

Old Calendar Orthodox Church of Greece Holy Synod in Resistance



By-Laws for the Functioning of the Standing Holy Synod

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I

Introduction

1. The institution of the Standing Holy Synod (SHS) is deemed necessary during this period in history, with the awareness, to be sure, that it constitutes an administrative arrangement of a provisional nature, in anticipation of a unifying general Orthodox Synod—the point of reference for its existence and activity.

2. The SHS is the permanent administrative organ of the Holy Synod of Bishops (HSB) of the Orthodox in resistance, and its necessity derives from the fact that it can, at the discretion of the HSB and always being answerable thereto, swiftly expedite various matters which concern our Church, thereby facilitating matters for our Bishops, who, residing in distant sees and, in some cases, abroad are unable to meet together frequently at the headquarters of our Metropolis.

3. The SHS, functioning at the behest of the HSB, transacts business and makes decisions in conformity with the synodal judgment of the latter and, of course, always in the spirit of the Patristic and Synodal Tradition of the Orthodox Church.

II

Membership

1. The Standing Holy Synod of the Orthodox in resistance is comprised of the Metropolitan of Oropos and Phyle, *qua* First Hierarch (President), and of all his Assistant Bishops resident in Greece, and thus it occupies, in essence, the place of a Resident (*Endemousa*) Synod, something not unknown in Holy Tradition.

2. The SHS has a quorum if those of its members who are present are one more than half of their total number.
3. Decisions of the SHS are made by a majority vote; in the event of a tie, the opinion of the First Hierarch prevails.
4. If the First Hierarch is absent or indisposed, the senior Hierarch among the members of the SHS who are present deputizes for him.

III

Place and Time of Meetings

1. The SHS meets at the center of the Metropolis of the Synod in Resistance, that is, the Holy Monastery of Sts. Cyprian and Justina, near Phyle, Attica.
2. The synodal period is one year in duration, commencing immediately after the annual convocation of the HSB at the beginning of October, which also renews its mandate to the members of the SHS or appoints new members.
3. Any member of the SHS who does not measure up to the expectations of the HSB may be removed by the latter.
4. The holy Service of the Blessing of Water for the inauguration of a new synodal period, which is celebrated at the annual convocation of the HSB, applies at the same time to the annual synodal period of the SHS.
5. The SHS meets regularly every twenty days, on Tuesday; but if some need arises, it determines the date of the next meeting accordingly.
6. The SHS does not discontinue its proceedings during the summer months.
7. The SHS also meets on special occasions, when this is deemed necessary either on the initiative of its President or at the request of its members.

IV

Operation

1. The beginning and ending of each meeting of the SHS is marked by a prayer, said either by the First Hierarch or by his deputy.

2. The First Hierarch and the members of the SHS attend its meetings wearing *Epanokalymmachia* and *Enkolpia* and are seated around the table at which the meeting takes place in order of seniority.

3. If the Secretary of the SHS is an Archimandrite, he wears an *Epanokalymmachion* and a pectoral Cross, as do his assistants also.

4. The SHS meets in regard to topics presented by the First Hierarch and the members, in turn; but in the case of special topics, and particularly if they are serious in nature and require preliminary study, the members are to be notified thereof in a timely manner before the SHS convenes.

5. Topics for discussion are to be posed in order by the First Hierarch and subsequently by the members of the SHS in order of seniority.

6. Remarks by members of the SHS are to be made while the speaker is seated, and discussions must be marked by Christian courtesy, humility, and love, in a spirit of freedom, but also without excessive prolixity and certainly must not go off the subject.

7. If a member of the SHS behaves inappropriately during discussions and hinders the smooth functioning of the meeting, in order to avoid further deviations, the First Hierarch may close the session either temporarily or conclusively, until the next regular or extraordinary meeting.

8. Votes are taken openly and are conducted by calling out names, beginning with the junior most member of the SHS.

V

Minutes

1. The minutes of the meetings are to be compiled by the Secretary and recorder of minutes of the SHS, with the supervision of the First Hierarch, and exchanges that take place during meetings must be rendered with the greatest possible accuracy.

2. The minutes are to be ratified at the immediately following meeting of the SHS, after they have been read by the Secretary; they may be emended or completed if one of the members so proposes.

3. The minutes are finally to be signed by the First Hierarch and the members, and are to be stamped with the proper seal of the SHS.

4. The minutes of the SHS, for the sake of convenience and in order to save time, are to be recorded in electronic form and stored in a special archive.

5. Without the permission of the SHS, the minutes of a meeting are not allowed to be published, either in part or in their entirety.

6. The minutes of one or more meetings of the SHS may be communicated to an interested member of the Holy Synod in Resistance (HSR) in response to a written request.

VI The Secretary

1. The Secretary of the SHS can be either a Hierarch belonging to the SHS or a clergyman, either a Presbyter or a Deacon, unmarried or married, possessing the requisite knowledge for this task.

2. The Secretary is appointed by the HSB together with the members of the SHS, and if he is absent or indisposed, the Assistant Secretary or a member of the Synod may deputize for him.

3. The Secretary, as an integral element of the SHS who directly assists the First Hierarch, signs synodal documents along with the First Hierarch, keeps an archive of the minutes and of the correspondence of the SHS and its seal, takes care of promoting the decisions of the SHS, informs its members of various matters held in abeyance [from previous meetings—*Trans.*], puts before the Synod various items of business submitted to the Chancery, offering suitable details about them, and in general takes care of every matter pertaining to the SHS, with the supervision of its President.

VII Concluding Remarks

1. It is not permitted to distribute copies of documents deposited with the SHS, unless permission is requested in writing by the petitioner and without the approval of its members.

2. Communication of exchanges during meetings of the SHS and publication thereof by members of the SHS are strictly forbidden.

3. Whenever this is deemed expedient, information may be published by the SHS in the form of communiqués, by way of the Secretary.

4. The SHS acts, when necessary, as an ecclesiastical tribunal of the first instance for Presbyters, Deacons, and monastics; and, with the participation of additional Bishops from the Holy Synod (with the exception of the Metropolitan), so as to make up the number of twelve, acts as an ecclesiastical tribunal of the first instance for Bishops, presided over by the Hierarch who is first in rank.

5. The official periodical of the HSR, entitled *Orthodoxos Enstasis kai Martyria* (Orthodox Resistance and Witness), is published under the aegis of the SHS, as is also its annual *Church Pocket Calendar*.

6. The Chancery of the SHS, under the supervision of its President, is responsible for the maintenance of the official website of the HSR.

7. The SHS has its own proper seal, bearing in its midst, below a Cross and horizontally, the title: STANDING HOLY SYNOD. It is surrounded on the outside by the title: HOLY SYNOD IN RESISTANCE–1985, and on the inside by the title: OLD CALENDAR ORTHODOX CHURCH OF GREECE.

8. The present “By-Laws for the Functioning of the Standing Holy Synod” were approved by the Holy Synod of Bishops at its Thirty-seventh Meeting (October 4–5, 2010 [Old Style]), and may be modified only by the Holy Synod of Bishops, at the recommendation of at least half of the Hierarchs, and its publication in the official periodical of the HSR is also permitted, as is its posting on the website of the HSR.

Acting President
† *Bishop Cyprian of Oreoi*

Secretary
† *Bishop Klemes of Gardikion*