

AN INTER-SYNODAL AGREEMENT
between
THE AMERICAN ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH
and
THE AMERICAN ORTHODOX CHURCH/
NORTH AMERICAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Preamble

Given that we believe firmly that inter-synodal relationships between sister jurisdictions within the American Orthodox Church are to be valued and encouraged, we seek to enter into the following inter-synodal agreement and pledge ourselves to fulfill both the rule and the spirit of its godly intent.

We recognize the importance of joining together in worship, sharing our God-given gifts and caring for the spiritual lives of God's people. We believe that we can fulfill the obligations required of us by God through a prayerful association with others who, like us all, have traveled the path of Orthodoxy, subscribe to the Orthodox traditions and uphold the faith of the "One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church."

The American Orthodox Catholic Church and The American Orthodox Church/North American Orthodox Church share common roots. We worship in a manner that is virtually identical, one to the other. Both jurisdictions maintain the primacy of Holy Scripture, the Apostolic Succession, the Faith in the Orthodox Catholic Tradition, Biblical morality, and the teachings of the First Seven Ecumenical Councils. Moreover, until the late 1970's the two jurisdictions were indeed united in one body. Despite the subsequent division, the AOCC and the AOC/NAOC have never been out of communion in any substantive way. No document has ever been written to the effect that the two jurisdictions reject communion with the other.

Therefore, we seek to heal that which has been broken, bringing together that which has been separated in name only. We wish to recognize, in this document, what has always existed; that we are true brothers and sisters in Christ, that we will welcome each other back to our spiritual homes in the fullness of our hearts and in the spirit of God's love for us.

The Inter-Synodal Agreement

We the undersigned, in the interest of restoring full union among all Orthodox American Churches, and in compliance with the stated mission of the Orthodox Church, sign this agreement of Inter-Synodality.

It is our prayerful hope that this preliminary document will serve as a beginning that will lead to the eventual reconciliation of our jurisdictions; further, that it will encourage other continuing jurisdictions to seek greater unity each to each, and that it will help bring to fruition the unity of

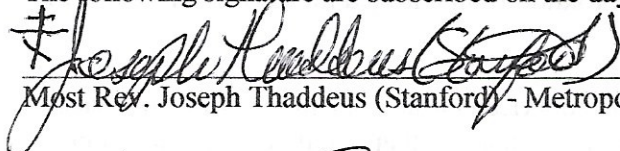
purpose that God desires for His people.

Possessing a common heritage and in recognition of our spiritual fellowship and kinship, we are members of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. In that spirit, and with the understanding that we have been created to do God's will, we agree to the following specific terms:

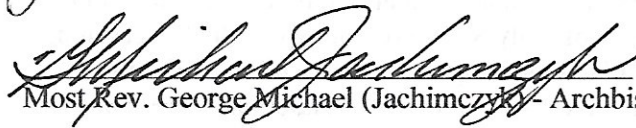
1. Each jurisdiction recognizes the catholicity and autocephaly (independence) of the other;
2. Each jurisdiction agrees to welcome members of the other jurisdiction to participate in the Sacraments, recognizing as well the validity and interchange-ability of each others' Holy Orders;
3. Each jurisdiction recognizes that the other holds all essentials of the Christian Faith and seeks to teach and proclaim the same;
4. We commit ourselves to work toward an ever closer bond between our two churches, seeking always to discern God's will for us and for those we serve.

A copy of this document shall have the same force and validity as the original.

The following signature are subscribed on the day and date herein below.

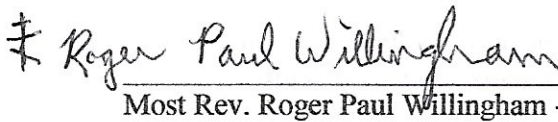
 Date: 06/15/2016
Most Rev. Joseph Thaddeus (Stanford) - Metropolitan AOC/NAOC

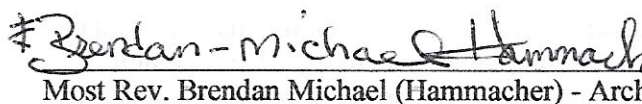


 Date: June 2016
Most Rev. George Michael (Jachimczyk) - Archbishop co-adjutor AOC/NAOC

 Date: June 30, 2016
Most Rev. Paul Lorenzen - Evangelical Catholic Church



 Date: 7-18-2016
Most Rev. Roger Paul Willingham - Primate AOCC

 Date: 7-25-2016
Most Rev. Brendan Michael (Hammacher) - Archbishop AOCC

