

Welcome to the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Religious Education Commission

What We Are

In September, 2010, His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos appointed a group of clergy and laity to the newly formed Religious Education Commission of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh as “**an advisory and consultative body to the Director of the Office of Religious Education**”. In the following months the commission took form and developed the following mission statement: *The mission of the Religious Education Commission of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh is to serve the parishes of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh by providing materials and services that will advance their programs of religious education.*

Who We Are

The Religious Education Commission is made up of clergy and laity from across the Metropolis of Pittsburgh including Catechetical School directors, Catechetical School teachers and others who have a variety of skills and experience both in youth work and catechetical education. Though we are few, the combined catechetical experience of our commission counts in the hundreds of years! Several of us have served or continue to serve on the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Youth Commission. Several of us have taught in the parish catechetical school programs for well over 15 years. Our Director of the Office of Religious Education, Phyllis Meshel Onest has served our Metropolis of Pittsburgh for over 18 years in the Ministry of Religious Education. We will introduce ourselves to you a little later.

What We Do

As an advisory and consultative body, the Religious Education Commission will assist the Director of the Office of Religious Education in “improving and expanding” existing Religious Education programs of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh. Working in conjunction with the Archdiocese Department of Religious Education, our present approach is to operate as a “Think Tank”, providing suggestions and assistance where necessary to help promote the areas of focus for Religious Education within the Metropolis of Pittsburgh, according to the directives and with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos.

These areas of focus include: maintaining the Archdiocese Curriculum on the parish level; Teacher and Parent accountability; utilizing existing curriculum materials (particularly the new Jr and Sr High School “Zines”) and approving other teaching materials; Teacher Training; the Oratorical Festival, and other areas of interest.

How We Do It

The Religious Education Commission meets several times a year, usually by a conference call, to discuss issues or objectives of the Metropolis Religious Education program that may have priority at that time. Commission members are available along with our Director to offer Religious Education assistance to area parishes within our metropolis. We will also be looking into other ways to promote Religious Education and Teacher Training through the possible use of webcams, CD's, videos, seminars, and traveling Religious Education Commission members.

Contact Us

If you need assistance with your parish Religious Education program, your first and foremost contact would be with our Director, Phyllis Meshel Onest. Or you may contact any one of our active commission members in your area. Active members of our Religious Education Commission are: (*NOTE: "CSD" indicates "Catechetical School Director"*)

PHYLLIS MESHEL ONEST

Director , Office of Religious Education

Akron, OH

Home: 330-376-0629 / Cell: 330-620-6101

pmonest@neo.rr.com

www.phyllisonest.com

RHEA BALLAS

Metropolis Youth Coordinator, ex officio

Pittsburgh, PA

Youth Office: 412-621-8543

C: 614-477-4267

youth@odpgh.org

REV. CHRISTOPHER BENDER, Pastor

H: 412-262-8110 / C: 724-630-3483

Dormition, Aliquippa, PA

O: 724-375-5341

chbender@verizon.net

JACQUELINE BENNIS

CSD Holy Trinity, Ambridge, PA

H: 724-266-4504

jacbennis@comcast.net

FAYE V. CARRIG

CSD Koimisis Tis Theotokou

Erie, PA

H: 814-453-4630

efc308@netzero.net

CARYN CHERPAS

CSD Sts. Constantine & Helen

Cleveland, OH

H: 330-425-4223

cherpfam@msn.com

REV. FRANK MILANESE, Pastor

Chairman, Religious Education Commission

All Saints, Weirton, WV

O: 304-797-9884/ C: 304-914-5456

fatherfoti-allsaints@yahoo.com

PRESV. GEORGIA MUKSURIS

Pittsburgh, PA

C:412-973-0101 H: 412-276-0725

geokatmew@yahoo.com

HELEN RANKIN

CSD Annunciation, Columbus, OH

H: 614:431-0881 / C: 614-530-4771

helenpr@aol.com

The Religious Education Commission has a number of inactive members who can only participate as time permits. They are not listed as active contacts.