GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE OF ALEXANDRIA AND ALL AFRICA

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN SOUTH SUDAN.

Regulations

Diocesan Regulations and
Uniform Parish Regulations
2024

PREAMBLE

The Greek Orthodox Church has existed here in the Sudans for many years.

In 2024 The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate synod decided to create the Diocease of South Sudan.

For legal, practical, and all other purposes, henceforth, the Church which belongs to the **One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church**, will be known as the **« Orthodox Church in South Sudan»**.

The Orthodox Church in South Sudan, with its headquarters located in the City of Juba, South Sudan, is **an Eparchy of Holy Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa** in Egypt.

VISION: Salvation and peace for all people

MISSION:
The Mission of the Holy Diocese of Orthodox Church in South Sudan is to proclaim the Gospel of Christ, to teach and spread the Orthodox Christian faith, to energize, cultivate and guide the life of the Church in South Sudan according to the Orthodox Christian faith and Sacred Tradition; through the Divine Worship, especially, the Holy Eucharist and other Sacraments, building the spiritual and ethical life of the faithful in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, Sacred Tradition, the doctrines and canons of the Ecumenical and local Synods, the canons of the Holy Apostles and Fathers of the Church and of all other Synods recognized by the Orthodox Church, as interpreted by the Great Church of Christ over centuries; and to serves as a beacon, carrier and witness of the message of Christ to all persons who live in South Sudan and all the oikoumene, at large.

PART ONE

DIOCESE REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 1

ORGANIZATION OF THE HOLY DIOCESES

1. The diocese is one indivisible entity in its entirety. It will comprised of deaneries whose number, seat, and boundaries shall be designated by individual "Doicesan Council"; and in consultation with the **Episcopal Council,** Registered Board of Trustees, and Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Assembly (**the General Assembly**).

2. The Orthodox Church in South Sudan has its headquarters in Juba, The other different dioceses shall have their seats as shall be determined by the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa. The Orthodox Church in South Sudan shall be duly incorporated in the Republic of South Sudan, and shall abide by the Civil Law of the land; and at the same time shall be administered by the respective Hierarches according to the Holy Canons, the Ecclesiastical Regulations, and the provisions of this Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations.

ARTICLE 2

GOVERNANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL HOLY DIOCESE

1. Comprised of the individual hierarch, referred to as **«Bishop»**, and members of the Holy Episcopal Council to constitute the ecclesiastical instrument of governance of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan.
2. Presided over and represented by its President, the Bishop, the Holy Diocesan Council has the ecclesiastical and canonical responsibility for the diocese to the Holy Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa which is its superior ecclesiastical authority.

ARTICLE 3

THE HOLY EPISCOPAL COUNCIL.

The Diocesan Council as the Ecclesiastical instrument of governance of the Diocese shall be the Superior governing organ of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church in in South Sudan.

1. The bishop of the Diocese, the diocesan Chancellor and Vicar General, Chairperson of Diocesan Board of Trustees, the diocesan Secretary General, and any other coopted members, shall constitute the Episcopal Council of the Orthodox Church in SOUTH SUDAN.
2. The Diocesan Council shall meet in regular session, according to the Holy Canons of the Orthodox Church, and at least twice annually.
3. The Diocesan Council may also meet in special session if a special need arises.
4. The Diocesan Council may also be called, especially, at the request of the Chairperson of the Diocesan Council or of a majority of its members, with the agenda topics specified.

5. The diocese shall operate Bank Accounts. The Chancellor or the Vicar general shall be the Principal Signatory, with Treasurer, and the Secretary General as co-signatories upon the approval of the bishop. The bishop may operate accounts at the recommendation of the Diocesan Council or the respective Diocesan Councils.
6. The bishop shall be the Chief Accounting Officer to the Holy Synod of Holy Patriarchate.
7. The Diocesan Council has all the authority and responsibility that the Holy Canons and this Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations ascribe to the «Holy Diocesan Council».
8. All legal issues which affect the diocese and its parishes as a whole shall be referred to «The Registered Trustees of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan», through its legal counsel. Through its president, the Diocesan Council shall inform the Holy Patriarchate about the issues discussed and the its meetings.
9. Regulations hereafter promulgated and approved by the Diocesan Council shall govern its manner of operation.

ARTICLE 4

RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF THE BISHOP

The individual Bishops of the Uganda Orthodox Church and as the ***Exarch***es of the Holy Patriarchate Alexandria and All Africa in Uganda, shall seat on Episcopal Council of the Uganda Orthodox Church, and among other rights and responsibilities, each bishop shall:

1. Exercise and perform all of the rights and duties designated for his Office by the Holy Canons.

2. Be responsible for the Diocesan Council over which he presides, and to the Holy Patriarchate concerning the canonical and orderly functioning, life, governance and activities of the one and indivisible diocese.
3. Report to the Holy Patriarchate, to which he forwards an Annual Report on the status of the entire Metropolis.
4. Shall appoint, with consultation with the Diocesan Council : The Chancellor, Vicar General, Deans, and priests; and approve and appoint the elected Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, and the Board of Trustees members.
5. Oversee and coordinate, together with the Diocesan Council, the work which is planned and carried out in each Deanery, through which the unity of the indivisible Church is secured and enhanced.
6. Support his deans in a **brotherly** manner as they implement the unified programs of the diocese.
7. Preside over the Diocesan Council on a rotational basis; preside, Board of Trustees, Diocesan Clergy Council; oversee the Secretariat and its

departments, the, Institutions of Higher Learning (as Chancellor), Seminaries (as Director), and any other committees of the Church.

8. Ordain, assign, elevate, and transfer Clergy within his Diocese, by virtue of the authority of his Office and in accordance with the Canons, Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations and Ecclesiastical procedures.
9. Distribute to the Parish Priests the Holy *Myron* (Chrismation Oil), received from the Holy Patriarchate; sign on, and distribute Antimension to the priests in his diocese; and issues the ecclesiastical licenses and certificates for all sacraments within the Diocese.
10. Consecrate the new temples and holy artifacts in his diocese
11. Gives or denies giving blessing rights to all Orthodox Christian couples in the diocese intending to marry in Church.
12. Have his *pheme* (Bishop's Anthem) canonically chanted during the Divine Liturgy when present throughout the whole diocese.
13. Ratify or reject the elections or appointments of the Deanery Council, Parish Councils, Orthodox Youth Union National or Local Management Committees and Orthodox Mothers' Union National or Local Management Committees, Schools Management Committees, Boards of Governors of Secondary Schools, Polytechnics, Universities Councils, or any commissions of the Church.

a. In the event he declines to ratify the election of one or more of the persons elected/appointed to the Deanery Council, Parish Council, Mothers' Union, Youth Union, Schools, or any Institutions or Program, he shall state his reason for such action and shall direct the respective organ to conduct a special election or appointment to fill the vacancy thus created. He may appoint persons to serve as interim members of such organs until such election or appointment is held. In the event he declines to ratify the election or appointment of a majority or more of the members of such organs, he shall first consult with the Diocesan Council, or the Metropolis Executive Council except in a situation in which members of such organs do not meet their «Total Commitment financial obligation», where applicable.
b. May dismiss any member of the Deanery Council, Parish Council, Management Committees, School Management Committees, or Board of governors, from office whenever in his judgment there is sufficient cause for such action.
c. In the event he needs to remove a majority or more of the members of Deanery Council, Parish Council, Management Committees, Boards of Governors, or Commissions, as may apply, he shall first consult with and obtain the consent of the Diocesan Clergy Council, Diocesan Executive Committee, or Episcopal Council. In the event of any such removal, the bishop shall appoint an interim Parish Council,

Management Committee, Board of Governors, or interim members thereof, designate the time when elections or appointments may be scheduled to fill the vacancies thus created and determine whether any person(s) removed from office may be a candidate(s) for office.

14. Represents the Diocese and the Holy Patriarchate in the matters dealings with all ecclesiastical and civil authorities in Uganda and abroad, as may be applicable.
15. Be responsible for intra-Christian and inter-religious activities in the Uganda.
16. Cultivate and strengthen, even more, the existing bond of unity between the other Metropolises in East Africa and the entire Holy Patriarchate.
17. Carry out and implement the provisions of this Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations.

ARTICLE 5

ELECTION OF A BISHOP

1. The election of a bishop is the exclusive and the canonical right of the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Alexa*ndria and All Africa. The Episcopal Council has an advisory opinion regarding the person of the bishop to be elected. This opinion will be submitted in writing to the Holy Synod in a timely fashion or it may be submitted by a special delegation so that it may be duly evaluated on the basis of meritocratic criteria.
2. A candidate for the office of Metropolitan must be a person of deep faith and ethos, an Orthodox Christian from the Holy Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa; a graduate of an academically accredited Orthodox School of Theology and have all the qualifications as provided by the Holy Canons for Hierarchical office. Also, the candidate shall have a fluent knowledge of spoken and written of one of the Local Ugandan Languages and English. Knowledge of the Greek language may be an added advantage. The candidate for the office of bishop should, have a proven ability in administration and pastoral work, and be totally committed to the preservation of unity within the Archdiocese as well as to its bond of unity with the Holy Patriarchate.
3. A candidate shall not be less than thirty-five (35) years of age and have had a period of successful service in any Greek Orthodox Diocese of no less than five (5) years.

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ARTICLE 6

ORTHODOX SECRETARIAT

PURPOSE AND DUTIES

The Orthodox Secretariat shall be the executive arm of the Diocesan Council. Except for doctrinal and canonical matters, the Secretariat shall be concerned

with matters and issues that affect the life, growth and unity of the Metropolis and takes such decisions thereon as are required.

1. The secretariat shall have investment powers with respect to the day to day management of the operating funds of the Metropolis.
2. The Secretariat is the advisory and consultative body to the Metropolitan and to the Episcopal Council.
3. The Departments of the Orthodox Secretariat shall be referred to as «Commissions». The Episcopal Council shall create and name any new commissions as it may deem necessary.
4. The Secretariat shall be concerned with, and shall review from time to time all matters of a temporal and financial nature of the Metropolis. It shall analyze, study, propose plans and procedures which will respond to the matters as presented as well as recommend the manner of resolving or effectuating the same.
5. Prepare budget with the Finance and Planning Commission, and the appropriate heads of the other Commissions for Diocesan Council, for recommendation to the General Assembly, as may be applicable.
6. Retain such outside professionals and experts as it may deem necessary to assist it in its duties.

ARTICLE 7
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ORTHODOX SECRETARIAT

1. **President**: The Bishop is the President and Chairman and presiding officer of the Executive Committee or any Special Committees, as he may deem necessary. He may also designate another person as the presiding Officer of the meetings.
2. **Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General**: The Bishop, in consultation with the Diocesan Council, shall appoint a person or a priest for the post of the Secretary General, and who shall be:

a. The Heads of the Secretariat and responsible for the maintenance and distribution to the proper parties of the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee, and Clergy-Laity General assembly.
b. The Chief Accounting Officers of the Orthodox Secretariat
c. An Ex-Official on all Institutions' Councils, Departmental, Program, or Sub-Committees, and any Commission, as may be applicable.
d. Receive all names of those appointed or elected to Management Committees of Departments, Programs, Institutions, Gender Ministries, and others organ of the Metropolis for ratification by the Episcopal Council.
e. Represent the Commissions, and Programs, on behalf of the Metropolis, in Inter-Religious Affairs and any such outside world meetings which have no dogmatic and canonical nature as the

authority and powers as are provided for under this Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations.

3. **Treasurer**: Shall be:

a. Be appointed by the Bishop
b. Member of the Executive Committee.
c. Serve as the Chair person member of the Finance, Planning and Development, and Audit Commission.
d. The Treasurer of the Metropolis with such authority and powers as are provided for under applicable law.

4. **The Heads** of Departments and Programs shall:

a. Be employed by the Diocesan Council through standard vetting procedures.
b. Constitute the Executive Committee of the Orthodox Secretariat.
c. Be members of the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly.
d. Be Chair persons of the line-departmental Meetings.

5. **Vicar General** shall be an Ex-Official in all Commissions, Departments, and Programs Meetings.
6. **Meetings**: Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at least quarterly as designated and scheduled by the Episcopal Council. Additional meetings may be called by the Metropolitan or a majority of the voting members of the Executive Committee.
7. **Minutes:** Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Committee shall be distributed to the members of the Diocesan Council within thirty (30) days after their acceptance by the Executive Committee.
8. **Funds and Donations:** The Secretary General as the Chief Accounting Officer of the Orthodox Secretariat, shall:

a. Encourage and participate in the local Stewardship and other Funding Raising activities.
b. Oversee the Church Contribution from all Church Ministries, Institutions, and Programs of the Church.
c. Receive blessings from the Bishop to solicit funds and mobilize resource within the country, or abroad, as may be applicable.
d. Remuneration of the mission workers in the Secretariat will be in direct proportion to their resource mobilization drive and investment success.

9. **Bankers and Signatories:**

There shall be Bank Accounts operated by the Orthodox Secretariat under the name decided upon by the Diocesan Council. The Chancellor or the Vicar General, the Treasurer, and Secretary General, shall be signatories on the Accounts. The order of signing shall from time to time be decided upon or reviewed by the Diocesan Council.

ARTICLE 8

FINANCE, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, AND AUDIT COMMISSION.

a. From the existing Coordinators and their Financial Assistants of the various Institutions, Departments, Programs, or Commissions (falling under the secretariat), shall form the Finance and Planning Committee of the Secretariat. The Committee shall be headed by the Treasurer. The Secretary General shall be an Ex-Official. Plans, Budgets, and any such Resolutions shall be approved by Executive Committee of the Secretariat, and the Episcopal Council.
b. The Diocesan Council shall employ a capable person to head the Finance and Planning.

ARTICLE 9
MINISTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

The Orthodox Church in South Sudan shall through the different organs of the body of Christ promote the spiritual, moral, mental, and cultural growth of and for the Orthodox Christians (the faithful) and all people of God in this country, irrespective of their sex, age and creed.

1. Among such organs, shall include: Evangelism and Outreach, Stewardship, Catechetical, Peace and Justice, Gender (Orthodox Youth Unions, Orthodox Mothers' Union, Orthodox Fathers' Union, and the Elderly); Preparatory, Primary and Secondary Schools; Polytechnics, Colleges and Universities; Health Centres, Hospitals, and Medical Bureau; Real Estates, Hostels, Recreations Centres, Retirement Homes, and Homes and Schools of People with Retarded Mobility; Environment, development programs; and any such organs that may be deemed necessary by the Episcopal Council and the General Assembly.
2. The Diocese shall own property and manage institutions of national nature such as Seminaries, Universities, model schools and hospitals; while the Deaneries, Parishes, Monasteries shall establish and manage property and institutions of local nature, as may be applicable.
3. The establishment of new institutions, as well as the dissolution of such institutions, shall require prior approval of the Diocesan Council, the consent of the Diocesan Board of Trustees; and the local Boards of Trustees at the Deanery, Institutional, Departmental, and Parish level, as may be applicable.
4. Priority for the positions of the heads of Commissions, Department, and Programs shall be given to the Orthodox Christians and shall be vetted by the Episcopal Council, where necessary. At the level of institutions, adverts for such posts that may fall vacant can be advertised and recruitment done on merit in close consultation with the Diocesan Council or the individual Diocesan Councils.
5. No mission workers at any Church level in any given Office shall engage in trade or dubious activities in such a manner that compromise the performance of the duties and the position of the Church.

6. Different Departments, Programs, Institutions, and the alike shall have bi-laws governing their operations but in case of contradiction, the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations take precedence.
7. The manner of operation of such Ministries, Institutions and Programs shall be pursuant to Regulations hereafter promulgated, but in conformity with line- Ministries of the Government of South Sudan, where applicable.

ARTICLE 10

ORTHODOX MOTHERS' UNION

The Orthodox Churchin South Sudan Mothers' Union may be referred to interchangeably as the «Orthodox Mothers», «Mothers' Union», or « Orthodox Mothers' Union». The Mothers' Union shall be Department of the Orthodox Secretariat under the Gender Ministry. This Department shall handle all issues of Mothers throughout the Country with its major role to build their capacities in different fields as well as enhance their spiritual life. The manner of operation of such Department shall be pursuant to Regulations hereafter promulgated, but in line with Ministry of Gender of the Government of South Sudan (MoG), and the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations.

1. **General Meeting**
   South Sudan Orthodox Mothers' General Meeting shall:

a. Comprise of 3 Representatives from each Parish and 1 representative from each Sub-Parish, 2 members from each Deanery, Members of the National Management Committee, Key Stake-holders, National Coordinator and Staff of the Department; the Vicar General, Secretary General, and two Representatives of the Metropolis Board of Trustees (as Ex-Officials).
b. Elect the South Sudan Orthodox National Management Committee which shall include the Chair Person, Vice Chair Person, Spokes Person, the Treasurer, and 3 Committee Members
c. Hear the Annual Report; discuss the Unions' Bylaws; Annual budget and the Strategic Plan of the Union.

2. **National Management Committee**
   The Committee shall:

a. Convenes the General Meeting in consultation with the Metropolitan and the Secretary General.
b. Oversee the implementation of the strategic Plan and By-Law discussed by Unions' General Meeting and as approved by the Metropolis Executive Committee and the Diocesan Council.
c. Fund raisers for the Union.
d. Constitute the Board of Trustees on the Union Level.
e. Be members to the Diocesan Clergy-Laity General Assembly.

f. Communicate to Secretary General the names to be vetted and appointed at Mothers Desk Office; And for the ratification of those newly Elected National Management Committee members. In sixty (30) days if no response is received from the Bishop, the Chair Person shall, in writing, communicate the same to the Bishop. Still if no response is received, the Committee shall proceed to implementation of those and such resolution.

g. In the event of any purchase, sale, and lease, mortgaging or other encumbrance of any real property of Union shall in pursuant to the prior approval by the same Committee, submit a written request including all documentation as may be appropriate and required to the DIOCESAN Board of Trustees for approval.

3. Mothers' Secretariat

The Mothers' Secretariat officer shall be called the «National Coordinator» and among other things she shall:

a. Be responsible for the day to day running of the Mothers Desk at the Orthodox Secretariat
b. Chief Accounting Officer of the Department and reporting to the National Management Committee and to the Mothers' Union general Meeting
c. Constitute member of the Orthodox secretariat Executive and Finance and Planning Committees
d. Constitute members to the Diocesan Clergy-Laity General Assembly.

ARTICLE 11
ORTHODOX CHURCH YOUTHS' UNION

The Orthodox Church Youths' Union may be referred to interchangeably as the «Orthodox Youths Union» or «Orthodox Youths». It shall be Department of the Orthodox Secretariat under the Gender Ministry whose major objectives shall be to create a bond of unity among the Orthodox Youths in this Country; gloom conscience and Orthodox spirited future leader of the Church and their next environment; and to serve as a beacon and witness of the message of Christ to all persons of the inhabited world. The manner of operation of such Department shall be pursuant to Regulations hereafter promulgated, but in line with Ministry of Gender of the Government of South Sudan (MoG), and the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations.

1. General Meeting

Orthodox Youths' General Meeting shall:

a. Comprise of 2 members from each Deanery (Gender Sensitive),

3 Representatives from each Parish or Orthodox Community (Chair Person, Treasurer, and any other person of the Parish Orthodox Youths' Union, Members of the National Management Committee, Key Stake-holders, Staff of the Department; the Secretary General of the Orthodox Secretariat and two Representatives of the Diocesan Board of Trustees (as Ex-Officials).

b. Elect a National Management Committee whose age limit is not below 21 and not above 35), and which shall include the Chair Person, Vice Chair Person, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and the Treasurer. all candidates must sign a statement.
c. Teach to all Representatives, during the Meeting, about the Diocesan Regulations and the Uniform Parish Regulation. All aspiring candidates must acknowledge that they understand the Regulations and will abide by them and the affirmation of the Office.
d. Hear the Annual Report; discuss the Unions' Bylaws; Annual budget and the Strategic Plan of the Union.

2. National Management Committee

The Committee shall:

a. Convenes the General Meeting in consultation with the Metropolitan, and Secretary General.
b. Oversee the implementation of the strategic Plan and By-Law discussed by Unions' General Meeting and as approved by the Diocesan Executive Committee and the Episcopal Council.
c. Fund raisers for the Union.
d. Constitute the Board of Trustees on the Union Level.
e. Be members to the Diocesan Clergy-Laity General Assembly.
f. Communicate to Secretary General the names to be vetted and appointed at Mothers Desk Office; And for the ratification of those newly Elected National Management Committee members. In sixty (30) days if no response is received from the Bishop, the Chair Person shall, in writing, communicate the same to the Bishop. Still if no response is received, the Committee shall proceed to implementation of those and such resolution.
g. In the event of any purchase, sale, and lease, mortgaging or other encumbrance of any real property of Union shall in pursuant to the prior approval by the same Committee, submit a written request including all documentation as may be appropriate and required to the Diocesan Board of Trustees for approval.

3. Youths Officer

The Youths Desk officer shall be called the «Coordinator» and among other things he/she shall:

a. Be responsible for the day to day running of the Youths Desk at the Orthodox Secretariat

b. Chief Accounting Officer of the Department and reporting to the National Management Committee and to the Orthodox Youths' Union General Meeting
c. Constitute member of the Orthodox secretariat Executive, Finance and Planning Committees (In case the Department as a separate Accounting Section, the Accountants shall constitute membership to the Finance and Planning Committee of the Secretariat).
d. Constitute members to the Diocesan Clergy-Laity General Assembly.

4. Local chapters

The head department of the Orthodox Youth shall have the responsibility:

a. To oversee the establishment and the smooth running of Orthodox Youth Unions at every parish, country-wide.
b. To encourage each youth to be enrolled and be full paid up member.
c. To have an Orthodox Youth overall strategic plan, with all local chapters inclusive.
d. To plan how to involve the youth in the parish activities and their collective and individual development.
e. That the Youth Contribute to the common financial pool of the parish

ARTICLE 12

EDUCATION

The Diocese shall establish and oversee all Religious Education and Educational Institutions with an Orthodox Faith orientation to serve its religious, cultural and catechetical needs. The Education Commission shall equip the people of God with knowledge, attitude, values, and skills for Christian living, growth and service with its goal to empower the Church for the provision of holistic education services.

Section 1:

The Education Commission shall oversee Pre-primary, Primary, Secondary, post-Secondary schools, including Vocational Training Schools, Seminaries, and Universities. The Commission shall interface with the Government's Ministry of Education, and also provides Church-founded schools with policy guidelines and resources for improving educational standards. The Commission shall be divided into two areas, namely: Academic and Religious:

1. Academic which will encompass the regular education from pre-primary to the institutes of higher learning:

a. Each School, Tertiary Institution, or University which is established at any Orthodox Parish, Monastery, and Shrine must have a corresponding spiritual life and identity and that of the Body of Christ. All Educational Organs shall have sign-posts bearing the name of the School, Institute, or University; Parish, Deanery, or Metropolis, as may be applicable.

b. Each educational organ, be a Nursery School, Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, or University shall contribute accordingly to the financial, cultural, religious life of the Church bottom-up, without exception.

Section 2:

The Educations Commission shall constitute the following:

1. Secretary General as the Chair Person.
2. Deputy Secretary General as vice Chair Person.
3. Senior Education Secretary as Secretary and Head of the Orthodox Education Commission, responsible for Institutions of Higher Learning
4. Deputy Educational Secretary as Vice Secretary and Assistant Head of the Education Commission responsible for Lower Education.
5. Vicar General
6. Director of the Religious Department as Second Deputy of the Education Commission.
7. Deans or Rectors of Seminaries and Catechetical Schools
8. Deputy Vice Chancellors of Orthodox Universities or their delegates
9. One special appointee of the Metropolitan

Section 3: MEETINGS:

1. The Education Commission shall meet on a quarterly basis, however, extraordinary meetings may be called by the Senior Education Secretary, or by the Secretary General with a clear agenda or on invitation of a majority of Commission members.
2. Five(5) members shall form a quorum.
3. Reports from the Meetings of the Commission, and projects shall be presented to the Diocesan Council in accordance with the schedules of the Episcopal Council.

Section 4:

a) The Senior Education Secretary shall:

1. Head and steer the educational system of the Uganda Orthodox Church.
2. Liaise with the national Council of Higher Learning
3. Organize Seminars and related courses for different colleges, Seminaries, and universities' staff.
4. Work closely on administration matters of the Orthodox Educational Institutions of Higher Learning.
5. Oversee the administration of Lower Education Institution of Learning.
6. Supervise the Deputy Education Secretary and the Director of Religious Department.
7. An ex-Official on all Universities' Councils, and any other Institutions of Higher Learning.
8. Any other tasks assigned by the Diocesan Council in line with education.

b). **Deputy Education Secretary shall:**

1. Head the directorate of the Lower Institutions of Learning, including Nursery, Primary, and Secondary (Ordinary and Advance Levels) Schools.
2. Have a monitoring, advisory, inspectorate role, and reporting duty to the Senior Education Secretary.
3. Collect information from the Ministry of Education and facilitate in the registration of Orthodox Mission founded schools and Examination Centres.
4. Communicate to schools through the Parish Priests and the Parish Councils the Church contribution per child.
5. Collect statistic data information of Schools in all Deaneries for better planning.
6. Organize seminars and refresher courses for teachers, country-wide.
7. Advice the Diocesan Council, through the Senior Education Secretary, on the ratification of Schools Boards or Management Committees.
8. Shall be an ex-Official on all Universities' Councils, and any other Institutions of Higher Learning of the Uganda Orthodox Church.

c). **Director of Religious Education shall:**

1. Head the Religious Department.
2. Appraise and scale on the existing Literature, develop relevant catechetical Orthodox Literature, and disseminate relevant Religious literature to the Deaneries Parishes.
3. Work closely with heads of Seminaries or Catechetical Schools.
4. Report and present plans of the Religious Department to the Episcopal Council, through the Senior Education Secretary.

Section 5.

Deanery Councils and Parishes Councils shall:

1. Own and manage schools within their jurisdiction. In this regard, the Parish Priest shall be the Directors of the schools at his assigned Parish, the respective Parish Council shall appoint members as «Foundation Body» to represent it on the School management Committee and Board of Governors, as may be applicable.
2. Have sole responsibility to construction and rehabilitate schools, Health facilities, and any other property in their respective Deaneries or Parishes.
3. Collect Church Contribution fees from their respective schools, health facilities and any other property on times and conditions as shall be decided upon by the Diocesan Clergy-Laity Assembly and approved by the Episcopal Council. Fifty Percent (50%) to the Parish Treasury, and Twenty five Percent (25%) to the Treasury of the respective Deanery, and the other Twenty five Percent (25%) be deposited directly to the appropriate Account of the Orthodox Secretariat.

4. Take disciplinary action to any school, health facility and property management organ that fails to meet its stipulated obligation.
5. Parish Councils with the advice from the Deanery Council, or the Educational or Health Department (where, as may be applicable), shall appoint and dismiss the School or Health Management Committees, Board of Governors, casual workers and all personnel. However, the Diocesan Council shall appoint or dismiss the Directors of Tertiary Institutions, Seminaries, and Catechetical Schools.
6. The manner of operation of such institutions shall be in pursuant to Regulations hereafter promulgated, but in line with Ministry of Education of the Government of South Sudan (MoE).

ARTICLE 13

THE HEALTH COMMISSION

The Diocese shall establish and oversee all its Health Services through its Health Institutions and faculties of Science with an Orthodox Faith orientation to serve God's people physically, mentally, and spiritually.

The Health Department shall promote a healthy Church through Christ-Centred and innovative medical and developmental interventions. Its mission shall be to demonstrate Christ's love through the provision of improved health services.

The Health Commission shall comprise of the following:

1. The Chairperson and his Deputy appointed by the Diocesan Council
2. Executive Director of the Orthodox Church medical Bureau as the Secretary
3. Deans of Science Faculties as co-opted members (when applicable)
4. 1 Representative of the Board of Trustee
5. The Secretary Geneeral shall be an Ex-Official

The Health Department shall be divided into Medical Bureau Services, Health Service, and Education.

SECTION 1. ORTHODOX CHURCH MEDICAL BUREAU:

1. Shall be established and managed by the Orthodox Church in South Sudan through the Orthodox Health Commission as its technical arm. The Medical Bureau shall carry out day to day operations through coordination of the Orthodox Hospitals and Orthodox Health Units activities; shall be affiliated to Sister Orthodox Church Hospitals and pharmacies world-wide; and any other Hospitals, Medical Centres, Pharmacies, or Medical factories and Laboratories, as may be decided upon time to time by the Medical Bureau Management Board and as approved by the Diocesan Council.

2. Shall have its membership limited to Orthodox Church Health Units, organizations or associations involved in health care services working with or under the Orthodox Church in South Sudan.
3. Shall enable its member units to cooperatively deal with matters of mutual concern at Community, Parish, Deanery and National levels.
4. Shall gather and disseminate relevant health information for the Orthodox health services
5. Facilitate the establishment of a common discussion, learning, collaboration, exchange of experience, identification of common problems and priorities.
6. Cooperate with government in areas of health policy development, quality assurance, training etc.
7. Present to the Medical Bureau Council and points of action required by the established policies highlight areas of non-compliance with established policies and standards.
8. The manner of operation of the bureau shall be in pursuant to Regulations hereafter promulgated, but in line with Ministry of Health of the Government of South Sudan (MoH).

Orthodox Church Medical Bureau Council:

The Diocesan Council shall establish a Council for the Medical Bureau.

1. Shall have powers to prescribe basic criteria from time to time, for denying membership to any unit which has no basic requirements or operates contrary to a mutually agreed upon criteria between all stakeholders of the Bureau.
2. Shall convene at least twice annually, and shall be the Strategic planning, Policy formulation, and analyze Budgets
3. Shall be the Board of Trustees at this level, as prescribed in the Diocesan Regulations.

The Composition of the Council shall consist of the following members:

1. The Chair Person of the Council shall be appointed by the Diocesan Council.
2. The Director of Health Commission as Chair Person.
3. The Executive Director, an employee of the Episcopal Council, shall be the Council Secretary.
4. 2 Representative of the Bishopric Board of Trustees as an ex-Official.
5. Vicar General as an Ex-Official.
6. The Secretary General as an Ex-Official.
7. The Directors of Orthodox Hospitals.

8. Medical In-charges of the Orthodox Hospitals.
9. One Representative from other each Health Care Service providers.
10. Two people with expertise appointed by the Diocesan Council.
11. One Government Representative, as may be applicable.

Uganda Orthodox Church Medical Bureau Board of Directors:

1. The Board of Directors shall be the policy making arm of the Orthodox Church Medical Bureau to oversee the implementation of the Bureau activities, on behalf of the Council and shall have committees such as Management Committee, Health Committee, Finance and Planning, Audit Committee, Quality Assurance Committee, Procurement, Research and Development, Human Resource, and any other committees as may be deemed necessary in the By-laws of Orthodox Church Medical Bureau Council and promulgated by the Diocesan Clergy and Laity General Assembly, and approved by the Diocesan Council.

2. Membership of the Board of Directors shall be held over a two year term renewable twice by the Diocesan Council up to a maximum of six years. However, the Board of Directors may co-opt members for continuity.

3. The Secretary of the Board of Directors shall be referred as the Executive Director and shall be a member of Health Commission.

4. Board members shall be members of the diocesan Clergy-Laity General Assembly.

SECTION 2. HEALTH SERVICE:

All Orthodox Hospitals and Health Centres shall share the identity, spiritual life, and the Icon of Christ of the Parish, or Shrine, or Monastery on which they are situated. The parish, or the Shrine, or Monastery shall provide a Chaplain to take care of the spiritual needs of that particular Hospital or Health Centre. In turn, the Hospital, or health Centre shall remunerate the Chaplain, besides contributing financially, materially, morally, and in kind to the respective above said, the Deanery, and the Holy Diocese. The development contribution of Health Units shall be proposed and resolved in the Clergy-Laity general Assembly, and approved by the Diocesan Council.

The Department shall utilize its structures to reach the grassroots level in the country to provide health services to people that the Government may have not been able to reach. The Department shall use various approaches to achieve its mission.

1. Strengthen the Health Clinics and Hospitals collaboratively work with the Orthodox Church Medical Bureau and local Health Coordinators to support the medical services provided to the communities through its extensive network of Health Centres and Hospital. The health facilities shall be supported with drugs and capacity-building training for the staff.

2. Expanding and upgrading grass-root involvement through community-based health care and research.

3. Scale Community capacity building.

The Health Department shall operate under the umbrella of the Orthodox Secretariat and its objectives shall be to provide quality health care, research, and any other related health service.

The Orthodox Secretariat shall have a Director of the Health Department who shall work hand in hand with the Orthodox Health Commission which shall:

1. Oversee the management, staffing, and all the Health issues, on behalf of the Holy Diocese, throughout the country and give feedback to Episcopal Council.
2. Analyze and formulate an overall program and prepare a proposed budget for the all Health Sector of the Metropolis for presentation to the diocesan Council and the Clergy-Laity General Assembly
3. Continuously monitor, evaluate, and appraise the Health Units, the Medical Bureau, and the Faculties of Science.
4. Resource mobile for the Health Sector of the Orthodox Church country wide and abroad.
5. Scale and expand on the existing Health facilities and services.
6. Organize seminars and refresher courses for the staff, community leaders, and management of the various Health facilities, Medical Bureau, Universities; and liaise with other non- Orthodox organizations on health matters.
7. Advise the Diocesan Council on health matters
8. Initiates, develops and fosters the implementation of the Church Health Policy
9. Identifies areas of non compliance of the Hospitals, Medical Bureau, Health units with established Government policies, standards and notifies the relevant Church decision makers.
10. Facilitate the cooperation with Government health policies, provided such policies do not contradict with the Church's teachings

11. Recommend revisions and updates of the terms of reference and composition of the existing Health and Medical Boards, Councils, and Committees, country-wide.
12. Monitor, Assess, and appraise the performance of the existing Boards, Councils, and Committees and dissolve them if no longer relevant upon the approval of the Diocesan Council.
13. Ensures that the Vision and the Mission of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan are reflected in the running of the Health and Medical services of the same.
14. Establishes policies for strengthening the performance of OCMB
15. Reviews reports from the Boards/committees and takes appropriate action.
16. Ensures that in the running of the health activities, compliance with all relevant legislation and regulations including those of the Orthodox Church are followed.
17. Ensures that Financial Statements are true, fair and conform with the Accounting Laws.
18. Work hand in hand with Government as regards registration of Health Units; Share Government Health goals, programs; and operationalise Government policies, where applicable.
19. Receives mandates from the Diocesan Council as need arises.
20. Be members of the Clergy-Laity General Assembly.

The Hospitals Management Boards

For proper management and control, there shall be an updated Board Charter as the working document out of which all the hospital policy manuals will derive their mandates.

General functions of the Board:

1. Constitute the Board of Trustees on the Institutional level
2. Secure the achievement of the objectives for which the Hospital was established by monitoring all aspects of the Hospital's Programs and to intervene if work plans due are not carried out according to plan.
3. Be a policy making body for the Hospital and affiliated Health Centres.
4. Oversee the implementation of the strategic Plan approved by the Diocesan Executive Committee and the Diocesan Council.
5. Fund raisers for the Hospital and its affiliated Health Centres.
6. Ensure that the Hospital acts in the interest of the Church Mission and the Community through checks and balances of the hospital policies, strategic plans, and community outreach.
7. Act as a link between all stake holders and the Hospital in the interests of all parties to achieve an appropriate balance

8. Determine the objectives of the Hospital and affiliated or Deanery's Health Units, in line with the Orthodox Health Department.
9. Initiate and influence policies and programs for development within the Hospital Administration in order to create a better environment for the patients, staff and other stakeholders.
10. Ensure that action taken by the Hospital Management in the delivery of health care services and in the external presentation of the Hospital policies falls within the Church guidelines
11. Develop internal guidelines on the roles and responsibilities of the Board members with approval of the Diocesan Council.
12. Shall establish committees within including Finance, Planning and Development Committee, Recruitment and Human Resource Development, Discipline and Quality Assurance Committee, Pastoral, Social and Ethical Committees, among other.
13. The manner of operation of such institutions shall be in pursuant to Regulations hereafter promulgated, but in line with Ministry of Health of the Government of South Sudan (MoH).

The Hospital Board shall comprise of the following:

1. 4 members from the Foundation body (2 Representative of the Diocesan Council as Chairperson and Deputy; 1 Representative of the Registered Board of Trustees; and 1 Representative of the Church parish community.
2. Hospital Executive Director who shall be the Secretary
3. Medical In-charge
4. Deanery Health Co-ordinators
5. Principle Nursing Officer(PNO)
6. Employees Representative
7. Dean of the Faculty of Science (where applicable)
8. 1 Government Representative

Section 3: Health Centres Management Committees

Health Centres at the Parishes, as said above, must reflect the Icon of Christ in those constituencies. It will be the responsibility of each parish to exercise good management practice for better result. The Parish shall be the employer of the Health Centre staff. The Parish Priest or the Health Centre

Administrator shall cause meetings to convene. The following shall constitute the **Health Management Committee:**

1. Deanery Health Coordinator as Chair Person
2. Health Centre Administrator appointed by the Parish or Deanery as the Secretary
3. Health Centre In-charge
4. Nurse In-charge
5. 2 Parish Representatives
6. 1 Local Council (Government) Representative
7. Employees Representative (In case of Health Centre III)

ARTICLE 14

REAL ESTATES, HOTELS, HOSTELS, AND ANY COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

The dioceses, the Deaneries, the Parish, Unions, or Institutions may own real Estates and other property. The Church edifice and other buildings constituting Diocese, Deanery, Institutional, Union, or Parish property shall be used in accordance with the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations to serve the religious, educational, cultural and Philanthropic ministries of the fore said. Such property shall be held and used to carry out the purposes of the Orthodox Christian Faith.

Section 1: In the event of any purchase, sale, and lease, mortgaging or other encumbrance of any real property or any other property of the Church and pursuant to the prior approval of the Parish Council or Parish General Assembly, Deanery Council or Deanery Assembly, Orthodox Mothers' / Youth Unions, Institutions, and the alike, through the respective channels shall submit a written request including all documentation as may be appropriate and required to the Diocesan Council within sixty (60) days of the receipt of the request or the receipt of the last information which may be required, whichever is later. In the event that no decision is rendered within such time, the consent shall be deemed to have been granted.

Section 2: The Dioceses, the Deaneries, the Parish, Unions, or Institutions shall hold title in the name of the «Registered Trustees of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan – AND THE RESPECTIVE NAME OF THE ORGAN» to all of its Real Estate, personal, or any other property and no other, except as otherwise

required by any applicable civil law. The personal property shall only include property which is deemed to be real estate or which may create a lien upon real estate under the provisions of local law or any provisions of the Uganda Revenue Authority Code. The respective organ of the Holy Diocese shall administer such property for the benefit of all the faithful.

Section 3: The Deanery, Parish, Institution, or Union may purchase real and personal property, or sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber its real property, or construct a church edifice or other buildings
upon approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Parish Council, Institutional committees, or Union members in good standing present at a General Meeting duly called (with at least ten (10) days prior written notice) for that purpose, provided that approval from the respective Hierarch is received, as follows:

A. The Parish's, Institutional, or Union request for approval to the Holy Episcopal Council be in writing and shall include the following documents:

1. A copy of the notice of the respective Diocese, Deanery, Parish, Institution, or Union General meeting certifying the date of mailing.
2. A copy of the minutes of the Meeting signed by the Parish Priest; the Chairperson and Secretary of the Parish Council, respectively.
3. A survey of the realty and improvements, if any.
4. A description of the surrounding area, including its relationship to other Parishes, if any.
5. Financial statements as to the financing of the property/project including, but not limited to, the cost, the manner and terms of purchase, and the contemplated sources of income for payment and maintenance thereof.
6. And such other information as shall be pertinent or as may be requested.

B. The respective Deanery shall consult with the Diocese
Council in reviewing the Parish's request and may also appoint an *ad hoc* Committee comprised of persons with expert knowledge and experience in Finance, Real Estate, building construction and such other matters to advice and the Local Deanery Council executive committee in their review. In the event that the Bishop determines that additional information is needed from the Parish, Institution, or Union in order to appropriately review its request, he shall request any such information within Thirty (30) days after the receipt.

Section 4: The Deaneries, Parishes, Institutions, or Unions besides getting fund from the Revolving Fund of the Orthodox Secretariat, may seek outside funding through line of credit from banks, rending, or financial institutions, or any other forms of developers for the good of their respective organs. The respective Board of Trustees (on each level) shall act as the personal grantors of such loans or line of credit. In all respect, the hierarchal advice and approval shall be mandatory through the proper channels.

Section 5: In case the respective organ is to make an agreement with any Developer on a bare land units or existing property, the developer shall provide security to compensate for the time and lost revenue. The percentage or amount as security shall be determined by individual organs on advise of "**qualified persons",** based on reasonable and objective criteria.
Section 6: Each fiscal year, the various organs of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan shall submit **a master reserve fund spread sheet** (a list of the components, the cost for major repair or replacement of each component, and the normal life expectancy and remaining useful life of each component), **projected cash flow tables (**tables that demonstrate the effect of interest earned on investments and inflation of expenses and validate that a shortfall option will not jeopardize the funding plan).
Section 7: Each organ shall contribute to the Diocese and respective Deanery Mission Fund.

ARTICLE 15
PRINTERY
The Diocese shall establish printing presses to print religious educational materials for its faithful and aspiring faithful. Given the sensitiveness of the Orthodox Church Literature, the Diocesan Council shall appoint the Director and the Management Committee members of the main printing press, the Orthodox Printer:
The Orthodox Printer Management Committee shall have:

1. Director of the Religious Department as the Chair Person.
2. The Director of Orthodox Printer appointed by the Episcopal Council as Secretary.
3. Secretary General as an Ex-Official.
4. 1 Central Representative.
5. 2 Parish Representatives.
6. 5 Committee Members.
7. One staff Represntative.
8. Report and presents plans to the Education Commission.
9. The Director of the Orthodox Printer as member of Metropolis Clergy-Laity General Assembly
10. Meetings on a quarterly basis and five (5) members shall constitute the quorum.

ARTICLE 16
OTHERS AFFILIATED BODIES
The Diocese shall assist to establish affiliated bodies in various areas such health, environment, poverty alleviation, spirituality (such as the Philoptochos (Friends to the Poor or Needy) and any other bodies which share the vision

and the mission of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan. Such affiliated bodies must:

1. Be speared headed by the Orthodox Faithful with a purpose to support the Orthodox Faithful and the Holy Diocese.
2. Accept to have the Episcopal Council appoint 2 Representatives on their Board of Trustees, and 1 member on the Executive Committee.
3. Autonomous in nature with their own Board of Trustees which are Legal Entity.
4. The manner of operation of such institutions shall be pursuant to Regulations hereafter promulgated, but in line with the Canons and Traditions of the Holy church.

ARTICLE 17
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Registered Board of Trustees on the diocesan level shall be the superior custodian of the property of all the Dioceses. For all legal purposes, they will be referred to as the **«Registered Trustees Orthodox Church in South Sudan ».**

1. The bishop of the diocese shall be the chief custodian.
2. 2 persons from each individual Deanery shall be elected by the General Assembly; and those elected persons by the General Assembly shall constitute the Registered Trustees of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan.
3. The local Deanery Council, Institutions Councils, Unions National Committee, and the Parish Council shall constitute Boards of Trustees on the Deanery, Institutional, Union, and Parish level, respectively.
4. The 2 members of the Board of Trustees for each deanery shall be members of the Diocesan Council.
5. Board shall be convened by the chief custodian and meet at least once annually.
6. The Board may also meet in special session, if a special need arises.
7. The Board may also be called at the request of the majority of Board members, with the agenda topics specified.
8. The Registered Board of Trustees has the mandate of a legal entity to sue and to be sued.
9. Acquiring of and disposing off any property by the Church on all levels of departments, and programs shall have the mandate of, or require prior approval of the top Board of Trustees.
10. The Board of Trustees has all the authority and responsibility that the law of the land ascribes to Incorporated Boards of Trustees; and that this Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations ascribe to the «Registered Trustees of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan».

ARTICLE 18
PROPERTY OF THE DIOCESE

Section 1: In the event of any purchase, sale, and lease, mortgaging or any other encumbrance of any real property of the diocese and pursuant to the prior approval of Deanery Council, Parish Council, Departmental or Program Committee, or any Institutional Council or Committee through the proper channel, shall submit a written request including all documentation as may be appropriate and required to the Board of Trustees for approval. In the case of the acquisition of Land, or realty with an existing structure or the construction of a Church edifice or other buildings, a request for the approval shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees, which shall review the request and render its decision in writing within thirty (60) days of the receipt of the request or the receipt of the last information which may be required, whichever is later. In the event that no decision is rendered within such time, the consent shall be deemed to have been granted.

Section 2: All transfers of money or other property to the stipulated Bank Accounts of the diocese shall be deemed to be gifts unless, prior to the transfer, the respective diocese acknowledges in writing that said transfer is a loan.

ARTICLE 19

THE CLERGY-LAITY ASSEMBLY (GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

1. The Diocese shall hold a Clergy-Laity Assembly (General Assembly) convened by Chairman of the Diocesan Council (on rotational basis), or in special session as he may determine. The location and dates of the General Assembly shall be determined by the Chairman of the diocesan Council in consultation with the DIOCESAN Council. The General Assembly is convened biannually and presided over by the Chairman of the Episcopal Council. Except for dogmatic or canonical matters, they are concerned with all other matters which affect the life, mission, growth and unity of the Diocese, and especially the uniform administration of the Deaneries, Parishes, other ministries and programs such as mission out-reach, Catechetical education, educational programs, financial programs, Health Programs, Gender, and philanthropic programs and any other concerns of the Metropolis. The General Assembly makes such decisions as it deems appropriate.
2. The General Assembly presided over by the shall comprise of the members of the Diocesan Council, Registered Board of Trustees of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan, Clergy, National Sisterhood of Presbyteries, Retired Clergy, Abbots and Abbesses, Orthodox Young Fellowship Representatives, Honorary Members, Legal Counsel of the Metropolis, Hospital Directors, Medical Bureau Executive Director, Director of Religious Department, Heads of Institutions of Higher Learning (Colleges, Seminaries, Universities, and any other Tertiary

Institutions), Heads of Orthodox Commissions, Senior Staff of the Orthodox Secretariat, Director of Real Estates Commission); the Chair Persons, Treasurers, Secretaries, and Coordinators of Gender Departments; Treasurers, Secretaries, Heads of Departments of each Deanery, and Parish Councils Chair Persons, Treasurers, Secretaries; and any other members as may decided upon from time to time by the Clergy-Laity Assembly. (numbers to be determined)

3. The decisions of the General Assembly are submitted by the Diocesan Council, through its President (the Bishop) for approval. In the event that no response is received from the Diocesan Council within ninety (90) days following the receipt of the decisions by it, the decisions shall be deemed approved. Following their approval, the decisions must be faithfully and firmly adhered to by all Parishes, whether or not they were represented at the Congress, and regardless of whether they voted with the minority.
4. Regulations hereafter promulgated shall set forth the composition, functioning, and frequency of convening of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 20
THE DIOCESAN CLERGY COUNCIL

The purpose of the individual Diocesan Clergy Council is to serve the needs of the Diocese and to enhance and promote the mission of the Priesthood, their diakonia (ministry), spiritual growth and development. A meeting of the Diocesan Clergy Council shall be convened at least quarterly each year by and be presided over by the respective bishop, as its Chairman. The Council shall:

1. Receive from each Priest a quarterly report of the parish life ministry.
2. Communicate the final decision of any problem which may arise between a Parish Priest and the Parish Council, where applicable.
3. Advice the Diocesan Council on the ratification of elections of the Parish Councils.
4. Receives annually from each Parish Council a financial statement for the ensuing year as well as a budget and balance sheet for the prior year certified by the Parish Audit Committee.
5. Approves the purchase, sale, lease, mortgaging or other encumbrance of the real property of a Parish.
6. Receives and reviews all applications for permission to organize a new Parish and may grant such permission after reviewing the information provided, consulting with existing neighboring Parishes and otherwise obtaining and reviewing such information as he deems appropriate.
7. Will oversee each Parish in his Diocese, evaluating its life and progress, advising it and ensuring its conformity with the faith, tradition, and holy

canons of the Church, together with the provisions of the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations and these Regulations.

ARTICLE 21
ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER OF CLERGY

1. The assignment and transfer of Clergy within and out of the Diocese is the exclusive right and privilege of the respective bishop in any given Diocese.
2. The initial placement of a clergyman is made by the Metropolitan by informing the respective clergy and the dean in which Deanery the clergyman will be placed (preferably in writing).
3. The request of a clergy for transfer between dioceses is the right of the Hierarchs involved according to the ecclesiastical regulations in force. All transfers and assignments shall be communicated to the Holy Patriarchate.
4. Each Clergy who is ordained, assigned, or transferred shall get a certificate or letter from respective bishop.

ARTICLE 22
DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL COURTS

1. A Spiritual Court of First Instance functions within the Diocese shall be established and shall be operational. The Spiritual Court shall comprise of four senior clergy selected by the respective bishop, who may presides over it, and hears cases involving family problems, divorce, and moral and disciplinary offenses of clergy and lay persons. The Court decrees the measures of correction and healing as provided by the Holy Canons and Tradition of the Orthodox Church.

2. The Spiritual Court of Second Instance (Appeals) is comprised of the Bishop who presides over it, the Secretary to the Diocesan Clergy Council as the secretary, and other the members of the Episcopal Council. In the absence of the Bishop for good cause, Chancellor or the Vicar General shall preside upon designation by the respective bishop. It is convened when the Bishop Spiritual Court meets, and hears at the Second Instance all appeals of decisions from the Spiritual Courts of First Instance.
3. Appeals from the rulings of the Spiritual Court of the Second Instance (Appeals) involving Clergy may be submitted to the Holy Patriarchate for review. The decisions of the Holy Patriarchate regarding these appeals are final and irrevocable.
4. According to ecclesiastical authorization granted to it, none of the above spiritual courts have canonical jurisdiction over their Spiritual Father and Head, the Bishop. Such matters are referred to the Holy Patriarchate through the Episcopal Council.

5. Acting as First or Second Instance Court and a Court of Appeals, the Holy Synod of the Holy Patriarchate hears and judges irrevocably those cases.
6. The Bishopric Council submits any charges which require defrocking of a clergy to the Holy Patriarchate. The proposed defrocking can only be determined by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Holy Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa.
7. The operating procedures of the Spiritual Courts will be based upon Regulations hereafter promulgated by the Bishopric Council and Bishop Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa.

ARTICLE 23
HOLY MONASTERIES

1. Monasteries and organized communities of monastic function according to the long established, canonical tradition and practice of the Church, and as such, they are ecclesiastical institutions, functioning under the direct canonical jurisdiction and supervision of the Hierarch in whose ecclesiastical jurisdiction they are located or affiliated jurisdiction and whose name is to be commemorated during Divine Worship.
2. Monasteries are founded by the local Hierarch, following approval of the Diocesan Council. Canonically, their administration and financial affairs are the responsibility of the individual monastery.
   They must function according to the prevailing Monastic Law and the letter and the spirit of the Regulations that define their operation. Organized monastic, as Men or Women Monasteries, can write their own Rules and Regulations governing their daily life. Still, they need the advice and Hierarchal approval of such rules and regulations from their governing jurisdiction.
3. The Title of the head of the Monastery will be Abbot/Abbess or Yeronda/Yerondisa for men or women monastery, respectively.
4. The elections and removal of an Abbot/Abbess will be done according to the established Monastic Regulations of individual Monastery.
5. Regulations for the establishment, organization and operation of Monasteries shall be promulgated by the individual Monastery Synod, applicable Hierarch, and Bishop Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa.

PART TWO

DEANERIES
ARTICLE 24
SECTION 1: Names and Number

The number and names of the Deaneries shall be decided upon from time to time by the Council. The following are the number and names of the Deaneries:

1. WAU
2. KILAK
3. CENTRAL JUBA

ARTICLE 24

RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS OF THE DEANS

Each Dean, as the Local Vicar of the Diocese in the Deanery, presides over the Deanery Council; and within his ecclesiastical district have the rights and responsibilities of a Dean to:

1. Be a member of the Diocesan Council, participate in its work, and forward to the Diocesan an Annual Report regarding the progress of the work in his Deanery.
2. Be moderate and hold the Orthodox Church canons and ethical values
3. Administer the Deanery in a considered, orderly, harmonious and fiscally responsible manner for the common good.
4. Personally visit and inspect the works and operations of all Parishes within the Deanery with or without knowledge of the Parish Priest.
5. Encourage, assist, and participate in the fund rising in the Parishes.
6. Recommend aspiring candidates to priesthood to the Bishop.
7. Recommend transfer of priests from one Parish to another, from one Deanery to another.
8. Organize, supervise, and spearhead the running and creation of departments and programs of the Deanery.
9. Report the names of those elected on the Parish Council, or names of those appointed to the Deanery Council/School Management Committees/Boards of governors/Youths and Mothers' Unions Committees to the Office of the Bishop and the Orthodox Secretariat for ratification.
10. In the event of any purchase, sale, and lease, mortgaging or other encumbrance of any real property of a Diocese and pursuant to the prior approval of Deanery Council shall submit a written request including all documentation as may be appropriate and required to the diocesan Board of Trustees for approval. In the case of the acquisition of Land, or realty with an existing structure or the construction of a Church edifice or other buildings, a request for the approval shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees, which shall review the request and render its decision in writing.

ARTICLE 25
ADMINISTRATIVE DEANERY ORGANS

1. Each Deanery shall have among its administrative organs and Offices: Education, Health, Finance and Planning, Orthodox Mothers' Unions, Orthodox Youth Union, among others, run by the deanery Council.
2. The Deanery Council shall have:

a. Dean as the Chairman
b. Assistant Chairman(Clergy)
c. Secretary
d. Treasurer
e. Representative of the various Deanery Department
f. To constitute the Board of Trustees on the Deanery Level
g. Powers to engage or demise any personnel at Schools, Health Centres, and the alike.
h. To appoint or dissolve School Management Committees, Board of Governors, or any committees as shall deem it necessary

ARTICLE 26
DEANERY CLERGY-LAITY ASSEMBLIES

Each Deanery shall have a Deanery Clergy-Laity Assembly (Deanery or Local Assembly) convened and presided over by its local Dean.

1. The Assemblies shall comprise of the clergy, members of the Deanery Council, honorary members, local chapter of Orthodox Mothers' Unions , Orthodox Youth Fellowships, and lay representatives of the Parishes
2. Except for dogmatic or canonical issues, the local Assemblies are concerned with matters affecting the life and growth of the dioceses or the Deaneries, as may be applicable, and the unity thereof. They deal with local matters including the uniform governance of the Parishes, educational programs, health programs, financial programs, Gender programs, and philanthropic concerns, as well as with the better organization and effectiveness of the Parishes.
3. Each Assembly may propose to the Diocesan Council for inclusion in the agenda of the upcoming General Assembly.
4. Regulations hereafter promulgated shall set forth the composition, functioning, and frequency of convening of the Deanery Assembly.

ARTICLE 27
DEANERY SPIRITUAL COURTS

The Deanery Councils shall establish local Deanery Spiritual Courts to deal with, except for dogmatic and canonical issues, local matters such as home violence and family problems, moral and disciplinary offenses, disorderliness, mismanagement and misuse of deanery fund and property, respectively.

1. The Dean shall preside over the local Deanery Spiritual Court.

2. The Deanery shall appoint two elderly priests and two elders with sound spiritual stand and a good cultural orientation.
3. In case of an appeal, matters will be referred to the Spiritual Court of First Instance.
4. No clergy will be brought to the local Deanery Spiritual Court.

PART THREE

UNIFORM PARISH REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 28

PARISH: DEFINATION, AIMS, PURPOSE, MINISTRY, AND REGULATIONS

1. The Parish is the local Eucharistic community of the Church in a given locality; organized under the jurisdiction of the Diocese whose ecclesiastical authority is its canonically consecrated Hierarch. Locally, the Parish is headed by a canonically ordained and duly appointed Priest. The assignment of such appointed Priest shall bind the Parish to the Diocesan Regulations, Uniform Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations with the same force and effect as if the same were formally approved and adopted by the Parish.
2. The aims and purposes of the Parish are to keep, practice and proclaim the Orthodox Christian Faith pure and undefiled.
3. Parishes shall be governed in accordance with the holy canons, the Orthodox Church in South Sudan Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations and Regulations promulgated there-under, and, as to canonical and ecclesiastical matters, by the decisions of the Holy Synod of the Holy Patriarchate. In accordance with the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations, the Parish shall express the life of the Church in the local community according to the Orthodox Christian Faith and Tradition, sanctifying the faithful through the Divine Liturgy and the Holy Sacraments. It shall edify the religious and ethical life of the faithful in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the decrees and canons of the Holy Apostles and the Seven Ecumenical Councils of the Church, as interpreted by the practice of the Holy See, Established by the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark.
4. The diakonia (ministry) of the Parish will include proclaiming and teaching the Gospel in accordance with the Orthodox Faith; sanctifying the faithful through God's grace in worship, the Divine Liturgy and the other sacraments; enhancing its parishioners' spiritual life; and adding to the numbers of the faithful by receiving persons into the Church through instruction, Baptism and/or Chrismation. In addition, the Parish shall establish educational and philanthropic activities to foster the aims and mission of the Parish and to edify its parishioners in the Faith and ethos of the Orthodox Church.

5. The Parish shall also engage in such inter-Orthodox, ecumenical and interfaith activities as are consistent with the policies of the Diocese.
6. The Parish shall conform faithfully to the worship, sacramental life, doctrines, canons and discipline of the Church. It shall also adhere to the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations, the Regulations and all Hierarchical encyclical.
7. The Parish shall furthermore abide by the decisions of the General Assembly (Clergy-Laity).
8. Each Parish shall be known by its Saint(s) and locality name. Each Parish shall use the authorized logo by the Diocese on its stationery and publications, in accordance with the Metropolis Graphics Standards Manual.

ARTICLE 29
PARISH PROPERTY

1. The Church edifice and other buildings constituting Parish property shall be used in accordance with the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations to serve the religious, educational, cultural and philanthropic ministries of the Parish. Parish property shall be held and used by the Parish to carry out the purposes of the Orthodox Christian Faith as defined.
2. The Parish shall hold title to all of its real estate and personal property in its names and the Parish Priest, shall administer such property for the benefit of the Parish.
3. The Parish may purchase real and personal property, or sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber its real property, or construct a church edifice or other buildings upon approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the parishioners in good standing present at a Parish with approval of the Metropolis.
4. Parishes shall maintain the architectural, iconographic and artistic integrity of all Church edifices in accordance with Orthodox tradition. For that reason, Parishes shall submit to the respective Hierarch, for his prior approval.
5. All special contributions, bequests, gifts, and devises beyond Stewardship shall be used by the Parish only for the purposes for which they were made.
6. Based on the recommendation of the local Bishop, that a Parish is in heresy, schism, or defection from the Bishop, the Archbishop may declare the Parish in canonical disorder and may assume the administration of the Parish and control of its properties until the Bishop, in consultation with the Episcopal Council, declares the Parish to be in canonical order.
7. If under applicable law, title may not vest automatically in the Diocese, title shall vest in an ecclesiastical corporation controlled by the group of parishioners that the Archdiocese determines remains loyal to it.

8. In the event that a Parish is deemed to be in canonical disorder and title to the Parish properties is vested in the Archdiocese, the Archbishop and the respective Hierarch are authorized to sign any deed or other document as may be necessary.

ARTICLE 30

PARISH PRIEST

The Priest by virtue of his canonical ordination and assignment heads and administers the Parish and exercises on its behalf the priestly duties, which consist:

1. In shepherding the Parish entrusted to his care, directing its orderly life, preserving its unity and keeping it faithful to its divine purpose. He shall sanctify his parishioners through the administration of the sacraments and the performance of all other prescribed services of worship. He shall also proclaim the Gospel and impart knowledge of the doctrines, traditions, canons and disciplines of the Church. Further, he shall guide the growth and progress of the Parish in the Christian life through the performance of his pastoral duties.
2. The Priest shall be accountable to his respective Hierarch and will submit reports of his ministry at least two times annually. (The Episcopal Council shall determine the format for these reports).
3. Prior knowledge of assignment or transfer of an assistant priest or deacon: The Bishop shall, upon consultation, inform all affected Clergy and Parish Councils of the assignment or transfer, respectively.
4. In accordance with the canons and ecclesiastical procedure, neither the Deanery Council, Deanery Clergy-Laity Assembly, Parish Council, nor the Parish General Meeting is authorized to dismiss a Priest.
5. The Priest shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the spiritual life and growth of the Parish, including, but not limited to, divine worship and related personnel. He shall determine the usage of all sacred vessels and appointments. He shall personally maintain the register books for all Marriages, Baptisms, and Funerals that take place at the Parish.
6. The Priest shall be the Director of all schools, Health Centres, or any other departments at his assigned parish. He shall be the chief employer together with Parish Council, Management Committees, Boards of governors, where applicable.

1. The Clergy shall be entitled to gifts and a decent remuneration from his flock and his Vine Yard (The Parish and its departments and programs).
2. In addition, the Priest must submit registry records and completed ecclesiastical marriage licenses to the Bishop, through the Vicar General in a timely manner. He shall also promptly submit all required civil marriage licenses and documents to the appropriate governmental authorities, through the Vicar General, in a timely manner.

3. When transferred, reassigned or removed, the Priest shall deliver with a written inventory to Bishop or his successor as may be appropriate: all sacred vessels and other liturgical items belonging to the Parish; and all registry books and other pertinent records of the Parish.
4. Where more than one Priest is assigned to a Parish, only one shall be the Presiding Priest. Any other Clergy shall be directly responsible to the same.
5. Subject to canonical tradition, in the event that the service of a Priest in a Parish is interrupted for any reason and he cannot be reassigned, the Priest shall have the right to request to appear before the diocesan Committee on Clergy Affairs for resolution of his case. In the event of the dismissal of a Priest for canonical reasons the rule of Spiritual Court shall apply.
6. The Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Benefits/welfare Committee will establish remunerative standards for the Clergy. These standards, for the following year, shall be sent to each Parish annually, by September 30.
7. At every reasonable and practical opportunity, each Priest shall be encouraged to pursue his ongoing education by attending workshops, seminars and appropriate continuing education programs. The Parish, if approved by the Parish Council, shall subsidize the cost of such education and the Priest will receive his remuneration during this period.

Article 31
PARISHIONERS

Every person who is baptized and chrismated according to the rites of the Orthodox Church is a parishioner. The religious, moral and social duties of a parishioner are to apply the tenets of the Orthodox Faith to his/her life and to:

1. Adhere to and live according to the tenets of the Orthodox faith; faithfully attend the Divine Liturgy and other worship services; participate regularly in the holy sacraments; respect all ecclesiastical authority and all governing bodies of the Church; be obedient in matters of the Faith, practice and ecclesiastical order; contribute towards the progress of the Church's sacred mission; and be an effective witness and example of the Orthodox Faith and Traditions to all people.
2. A parishioner in good standing practices all the religious and moral duties. At a minimum, a parishioner in good standing must:

a. Be eighteen years of age or over; be current in his or her stewardship and other financial obligations to the Parish, abide by all the regulations herein stated and the Parish Bylaws; and cooperate in every way towards the welfare and well being of the Parish. (Stewardship is recommended to be ten percent (10%) of one’s annual income as

stated in Holy Scripture to help meet the financial obligations of the Parish, the Diocese and the Archdiocese.)

b. Any person wishing to be a parishioner in good standing in more than one Parish must remit his or her Stewardship financial obligation to each Parish. A parishioner wishing to move from one Parish to another, must present a letter of transfer from the Priest of the Parish from which he or she is moving stating that he or she is in good standing.
c. The Priest shall judge any cases of special circumstances justifying the waiver of a parishioner's stewardship financial obligations.
d. A parishioner in good standing has the right to attend, participate and vote at Parish Assemblies, as well as to vote in Parish Council elections. Each such parishioner may also be nominated for election to the Parish Council or to represent the Parish at a Deanery Assembly.

ARTICLE 32

PARISH MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

All Parish ministries and organizations shall be under the guidance and supervision of the Priest.

1. A communicant under 18 years of age may be a member of any Parish youth organization, irrespective of whether his or her parents are parishioners in good standing of the Parish, upon approval of the Priest.
2. Each Parish shall endeavor to have at least the following ministries: Chanter(s); a Choir; Acolytes; a Sunday (Catechetical) School; Orthodox Youth Union, the Ladies Philoptochos Society/Orthodox Mothers' Union; an Outreach and Evangelism Ministry; and such other ministries as are necessary to meet the spiritual and cultural needs of the Parish.
3. The Bylaws of any Parish organizations shall comply with the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations and Regulations and shall be subject to the approval of the Priest, Parish Council and the Bishop.
4. A Planning Committee to study, analyze and formulate an overall program and prepare a proposed budget for the Parish; A Fund-Raising Committee; A Real Estate Committee to investigate, select and arrange for buildings and other facilities for the Parish's immediate needs; and a Stewardship Membership Committee to prepare a complete list of the families and number of adults and children to be served by the Parish.
5. All Parishes must maintain and file Diocesan Regulations and the Uniform Parish Regulations of The Orthodox Church in South Sudan, By-laws and or other applicable documents. All such documents shall comply with Metropolis requirements as such requirements may be amended, from time to time, by the Diocesan Council. Parish Bylaws

shall incorporate these Regulations by reference and may also include such additional provisions as shall be deemed necessary, by the Parish General Meeting, to meet local needs.

6. Upon the assignment of a Priest by the Bishop, the Parish Council shall accept and agree in writing to comply with the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations and Regulations of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan.

ARTICLE 33
PARISH COUNCIL

1. To serve on a Parish Council is a ministry and all those who serve are called to represent Christ and the Orthodox Faith to all whom they meet in all aspects of life. The Parish Council shall consist of the Priest, as the head of the Parish, and a number of elected lay members fixed by the Parish Bylaws according to the needs of the Parish. The Parish Council is responsible to the Parish Meeting and to the respective Hierarch for conducting all Parish affairs in keeping with the mission, aims and purposes of the Church as set forth in the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations and these Regulations.
2. The Parish Council shall be deemed to mean also Board of Trustees, when such designations are required by local statute. The Priest shall be a non-voting member of the Parish Council.
3. The officers of the Parish Council shall be the Chair person, Vice Chair person, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Parish Bylaws require.
4. The members of the Parish Council are elected for a term not to exceed Four (4) years by the parishioners in good standing.
5. Shall put in writing the request for need of a priest and must indicate commitment to sustain the Priest assigned.
6. No employee of the Parish may serve on the Parish Council, the Board of Auditors, or the Board of Elections.
7. A vacancy on the Parish Council shall be considered to exist in the event of: the death or resignation of a member; the physical or mental incapacity of a member; the invalidation of the election of a member; or the failure of a member to be current in his/her Stewardship financial obligations to the Parish.
8. Has to submit all minutes, resolutions made, budgets, agendas for meetings to the Parish Priest. The Parish Priest has the veto on all parish matters of the Parish. No transaction to be made without the Parish Priest's blessings.
9. Removal from the Parish Council shall also be considered when a member: (1) is not or has ceased to be loyal to the doctrines, canons, worship, discipline, customs and practices of the Church; (2) is in violation of these Regulations or the Hierarchical Encyclicals of the

Diocese; (3) does not recognize the duly constituted ecclesiastical authorities of the Diocese or Archdiocese; (4) is guilty of a serious moral transgression; or (5) has violated his or her affirmation of office; or (6) has engaged in actions which do not further the administrative or spiritual well being of the Parish, the Diocese or the Archdiocese.

10. In the event that the Priest believes that the removal of a Parish Council member is required for one of the reasons listed in subsections (1) through (5) above, the Priest shall submit his recommendation, in writing, for the removal of the member to the Bishop. If, the Bishop, upon the recommendation of the Priest, or for any other reason, determines that the removal of a Parish Council member is Necessary for one or more of the reasons listed in subsections (1) through (5) above, the Bishop shall render a decision regarding the matter and shall notify the Priest and Parish Council of such decision. Prior to removing all or a majority of the members of a Parish Council for any reason(s) during the same twelve (12) month period, the Bishop shall consult with and obtain the consent of the Episcopal Council.
11. Members of the Parish Council must attend Parish Council Meetings. In the event of any member missing three (3) consecutive meetings without justifiable cause, may be relieved of his or her office upon prior notice to the member and the majority vote of the Parish Council. If a vacancy on the Parish Council occurs after the Parish Council elections but before the first meeting of the Parish Council at which officers are elected, the vacancy shall be filled after the election of Parish Council officers.
12. All newly appointed members who fill a vacancy of the Parish Council, must have attended a Parish Council Seminar conducted by the Priest prior to taking the affirmation of office and assuming the duties of their position.

ARTICLE 34
ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL

1. Members of the Parish Council shall be elected by parishioners in a good standing of the Parish in accordance with the Regulations and the Parish Bylaws. The election of the members of the Parish Council shall be held no earlier than the first Lord's Day in November, and no later than the second Lord's Day in December.
2. A candidate for the Parish Council must be a parishioner in good standing of the Parish for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the election and must live his or her life in accordance with the Faith and canons of the Church. The Priest determines whether the Parishioners are in canonical and financial good standing as specified.
3. All candidates shall attend a seminar conducted by the Priest prior to the election at which the Priest shall discuss and explain to the

candidates the Uniform Parish Regulations, and the significance of the affirmation of office.

4. In the event that an otherwise eligible candidate(s) cannot attend the scheduled seminar(s) for justifiable cause, the Priest shall meet privately with such individual(s) to provide the seminar.
5. At the conclusion of the seminar all candidates, will abide by them and the affirmation of office. If a candidate for the Parish Council does not attend a seminar and sign the statement, his/her name shall be deleted from the list of candidates.
6. A new parishioner of the Parish may vote in the election if he/she has become a member in good standing at least three (3) months prior thereto.
7. Elections shall be held at a place on Parish premises previously announced by the Board of Elections and voting shall be by secret ballot.
8. Elections shall begin after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy and shall terminate on the same day at such time as determined by local Parish Bylaws.
9. The election results shall be entered in the minutes of the first Parish Council meeting, showing the number of votes cast for each candidate, and shall be signed by each member of the Board of Elections. The candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected for the ensuing term, subject to ratification by the Bishop.
10. Any parishioner in good standing of the Parish questioning the validity of any election may, within five (5) days after such election, lodge a written protest with the Bishop. Such protest shall be signed by the questioning parishioner and at least four (4) other parishioners in good standing and shall list in detail all the reasons for the protest. In the event that a protest is filed and such protest is upheld and deemed valid, the Bishop will declare the protested election void and a new election will be ordered. The decision of the Bishop thereon shall be final.
11. In the event that an insufficient number of candidates shall be nominated for election to the Parish Council, or the number nominated is equal to the number of vacancies, the election of those nominated shall take place in accordance with the election procedures established by these Regulations.

ARTICLE 35
RATIFICATION OF ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL
AND AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

1. No earlier than five (6) and not later than eight (21) days after the election is held, the Priest shall forward the results to his diocesan Bishop. The Priest shall at the same time verify in writing that all

candidates were qualified and that the election was conducted in accordance with these Regulations and the Parish Bylaws. It shall be confirmed that the Parish has met its financial obligations to the Metropolis including the Total Commitment.

2. The election will not be considered final until receipt of ratification by the Bishop. The affirmation of office shall not be administered until such ratification is received. The existing Parish Council shall continue to fulfill its function until the election of the new Parish Council is ratified and members have taken the affirmation of office.
3. After ratification of the election has been received from the respective Hierarch, a special ceremony shall be held at the close of the Divine Liturgy in which all the members of the Parish Council shall take the affirmation of office jointly.
4. Each member or member-elect of the Parish Council is obliged, without exception, to execute the Disclosure Statement (attached hereto as **Addendum A-3**) pursuant to the Disclosure Policy (attached hereto as **Addendum A**) prior to assuming his/her office and to take the following affirmation of office and thereafter subscribe his/her name thereto:

a. **"I, (name) do solemnly affirm that I will uphold the dogmas, teachings, traditions,**
holy canons, discipline, worship and moral principles of the Greek Orthodox Church, as well as the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan, and that I will fulfill faithfully and sincerely the duties and obligations required of a member of the Parish Council. So help me God."

b. A person declining to execute his/her Disclosure Statement and/or to affirm and subscribe to the affirmation of office shall not be a member of the Parish Council and his or her office shall be deemed vacant.
c. In the event the Bishop declines to ratify the election of one or more of the persons elected to a Parish Council, he shall state his reason for such action and shall direct the Parish to conduct a special election to fill the vacancy(ies) thus created. He may appoint person(s) to serve as interim members of the Parish Council until such election is held.

ARTICLE 36
MEETINGS OF PARISH COUNCIL

1. The Parish Council shall generally hold regular meetings at least once a month, and special meetings whenever the Priest, the President, or a majority of the Parish Council shall deem it necessary.
2. 2/3 majority of the members of the Parish Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Vacancies on the Parish Council shall not be used in order to establish a quorum.

3. The minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council shall be signed by the Priest, the President/chairperson and the Secretary.
4. The members of the Parish Council shall attend the Divine Liturgy regularly and participate in the sacramental life of the Church, thereby setting an example for the Parishioners. Under the leadership of the Priest, the Parish Council shall:

a. Assist the Priest in the administration of the affairs and ministries of the Parish
b. Establish the appropriate committees, including but not limited to Stewardship, Finance, Fundraising, Planning and Real Estate committees
c. Utilize the Stewardship material provided by the Archdiocese to implement and expand the Parish Stewardship program and ministries
d. Prepare budgets for the Parish's administration and ministries and collect the revenue of the Parish.
e. Provide for the Priest's remuneration and benefits in accordance with the Clergy Compensation Plan of the Archdiocese/Diocese.
f. Provide financing for the salaries of the Parish personnel.
g. Provide financial resources for the Parish's administration and for the Parish's spiritual, educational and other ministries and expenses.
h. Buy, sell or mortgage Parish property, subject to the approval of the Parish Meeting and the Provisions of these Regulations
i. Provide for payments and assessments for support of the Archdiocese/Diocese as fixed the General Assembly
j. Submit to the Dean and the Bishop, at the end of each year, the financial statement of the Parish for that year (certified by the Parish's Board of Auditors) and the Parish budget for the ensuing year
k. All personnel employed by the Parish including schoolteachers, Doctors, nurses, cleaners , and any other are engaged or discharged by the Parish Council with the consent of the Priest.
l. The Priest and Parish Council shall be responsible for all personnel employed by the Parish. In addition, the Priest and the Parish Council shall be responsible for the Parish's adherence with all applicable personnel and volunteer policies promulgated by the Diocese.
m. Upon the expiration of its term, the Parish Council shall surrender to the succeeding Parish Council all the Parish records, including the list of Parishioners, minute books, bankbooks, checkbooks, financial records, and all other property of the Parish.
n. The Priest and Parish Council and its officers may exercise any additional authority, consistent with the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations, Regulations and the Parish Bylaws.

ARTICLE 37
PARISH ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
PARISH ADMINISTRATION

1. The Priest as head of the Parish, by virtue of the ecclesiastical authority vested in him, shall guide and oversee the Parish. The Priest together with the Parish Council is responsible to the respective Hierarch for the whole life and activities of his Parish.
2. Each Parish shall be administered by the Priest and Parish Council cooperatively.
3. All committees, Subcommittees, or Boards of the Parish(e.g. Orthodox Mothers union, Orthodox Youth Union, Schools, Clinics/Dispensaries, Parish Spiritual Centres, Catechetical, Real Estates, etc, except for the Board of Elections and the Board of Auditors, shall be under the jurisdiction of the Priest and Parish Council.
4. If a problem should arise between a Priest and the Parish Council, the matter shall not be brought before the Parish General Meeting, but to refer the matter to Episcopal Council.

ARTICLE 38
PARISH GENERAL MEETING

1. A Parish General Meeting may be convened for matters other than those involving canonical and dogmatic issues. The Parish General Meeting is the general meeting of the Parishioners in good standing of the Parish and is the general policymaking and appropriating body of the Parish.
2. Notice of a Parish General Meeting shall be mailed to all Parishioners in good standing at least ten (10) days prior to the Meeting and shall include the agenda. The agenda shall be prepared by the Priest and the Parish Council and shall include all items to be discussed at the Meeting.
3. A Parish General Meeting consists of parishioners in good standing of the Parish who has met their stewardship obligations to the Parish in accordance with the Parish Bylaws. A person whose name appears on the Stewardship rolls but who is in arrears in the payment of his/her stewardship obligations may take part in the Parish General Meeting by meeting such stewardship obligations on or before the date of the meeting. If a Parishioner is delinquent for more than the current calendar year, he or she may vote at the Parish General Meeting only after that parishioner has met the unfulfilled stewardship financial obligations at least thirty (30) days before the Parish General Meeting.
4. New parishioners may exercise their vote at Parish Assemblies if they have been parishioners in good standing for at least three months. The Priest shall be a non-voting participant of the Parish General Meeting.

5. The quorum for a Parish General Meeting under local Bylaws shall be as high as possible in such number of parishioners in good standing as its Bylaws may determine. If a quorum cannot be achieved, no vote can be taken. If a quorum is not present, the Parish General Meeting shall be called a second time within twenty-one (21) days.
6. Regular Parish Meetings shall be convened by the Priest and the Parish Council, at least once each year, at dates fixed by the Parish Council.

ARTICLE 39
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

1. The Board of Elections shall consist of no fewer than three (3) members elected at a Regular Parish General Meeting within the same year as the election from among those who are not candidates for election to the Parish Council. Immediate family members of candidates and incumbent Parish Council members are not eligible to serve on the Board of Elections.
2. The Board of Elections shall, in cooperation with the Parish Priest, verify the eligibility of the list of candidates, notify all eligible Parishioners concerning the elections, supervise the elections and tabulate and report the results. The Priest shall be advised of all meetings of the Board of Elections, which he may attend if he so desires. The Priest shall certify that all the candidates are Parishioners in good standing.

ARTICLE 40
BOARD OF AUDITORS

1. The Board of Auditors shall consist of at least three parishioners none of whom are members of the Parish Council. The Board of Auditors shall be elected at the last Parish General Meeting preceding an election from among those who have not served on the Parish Council for the year being audited and who are not candidates for election to the Parish Council. The Board of Auditors shall have the financial competency to properly execute its responsibilities.
2. The Board of Auditors shall audit financial records of the prior year and prepare a report of such audit for presentation to the Parish General Meeting. After review by the Parish General Meeting, the Parish Council shall transmit copies of the final audit to the Deanery Council and Episcopal Council.
3. A vacancy on the Board of Auditors shall be filled by the Parish Council by electing a successor therefore from amongst the parishioners of the Parish in good standing for the unexpired portion of the term of such vacancy.

PART FOUR

REGULATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

ARTICLE 40

REGULATIONS

1. All Regulations pertaining to the implementation of this Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations shall be in conformity with the Holy Canons, Sacred Tradition and long existing life and practice of the Holy, One, Apostolic, and Catholic Church.
2. Regulations for the implementation of this Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations shall be proposed, approved, and ratified as follows:

a. Regulations pertaining to the operations of the Episcopal Council, Orthodox Secretariat Executive Committee, Metropolis Board of Trustees, Spiritual Courts, Monasteries, General Clergy – Laity Assembly, and Deaneries shall be promulgated by the Episcopal Council.

b. Bi-Laws and any other regulations pertaining to the composition of, and operation of the Deanery Councils, Parish Councils, and Ministries: Institutions, Departments, Programs, and the alike shall be promulgated by the General Assembly, and approved by the Episcopal Council.

c. Bi-laws and any other Regulations pertaining to Monasteries operations and daily life shall be promulgated by individual monasteries and approved by the Episcopal Council or the respective Head Monasteries.

d. All other Regulations, including those pertaining to the composition, the frequency of meetings and manner of functioning of the Metropolis General Assembly, Deanery General Assemblies, Parish Meetings, Institutions, Departments, and Programs, shall be proposed by the Diocesan Council, and promulgated by the General Assembly.

e. All regulations mentioned, in general, all Regulations pursuant to the present Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations shall be submitted by the Episcopal Council, through its President, to the Holy Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa for final review and approval. In the event that no response is received from the Holy Patriarchate within ninety (90) days following the receipt of the Regulations by it, they shall be deemed approved.

f. Until the adoption and approval of Regulations under this Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations, all existing regulations shall continue in full force and effect. However, in the event of a conflict between this Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations, and any other such regulations, the provisions of this Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations shall prevail.

g. The present Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations and all Regulations adopted and approved pursuant to this Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations shall be published by the Orthodox Church in South Sudan and each organ shall posses, study, and internalize the same without fail.

The Diocesan Council interprets the Regulations adopted by the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly pursuant to the Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations on matters within its Jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 41

IMPLEMENTATION

This present Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations is granted to the Orthodox Church in South Sudan, by the Holy Patriarchate of Alexandria All Africa and is effective immediately

PART FIVE

AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS AND OFFICIAL TEXT

ARTICLE 42

LANGUAGE AND OFFICIAL TEXT

The language of this Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations and any Regulations hereunder promulgated shall be English. This Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations can be translated into indigenous languages but the English text, as approved by the Patriarchate, shall be deemed the legal and governing text. In the event of need, this Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations shall be authoritatively interpreted by the Holy Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa.

ARTICLE 43

AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS

The present Diocesan Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations regulating the affairs of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan, as an ecclesiastical institution, may be amended in its entirety or in part after a proposal of the by General Assembly submitted to the Episcopal Council following the appropriate procedure in the Episcopal Council. After the amendments, the Clergy-Laity Assembly must pass the Amendments. Then the Amendments are passed on to the Episcopal Council for final approval and ratification.

In the year of our Lord 20…, on the …….day of the month of ……..

Bishop Constantine Mbonabingi

Bishop of Juba and all South Sudan

Mr. Christopher C. Georgalides

The Greek Hellenic Community of South Sudan.

Dr. Charles Linderman. Head MRDC

The Registered Board of Trustees of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan»:

Juba

This is a true copy passed by the General Assembly, approvedand ratified by the Diocesan Council on the ……in the year of our Lord …….

The final document is submitted to the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Holy Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa.

[seal of the Registered Trustees of the Orthodox Church in South Sudan]
[signed]