

St. Mark's General Servants' Meeting

Attendance: His Grace Bishop Archilids, Fr. Pishoi, Fr. Ammonius, Fr. Misael, Fr. Marc, Fr. Kyrillos, and approximately 100 servants.

A. Opening Prayer by Bishop Archilids

B. Spiritual message: "Apostolic Tradition in the Coptic Orthodox Church in North America" by Bishop Archilids

Summary points:

Acts 2:42-46

- It is a great privilege to be an Orthodox servant
- We have all the teachings direct from the Gospel without any alteration
- Even the liturgy, the rites, the dogma of the church are all direct from the apostles and the Gospel
- We are an Orthodox, traditional church
- The most important factor is the unity of the church: all over the world, all Coptic Orthodox churches pray the same liturgy, readings and prayers
- Joshua 2:18-19
 - Keep the faith
 - Stay steadfast

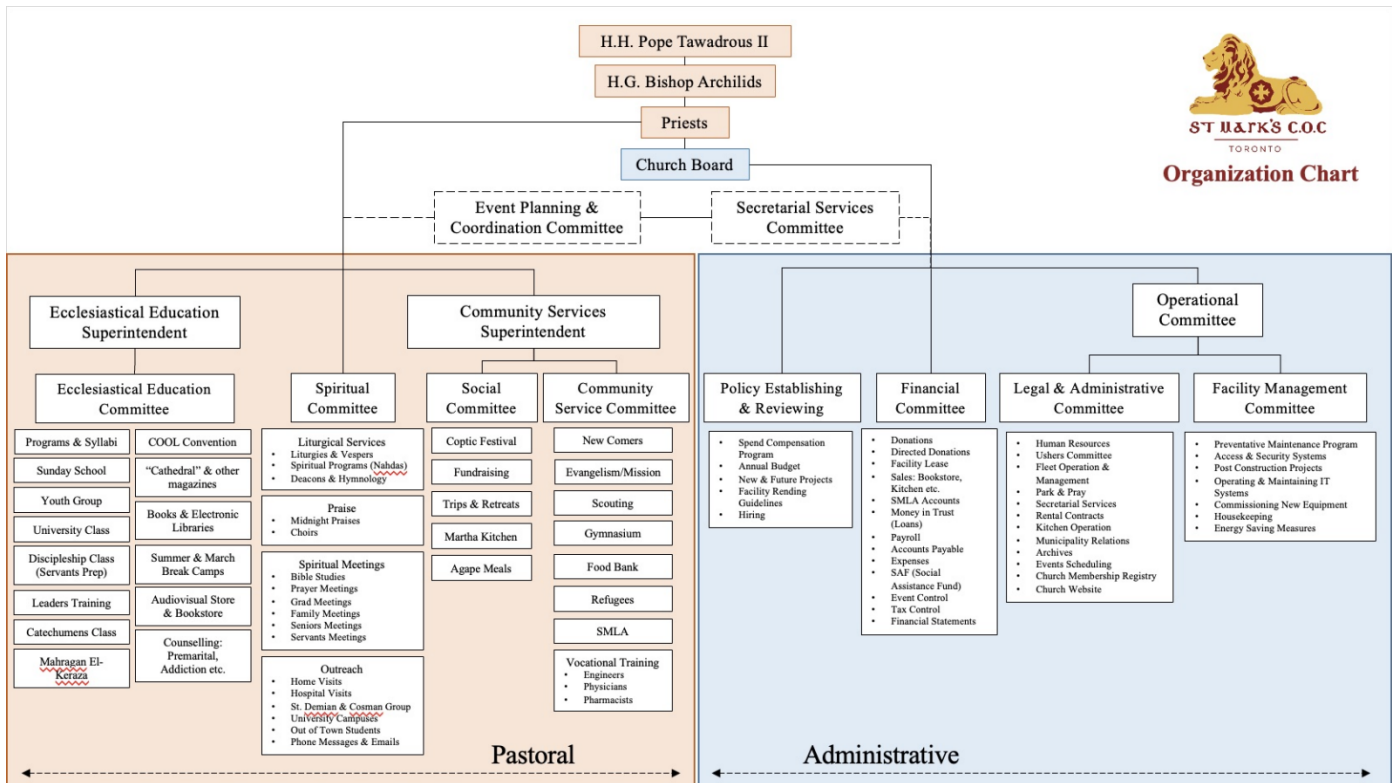
C. Q&A

- What if someone puts me down?
 - You are the servant of God; you cannot accept glory from people. It takes away any blessing that is given to you by God. If someone insults you, accept it and be glad because God will reward you in heaven.
 - Talk to your spiritual advisor/father confessor, perhaps you are letting your ego get in the way.
 - Ask advice from your leader in the service.
 - Communication is key – there is no need to escalate if you can resolve any issues through communication.
 - Pray about the problem:
 - a. Always lift an arm: pray
 - b. Break a knee: kneel
 - c. Get your nourishment from the Gospel
- How can we encourage the youth to participate in events, especially the festival?
 - Will confer with the priests to come up with a plan of action and will communicate to the group.
- How do we communicate with His Grace Bishop Archilids if there are diocesan issues?
 - Currently working on a communication strategy for the Bishop, the diocese, and the individual churches. Will communicate the plan and the respective website, e-mail addresses, etc.

D. Overview of the Entire Service

Servants: Drs. Mohsen Assaad, Mark Boulos

- Vision of the Year: to ensure that our congregation is on track toward the perfection of humanity through our Lord Jesus Christ
- Verse: "That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:17)



- Logistics of how services coordinate with priests & with each other:
 - I. Services & servants are limited to their specific roles
 - II. Any extension to the ministerial field is deferred for spiritual guidance from the church fathers
 - III. Each service is assigned to a church priest, head servant & assistant head servant

E. Meet the Service: Children's Ministry – Sunday School & Saturday Activities

Servants: Hanaa Mekhael, Nahed Salama, Raafat Habib, Gina Girgis, Patrick Magar

- Curriculum being followed is that of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States and the Holy Synod's
- Sunday School takes place on Sundays after the second Divine Liturgy in the cathedral
- Saturday Activities take place on Saturdays from 5 to 7 p.m. at the cathedral

F. Meet the Service: Junior High School Service: Grades 7&8

Servants: Iman Guindi, Wafaa Boshara, Sandra Bishara

- Curriculum being followed is that of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States
- Sunday School takes place on Sundays after the second Divine Liturgy in the cathedral
- Saturday Activities take place on Saturdays from 5 to 7 p.m. at the cathedral, which includes hymns, bible study, gym and choir
- Also includes SMART Mission, COOL (Coptic Orthodox Ontario League) Convention, as well as other activities and retreats

G. Meet the Service: High School Service

Servants: Iskander Boulos, Marym Abdelmaseh + about 36 Servants

- Friday night meetings
- Open to all youth, grades 9 to 12

- Activities include overnight retreats, community services, annual career fair, interparish youth nights, food drives, etc.
- Schedule of a typical Friday night is as follows: prayer (Agpeya & hymns), spiritual lesson, social time (includes food/drinks, games, gym)
- Curriculum consists of social & contemporary, spiritual, and rites/scripture/theological topics

H. Meet the Service: University Class

Servants: Adel Rofael + 6 Servants

- Friday night meetings
- Open to all university and college (undergraduate) students
- Activities include overnight/weekend retreats, ice-fishing, weekday (evening) study nights, movie nights, pumpkin carving, paint night, etc.

I. Meet the Service: Servants' Preparation – How Do We Train Our Servants?

- **High School Servants Preparation Class** (Servants: Iskander Boulos, Nanci Ataalla, Magdy Yacoub, Stephen Phillips, Mark Boulos)
2-year program for youth in grades 10 to 12
Curriculum being followed is that of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States (Servants Prep material)
Meetings take place every Sunday in the chapel from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
- **Mature Disciples Preparation Program (MDPP)** - Servants: Gigi Habib + other servants
2-year program for people aged 18 and above
Curriculum being followed is that of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States (Servants Prep material)
Asynchronous learning through Google Class

J. Meet the Service: The Coptic Museum of Canada – How Do We Teach the World? (Presenters: Dr. Helene Moussa and Maged Estafanos)

- The Coptic Museum of Canada celebrates the rich cultural heritage of Copts across Canada and abroad. We play an important role in the research, discovery, and conservation of Coptic Art and Culture and the art of the Copts
- The Museum welcomes all individuals and institutions interested in contributing to the Museum's vital role in preserving and researching the unique collections, stories, and rich cultural heritage of the Copts
- Mission: To advance education by improving the public's understanding and awareness of the heritage and the art of the Copts, through exhibitions, events, performances, diverse programming, and publications
- The Museum provides guided tours, school visits, art workshops, lectures and seminars that should be taken advantage of by St. Mark's servants to learn more about our Coptic heritage and history
- Please contact us to plan a trip to the Museum: copticmuseumcanada@gmail.com

K. Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned with prayers at 2:30 p.m.
- Kindly provide us with your feedback at: tiny.cc/feedback777
- Please contact any of the GSM committee members to add any agenda items
- Next meeting date will be communicated