



Orthodox Christian Laity

April 21, 2021

Holy Hierarch Januarius, bishop of Benevent; Holy Empress Alexandra

His Eminence, Archbishop ELPIDOPHOROS
The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
10 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10021

Your Eminence,

The Orthodox Christian Laity (OCL) wishes to congratulate you and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America's (GOAA) Holy Eparchial Synod for detailing a clear Plan of Action for the development of the new GOAA Charter, as stated in your April 6, 2021 Communiqué of the Holy Eparchial Synod.

The Communiqué states that the new GOAA Charter should "...meet[s] the visions and expectations of the clergy and laity in view of the completion next year of the 100th anniversary...". It envisions:

1. "the establishment of a broader Committee, in which all the organizations and bodies of the Church and of the Omogenia will be represented,"
2. "plus four representatives from each Holy Metropolis chosen by the respective hierarch."
3. "Every member of the faithful will be given the opportunity to send their opinions to a designated email address: charter@goarch.org."
4. "The collection and organization of all opinions will be the responsibility of the Administration Committee of the Archdiocesan Council."
5. "...after receiving instructions from the Mother Church ... the composition of members from the Archdiocese to the Mixed Drafting Committee for the new Charter with the members from the Ecumenical Patriarchate will be announced."

As you may know, the OCL has supporters and Board members from many GOAA parishes as well as from parishes of every Orthodox jurisdiction across North America. Our 30-plus years as a pan-Orthodox organization gives us a combined knowledge and experience unique in North America. In this context:

1. The OCL, through its GOAA parishioner leadership, wishes to be part of the broader Committee overseeing the development of the new GOAA Charter.
2. The OCL will approach various GOAA Metropolitans with suggested GOAA parishioners for inclusion in their respective delegations.
3. The OCL will ask its GOAA parishioner members/friends to send their thoughts on the new Charter to the designated email address.
4. The OCL again requests to have OCL members and GOAA parishioners, George Matsoukas (OCL Board member and past Executive Director), George Pontikes (OCL Treasurer) and George D. Karcazes (OCL Secretary and Past-President) added to the Administration Committee of the GOAA (and now, on any of the Committees herein mentioned that are tasked with the new Charter).
5. The OCL, through its representative members who are GOAA parishioners, including its President, Argo Georgandis Pyle, be considered as members from the Archdiocese to the Mixed Drafting Committee for the new Charter.

We thank you for considering these requests and please accept that we do so out of mutual love for Christ's Church. Your Eminence, in the spirit of transparency, would you consider releasing the relevant parts of the reports you made to the Ecumenical Patriarch regarding the need for a new GOAA Charter? This information would help in clergy/laity input to the new Charter. Also, releasing this would show an openness in clergy/laity interactions and be a concrete step towards forging a more meaningful co-ministry, so necessary in the GOAA and all Orthodox jurisdictions here.

Again, we thank you for considering our requests and ask for your prayers in these trying times.

Yours in Christ,

Argo Georgandis Pyle, President

George D. Karcazes, Secretary

cc: GOA Holy Eparchial Synod / charter@goarch.org

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