



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS <sup>OF</sup> ATLANTA

## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΤΛΑΝΤΑΣ

November 1, 2020

TO: All Parish Priests, Esteemed Parish Councils and Board of Elections of the Metropolis of Atlanta

In November and December, some of our parishes will be conducting elections for the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Churches of the Metropolis of Atlanta. The Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese indicate that as a prerequisite for elections, all candidates must attend a pre-election seminar. **Article 25, Section 3, Part A, B and D state: “All candidates shall attend a seminar conducted by the priest prior to the election at which the priest shall discuss the UPR, and the significance of the affirmation of office. At the discretion of the respective Hierarchy, such seminar may be held locally or regionally, provided the candidates are given appropriate advance notice.... At the conclusion of the seminar all candidates must sign a statement acknowledging that they understand the Regulations and will abide by them and the affirmation of office. If a candidate for the Parish Council does not attend a seminar and sign the statement, their name shall be deleted from the list of candidates.”**

His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios has requested that regional pre-election seminars required by the UPR be scheduled in each of our seven conferences for all the Parish Council candidates. The presentations will be planned by the seven Conference Vicars and assisted by our Conference Ambassadors and area clergy. The seminar(s) will be scheduled on various dates and locations within each Conference, so it is important for each Priest/Board of Elections Chairman to contact your Vicar to ensure your parish candidates have adequate notice and access to training dates/locations. Please emphasize that the seminar is mandatory for all candidates, however, if a candidate has a **justifiable cause**, then the local priest will meet with the candidate, as provided by Article 25, Section 3, Part C. (List of scheduled conference training dates is on reverse side.)

On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, I convey my appreciation for your consideration and cooperation with this requirement.

Faithfully yours with love in Christ,

*Very Rev. Fr. George J. Tsahakis*

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Chancellor