

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
AND
BULGARIAN EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH, DIOCESE OF U.S. AND
CANADA

Agreement made this day, DECEMBER 20, 1976, between the Orthodox Church in America, acting through its Metropolitan Primate, His Beatitude IRENEY, and the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Diocese of the United States and Canada, acting through its Bishop, His Grace Kyrill.

ARTICLE I

The Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Diocese of the United States and Canada, hereafter called the Diocese, acknowledges and accepts the Orthodox Church in America as the sole Autocephalous Orthodox Church in America.

ARTICLE II

The Diocese hereto recognizes that the canonical jurisdiction of the Autocephalous Orthodox Church in America includes the Bulgarian Diocese and its parishes.

ARTICLE III

It is mutually agreed between the two parties that the canonical jurisdiction of the Orthodox Church in America over the Diocese manifests itself as follows:

- a. The Diocese will receive the Holy Chrism and the Holy Relics from the Primate;
- b. The Name of the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America will be elevated during the Divine Services by the Bishop of the Diocese;

- c. The Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America is the highest spiritual authority in all canonical matters;
- d. The Prirate upon canonical examination and confirmation by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America will consecrate the Bishop-elect of the Diocese;
- e. The Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America in its judicial session will act as the Court of Final Appeals in all cases originating in the Disciplinary Courts of the Diocese;
- f. All complaints against the person of the Bishops of the Diocese are within the competence of the Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America.

ARTICLE IV

The Orthodox Church in America hereby recognizes and agrees that:

- a. The Diocese shall be governed as a distinct administrative unit in accordance with its own Constitution and By-laws, customs and traditions;
- b. The Bishops of the Diocese are elected from among the nominees canonically approved by the Synod of Bishops, by the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese in accordance with its own By-Laws and practices;
- c. The parishes under the jurisdiction of the Diocese are and shall remain under the direct jurisdiction of the Bishops of the Diocese;
- d. The Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese is the sole legislative body of the Diocese having the right to approve and amend the Constitution and By-Laws of the Diocese, provided that such amendments do not contradict any of the terms of this agreement and any of the provisions of the Statutes of the Orthodox Church in America.

ARTICLE V

It is further mutually agreed that:

- a. The Diocesan Bishop of the Bulgarian Diocese is an ex-officio member of the Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America and will enjoy all the rights and privileges of the Diocesan Bishops;
- b. There shall be no intermediary administrative authority between the Primate and the Synod and the head of the Diocese;
- c. The Diocese shall have the right to participate in the All-American Assembly^{ies} with delegates in the same proportionate number as any other participating Diocese;
- d. The external and ecumenical relations of the Diocese shall be conducted through active participation in the Central Department of External Affairs of the Orthodox Church in America;
- e. The Diocese shall fully participate through official appointees of its governing bodies in the works of all departments and commissions established by the Orthodox Church in America for the general welfare, progress and mission of the Church;
- f. The financial contributions of the Diocese to the Orthodox Church in America shall be mutually determined from time to time as agreed by both parties.

ARTICLE VI

The present agreement shall come into force upon the date of signature, subject to ratification by the Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America and subsequently by the Diocesan Assembly of the Bulgarian Diocese. + Metropolitan
- Bp. K.
authorities
+ B.R.

Done at SYOSSET, N.Y., this 20TH day of DECEMBER, 1976, in duplicate, both copies being equally authentic.

FOR THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

+ Metropolitan Ireney
Metropolitan Ireney

FOR THE BULGARIAN EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH

+ Bishop Cyril

Chancellor
The Very Reverend Daniel Hubiak

CLARIFICATION TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

AND

THE BULGARIAN EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH, DIOCESE OF UNITED STATES AND CANADA

dated December 20, 1976:

It is mutually agreed between the two parties that,

a. A committee composed of representatives of the Diocese and of the Administration of The Orthodox Church in America will study the Diocese's By-Laws to eliminate possible discrepancies with the Statute of The Orthodox Church in America.

b. Financial responsibilities of the Diocese to The Orthodox Church in America will be determined by agreement between the Diocese and the Department of Finance of The Orthodox Church in America.

FOR THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

+ Metropolitan Ireney

+Metropolitan Ireney

FOR THE BULGARIAN EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH

+ Bishop Kyrill

+Bishop Kyrill

The above was done at Syosset, New York, this twentieth day of December, 1976, in duplicate, both copies being equally authentic.