



CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
ORTHODOX
BROTHERHOOD

TROPAR OF SAINT BASIL

Thy sound hath gone out into all the lands, so Thy word hath been received. By it, Thou hast given divine direction, explaining the nature of creation and teaching a rule of life for man. By Thy kingly priesthood, Holy Father, intercede with Christ our God, that our souls may be saved.

Revised version adopted by the Orthodox Brotherhood Conference in session, October 21, 1989, in Canton, Ohio. Originally adopted in 1968.

Approved by The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate Congress in session, June 30, 1990 at the Vatra Romaneasca.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

The Name of the organization shall be THE ORTHODOX BROTHERHOOD.

ARTICLE II

GENERAL PURPOSE

SECTION 1: To function as an auxiliary organization of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America.

SECTION 2: To work in furthering the aims of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, its parishes and its missions.

SECTION 3: To cooperate with all Eastern Orthodox Christians in America in order to consolidate and propagate Orthodox Christianity in America.

SECTION 4: To promote and sponsor charitable works.

SECTION 5: To strengthen the bonds of Christian brotherhood among its members.

ARTICLE III

LEGISLATIVE POWERS

SECTION 1: All legislative powers shall be vested in the Annual Conference to be held each year.

SECTION 2: The Annual Conference shall be composed of members of the Orthodox Brotherhood.

SECTION 3: The Annual Conference shall have the power to:

- a. Elect national officers;
- b. Determine membership fees
- c. Accept or modify the agenda of a Conference;
- d. Approve or modify proposed annual budget;
- e. Adopt and establish its own rules of procedure; and
- f. Adopt and amend the Constitution and By-Laws.

SECTION 4: The Annual Conference shall not deny the right of vote to any Orthodox Brotherhood member in good standing.

SECTION 5: There shall be no voting by proxy.

ARTICLE IV

EXECUTIVE POWERS

SECTION 1: All executive power shall be vested in the Executive Board, which shall establish its own rules of meeting procedures.

ARTICLE V

JUDICIAL POWERS

SECTION 1: The Ruling Hierarchy of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate shall be the spiritual leader of the Orthodox Brotherhood.

SECTION 2: The Episcopate Courts shall exercise the final judicial power in all cases of dispute involving the Orthodox Brotherhood.

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: All proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be formally submitted, in writing, to the Executive Board through the Recording Secretary of the Orthodox Brotherhood at least 90 days prior to the date of the Annual Conference. The Executive Board, upon a

majority vote, shall submit them to the general membership by First Class mail at least 60 days prior to the date of the Constitutional Conference.

SECTION 2: All amendments to the Constitutional Conference, shall be adopted:

- a. By a two-thirds majority of the membership present, or
- b. By a three-quarters majority of the membership at a time other than a Conference.

ARTICLE VII

LEGAL STATUS

SECTION 1: The Orthodox Brotherhood of the United States of America adheres to and is subject to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America as an auxiliary.

(See page 2 of the July 1, 1978, Constitution and By-Laws of the Romanian Episcopate of America.)

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Any member of a parish or mission under the jurisdiction of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, upon application, may be accepted as a member of the Orthodox Brotherhood upon payment of dues as established by the Annual Conference.

SECTION 2: Members of the clergy of the Episcopate, upon application and payment of required dues, may become members of the Orthodox Brotherhood.

SECTION 3: The ruling Hierarchy of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America shall be "ex-officio" member of the Orthodox Brotherhood.

SECTION 4: Associate members are Orthodox Christians not under the jurisdiction of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, or non-Orthodox who apply for acceptance, are approved by the Board, and who pay the required dues. Associate membership does not include the right to hold office or to vote.

SECTION 5: The Executive Board has the exclusive right to revoke membership to any member whose actions or conduct are deemed by them to be in violation of the purpose, Constitution and the By-Laws of the Orthodox Brotherhood, the Episcopate, or both. Nothing in this section shall be construed to defeat the right of the member's appeal to the Episcopate.

ARTICLE II

EXECUTIVE BOARD, OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: The membership present at the Annual Conference shall elect the following national officers, who shall constitute the Executive Board:

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Two Auditors

Membership Chairperson

Two Delegates to the Church Congress

SECTION 2: The ruling Hierarchy of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America shall be "ex-officio" member of the Orthodox Brotherhood Executive Board.

SECTION 3: The National Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, except the two (2) Delegates and the two (2) Alternate Delegates, who shall serve terms of two (2) years. A National Officer can hold his or her office for no more than five (5) consecutive years.

SECTION 4: Duties of the National Officers are described in this section as follows:

PRESIDENT: The President shall preside over the Annual Conference and all meetings of the Executive Board. The President shall be the chief executive officer exercising general supervision of work and activities of the Orthodox Brotherhood. With the concurrence of the majority of the Executive Board, the President shall be entitled to appoint such other persons or committees as the work of the Brotherhood may require.

Upon election, the President of the Orthodox Brotherhood automatically takes a seat on the Episcopate Council, is a voting member of the Valerian D. Trifa Heritage Center and is a delegate to the Episcopate Congress.

VICE-PRESIDENT: The Vice-President, in the event of the absence or inability of the President to perform his or her duties of the office, has the same authority as the President. The Vice-President shall also perform such duties as designated by the President.

SECRETARY: The Secretary, together with the President, shall be responsible for signing all official documents issued by the Orthodox Brotherhood. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of all Executive Board meetings and the Annual Conference.

TREASURER: All procedures and duties pertaining to the acceptance of money shall be the sole responsibility of the Treasurer, with the exception of membership dues, which shall be collected by the Membership Chairperson. The Treasurer shall:

1. Be responsible for receiving monies and keeping the accounts of all financial transactions and issue official receipts.
2. Be responsible for seeing that all money received be deposited in the official depositories as required by the Executive Board and shall disburse the same as required.
3. Prepare a written financial report to be presented to the Annual Conference based on the established fiscal year of the organization.
4. Present a written financial report to the Church Congress.
5. Be prepared to show the accounts and books at all Board Meetings and at all reasonable times.
6. All Orthodox Brotherhood financial accounts shall bear the signature of the National President and Treasurer.
7. The Treasurer and President together with the Membership Chairperson shall be bonded.

AUDITORS: Duties are described as follows:

1. The Auditors shall audit all financial books of the Orthodox Brotherhood at least once a year.
2. The Auditors shall prepare the proposed Budget

for submission to the Board, who shall present it to the Annual Conference.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON: Duties are described as follows:

1. The Membership Chairperson shall have as chief duty the promotion of membership.
2. The Membership Chairperson shall be responsible for the collection of dues, forwarding receipts to the Treasurer and to the members.
3. The membership directory shall be printed and distributed to all Orthodox Brotherhood members by the Membership Chairperson.

DELEGATES TO THE CHURCH CONGRESS: Duties are described as follows:

1. The delegates shall represent the Brotherhood as delegates to the Church Congress and shall perform such other duties as assigned to them by the President.
2. The delegates shall present, in writing, all major decisions to the Executive Board at the first Board Meeting following the Congress.

SECTION 5: In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President between elections, the Vice-President shall become the President for the remainder of the term. In the event of a vacancy in any other elective or appointive office between elections, a majority of the Executive Board members shall elect qualified members to fill the office(s) for the unexpired term.

SECTION 6: The Executive Board shall meet at such times and places as may be determined by the call of the President or by written notice of the majority of the Board.

- a. A majority of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
- b. A written notice of time and place of all regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be mailed to each member by the Secretary not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting.

- c. The Executive Board may transact business by referendum. The Secretary, at the initiative of the President, shall mail the proposed action to Board Members, who shall return their decisions within a two-week (2-week) period.

The tabulated results shall be made known to each Board Member by the Secretary and the results of the action shall be entered into the minutes of the next Board Meeting. The written ballots shall be made evident at the meeting.

ARTICLE III

ANNUAL CONFERENCES

SECTION 1: The Annual Conference of the Brotherhood shall be held at a time and place decided by the previous Conference.

SECTION 2: The Annual Conference shall be called into session by the President at least thirty (30) days prior to the date.

SECTION 3: The Secretary shall cause to be announced in the SOLIA, an official call to the Annual Conference at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of same, to be sent by First Class mail to each member.

SECTION 4: The Executive Board, with the aid of the host Committee, shall supervise and manage all Conferences of the Orthodox Brotherhood and shall announce the official program and order of business of each Conference. Changes in the program may be made by a majority of the members present and voting at the Conference.

SECTION 5: The officers of each annual or special Conference shall be the officers of the Orthodox Brotherhood. The President shall appoint secretaries for the Conference to assist the officers.

SECTION 6: The Annual Conference shall be considered legally constituted when the number of members in good standing present is equal to twice the number of members on the Executive Board.

The quorum for the transaction of business by the Annual Conference shall consist of a number one half (1/2) plus one (1) of those present at the call of the roll.

SECTION 7: Two (2) Tellers and a Parliamentarian, or any other appointments to the Conference Body shall be appointed by the President at the beginning of the Conference. They shall be responsible for distribution, counting of ballots and any decisions on parliamentary procedures.

ARTICLE IV

ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

SECTION 1: At the beginning of the Annual Conference, the President shall appoint a three-member (3-member) Nominating Committee, composed of one (1) member from the Executive Board and two (2) members from the floor, which, at the time of elections, shall present a slate of one (1) willing candidate for each position on the Executive Board, as set forth in Article II, Section 1.

SECTION 2: If the slate is not accepted by the membership, nominations can be made from the floor.

SECTION 3: All voting for elective office shall be by voice vote or show of hands, unless there is a request for a secret ballot. No member shall be entitled to vote unless in good standing.

SECTION 4: A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to secure an election. In the event that any ballot cast does not show a majority for any nominee, then prior to the second ballot, the nominee having the lowest vote on the first ballot shall be dropped and the same procedure shall be followed on each succeeding ballot until some nominee shall receive a majority of all votes cast.

ARTICLE V

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

SECTION 1: The fiscal year of the Orthodox Brotherhood shall commence October 1 of each year and end September 30 of the following year.

SECTION 2: The annual dues shall be established by the Annual Conference and shall be payable prior to or at the Annual Conference.

ARTICLE VI

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

SECTION 1: Unless otherwise provided, Robert Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure of the Orthodox Brotherhood.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: Any proposed amendments to these By-Laws shall be formally submitted, in writing, to the Executive Board through the Secretary of the Orthodox Brotherhood at least ninety (90) days prior to the call of the Constitutional Conference.

SECTION 2: Amendments to these By-Laws shall be presented and accepted at a Conference of the Orthodox Brotherhood by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, or by three-fourths vote of all members at a time other than a Conference.

ARTICLE VIII

DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1: In the event of dissolution of the Orthodox Brotherhood, all properties and funds of the Orthodox Brotherhood shall revert to the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America.

PAST BROTHERHOOD PRESIDENTS

Traian Lascu	1967-1969
John J. Regule	1969-1970
Andrew Peru	1970-1971
Harold Shantz	1971-1972
John Kisbac	1972-1974
John D. Calin	1974-1977
Jane Martin	1977-1981
Walt Lazar	1981-1982
Jane Martin	1982-1983
John J. Regule	1983-1985
Gary N. Brott	1985-1986
Alexandra Carulea	1986-

BROTHERHOOD CONFERENCES

1967	Cleveland, Ohio
1968	Southfield, Michigan
1969	Akron, Ohio
1970	Southfield, Michigan
1971	Cleveland, Ohio
1972	Chicago, Illinois
1973	Los Angeles, California
1974	Dearborn, Michigan
1975	Cleveland, Ohio
1976	Sharon, Pennsylvania
1977	Canton, Ohio
1978	Winnipeg, Manitoba
1979	Cleveland, Ohio
1980	Chicago, Illinois
1981	Akron, Ohio
1982	Southfield, Michigan
1983	St. Paul, Minnesota
1984	Hermitage, Pennsylvania
1985	Youngstown, Ohio
1986	Southfield, Michigan
1987	Cleveland, Ohio
1988	Chicago, Illinois
1989	Canton, Ohio
1990	Warren, Ohio