



E. No. 11/17  
January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**INVITATION  
TO THE  
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE GOD-PROTECTED DIOCESE OF EASTERN AMERICA  
FEBRUARY 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
ST. SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH  
IN BOSTON**

*Flee from the shadow of this age,  
receive the joy of your glory;  
I **publicly** call on my Savior to **witness** (2 Esdras 2:36).*

TO ALL CLERGY AND ORDAINED MONASTICS  
TO ALL CHURCH-SCHOOL CONGREGATION EXECUTIVE BOARDS  
TO ALL MISSION PARISH BOARDS AND MONASTERY ADMINISTRATIONS  
TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL AND THEIR ALTERNATES  
TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESAN AUDITING BOARD  
TO THE FEDERATION OF THE CIRCLES OF SERBIAN SISTERS  
OF THE HOLY DIOCESE OF EASTERN AMERICA

Beloved Clergy and Faithful,

Grace, joy and peace to you from the New-born Savior Jesus Christ!

**ХРИСТОС СЕ РОДИ! CHRIST IS BORN!**

Predicated on a decision of the Diocesan Council at its regularly scheduled biannual meeting of December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 and on the basis of the *Constitution of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America* Article 21.3, We herein summon the ANNUAL DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY to its regular convocation from Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, at the St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, 41 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge, MA 02140, (T/F) 617.674.4035, per the following schedule:

❖ **FRIDAY,**

**FEBRUARY 10<sup>th</sup>:**

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Arrivals and Registration

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Vespers and Invocation of the Holy Spirit

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM Reports and Discussion

❖ **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup>:**

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy  
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Continental Breakfast  
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Thematic Presentation:

***Our Orthodox Public Witness*** by two eminent, published Orthodox Scholars, **Prof. Dr. Elizabeth Prodromou**, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Tufts University, and **Prof. Dr. Aristotle Papanikolaou**, Archbishop Demetrios Chair in Orthodox Theology and Culture, Co-founding Director, Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Lunch  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Final Working Session and Elections of Diocesan Council and Audit Board

**ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP:** In accordance with the *Constitution* Article 21.2, the Diocesan Assembly is comprised of: The Diocesan Bishop, the Diocesan Council and Auditing Board, all active and retired Priests, Ordained Monastics and Deacons, Presidents of Executive Boards of Church-School Congregations (or their alternates) and one Delegate elected at a Congregational Assembly, and two Delegates from the Diocesan Federation of the Circles of Serbian Sisters.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** An essential qualification for participation in the Assembly is that all said members of the Assembly must be in good standing with their local parish. As members of the Church, it is incumbent upon everyone present to participate in the Invocation of the Holy Spirit and thereby prepare themselves to receive Holy Communion at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. (Clergy are asked to bring gold/white vestments.) Only by participating in the Life-giving Mysteries of our Church will we manifest ourselves as an Assembly, i.e. the sacred Community of our Local Church which is one in Christ.

**STEWARDSHIP:** In order to participate in the Assembly, every Church-School Congregation must also strive to meet its Annual Assessment and all other obligations towards its Diocese.

**CREDENTIALS:** Enclosed, please find a singular Credential Form for the Parish Priest, Executive Board President (or alternate) and Congregational Delegate. This form must be completed in advance of the Assembly so that it can be submitted upon arrival at the Registration Desk to the Credentials Committee for processing.

**REPORTS:** Under separate cover, in one envelope, three sets of Reports will be sent in care of your Parish Priest for the perusal of your representatives. Kindly bring these with you to the Assembly as no extra copies will be provided. A detailed Agenda will be provided at the Assembly.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Hotel rooms can be reserved either directly at any of the three designated hotels, or through Expedia, Orbitz and the like:

1. Hotel Tria in Cambridge  
220 Alewife Brook Pkwy, Cambridge, MA 02138  
Phone: 617.491.8000 | Fax: 617.491.4932

reservations@hoteltria.com

[https://hoteltria.reztrip.com/classic/en/special\\_offer?action=show&controller=landings&locale=en&rate\\_code=SSSOC&rate\\_code=SSSOC&starting\\_page=special\\_offer&vr=3](https://hoteltria.reztrip.com/classic/en/special_offer?action=show&controller=landings&locale=en&rate_code=SSSOC&rate_code=SSSOC&starting_page=special_offer&vr=3)

\$89 double room plus \$15 for parking. This rate is guaranteed until January 23rd.  
Shuttle available for groups

2. Hyatt Place Medford/Boston

116 Riverside Ave, Medford, MA 02155

Reservations: 844-263-4951

<https://bostonmedford.place.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>

\$125 or less is guaranteed until January 16th. This hotel may even be cheaper if reserved through Expedia.com. Shuttle available for groups. For online booking enter the code G-SSSC into the section marked "Corporate or Group Code".

3. Homewood Suites by Hilton

1 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA 02474

Reservations: 844-263-4951

No group rates

[https://www.reservationcounter.com/hotels/show/109247/courtyard-by-marriott-boston-cambridge/?mm\\_campaign=61e23501c3a7666376c173fa44c75e69&TID=sCys1FOmX\\_dc%257cpcrid%257c170327564579&utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_term=courtyard%2520by%2520marriott%2520boston%2520cambridge&utm\\_campaign=Marriott+-+Courtyard&keyword=courtyard%2520by%2520marriott%2520boston%2520cambridge&hotelid=109247&qclid=CO2gxe6\\_utECFRpMDQodatwBhw&qclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.reservationcounter.com/hotels/show/109247/courtyard-by-marriott-boston-cambridge/?mm_campaign=61e23501c3a7666376c173fa44c75e69&TID=sCys1FOmX_dc%257cpcrid%257c170327564579&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_term=courtyard%2520by%2520marriott%2520boston%2520cambridge&utm_campaign=Marriott+-+Courtyard&keyword=courtyard%2520by%2520marriott%2520boston%2520cambridge&hotelid=109247&qclid=CO2gxe6_utECFRpMDQodatwBhw&qclsrc=aw.ds)

Again, beloved, as the Assembly is first and foremost a SPIRITUAL GATHERING OF THE CLERGY AND FAITHFUL AROUND THEIR BISHOP, which is, according to the words of St Ignatius of Antioch, an **iconic likeness of the Kingdom of Heaven**, you are asked to prayerfully prepare for the work of our Assembly, so that we can worthily begin our common work by communing with the Body and Blood of the very Lord and only-begotten Savior Jesus Christ, and labor in love through the prayers of our common Patron, St. Sava the Enlightener of the Serbs:

**Да живимо сви у слози,  
Свети Саво, ти помози!**

With Archpastoral Blessings and Paternal Love,

BISHOP OF EASTERN AMERICA

