**Philoptochos Meeting Clergy Laity Congress**

**Thursday, June 12, 2025**

**Philoptochos General Session I**

**Charleston, South Carolina**

President Irene Politis called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Fr Michael Platanis opened with a prayer and spoke about the feast of Pentecost and the origins of the Hymn of Axion Estin, which was in Karyes, Mount Athos.

**President’s Report**: President Irene Politis gave a review of events throughout the Metropolis. There is a new chapter at the new church of St. Porphyrios in Jacksonville, NC. Thanks were given to Sydney Langford and Lekita Essa for a very successful Agape Luncheon in Raleigh. Philoptochos was integral in providing hurricane relief in our Metropolis. Flourish is the venue for the 2025 Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon in Atlanta, Georgia on Saturday, September 27, 2025.

**Credentials Report**: Mary Wehbie: 53 delegates, 8 observers

**Treasurer’s Report**: Marty Driscoll reported on financials: Total assets are $237,595.85 and the following Reports were given:

Balance Sheet Standard

Profit and Loss Standard

Metropolis Philoptochos Check Register Balance End of Period

Children’s Medical Fund, Balance Sheet Standard, all Transactions

Children’s Medical Fund, Profit and Loss Standard, all Transactions

Proposed Budgets, 2023, 2024, 2026, 2027

All Reports are on file.

Proposed Budget for 2026-2027 – total income expected to be 32,700. Motion was made by Irene Fotos to accept the proposed budget, Motion carried.

**SPEAKERS**:

**St. Photios National Shrine**: Carl Hollister is the new Director of the shrine and he has extensive experience in the financial sector.

**Orthodox Christian Fellowship**: Fr. Anthony has visited campus’ around the country lecturing and visiting universities speaking about our Orthodox Faith. Jacob sparks, of the Atlanta OCF with Atlanta Universities, spoke on his work. They have sustained continued growth, in the past year have grown from 50 students to 100 students. Jacob was a math student from UGA and transferred to a religion major and was greatly assisted by Fr. Anthony.

**Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology**: Dr. Demetrios Katos presented updates that Philoptochos is having on HC-HC today. Earlier this year National Philoptochos gave a $300,000 grant for technology and infrastructure. Nearly $200,000 allocated to Chapel Boiler, Chapel steps to Mailiotis Cultural Center, and Chapel steps to Halki Village. Also, $100,000 was allocated for technology, with new servers for HCHC, fiber internet connection upgrade, gateway and switch upgrade, security cameras and intercoms, fire alarm repairs, and secure access cards and readers. Dr. Katos spoke about the Semester of Faith program and the Crossroads program.

**Family Life Ministry**: Paula Marchman, Director of Metropolis of Atlanta Family Ministry, introduced their newly published resources.

**Florence Crittenton Program of SC** : Cherly O’Donnell, Director of a program to be re-named Young Moms Together. Florence Crittenton has been active for 100 years in the Charleston area. The sole purpose is helping unwed mothers. This served as a refuge for an unwed mother to have a safe quiet place to live. Focus has also evolved to also help unwed mothers gain skills to meet the needs of keeping and raising children. In South Carolina, approximately 3,000 girls give birth each year. Safe shelters with residential group homes instill self-sufficiency and self-confidence. Ages 14-20, and women up to the age of 24 are still struggling to find a safe place to live. In South Carolina, self sufficiency study promotes education as their research has shown, a woman needs $25/hour in the workplace. This is difficult to achieve without a secondary education. Their investment is long term and they serve as support and guidance system for young women. In 2024 45 young women went through the program.

Sarah Kalaris made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Dorothy Xanos seconded and motion carried.