GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO
STATEMENT OF WHY, MISSION, CORE VALUES, VISION
AND PROPOSED PRELIMINARY STRATEGIC GOALS
(As of May 17, 2019)

STATEMENT OF WHY

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago exists to receive and share unconditional love, mercy, healing and peace, so that life has greater meaning and purpose.

MISSION

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago is a Christ-centered community that loves, guides, engages and serves all people.

CORE VALUES

~ Christ-centered
~ Integrity
~ Service
~ Humility
~ Love
~ Merciful
~ Spiritual development
~ Adaptable

VISION

In 4 years we will grow our Metropolis family through greater:

Fellowship & Welcoming
Accountability
Ministries & Education
Innovation
Leadership
Involved Youth & Emerging Adults
Engagement on critical issues
Stewardship.
STRATEGIC AREA OF FOCUS TASK FORCES

1. Clergy Development & Wellness
2. Communications & Technology
3. Education & Spiritual Literacy
4. Lay Leadership Development
5. Life Cycle Ministries
6. Metropolis Administration & Best Practices
7. Stewardship
8. Welcome Outreach & Evangelism
9. Worship Engagement & Accessibility
10. Youth & Emerging Adults

DRAFT GOALS (16)

1. Clergy Development & Formation

1.1 Clergy Wellness

Within 18 months, we will develop and implement a Clergy Wellness Program in which at least 50% of the clergy will participate within 12 months of implementation, and in which 100% of the clergy will participate within 24 months of implementation.

1.2 Clergy Development

Within 18 months, we will develop and implement a Clergy Development Program in which 100% of the clergy will participate on an annual basis thereafter within 24 months of implementation.

2. Communications & Technology

2.1 Metropolis Communications Plan

(a) Within 18 months, we will create and implement a Metropolis Strategic Communications Plan to more effectively connect the Metropolis, its parishes and parishioners that will achieve key milestones that measurably improve both internal and external communications of the Metropolis and its parishes, and that will include enhanced social media, websites and other effective communications tools; and
(b) Over the implementation term of this Strategic Plan, assist other Strategic Plan Implementation Task Forces, as requested, with the communications regarding their ministries, activities, deliverables, programs, training and support.

2.2 Metropolis Technology Plan

Within 18 months, we will create and implement a comprehensive and state of the art technology and innovation infrastructure plan and platform using the best available tools, technologies and resources for the Metropolis to better serve the needs of its parishes and parishioners, including a web-based Best Practices Metropolis Resource Portal to deliver Metropolis Strategic Plan materials and other ministries’ programs.

3. Education & Spiritual Literacy

3.1 Youth Religious Education

Within 18 months, we will research and develop a best practices set of learning standards, and on-line and in-person training programs for all Parish youth in order to achieve proficiency in our Orthodox faith, history, and practices that will be thereafter successfully implemented in at least:

(a) 40% of the Parishes within 2 years; and
(b) 60% of the Parishes within 3 years.

3.2 Adult Religious Education

Within 20 months, we will research and develop a best practices set of learning standards, and on-line and in-person training programs for adults in order to achieve proficiency in our Orthodox faith, history, and practices that will be thereafter successfully implemented in at least:

(a) 40% of the parishes within 2 years; and
(b) 60% of the parishes within 3 years.
4. **Lay Leadership Development**

4.1 **Parish Council, Ministry & Youth Leadership Program.**

Within 18 months, we will develop and implement a comprehensive, effective and best practices Orthodox Servant Leadership training and development program that thereafter will be:

(a) mandatory for all Parish Council members for all parishes within 6 months of its development; and

(b) successfully implemented for all Ministry Leader and youth leader training immediately after it is developed:
   (i) in the Metropolis;
   (ii) in at least 25% of the parishes within 12 months; and
   (iii) in at least 50% percent of the parishes within 18 months.

5. **Life Cycle Ministries**

5.1 **Family Ministries**

Within 18 months, we will research, develop and train each parish how to implement a comprehensive series of family ministries to meet the various needs of their families through their life cycles that will be successfully implemented in at least:

(a) 25% of the parishes within 12 months; and
(b) 50% percent of the parishes within 24 months.

5.2 **Seniors Ministries**

Within 18 months, we will research, develop and train each parish how to implement dynamic and engaging ministries focused on the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of their senior citizens that will be successfully implemented in at least:

(a) 25% of the parishes within 12 months; and
(b) 50% percent of the parishes within 24 months.
6. Metropolis Administration & Best Practices

6.1 Best Practices Metropolis Operations Plan
(a) Within 18 months, we will determine a best practices Metropolis operations plan, and independently evaluate the Metropolis in the areas of structure, staffing, operations, integrity, transparency, accountability and engagement on key social issues; and

(b) Within 9 months thereafter, we will remediate any deficiencies and ensure that all such best practices metrics are consistently met or exceeded, and annually re-evaluated, to ensure that all parishes and parishioners throughout the Metropolis are more effectively served with complete integrity, transparency and accountability.

6.2 Ministry Accountability, Performance & Remediation
Within 21 months, we will research, develop and begin teaching a best-practices Ministry Accountability, Performance and Remediation process for measurably evaluating the performance and effectiveness of all parish and Metropolis ministries, programs and teams to help ensure that all people are more effectively embraced and served and inter-parish and inter-Orthodox cooperation is enhanced that will be successfully implemented in at least:
(a) 25% of the parishes within 12 months; and
(b) 50% of the parishes within 24 months.

7. Stewardship

7.1 Comprehensive Parish Stewardship Ministries Program
Within 18 months, each parish will begin to implement the Metropolis comprehensive new Stewardship program, including a youth stewardship ministries program, adapted to the needs of the parishes, that will be completely implemented throughout the Metropolis over the next 2 years.

8. Welcome Outreach & Evangelism

8.1 Welcoming Ministries
Within 21 months, we will research and develop a best practices program that will help parishes establish an effective Welcoming Ministry to ensure that all newcomers are fully embraced and welcomed, that thereafter will be successfully implemented in at least:
(a) 20% of the parishes within 2 years; and
(b) 40% of the parishes within 3 years.
8.2 Outreach & Evangelism Ministries
Within 2 years, we will establish a Metropolis Department of Outreach & Evangelism Ministry to research, develop and train all parishes on how to implement effective Outreach & Evangelism Ministries, that include at least one Signature Outreach or Evangelism Activity each year, so that they will substantially expand their outreach and evangelism efforts to bring more people into the Orthodox Church and better serve their communities.

9. Worship Engagement & Accessibility

9.1 Enhanced Worship Engagement & Accessibility
Within 2 years, we will develop and implement a plan to more fully and measurably engage people of all ages in dynamic worship and sacramental experiences that will be thereafter successfully implemented in at least:
(a) 20% of the parishes within 1 year; and
(b) 33% of the parishes within 2 years.

10. Youth & Emerging Adults

10.1 Comprehensive Youth & Emerging Adults Ministries
Within 18 months, we will fully research, develop and begin implementing comprehensive, measurably excellent and separate ministries and programs that demonstrably and materially increase spiritual and intellectual engagement, fellowship and service among:
(a) middle and high school youth;
(b) college age and graduate school students; and
(c) emerging adults.