

By-Laws of the St. George of Ioannina Greek Orthodox Parish of Roskilde, Denmark

1. Title and role

1.1 The parish name is “St. George of Ioannina Greek Orthodox Parish of Roskilde”. Its home and forum are in Roskilde, at Toldbodgade 7, 4000 Roskilde, Denmark.

1.2 The congregation's role is to carry out and promote the religious, spiritual and cultural work of the Eastern Orthodox Church and serve the parish's Orthodox Christian members throughout Denmark.

2. Connection with the headquarters of the parish in the Nordic Lands.

2.1 Anyone who wishes can join the parish and attend holy services.

2.2 The parish of St. George of Ioannina is under the auspices and governed by the “Holy Metropolis of Sweden and All Scandinavia”, pastorally, liturgically, spiritually, catechetically, canonically, administratively, philanthropically and culturally. The Holy Metropolis of Sweden and All Scandinavia was established in the year 1969 by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and includes in its jurisdiction the nations of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland.

3. Parish Activities

3.1 The activities of the parish take the form of regular gatherings on Sundays and holidays. There, the parish council members will do their best to promote the spiritual progress of their parish members, provide religious education, teach the Christian values of the Eastern Orthodox Church, conduct Sunday School for the youth of all ages, and organize family retreats.

The church will also provide services to individuals in various institutions, like hospitals and prisons, aid the needy (refugees and homeless), provide religious education for those who are interested in joining the Orthodox faith, and organize events of religious musical nature, lectures and gatherings for its members. In addition to the above, holy sacraments are held for baptisms, weddings, chrismations, funerals, and other holy ceremonies and religious services.

Through the abovementioned activities, the religious needs of the parish members will be taken care of. The parish regular activities and sacramental life will take place in the church premises, located at Toldbodgade 7, 4000 Roskilde, Denmark.

3.2 The Eastern Orthodox Church is a Christian community, consisting of over 300 million faithful throughout the world, descended directly from the first Christian congregation of Jerusalem, founded by Jesus Christ Himself and His Holy Apostles.

The Eastern Orthodox Church is consisted of various autocephalous Churches, all of which are independent national churches. Each Church is headed by an archbishop/Metropolitan. In most languages, the church is called Greek Orthodox.

The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople is recognized as the first among equals and has decision-making power in all Orthodox Churches, on various religious matters, throughout the world.

The parish of St. George of Ioannina is an integral part of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Sweden and All Scandinavia, located at Birger Jarlsgatan 92, 11420 Stockholm, Sweden.

3.3 Membership: According to the doctrines of the Eastern Orthodox Church, the members of each parish are composed of all the Greek Orthodox Christians residing in the vicinity of the Parish; the latter having received their status automatically by virtue of their baptism.

For the sake of clarity, a Greek Orthodox Parishioner is not exclusively a person of Greek origin or descent, but the one who is affiliated to the Holy Metropolis of Sweden and All Scandinavia and its parishes throughout Scandinavia, by faith and church sacraments participation.

Orthodox Parishes are obliged to maintain lists of their parishioners in order to contact and serve them.

3.4 Any parish member who works against the mission and interests of the above parish, or who is otherwise considered to have acted against the interests of the parish in Roskilde, or the parish headquarters in Stockholm, may be expelled from the parish, after consultation and the approval of the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia.

4. Parish Management

4.1 The parish council is consisted of five persons, who are appointed by the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia himself, i.e., the parish priest and four members.

The Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia, who is elected by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, is responsible for the administration and shepherding of the Holy Metropolis of Sweden and All Scandinavia.

The Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia reports to the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which monitors and reviews the ministry of the Holy Metropolis of Sweden and All Scandinavia.

The assigned pastor by the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia is the chairman/president of the parish council.

The parish is administered by a five-member Parish Council, presided over by the priest of the parish, along with four members, among whom one shall serve as secretary and the other as treasurer.

Parish council members are chosen among persons from the parish, or, when necessary, among persons from the headquarters in Stockholm, who stand out for their devotion, ethos, in addition to their love and dedication to the Church.

The selection of a Parish Council is conducted by the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia from a list of persons submitted to the Holy Metropolis of Sweden and All Scandinavia by the assigned parish priest. Parish council members shall serve for a two-year term (which term expires) automatically at the end of the two-year term), which can be renewed by the written approval of the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia. The Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia has the right to unilaterally, and at any time, remove any parish council member from his or her position.

The board of the parish, also known as parish council, handles the daily duties and functions of the parish.

The parish council makes decisions by a simple majority of the parish council members present. If it is a major decision, i.e., sale or purchase of real estate, the written approval of the Metropolis of Sweden Executive Board is required for the decision to be valid.

In all cases, the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia has veto power over the decisions of the board of the parish. The Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia has also the right to, at any time, unilaterally change any decision taken by the board of the parish or by anybody else of the parish. The Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia has the right to, at his discretion, perform audits of the parish and has the right to access any and all

information about the parish and the board of the parish shall, in relation to such audits, fully cooperate with the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia and follow all his instructions. The parish council members shall observe full confidentiality regarding confidential information of the affairs of the parish.

The parish council divides tasks at the first parish council meeting. In the event of a disagreement with the parish council decision-making on matters of the parish, the board shall seek the opinion of the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia, who will decide on the matter.

Parish council members do not receive a salary for sitting on the board, but they offer their service and ministry pro bono.

4.2 One of the five members of the parish council -not the pastor- serves as a treasurer and is responsible for the parish finances. He/she is responsible for the parish bank account and presents them for approval at the parish council meetings. He/She is responsible for the parish finances, keeps the parish account records in order, keeps supporting documents and takes care of the necessary negotiations in consultation and agreement with all four members of the parish council. The parish council treasurer presents the parish annual accounts to the board, once a year, and the settlement is based on the calendar year. The annual financial accounts must be submitted to the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia for approval, by the end of April each year, for the previous calendar year.

4.3 The parish annual financial report is sent to the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia for approval, prior to be sent to the Danish Authorities by the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia in person. Also, all communication and correspondence with the Danish Authorities shall be handled exclusively by the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia himself in his capacity as the legal and official representative of all parishes of the Holy Metropolis of Sweden and All Scandinavia. Hence the board shall forward, without undue delay, all communications directed to the parish from the Danish Authorities to the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia, for him to handle and respond in person.

The board decides on meetings with the parishioners, as needed. There are no regular general meetings with the parish members.

4.4 The Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia, or at his directive, the parish priest/pastor, as chairman/president of the board/parish council, represents the parish to the Danish Authorities.

4.5 If the parish is dissolved, the written approval and authorization of the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia is required. If such authorization is made, assets must be transferred to the Holy Metropolis of Sweden and All Scandinavia's headquarters in Stockholm, when all obligations in this country have been paid.

4.6 A member of the Parish, including Parish council members, can voluntarily resign as a member by submitting a written request for resignation to the Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia. The resignation is effective immediately upon receipt by the Metropolitan.

4.7 Amendments and revisions to these By-Laws shall be made only by Metropolitan/Archbishop of Sweden and All Scandinavia, who hence has the right to unilaterally amend or revise these By-Laws.

Stockholm, August 2, 2023

These by-laws were adopted and approved on August 2, 2024, by His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia.

On behalf of the St. George of Ioannina Greek Orthodox Parish of Roskilde