

STATUTES GOVERNING MISSIONS

(Adopted by the First Assembly of the Diocese of the South, August 25-26, 1978, in Miami, Florida).

I PARISHES

(SEE STATUTE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA).

II MISSIONS

1. Upon the recommendation of the district dean(s), or on his own initiative, the diocesan bishop establishes missions throughout the diocese.
2. A group of Orthodox Christians residing in a given locality may petition the diocesan bishop, through the district dean, for the establishment of a mission.
3. Services are provided for a mission in accordance with the availability of clergy, under the direction of the district dean.
4. Certain services led by laymen in the absence of a priest may be held with the approval of the bishop.
5. The name of the mission must be approved by the diocesan bishop. In general, duplication of names within the diocese should be avoided.
6. The members of a mission, once it is established, have the financial obligations toward the national Church and the diocese fixed by those bodies.
7. A mission becomes a parish by the decree of the diocesan bishop. In general, consideration for the change of status is given when the mission becomes fully selfsupporting.

8. When a mission becomes a parish, its financial obligations become the same as that of all parishes.

9. From among the members of a mission, the bishop will appoint annually, a mission council, upon the recommendation of the priest-in-charge, and the dean.

10. Members of missions selected for the mission council must fulfill the same conditions as required for all parish officers. (See OCA Statute, Article X, Section 5; Article VII, Section 7b)

11. The mission council shall establish bank accounts, in the name of the mission for the keeping of mission funds.

12. Properties may be acquired by the missions with the approval of the diocesan bishop. A local board of trustees will hold title to the properties acquired, but the title of ownership must be as follows:

MISSION (CHURCH) of the Diocese of the South of the Orthodox Church in America."

13. The sacred vessels and the antiminsion of the mission, in the case of abandonment of the mission, will be surrendered to the district dean.

14. Upon approval of the diocesan bishop and recommendation of the dean and priest-in-charge, an approved mission may apply to appropriate State authority for a charter in conformance with applicable civil law and the practice and teachings of the Church.