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SYRIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE
OF ANTIOCH & ALL THE EAST
BAB TOUMA, P.O.BOX 22260
DAMASCUS - SYRIA



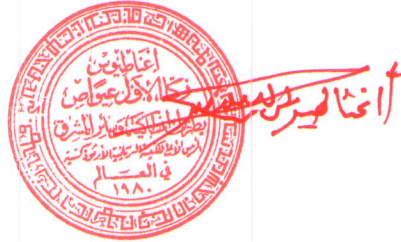
باب توما - ص.ب. ٢٢٢٦٠
دمشق - سورية



BY THE GRACE OF GOD

Ignatius Zakka I Iwas
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East
Supreme Head of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church

No.E40/10



01-February-2010

Apostolic Benediction to our beloved Metropolitan His Grace Mor Theethose Yeldho and to our beloved spiritual children: the Venerable Cor-Episcopoes, the Esteemed Priests, the Reverend Deacons and all the dear Faithful of our Malankara Archdiocese in North America.

Inquiring about your welfare, we inform you the following. We are in receipt of the recommendation of the Delegates' Meeting held on July 10, 2008 to make some amendments to the existing Constitution of our Malankara Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church in North America, which was approved by us in January 2004. After studying your suggestions, we feel it is not necessary to amend the Article X, clause-7 - 'Duties of the Archbishop'. Rather we advise you all to get the approval of your Archbishop before the new Managing Committee takes charge in each parish. With that comment we hereby approve all the other amendments recommended by the Delegate's meetings of the Archdiocese. The approved amendments are attached herewith. We hope and pray that the Constitution will help you to function more effectively in a disciplined manner. We extend our Apostolic Blessings to you. May the grace of God be with all our faithful of North America. **ܐܡܝܢ ܘܚܘܨܐ ܘܚܘܨܐ**

Incl: Approved Constitution amendments - 4 pages

**MALANKARA ARCHDIOCESE
OF THE SYRIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA**
10 Stonehurst Court, Pomona, New York, 10970

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AS DECIDED IN THE DELEGATES'
MEETINGS HELD ON APRIL 5, 2008 AND JULY 10, 2008**

**ARTICLE VII
COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE**

Original:

All parishes / congregations under the Holy Apostolic See of Antioch and All the East, with faithful believers who are following and professing the Syrian Orthodox faith and its venerable traditions (hereafter referred to as Malankara Parishes), are the only legitimate members of the Archdiocese. Each Malankara Parish must adhere to the Universal Syrian Orthodox faith and Apostolic orders and guidance beyond doubt through the Sacrament of Baptism and other Holy Orders and confess the faith as confirmed in the Nicene Creed. No Malankara Parish shall be established within the Archdiocese without prior written permission from the Archbishop Metropolitan.

Added:

In general, a member of the Archdiocese means a parish or a congregation.

Original:

The minimum requirement to form a new Malankara Parish shall be fifteen families that are not members of any of the Archdiocesan Malankara Parishes within twenty-five miles. All new Malankara Parishes must be affiliated with the Archdiocese and they are bound to obey the rules and regulations of the Holy Church and the Malankara Archdiocese.

Added:

In places where there are no Syriac Orthodox parishes and there are faithful in need of a Church, this requirement of minimum number of families and the area specifications shall be waived and the Metropolitan / Archbishop upon receipt of an application shall give permission to establish a new parish in consultation with the Archdiocesan Council.

**ARTICLE VIII
THE ARCHDIOCESAN DELEGATE'S MEETING**

Page 7- original:

For the Sunday School Association, St. Mary's Women's League, Youth Association, The Association for Protection of Antiochean True Faith. MGSOSA and for St. Paul's Men's Fellowship the Delegates' Meeting will elect 6 clergymen as Vice Presidents.

Amended:

For the Sunday School Association, St. Mary's Women's League, The Association for Protection of Antiochian True Faith, MGSOSA and for St. Paul's Men's Fellowship, the Delegates' Meeting will elect 5 clergymen as Vice Presidents.

Page 7- original:

All decisions taken by the Archdiocesan Delegates Meeting from the properly distributed agenda items shall be binding on all the member parishes.

Amended:

All decisions taken by the Archdiocesan Delegates Meeting, unanimously or by a two-third majority, from the properly distributed agenda items shall be binding on all the member parishes

Page 8- Original:

The representation from a Malankara Parish to the Delegates' Meeting is specified to be the Vicar and two lay representatives. However the delegates, upon a further perusal, proposed to modify that article to name the Vicar and two lay representatives for a Parish that has up to 50 families, three lay members for Parishes having up to 75 families, four lay members for Parishes having up to 100 members and five lay members for Parishes having over hundred families.

Amended:

The representation from a Malankara parish to the Delegate's Meeting is specified to be the Vicar and two lay representatives for a parish that has up to twenty-five families, three lay members for parishes having up to fifty families, four lay members for the parishes having up to seventy-five families and thus one additional delegate for every twenty-five members thereafter.

**ARTICLE IX
GOVERNING BODY OF THE ARCHDIOCESE**

Section 5: Original

Written notices with agenda, date, time and place shall be sent to the members by the Secretary, at least seven days prior to the meeting of the Council. A three-quarters (3/4) majority shall constitute a quorum.

Amended:

Written notices with agenda, date, time and place shall be sent to the members by the Secretary, at least 14 days prior to the meeting of the Council. A simple majority shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5: Original

The Council shall gather information pertinent to the matter within a reasonable time frame and make recommendations to the Metropolitan to resolve the matter.

Amended: The Council shall gather information pertinent to the matter within 90 days and make recommendations to the Metropolitan to resolve the matter.

ARTICLE X - THE DUTIES

Council Members-Section 1B Original:

To recommend the services of a properly qualified priests for the churches.

Amended:

To recommend the services of priests for the churches.



Council Members-Section 1D Original:

To make complete annual accounts of the income and expenditures of the Archdiocese and to construct its budget for the following fiscal year which shall run from June 01 to May 31 of the following year.

Amended:

To make the complete annual accounts of the income and expenditures of the Archdiocese and to prepare a budget for the following fiscal year. The fiscal year shall be decided by the Delegate's Meeting from time to time.

Priest/ Vicar (Page 12)

Added at the beginning:

By virtue of the appointment by the Archbishop, the Vicar shall be the president of the parish.

ARTICLE XI - ACCOUNTS & AUDIT

Original:

The annual accounts shall be audited by the auditor(s) appointed by the Delegates' Meeting and the copies of the audited account shall be sent to each Malankara Parish, after the account is passed at the Annual Delegates' Meeting and after getting the final approval of H.H the Patriarch.

Amended:

The annual accounts shall be audited by the auditor(s) appointed by the Delegates' Meeting and the copies of the audited account shall be sent to each Parish, after the account is passed at the annual Delegates' Meeting.

ARTICLE XII - SPIRITUAL ORGANIZATIONS

It has been decided to combine the Youth Association and Mar Gregorios Syriac Orthodox Student Association (MGSOSA) as one spiritual organization, namely MGSOSA. So No. 4 Youth Association and No. 6 MGSOSA have been combined to read as follows.

Amended:

4. MOR GREGORIOS SYRIAC ORTHODOX STUDENT ASSOCIATION (M.G.S.O.S.A)

This student association shall be comprised of all students and youth between the ages of 15 and 30 years within the jurisdiction of Archdiocese. They shall form primary units at each Malankara Parish and shall be governed by the Bylaws of the respective Parish under the guidelines of the Archbishop, the Vice President, the Archdiocesan council and its Archdiocesan level office bearers. It shall meet at least once a year during the Annual Archdiocesan Convention and as many times as required to address matters related to the Syrian Orthodox Students. A Secretary, a Treasurer and other regional organizers shall be elected at the annual meeting held at the Annual Convention and their term shall be for two years. The Mor Gregorios Syrian Orthodox Student Association shall have representation at the Archdiocesan delegate meetings as observer. The Secretary shall keep the records of all meetings and the Treasurer shall be the custodian of the Student Association funds, if any.



Original:

7. ST. PAUL'S MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Amended:

6. ST. PAUL'S MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

ARTICLE XIII - COMPLAINTS

Original SECTION-3:

The commission shall be headed by His Eminence and other members who shall be appointed from a panel of laymen and clergy by the council.

Amendment: Delete the above sentence.

ARTICLE XV - AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

Original: Amendments to the other articles of the Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed by any member in good standing and such proposals shall be submitted in writing to the Metropolitan for submission to the Archdiocesan Council.

Amended:

Amendments to the other articles of the Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed by any member parish in good standing and such proposals shall be submitted in writing to the Metropolitan for submission to the Archdiocesan Council.

