



The Metropolis Advances its Strategic Plan

PAM ARGYRIS, First Vice President

In 2021, the Metropolis made great strides in implementing its Strategic Plan. Volunteer goal teams developed programs designed to help our parishes—most notably, in the areas of strengthening lay leadership, stewardship, and the way we welcome people into our churches. The Metropolis is deeply gratified by the steadfast commitment of our volunteers to this Strategic Plan.

Lay Leadership Team Develops Podcasts

The Lay Leadership Strategic Plan Goal Team unveiled its comprehensive—and unique—Orthodox Servant Leadership development program. The program will be used by the Metropolis and its parishes to train their parish councils and ministry leaders. After performing extensive research and surveying the Metropolis' parishes, the committee settled on a podcast format for delivering its leadership tutorials. The flexibility and on-demand nature of the podcasts will make it easier for our lay leaders, many of whom are busy professionals, to go through leadership training on their own schedules. Podcasts allow for people to tune in anywhere—whether at home, in the car, while going for a walk, or even during parish council meetings.

The podcast series, *Called to Lead: An Orthodox Christian Perspective*, has six episodes on the following topics: (1) Orthodox Christian Leadership; (2) Developing your Servant Leadership Qualities; (3) How to Develop Volunteer Teams; (4) Ethical Negotiations; (5) Dealing with Difficult Situations and Conflict Resolution; and (6) Basic On-boarding and Orientation to the Parish Council and Ministries. The podcasts will be made available on the Metropolis website in 2022.

The Metropolis Adopts a Long-Term Stewardship Plan

After nearly two years of research and analysis, the Stewardship Strategic Plan Goal Team presented a new, long-term stewardship plan entitled *Strengthen*

Stewardship Now and Forever. This plan was approved by the Metropolis Council and was unanimously embraced by the delegates at the Clergy-Laity Assembly. The plan builds on the success of the interim program developed by this Stewardship Team in 2020, and it is designed to pave the way to true Christian giving of time, talent, and treasure. The plan will add significant resources and training to help all parishes develop the skills necessary to implement strategies that will increase participation, volunteerism, and financial contributions. Parishes will be provided with stewardship best practices and encouraged to use technology and modern methods of communication to encourage people to be more actively involved in the life of the Church. A planned youth stewardship program aims to cultivate the spirit of giving in the next generation.

Task Force Develops Welcoming Program for Parishes

The process by which parishes welcome new people is vital to the health and growth of our Metropolis. The Welcoming Ministries Strategic Plan Goal Team began their work by defining a vision for welcoming people into our communities. After researching how other churches and faith-based organizations successfully welcome newcomers, the team developed a toolbox containing best practices, educational materials, and templates. Welcoming practices are organized by each step of the visitor experience, allowing parishes to choose where to focus their attention and efforts. The ready-to-use materials and templates will be available on the Metropolis website in 2022.

LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM



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METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO
2021 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



BEARING FRUIT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

“Planted in good soil beside abundant waters, so it yields branches and bears fruit.”

Ezekiel 17:8



METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

To receive and share unconditional love, mercy, healing, and peace, so that life has greater meaning and purpose.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago is a Christ-centered community that loves, guides, engages and serves all people.

CORE VALUES

Christ-centered
Integrity
Service
Humility
Love
Merciful
Spiritual development
Adaptable

VISION STATEMENT

In 3-5 years, we will grow our Metropolis family through greater:

Fellowship & Welcoming
Accountability
Ministries & Education
Innovation
Leadership
Involved Youth & Emerging Adults
Engagement on Critical Issues
Stewardship



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