

**CONSTITUTION OF
The Diocese of New York and Washington, D.C. and the
Diocese of Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic**

Preamble

WHEREAS: It is a primary goal of the Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic, a diocese of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (hereinafter "Diocese") to promote the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith, and;

WHEREAS: It is a primary goal of the Diocese to foster and encourage the involvement of its youth in the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith, and;

WHEREAS: We believe that the Goal of Orthodox Christian Youth Ministry is the integration of each young person fully into the total life of the Church and We believe that Orthodox Christians must commit themselves to living the Orthodox Faith daily. Further we believe that Worship, Witness, Service and Fellowship are the natural expressions of that commitment and we define them as follows:

Worship - For Orthodox Christians, corporate worship is the sacramental expression of and participation in Holy Tradition, and is the indispensable foundation of ministry at all levels. Upon this foundation, we must cultivate a daily personal prayer life and reading of Holy Scripture.

Witness - Christ calls us to be His witness in the world. We must enable our members to express their faith both for themselves and to others in order to be true witnesses to Christ and the Orthodox Faith.

Service - Christ came not to be served, but to serve. We need to motivate our members to do the same. We honor and glorify God by loving and serving mankind in the name of Jesus Christ, using our God-given gifts and talents.

Fellowship - The Holy Trinity is the perfect model of fellowship; the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit share perfect communion and exists in perfect love as a community. By gathering together in fellowship, and by showing love for one another in Christ, we emulate the life of the Holy Trinity in our daily life, and;

WHEREAS: Our ultimate goal must be to see that our youth grow to love Christ and His Church and to pursue a righteous way of life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that an organization is created to provide a common forum for these expressions of commitment and that the goal of this organization shall be to see that the members grow to love Christ and His Church, and to pursue a righteous way of life.

Article 1: NAME and AUTHORITY

1. The name of this organization shall be: The Diocesan SOYO (Society of Orthodox Youth Organizations) of the Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic and the Diocese of Washington and New York (hereinafter "Diocesan SOYO"). The organization shall use the name, "SOYO."
2. The name "SOYO" shall be the property of NAC SOYO, and shall not be used for any commercial purpose or any other purpose unless authorized by NAC SOYO.
3. The Diocesan SOYO derives its authority to operate as a subsidiary organization of the North American Council SOYO within the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America by virtue of the blessings and consent of His Eminence, the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archbishop of New York and Primate of North America (hereinafter "Primate"). The Diocesan SOYO owes ecclesiastical allegiance to the aforementioned Archdiocese, its Diocese and this Constitution and the SOYO By-laws shall be consistent with the Constitution of the North American Council SOYO (NAC) and this diocesan Constitution.

Article II: PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL

The Purpose of Diocesan SOYO is:

1. To enjoin upon the youth of the Diocese a complete devotion to Christ and His Holy Orthodox Christian Church on a daily basis, through worship, witness, service, and fellowship.
2. To equip and encourage Orthodox teens to participate in the Liturgical Services of the Church through chanting, singing and other forms of divine liturgical exercise.
3. To bear witness to Christ with boldness and conviction as witnessed to us by the Patron Saint of SOYO, Saint John Chrysostom.
4. To fulfill the Gospel message of spreading the Good News and loving our neighbor through programs such as Special Olympics, Orthodox Youth Outreach (OYO) and other local outreach programs and ministries.
5. To create and promote healthy, safe, and uplifting fellowship amongst Orthodox teens on the various levels of SOYO.
6. To raise up a generation of leaders and disciples at the parish, deanery, and Diocesan levels.
7. To promote the existing activities of SOYO and initiate new programs as needed.
8. To initiate and coordinate the spiritual and charitable works and activities of the local SOYO chapters of the parishes of the Diocese.
9. To support the local chapters of SOYO in their activities and programs.

Article III: POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. The Diocesan SOYO shall have the power, with the blessings of the Diocesan Bishop, to carry out and enforce all provisions enumerated in this Constitution

- and/or the By-Laws of the Diocesan SOYO under the direct supervision of the Diocesan Youth Director and the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor.
2. The Diocesan SOYO shall have the power to direct, manage, supervise, and control the business properties and funds of Diocesan SOYO, under supervision of the Diocesan Youth Director and the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor.
 3. The Diocesan SOYO shall be responsible for and shall have the power and authority to direct and carry out all business affairs, programs, activities, and anything else associated with the SOYO movement on the diocesan and deanery levels.
 4. The chartering of the local chapters of SOYO shall be the prerogative of the Diocesan SOYO. Chapters being chartered, however, must conform to the provisions set forth in Article II the NAC SOYO Constitution and Article III of the By-Laws of the NAC SOYO Constitution.
 5. In fulfilling the purposes set forth in Article II of this Constitution, Diocesan SOYO shall exercise governing and advisory authority over the local SOYO chapters comprising its Deanery sub-divisions. All Diocesan organizations and their local chapters must accept and abide by the provisions of the Diocesan SOYO Constitution and By-Laws as adopted and amended.
 6. The Diocesan SOYO shall have the power to take any further measures deemed necessary by its membership to ensure the continued success and well-being of the SOYO movement under the direction of the Diocesan Youth Director and the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor.

Article IV: MEMBERSHIP

The membership of Diocesan SOYO at all meetings, shall consist of three delegates appointed or elected, from each chartered parish SOYO, as provided for in the Diocesan constitution, all chairpersons of permanent committees of the Diocesan SOYO, the Diocesan Youth Director, the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor, and the Officers of Diocesan SOYO. Voting members may only vote in person and not by proxy.

Article V: VOTING

1. Voting may only take place at a meeting in which a quorum exists as defined in Article I of the SOYO By-laws.
2. All members of Diocesan SOYO shall be entitled to no more than one (1) vote at any Diocesan SOYO meeting.
3. Voting by secret ballot shall be conducted only upon the request of a member of the Diocesan SOYO, unless otherwise specified.
4. There shall be no voting by proxy.

Article VI: OFFICERS

1. The Officers of Diocesan SOYO shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

2. While the general membership of SOYO on the parish level is ages 13-19, On the Diocesan level, officers must have reached their 15th birthday by the day of election and must not have reached their 20th birthday by the day of election.
3. The Officers of Diocesan SOYO shall be elected at the summer meeting of the Diocesan SOYO held each year in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws. All Officers shall serve for a term of one year, and until their successors are elected and installed. No person may serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms in any one office.
4. Each officer shall be a member in good standing of a chartered Parish of the Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic under the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America in accordance with the By-Laws.
5. Any vacancy occurring in any elected office prior to the expiration of the full term shall be filled in a manner prescribed in the By-Laws.
6. The Executive Committee of Diocesan SOYO shall consist of the Diocesan SOYO Officers, Diocesan Youth Director, and the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor.

Article VII: COMMITTEES

1. The President, after receiving advice from the Executive Committee and the approval of the Diocesan Youth Director and the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor, may appoint any number of permanent or temporary (*Ad hoc*) committees to carry out special functions necessary to the efficiency and well-being of Diocesan SOYO.
2. The Chairpersons of these committees shall be appointed by the President, after receiving advice from the Executive Committee and the approval of the Diocesan Youth Director and the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor. Chairpersons shall serve for the duration of the current administration term.
3. Each Chairperson of each permanent committee shall serve as a member of Diocesan SOYO, and shall report to Diocesan SOYO at every regular meeting concerning the activities of that committee.
4. The membership of each committee shall be appointed by the respective Chairperson from the membership and with the approval of the Diocesan Youth Director and Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, with the exception of the nominating committee which is described in Article VIII Section 3 of the By-Laws.

Article VIII: ADVISORS

1. The Primate shall be the final authority on all matters pertaining to the activities of the SOYO.
2. The Diocesan Youth Director shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Archdiocese Department of Youth Ministry with the approval of the local Diocesan Bishop. The Spiritual Advisor of Diocesan SOYO shall be appointed by the local Diocesan Bishop in consultation with the Archdiocese Chairman of the Department of Youth Ministry.

3. The Diocesan Youth Director and the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor shall advise and direct SOYO on all matters pertaining to the activities of the Diocesan SOYO. The Diocesan Youth Director shall serve for a period of time to be determined by the Chairman of Department of Youth Ministry, with the approval of the Diocesan Bishop. The Diocesan Spiritual Advisor shall serve for a period of time as determined by the local Diocesan Bishop.

Article IX: PARISHES

1. The Local Synod of the Archdiocese shall define the Dioceses within the Archdiocese, and shall establish the boundaries for membership therein, as provided for in the Archdiocese Constitution. The Diocesan Bishop in accordance with the Archdiocese Constitution shall determine what parishes are in his diocese.
2. Each Parish SOYO organization shall be responsible for the government of its membership, and shall have the right to form a Constitution and/or By-Laws for that purpose which is consistent with the Constitution and By-laws of the Diocesan SOYO. Each Parish Constitution and/or By-Laws shall be approved by the Diocesan Bishop and a copy of the current documents must be submitted to the Diocesan Bishop, the Chairman of the Archdiocese Department of Youth Ministry and the Diocesan Youth Director.
3. In the event that the Parish SOYO should discontinue its existence, for any reason, all funds and files of that Parish SOYO shall become the property of the Parish. All such files and funds shall be held by the Parish in trust for the Parish SOYO until such times as that Parish SOYO may resume activity.

Article X: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. All amendments to this Constitution must be consistent with the Constitution of NAC SOYO.
2. Proposed Amendments to this Constitution shall be formally submitted, in writing, to the Executive Committee, which consists of the Diocesan President, Vice-President, Secretary, treasurer, Spiritual Advisor, and Youth Director, at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of any Official Meeting.
3. The Secretary shall prepare and send a copy of all proposed Amendments to all members of the Diocesan SOYO at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Official Meeting in which the amendments will be considered.
4. Amendments shall be ratified at any Official Meeting, in which a quorum exists, by a favorable vote of the members of the Diocesan SOYO at that meeting and with the approval of the Diocesan SOYO and Primate.

Article XI: BY-LAWS OF THE COUNCIL

1. All amendments to the By-laws of Diocesan SOYO must be consistent with the Constitution of NAC SOYO and of the Archdiocese.
2. By-Laws of Diocesan SOYO shall be enacted for the governance of the Diocesan SOYO in a manner which is consistent with the provisions of the Constitution of Diocesan SOYO. Approval of the By-Laws of the Diocesan

SOYO shall be upon a favorable vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all members of the council voting, and with the approval of the Primate.

3. Any amendment or addition to the By-Laws of Diocesan SOYO shall be subject to the same procedures set forth in Article X of this Constitution.

Article XII: APPROVAL

Upon ratification of any amendment to this Constitution, the Secretary of Diocesan SOYO must within ten (10) business days after the ratification, send said amendment to the Archdiocese Chairman of the Department of Youth Ministry for review and to the Diocesan Bishop and the Primate of the Archdiocese for final approval. In the event the Primate rejects any amendment or any part thereof, the rejected items shall become null and void.

Article XIII: DISSOLUTION OF THE Diocesan SOYO

In the event of the dissolution of the Diocesan SOYO, all properties and funds of the Diocesan SOYO shall revert, at once, to the Archdiocese. All such files and funds shall be held by the Archdiocese in trust for Diocesan SOYO until such times as that SOYO may resume activity.

***** END OF CONSTITUTION *****

BY-LAWS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COUNCIL SOYO

Article I: MEETINGS

1. There shall be an Annual Summer Meeting of the Diocesan SOYO to be held in conjunction with the Diocesan Parish Life Conference, unless otherwise specified by the Diocesan SOYO.
2. There shall be Fall and/or Spring Meeting of Diocesan SOYO to be held at a time and place determined by the Diocesan SOYO with the approval of the local Diocesan Bishop.
3. Special meetings of Diocesan SOYO may be called by the President, Diocesan Youth Director, or Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor, upon the request of a majority of the chartered Parishes or upon a majority request of the members of the Diocesan SOYO, or by special need.
4. The President must send notification of the date and time of every Official Meeting of the Diocesan SOYO no later than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the meeting to the Officers and Spiritual Advisor of the Diocesan SOYO, the Diocesan Youth Director, the Committee Chairs, and the President, Pastor, and Youth Director of each Parish SOYO.
5. Representation of at least two Officers of Diocesan SOYO, the Diocesan Youth Director or the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor and at least one-third of the chartered Diocesan SOYO that are in good standing, as defined in this document, shall constitute a quorum, provided that notice of the meeting is given as defined in Section 4 of this article.

Article II: REVENUE

1. Each parish SOYO shall pay an annual per parish assessment of: 0-5 Teens, \$150; 6-15 Teens, \$200; 16-25 Teens, \$250; 26+ Teens, \$300. (Note: the first \$75 goes to NAC SOYO). The per parish assessment shall be determined by the Diocesan SOYO who shall have the power to increase or decrease said assessments by a two-thirds vote at a duly sanctioned meeting. For purposes of this Article, a "parish" is defined by the Archdiocese. The Parish SOYO assessment is due prior to the summer meeting of the Diocesan SOYO.
2. In order to properly calculate the assessments, the Treasurer is authorized to receive a complete list of all parishes and other information needed to set the parish SOYO assessment from the Archdiocese and/or Diocese.
3. Any Parish that is in arrears of paying their assessment by six months shall be considered not in good standing and shall forfeit their voting right until their back assessment is paid.
4. The Diocesan SOYO may grant voting rights to a Parish SOYO who is not in good standing by majority vote, or at the discretion of the Diocesan Youth Director and the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor.

Article III: DUTIES OF THE PARISHES

1. Each Parish SOYO shall send to the Diocesan Youth Director a list of the names, addresses, birth dates, phone numbers, e-mail address, and other

- pertinent requested information of its Officers within fourteen (14) days of the election.
2. Each Parish SOYO shall send their SOYO President as one delegate, and shall be free to elect two additional delegates as they may choose to all regular meetings of the Diocesan SOYO in any manner which is consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Parish SOYO.
 3. Any Parish that fails to have at least one delegate present at the regular meetings of Diocesan SOYO for two consecutive years shall be considered not in good standing. Any Parish SOYO not in good standing in accordance with this subsection may be readmitted at the discretion of Diocesan SOYO.
 4. Each Parish shall submit to the Diocesan SOYO President and the Diocesan Youth Director the minutes of any Official Meeting of the Parish SOYO no later than thirty (45) days after the meeting.
 5. At each meeting of Diocesan SOYO, each Parish shall submit a written report of their current activities. At the summer meeting, the report must include the previous year's financial report.
 6. Any Parish SOYO that fails to submit any of the reports required by subsections 4 and 5 of this article shall be considered not in good standing until such a report is received by the Diocesan SOYO President, Secretary of Diocesan SOYO and the Diocesan Youth Director.

Articles IV: DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

1. The President shall:
 - A. Preside over all meetings (except Committee Meetings).
 - B. Have authority to execute decisions made by Diocesan SOYO.
 - C. Have the right to call Executive Committee Meetings with the approval of the Diocese Youth Director and Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor, when deemed necessary.
 - D. Conduct all business in accordance with Diocesan SOYO's Constitution, By-laws, and, when appropriate, "Robert's Rules of Order".
 - E. Promote, encourage and foster the implementation of Article II of the Constitution.
2. The Vice President shall:
 - A. Act in absence of the President and shall perform such duties as are delegated by the President.
 - B. Be an *ex officio* member of all Diocesan SOYO committees.
 - C. Attend all Meetings.
 - D. Conduct all business in accordance with Diocesan SOYO's Constitution, By-laws, and, when appropriate, "Robert's Rules of Order".
 - E. Promote, encourage and foster the implementation of Article II of the Constitution.

3. The Secretary shall:
 - A. Maintain all records of Diocesan SOYO.
 - B. Archive all records of Diocesan SOYO with the Archdiocese Department of Youth Ministry Office.
 - C. Shall maintain an up-to-date official copy of the Diocesan SOYO Constitution and have it readily available.
 - D. Sign all documents as necessary.
 - E. Distribute all materials for the Diocesan SOYO.
 - F. Attend all Meetings.
 - G. Assist the President in conducting all business affairs of the Diocesan SOYO.
 - H. Keep records and books accessible at all times for the inspection of the Diocesan SOYO.
 - I. Take minutes at all Regular, Special, Joint and Executive Committee Meetings.
 - J. Distribute minutes of the most recent Regular Meeting no later than thirty (30) days after the previous meeting and forty-five (45) days prior to the next Regular Meeting.
 - K. Conduct all business in accordance with the SOYO Constitution, By-laws, and, when appropriate, "Robert's Rules of Order".
 - L. Promote, encourage and foster the implementation of Article II of the Constitution.

4. The Treasurer shall:
 - A. Maintain an efficient system of accounting.
 - B. Receive all general operating funds paid to Diocesan SOYO and deposit the same in official depositories designated by Diocesan SOYO within five (5) business days.
 - C. Make disbursements, as approved and ordered by Diocesan SOYO, within ten (10) business days.
 - D. Send a quarterly income and expense statement to the Executive Committee and the Archdiocese Youth Director.
 - E. Keep all Diocesan SOYO accounts and books open for the inspection of Diocesan SOYO, Diocesan Youth Director and the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor, and the Archdiocese Youth Director, and any audit.
 - F. Submit a financial statement at all General Meetings and at such times, as Diocesan SOYO may require.
 - G. Submit an annual Financial Report of Diocesan SOYO and to the Archdiocese Youth Director and to the Archdiocese Office.
 - H. Perform all responsibilities in accordance with Article VIII of these By-laws.
 - I. Conduct all business in accordance with SOYO Constitution, By-laws, and, when appropriate, "Robert's Rules of Order".
 - J. Promote, encourage and foster the implementation of Article II of the Constitution.
 - K. Attend all meetings.

Article V: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The Election of Officers shall take place during the Summer Meetings of the Diocesan SOYO.
2. The Spiritual Advisor of Diocesan SOYO shall work with the Diocesan Youth Director to distribute Nomination forms (provided by the Archdiocese Department of Youth Ministry) to all parishes as well as guidelines and rules for eligibility for teens to be nominated and elected on the Diocesan level of SOYO and work to see that all requirements to be elected to diocesan office are understood and agreed to by the nominee.
3. Any person, who is at least 15 years of age, an official delegate of their Parish SOYO, present at the election, and having turned in a properly completed and signed Diocesan Nomination form, shall be eligible for nomination to any elected office of the Diocesan SOYO.
4. All nominees shall be certified by their Parish Priest, as specified on the nomination form, to be a communicant in good standing of their Parish prior to the election.
5. Voting must be by secret ballot. All members of Diocesan SOYO shall be entitled to no more than one (1) vote. There shall be no voting by proxy.
6. Election for each office shall be determined by a simple majority of votes cast. In the event of a tie, there shall be a second vote with only the tied candidates eligible for election.
7. In the event that an Officer resigns prior to being installed, the runner-up for that office shall fill the vacancy. In the event that said runner-up declines to fill the vacancy, the President shall fill the position pursuant to Section 8 of this Article.
8. Whenever a vacancy occurs in any office (except for President), after installation and prior to the expiration of the full term of that office, the President, with the approval of the Executive Committee and the Diocesan Youth Director and Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor, shall fill the position by appointment for the remainder of the term. All appointees must fulfill the requirements of Sections 3 & 4 of this Article.
9. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice President shall assume the office of President for the remainder of the term and the vacancy of the Vice President shall be filled as prescribed in Section 8 of this Article.

Article VI: DELEGATES TO NAC SOYO

1. There shall be three delegates to the NAC SOYO Midwinter Meeting and all Special Meetings of NAC SOYO as follows:
 - a. The President Shall be one delegate
 - b. The Spiritual Advisor shall be another delegate and when he cannot attend then the diocesan Youth Director shall represent the diocese in his place
 - c. One other delegate shall be appointed by the executive committee.

2. In accordance with the NAC SOYO Constitution there shall be six delegates to the NAC SOYO Summer Meeting and Leadership Conference, as follows:
 - a. The President
 - b. The Vice President
 - c. The Secretary
 - d. The Treasurer
 - e. The Diocesan Spiritual Advisor
 - f. The Diocesan Youth Director

Article VII: COMMITTEES AND MINISTRIES

1. There may be any number of permanent committees formed. The chairpersons of all standing committees shall be appointed by the President, with the advice of the Executive Committee and the approval of the Diocesan Youth Director and the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor, and shall serve for the period of the current administration. The committee chairperson shall select the membership of his/her committee. Some of the previously appointed committees are:
 - A. Children's Relief Fund: provide information to each chapter concerning the sponsoring of an underprivileged child. The committee chairperson shall record the number of chapters sponsoring children and the money collected from each chapter.
 - B. Choir Festival: This committee shall select sacred and/or secular music for performance by the Teen Choir at the Annual Parish Life Conference. The script thereof shall be completed and distributed at the Spring Delegates' Meeting. The committee chairperson shall also arrange for practice sessions during the week of the Annual Parish Life Conference.
 - C. College Contact: This committee shall work to inform members of college age of any SOYO activities. This committee shall keep a record of contact information of these members in college. The committee is responsible for keeping fellowship with members who cannot attend meetings. This committee may hold an annual retreat and/or meeting at their discretion.
 - D. Conference Planning / Sports Competition: This committee shall gather ideas for teen activities, including a sports competition at the Annual Parish Life Conference to be submitted to the host chapter's Conference Planning Committee. The sports competition is to be decided by a majority vote held at the Spring Delegates Meeting. The committee chair people shall also arrange for rules, location and awarding winning team(s) of the competition. This committee may be

assigned to the SOYO Chapter President of such host chapter.

- E. Credentials: This committee is generally chaired by the Diocesan Secretary, however if there is a separate chairperson, they shall compile and maintain an accurate list of chapter officers, delegates and members, and regional officers and committees. This list shall be published annually and distributed by the Fall Delegates' Meeting and shall be updated whenever necessary.
- F. Humanitarian Awareness: This committee shall encourage and motivate chapters to participate actively in volunteer and humanitarian programs and services.
- G. Missions/Parish Revitalization: This committee shall work together with the priests and teens of the missions within the Diocese in order to foster and promote SOYO within their growing parish. This committee shall also work to revitalize and promote the spirit and fellowship of SOYO in inactive churches. This committee shall work towards these goals by corresponding with Parish Priests of inactive chapters and SOYO Presidents to encourage participation and cooperation with the active SOYO chapters nearby.
- H. Religious Education and Involvement: This Committee shall every month prepare a brief report of Orthodox history or theologies appropriate for that month. Such reports shall be distributed to all chapter presidents for reviews and discussion by each chapter. This committee shall arrange for the reception of the Holy Eucharist by the members of this organization during conferences, meetings, retreats, etc. This committee shall also furnish chapters with guidelines for arranging Corporate Communion at chapter level at various times throughout the year. This committee may hold an annual regional retreat and furnish chapters with guidelines for holding deanery retreats at various times throughout the year.
- I. Special Funds: This committee shall research and present projects to the General Assembly for their consideration as charitable undertakings to be funded by the Diocesan SOYO. This committee shall provide the chapters with suggestions for activities to raise money earmarked for this undertaking, collect the monies from activities, record their receipt and forward them to the treasurer.
- J. Web Page / Facebook: This committee shall gather information from the Diocesan SOYO and its chapters. This committee shall post all necessary information on

the region's web page / Facebook Group in an orderly and creative manner. This committee is responsible for representing the Eastern Dioceses on the World Wide Web in accordance to the religious teachings and practices of the Holy Eastern Orthodox Church. The committee is to present changes to the web site at any general assemblies.

2. SOYO Special Olympics Ministry shall be a permanent ministry of Diocesan SOYO.
3. Orthodox Youth Outreach (OYO) shall be a permanent ministry of SOYO.
4. The President of Diocesan SOYO may establish temporary (*Ad Hoc*) committees to work on specific tasks. The chairpersons of all temporary committees shall be appointed by the President, with the advice of the Executive Committee and the approval of the Diocesan Youth Director and Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor, and shall serve until the assigned task is complete. The committee chairperson shall select the membership of his/her committee.
5. Whenever a vacancy occurs in any committee chairmanship, the President, with the advice of the Executive Committee and the approval of the Diocesan Youth Director and Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor, shall fill the position by appointment for the remainder of the term.

Article VIII: Finances

1. The Fiscal Year shall be from Diocesan Parish Life Conference to Diocesan Parish Life Conference. The Diocesan SOYO shall maintain an efficient system of accounts.
2. The President, Treasurer, Diocesan Youth Director and the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor shall be the only authorized signers of all General Diocesan SOYO accounts. No less than two (2) signatures shall appear on all checks, one of which must be either the Diocesan Youth Director or the Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor.
3. No authorized signer shall be one of the two signers on a check for themselves.
4. All reimbursements must include a receipt prior to being reimbursed.
5. The Diocesan SOYO shall provide for transportation and lodging expense reimbursement for the Elected Officers, Spiritual Advisor and certain designees and/or delegates, as further set forth in this section.
 - A. The Elected Officers, Diocesan Youth Director and Spiritual Advisor shall be reimbursed for their transportation expenses while attending all official Diocesan and NAC SOYO Meetings, except when such expenses would normally be covered for the Spiritual Advisor by his parish; the Youth Director would be covered by the Archdiocese Department of Youth Ministry.
 - B. The Elected Officers, Diocesan Youth Director and Spiritual Advisor shall be reimbursed for their lodging expenses while attending all meetings as outlined in paragraph A of this section.

- C. The President of Diocesan SOYO or Designee shall be reimbursed for their transportation and lodging expenses while attending any Archdiocese Special Conventions. Other Diocesan Officers required by the Archdiocese to be in attendance at Special Archdiocese Conventions shall also be reimbursed for transportation and lodging. Lodging expenses will be reimbursed for the Official Event dates only.
- D. Transportation expense reimbursement shall be paid based on the actual mode of transportation utilized. For air or rail travel, the reimbursement shall be based on the lowest possible fare available for a 30-day advanced purchased roundtrip ticket. For automobile travel, the reimbursement shall be based on the actual gasoline purchase price and any toll fees only. Furthermore, if two or more persons, entitled to transportation expense reimbursement, elect to share the same automobile for travel to and from the meeting, only their share of the expenses will be reimbursed.
- E. Lodging expense reimbursement shall be paid based on the actual incurred costs of lodging at the lowest possible rates for the rooms utilized (based on the advertised published rate). Furthermore, if two or more persons, entitled to lodging expense reimbursement, elect to share the same room, Diocesan SOYO will only reimburse for the actual cost of the room, and not double reimburse for the room. Additionally, if the person, entitled to lodging expense reimbursement, elects to share the room with other persons, not so entitled, then Diocesan SOYO will only pay a *pro rata* share of the room costs. In the case of the Spiritual Advisor, he may book a single room or share his room with his wife and Diocesan SOYO will reimburse for the full cost of the room.

Article IX: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws of Diocesan SOYO.

Article X: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these By-Laws may be made as provided in Article XI of the Constitution.

ARTICLE XI: APPROVAL


Upon ratification of amendments to these By-laws, the Diocesan Secretary must, within ten (10) business days after the General Meeting, send such amendments to the Chairman of the Archdiocese Department of Youth Ministry for review, and to the Primate of the Archdiocese and the Diocesan local Bishop for final approval. In the event the Primate rejects any amendment or any part thereof, the rejected items shall become null and void.

***** END OF BY-LAWS *****


This Constitution was unanimously adopted by the combined Diocesan SOYOs of New York and Washington, D.C. and of Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic in Little Falls, New Jersey, on the 8th day in the month of March, the Year of our Lord 2008.



Stephen D. Shadid
Diocesan SOYO President



Metropolitan PHILIP,
Primate of the Antiochian Orthodox
Christian Archdiocese of North America



Very Rev. Stephen Lourie
Diocesan SOYO Spiritual Advisor



Rt. Rev. Bishop THOMAS,
Diocesan Bishop

Duly Recorded and Received on March 8, 2008



Mary Sayegh, Diocesan SOYO Secretary