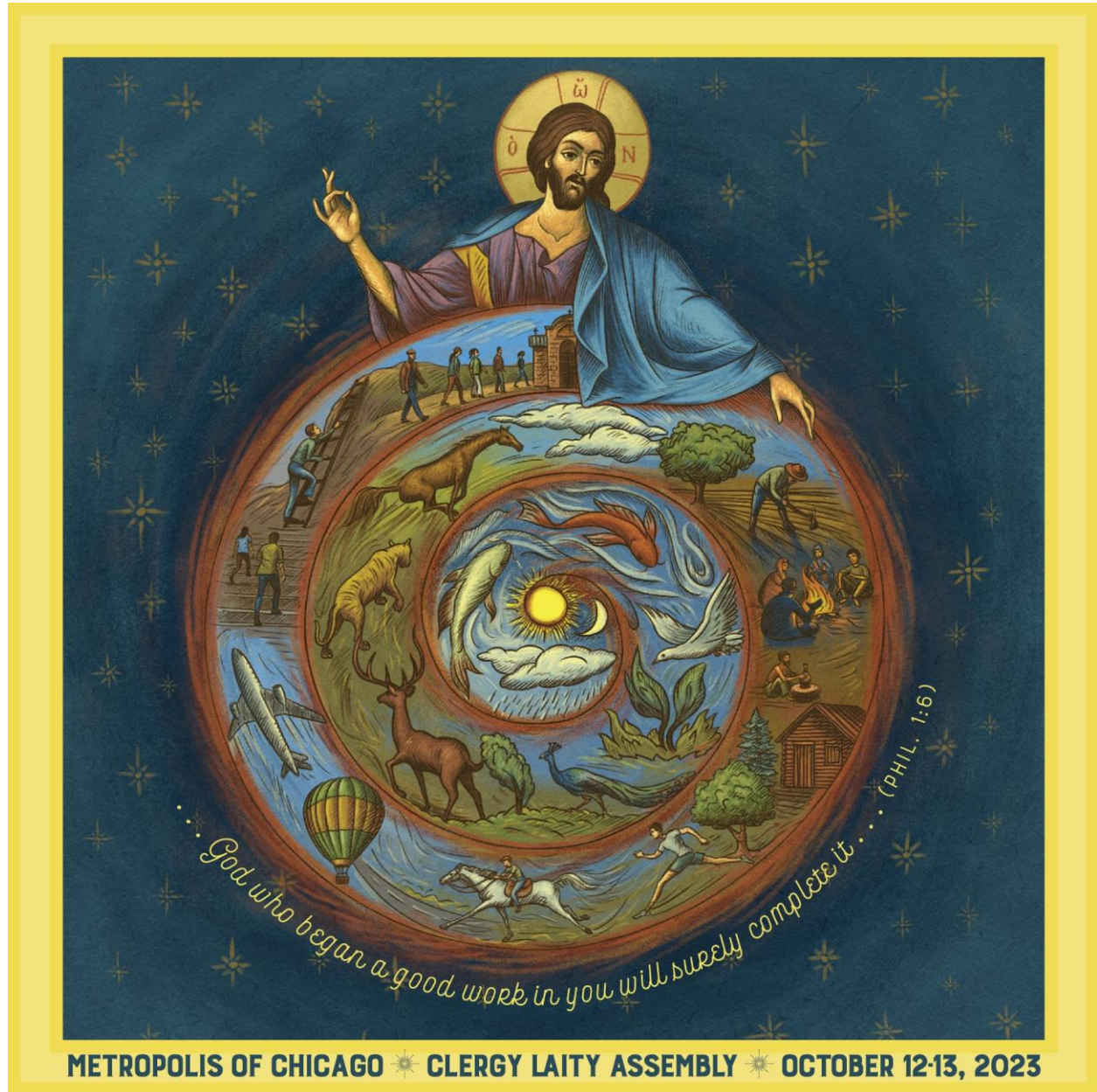


CANDIDATE PROFILES



ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL
METROPOLIS AUDIT COMMITTEE
METROPOLIS COUNCIL



METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO



ARCHDIOCESAN
COUNCIL

CANDIDATES

DEAN AVDALAS

Saints Peter & Paul, Glenview, Illinois



Dean Avdalas was born and raised in Sacramento, California and finishing his first term on the Metropolis Council serving as the First Vice President. In addition to serving on the Metropolis Council, he also is on the Archdiocesan Council and serves on the Finance Committee and Youth & Young Adult Ministries Committees.

He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Political Science from the University of California, Davis. Prior to moving to Chicago, he was a small business owner, managed various real estate investments and was involved with numerous political campaigns and organizations. In 2006, he moved to Chicago to pursue a new career opportunity in commercial banking. Most importantly, that is where he met his wife, Marina. Dean became involved with real estate and business lending which ultimately shaped his career. In 2014, he accepted a new challenge and was hired as a business lender at Byline Bank, a publicly traded Chicago-based bank specializing in business banking.

During his years at Annunciation in Sacramento, Dean served on the Parish Council, coached youth basketball, supported various church and cultural organizations and served as an altar boy for fourteen years. In addition to Greek American organizations, Dean was an active member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at UC Davis, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Sacramento and represented Sacramento County as a Delegate at the 2004 National Presidential Convention. In Chicagoland, Dean is a board member for SomerCor, one of the largest SBA lenders in the Midwest. He's a proud member of the Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC), AH EPA, a past board member of Neo Kyma Messinias and a strong supporter of various philanthropic organizations. He lives in Glenview, Illinois with his wife Marina and their three children: Ambri, Gia and Teddy. They are members of Saints Peter & Paul.

DEAN AVDALAS

Saints Peter & Paul, Glenview, Illinois

Personal Statement

With a great appreciation, I am thankful for my parents strong influence at an early age that introduced me to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Sacramento, California. From starting as an Altar Boy at age 6 until 18, partaking in various ministries that included Sunday School, Joy, GOYA, Greek Dancing, Greek School, Athletics, and many others throughout my childhood and adolescence, it helped shaped my future and the love for the Greek Orthodox Church. From this love and appreciation, it led to serving the Church in various capacities in my early adulthood, Parish Council, volunteering at our annual festival, or coaching the youth, I always was available to give back.

As many of us go through the cycles of life, and the various challenges we encounter, the main constant we have is the Greek Orthodox Church and her beautiful traditions. Today, as a father of three, we do our best to replicate our past, keep our traditions alive, teach our children about our Faith, but also adapt to the changes to modern society. More than ever before, today's youth need strong influences and leadership, which led to my acceptance for my current role to be part of the Metropolis Council January 2021, having served on the Executive Council as Vice President for the past two years. I have been able to assist with two main drivers for our youth, Fanari and Junior Olympics as well as supporting our Metropolis with various business and management decisions. I believe my background in business and lending as well as my dedication to our youth makes me a valuable asset to this Council.

TOM SIKORAL

Holy Taxiarchai & Saint Haralambos, Niles, Illinois



Tom is currently the Sr Vice President of Corporate Real Estate at U.S. Bank – a seasoned leader and accomplished asset management professional who creates a highly productive team of over 200 employees and delivers winning strategies to achieve cost effectiveness and growth.

With over 27 years of management experience, Tom has a broad scope of industry knowledge in the management of all aspects of leasing activities including contract negotiations, financial analysis, budget control, customer satisfaction and employee development.

Tom and his family are very active members of the Greek American community.

He currently is Co-Treasurer for the Chicago Metropolis Council, and the Parish Council President and Assistant Athletic Director for Holy Taxiarchai & Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church in Niles, Illinois. He lives in Morton Grove, Illinois with his wife Anastasia and their three children: Stavros, Alexandra, and Nikolas.

TOM SIKORAL

Holy Taxiarchai & Saint Haralambos, Niles, Illinois

Personal Statement

I am writing this candidate statement to express my deep passion and commitment to serving our beloved community as a member of the Archdiocese and Chicago Metropolis councils. It is with great humility and reverence that I present myself as a candidate, eager to contribute my skills, knowledge, and unwavering dedication to the growth and flourishing of our community.

First and foremost, my love for the Greek Orthodox faith runs deep within my veins. I have been an active member of this community for many years, cherishing the traditions, teachings, and values that have shaped our church's identity. I am committed to upholding and preserving the rich heritage and spiritual essence of our faith, ensuring that future generations can experience the same profound connection to their Greek Orthodox roots.

Furthermore, I bring a wealth of experience and skills that I believe will be invaluable in serving on the church board. Professionally, I have a background in organizational management, strategic planning, financial management, investing and community engagement. I have successfully led teams and managed projects, demonstrating my ability to navigate complex challenges and implement effective solutions. I am confident that these skills can be directly applied to the various administrative and operational tasks required of council members.

Equally important is my unwavering commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment within our community. I firmly believe that our faith should be a beacon of love, compassion, and unity, embracing people from all walks of life. If given the privilege of serving on the council, I will tirelessly work to ensure that our church remains a safe space where everyone feels accepted, supported, and valued.

Moreover, I am eager to collaborate with fellow board members, clergy, and the wider congregation to identify and address the evolving needs of our community. I will actively seek input, listen attentively, and advocate for initiatives that promote spiritual growth, educational opportunities, and meaningful community outreach. Together, we can nurture a vibrant and thriving Greek Orthodox Church that continues to impact lives positively.

In conclusion, I am honored to be considered as a candidate for the Archdiocese and Metropolis council. My deep love for our faith, coupled with my professional experience and commitment to inclusivity, makes me confident that I can make a meaningful contribution in this role. I humbly ask for your support and the opportunity to serve our church with unwavering dedication, integrity, and passion.

May God bless our community, guide our decisions, and strengthen our bonds as we embark on this shared journey of faith.

GEORGE TARLAS

Saint Nicholas, Saint Louis, Missouri



George co-manages ACG and oversees its Institutional business. As a Senior Managing Director, he helps to set the strategic direction of the firm. George is a member of ACG's Investment Committee, which is comprised of senior members of the organization and whose primary task is to ensure continuity and consistency in its investment recommendations to clients. George works with a broad array of client relationships and brings value to clients through his strategic advisory, portfolio modeling and evaluation, and ongoing education. Prior to joining ACG in 1996, George was a Vice President for Gershman Investment Corp. in St. Louis. He brings a background in finance and real estate and earned his finance degree from the University of Colorado. George is a holder of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation and is a member of the CFA Society of St. Louis and the CFA Institute.

Outside of the firm, George is a member of the City of Town & Country Ways & Means Commission and a Board member of the Burrige Center for Finance at the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado. George also serves on the Grant Committee of Social Venture Partners in St. Louis, which provides financial and hands-on resources to nonprofit organizations that provide educational programs for disadvantaged youth. George is a lifelong active member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in St. Louis.

GEORGE TARLAS

Saint Nicholas, Saint Louis, Missouri

Personal Statement

As the son of an immigrant from Xylokastro, Greece, I was raised in the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox parish in St. Louis and have had a lifetime of experiences and blessings in our community that serve as the foundation of my values and beliefs. Having the blessing of a 30-year marriage to my wife who grew up in the Catholic community has enlightened me to the opportunity to find the common ground through Christ that has charted our journey. I believe this lived experience is valuable insight into the reality that the preponderance of marriages in our community today are those of mixed faith. Considering this challenge, I would like to join the Metropolis Council to be an impactful contributor to helping to strengthen and grow our Orthodox faith throughout our Metropolis.

My educational and professional background is rooted in finance. Working in the finance/investment industry for 35 years has provided me with a vast breadth of knowledge and experience that has direct application to the management of financial affairs for institutions of all types. It is my expectation that this experience will enable me to provide valuable insight and contribution to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago and its financial initiatives. In addition, I have served on the finance sub-committee of our parish council for the last five years which has given me further insight into the challenges and opportunities parishes in our Metropolis face on an ongoing basis.

With our Greek Orthodox faith as the centerpiece of our daily lives, I see through our children's spiritual strength what is possible. I am motivated to contribute to the Metropolis Council in order to make a difference for current and future generations to grow our Orthodox community.



METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO



METROPOLIS
AUDIT
COMMITTEE
CANDIDATES

GUS HARRIS

Assumption, Town & Country, Missouri



Gus Harris is a Resident Auditor (RA) for the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA) managing an office of 32 personnel responsible for auditing a major defense company located in St. Louis, MO. Gus' professional goals include taking on new tasks that will help him grow personally and professional in mentoring and managing people and inspiring others to take on new challenges no matter how difficult to help become better auditors and leaders. Gus is a licensed CPA in Missouri and has over 35 years of auditing of performing contract audits in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS). Gus was also the Treasurer for the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Town and Country, MO and has experience in preparing church financial statements and federal/state payroll taxes, W2s and 941s using Quick Books Pro. Gus' 35 years at DCAA include holding various roles such as auditor, technical specialist – financial capability/pensions, supervisory auditor, Sr Financial Liaison Assistant, Special Assistant and RA. Gus' achievements and experiences including auditing companies from mom and pops to Fortune 500s across the US that include Boeing, General Dynamics, KBR, McDermott Int, Magellan Health, Cerberus Inv, Ball Aerospace, Enron, Afghan National Trust Fund, etc. saving the taxpayer money and supporting the warfighter. Gus holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Missouri – St. Louis and he also attended the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki for the Greek language. In his spare time Gus enjoys going to church, reading history, particularly about the church, the lives of the saints, playing golf and swimming.

GUS HARRIS

Assumption, Town & Country, Missouri

Personal Statement

I want to serve on the metropolitan audit committee because I believe based on my experiences as an auditor, manager, leader in my professional life and serving for the last three years on the Metropolitan Audit Committee and my prior experience as Treasurer of my church I have a lot to offer. First, I know the history of the 2015 – 2022 audits of the Metropolitan particularly for the last two years 2021 and 2022 since as the Chair of the Audit Committee I was directly involved with the CPA firm doing the audits as well as with members of the Metropolitan Council who assisted to serve the audit committee. Second, I volunteered to be the Chair on the audit committee covering the audits of the Metropolitan for 2019 and 2020. Third, I also was the Treasurer for my church and was on the Parish Board for many years and I am familiar with church accounting, payroll taxes, Uniform Parish Regulations, Quick Books Pro and the Metropolitan/Archdiocesan budget allocation processes. I attended many of Clergy Laity conferences both at the National and Diocese levels through the years and sat in on many finance committee sessions that discussed church audits and finances. Third and last, I believe based on the talents and gifts God gave me I have an obligation to serve the church and to bring those gifts and talents forward to use for the benefit of serving on the Metropolitan Audit Committee for the next two years.

STEVE KOULOGEORGE

Saints Peter & Paul, Glenview, Illinois



I am a lifelong member of Saint Peter & Paul parish in Glenview, Illinois. Professionally, I am a C.P.A., M.B.A., with 25+ years of Accounting experience, including Internal controls, accounting policies and procedures, cash management practices. Corporate Compliance Officer (5 years); with training in information security, data integrity, "arms-length" business transactions, as well as protocol in accepting gifts, cash, meals and other perks. An experienced C.P.A./M.B.A.

In my professional life, I have served as a Controller for 17 years, and Chief Financial Officer for 5 years. In that capacity, I have been the key contact for both Internal and External Audits for over 20 years.

My current and past service at my Home Church (SS. Peter & Paul) includes the following :

- Saints Peter & Paul Parish Council member
- Council Assistant Treasurer
- Council Treasurer
- Audit Committee Member

I am intimately familiar with not-for-profit accounting and aided in our Churches transition to the Financial Reporting requirements of ASU 2016-14. Was also involved in our Payroll Protection Program Loan applications #1 and #2.

STEVE KOULOGEORGE

Saints Peter & Paul, Glenview, Illinois

Personal Statement

My reasons for wanting to participate on the Audit Committee, arise from a life-long commitment to give back to the Orthodox church all that it has given myself and my family. As the child of first- and second-generation immigrants from Greece, the Orthodox church has provided both a haven and an identity for my family; a haven from the turbulent world that surrounds us all, and an identity, that is shared by others, of a loving and caring Orthodox Christian community.

My Parents moved to the suburbs in the late 1950's and were founding members of Saints Peter and Paul, in Glenview, Illinois. My Father was the first Treasurer, and my Mother was one of the founding members of our local Philoptochos chapter. As children, my two brothers and my sister and I were immersed in all that the Church had to offer: Church school, on Sundays, Greek School, GOY and YAL. My brothers and I also served as Acolytes. When we each married, we joined couples groups and our children followed our path through church school, athletics, and service to the church.

We talk in our Church about giving our "time, treasure and talents." My service has been as a long-time member off the Parish Council, as my education has been focused on Accounting and Finance, My C.P.A has been put to use as a Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Even when I was not on the Council, I participated on my Churches Audit Committee.

Now I am offering my expertise, and skill set to the Metropolis Audit Committee. I believe that I can be a valued addition to the group in ensuring the integrity of the Financial Statements.



METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO



METROPOLIS
COUNCIL
CANDIDATES

DEAN AVDALAS

Saints Peter & Paul, Glenview, Illinois



Dean Avdalas was born and raised in Sacramento, California and finishing his first term on the Metropolis Council serving as the First Vice President. In addition to serving on the Metropolis Council, he also is on the Archdiocesan Council and serves on the Finance Committee and Youth & Young Adult Ministries Committees.

He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Communications and Political Science from the University of California, Davis. Prior to moving to Chicago, he was a small business owner, managed various real estate investments and was involved with numerous political campaigns and organizations. In 2006, he moved to Chicago to pursue a new career opportunity in commercial banking. Most importantly, that is where he met his wife, Marina. Dean became involved with real estate and business lending which ultimately shaped his career. In 2014, he accepted a new challenge and was hired as a business lender at Byline Bank, a publicly traded Chicago-based bank specializing in business banking.

During his years at Annunciation in Sacramento, Dean served on the Parish Council, coached youth basketball, supported various church and cultural organizations and served as an altar boy for fourteen years. In addition to Greek American organizations, Dean was an active member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at UC Davis, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Sacramento and represented Sacramento County as a Delegate at the 2004 National Presidential Convention. In Chicagoland, Dean is a board member for SomerCor, one of the largest SBA lenders in the Midwest. He's a proud member of the Hellenic American Leadership Council (HALC), AH EPA, a past board member of Neo Kyma Messinias and a strong supporter of various philanthropic organizations. He lives in Glenview, Illinois with his wife Marina and their three children: Ambri, Gia and Teddy. They are members of Saints Peter & Paul.

DEAN AVDALAS

Saints Peter & Paul, Glenview, Illinois

Personal Statement

With a great appreciation, I am thankful for my parents strong influence at an early age that introduced me to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Sacramento, California. From starting as an Altar Boy at age 6 until 18, partaking in various ministries that included Sunday School, Joy, GOYA, Greek Dancing, Greek School, Athletics, and many others throughout my childhood and adolescence, it helped shaped my future and the love for the Greek Orthodox Church. From this love and appreciation, it led to serving the Church in various capacities in my early adulthood, Parish Council, volunteering at our annual festival, or coaching the youth, I always was available to give back.

As many of us go through the cycles of life, and the various challenges we encounter, the main constant we have is the Greek Orthodox Church and her beautiful traditions. Today, as a father of three, we do our best to replicate our past, keep our traditions alive, teach our children about our Faith, but also adapt to the changes to modern society. More than ever before, today's youth need strong influences and leadership, which led to my acceptance for my current role to be part of the Metropolis Council January 2021, having served on the Executive Council as Vice President for the past two years. I have been able to assist with two main drivers for our youth, Fanari and Junior Olympics as well as supporting our Metropolis with various business and management decisions. I believe my background in business and lending as well as my dedication to our youth makes me a valuable asset to this Council.

DR. GEORGE BOVIS

Saint John the Baptist, DesPlaines, Glenview, Illinois



George K Bovis, MD is a neurosurgeon practicing in Chicago for the last 23 years. He completed his college and medical school education at Northwestern University, his neurosurgery training at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and his fellowship training in cerebrovascular and skull base at the Mayfield Clinic in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dr Bovis presently serves as the Vice Chairman of Neurosurgery at AMITA Health, the Medical Director of the Illinois Gamma Knife Center and AMITA Neuroscience Institute, and Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at Rush University Medical School. He is the author of 57 peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and academic presentations. Dr Bovis is a very active member of the Greek American community both regionally and nationally. He was elected to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis Council of Chicago, sits on the Board of the National Hellenic Museum and serves as a medical advisor at the Hippocratic Cancer Research Foundation and the Greek American Rehabilitation Centre. Finally, both he and his wife Raffaella are Founding Members of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation.

DR. GEORGE BOVIS

Saint John the Baptist, DesPlaines, Glenview, Illinois

Personal Statement

Churchgoer...Churchgoer is a descriptor and a title which I am most proud to wear. It describes not only a weekly activity, but a deference to an ecclesiastical institution created by an individual's and a community's collective efforts and participation. To that end, I humbly submit my nomination for membership to the Metropolis Council in order to help maintain and foster the improvement of my region's churches and the Metropolis overseeing them.

During my years of living in the Midwest and my many years of training in my profession and travels, I have had the privilege of visiting many Greek Orthodox churches and communities of not only our country, but of Canada, Europe, and Asia. I have been an active participant in Greek Orthodox Churches in Rochester, Minnesota, Jacksonville, Florida, Cincinnati, Ohio, and not to mention the multiple communities in Chicago that I have served as a steward. Presently, I have been a parish council member of St John The Baptist for the last three years, most recently serving as its Vice President.

The knowledge I have gained from this peripatetic history has shaped my understanding of my church and what is important to individuals in their church community. I have realized during this time and all these travels that our individual spiritual experience is profoundly affected by the surrounding community and by its leaders. Leaders who are dynamic, engaging, empathetic, kind, forgiving, and caring create communities reflective of the same values. In essence, our leaders are living examples of the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I would be honored to be elected a member of the Metropolis Council to serve as an example of these values, with the goal of improving the spiritual experience of my community.

PETER COULES

Saint Nicholas, Oak Lawn, Illinois



I have been practicing law since 1986. After graduating, with honors, from the University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign in 1983 with a B.S. in Economics and a B.A. in Political Science, I then received my law degree from DePaul University in 1986. In 1995 I established Donatelli & Coules, Ltd. with Mark Donatelli.

I have extensive corporate, municipal, land use, real estate and not-for-profit experience as a result of his tenure with this law firm. Also an advisory Board Member of Busey Bank (Previously was on the Holding Company of First Community Bank with 15 locations), a member of Pelican Bay's Policies and Relations Committee, a member of the Board of Directors of the Donald J. Doody Foundation, a Director and Co-Founder of Project Infinite Green, founding member of the Lemont High School Educational Board, a former elected Trustee of the Village of Lemont and past President of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Oak Lawn (Present Council Member). I am a lifelong steward of St. Nicholas. I live in Lemont, Illinois with my wife Denise and his two grown daughters.

PETER COULES

Saint Nicholas, Oak Lawn, Illinois

Personal Statement

The possibility to serve on the Metropolis Council would not only be an honor but would be humbling. I truly believe I could be an asset as I am not afraid to get involved. Daily I am involved greatly with sitting on Boards, as well as my job, and in so communicate to groups and individuals, handle financial issues, educational matters, deal with investments, real estate, and bank related matters. Currently I am a Trustee on over thirty (30) active Trusts as well as serve on many private Company Boards. My personal life has led me to be a present member, and past President, of the St. Nicholas of Oak Lawn Council. Also, I established an educational stem program, Project Infinite Green, for grade school and high school students in partnership with major utilities and numerous universities and also began a foundation for the Lemont High School (and the Taste of Lemont fundraiser that is held annually).

Further, I have been an elected official as a Village Trustee in Lemont, currently sit on the Donald J. Doody Educational Foundation, was a past member of Butler University's Parents Council and also coached volleyball and basketball for numerous years. Professionally, as a lawyer, I have handled numerous zoning matters in over forty (40) municipalities, have sat on a publicly traded Bank Holding Company Board, an advisory member on another publicly traded Bank as well as handling the daily sales and purchases of companies, commercial real estate as well as tax issues for the same. All of the above leads me to have the expertise the Metropolis is seeking for Metropolis Council Members.

Lastly, as a husband of over thirty (30) years, to a non-orthodox woman (our children are Greek Orthodox) who teaches at a Catholic school, I understand what families face today. I have been so blessed and to want to give back to the Metropolis. Thank you for your consideration and God Bless you all.

STEPHANIE DREMONAS

Saints Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills, Illinois



Stephanie Dremonas is a second-generation owner of the 17-store local grocery chain Pete’s Market and the real estate development company JD Real Estate. She has served her family-owned and operated business for over a decade, and during her tenure has effectively doubled the company. Bringing a female touch to a male dominated industry, Stephanie utilized both hard and soft skills to morph Pete’s from a mom and pop shop to a sustainable enterprise, now equipped for future growth and development.

While Stephanie holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration (Double Major in Finance and Real Estate) from Marquette University, most of her relevant schooling came from being self-taught on the job, working and learning every department from the bottom up. She is affectionately referred to as “Junior” at the company, because she has adopted the relentless work ethic of her immigrant father and founder. Stephanie is best known for being in “vest mode” pretty much always, which includes her sneakers, black pants, Pete’s vest with a pen clipped on the zipper, and, of course, her winning attitude.

Stephanie is the middle child of 5 siblings in a Greek household, so she’s a natural mediator, and is also the mother of 1.5 year-old Stella, so, is now also a multi-tasker.

STEPHANIE DREMONAS

Saints Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills, Illinois

Personal Statement

I have been in an Executive level position with my family owned business for over a decade that encompasses many areas that overlap with the competencies for an MC Member. In addition to the grocery retail company, I also manage and operate the real estate company. My undergrad education is in Real Estate and Finance which gave me a solid foundation to be able to manage multiple aspects of real estate such as leasing, financing, developing, property management, acquisitions, etc.

My professional experience in growing and leading companies aligns with the trajectory of the Metropolis. I have personally been involved in strengthening areas in my business such as: Finance, IT, Marketing, Operations, HR, Training and Development, and Procurement. I'm pleased to serve my God with my talents and help the Metropolis achieve its goals and mission.

OWEN FIELD

Saint George, Chicago, Illinois



Owen Field is a retired attorney. During his career with the State of Illinois, he served as an Assistant Attorney General representing public welfare agencies in complex state and federal litigation, General Counsel of the Department of Mental Health and Development Disabilities, and General Counsel of the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HCFS), focusing in both agencies on Medicaid policy. He has taught film appreciation classes through the Chicago City Colleges for the past eleven years.

Owen, raised in the Baptist church, came to the Orthodox faith and was chrismated in 1998. He and his spouse of 39 years, Myra Karegianes, have been stewards at Saint George (Chicago) since 2014. They have co-chaired the Stewardship Committee there since then. He is currently vice president of the Parish Council, having previously served as recording secretary. Owen also is currently a member of the Metropolis Council. He is on the Metropolis' Strengthen Stewardship Now & Forever team that developed the Stewardship component of the Metropolis Strategic Plan and that hosts monthly Metropolis-wide stewardship meetings. Prior to being stewards at Saint George, Owen and Myra were stewards at Saint Basil (Chicago). Owen served on the Parish Council, was president (2002-05) and vice president (2006-09), and on the Stewardship Committee (2003-11). Owen also served on the interim Parish Council at Holy Trinity (Schiller Park) and as chair of the Stewardship Committee in 2019-21.

Owen and Myra have two daughters and three granddaughters.

OWEN FIELD

Saint George, Chicago, Illinois

Personal Statement

Being actively engaged in stewardship programs has been my focus during the past twenty years. This began by helping transform the stewardship program at Saint Basil (Chicago) from a dues system to free will giving in the early-'00s. Starting in 2014, working closely with clergy and lay leadership, I co-chaired a newly formed Stewardship Committee that led a similar, highly successful, transformation at Saint George (Chicago). The Stewardship Committee at Saint George, which I continue to co-chair, continues to grow in its impact and mission. Recognizing that stewardship is not about collecting money, but bringing people to Christ, the Stewardship Committee is constantly developing approaches to welcoming everyone to God's home, showing appreciation for the time and talent parishioners offer back to the Lord, and supporting existing and encouraging creation of new philanthropic efforts.

In late-2019, I became a part of the newly-formed Stewardship Team developing a stewardship component for the Metropolis Strategic Plan. In April 2020, due to the pandemic, His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael asked if I would co-chair an expedited effort to develop a short-term Metropolis-wide stewardship program. A committee of twenty committed volunteers from parishes throughout the Metropolis created the Strengthen Stewardship Now program within three months. As a part of that program, we initiated a monthly meeting with parish stewardship leaders as a mechanism for education on best practices and approaches to enriching parish stewardship programs, and a forum for the exchange of ideas. The tool kit developed by Strengthen Stewardship Now and the videos of those meetings are available on the Metropolis website. Strengthen Stewardship Now then became the infrastructure of the more developed long-term Strengthen Stewardship Now & Forever program, which was adopted by the Metropolis as the stewardship component of the Metropolis Strategic Plan.

In addition to these efforts in stewardship, I was chair of a capital campaign at Saint George in 2017. I am currently co-chair of a Saint George capital campaign subcommittee for the Holy Consecration, communicating the purpose of the campaign and focusing on the general category of donor. My experience in working on large and small development campaigns, developing and implementing both short-term and long-term stewardship programs, and working across parishes in enlisting engaged volunteers can support the Metropolis in achieving its vision and goals.

DOUG HUGDAHL

Ascension of our Lord, Lincolnshire, Illinois



My name is Doug Hugdahl. I was born and raised in Rockford, IL. I was baptized and brought to Christ through the Lutheran faith. I met my wife Connie (Gekas) on September 25, 1998. We have been married for 24 fantastic years. We have two beautiful children, Johnny and Lexi. I converted to Orthodoxy through Father Jim Gordon. I have been honored to be an active member of The Ascension of Our Lord parish in Lincolnshire. I am very proud of our church home currently being led by Father Sotiri. We are truly blessed. I am a small business owner in Vernon Hills. We started LightSource Unlimited in 1999 and it has been going strong ever since providing energy efficient lighting to businesses around the United States. I thank God every day for the opportunities he brings me and the mercy he has shown me over my entire life.

We are all very blessed to have such a loving Father!!

DOUG HUGDAHL

Ascension of our Lord, Lincolnshire, Illinois

Personal Statement

By means of this personal statement, I wish to express my interest and the reasons as to why wish to be considered to serve on the Metropolis Council. My family and I have been involved in the Ascension Parish for the last 20 years. For the last 14 years, I have been serving on the Parish Council in various capacities. I am currently the Parish Council President. What has brought great joy to me is to watch our Parish grow in both Church attendance as well as our Parish ministries. With this in mind, I hope to be an asset within the Metropolis Council to aid His Eminence and Metropolis to enhance what is already happening: to continue to nourish the faithful and grow in numbers.

As a private company owner as well as a past Treasurer of the Ascension Parish, I also see how sacred the financial piece of people's giving brings to the table when it comes to God's work. Being involved with major fundraising projects both in my career and in our Parish, I believe I can focus my attention to build stewardship goals as well as other events which would only enhance the current structure of our Metropolis. Some may view the financial responsibility as something that does not belong in the Church, but I know that Christ spoke of our giving as a reflection of our heart. One verse that always resonates with me is: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Luke 12:34). Our cheerful giving is a reflection of our love for God and His work.

I also have seen in my life and in the work of the Church, that people will give when they see a vision and love what is happening. I believe that when people see the importance of this work, they will shift it in their life to be a priority. For everything we have, comes from God.

I look forward to this opportunity to serve and help our Metropolis continue to thrive and shine our works for the glory of God.

DR. ALEXANDRIA KALINA

Saint Mary's, Minneapolis, Minnesota



Diakonissa Dr. Alexandria Kalina has been a member of the Metropolis Council (MC) since 2021. She has served on the Metropolis' Strengthen Stewardship Now and Forever Committee for over three years, helping to form best practices for Stewardship, aiding parishes around the Metropolis to become independent of outside sources of income, and help increase engagement and vibrancy of their communities. On the MC, she has also worked to increase engagement of parishioners across the Metropolis with one another, and recently co-chaired a Metropolis wide virtual discussion of the book *For the Life of the World*.

Dr. Alexandria is a member of St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, where she serves as co-chair of Stewardship, and is a Church School teacher for 11th and 12th grade. She was raised in NYC and Boston, received her undergraduate degree from Harvard College, her medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine and did her pediatric residency at the Mayo Clinic. She is currently in a pediatric practice in rural Minnesota with a large mental health component and is a panelist at the 2023 Chicago CLA in a session dedicated to Adolescent Mental Health.

Dr. Alexandria and her husband Fr. Deacon Dr. Paul have three children: Andrew, a graduate of Holy Cross Seminary and current ophthalmology resident at KU, Maria, an MBA graduate who resides in Atlanta and works for Delta, and Stephen, a recent MDiv graduate from Holy Cross and first-year medical student at George Washington University.

DR. ALEXANDRIA KALINA

Saint Mary's, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Personal Statement

I have served one term on the Metropolis council and seek to continue my work with the council in a second term. As a pediatrician, I spend my days talking to patients and families, and one of my greatest challenges is engaging ornery teenagers in discussion with me, connecting them to meaningful conversations with their parents, and getting them to define their passions and goals. We struggle with some of these same engagement issues in Greek Orthodox parishes, not necessarily with ornery Orthodox teenagers, but with well-intentioned, kind, parishioners of all ages. As a member of the executive committee for the Metropolis of Chicago's Strengthen Stewardship Now and Forever program, I help oversee a program created by a team of us over the past several years focusing on the three pillars of Stewardship: Ownership, Engagement and Generosity. My specific interest has always been in Engagement, and when discussing this with leadership within the Metropolis at our monthly virtual stewardship meetings, we stress connecting to people, connecting people to people, and connecting people to purpose. Helping people engage has always been my greatest strength as a physician, as well as in my servant leadership within the GOA.

While I have been involved extensively across the GOA in many parishes, ministries, and capacities, my predominant focus over the past twenty years has been on Stewardship and, specifically, the engagement of parishioners. In Scottsdale, AZ, I was intimately involved in helping to grow our tiny parish of 60 to the point where we were able to move out of the home we were using and build a church. My husband and I helped create a vibrant stewardship program, and over the years, we welcomed every parishioner into our home with a series of dinners. After increasing parishioner numbers, engagement and, ultimately, stewardship, I supported my husband in a large building campaign and by God's grace, our parish built a church. We eventually moved to MN, but the parish in Scottsdale underwent a phase II build and now houses a huge campus and nearly 400 active stewards.

After moving to Minneapolis, where we joined St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, I focused on in-reach and brought ideas for new ministries (such as a small group ministry called "Koinonia," and a monthly weeknight parish night) to our clergy. The ministries were implemented; numerous Koinonia small groups in our parish have been active for 18 years, and our parish night has been a monthly event (and one of my favorites!) for over five years. After joining the Stewardship Committee as a co-chair nearly a decade ago, I encouraged a shift away from soliciting money to increasing engagement. For two years, we used the same home-to-home stewardship program at St. Mary's that we used in Scottsdale and engaged people with one another at each other's homes. Not only did financial stewardship increase, but more importantly, engagement increased dramatically – individuals felt more connected to their fellow parishioners and their purpose as it pertained to their role in the church. Additionally, my idea to have a no-charge Glendi for all our parishioners who give their time/talent or treasure was embraced six years ago. The Glendi has now become a yearly, highly anticipated, and very well attended event. Furthermore, our bi-monthly women's book club, which I initiated, is now in its sixth year, and is focused on engaging women in discussion of spiritual books.

On the MC, in addition to my work with Stewardship, I am on the engagement committee, and recently co-chaired a metropolis-wide virtual discussion of the book *For the Life of the World*. I have many other ideas for virtual engagement opportunities in the Metropolis that I am eager to work on. Finally, at the 2023 Chicago Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly, I am participating as a panelist in a session focused on Adolescent Mental Health, a topic very near to my heart as a pediatrician, and as a high school church school teacher of forty years.

My hope is to continue to use my expertise in stewardship and engagement across the Metropolis to help our many wonderful parishes continue to grow in parishioner engagement, to remain vibrant, and to thrive financially for many years to come.

JOHN LAFTSIDIS

Saints Demetrios, Chicago, Illinois



Education: Gordon Technical High School 1979-1982
Earned High School diploma in honors program all semesters.
University of Illinois, Chicago Campus 1982-1987
Earned B.S. degree in Biology/Psychology
Northwestern University Dental School 1987-1991
Earned D.D.S. degree with 4 semesters on honor roll.
Recipient Donna Olsen Award for community service to underserved populations.
Hellenic College Holy Cross, Brookline, Massachusetts 2022-present
Diaconate Program Student

Work/Career Experience:
Dental residency training program 1991-1992
Presbyterian Nursing/retirement Community, Evanston Ill
Hospital Pharmacy Technician
Swedish Hospital Inpatient pharmacy 1992-1994
Associate Dentist in Private practices Chicagoland area
Katherine Gerginis, DDS, Chicago 1992-1993
Irene Theodore, DDS, Chicago 1993-1994
Elgin Dental Associates 1994-1999
Carol Stream Dental Associates 1994-1999
Self Employed Dental practice owner 1999-2017
Alpha Dental, Huntley, Illinois
Attending Hospital Dentist, Director Dental Residency Program 2017-present
Swedish Hospital Northshore Healthcare System

Community Service:

- 1) Provider of comprehensive dental care (volunteer) for residents at Little Angels (Marklund) facility for severely developmentally affected individuals.
- 2) Provider of comprehensive dental services for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking at Swedish Hospital at no charge to patients.
- 3) Provider of comprehensive dental services for homeless individuals at Swedish Hospital.

JOHN LAFTSIDIS

Saints Demetrios, Chicago, Illinois

Personal/Church participation Experience:

Currently married with two adult children. I have a brother Arestidis who I am especially fond of. Enjoy home projects, travel and the company of two pet dogs, Ouzo and Phoebe. Lifelong parishioner/steward at St. Demetrios Church of Chicago. Member of parish council 2004 to present. Served on parish council executive committee as secretary (4 years), vice president (4 years) and president (6) years under the direction of Fr. Apostolos Georgiarentis who has had tremendous influence as a guide and mentor. Laity delegate at 5 National Clergy Laity conferences and local metropolis conferences. Festival chairman for 14 years as well as golf outing chairman, smoker chairman, New Year's Eve and several other yearly fundraising events as well as coach for junior Olympics. Served as council member of stewardship, facilities and education committees. I consider my current educational journey at Holy Cross the most wonderful, fulfilling and enlightening experience of my life.

Personal Statement

I would like to serve on the Chicago Metropolis Council to continue to give of my time, talents and treasure to contribute to the growth and development of our orthodox church. I owe my entire life, every one of my life successes, my family, my friends and my beloved parents to God and His church. It is saddening to me that the world is replete with secular lifestyles and practices that deny God and His creation and continually strive to eliminate faith in God. As a single humanity made in His image and likeness the rapid progression (or rather regression) to a self-centered mentality and deprioritization of the faith in God in robbing us of growth towards becoming truly human as God's original purpose for us.

We need to work ever harder to counteract this negative state of existence by living a life which serves as an example, a living sacrifice, to our fellow brothers and sisters that we may all together find the true happiness which only God can give us. Having served on the parish council level, I feel that while this has been a very positive work, advancing my efforts to the metropolis council can have a more far reaching effect.

As I have done so in the past, I can contribute that which is related to my field of expertise from a personal level to that of a ministry from a philanthropic faith based work routed in orthodoxy. Admittedly, I have had some difficulty placing my God given skills in the dental field into one of the matrix categories listed in the handout guide. Perhaps the "Development and Stewardship" category fits the best.

In one of my conversations with Archdeacon Vasilios we discussed the vision of establishing a metropolis based organization such as one that exists in the Atlanta Metropolis. This group is named HUMS- The Holy Unmercenary Saints: Models of Worship in Spirit and truth." Under the direction of Metropolitan Alexios this is an organization of doctors, dentists and health care individuals whose goal is to "Cultivate Spiritual and Physical Wellness in a World of Illness." Volunteering services to people who lack the means to afford healthcare in underserved communities is a platform through which our faith based philanthropy can spread and flourish.

I am grateful to have been given this opportunity to apply for membership to serve on the council pray that my talents, time and treasure can be helpful in a capacity fitting for the metropolis council.

GEORGE LATTAS

Saints Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills, Illinois



George Lattas has served as a member of the parish council of Sts. Constantine & Helen for the past ten years, and as a member of its executive committee for the last two years. As chairman of the Philanthropy Committee, he has raised over \$100,000 in funds for direct use in philanthropic endeavors in the name of the parish. He has also spearheaded the revisions to the parish bylaws, served on the Koras Elementary School Board, served as chair of the Stewardship Committee, and is also a member of the choir.

He concurrently serves as a Vice-President of the Metropolis Council of the Metropolis of Chicago who has been closely involved in revising the administrative and ministerial structure of the Metropolis and implementing the vision of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathaniel. In addition to this experience, George serves as the Vice Chairman of the DePaul University College of Law Dean's Advisory Council and as a Director of the Hellenic Bar Association of Illinois.

George leads a law practice that focuses on commercial real estate and corporate transactions with offices in Chicago and Oakbrook Terrace. He has been recognized by his peers as leader in the industry by such publications as Leading Lawyer and Superlawyers and has been featured on local news for his real estate knowledge. He obtained his bachelor's degree in finance (Honors) and economics, and Juris Doctorate/Master of Business Administration from DePaul University. George teaches college courses in Business Law and is a mentor to many undergraduate and law students.

GEORGE LATTAS

Saints Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills, Illinois

Personal Statement

I believe that I would be a good candidate to continue to serve on the Metropolis Council because doing so affords me the ability to demonstrate by faith, apply my skills, and do some good in the community that has formed the person that I am. Having had the honor of being appointed to the Metropolis Council this past term, I have seen the hard work that goes into administering the parishes that comprise our Metropolis and blessed to have played a small role in doing so these past two years.

Additionally, I believe that the Metropolis of Chicago is an exciting time in its history as we endeavor to find a permanent home that will permit us to minister to the needs of the faithful and to the community that we have been a part of for over a century. I believe that my skills as a commercial real estate attorney will add value in this specific regard but will also help by bringing a proven problem-solver to bear on the issues and matters facing the Metropolis.

I have served on the board of various philanthropic organizations throughout my career. Most recently, I was appointed the Vice-President of the Metropolis Council of Chicago and have been involved in the decision-making process effecting our Metropolis. I hope to continue to have the opportunity to serve on the Metropolis Council and to work towards implementing His Eminence Metropolitan Nathaniel's vision that would see our Metropolis grow in every way – physically with more parishes, but more importantly by growing the number of Christians to the eternal truths of our Orthodox faith.

As a member of the Metropolis Council, I hope to continue to be a vocal supporter of our philanthropic endeavors, where we are able to demonstrate our faith in Jesus Christ by doing what He called us to do: to feed the hungry and clothe the poor, to visit with the sick and welcome in the stranger. I have raised funds at our parish level toward this end and believe that these efforts can be duplicated and magnified at the Metropolis level.

PRESVYTERA EVANGELIA MARCH, PH.D.

Holy Transfiguration, Mason City, Iowa



Presvytera Evangelia March grew up in Cyprus. She received her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and, while working in the public schools, she discovered her eagerness to support students with disabilities in their learning. A Fulbright Scholarship, in 1998, allowed her to complete a Master's degree in Special Education at the University of Virginia. She continued her studies at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and received her Ph.D. in Special Education. Over the course of her graduate studies, she received multiple honors and scholarships, including the Makarios Scholarship/Lappas Award, the Hellenic Link-Midwest Scholarship for Excellence, multiple William Chandler Bagley Scholarships, the European Union Center at UIUC Travel Grant, the Gerald H. Read Laureate Scholarship, multiple Educational Grants from the A.G. Leventis Foundation (France), and the Illinois International Graduate Achievement Award.

In 2004, she accompanied her husband, Fr. Nicholas March, to Holy Cross School of Theology, where she studied Byzantine Music. In 2009, they returned to Cyprus and she resumed her career in public education. While in Cyprus, they welcomed their four children and they travelled extensively to Orthodox sites in the Holy Land, Egypt, Greece, Romania and Turkey.

She has over 25 years of accumulated experience as an educator: a public school teacher, a Sunday school director/teacher, an adult book-study leader, a camp counselor, a Greek-language teacher and a vacation-church-school director. She continues to practice Byzantine music and she offers her talents to her parish, her family and to anyone who might participate in the programs she organizes.

She currently lives in Mason City IA, where she and her husband serve the Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church.

Personal Statement

A native of Cyprus, and a world traveler, I carry a multifaceted perspective of the presence of the Orthodox Faith in the world, based on the areas where I have lived and which I visited. I rest on the Fullness of the Orthodox Christian Faith and the Truth that the Orthodox Christian Church is the Church founded by Christ, the Church that all people should call "Home".

PRESVYTERA EVANGELIA MARCH, PH.D.

Holy Transfiguration, Mason City, Iowa

My background in Special Education qualifies me well for listening to people's lived experiences and deciphering the level of support they need in their attempts to establish a closer connection with God and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

I have come across Orthodox Christians who have never heard that the Orthodox Church is the One, True, Christ's Church. This timeless message needs to be reiterated and substantiated, so people who are currently in our Churches have no doubt about their Faith and the way we worship. This timeless message needs to be clearly visible in the ways we organize and fund our churches, through our stewardship programs, in our educational approaches for all groups of people, in our outreach efforts towards the needy, in our evangelical course to bring God's people into the One, True Church.

With such a vision, our mature populations will find rest in Christ's teachings as they enter successive seasons in their lives; our parents will find direction as they nurture their children; our single adults and young adults will find purpose in serving the Orthodox Church; our younger generations will establish secure foundations as they navigate life and make decisions for their futures.

We live in an era when our Orthodox Christian Values are persecuted, our choices are ridiculed, and our paths are deliberately clouded. We need to cultivate awareness so that our fellow Orthodox Christians, young and mature ones, do not waver as they go through life. There is urgency for our endeavors.

Intentionality is mandatory. The Church needs to recruit responsible, faithful people who will stand up for our Orthodox Faith and will reach out for each hand that seeks a secure path towards salvation.

I guide my four children in the Orthodox Church and intentionally nurture them with the Teachings and the Practices of our Faith. With the same vigor, I have promised to guide every person who walks through the doors of our parish in Mason City, IA. Every human deserves to experience the message of our Lord, with clarity and focus. If we establish congregations grounded in the Truths of the Orthodox Faith, others around us will be saved.

I firmly believe that we are surrounded by people who are searching for the Truth: the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Let's be the Hands of Christ in the world and let's embrace all those who are searching for a deeper connection with our Triune God. Let's put our Orthodox Faith in Action!

I have been blessed in our very first assignment in the US. The church that we serve has presented to us multiple opportunities for putting our Orthodox Faith in Action. I have quietly and actively collaborated with my husband, towards deciphering the needs of the individual parishioners, the parish as a whole, the city in which we live and the surrounding community we serve.

Diligently, together, we are continually understanding the ever-changing spiritual needs of our people so that we may design appropriate, Faith-based programs for youth and adults; we are looking for ways to inspire commitment to the parish and increased participation in the liturgical life of the Church; we are informing our people about resources, conferences and camps that might be of interest; we are visiting the homeless and are fundraising for the local homeless shelter; we are connecting with non-orthodox groups; we are extending "the hands of Christ" so that Orthodoxy may be visible in this remote community that we serve.

I faithfully serve in ministry, daily reflecting with my husband on issues of the parish life, offering my lifetime experiences for the betterment of his service and the Glory of God. I would be honored to serve on the Metropolis Council in order to understand the needs of our congregations across parishes and engage in constructive discussion towards empowering Orthodox Christians to express our Faith, today, in the communities where we live and work.

Orthodox Christians in Action are the best ambassadors of the teachings of our Lord and the ultimate contributors towards sustaining and increasing the Body of Christ.

NICHOLAS MILLISSIS

Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago, Illinois



Nicholas is Chief of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Fraud Detection and National Security Unit for the Midwest. He directs a group of investigators, intelligence officers and analysts based out of five field offices (Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Milwaukee, and Des Moines) covering a six-state area. Prior to joining government service, he was an attorney in private practice concentrating in immigration law.

Nicholas has served on the Parish Council of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Chicago for more than ten years, has held various positions on the board and has served as President twice. He has provided many hours of pro bono legal work to the Church and various other Hellenic-based charities. His entire family plays an active role in the Church and its ministries. They are stewards of the Annunciation Cathedral of Chicago and St. John the Baptist in Des Plaines.

Nicholas has served as an elected Park District Commissioner and two terms as Alderman of the 2nd Ward of the City of Park Ridge. During his six years as Alderman, he served as the City's Public Safety Chairman and worked closely with Police and Fire to ensure the community's safety. During his time as Alderman, he dealt with issues such as flooding, government debt and economic development.

Nicholas holds a degree in Psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Juris Doctorate from the Chicago-Kent College of Law. He has been admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court Bars of Illinois and District of Columbia. Nicholas received a graduate certificate in Strategic Organizational Management from Northwestern University and completed the Naval Postgraduate School's Center of Homeland Defense and Security, Executive Leaders Program.

NICHOLAS MILLISSIS

Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago, Illinois

Personal Statement

I believe it is imperative that the Annunciation Cathedral of Chicago, the seat of our Metropolitan and center of our Metropolis have a representative on the Metropolis Council. This has not been the case for more than four years. In addition to Annunciation being the mother church of our Metropolis it is a vibrant and developing parish serving the downtown area of Chicago. The community holds valuable property in the heart of Chicago's Gold Coast that has been the subject of repeated attempts and plans to develop a Cathedral/Metropolis center by several developers. As these matters have significant impact on our entire Metropolis it is only logical that a representative of the Annunciation Cathedral Parish be included on the Metropolis Council. I have humbly accepted the nomination to be the candidate for the Metropolis council by my community.

More importantly, as an attorney, former elected official, and current federal government executive I have a skillset that would be of use to the council and in service to the furtherance of His Eminence's vision for our Metropolis. My biographical note provides more details as to my professional background and education, so I won't repeat those here. I am particularly adept and experienced in the area of communications. I have run three successful campaigns for local office. I have dealt with the press both in my elected capacity as city alderman and in my current position as an executive with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. I know how to effectively communicate a message and effectuate a vision. I have successfully built coalitions and consensus in order to achieve goals throughout my career in government and in my six years as alderman. I have existing relationships with press outlets and can create additional contacts with both traditional media and social media. As part of my daily duties, I help create press releases and work with journalists to convey information about complex investigations and prosecutions that my office handles. As an alderman I was regularly interviewed by journalists and interacted with local press on matters of zoning, development, city budgets and public safety.

I would be happy to bring the experience and level of comfort I have with the press and media to the council and find additional ways to increase the Metropolis' profile and communicate His Eminence's vision to a larger audience. I would also like to work on ways to increase engagement with young adults and young families. I believe they are the future of our Metropolis, and we need to find effective ways to keep them informed and engaged with our church.

EFFIE PANOS

Saints Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills, Illinois



Effie Panos is a life-long member of Saints Constantine and Helen, Palos Hills and a graduate of Koraes Elementary School. She is currently serving as the Co-Treasurer for the Metropolis of Chicago. She is a current member of their Parish Council and is a Board Member of the St. Helen's Philoptochos. Previously she had served as President and Treasurer for the Koraes Parent Teacher Association and Treasurer for St. Helen's Philoptochos. Professionally, she is the Vice President of Not for Profit for Quattrro Business Support Services specializing in outsourced Accounting, Human Resource and IT services for organizations around the world. In the 8 years that she has been there, Effie helped grow the Not for Profit vertical by 500%. Effie is an accomplished leader and business operations specialist with a strong portfolio of contributions for over 30 years. She has led for profit and not for profit organizations to organizational improvement, profitability and efficiency through well-orchestrated enhancements of internal processes, procedures and applications. A proven self-starter and team player, she brings a blend of management and extensive not for profit accounting experience, with an outstanding record of expanding responsibility and achievement. A motivated problem solver, she utilizes intuitive and analytical strategies to outperform for her clients. Effie holds a BS in Accounting from the University of Illinois. Effie and her husband Paul reside in Orland Park and have two grown children, Nicole and Arris.

EFFIE PANOS

Saints Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills, Illinois

Personal Statement

I am currently serving my first term as the Co-Treasurer for the Metropolis of Chicago. My background is in accounting and specifically over 25 years in Not-for-Profit accounting. Currently I have over 100 non-for-profit clients in the Chicago area and across the country. My professional background and experience allow me to bring best practices that are specific to not-for-profit organizations not only in day to day operations but even more importantly the functions of a successful Board including strategic planning and organizational management. In addition, with my operational experience, I have been able to successfully convert the Metropolis of Chicago to a more efficient and cost-effective accounts payable system that has improved the workflow for the office and strengthened their internal controls, segregation of duties and audit trail. In addition, with my experience in managing donor databases, I am to contribute with the planned enhancements to the MOC donor database that will help support the goal of continued growth in the MOC. As a result of my contributions over the last 2 years, I would like to continue in this role. At this point in my career, I feel that I can continue to help the Metropolis serve out its mission and organizational goals. This aligns with my personal goals of giving back to my community through my extensive experience. This is coupled with my strong Orthodox faith and my desire to continue to serve, I believe that I am a qualified candidate for the Metropolis Board.

PAUL RENTZELOS

Saint George, Chicago, Illinois



A Chicago local, baptized at Holy Trinity but attending St. Demetrios-Chicago as an adolescent and St. Haralambos-Niles as a teen and young adult. Paul is a steward at St. George-Chicago since 2008 and serving as the Parish Council president since 2018. Having received a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Technology with an emphasis in Construction Management from Illinois State University in 1995, Paul joined Leopardo Companies, one of the nation's largest commercial builders, as a construction project manager. Serving clients such as The Metropolitan Bank Group, Miglin-Beitler Management, The Hilton Hotels, Chicago Public Schools, Kinko's, and City of Chicago, Paul has extensive experience in all aspects of the building design and construction process.

Today, as the Vice-President of Information Systems and Technology for Leopardo Paul leads the digital transformation, business alignment, strategic planning, implementation, and security of all IT systems.

PAUL RENTZELOS

Saint George, Chicago, Illinois

Personal Statement

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Greek Orthodox Metropolis Council of Chicago, and I would like to share my qualifications and motivations, with a specific focus on my experience related to Real Estate and Technology.

Throughout my career, I have developed a deep passion for both building construction and information technology, and I firmly believe that these skills can be of great benefit to our Greek Orthodox community and why I wish to serve on the Metropolis Council.

One of the primary ways we can enhance our community is by improving our physical spaces. My background in construction management equips me with the knowledge and skills necessary to oversee renovation and construction projects within our Metropolis. I understand the importance of maintaining our churches, community centers, and other facilities to provide safe and welcoming spaces for our members.

In today's rapidly evolving digital age, technology plays a crucial role in connecting and engaging with our community. My expertise in technology allows me to explore innovative solutions for enhancing communication, outreach, and engagement among our parishioners.

Executing effective projects require sound financial planning and management. With my experience in budgeting, cost estimation, and financial oversight, I can ensure that resources are allocated efficiently, and projects stay within budget. This approach will help us maximize the impact of our initiatives while being responsible stewards of our Metropolis' funds.

Sustainability is an important aspect of both construction and technology. I am dedicated to promoting environmentally friendly practices within our community projects. This includes energy-efficient building designs, sustainable construction materials, and responsible technology use to minimize our environmental footprint and set an example for future generations.

Serving on the Metropolis Council requires effective teamwork and communication. My professional experience has honed my ability to collaborate with diverse teams and stakeholders, ensuring that projects run smoothly and that everyone's voices are heard. I am deeply committed to the growth and prosperity of our Greek Orthodox Church. My background uniquely positions me to contribute to the development of our facilities, as well as the implementation of cutting-edge solutions to strengthen our outreach and engagement efforts. I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the Metropolis Council, and I am confident that my expertise will be an asset in realizing our collective vision for a vibrant and connected Greek Orthodox community.

MANTEA KAPATANAKES SCHMID

Saint Elias the Prophet, Dubuque, Iowa



I grew up at St. Andrew GO Church in South Bend, Indiana. I graduated from Indiana University in South Bend (BA) and Western Michigan University (MA). Jack Schmid and I married at St. Andrew in 1985. In January 1986 we moved to Iowa. I joined St. George GO Church in Rock Island, Illinois where I was active and enjoyed Christian fellowship with many fine people who are still my good friends. In 1990, we moved to Dubuque, Iowa and my forever spiritual home became St. Elias the Prophet GO Church.

I have been on the Parish Council since the mid 2000's serving every office. I am presently the PC President. Serving our Lord and my church with my brothers and sisters in Christ of Prophet Elias parish for these many years has always brought me great joy.

In my civic life, I have been an arts advocate in Dubuque, Iowa for more than 30 years. I have been president of the Boards of Trustees for the Dubuque Museum of Art, the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra, and the Dubuque Arts Council. In 2019, I was named the as Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year by the Tri States chapter of AFP.

My husband and I have two sons, John III and Alex.

MANTEA KAPATANAKES SCHMID

Saint Elias the Prophet, Dubuque, Iowa

Personal Statement

I am interested in serving on the Metropolis Council because I think my background in volunteer fundraising can be of help. For thirty years, I have been an arts advocate in the Dubuque community. My efforts for the Dubuque Museum of Art, the Dubuque Arts Council, and the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra have been in board leadership but more importantly in fundraising and development. I have been involved in several capital campaigns for the Dubuque Museum of Art and the Dubuque Symphony. I was the Development Director for the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra Board for many years. In 2019, I was named the Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year by the Tri States Chapter of the AFP (American Fundraising Professionals). I am presently involved in an ongoing \$6 million capital campaign for the Northeast Iowa BSA (Boy Scouts of America).

In my own church, St. Elias the Prophet Greek Orthodox Church in Dubuque, Iowa, I was the capital campaign chair along with Marina O'Rourke for a three-year \$1.2 million campaign to renovate our 1928 historical church building. We realized our goal. For a small parish in a community of 60,000 people that is significant.

Additionally, I am leading the effort for Evangelism and Outreach for our parish. While St. Elias Church has been in Dubuque for nearly 70 years, until we started our recent efforts to take the Gospel and Orthodoxy outside our "four walls," some in our community never realized that there was an Orthodox church in Dubuque. While selling baklava and gyro is a profitable endeavor for us, it is the number of people coming through our doors, seeing our sanctuary, our iconography, and how we worship that is important. I know what some others do not know – while our faith is significant and "the one" -- non-Orthodox may not know this. Evangelism and Outreach means educating others about Orthodoxy because only through illumination comes growth and sustainability.

I am particularly interested in serving on the Metropolis Council because I would represent a demographic that is currently not being served – that is, a small parish outside of the Chicago area. Our parish in Dubuque, Iowa is more typical of most of the parishes in the Metropolis. We are not a large parish with hundreds of families and our main challenge is sustainability. Most of our parishioners are converts and non-ethnic. I believe this is the future of the church outside the metro areas. If Greek Orthodoxy is to continue in these midsize to smaller communities, then Metropolis clergy and lay leadership must be aware of the challenges and realities of these Orthodox parishes. Therefore, appropriate representation on the Metropolis Council is key. I am not an attorney, a physician, or an academic. Though representation from those professions on the Council are important and advantageous, I believe that representation of someone on the ground floor of parish life is also significant and useful.

That being said, I come from a parish is viable and almost a text book example of survival of Orthodoxy in the hinterland for the following reasons – we are in a stable financial condition *without debt*, we own our church building, we have made ourselves visible in our community, and the majority of our parishioners are converts to Orthodoxy.

Finally, and most importantly, my leadership at St. Elias has been primarily due to my faith and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and my desire to serve Him.

I am not a member of the St. Iakovos Retreat Center Board of Directors or the Metropolis of Chicago Foundation. I was not a member of the Metropolis Council at any time 2015-2017.

YANNI SIANIS

Saint George, Chicago, Illinois



Yanni Sianis is the Chief of Staff of Calamos Investments. Prior to his current position, Yanni served as Vice President of Global Business Development and was responsible for managing both domestic and international relationships for the private and institutional channels. He joined the firm in 2010 as a Wealth Adviser with Calamos Wealth Management. Prior to joining Calamos, Yanni was a senior derivatives broker and trader at LaSalle Global. He previously served as Vice President of Business Development and Director of the GCC (Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf) and the Middle East at America 2030 Equity, a private equity firm outside of Chicago.

Yanni earned a B.A. from Boston University, an M.A. in Industrial Psychology from National Louis University and an AMP from the University of Chicago, Booth School of Business.

Yanni is active in the Greek American community and is currently serving his second term on the Metropolis Council of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, is Chairman of Project Hope – a Humanitarian Ministry, a Board Member of the American Hellenic Institute, an Executive Committee Member of the Board of the National Hellenic Museum, a member of Leadership 100 and the National Hellenic Society, and an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Order of St. Andrew.

YANNI SIANIS

Saint George, Chicago, Illinois

Personal Statement

I am seeking nomination for a seat on the Metropolis Council for the upcoming term for three main reasons.

First, I would be serving on my third consecutive term, all under the leadership and guidance of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael. Because of the time that I have committed and spent with H. E. and the clergy and laity members, I feel as if I have a strong understanding of the Metropolis Council's vision, objectives and needs to help it to continue to grow and support each of our 58 parishes in 6 states.

Second, I am a member of Leadership 100 and an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This, along with being a Parish Council member at St. George of Chicago, makes me feel that my overall involvement within the mother church provides me with a somewhat holistic and comprehensive view of the needs of our Metropolis and local parishes/ community.

Third, I have been serving as Chairman of Project HOPE since its inception in 2020. While we have achieved some impactful milestones, having served 1,000,000 meals to those in need and having provided shelter for over 3,500 individuals, our work has just begun and I am confident that for me to continue to help lead this important ministry toward its true potential, serving on the Metropolis Council is a must.

TOM SIKORAL

Holy Taxiarchai & Saint Haralambos, Niles, Illinois



Tom is currently the Sr Vice President of Corporate Real Estate at U.S. Bank – a seasoned leader and accomplished asset management professional who creates a highly productive team of over 200 employees and delivers winning strategies to achieve cost effectiveness and growth.

With over 27 years of management experience, Tom has a broad scope of industry knowledge in the management of all aspects of leasing activities including contract negotiations, financial analysis, budget control, customer satisfaction and employee development.

Tom and his family are very active members of the Greek American community.

He currently is Co-Treasurer for the Chicago Metropolis Council, and the Parish Council President and Assistant Athletic Director for Holy Taxiarchai & Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church in Niles, Illinois. He lives in Morton Grove, Illinois with his wife Anastasia and their three children: Stavros, Alexandra, and Nikolas.

TOM SIKORAL

Holy Taxiarchai & Saint Haralambos, Niles, Illinois

Personal Statement

I am writing this candidate statement to express my deep passion and commitment to serving our beloved community as a member of the Archdiocese and Chicago Metropolis councils. It is with great humility and reverence that I present myself as a candidate, eager to contribute my skills, knowledge, and unwavering dedication to the growth and flourishing of our community.

First and foremost, my love for the Greek Orthodox faith runs deep within my veins. I have been an active member of this community for many years, cherishing the traditions, teachings, and values that have shaped our church's identity. I am committed to upholding and preserving the rich heritage and spiritual essence of our faith, ensuring that future generations can experience the same profound connection to their Greek Orthodox roots.

Furthermore, I bring a wealth of experience and skills that I believe will be invaluable in serving on the church board. Professionally, I have a background in organizational management, strategic planning, financial management, investing and community engagement. I have successfully led teams and managed projects, demonstrating my ability to navigate complex challenges and implement effective solutions. I am confident that these skills can be directly applied to the various administrative and operational tasks required of council members.

Equally important is my unwavering commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment within our community. I firmly believe that our faith should be a beacon of love, compassion, and unity, embracing people from all walks of life. If given the privilege of serving on the council, I will tirelessly work to ensure that our church remains a safe space where everyone feels accepted, supported, and valued.

Moreover, I am eager to collaborate with fellow board members, clergy, and the wider congregation to identify and address the evolving needs of our community. I will actively seek input, listen attentively, and advocate for initiatives that promote spiritual growth, educational opportunities, and meaningful community outreach. Together, we can nurture a vibrant and thriving Greek Orthodox Church that continues to impact lives positively.

In conclusion, I am honored to be considered as a candidate for the Archdiocese and Metropolis council. My deep love for our faith, coupled with my professional experience and commitment to inclusivity, makes me confident that I can make a meaningful contribution in this role. I humbly ask for your support and the opportunity to serve our church with unwavering dedication, integrity, and passion.

May God bless our community, guide our decisions, and strengthen our bonds as we embark on this shared journey of faith.

GEORGE TARLAS

Saint Nicholas, Saint Louis, Missouri



George co-manages ACG and oversees its Institutional business. As a Senior Managing Director, he helps to set the strategic direction of the firm. George is a member of ACG's Investment Committee, which is comprised of senior members of the organization and whose primary task is to ensure continuity and consistency in its investment recommendations to clients. George works with a broad array of client relationships and brings value to clients through his strategic advisory, portfolio modeling and evaluation, and ongoing education. Prior to joining ACG in 1996, George was a Vice President for Gershman Investment Corp. in St. Louis. He brings a background in finance and real estate and earned his finance degree from the University of Colorado. George is a holder of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation and is a member of the CFA Society of St. Louis and the CFA Institute.

Outside of the firm, George is a member of the City of Town & Country Ways & Means Commission and a Board member of the Burrige Center for Finance at the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado. George also serves on the Grant Committee of Social Venture Partners in St. Louis, which provides financial and hands-on resources to nonprofit organizations that provide educational programs for disadvantaged youth. George is a lifelong active member of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in St. Louis.

GEORGE TARLAS

Saint Nicholas, Saint Louis, Missouri

Personal Statement

As the son of an immigrant from Xylokastro, Greece, I was raised in the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox parish in St. Louis and have had a lifetime of experiences and blessings in our community that serve as the foundation of my values and beliefs. Having the blessing of a 30-year marriage to my wife who grew up in the Catholic community has enlightened me to the opportunity to find the common ground through Christ that has charted our journey. I believe this lived experience is valuable insight into the reality that the preponderance of marriages in our community today are those of mixed faith. Considering this challenge, I would like to join the Metropolis Council to be an impactful contributor to helping to strengthen and grow our Orthodox faith throughout our Metropolis.

My educational and professional background is rooted in finance. Working in the finance/investment industry for 35 years has provided me with a vast breadth of knowledge and experience that has direct application to the management of financial affairs for institutions of all types. It is my expectation that this experience will enable me to provide valuable insight and contribution to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago and its financial initiatives. In addition, I have served on the finance sub-committee of our parish council for the last five years which has given me further insight into the challenges and opportunities parishes in our Metropolis face on an ongoing basis.

With our Greek Orthodox faith as the centerpiece of our daily lives, I see through our children's spiritual strength what is possible. I am motivated to contribute to the Metropolis Council in order to make a difference for current and future generations to grow our Orthodox community.

DEAN G. TORTORELIS, M.D.

Saint Mary's, Minneapolis, Minnesota



Dr. Dean Tortorelis is a private practice Urologist and partner of Minnesota Urology. He is a Board Certified Urologist and Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is a managing partner and a board member of the practice. He also has leadership roles as surgery section chief at North Memorial Health, and as a board member at the Allina Surgery Center.

Notwithstanding his busy practice, Dr. Tortorelis lives his Orthodox faith as a dedicated Greek Orthodox Christian and is engaged in parish life and sacraments. He has been involved in many activities of parish life including parish board vice president, Church School teacher, GOYA basketball coach, and helping to plan and implement church school activities. Dr. Tortorelis has made a pilgrimage to Mount Athos and has visited many monasteries in Greece, often ministering to the health care and needs of the monks. Dr. Tortorelis has led discussions on Men's Health to men of his parish and provides information and care to clergy and laity who call on him throughout the Metropolis and Archdiocese.

DEAN G. TORTORELIS, M.D.

Saint Mary's, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Personal Statement

I have been a faithful and dedicated Greek Orthodox Christian my entire life. My love of Christ and our Greek Orthodox Church is central to my life as I work towards my salvation. My wife, Dena, and my children, Sia, George, and Perry, who we have raised in the Church, are also active members in the Church.

I have been asked to serve on the Metropolis Council and I feel it is my duty to serve the Church and utilize my God given talents to grow our Metropolis of Chicago Greek Orthodox Church and spread the word of our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of our members and all people. The competency matrix I have experience in is communications.

My career as a Urologic Surgeon has given me opportunities to grow and serve in various capacities in the church. We have been members in numerous Greek Orthodox Churches as we moved throughout the U.S. for my training and career. These include churches throughout our Chicago Metropolis (Minneapolis, St Paul, Rockford, Chicago, and Westchester) and in the New York area (New Rochelle). We have been in Minnesota since 2002 and support our local Parishes of St Mary's and St George Greek Orthodox Church. The experience of being members of churches throughout the United States as well as numerous trips to Greece has helped me and my family to grow and understand the rich history of Orthodoxy.

I have been a surgeon for nearly 30 years and been a member of multiple boards. Through this I have evaluated and treated many people of diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. I have learned and cultivated the ability to communicate and discuss a wide variety of personal problems, disease states and treatment options/operations, including cancer treatments. With these experiences I have developed and matured to be able to communicate and foster a relationship with patients, so they feel at ease and feel I am approachable to discuss most anything. As a private practice urologist and managing partner of Minnesota Urology I have been involved in new technologies for treatment of urologic diseases. I have trained other surgeons, young adults interested in medicine, medical students as well as the public via community talk and health videos and television segments.

My experience as a managing partner of Minnesota urology and as surgery section chief at my local hospital has given me the experience to communicate and develop relationships with other surgical/medical specialties, hospital administrations, medical industry, device companies and media. I am responsible for maintaining surgical standards of excellence of our surgical staff and applicants for privileges to our hospital. I am also responsible for intervening in crisis situations regarding patient care and staff.

I wish to utilize my talents to contribute to the Metropolis council of Chicago by problem solving and networking. My hope is to build an image and identity of the Chicago Metropolis that spreads the message and teachings of Jesus Christ and our Orthodox faith throughout our metropolis to all people and assist our parishes to grow.



METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO