

**ST. OLYMPIA ORTHODOX CHURCH OF POTSDAM  
BYLAWS**

**PREAMBLE**

**SECTION 0.01 Name**

The name of the parish is St. Olympia Orthodox Church of Potsdam (hereinafter referred to as the "parish"). The parish was incorporated on (DATE) pursuant to Section 106 of the Religious Corporations Laws of the State of New York.

**SECTION 0.02 Charter and Seal**

(a) The Certificate of Incorporation of the parish (the "Certificate of Incorporation") was filed on October 18, 2016 with the office of the County Clerk, County of St. Lawrence, State of New York.

(b) The seal of the parish shall be in the form as set forth below.



(c) The seal shall be kept in the custody of the parish council secretary.

**SECTION 0.03 Jurisdiction**

(a) The parish is a local community of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey of the Orthodox Church in America as adopted by the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America as approved by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America.

(b) As a local community of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey of the Orthodox Church in America, the parish has, as its head, a priest, duly appointed by the Diocesan Authority, who, together with the Parish Council (as defined below), administers the life of the parish.

(c) These by-laws shall be in conformity with the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America as approved by the Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America and supersede all previous by-laws and regulations established by the organizers of the parish and the assemblies of the corporation from the date of organizing of the above named parish to the date of this publication.

## **ARTICLE I THE PARISH PRIEST**

### SECTION 1.01

(a) At the head of the parish is the Parish Priest who is appointed by the Diocesan Bishop. The other members of the clergy, the chanter, choir director and church school teachers are his assistants in all his work. He teaches and edifies the parishioners entrusted to his spiritual care, "with no partiality," (James 2:1) and sees that all activities within the parish serve the religious goals of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Having been appointed by the Diocesan Bishop, he cannot leave his parish without the permission of the Diocesan Authority.

(b) The Parish Priest serves as intermediary between the Parish and Diocesan Authority. The Parish Priest shall keep contact with the diocese and shall represent his parish in diocesan functions.

(c) No activities in the parish can be initiated without his knowledge, approval and blessing, neither should he do anything pertaining to the parish without the knowledge of his parishioners and parish officers, so that always and every way there may be unity, mutual trust, cooperation and love. The Parish Priest shall be a member, ex-officio, of all committees.

(d) In conformity with his teaching office, the Parish Priest shall instruct the members of the parish in the canons of the faith of the Eastern Orthodox Church. He shall direct the religious educational programs of the parish and have final authority over the Church school.

(e) To be free from material preoccupations and wholly committed to his sacred ministry, the Parish Priest must be compensated by the parish, the amount of his compensation being clearly agreed upon at the time of his appointment or as adjusted at an annual or special parish meeting. All special services performed by the Priest for individual members of the Parish are considered as being between the Priest and the parties directly concerned.

(f) The Parish Priest shall keep the records of baptism, death and marriages and issue certificates for such events.

(g) The Parish Priest shall visit the sick members of the parish, render spiritual aid and comfort to the members of the parish and bless the homes and graves of the members of the parish.

(h) The Parish Priest shall be a voting member of the Parish Council and a member ex-officio of all committees.

(i) The Parish Priest shall plan with the Parish Council for the order of the parish properties.

## **ARTICLE II RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PARISHIONERS**

### SECTION 2.01 Membership in the Parish

(a) Membership in the parish is offered to all faithful communicants of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

(b) All persons of the Eastern Orthodox Church inscribed in the parish records are considered parishioners. To become inscribed in the parish records, a person must have been baptized and/or chrismated in the faith of the Eastern Orthodox Church or have been received into membership by other authorized means.

(c) Persons requesting membership in the parish must express to the Parish Priest spiritual, moral and financial support of the parish and their intention to fulfill the conditions of the Canon Law of the Eastern

Orthodox Church and the directives of the Diocesan Authority.

(d) Adult members must be at least eighteen years old and belong to the parish at least six months before being regarded as full members with the privilege of voice at the annual or special parish meetings.

(e) The complete membership records and files are kept in the parish files. The membership files contain information as to payment of the pledged stewardship for each member.

#### SECTION 2.02 Duties of Parishioners

The religious, moral and social duties of the parishioners include, among other things, the following:

(a) complying in their life and activities with the faith of the Eastern Orthodox Church;

(b) attending the Divine Liturgy and other services on Sundays and holy days;

(c) keeping the rules and fasts of the Eastern Orthodox Church;

(d) making private confession and receiving holy communion at least once during the year;

(e) bringing up and teaching their children according to the faith and in the spirit of the Eastern Orthodox Church;

(f) respecting the clergy, the Diocesan Authority and all the other hierarchy and governing bodies of the Eastern Orthodox Church;

(g) obeying the Diocesan Authority and parish priest in matters of faith and ecclesiastical order;

(h) supporting the parish financially by remitting to the parish the pledged amount of stewardship and any additional parish assessments as the Parish Council deems necessary or as shall be voted on and passed at either the annual or a special parish meeting;

(i) remitting to the parish by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year all Central and Diocesan Assessments as may be levied by the All-American Council and the Annual Diocesan Assembly;

(j) cooperating in every way toward good results in the work of the parish and directing their personal activities towards the welfare and spirituality of the parish; and

(k) perpetuating the growth of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

#### SECTION 2.03 Rights of Members

(a) The term "in good standing" as used in these by-laws refers to members of the parish who are at least eighteen years old, fulfill the privilege of confession and holy communion at least annually and pay annual stewardship by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year as set forth by parish meetings, the All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America and the Annual Assembly of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey.

(b) The rights of members in good standing are as follows:

(i) to attend regular and special meetings of the parish, to take part in discussions at such meetings and to vote at such meetings;

(ii) to attend meetings of the Parish Council, though not executive sessions; and

(ii) to be elected or appointed as members of the Parish Council and as such to take part in the administration of the parish and the direction of its life and activity.

(c) By special decision of the Parish Priest, concurred in by the Parish Council, a member, after having been given the opportunity to be heard, may be temporarily or permanently deprived of rights to participate in the discussion or to vote at parish meetings or to be elected to the Parish Council or as a parish officer for any of the following reasons:

(i) the member openly betrays the teaching of the Eastern Orthodox Church, or leads a life or commits acts condemned by the holy canons as incompatible with Eastern Orthodox Christianity;

- (ii) the member rudely disturbs the peace and order of the parish edifice or parish meetings;
- (iii) the member, by words or deeds, brings disgrace to the Eastern Orthodox, Church or the parish;
- (iv) the member willfully refuses to fulfill pledged stewardship to the parish without cause;
- (v) the member secretly or openly injures the life of the parish; or
- (vi) the member defames the good name or undermines the authority of the Parish Priest, the Diocesan Bishop or the superior governing bodies of the Eastern Orthodox Church or the members of the Parish Council.

(d) The rights of a disciplined member may be restored if the member repents and shows improvement in behavior, and after the expiration of a certain period of time, as determined by the Parish Priest and concurred in by the Parish Council.

#### SECTION 2.04 Meetings of the Members

(a) The annual meeting of the members of the parish for the election of the Parish Council and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before such meeting, shall be held in September or October in the nave of the church or at such place as may be agreed upon by the Parish Priest and Parish Council.

(b) Special meetings of the members of the parish for any purposes may be called by the Parish Priest or Parish Council in concurrence with the Parish Priest, to be held at such place, date, and time as shall be designated in the notice or waiver of notice thereof.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by law, written notice of each annual or special meeting of members of the parish, stating the place, date and time of such meeting and, in the case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which such meeting is to be held, shall be given personally, electronically, or by first-class mail to each member of the parish in good standing, not less than 7 nor more than 60 days before the date of such meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be given when deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid, directed to the member of the parish at such member's address as it appears on the records of the Church. The place, date and time of any annual or special meeting of the members shall also be announced for three consecutive weeks prior to such meeting in the Church newsletter or bulletin.

(d) Notice of any annual or special meeting of the members of the parish need not be given to any member who files a written waiver or notice with the Secretary, signed by the person entitled to notice, whether before or after such meeting. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of any meeting of the members of the parish need be specified in any written waiver of notice of such meeting, except when such member attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting at the beginning of the meeting, to the transaction of any business on the grounds that the notice of such meeting was inadequate or improperly given.

(e) Whenever a meeting of the members of the parish, annual or special, is postponed to another date, time or place, notice need not be given of the postponed meeting if the date, time and place thereof are announced at the meeting at which the postponement is taken. If the postponement is for more than 30 days, a notice of the postponed meeting shall be given to each member of the parish in good standing. At the postponed meeting, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the original meeting.

(f) Except as otherwise provided by law or the Certificate of Incorporation, a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the members of the parish, whether annual or special, shall be

one third of the total number of members of the parish entitled to vote at such meeting. If, however, such quorum shall not be present at any meeting of the members of the parish, the members in good standing may adjourn the meeting from time to time in accordance with Section 2.04(e) hereof until a quorum shall be present.

(g) Each member of the parish in good standing shall be entitled to one vote. Except as otherwise provided by law or the Certificate of Incorporation, when a quorum is present at any meeting of the members of the parish, the vote of the majority of the members constituting such quorum shall decide any question brought before such meeting.

#### SECTION 2.05 Presiding Chairman of a Meeting of the Members

(a) The Parish Priest shall preside over and chair the meetings of the members of the parish. The Parish Priest may, however, turn this duty over to the Parish Council President, hereafter referred to as President, or to whomever else the Parish Priest wishes.

(b) The chair of the meeting offers the business for deliberation at meetings and directs debates. He or she shall preserve the order of the meeting and shall have the right, after warning and with the concurrence of the Parish Priest, to expel anyone disorderly.

#### SECTION 2.06 Subjects for Consideration at Parish Meetings

The subjects that may be considered at the meetings of the members of the parish include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) electing members to the Parish Council with the Parish Council determining the Parish Council Officers.

(b) hearing the annual report of the President, the Treasurer and the other committees of the parish;

(c) considering the stewardship vision of the parish;

(d) considering questions as to the good order of the parish;

(e) considering major construction of and major repairs to the church edifice, rectory and other parish buildings;

(f) amendments (as defined below) to these by-laws; and

(g) any other important business as may be deemed necessary.

#### SECTION 2.07 Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of any Annual or Special Parish Meeting are subject to approval of the Diocesan Bishop. Upon receiving such approval, all adopted motions in the minutes become binding upon the parish.

#### SECTION 2.08 Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Parish in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Parish may adopt.

**ARTICLE III**  
**THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**SECTION 3.01 General Powers**

The business and affairs of the parish shall be managed, under the supervision of the Parish Priest, by the Parish Council which may exercise all such powers of the parish and do all such lawful acts, other than those that are required to be done by the members of the parish as a whole by civil law, the Certificate of Incorporation or these by-laws. The Parish Council shall assist the Parish Priest in the administration of the parish and in executing the decisions of the meetings of the members of the parish.

**SECTION 3.02 Number and Term of Office**

(a) There shall be at least five Parish Council members or such other number as shall be fixed from time to time by the Parish Council or at the annual meeting of the members of the parish.

(b) Parish Council members must be members of the parish in good standing. Parish Council members shall be elected at the annual meeting of the members of the parish and shall have a term of three years. Each Parish Council member shall hold office until a successor is elected by the Parish, qualified and installed, unless prevented by death, resignation, or removal in the manner hereinafter provided.

(c) All Parish Council members shall, after their election at the parish meeting and approval by the Diocesan Bishop, be duly installed by the Parish Priest, after having recited and signed the Oath of Office (provided by the Diocese).

**SECTION 3.03 Resignation**

Any Parish Council member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Parish Council or the Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified in such notice or, if the time be not specified, upon receipt thereof by the Parish Council or the Secretary, as the case may be. Unless otherwise specified therein, acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

**SECTION 3.04 Removal**

Any or all Parish Council members may be removed with or without cause, at any time, but

- (a) only at a parish meeting, by vote of a majority of the members of the parish in good standing or
- (b) upon receiving a letter of dismissal from the Diocesan Bishop.

**SECTION 3.05 Vacancies**

(a) Vacancies occurring on the Parish Council as a result of the removal of members shall be filled only at a parish meeting, by vote of a majority of the members of the parish in good standing.

(b) Vacancies occurring on the Parish Council for any other reason, including, without limitation, vacancies occurring as a result of the creation of new memberships that increase the number of Parish Council members, may be filled by vote of a majority of the members of the parish in good standing at a parish meeting, or by vote of the Parish Council.

(c) If the number of Parish Council members then in office is less than a quorum, such other vacancies may be filled by vote of a majority of the Parish Council members then in office.

(d) Unless earlier removed pursuant to Section 3.04 hereof, each Parish Council member chosen in accordance with Section 3.05 shall hold office for the remainder of the term, until the next annual election

of Parish Council members by the members of the Parish and until his or her successor shall be elected, qualified and installed.

#### SECTION 3.06 Termination of Service

Upon termination of their service, members of the Parish Council are to give to the newly elected Parish Council members, after the latter have been sworn in, all the Parish and Diocesan books, records, documents and bankbooks in the presence of the Parish Priest.

#### SECTION 3.07 Meetings

(a) *First Organizational Meeting*: As soon as practicable after each annual meeting of the parish, the Parish Council shall meet for the purpose of organization and the transaction of other business.

(b) *Other Meetings*: Other meetings of the Parish Council shall be held at such times as the Parish Priest, President or a majority of the Parish Council shall, with concurrence of the Parish Priest, from time to time determine.

(c) *Frequency*: Regular meetings of the Parish Council shall be held at least six (6) times per year, on a day to be mutually agreed upon by the Parish Priest and Parish Council. The Parish Council President, with the concurrence of the Parish Priest, may also call special meetings of the Parish Council without prior notice whenever he or she deems necessary. The failure of a Parish Council member to receive notice of a regular or special meeting of the Parish Council shall not invalidate any action taken at such meeting.

(d) *Meeting Place*: The Parish Council may hold its meetings at such place or places as the Parish Council or the Parish Council President may, with the concurrence of the Parish Priest, from time to time determine, or as shall be designated in the respective notices or waivers of notice of such meetings.

##### (e) *Quorum*

(i) A quorum of the Parish Council is one-half of the total number of members then in office, including vacancies. A quorum of Parish Council members shall be present (physically or electronically) at any meeting of the Parish Council in order to transact business at such meeting. In no event can the quorum be less than two parish council members

(ii) The vote of a majority of those Council members present at any such meeting where there is a quorum shall be necessary for the passage of any resolution or act of the Parish Council, except as otherwise expressly required by civil law, the Certificate of Incorporation or these by-laws.

(iii) In the absence of a quorum for any such meeting, a majority of the Parish Council members present may adjourn such meeting until a quorum shall be present.

(f) At each meeting of the Parish Council, one of the following shall act as chairman of the meeting and preside, in the following order of precedence:

(i) the Parish Priest;

(ii) the President;

(iii) the Parish Council Vice President, hereafter referred to as Vice President;

(iv) any Parish Council member designated by the Parish Priest.

(g) The Secretary and/or the Assistant Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meeting. In their absence, the chairman of the meeting shall appoint shall act as secretary of such meeting.

(h) The failure of a Parish Council member to attend three regular meetings of the Parish Council (without being excused from such meeting by the Parish Priest) shall be grounds for removal of such member by a vote of the majority of the remaining members then in office.

(i) No meeting of the Parish Council may be convened without the knowledge of the Parish Priest or Priest in Charge.

#### SECTION 3.08 Committees

The Parish Council may, by resolution passed by a majority of its entire membership, designate Parish Council Committees and Parish Committees:

(a) *Parish Council Committees*: one or more committees of the Parish Council, each of which shall consist of one or more of its members

(b) *Parish Committees*

(i) Each Parish Committee shall consist of at least one Parish Council member and, with the approval of the Parish Priest, any other members of the parish in good standing wishing to join such committee.

(ii) The Parish Council may designate one or more of its members as alternate members of any committee, who may replace any absent or disqualified member at any meeting of such committee.

(iii) Each committee shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings and regularly report the same to the Parish Council. The Parish Priest and the President shall be ex-officio members of all committees.

(iv) In the absence or disqualification of a member of a committee, the member or members thereof present at any meeting and not disqualified from voting, whether or not he, she or they constitute a quorum, may, with the concurrence of the Parish Priest, unanimously appoint another Parish Council member to act at the meeting in the place of any such absent or disqualified member.

#### SECTION 3.09 Action by Means of Telephone or Other Electronic Communications

One or more members of the Parish Council or of any committee thereof, may participate in a meeting of the Parish Council or such committee by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other, and participation in a meeting by such means shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

#### SECTION 3.10 Compensation

Unless otherwise restricted by the Certificate of Incorporation, the Parish Council, in negotiation with the District Dean, may determine the compensation and benefits of the Parish Priest and any other person providing services to the parish, which stipends and benefits shall be announced to the parishioners at the annual meeting of the members of the parish.

### **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS**

#### SECTION 4.01 Officers

The officers of the Parish are the Parish Priest, President, Vice President, Parish Council Secretary, hereafter referred to as Secretary, and Parish Council Treasurer, hereafter referred to as Treasurer. Under no circumstances shall the person holding the office of President hold any other office. Furthermore, the

offices of Treasurer and Secretary shall be held by different people, except that in the event the Parish Council shall, with the concurrence of the Parish Priest, determine that an emergency situation exists, the same person may exercise both responsibilities.

#### SECTION 4.02 Authority and Duties

Each officer shall have such authority and perform such duties in the management of the parish as may be provided in these by-laws or, to the extent not so provided, by resolution of the Parish Council. After approval of the Diocesan Bishop, all officers shall be duly installed by the Parish Priest.

#### SECTION 4.03 Term of Office, Resignation and Removal

(a) Each officer (other than the Parish Priest whose appointment is set forth in Article I and Sections 2.05 and 3.07(f)) shall be elected by the Parish and shall hold office for such term as may be determined by the Parish. Each Parish Council member shall hold office until a successor is elected by the Parish, approved and installed, unless prevented by death, resignation, or removal in the manner herein provided.

(b) Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Parish Priest, the Parish Council, the President or the Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified in such notice or, if the time be not specified, upon receipt thereof by the Parish Priest, the Parish Council, the President or the Secretary, as the case may be. Unless otherwise specified therein, acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

(c) All officers and agents appointed by the Parish Priest or Parish Council shall be subject to removal, with or without cause, at any time, and with the concurrence of the Parish Priest, by the Parish Council or by the action, at a parish meeting, of a majority of the members of the parish in good standing.

#### SECTION 4.04 Vacancies

Any vacancy occurring in any office of the parish (other than the Parish Priest whose appointment is set forth in Article I and Sections 2.05 and 3.07(f)), for any reason, shall be filled by action of the Parish Priest with the consent of the Parish Council. Unless earlier removed pursuant to Section 4.03 hereof, any officer elected by the Parish to fill any such vacancy shall serve only until such time as the unexpired term of the predecessor expires unless re-elected by the Parish.

#### SECTION 4.05 Parish Council President

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the parish and shall have general and active management and control of the administrative business and affairs of the parish, subject to the control of the Parish Council and the concurrence of the Parish Priest, and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Parish Council are carried into effect. The President shall, with the concurrence of the Parish Priest, have the power to call special meetings of the Parish Council. The President shall perform all duties incident to the office and all such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Parish Priest, Parish Council or these by-laws.

#### SECTION 4.06 Parish Council Vice President

The Vice President shall generally assist the President and perform such other duties as the Parish Council, the President, or Parish Priest shall prescribe, and in the absence or disability of the President, shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President.

#### SECTION 4.07 Parish Council Secretary

The Secretary shall maintain all records of the Parish. The Secretary shall,

- (a) To the extent practicable, attend all meetings of the Parish Council, and all Annual and Special Parish Meetings.
- (b) Record all votes and the minutes of all proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose, and shall perform the same duties for any committee of the Parish Council when so requested by such committee;
- (c) Give (or cause to be given) notice of all meetings of the members of the parish;
- (d) Keep in safe custody such books and records of the parish as the Parish Council or the President may direct;
- (e) Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Parish Council or President and shall act under the supervision of the President; and
- (f) Perform all other duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to the Secretary by the Parish Council or the President.

#### SECTION 4.08 Assistant Secretaries

Assistant Secretaries, if any, in order of their seniority or in any other order determined by the Parish Council, shall generally assist the Secretary and perform such other duties as the Parish Council or the Secretary shall prescribe, and in the absence or disability of the Secretary, shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Secretary.

#### SECTION 4.09 Parish Council Treasurer

The Treasurer is the chief financial officer for the Parish. The Treasurer shall

- (a) Have the care and custody of Parish funds as directed by the Parish Council;
- (b) Deposit funds in banks or other depositories as the Parish Council shall direct or approve;
- (c) Keep an accurate record of all monies received into and paid out of Parish accounts;
- (d) Render a statement of the Parish accounts whenever the Parish Priest, Parish Council or President shall so request;
- (e) Remit to the diocese all assessments required;
- (f) Sign all checks, drafts or other official documents having to do with the financial matters of the parish;
- (g) Issue donation receipts to parishioners and other donors;
- (h) Perform all other necessary actions and duties in connection with the administration of the financial affairs of the parish; and
- (i) Generally perform all the duties usually appertaining to the office of treasurer of a not-for-profit or religious corporation.

#### SECTION 4.10 Assistant Treasurers

Assistant Treasurers, if any, in order of their seniority or in any other order determined by the Parish Council, shall generally assist the Treasurer and perform such other duties as the Parish Council or the Treasurer shall prescribe, and, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Treasurer.

**ARTICLE V**  
**CHECKS, DRAFTS, NOTES AND PROXIES**

SECTION 5.01 Checks, Drafts and Notes

All checks, drafts and other orders for the payment of money, notes and other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the parish shall be signed by the Parish Priest, and the Treasurer or such officer as shall be determined, from time to time, by resolution of the Parish Council. No such check, draft or other order for the payment of money, note or other evidence of indebtedness shall be signed in blank by the Parish Priest or any officer.

SECTION 5.02 Execution of Proxies

The Parish Priest with the consent of the Parish Council may authorize, from time to time, the execution and issuance of proxies to vote shares of stock or other securities of other corporations held of record by the parish and the execution of consents to action taken or to be taken by any such corporation.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the parish shall end on December 31 of each year unless changed by a resolution of the Parish Council.

**ARTICLE VII**  
**AMENDMENTS**

(a) These by-laws may be adopted, amended or repealed only by the vote of two thirds of the members of the parish in good standing in attendance at a parish meeting at which a quorum is present.

(b) Any amendments to the by-laws, including, without limitation, any new or additional by-laws or any repeal of any by-law (collectively, "Amendments"), shall first be reviewed by the Parish Council. After such review, the Parish Council shall determine, by vote at a meeting of the Parish Council at which a quorum is present, whether to recommend to the members of the parish that such Amendments be approved by the members of the parish. The Parish Council shall, on the basis of this vote, determine whether or not to recommend approval of these Amendments. They shall issue a statement explaining the reasons for their recommendation or refusal to recommend approval of these Amendments, and shall indicate in this statement the number, but not the names, of Parish Council members who voted against recommending this approval.

(c) Amendments to the by laws must be submitted to the members of the parish at a special meeting. The place, date and time of any meeting of the members of the parish at which Amendments to the by-laws may be considered shall be announced for three consecutive Sunday Liturgies prior to such meeting from the Ambo, and for three consecutive weeks in the email newsletter or other routine Parish communication. Written copies of the proposed Amendments and corresponding statements of the Parish Council shall be made available to all members of the parish at the time of the first announcement of such meeting.

(d) These by-laws and any amendments to them will become effective upon receipt by the Parish Priest of the approval of the Diocesan Bishop.

**ARTICLE VIII  
THE PARISH PROPERTY**

**SECTION 8.01 Use of funds**

The funds of the parish shall be used for the necessities of the parish and its existing institutions. All funds deposited in the accounts of the parish shall be deposited and registered in the name of St. Olympia Orthodox Church.

**SECTION 8.02 Ownership and Dissolution**

As per Article XII, Section 9 of the Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America,

(a) The parish or parish corporation is the sole owner of all parish assets and funds and property, including but not limited to real property. In administering them, however, the parishioners and the officers elected by them must always remember the religious nature, purposes and goals of the parish and act as trustees of God's, not man's, property. The parish, as the whole Church, serves God and cares for God's work in the world, and all decisions concerning parish property must be inspired by that care and by the spiritual needs of the Church.

(b) If the parish is abolished, its property, assets, and funds shall disposed of as follows:

(i) The sacred and untouchable items, including the Holy Antimension, the Tabernacle and the Sacred Vessels, shall be surrendered to the Diocesan Bishop.

(ii) All other items shall be disposed of by the Parish Council with the blessing of the Diocesan Bishop.

(c) If the provisions of subsection 8.02 (b)(ii) above cannot be fulfilled, the property is at the disposition of the Diocesan Authority.

SIGNATURE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DIOCESAN BISHOP: \_\_\_\_\_