



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΥ

### Metropolis Council Meeting and Clergy-Laity Assembly April 2021

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#### Ministries

It was shortly after our Clergy Laity Assembly last year when the reality of the pandemic emerged. For over a year our ministry leaders have been working under the restrictive environment of the pandemic. They all need to be congratulated for the outstanding job they have done in transitioning to an online environment and in offering our faithful so many quality virtual programs, digital resources and assistance through this most challenging year. To appreciate all they have done **please** 1) review their individual reports and 2) **visit** their respective websites: <https://sanfran.goarch.org/ministries>. You will be amazed at what they have accomplished as a group and for the Metropolis.

Shortly after the pandemic began our Metropolis ministries updated their budgets to reflect a reduction in travel and in-person ministry in 2020. For 2021 ministry budgets remain conservative but also reflect our shared hope for the return to in-person ministry sometime mid-year.

During the pandemic I have had the opportunity to communicate with our ministry leaders on a more consistent basis. Beginning this year, we now have monthly Metropolis Ministry Leader Zoom Meetings with His Eminence and His Grace. We also have a shared ministry Google calendar and Google drive to increase connectivity. This year we witnessed several collaborations between ministries that produced new programs for our youth, young adults and adults and this cooperation between ministries continues to grow.

In January the Metropolis welcomed Fr. Gary Kyriacou to the Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries who will focus on creating parish-based youth ministry programs and resources. Fr. Gary is already making a distinct impact in our Metropolis youth ministry efforts out of his deep enthusiasm and passion for youth ministry.

Even after we return to in-person ministry, the new online skills developed by our ministries have added a dimension to their work that will continue to be utilized. For this year one personal goal is to try to increase the efficiency in which I, the Metropolis offices and our ministry leaders work together. I hope to accomplish this by utilizing a bit more technology and by formulating solutions with our very talented and dedicated group of ministry leaders.

### **Main Ministry Activities**

- Maintain communication with ministry leaders.
- Facilitate submission and tracking of yearly budgets.
- Facilitate reimbursement of expenses.
- Maintain Metropolis Ministries Google Calendar and Google Drive.
- Initiate monthly Metropolis Ministry Leader Zoom meetings.
- Facilitate communications and Zoom meetings between Ministry Leaders and His Eminence.

### **Administration**

With the pandemic the Metropolis Offices were also confronted with the new reality of transitioning to a more remote work environment. With the first shelter in place order His Eminence began working remotely, the front office started working on-site half time, and the entire Metropolis in general started working more online. This was a challenge but the Metropolis staff adapted to working socially distanced while in the Metropolis offices, learned a few new computer skills, and working through a rather stressful period in our society. Throughout the pandemic I have continued to work full-time in the Metropolis offices. As I look back at these past several months I am amazed to think of what we have accomplished as a Metropolis during this time.

To aid in this transition, the Archdiocese provided the Metropolis with several business level Zoom accounts which we use on a daily basis. In attempt to increase the use of technology and security in the Archdiocese, the Archdiocese will also be moving all Archdiocese and Metropolis employees to the Microsoft Office 365 platform, with a generous grant from the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Foundation, within the next few months. We hope this will be a smooth transition and positive change for our Metropolis employees, and will increase the efficiency of our daily operations.

Since January His Grace Bishop Ioannis has spent the majority of his time in San Francisco in the Metropolis offices. This has been a tremendous benefit and blessing for the Metropolis. His Grace has already made considerable positive changes in the atmosphere and productivity of the offices as he is a seasoned clergyman dedicated to the work of the Church. We look forward to many more positive changes at the Metropolis with the assistance of Bishop Ioannis.

### **Main Administrative Activities**

- Assist in maintaining Metropolis database / lists.
- Help facilitate applications for ordinations.
- Help facilitate applications of potential seminarians to Hellenic College and Holy Cross.
- Provide admin support to Metropolis Allocations Committee.
- Maintain office computers and equipment.
- Facilitate various admin requests from the Metropolitan.
- Assist in coordinating Metropolitan's Zoom calendar.
- Provide admin support to the Office of the Chancellery.
- Assist with maintenance of Metropolis residence and automobile.