

CONSTITUTION
OF THE SACRED CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES OF
THE GREEK ARCHDIOCESE OF THYATEIRA AND GREAT BRITAIN
EXARCHATE OF WESTERN EUROPE, IRELAND AND MALTA

This Constitution was approved during the First Clergy-Laity Conference of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, held in London on 24th October 1964, and was subsequently supplemented by the Second Clergy-Laity Conference in Glasgow on 20th October 1965, the Third Conference in Birmingham on 20th October 1968 and the Fourth in Manchester on 10th November 1970. The present Constitution was approved and ratified by the Ecumenical Patriarchate by document protocol no. 322 on 5th April 1971.

Introduction. Interpretation of Ecclesiastical Terms.

1. THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

By this term is meant the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, founded by our Lord Jesus Christ, who is its Head. Church membership comprises all Orthodox Christians worldwide, the Leadership being the Assembly of Patriarchs and Bishops of the local Orthodox Churches, with primus inter pares being the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.

2. THE HELLENIC CHURCH

In general, the Greek Orthodox Church is the Eastern Orthodox Church of Christ and in particular comprises the plenitude of Orthodox Christians, Clergy and Laity of Greek origin worldwide.

3. THE GREEK CHURCH OF GREAT BRITAIN

All Greek Orthodox Christians living in this country, their Spiritual Authority being the Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, having exarchal jurisdiction in Western Europe, Ireland and Malta, and canonically subject to the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

4. THE MEMBERS

Members of the Orthodox Church are generally deemed to be all baptised Christians, living according to its Sacramental life and who observe the faith, provisions and Sacred Canons of this Church. Members of the Greek Church of Great Britain are all Greek Orthodox Christians who are subject to the spiritual leadership of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain and those living in the countries of its Exarchate and who are devoted, faithful and active participants in Greek Orthodox worship and the Organisation and Management of the Archdiocese and of its local Communities, morally and materially assisting the Archdiocese and the Holy Churches and practising the faith and holy traditions of Orthodoxy and abiding by the decisions of the Clergy-Laity Conferences of the Greek Communities of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain.

5. THE COMMUNITY

All Greek Orthodox Christians in a city or part of a city, who are subject to the Spiritual Leadership of the Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, and who are ministered to by a canonical Priest or Priests and served by an Administrative Council representing the Laity for the management of

Community affairs. The Council is elected by virtue of the Constitution of the Communities of this Holy Archdiocese.

6. THE PARISH

The organised body of Greek Orthodox Christians residing in a city or a region, subject to the Spiritual Leadership of the Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain and ministered to by a canonical Priest sent periodically by the Archdiocese or by a neighbouring Community, and served by a Council elected by virtue of the Constitution of the Communities of this Holy Archdiocese.

7. THE CLERGY-LAITY CONFERENCE

The Supreme Governing Body of the Communities and Parishes of the Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, convened every two years by the Archbishop who serves as its canonical Chairman.

8. THE COMMUNITY GENERAL MEETING

The officially convened meeting of members of a Community called upon to consider and decide upon Community matters, convened by the Administrative Council, chaired by the Chairman of the Community, the proceedings of which are opened with a prayer and the workings of which are supervised by the priest-in-charge of the Community.

9. THE CENTRAL EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL

The body of Community and School Committee representatives based in the Holy Archdiocese, working under the Chairmanship of the Archbishop for the advancement and furthering of Greek Education in Great Britain.

10. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The body based in the Holy Archdiocese for the study and advancement of catechism in Great Britain, chaired by the Archbishop or his representative.

11. THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE BENEVOLENT SISTERHOODS

The body of Ladies based in the Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain is known as the Greek Orthodox Charity Organisation, and is represented locally by Ladies' Auxiliary Committees, for the study of matters concerning Social Welfare and for the organisation of charity and benevolence, chaired by the Archbishop for the time-being.

12. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF GREEK ORTHODOX YOUTH

The body based in the Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, chaired by a representative of the Archbishop, consisting of representatives of organised local Youth groups whose objective is to establish local branches so as to safeguard and promote the Holy traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church.

13. THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE

The body of Greek Orthodox Christians, elected by the Archbishop in consultation with the members of the Board of Trustees (the TRUST), chaired by the Archbishop, representing the Communities, associations and businesses of the Greek Orthodox population, with a view to considering and deciding upon the financial affairs of the Archdiocese and to manage its assets. All the Archdiocese's moveable or immoveable property is legally registered in their name.

14. THE ARCHBISHOP'S COUNCIL

The body of Greek Orthodox Christians appointed by the Archbishop acting as Chairman, in which the Clergy and Laity are represented, in order to manage the Archdiocese's current financial, social and logistical services. Appointment to the Council is made by the Archbishop for the time-being in consultation with the members of the Archdiocesan Board of Trustees.

15. THE SPIRITUAL COURT

The body functioning within the Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira, examining spiritual cases of Family Law and other instances relating to the religious and general life of Clergy and Laity.

16. THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (THE TRUSTEES)

This term signifies the Christians appointed by the General Meeting in consultation with the Holy Archdiocese in whose name the moveable or immoveable property of the Communities is registered, as applicable in Great Britain.

17. THE COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The Administrative Body of a Community, comprising law-abiding members who are pious and dedicated to the ecclesiastical traditions of the Nation of Greek Orthodox Christians, elected every two years from the list of ordinary members called upon to manage Community affairs and to promote Community aims.

FUNDAMENTAL ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE ONE

“Name and Aims of the Community”

The name of the Community is: GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF READING / ST ELIAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF BERKSHIRE.

THE AIMS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The safeguarding and propagation of the Orthodox Christian Faith and Tradition, as encapsulated in the Holy Scriptures, as interpreted by the Seven Ecumenical Councils and Local Councils endorsed by them, as preserved and taught in the usage of the Great Church of Christ, the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople.
2. The preservation of the original language of the Gospels during Divine Worship and also in the ecclesiastical life of the faithful; and the ministering to the People through valid divine services celebrated according to the Rites of the Great Church by Canonical Priests and through sermons, catechism and language Schools.
3. The establishment of Holy Churches for the worship of the Triune God and of Schools for the provision of Greek Orthodox Education.
4. The initiation into the Orthodox Faith by Baptism or Chrismation of all persons who freely decide and earnestly desire to be admitted into the Orthodox Faith, in order to live according to the spiritual and moral teachings of this Faith.
5. The charitable provision for those who are in need of protection and support and medical care, at the same time for the provision of the burial of impoverished brothers and sisters who have reposed in the Lord.

ARTICLE TWO

“Ecclesiastical Authority”

1.

The Ecclesiastical Authority of the GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF READING / ST ELIAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF BERKSHIRE, is the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, subject canonically to the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

2. The Community participates in the decisions of the Clergy-Laity Conferences of the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain by means of its representatives and complies with such decisions. Each Community is entitled to one vote.
3. Every year the Community submits its annual report and a budget to the Archdiocese and fully collaborates with the representative of the Archdiocesan Auditing Committee during the examination and inspection of its account books.
4. It seeks the help and guidance of the Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain on all matters and discusses with it what has been suggested.
5. It makes an annual contribution to the Archdiocese of a sum which is agreed by the Administrative Council through a vote, pursuant to the decisions of the Clergy-Laity Conferences.

ARTICLE THREE

“Members”

1. Members of the Community are all baptised Greek Christians having completed their 20th year who respect the Community’s Constitution and believe in and live the Faith of the Greek Orthodox Church and who pay their annual subscription to the Community. Members are also invited to make a voluntary annual contribution to the Holy Archdiocese of one pound.
2. Spouses (whether male or female) of Orthodox Christian Greeks of non-Greek origin and unmarried individuals of non-Greek origin may become members of the Community provided that they have been received into the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, after attending Catechism classes and provided that they abide by the Community’s Constitution.
3. No person of Greek or non-Greek origin shall become a member of the Community if (s)he does not belong to the Greek Orthodox Church or if (s)he belongs to a Church or a Community that is not a member of the Greek Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain or if (s)he belongs to another Christian denomination or to a subversive or atheist organisation.
4. New members having paid their annual subscription to the Community six months in advance of the elections are entitled to vote and to be elected to the Administrative Council of the Community. Existing members who have paid their contributions for the previous three years are entitled to vote and to be elected by virtue of renewing their subscription three months prior to the elections. One pound (£1) is forwarded to the Archdiocese for each member, which is collected together with the member’s subscription to the Community.

ARTICLE FOUR

“Priests”

1. The priest-in-charge of the Community is appointed by the Archbishop in consultation with the Community’s Administrative Council. Together they will decide on his remuneration as well as payment for any additional duties that may possibly occur. The priest-in-charge shall be educated in Theology and have ecclesiastical experience. In addition, he shall:
2. Strictly comply with the provisions of the Constitution and the Ecclesiastical Canons.
 - If he is not a member of the Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain he shall be in possession of a Canonical Letter of Release.
 - He will officiate at the Divine Liturgy and administer the Holy Sacraments in accordance to the Ceremonial Provisions of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
 - He will preach the Divine Word.
 - He will manage the Sunday School.
 - Time permitting, he will teach at the Greek School.
 - He will regulate all matters concerning the Divine Services.
 - He will supervise the cleaning and good maintenance of the church.
 - He will safeguard the church’s Holy Vessels and oversee their maintenance in a good condition.
 - He will undertake Registrar’s duties by registering, in the appropriate books,

all marriages, baptisms and funerals and issue the relevant certificates, which are certified by the Archdiocese.

- He will correspond with the Archdiocese on all spiritual matters and co-sign all community documents issued by the Community's Office together with the President and Secretary of the Community.

3. In addition to the priest-in-charge, other priests holding the same qualifications may also be employed to concelebrate with him or on their own. On his instructions, they may also attend to urgent situations such as the administration of Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Baptism in an emergency.

- They may assist the priest-in-charge in delivering the sermon.
- They may assist in the organisation of Sunday schools.
- They may teach at the Greek school.
- They may refer to the Archdiocese and to the Community Council for any matter related to their service in the church.
- During the Divine Liturgy, the priest-in-charge and his assistants shall commemorate the name of the current Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain. They shall also commemorate the names of the Kings of Greece and the Monarchs of Great Britain during the Litanies referred to as the "Eirinika" and Sacred Services. During the Great Entrance they shall only use the words "May the Lord God remember you all ...".
- Cantors and sextons are answerable to the authority of the priest-in-charge and they shall faithfully and scrupulously obey his orders. They are appointed by the Administrative Council in consultation and agreement with the priest-in-charge. If deemed necessary, the Administrative Council may order their dismissal after receiving a written report from the priest-in-charge co-signed by the assistants.

4. The priest-in-charge on account of his official rank shall represent the Archbishop in the Community and on its Council. In addition, for this reason he participates in Council meetings, without voting rights but with his opinions being recorded in the minutes of meetings.

5. During the execution of his duties, the priest-in-charge shall cooperate with the Council and shall contribute to the financial advancement of the Community, by teaching the congregation from the Pulpit and through Circulars reminding them to fulfil their financial obligations towards the Community. He shall undertake fundraising and shall maintain a register of Christians which is kept up-to-date for mailing purposes in order to send out Community letters and announcements.

6. It is not permitted for the priest-in-charge and his fellow priests to take leave of absence from the Community without the Council's agreement and the prior written permission of the Archdiocese. - Upon being transferred, he shall deliver to his successor, by means of a document of conveyance, all the Holy Vessels and the Community registers, sending a copy of the same to the Holy Archdiocese. - The priest-in-charge and his assistants are entitled to 30 days' leave for rest and refreshment on full pay, with the agreement of the Community's Administrative Council and written permission from the Archdiocese.

7. Disputes between the Administrative Council and the priest-in-charge of the Community are referred to the Archdiocese for resolution by means of a written report.

ARTICLE FIVE

“Community Property”

1. The Community has absolute ownership on all movable and immovable property belonging to it; property management is subject to State Laws.
2. Immovable property shall be registered in the names of certain fellow Hellenes who are TRUSTEES pursuant to the legal provisions of Great Britain, who hold the Community’s property in trust. The Trustees are appointed by the Community’s Administrative Council in consultation with the Archdiocese, being endorsed by the General Assembly of the Community. In Malta and Ireland, registration of property is subject to the laws of the country.
3. The Administrative Council cannot buy, mortgage or transfer any landed property of the Community without the prior consideration of and examination by the Archdiocese and the General Meeting of the Community. Consent is given following a decision taken by two-thirds of the members present at the General Meeting. Members are notified in writing of the decision to sell 15 days prior to the General Meeting, by means of a letter setting out the items on the agenda, as well as the time and place of the Meeting.
4. In the case of the Community’s dissolution, its property shall devolve to the Archdiocese on condition that it will be allocated to the strengthening of the nearest fully-functioning Greek Orthodox Community, after all local circumstances have been taken into consideration.
5. In case of heresy, schism or a breakaway movement of the Community from the Body of the Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, Community property shall pass to those members of the Community who remain faithful to Orthodoxy and united with the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain pertaining to it.
6. All monies and capital of the current account of the Community are deposited in the Bank and withdrawn by means of a cheque co-signed by the Chairman and the Treasurer, in order to cover the financial needs of the Community, i.e. salaries etc.

ARTICLE SIX

“The Administrative Council”

1. Community affairs will be managed by the Administrative Council of the same, which shall be comprised of not less than twelve (12) Greek Orthodox Christians. Eight (8) of these members shall be elected by members of the Community and four (4) by the Holy Archdiocese, the aim being to integrate the strengths of the Community. Elections will take place every second year on the second Sunday of December.
2. The Administrative Council’s objective, in collaboration with the priest-in-charge, is to serve the aims of the Church. It convenes the General Meetings of the members of the Community and meets regularly (at least once a month) and in emergency session whenever the Chairman considers it essential, or following the recommendations of the priest-in-charge to the Council.
3. A quorum of the General Meeting is obtained when at least half of its members plus one are present at the opening and throughout each session.
4. The Administrative Council clarifies the register of members and this is posted in a suitable place, thirty days before the elections.

5. The Administrative Council may appoint special Committees selected from members of the Community as follows and in accordance with each Community's circumstances:

- a) School Committee, chaired by the Priest, or another person known for his erudition.
- b) Members' Committee, chaired by the Treasurer.
- c) Committee for Feast Days and Church Order, chaired by the Secretary.
- d) Community Matters and Public Relations Committee chaired by the Chairman or his appointee.

6. The Administrative Council collects the church's revenue and issues receipts in respect of any amount incoming to the Community Fund, such as from collections, Holy Rites, gifts, the sale of candles, legacies, etc. Payments are always made by bank cheque. A cheque is issued for Petty Cash which is cashed to cover sundries.

7. The Administrative Council regulates all matters that are not provided for by the Constitution and functions in general in whatsoever way the Community believes to be in its best interest. In the case of necessity, they are entitled to assume obligations beyond the limits of the Budget, up to the amount approved by the General Assembly and this on one occasion only. For greater amounts, it seeks the approval of the Community Meeting.

8. The Administrative Council intervenes in all matters that may create difficulties and anomalies in the Community. In the event that it cannot resolve the matter, it refers it to the Holy Archdiocese, the decision of which is final.

9. The Administrative Council refers Spiritual Matters to the Spiritual Court.

10. In cooperation with the priest-in-charge and the School Board, the Administrative Council appoints teachers to the Community's School or Schools, from the register approved by the Central Board of Education of the Archdiocese. The Analytical Curriculum approved by the Central Board of Education is implemented in the school(s).

11. Only in the event that serious circumstances prevail and given that it has previously obtained the approval of the Central Education Board of Education of the Holy Archdiocese, the Board of Education may terminate teachers' services.

12. The Administrative Council, in collaboration with the priest-in-charge, makes every provision necessary for Divine Worship; it maintains good order during it, attends religious services regularly and sets an example for the pious fulfilment of Christian duties.

13. The Administrative Council draws up the Annual Financial Reports: the financial year begins on 1st January and ends on 31st December.

14. The budget is submitted to the General Meeting for approval, copies of the same being made available to the Holy Archdiocese.

15. Administrative Councils serving Communities may recruit 3-4 members of the younger generation, who have the right to sit in at sessions, so as to be trained in administering Community and related Affairs.

ARTICLE SEVEN

“Elections”

1. Election to the Administrative Council of the Community takes place either by the Holy Archdiocese choosing by merit from a register of older and younger members of the Community who are known for their piety, accomplishments and education, or from regular members of the Community. The election method is decided upon by the Community. If elections are to take place by members voting, then the Administrative Council announces elections during the Members’ General Meeting in the second week of November by posting a list of eligible Community members and also by notifying members in writing as to the election date and place and requesting the nomination of candidates. The deadline for candidates to be registered on the list is 9pm on the Thursday before the Second Sunday in December.
2. Elections take place in the church on Sunday or on a day designated by the Council and the Priest of the Community, between 9am and 6pm.
3. The Supervisory Committee overseeing the election is chaired by the priest-incharge. It comprises four Greek Orthodox Christians who were elected by the General Meeting in November. Votes are counted after 6pm and the candidates who have received the highest number of votes are announced.
4. In the event of a tie, lots are drawn. In the case that there are not sufficient candidates, the Archdiocese will complete the number by virtue of merit.
5. The Election is valid regardless of the number of votes cast. In the event of there not being a full schedule of candidates for members of the Administrative Council of the Community, the Archbishop completes the number by virtue of merit.
6. Following the outcome of the vote a written report is drawn up which is signed by the Chairman and sent to His Eminence the Archbishop. He appoints the successful candidates and sends them their Letters of Appointment.
7. If for whatever reason, one, two or three members of the Ecclesiastical Council resign, then their replacements are selected from the runners-up. If there no runners-up, then the Archbishop in agreement with the remaining members of the Administrative Council, arranges, within fifteen days (15) for the election of new members drawn from the Community’s register. If the entire Council resigns before the end of its term, then the Archdiocese appoints a temporary Council in order to conduct new elections, on the basis of the foregoing paragraphs of this article.
8. The resignation of the Council or its Members is submitted in writing to the Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain, stating the reasons for the resignation. In the case of the resignation of one, two or three Council members the Archbishop informs the Church Council of this and invites it to seek replacements from other members of the Community. In the case that the resignation entails the majority of or the entire Council, then the priest-in-charge of the church is entrusted with organising new elections according to the provisions of the foregoing paragraphs of this article.
9. If an elected Councillor declines to take up his position, he is obliged to inform the Archdiocese of this in writing. If, however, he fails to accept his appointment in writing within three weeks from the date of the election, then he is considered as having declined and the first runner-up is invited to fill the position. If the entire Council declines to take up its duties, then the Archbishop orders new elections according to the provisions of paragraph 7 of this article.
10. The elected Ecclesiastical Councillors shall in due course arrange with their predecessors the handing over of the books, receipt books, correspondence, seals, and all of the church’s property in

general, this being on the basis of an official document signed by both the outgoing Council and the incoming one.

11. In the event of the outgoing Ecclesiastical Council declining to hand over the management of the church to the incoming Council, then an emergency session of the Community's General Meeting is convened which examines the matter and takes all legal measures so as to safeguard the church's property and the maintenance of the provisions of this Constitution.

12. The following may not be elected to the Community's Administrative Council:

- a) Non-Greek Orthodox Christians.
- b) Those who have not been resident in the district for at least a year.
- c) Those who are under 21.
- d) New members who have not paid their subscription in accordance with article 3, paragraph 4.
- e) Former councillors who have misappropriated Community or church property.
- f) Persons who have been convicted by a Court of Justice and served a prison sentence.
- g) Christians who are under spiritual censure, until such time as they receive absolution from the Archbishop.
- h) Persons in receipt of a salary from the Community.
- i) In the case that one of those described above participates in the election, then this will invalidate the results.

13. The election results are recorded in the minutes of the Community Meeting and are signed by the Chairman of the Electoral Committee and its members, with a report and a copy of the minutes being sent to the Archdiocese for approval. After approval has been received, those elected convene in session and elect a Community Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer from amongst themselves. The priest-in-charge chairs this Council meeting. After approval has been given by the Archdiocese, the priest-in-charge decides on the Sunday during which the swearing in or affirmation of the new Administrative Council will take place. The members of the Administrative Council declare as follows in front of the Congregation:

"Having our hand on the Book of the Gospels, we reverently and sincerely declare that we will faithfully observe the Doctrines, Teachings, Traditions, Sacred Canons and moral precepts of the Greek Orthodox Church; and that we will respect and apply the provisions of the Constitution of the Communities of the Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, faithfully and sincerely carrying out the duties for which we have been elected, in obedience to the Ecclesiastical Authorities. May God be our guide".

14. In the absence of such an attestation, the Administrative Council may not assume its duties.

15. Any member refusing to attest as above will be replaced by one of the runners-up.

ARTICLE EIGHT

“Officers’ Duties”

1. The Chairman:

- a) Summons all the Meetings of the Administrative Council.
- b) Opens the Meetings of the Administrative Council with a prayer that is said by the Priest.
- c) Introduces the items on the Agenda.
- d) Leads the discussions. He accepts proposals, puts issues to a vote, gives the floor and removes the same privilege from those who misuse it, and if the need arises he dissolves the meeting in the event that his requests for due order are not respected.
- e) Is obliged to sign the Minutes, together with the Secretary and the priest-in-charge, in addition to all outgoing documents, as well as counter-signing all cheques together with the Treasurer.
- f) Exercises the authority which his Chairmanship gives him in accordance with the Law and this Constitution.

2. Deputy Chairman’s Duties.

The Deputy Chairman has the same rights and responsibilities when acting as Chairman.

3. Secretary’s Duties. The Secretary:

- a) Keeps the Community seal.
- b) Is present at every Meeting of the Administrative Council and at the General Assemblies and keeps the Minutes of the same.
- c) Maintains the official correspondence and the Community’s archive.
- d) Signs the Community’s outgoing correspondence together with the Chairman and the priest-in-charge.
- e) Hands over to his successor with everything being in order, based on a formal document, a copy of which being sent to the Archdiocese.
- f) If the Secretary is unable to fulfil all his duties, the Administrative Council is permitted to appoint a salaried Special Secretary who does not have the right to vote.

4. Treasurer’s Duties. The Treasurer.

- a) Receives the revenue of the Community and deposits the same in a Bank Account held in the name of the Community in a Bank decided on by the Administrative Council.
- b) Keeps the account books as well as a specific ledger of income and expenditure.
- c) Countersigns the cheques together with the Chairman.

- d) Safeguards the Community's money by taking out adequate insurance for himself, the Premiums being paid out of the Community's funds.
- e) Hands over to his successor with everything being in order, based on a formal document, a copy of which being sent to the Archdiocese.

ARTICLE NINE

"General Meetings of the Community"

1. The Community holds two Regular General Meetings:

One takes place on a Sunday in November or on another day as determined by the Administrative Council, for which the Council draws up a Report of the decisions taken, makes reference to the next elections and seeks candidates for them.

2. Invitations signed by the Chairman, the priest-in-charge and the Secretary, specifying the place, time and agenda of the General Meeting are sent out to Community Members.

3. The second annual General Meeting takes place on the second, third or fourth Sunday after Easter, at which the Community's Financial Report is presented, as well on the condition of the School, and suggestions are made by the Community with a view to improving the Community's prospects.

4. The Chairman of the Ecclesiastical Council chairs the General Meetings, in his absence the Deputy Chairman, and so on. Discussions of a private nature between members are forbidden during meetings. None of the members may speak without the permission of the Chairman, neither may one speak twice on the same subject. When the Chairman decides that a matter under debate has been exhausted, only the proposer has the right to speak again. Differences are settled by a vote under the Chairman's supervision; in the event of a tie, the Chairman has the casting vote.

5. Each proposal or modification introduced to the Meeting for discussion must be supported by one other of those members present at the Meeting having the right to vote, otherwise it is rejected by it. Matters that have been debated are decided upon by majority voting, that is to say fifty percent of the confirmed votes of the members present plus one. The Chairman may order a secret ballot if he considers it useful in such a case.

6. It is not possible to discuss or decide upon any matter at the General Meeting if a minimum of 21 members are not present amongst those Members with a right to vote, including the Chairman, in which case the Meeting is considered to have achieved a quorum. In the event that a quorum is not achieved, the General Meeting is adjourned by the Chair for fifteen days, after which, when reconvened, the Meeting is considered as having reached a quorum regardless of the number of members present.

7. The Meeting may not, despite having achieved a quorum, broach matters for debate which are not included on the agenda sent to Members together with the invitation.

8. Apart from the Regular Community General Meetings, the Administrative Council may call an Emergency meeting whenever it considers it necessary. A meeting may also be called if at least 20 Members request the same in writing.

9. Every General Meeting has the following rights and obligations:

- a) It begins with a prayer led by the priest-in-charge.
- b) It keeps a register of attendance having first checked the identity of all those attending and their legal right to be present.
- c) It keeps a Minutes' book, signed by the Chairman and Secretary as well as the priest-in-charge.
- d) It achieves a quorum when 21 regular Members of the Community are present at the opening and throughout the entire Meeting. In the event that a quorum cannot be achieved, a new General Meeting is called within fifteen days whereby a quorum is considered to have been achieved regardless of the number of Members present.
- e) The Chairman opens and closes the proceedings. The Secretary reads the names of those enrolled in the Members' book so as to determine the figure for the majority by which decisions are taken.
- f) The Secretary reads the Minutes of the previous Meeting, and they are approved after any necessary amendments have been made.
- g) Any matters outstanding from the previous Meeting are addressed.
- h) The budget submitted by the Administrative Council is debated and voted on, after which it is submitted to the Holy Archdiocese for approval.
- i) It modifies the Community's Constitution, in accordance with the decisions of the Clergy-Laity Conference of the Holy Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain.
- j) It decides whether the Community's seal shall bear the image of the church's Saint, or the emblem of the Archdiocese, and a border with the Community's name in Greek and English.

ARTICLE TEN

"Amendments to the Constitution"

The present Articles, with the exception of the First, Second and Third, may be amended, if such amendments serve the needs of the Community. For this to be realised, the members must receive prior notification of the proposed amendments. At the General Meeting, the members will decide upon these amendments or even upon the introduction of new articles which have previously been proposed. The amendments are implemented after they have received the approval of the Holy Archdiocese.

ATHENAGORAS

Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain,
Exarch of Western Europe, Ireland and Malta.

London, 20 October 1968.