The Pious Clergy and Monastics,
The Metropolis Council,
The Metropolis Philoptochos Society,
The Church Choirs,
The Faithful Parishioners of
The Holy Metropolis of Denver

Beloved in the Lord,

CHRISTOS ANESTI!

I am most pleased to announce to you the 44th Biennial Clergy Laity Congress to be held in Boston, Massachusetts on July 1st, through July 5th, 2018. All participants may visit the Archdiocese website or go to https://www.clergylaity.org and register, as well as get updates on pertinent information regarding the Congress.

The current financial situation of the Archdiocese is widely known to our Orthodox communities. Now more than ever, it is important that we all come together as one body in order to seriously discuss and address these challenges concerning the stability of our holy Church. Attached are two Resolutions presented by the Finance Committee of our Denver Metropolis Council, and passed at the Metropolis of Denver Clergy Laity Assembly, held in May of 2017.

(1) RESOLUTION REGARDING PARISH STANDARD DEDUCTION

(2) RESOLUTION REGARDING THE USE OF INCOME FOR TOTAL COMMITMENT

These resolutions have been sent to the Archdiocese with my request to have them included on the Agenda for the Clergy Laity and to be voted on by the Congress. In addition, I am requesting that all the parishes of this Metropolis review these resolutions and send a letter with the Resolutions enclosed to Bishop Andonios, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, requesting that these Resolutions be included as an Agenda item for consideration at the Clergy Laity Congress this summer. Please send prior to June 1, 2018, and copy me, so that I can confirm that your letter has been sent.

I encourage you and I am hopeful that as many members as possible from our Metropolis will attend this year’s Clergy-Laity Congress. There are many important issues that will be presented, which concerns all of us as Orthodox Christians and members of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. With active participation, a positive outcome will emanate, for the edification and sanctification of all the people of the holy Archdiocese as well as this holy Metropolis.

With paternal blessings,

+Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver

2 enclosures
RESOLUTION METROPOLIS OF DENVER CLERGY LAITY ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION REGARDING PARISH STANDARD DEDUCTION

The Local Metropolis of Denver Clergy Laity Assembly, having been convened by His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver in its Plenary Session on May 6, 2017 in Greenwood Village, Colorado in accordance with Article 11 of the Uniform Metropolis Regulations hereby submits the following Resolution for inclusion on the 44th Biennial Archdiocesan Clergy Laity Congress Plenary Session Agenda

Whereas, The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Total Commitment Program is the major funding vehicle for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese; and

Whereas, all parishes are required to participate under the Uniform Parish Regulations (UPR) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; and

Whereas, the Total Commitment Program has a financial bias against smaller parishes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and is more burdensome for smaller parishes that lack the administrative resources to prepare financial information; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Metropolis of Denver Clergy Laity Assembly hereby requests the Archdiocesan Finance Committee to formally amend the Total Commitment Program to include a ‘Standard Deduction’ option for smaller parishes to utilize; thereby simplifying the annual, required process and possibly providing some monetary relief for smaller parishes. A smaller parish would only be allowed to utilize the “Standard Deduction” OR the itemized deductions (whichever is greater) assuming the appropriate Total Commitment Data forms are delivered along with the required financial statements, delineating the Parish’s entire financial picture including all: income, expenses, assets and liabilities.

This resolution passed unanimously
RESOLUTION DENVER METROPOLIS CLERGY LAITY ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE USE OF INCOME FOR TOTAL COMMITMENT

The Local Metropolis of Denver Clergy Laity Assembly, having been convened by His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver in its Plenary Session on May 6, 2017 in Greenwood Village, Colorado in accordance with Article 11 of the Uniform Metropolis Regulations hereby submits the following Resolution for inclusion on the 44th Biennial Archdiocesan Clergy Laity Congress Plenary Session Agenda

Whereas, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Total Commitment Program is the major funding vehicle for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese; and

Whereas, all parishes are required to participate under the Uniform Parish Regulations (UPR) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; and

Whereas, the Total Commitment Program is currently deriving finances based the expenses of a parish rather than the income the parish receives; and

Whereas, Holy Scriptures base financial giving upon income rather than expenses; and

Whereas, Orthodox Christian teaching on giving to the Church is based upon what is received and not on what is spent;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, That the Metropolis of Denver Clergy Laity Assembly hereby requests the Archdiocesan Finance Committee to formally study an amendment to the Total Commitment Program and hereafter be required to report study findings to the next Clergy Laity Congress that will base financial support upon parish income rather than parish expenses.

This resolution passed unanimously.