to a discernment by the faithful of the will of God. This course of conduct should lead to consensus, by which it is meant that there remains no objection to the decision. This course of conduct necessarily embraces, and allows fully the time and opportunity to embrace, the following elements: united prayer, purity of heart and motives, discussion and reflection. Voting forces decisions, while pursuing consensus allows for decisions to be formulated in a peaceful, orderly manner as the Parish integrates new matters into its life. Resolutions shall be considered in a manner and in a process that is searching for consensus. Resolutions shall be passed with at least the following approval:

- i for ordinary and special resolutions: 67% of those voting; and
- ii for extraordinary resolutions: 90% of those voting;

Special resolutions shall be any resolution about real property, borrowing money or amendments to the Parish Bylaws. Extraordinary resolutions shall be any resolution about the abolishment or withdrawal of the Parish.

Extraordinary resolutions shall not be considered or voted upon unless notice of the resolution was given as part of the notice of the Parish Assembly.

The Parish Assembly shall be held on the Parish premises unless impracticable.

A record of the minutes of all Parish Assembly meetings shall be made by a Secretary appointed for that purpose, to be signed by the Parish Priest and Secretary and made available to the Bishop and any voting member so requesting.

## ARTICLE IX — THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council shall consist of the following:

- i the Parish Priest, who is by definition, non-elected and voting, by *ex officio ecclesiae*, the presiding member of the Parish Council; and
- ii the Warden;
- iii the Deputy Warden;
- iv the Secretary;
- v the Treasurer; and
- vi as necessary, other elected members.

These roles are defined in Article X below.

All Parish Council members shall be drawn from those Voting Members in good standing who are regularly involved in the various ministries of the Parish.

The members of the Parish Council shall be nominated for election and elected in the following manner:

- i Elections of all officers to the Parish Council shall take place at the annual Parish Assembly.
- ii At least three weeks prior to the Parish Assembly, a nominating committee of three people shall be appointed by the Parish Priest and Parish Council.
- iii The nominating committee shall present a slate of nominees to the parish three weeks in advance of the annual Parish Assembly.
- iv Nominations from the floor at the time of the meeting shall be accepted.

v Elections shall take place by secret ballot. A successful election shall require 50% + 1 of all valid ballots cast. If the vote is split between three or more candidates, the candidate with the greatest majority shall be elected.

vi To avoid conflict of interest, two or more members of the same family may not serve on Parish Council at the same time.

vii The term of office of elected members of Parish Council shall be one year; no elected Parish Council member may serve more than five consecutive terms.

viii Any office vacated before the conclusion of its term shall be filled by a Voting Member in good standing appointed by the Parish Priest and confirmed by the Parish Council until the next regular election.

A member of the Parish Council must be, and remain, a Voting Member of the Parish in good standing; if the member fails to remain a Voting Member in good standing, as determined by the Parish Priest, the Parish Priest shall remove the member from Parish Council and shall appoint another. The removed member shall cease and desist all official activities as a member of Parish Council.

The elected members of the Parish Council shall be elected as required at the annual meeting; they shall serve until the installation of the new Parish Council. All elected members shall not take office until they are duly liturgically sworn in or inducted by the Parish Priest.

The quorum for the Parish Council shall be 50 % of the elected members plus the Parish Priest (unless he has authorised the Parish Council to proceed in his absence).

The Parish Priest, being representative of the Diocesan Bishop, is the presiding officer at all meetings of the Parish Council. Since the Parish Council is the main organ of co-operation between the clergy and the laity on all levels of the Parish life, the Parish Priest convenes all regular and special meetings of the Parish Council. The Parish Priest shall guide its discussions.

The Parish Council shall assist the Parish Priest in the administration of the Parish and shall seek to implement and execute the decisions of the Parish

Assembly. The Parish Council shall in all matters work in close co-operation with the Parish Priest and will take no action without his knowledge, approval and blessing, excepting with the authority and blessing of the Bishop. The Parish Council shall carry on the general business, commercial and administrative activity of the Parish and shall support the Parish Priest and the episcopal authority on initiatives for the spiritual growth of parish life. Resolutions may be made by Parish Council to put issues to the Parish at a Parish Assembly for consideration and approval. The Parish Council shall proceed in the same spirit of consensus as set out under the articles of the Parish Assembly above, excepting however, to allow for issues to be discussed by the whole Parish, resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority.

The following matters are within the competence of the Parish Council. The Parish Council shall:

- i Exercise fiduciary responsibility for the Parish;
- ii Implement within its competence the decisions of the Parish Assembly, the Diocesan Authority, and the All-American Council;
- iii Formulate, implement, and direct stewardship programmes;
- iv Oversee implementation of the budget adopted by the Parish Assembly;
- v Authorise any fundraising activity within the Parish;
- vi Manage, inventory, and maintain Parish properties, both real and personal;
- vii Regulate use of Parish facilities;
- viii Maintain and verify the official roster of the Parish's general and voting membership;
- ix Oversee and regularly receive reports from Parish ministries and organisations;
- x Prepare reports on aspects of Parish life within its competence for the annual Parish Assembly;

xi Propose an annual budget for consideration at the annual Parish Assembly; and

xii Set a date and propose an agenda for Parish Assemblies.

Unless otherwise provided for in these Bylaws, contracts, formal documents and other papers binding the Parish shall be signed by:

i the Parish Priest; and

ii one of the following:

Warden,

Deputy Warden,

Secretary, or

Treasurer.

Clergy compensation must be reviewed and determined at least annually by the Parish Council.

The official minutes of all meetings of the Parish Council shall be approved, signed, properly maintained, and made available to all Voting Members of the Parish.

In case the Parish Priest disagrees with one or more decisions of the Parish Council, his reasoned opinion shall be recorded in the minutes and the matter referred to the Diocesan Authority.

## **ARTICLE X — GLOSSARY AND GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Eastern Orthodox Christian Church**

The Eastern Orthodox Christian Church, officially the Orthodox Catholic Church, also referred to as the Orthodox Church, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Orthodoxy, is the second largest Christian Church in the world, with an estimated 225–300 million adherents.

The Orthodox Church is one of the oldest religious institutions in the world, teaching that it is the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church established by Jesus Christ in his Great Commission to the apostles, and practising what it understands to be the original faith passed down from the Apostles.

The Orthodox Church is a communion of 14 autocephalous (that is, administratively completely independent) regional churches, plus the Orthodox Church in America, which is in full communion with the other churches but recognised as autocephalous only by the Russian, Bulgarian, Georgian, Polish, the Czech-Slovak churches. The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople is first among equals within the communion of regional churches that constitute the Orthodox Church.

### **Disagreements and Conflict Resolution**

Without limiting the provisions in the Statute and the Bylaws of the Archdiocese relating to church courts and canonical procedure, in the case of disagreement with, or conflict arising from any decisions made by the Parish Priest or the Parish Council, the problem(s) may be brought before the entire Parish by invoking the provision for a Special meeting described in Article VIII,

If this meeting fails to bring resolution to the issue, those opposed to the decisions of the Parish Priest and/or the Parish Council may submit a statement describing the situation to the Provincial Dean. The statement is to be signed by at least 25% of the voting members of the Parish. The Dean is to consult with representatives of those supporting and those opposed to the

decision(s) in question and attempt to mediate a solution. If a solution is not reached, the Dean is to submit the matter to the Archdiocesan Bishop. After reviewing the documentation and consulting those involved in the dispute, the Bishop is to render a final decision and communicate it in writing to the Parish.

### **Other Matters**

For matters not covered by these Bylaws, the Parish may enact procedures and regulations to meet the need of a particular situation, always subject to the Bishop's approval.

### **Abolishment**

The term "Abolishment" shall mean the termination of the on-going existence of the Parish. Notwithstanding any decision or resolution to this effect by the members of the Parish, this Parish cannot and shall not be abolished excepting by the further decision of the Bishop.

### **Withdrawal**

The term "Withdrawal" shall mean the withdrawal by the Parish from the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church in America or the renunciation by the Parish of the authority of the Orthodox Church in America or the Statute over the Parish.

### **Good Standing**

The term "Voting Member in good standing" shall mean a Voting Member who is not in deprivation of the abilities to participate in or vote at Parish meetings or Parish Council meetings. The Parish Priest may, by his pastoral decision, determine to deprive a voting member of such abilities due to his/her behaviour. The pastoral determination is different from and in addition to any other disciplinary action canonically administered by the Parish Priest, and may be for such period of time as the Parish Priest shall determine. People deprived of such abilities may appeal the decision of the Parish Priest to the Diocesan Bishop or a Diocesan Court convened established by him provided however the deprivation of ability shall be and remain effective from the time of pastoral determination until further decision.

Such deprivation of abilities may, without limiting the grounds for the pastoral decision, be imposed upon those members who:

- i openly and rudely disturb peace and order in the church edifice or at Parish meetings;
- ii disobey openly the rulings of the official Parish bodies;
- iii by their words or deeds openly bring disgrace upon or undermine the Orthodox Faith, the Church, ecclesiastical authorities or the Parish;
- iv secretly or openly injure the life and activities of the Parish;
- v fail or refuse to comply with the Bylaws of the Parish.

### **Parish Council Roles**

The **Warden** is the chief executive officer of the Parish and shall have management control of the operational affairs of the Parish subject to the oversight authority of the Parish Council. The Warden is responsible for supervising the other elected Parish Council members, and leading the Parish Council in fulfilling all responsibilities contained in Article IX of these Bylaws. The Warden shall ensure that all decisions and resolutions of the general Parish Assembly and Parish Council are implemented. The Warden, with the concurrence of the Parish Priest, is empowered to call special meetings of the Parish Council. The Warden shall perform additional duties as may be assigned by the Parish Assembly, Parish Priest, Parish Council, or these Bylaws.

The **Deputy Warden** shall assist the Warden and perform additional duties as assigned by the general Parish Assembly, Parish Priest, Warden, or Parish Council. In the absence or incapacity of the Warden, the Assistant Warden shall perform the duties and exercise the authority of the Warden.

The **Treasurer** shall have the care and custody of Parish funds. The Treasurer shall keep a full and accurate account of all moneys received and paid by the parish and shall render a statement of accounts monthly, at general Parish Assembly meetings, and whenever the Parish Priest, Parish Council or Warden shall request. The Treasurer shall remit to the Diocesan Authority all assessments required according to the directives of the Statute. The

Treasurer shall perform all other necessary actions and duties in connection with the administration of the financial affairs of the Parish and those duties usually pertaining to the office of treasurer of a not-for-profit religious organisation. The Treasurer shall sign all cheques, drafts, or other official documents having to do with the financial matters of the Parish. In consultation with the Parish Council, the Treasurer shall prepare a proposed budget for the annual general Parish Assembly.

The **Secretary** shall record the proceedings, decisions, resolutions, and prepare minutes for all meetings of the Parish Council and all Parish Assembly meetings. These minutes shall be published, made available to the members of the Parish, and retained in the Parish archives. The Secretary shall keep in safe custody the official documents and records of the parish as determined by the Parish Council or Warden, perform duties related to the office of Secretary, and fulfill additional duties as may be assigned by the Parish Council or Warden.

### **Parish Census**

The Rector or his delegate shall provide annually, or as requested, census and membership information to the Archdiocese.

### **Signing Authority of Parish Priest**

In circumstances when the Parish Priest is unable or unwilling or fails to do or sign the things required of him as Parish Priest or as he has been instructed by the Bishop to do or sign, then the Bishop or his nominee shall be at liberty to so do or sign in his stead.

### **Bylaws**

Each member of the Parish shall for all purposes, be bound by the Parish Bylaws and shall for all purposes be deemed to know, and to have agreed to be bound by, the same.

Each member shall be given a copy of the Parish Bylaws upon request.

**End of the Parish Constitution and Bylaws  
of Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Mission**

*To the glory of God*

**Adopted by the membership of the Parish on  
Sunday 29 May 2016**