



Inspiring Women,
Impacting the World

Resolutions

2024 National Philoptochos
Convention
San Diego, CA

**Resolution to Use
Non-Profit Postage**

**Submitted by
Archdiocesan District**

Resolution to Use Nonprofit Postage – Submitted by the Archdiocesan District Philoptochos for A.D. Chapter St. Annas Philoptochos #63

Whereas, The Greek Orthodox (GOA) Ladies Philoptochos Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that the IRS has recognized as being tax-exempt by virtue of its charitable programs;

Whereas, The nonprofit organization status of the National GOA Philoptochos Society extends to all districts and chapters in service to the GOA Philoptochos Society; and

Whereas, Nonprofit organizations are entitled to utilize nonprofit postage rates for USPS mailings that directly service and benefit their organizations; and

Whereas, The National GOA Philoptochos Society has not availed their entitlement to discounted nonprofit postage for mailings nor facilitated nonprofit postal rates for districts and chapters in their service;

Resolved, That the National GOA Philoptochos Society will promptly complete and submit to the United States Postal Service PS Form 3624 form Application to Mail at Nonprofit USPS Marketing Mail Prices to receive USPS approval to utilize the nonprofit postal rate for all mailings in service to the GOA Philoptochos Society;

<https://pe.usps.com/businessmail101?ViewName=NonprofitApplication>

Resolved, That the National GOA Philoptochos Society will follow up to confirm USPS approval of PS Form 3624 and have nonprofit indicia postage pre-printed on all envelopes to be used in 2025 and in subsequent years by GOA Philoptochos chapters to mail payments to the National GOA Philoptochos Society;

Resolved, That the National GOA Philoptochos Society will enable all districts and chapters of the GOA Philoptochos Society to order sheets of nonprofit postage stamps from their office, at the nonprofit rate, for all mailings in service to the GOA Philoptochos Society;

Resolved, That the National GOA Philoptochos Society will notify all districts and chapters of the GOA Philoptochos Society that they may use discounted nonprofit stamps for all mailings in service to the GOA Philoptochos Society.

Respectfully Submitted by Carol Kerler, Assistant Treasurer, Chapter 63 carolkerler@aol.com
St. Anna's Philoptochos at the Cathedral of St. Paul, 110 Cathedral Avenue, Hempstead, NY 11550

Election Protocol & Exclusion of Associate Membership from Member Count

**Submitted by
Metropolis of New Jersey**

RESOLUTION SUGGESTION FOR THE 2024 BIENNIAL CL/PHILOPTOCHOS CONVENTION – SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTIONS TO THE 2020 NATIONAL GREEK ORTHODOX PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC. BYLAWS

ARTICLE 5 : PARISH CHAPTER

SECTION 3: CHAPTER PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. COMPOSITION

Each chapter shall have a Chapter Philoptochos Board of Directors (“Chapter Board”), with an odd number of directors of not more than twenty-one and not less than seven members, as follows:

- a. A chapter with less than twenty members shall have not less than seven Directors;
- b. A chapter with twenty-one to forty-nine members shall have not less than seven Directors and not more than fifteen Directors;
- c. A chapter with fifty to ninety-nine members shall have not less than seven Directors and not more than seventeen Directors;
- d. A chapter with one hundred to one hundred ninety-nine members, shall have not more than nineteen Directors and;
- e. A chapter with more than two hundred members shall have not more than twenty-one Directors.

Whereas , It seems that there is a confusion as to how many Directors can be elected during an election year;

Whereas, Subsections d. and e. do not reference the minimum number required;

Resolved, That subsection d. include the following terminology, “shall have not less than seven Directors and not more than nineteen Directors”;

Resolved, That subsection e. include the following terminology, “shall have not less than seven Directors and not more than twenty-one Directors “;

Resolved, That Associate members, for determination of the number of Directors, not be included in the membership count, since they cannot vote; and

Resolved, That the number of Directors be determined by the total membership of the year prior to Election Year.

**Renaming of the 75th Anniversary Founders
Fund**

**Submitted by
National Executive Board and
Commitments Committee**

RESOLUTION

A resolution to change the name of the 75th Anniversary Founders Fund to Fund for EiderCare.

Whereas, the review conducted by the Commitments Committee noted that the 75th Anniversary Founders Fund name is dated and confusing to members

Whereas, The National Philoptochos celebrated their 91st year as an organization in 2024

Whereas, the 75th Anniversary Founders Fund currently assists older Orthodox adults and their families with home health care, hospice, funerals and other needs as assessed by the Social Services Director.

Resolved, that the name of the commitment be changed to Fund for Elder Care for a better understanding of the Fund's purpose.

**Resolution Amending the Requirements
for Full Membership**

Submitted by

**The Metropolis of Pittsburgh and the
Metropolis of Chicago**

Whereas, the population demographics that make up the cities and towns throughout the United States of America is constantly changing; and

Whereas, certain areas of the United States have diverse populations of Orthodox Christians, including but not limited to Serbian, Romanian, Antiochian, etc., while others do not; and

Whereas, some Orthodox Christians of ethnicities other than Greek, join Greek Orthodox churches because a church of their own ethnicity no longer exists; and

Whereas, the qualifications for full membership into the Ladies Philoptochos Society require women aged 18 and older to be of the Greek Orthodox faith; therefore

Be it resolved that an additional, more inclusive section be added to the Bylaws following Article V, Section 2.1. Therefore, the "Full Membership" section will have both an (a.) and a (b.), as follows:

Article V, Section 2.1. Full Membership

- a. Women of the Greek Orthodox faith, of at least 18 years of age, shall be eligible for full membership in the Society.
- b. Women of Orthodox ethnicities other than Greek, of at least 18 years of age who have been baptized and/or chrismated as Orthodox Christians shall also be eligible for full membership in the Society.

A Resolution Amending the Requirements for Full Membership
In the
Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society
Submitted by
The Metropolis of Chicago Ladies Philoptochos Society

Resolution to amend bylaws for Non-Greek Orthodox Women

Whereas, the population demographics that make-up the cities and towns throughout the United States of America is constantly changing; and

Whereas, certain areas of the United States have diverse populations of Orthodox Christians, including but not limited to Serbian, Romanian, Antiochian, etc., while others do not; and

Whereas, some Orthodox Christians of ethnicities other than Greek, join Greek Orthodox churches because a church of their own ethnicity no longer exists; and

Whereas, the qualifications for full membership into the Ladies Philoptochos Society require women aged 18 and older to be of the Greek Orthodox faith; therefore

Be it resolved, that an additional, more inclusive section be added to the Bylaws following Article V, Section 2.1. Therefore, the “Full Membership” section will have both an (a.) and a (b., as follows:

Article V, Section 2, 1. Full Membership

- a. Women of the Greek Orthodox faith, of at least 18 years of age, shall be eligible for full membership in the Society.
- b. Women of Orthodox faiths other than Greek, of at least 18 years of age who have been baptized as Orthodox Christians and are stewards in good standing in a Greek Orthodox church, shall also be eligible for full membership in the Society.

**Resolution for St. Michael's Home and
GO Elder Care**

**Submitted by
Archdiocesan District**

St. Michael's Home and or other GO Elder Care Facility Resolution

A Resolution to Establish a Greek Orthodox Elder Care Ministry

Commitment - *Submitted By the Archdiocesan District 2024 Philoptochos Conference*

Whereas, Senior citizens, aged 80 years old and older, now constitute the fastest-growing segment of the population in the United States of America;

Whereas, The number of Americans, 65 years old or older, is expected to increase from 56 to more than 90 million in the next 25 years; and

Whereas, The demand for residential elder care in our country is anticipated to dramatically increase in coming years, with those experiencing memory loss and related illnesses expected to more than double by 2050 from 6 million to 13 million, and the United States Administration of Aging projecting that 70 percent of senior citizens will require long term care at some point in their lives; and

Whereas, Saint Michael's Home, a National Ministry and Institution of the Holy Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, has, for more than 50 years, provided the elderly with a safe haven where our elders can live out their "golden years" with love, dignity, and quality of care in a Greek Orthodox environment; and

Whereas, Saint Michael's Home, the only residential care facility for the elderly directly under the aegis of the Archdiocese, is currently involved in a historic expansion of services, with newly designed and constructed accommodations for more residents and offering higher levels of licensed residential care; and

Whereas, Facilities like the Hellenic Nursing & Rehabilitation Center (Canton, Massachusetts) and the Greek American Rehabilitation & Care Center (Wheeling, Illinois), while neither officially affiliated with nor under the oversight of the Archdiocese, have served the Greek American community; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc., establish an elder care ministry commitment to offer annual support to Saint Michael's Home and other Greek Orthodox elder care facilities serving the needs of our elderly; and that, in addition to other sources of funding deemed appropriate by the National Board, each Philoptochos Society chapter commit to an annual offering of at least Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) to support this ministry.

**Resolution in Support of Eliminating the
Autism Assistance Commitment**

Submitted by

**The National Executive Board and
The Metropolis of Pittsburgh**

Submitted by: the National Executive Board

Whereas, the review conducted by the National Philoptochos Society Commitments Committee has found in the years since the establishment of the Autism Assistance Fund, awareness, understanding, and acceptance of Autism and those affected by the disorder has grown throughout our community and country, and

Whereas, public funding for educational and training programs addressing Autism and insurance coverage for costs associated with the care and treatment of people on the spectrum are today widely available, now therefore be it

Resolved, that remaining fund balance shall be distributed to Autism related charities and programs through the National Philoptochos and/or Metropolises, and be it further

Resolved, That the Autism Assistance Fund be eliminated as a National Philoptochos commitment as of January 2025.

**A Resolution in Support of Eliminating the Autism Assistance
Commitment**

Submitted by

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Whereas, the Autism Assistance Commitment was established as a National Philoptochos commitment to support children on the Autism spectrum, families with children with Autism, and organizations that provide support to this population; and

Whereas, at the time that the commitment was established, there was no governmental support for children or persons on the Autism spectrum; and

Whereas, government funding now exists for children and adults on the Autism spectrum and their families, as well as for organizations that assist families; and

Whereas, children and adults on the Autism spectrum and their families can receive National Philoptochos support through other funds, i.e., the Children's Medical Fund, Social Services Fund, and General Medical Fund; and

Whereas, organizations that care for children on the Autism spectrum can receive National Philoptochos support by submitting a grant proposal to the Children's Medical Fund; and

Whereas, these aforementioned National Philoptochos funds will provide support in addition to the available funding from the federal government; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that National Philoptochos eliminates the Autism Assistance Commitment as a separate annual ministry commitment of the Society beginning in January 2025.

Establishment of Prison Ministry as a Commitment

Submitted by

**The Metropolis of Atlanta, Archdiocesan
District, The Metropolis of Pittsburgh, and
the Metropolis of San Francisco**

ORTHODOX PRISON MINISTRY INITIATIVE RESOLUTION (page 1 of 2)

Submitted by the Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos – May 30, 2024

Whereas, The Mission of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society charges its members to “help...the imprisoned;” and

Whereas, In Matthew 25:36 Jesus says, “I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me;” and

Whereas, The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society addresses the needs of “clothing, food, and illness” through commitments and special appeals, the ongoing needs of those imprisoned and their families are not formally addressed; and

Whereas, Our Lord Jesus Christ preached repentance and the forgiveness of all transgressions; and

Whereas, In 2023, over 1.9 million persons were in state or federal prisons;¹ and

Whereas, The number of females in state or federal prisons increased almost 5% from 2021 (83,700) to 2022 (87,800);² and

Whereas, 2.7 million children have a parent serving time in prison or jail on any given day and over 5.2 million children have had an incarcerated parent at some point during their lives;³ and

Whereas, Some 501(c)(3) programs have reduced the likelihood of recidivism to less than 5%;⁴ and

Whereas, The Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM), an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States, provides spiritual care and helps both Orthodox Christians and non-Orthodox alike find hope and purpose in their lives; and

Whereas, The Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) provides “resources and training to local parishes and clergy, enabling them to offer local solutions and fulfill Christ’s command to visit Him in prison;” and

Whereas, The Philoptochos members are “doers” as St. James in his Epistle 1:22 exhorts all Christians to be “Doers of the word and not hearers only;” therefore, be it

Resolved, That an Orthodox Prison Initiative Commitment be established as an annual National Philoptochos commitment in support of 501(c)(3) organizations which aid 1) those incarcerated, 2) those formerly incarcerated who are re-entering society, and 3) those families and children affected by incarcerations; and

Resolved, That the annual amount of the Orthodox Prison Ministry Initiative Commitment be determined by each Chapter; and

Resolved, That at least fifty percent (50%) of the annual Orthodox Prison Initiative Commitment be earmarked for the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) and that the remaining amount be earmarked for other 501(c)(3) prison ministry programs assisting the incarcerated and their families; and

ORTHODOX PRISON MINISTRY INITIATIVE RESOLUTION (page 2 of 2)

Submitted by the Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos – May 30, 2024

Resolved, That the distribution of donations to the annual Orthodox Prison Initiative Commitment be determined by the proposal grant process as established by the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society.

¹ <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2023.html#slideshows/slideshow1/1>

² Federal Bureau of Prisons. (n.d.). <https://www.bop.gov/>

³ <https://www.sentencingproject.org/>

⁴ Our Children. (2023, May3). *Hour children*. <http://hourchildren.org>

ORTHODOX PRISON MINISTRY INITIATIVE RESOLUTION (page 1 of 2)

Submitted by the A.D. Philoptochos in support of the Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos's submission2024

Whereas, The Mission of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society charges its members to “help...the imprisoned;” and

Whereas, In Matthew 25:36 Jesus says, “I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me;” and

Whereas, The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society addresses the needs of “clothing, food, and illness” through commitments and special appeals, the ongoing needs of those imprisoned and their families are not formally addressed; and

Whereas, Our Lord Jesus Christ preached repentance and the forgiveness of all transgressions; and

Whereas, In 2023, over 1.9 million persons were in state or federal prisons;¹ and

Whereas, The number of females in state or federal prisons increased almost 5% from 2021 (83,700) to 2022 (87,800);² and

Whereas, 2.7 million children have a parent serving time in prison or jail on any given day and over 5.2 million children have had an incarcerated parent at some point during their lives;³ and

Whereas, Some 501(c)(3) programs have reduced the likelihood of recidivism to less than 5%;⁴ and

Whereas, The Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM), an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States, provides spiritual care and helps both Orthodox Christians and non-Orthodox alike find hope and purpose in their lives; and

Whereas, The Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) provides “resources and training to local parishes and clergy, enabling them to offer local solutions and fulfill Christ’s command to visit Him in prison;” and

Whereas, The Philoptochos members are “doers” as St. James in his Epistle 1:22 exhorts all Christians to be “Doers of the word and not hearers only;” therefore, be it

Resolved, That an Orthodox Prison Initiative Commitment be established as an annual National Philoptochos commitment in support of 501(c)(3) organizations which aid 1) those incarcerated, 2) those formerly incarcerated who are re-entering society, and 3) those families and children affected by incarcerations; and

Resolved, That the annual amount of the Orthodox Prison Ministry Initiative Commitment be determined by each Chapter; and

Resolved, That at least fifty percent (50%) of the annual Orthodox Prison Initiative Commitment be earmarked for the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) and that the remaining amount be earmarked for other 501(c)(3) prison ministry programs assisting the incarcerated and their families; and

ORTHODOX PRISON MINISTRY INITIATIVE RESOLUTION (page 2 of 2)

Submitted by the Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos – May 30, 2024

Resolved, That the distribution of donations to the annual Orthodox Prison Initiative Commitment be determined by the proposal grant process as established by the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society.

¹ <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2023.html#slideshows/slideshow1/1>

² Federal Bureau of Prisons. (n.d.). <https://www.bop.gov/>

³ <https://www.sentencingproject.org/>

⁴ Our Children. (2023, May3). *Hour children*. <http://hourchildren.org>

A Resolution Establishing A National Philoptochos Prison Initiative Commitment

Submitted by

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Whereas, The Mission of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society charges its members to “help...the imprisoned;”

Whereas, In Matthew 25:36 Jesus says, “I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me;”

Whereas, Our Lord Jesus Christ preached repentance and the forgiveness of all transgressions;

Whereas, In 2023, over 1.9 million persons were in state or federal prisons;¹

Whereas, The number of females in state or federal prisons increased almost 5% from 2021 (83,700) to 2022 (87,800);²

Whereas, 2.7 million children have a parent serving time in prison or jail on any given day and over 5.2 million have had an incarcerated parent at some point during their lives;³

Whereas, The female incarcerated population is six times higher today than in 1980 with over half of the imprisoned women having a child under the age of 18;⁴

Whereas, Women are more likely than men to be the primary caregivers for their children and may experience more economic hardship, employment instability, and have fewer vocational skills;⁵

Whereas, Some programs have reduced the likelihood of recidivism to less than 5%;⁶

Whereas, With Philoptochos’ benevolent outreach, we can contribute to the effort of mothers and children reuniting as a family and rejoining the community; and

Whereas, The Philoptochos members are “doers” as St. James’ in his Epistle 1:22 exhorts all Christians to be “Doers of the word and not hearers only;” therefore, be it

Resolved, That a National Philoptochos Prison Initiative be established as an annual National Philoptochos commitment in support of 501(c)(3) organizations which aid 1) those incarcerated, 2) those formerly incarcerated who are re-entering society, and 3) those families and children affected by incarcerations; and

Resolved, That the annual amount of the National Philoptochos Prison Initiative be determined by each Chapter; and

Resolved, That at least fifty percent (50%) of the annual National Philoptochos Prison Initiative be earmarked for the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) and that the remaining amount be earmarked for other 501(c)(3) prison ministry programs assisting those incarcerated, those formerly incarcerated who are re-entering society, and those families and children affected by incarcerations. Funds will be disbursed through the submission of grant proposals.

¹ <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2023.html#slideshows/slideshow1/1>

² Federal Bureau of Prisons. BOP. (n.d.). <https://www.bop.gov/>

³ <https://www.sentencingproject.org/>

⁴ <https://www.sentencingproject.org/>

⁵ Federal Bureau of Prisons. BOP. (n.d.). <https://www.bop.gov/>

⁶ Hour Children. (2024, May 3). *Hour children*. <http://hourchildren.org>

The Metropolis of San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos Society submits the proposed resolution below.

Whereas, The Mission of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society charges its members to “help...the imprisoned;”

Whereas, In Matthew 25:36 Jesus says, “I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me;”

Whereas, The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society addresses the needs of “clothing, food, and illness” through commitments and special appeals, the ongoing needs of those imprisoned and their families are not formally addressed;

Whereas, Our Lord Jesus Christ preached repentance and the forgiveness of all transgressions;
Whereas, In 2023, over 1.9 million persons were in state or federal prisons;¹

Whereas, The number of females in state or federal prisons increased almost 5% from 2021 (83,700) to 2022 (87,800);²

Whereas, 2.7 million children have a parent serving time in prison or jail on any given day and over 5.2 million children have had an incarcerated parent at some point during their lives;³

Whereas, Some 501(c)(3) programs have reduced the likelihood of recidivism to less than 5%;⁴

Whereas, The Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM), an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States, provides spiritual care and helps both Orthodox Christians and non-Orthodox alike find hope and purpose in their lives;

Whereas, The Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) provides “resources and training to local parishes and clergy, enabling them to offer local solutions and fulfill Christ’s command to visit Him in prison;” and

Whereas, The Philoptochos members are “doers” as St. James in his Epistle 1:22 exhorts all Christians to be “Doers of the word and not hearers only;” therefore, be it

Resolved, That an Orthodox Prison Initiative Commitment be established as an annual National Philoptochos commitment in support of 501(c)(3) organizations which aid 1) those incarcerated, 2) those formerly incarcerated who are re-entering society, and 3) those families and children affected by incarcerations;

Resolved, That the annual amount of the Orthodox Prison Ministry Initiative Commitment be determined by each Chapter;

Resolved, That at least fifty percent (50%) of the annual Orthodox Prison Initiative Commitment be earmarked for the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) and that the remaining amount be earmarked for other 501(c)(3) prison ministry programs assisting the incarcerated and their families; and

Resolved, That the distribution of donations to the annual Orthodox Prison Initiative Commitment be determined by the proposal grant process as established by the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society.

¹ <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2023.html#slideshows/slideshow1/1>

² Federal Bureau of Prisons. (n.d.). <https://www.bop.gov/>

³ <https://www.sentencingproject.org/>

⁴ Our Children. (2023, May3). *Hour children*. <http://hourchildren.org>

**Vasilopeta Funds Distribution and Saint
Basil's Academy Support**

Submitted by

**Archdiocesan District, The Metropolis of
San Francisco, and the Metropolis of
Pittsburgh**

Saint Basil's Academy Resolution – Submitted by the Archdiocesan District Philoptochos

Whereas, The National Philoptochos Society and all its Metropolises, Districts, and chapters have for over 80 years generously and lovingly supported the Ministry of St. Basil Academy (SBA) as well as the Saint Basil property, which is owned by the National Philoptochos;

Whereas, The National Philoptochos Society wishes to continue to support the Ministry of St. Basil as well as the premises owned by the National Philoptochos; and

Whereas, The annual Vasilopita Commitment has been dedicated to the Saint Basil Ministry for Orthodox children from distressed families and the support of the property where the children of St. Basil's reside; and

Whereas, Over the years, an additional commitment was approved that also supports the St. Basil children, known as the Sisterhood of St Basil, which is dedicated to the physical needs of the children at SBA; and

Whereas, Over the years, the population of children served at St. Basil Academy originally numbered in the hundreds and is now less than ten children in the Youth program; and

Whereas, The National Philoptochos has donated over 11 Million dollars to St. Basil's over the last 15 years in support of both the ministry as well as the property where the children reside; and

Whereas, Philoptochos Chapters nationwide, as well as the Metropolis and District Philoptochos Boards, have also generously supported SBA; and

Whereas, The Academy of St. Basil's has been the beneficiary of additional generosity from the faithful of this sacred Archdiocese; and

Whereas, SBA currently has approximately Eight Million Dollars in the Saint Basil Academy Trust as evidenced by its 2021 Form 990 filed with the Federal Government and several additional millions of Dollars in unrestricted gifts and bequests in various accounts; and

Whereas, Philoptochos also recognizes that there is a substantial need for countless other children who can also be served throughout our Archdiocese and wishes to serve them; and

Whereas, The Philoptochos wishes to continue to support and serve the children of St. Basil Academy so long as they are under the care of the church in the youth program, to protect and care for the Saint Basil Property, and also serve the needs of youth and children throughout our Archdiocese; and

Whereas, There currently are over \$300,000 collected to date through the 2024 Vasilopita, which will continue to be dedicated to Saint Basil's since they were collected for that purpose ;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved that beginning with the Vasilopita of 2025, the National Philoptochos, its Metropolis and District boards and chapters will continue to support Saint Basil Academy as well as other youth programs such as youth-related social services, camping, retreats, and education by beings distributed as follows:

50% to the support of both the Ministry of Saint Basil's which is currently serving approximately ten children, and others located on Saint Basil property, as well as for the needs of the real estate itself and the remaining 50% of the Vasilopita monies be used to support youth social services as well as other youth programs including camping, retreats, education, and scholarships throughout the entire Sacred Archdiocese of America and youth-related programs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese itself and

Let it also be resolved that the percentage of distribution can be adjusted through a majority vote of the National Philoptochos Board.

The Metropolis of San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos Society submits the proposed resolution below.

Proposed Resolution to Amend the Allocation of the Annual Vasilopita Commitment Revenue

Whereas the National Philoptochos Society and all its Metropolises, Districts, and Chapters have for over 80 years generously and lovingly supported the Ministry of St. Basil Academy (SBA) as well as the St. Basil property which is owned by the National Philoptochos; and

Whereas the National Philoptochos Society wishes to continue to support the Ministry of St. Basil as well as the premises owned by the National Philoptochos; and

Whereas the annual Vasilopita Commitment collected revenue has been distributed to St. Basil Academy to support Orthodox children from distressed families and to support the property where the children of St. Basil's reside in excess of \$11 million dollars over the last 15 years; and

Whereas, an additional commitment was approved known as the Sisterhood of St Basil to support the ongoing needs of the children at St. Basil Academy; and

Whereas over the years, the population of children served at St. Basil Academy has diminished from the hundreds to currently fewer than 10 children in the Youth program; and

Whereas Philoptochos Chapters nationwide, as well the Metropolis and District Philoptochos Boards have also generously supported St. Basil Academy; and

Whereas St. Basil Academy has been the beneficiary of additional generosity from the faithful of this sacred Archdiocese; and

Whereas St. Basil Academy currently has approximately \$8 million in the Saint Basil Academy Trust as evidenced is its 2021 Form 990 filed with the Federal Government and several additional millions of dollars in unrestricted gifts and bequests in various accounts; and

Whereas Philoptochos also recognizes that there is a substantial need to support countless other children who can also be served throughout our Archdiocese and wishes to serve them; and

Whereas Philoptochos wishes to continue to support and serve the children of St. Basil Academy so long as they are under the care of the church in the youth program, to protect and care for the Saint Basil property and also serve the needs of youth and children throughout our Archdiocese; and

Whereas there currently is over \$300,000 collected to date through the 2024 Vasilopita Commitment which will continue to be dedicated to St. Basil Academy since they were earmarked for that purpose;

Now therefore be it resolved that beginning January 1, 2025 the Vasilopita Commitment revenue collected by the National Philoptochos, its Metropolis and District boards and Chapters will be distributed allocating 50% of the funds to continue to support St. Basil Academy, and the remaining 50% of the funds to be distributed to support youth social services, as well as other youth programs including camping, retreats, education, and scholarships throughout the entire Sacred Archdiocese of America and youth-related programs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese itself; and

Let it also be resolved that the percentage of distribution can be adjusted through a majority vote of the National Philoptochos Board.

A Resolution to Expand the Purpose of the Vasilopita Commitment

Submitted by

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Whereas, inspired by Archbishop Athenagoras, the National Philoptochos Society purchased the former Rupert Estate on the cliffs of the Hudson River in 1944 and established Saint Basil Academy, which became a haven and home away from home for the care of children; and

Whereas, the National Philoptochos Society, its metropolises, districts, and chapters have for over 80 years generously and lovingly supported the Ministry of St. Basil Academy, as well as the property owned by National Philoptochos; and

Whereas, the annual Vasilopita commitment was established to provide funds for the operational costs and upkeep of the Academy property and raises approximately \$400,000 per year; and

Whereas, an additional commitment, the Sisterhood of Saint Basil Academy, was established by National Philoptochos specifically to provide for the ongoing needs of the children of the Academy, such as clothing, furnishings, equipment, and other essentials for the dormitories and kitchens, as well as support for the graduation ceremonies, and special awards for students and will continue to do so; and

Whereas, National Philoptochos established the Zoe Cavalaris Fund to provide for the educational needs of the children; and

Whereas, Saint Basil Academy established the Saint Basil Academy Trust, which receives additional funding, unrestricted gifts, and bequests from the faithful of the Archdiocese; and

Whereas, the Saint Basil Academy Trust has approximately \$8 Million as evidenced by the 2021 Form 990 filed with the Federal Government; and

Whereas, the number of children housed and supported at Saint Basil Academy originally numbered in the 100s but is now fewer than 10 children; and

Whereas, National Philoptochos has given over \$11 million to Saint Basil Academy over the last 15 years; and

Whereas, our CPA and auditors have advised us that in order to ensure complete accountability and transparency in reporting, Philoptochos should require signed agreements and/or grant proposals, as well as follow-up reports confirming the use of the funds; and

Whereas, the requirement for signed agreements and/or grant proposals, as well as follow-up reporting as to the use of Philoptochos funds, and the outcomes achieved has already been adopted as the standard operating procedure with most organizations that receive Philoptochos funds; and

Whereas, National Philoptochos recognizes that there are children throughout the Archdiocese that require care who are not coming to Saint Basil Academy; and

Whereas, National Philoptochos would like to provide support for children and families in crisis throughout the Archdiocese; and

Whereas, the Archdiocese has many youth and young adult programs that National Philoptochos would like to support; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the name of the Saint Basil Vasilopita Fund be changed to the Vasilopita Fund for Saint Basil Academy, Families in Crisis, and Youth and Young Adult Programs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the United States; and be it further

Resolved, that all future disbursements to every organization, including Saint Basil Academy, will be contingent upon complete and transparent signed agreements and follow-up reporting; and be it further

Resolved, that all monies currently in the Vasilopita fund will continue to be used solely for Saint Basil Academy and will be contingent upon complete and transparent signed agreements and follow-up reporting; and be it further

Resolved, that beginning in January 2025, the Vasilopita collection be divided equally, 50% for the Ministry of Saint Basil Academy and the needs of the property; and 50% for support of Families in Crisis, and Youth and Young Adult Programs of the Archdiocese and others within the United States; and be it further

Resolved, that “Youth and Young Adult Programs” is an all-inclusive term including camping, retreats, educational and scholarship programs throughout the entire Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, as well as youth-related programs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, including but not limited to YAL, OCF, OVC, and all others established within the Archdiocese now and in the future, as well as other worthy youth programs within the United States; and be it further

Resolved, that all money distributed to youth and young adult programs of the Archdiocese and other programs across the greater United States will be disbursed based on the submission of grant proposals; and be it further

Resolved that money distributed to families in crisis will be distributed according to the procedures established by the National Philoptochos Department of Social Services; and be it further

Resolved that the percentage of distribution can be adjusted in future by a majority vote of the National Board.

**A Resolution in Support of Eliminating the
Orthodox Christian Fellowship
Commitment**

**Submitted by
The Metropolis of Pittsburgh**

Whereas, the mission of Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is to support fellowship on college campuses, whose members experience and witness the Orthodox Church through community life, prayer, service to others, and study of the faith; and

Whereas, in a desire to support our Orthodox college students and keep them close to our faith, National Philoptochos established a commitment to support the programs of OCF; and

Whereas, National Philoptochos wishes to treat all youth and young adult programs of the Archdiocese equitably; and

Whereas, OCF will now be receiving funding and support through the newly expanded Vasilopita Fund, and therefore, does not need another funding source; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that National Philoptochos eliminate the Orthodox Christian Fellowship Commitment as a separate annual ministry commitment of the Society beginning in January 2025.

**Bylaws Amendment to Include Reference
to Manuals**

**Submitted by
The National Philoptochos Executive
Board**

**A Resolution to Amend the Bylaws to include by title the Manuals and Handbook
previously adopted by the National Philoptochos Board**

Whereas The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc., (the “Society”) is the duly accredited women’s philanthropic society of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; and

Whereas the Society is a 501(c) (3) Not-for-Profit Corporation of the State of New York and is an Affiliated Organization of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese; and

Whereas as such the Society is governed, not only by the laws of New York State, but also by its own Bylaws, (the “Bylaws”) which were initially enacted in 1932, after its incorporation in 1931, and which most recently were amended in 2020, and

Whereas among the purposes of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society are to help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed and all those in need as well as to promote the charitable, benevolent and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, to preserve and perpetuate the Family, and to promote participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, and preserve the Orthodox Christian faith, nationally in a consistent fashion throughout the country, and

Whereas the Bylaws of the Society generally state the requirements that chapters, Metropolises, Archdiocesan District and National Board must follow, and

Whereas questions from time to time, arise as to the specific application of the various sections, terms and requirements of the Bylaws, and

Whereas from time to time, interpretation is required in order to determine how best to apply the Bylaws to each individual chapter, and

Whereas many of the same questions arise on a regular basis, and

Whereas it is beneficial that there be consistency among the Society’s Chapters and Metropolises, and Archdiocesan District on a nationwide basis, and

Whereas over time, the National Philoptochos Board, and its executive boards and Metropolis and Archdiocesan District Boards try to provide consistent guidance, and the National Board has developed manuals and handbook(s) to facilitate the consistent, practical and equal application of the Bylaws and practices of the Society; and

Whereas, the relevant Manuals and Handbook have never been specifically identified within the Bylaws of the Society, so that all members are equally aware of the assistance that these manuals and Handbook can provide;

Now therefore be it

Resolved that Article 6, section 4 titled "Interpretation" be amended as follows

- a. **The following Manuals and Handbook have been created by the National Philoptochos Board for the purpose of providing general guidance to chapters in complying with and resolving questions relating to the Bylaws, elections, general business of the Society, Social Services procedures, major national events of the Society, such as the Biennial Convention and the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon and other important functions. The Manuals and Handbook which can be amended by the majority vote of a quorum of the National Philoptochos Board are as follows:**

1. **The Procedural Manual**
2. **The Financial Policies and Procedures Manual**
3. **The Social Services Policies and Procedures Manual**
4. **The Protocol Manual**
5. **The Employee Handbook**

Additional Manuals or Handbooks, as needed, may be promulgated from time to time by the National Philoptochos Board.

- b. In the event that the **further** interpretation of these Bylaws shall be necessary for any reason, the interpretation shall be made by the national president in consultation with the legal advisor. The English language text of these Bylaws shall be deemed the official text for all purposes.

**Resolution of the Executive Committee of
the Direct Archdiocesan District of the
Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos
Society, Inc.**

**Submitted by
Archdiocesan District**

**RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT OF THE GREEK
ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.**

WHEREAS: the Executive Committee of the Direct Archdiocesan District of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc. (the “Executive Committee”), at a meeting duly called and held on Thursday, May 23, 2024 (the “Meeting”), discussed the fact that the Direct Archdiocesan District of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc. (the “Direct Archdiocesan District”) is recognized and operates under this legal name but is also commonly known and referred to by the public and its members as the Archdiocesan District of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has determined that it is in the best interest of the Direct Archdiocesan District to officially adopt the name "Archdiocesan District of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc." as a "doing business as" (DBA) designation to enhance recognition and facilitate operations under this commonly used name;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Direct Archdiocesan District shall adopt the name "Archdiocesan District of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc." as its DBA designation; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of the Direct Archdiocesan District are hereby authorized and directed to take all necessary steps to file any required documentation with the appropriate governmental authorities to effectuate this DBA designation; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all business conducted by the Direct Archdiocesan District under its legal name or under the name "Archdiocesan District of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc." shall be deemed to be for and on behalf of the Direct Archdiocesan District;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers of the Direct Archdiocesan District are authorized to take any other actions that may be necessary or

appropriate to implement this resolution, including filing any required documentation with the appropriate governmental authorities to effectuate this DBA designation, in order to ensure that all business conducted under the name "Archdiocesan District of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc." is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that these resolutions shall take effect immediately upon their adoption.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am the duly elected and qualified Secretary of the Direct Archdiocesan District, and that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of the Direct Archdiocesan District on the 23rd day of May, **2024**, at a meeting at which a quorum was present.

Athina Beaury, Secretary

Dated – June 26, 2024

**DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT OF THE GREEK
ORTHODOX LADIES
PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY,
INC.**

Attest: Athina Beaury  Date: June 26, 2024

Secretary