



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

A.R.F.O.R.A.

**Association of the Romanian Orthodox Ladies Auxiliaries
of North America**

Approved by

The
A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress
in its sessions in May 1997
Cleveland, Ohio

Ratified by

The Congress of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America
in its sessions in July 1997
Vatra Românească

1997

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE A.R.F.O.R.A.

Association of the Romanian Orthodox Ladies Auxiliaries of North America

PREAMBLE

In almost all Romanian Orthodox parishes in the United States and Canada, ladies auxiliaries were organized at the same time as the parishes. They gave a generous and unselfish contribution to the life of the Church.

The first attempt to organize the local auxiliaries in an international organization was made at the Episcopate Congress held in Chicago in 1934, when the Society of Orthodox Romanian Auxiliaries (S.O.R.A.) was established.

In 1938, His Grace, Bishop POLICARP, reactivated that organization under the name of A.R.F.O.R.A., the Association of Romanian Orthodox Ladies Auxiliaries of North America. At that time, the first provisional By-Laws were adopted.

The By-Laws were reprinted in 1956, 1971 and 1988 with revisions in 1992, 1993 and 1994. This latest revision was adopted at a Legislative Meeting held in May 1997 in Dearborn Heights, Michigan.

The Church Congress, held in Grass Lake, Michigan, in July 1997, approved the By-Laws as presented in this booklet.

CONSTITUTION of the Association of the Romanian Orthodox Ladies Auxiliaries of North America

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the organization shall be The Association of the Romanian Orthodox Ladies Auxiliaries of North America, known also as Asociația Reuniunilor Femeilor Ortodoxe Române din America de Nord (A.R.F.O.R.A.).

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of A.R.F.O.R.A. shall be:

- (a) To function as an international Auxiliary of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America;
- (b) To initiate and promote unity, cooperation and fellowship among the Ladies Auxiliaries of the parishes and missions under the jurisdiction of the Episcopate;
- (c) To contribute to the preservation, strengthening and propagation of the Orthodox Faith through personal devotion and common projects;
- (d) To be of service to the programs and needs of the Episcopate;
- (e) To raise funds for religious, charitable and cultural purposes as defined and approved by the Episcopate.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

The A.R.F.O.R.A. is comprised of Ladies Auxiliaries of all the parishes and missions under the jurisdiction of the Episcopate.

ARTICLE IV

LEGISLATIVE POWERS

- (a) All legislative powers shall be vested in the A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress to be held each year.
- (b) The Congress shall be comprised of the Bishop, the Spiritual Advisor and the duly elected Delegates and “ex-officio”

members representing the local Ladies Auxiliaries.

ARTICLE V
EXECUTIVE POWERS

All executive powers shall be vested in the Executive Committee elected by the A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress.

ARTICLE VI
LEGAL POWERS

- (a) The A.R.F.O.R.A. shall function under the Charter of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America.
- (b) The Bishop of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America shall be the spiritual leader of A.R.F.O.R.A.
- (c) The Congress of the Episcopate shall have the power to ratify or refuse ratification of any constitution or any constitutional amendment passed by the A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress.
- (d) The Episcopate shall exercise the final judicial power in all cases of dispute.

ARTICLE VII
AMENDMENTS

- (a) The Constitution and By-Laws of A.R.F.O.R.A. may be amended by the A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress at a special legislative session.
- (b) Proposed amendments must be received by the A.R.F.O.R.A. President three (3) months prior to the Annual Meeting.
- (c) Proposed amendments, sent out as “Notices of Motion,” must be distributed to the Ladies Auxiliaries Presidents prior to the Annual Meeting.
- (d) The adoption of any amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws shall be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present at the Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII
DISSOLUTION

In the case of dissolution of A.R.F.O.R.A. as an Auxiliary of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, all funds and assets of A.R.F.O.R.A. shall become the patrimonium of the Episcopate.

BY-LAWS
of the
Association of the Romanian Orthodox Ladies Auxiliaries of North America

ARTICLE I
MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Every Ladies Auxiliary functioning in a parish or mission under the jurisdiction of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America is a member of A.R.F.O.R.A.
- (b) To enjoy the full rights and privileges, an Auxiliary shall express its desire for active membership.
- (c) The Executive Committee, after ascertaining that the respective Auxiliary accepts the Constitution and By-Laws and obligations established by the Congress, shall add the name of the Auxiliary to the active roll of membership upon payment of membership dues.

ARTICLE II
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

Section 1

- (a) The Executive Committee is the executive organ of the Congress, being entrusted with the administration of the A.R.F.O.R.A.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall consist of: a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, two (2) Auditors, five (5) Members-at-Large, and two (2) Alternate Members-at-Large elected for a two (2) year term by the Congress.
- (c) The Spiritual Advisor, appointed by the Bishop, and the immediate Past President of A.R.F.O.R.A. shall be voting members of the Committee.
- (d) Term of office shall be two (2) years except for the Past President whose term of office shall be for one (1) year only. An officer may not serve more than four (4) consecutive years in the same office.
- (e) The chairperson of the next host committee for the Annual Congress shall sit on the Executive Committee in an “ex-officio” capacity for the purpose of presenting reports and receiving assistance in the planning of the Annual General Meeting and Congress.

Section 2

The Executive Committee has the following power and duties:

- (a) To propose amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws;
- (b) To initiate and implement programs and projects consistent with the purpose of A.R.F.O.R.A.;
- (c) To formally record new active member Auxiliaries into A.R.F.O.R.A.;
- (d) To prepare an annual budget and to suggest to the A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress means of meeting it;
- (e) To call the A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress into session and to establish its Agenda;
- (f) To appoint a Nominating Committee for the purpose of electing the new officers.

Section 3

- (a) The Executive Committee shall meet at such time and place as deemed necessary by call of the President, by call of the Bishop or by written request of the majority of the members of the Executive Committee.
- (b) A written notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Executive Committee shall be mailed to each member by the Secretary not less than thirty (30) days prior to said meeting.
- (c) A quorum for any meeting of the Committee shall consist of seven (7) members.
- (d) The Executive Committee may, in exceptional cases, transact business through referendum by mail. In such cases, the Secretary will mail to each member the proposed resolution. The vote on the referendum must be returned within twenty (20) days after mailing. For a valid vote, a total of seven (7) votes must be returned. The majority of the votes returned shall decide the issue. All resolutions voted upon by referendum shall be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting of the Committee.
- (e) The Executive Committee may transact business through a teleconference. In such cases, the usual quorum is required. Minutes of such teleconferences must be submitted to all members of the Executive Committee in the usual manner. Minutes must be approved at the next regular board meeting.

Section 4

Duties of the officers shall be:

- (a) The President shall preside at all Congresses and all meetings of the Executive Committee. She shall be the Chief Executive Officer exercising general supervision of the work and activities of A.R.F.O.R.A. She shall coordinate and carry-out the program approved by the Congress. She shall present an annual report of A.R.F.O.R.A. activities to the Episcopate Congress and the A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress, and shall co-sign all checks issued by the Treasurer. The President shall ensure that the Treasurer is bonded.
- (b) The Vice-President shall act in the place of the President in the event of the absence or inability of the latter or when so delegated by the President, and perform other duties assigned to her by the President or the Committee. She shall

also chair the Membership Committee.

- (c) The Recording Secretary (optional) shall record the minutes of all meetings of the Congress and Executive Committee. At the request of the President, the Corresponding Secretary (optional) shall transmit the official correspondence and notices for the meetings and shall send information to Auxiliaries. The Recording Secretary shall maintain an up-to-date roster with the names and addresses of the Auxiliaries' Presidents, Preotese, and Delegates to the Congress. In the absence of one of the secretaries, the other shall fulfill her duties.
- (d) The Treasurer is in charge of all the financial operations of A.R.F.O.R.A. She shall receive and distribute the funds and payments as authorized by the Executive Committee. She shall deposit all monies in the bank accounts established by the Congress. She shall issue receipts for all monies received and keep records of all monetary transactions. She shall keep the financial records at the disposal of the Auditors when requested and shall present a yearly financial report to the Congress. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget for approval at the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall sign all checks and she shall be bonded.
- (e) The Auditors shall examine and audit the financial records of the Treasurer at least twice a year, the last audit to take place one month before the Congress.
- (f) The Vice-President and Treasurer shall be the representatives to the Congress of the Episcopate as the President is "ex-officio." The alternate representatives shall be the Secretary and/or the first-listed Auditor.

Section 5

The election of officers and members of the Executive Committee shall take place every two (2) years at the Annual Congress and shall be done according to the following procedures:

- (a) The electoral session of the Congress shall be presided by the Bishop or his representative.
- (b) The Nominating Committee, consisting of three (3) persons appointed at the previous meeting of the Executive Committee, shall present a list of persons eligible for office.
- (c) Eligible for nomination and office are delegates from Auxiliaries who have expressed, in the session to the Nominating Committee, their willingness to serve.
- (d) The slate shall be put to vote as presented. If a majority of votes cast are in favor of the slate, the candidates shall be declared elected. Lacking a majority vote, the slate shall be declared void and nominations shall be accepted from the floor for all offices.
- (e) Voting shall be by a show of hands unless there is a request for a secret ballot. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to secure an election. In the event that any ballot cast does not show a majority for any nominee then, prior to the second ballot, the nominee having the lowest vote on the first ballot shall be dropped, and the same procedure shall be followed on each succeeding ballot until one nominee shall receive a majority of all votes cast.
- (f) After the election, at the Sunday Divine Liturgy, the newly elected members will take the following oath of office:
I do solemnly swear that I will fulfill my duties as a member of the Executive Committee of A.R.F.O.R.A. correctly, honestly and whole-heartedly, and that I will work at all times in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of A.R.F.O.R.A. and with respect for and obedience to the Church authorities, so help me God.
- (g) The outgoing Executive Committee shall present all the organization's financial records and archives to the incoming Committee not later than twenty-four (24) hours after the oath of office.

Section 6

In the event of a vacancy in the office of President between elections, the Vice-President shall become the acting President for the unexpired term. In the event of a vacancy in any other elective office between elections, a majority of the Executive Committee shall elect a qualified member to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE III THE CONGRESS

Section 1

The Annual Congress of A.R.F.O.R.A. shall be held at such time and place as determined by the preceding Annual Congress. In the event this is not done, then the Executive Committee shall establish the time and place of the Congress.

Section 2

The Annual Congress shall be convoked through the official call signed by the Bishop, President and Secretary and published in the official organ of the Episcopate, *SOLIA-The Herald*, at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the same. The Secretary shall also announce the convocation of the Congress to all Auxiliaries by mail.

Section 3

The Executive Committee, in cooperation with the local Auxiliary, shall work with the Arrangements Committee, shall supervise all preparations and announce the official program and Agenda of the Congress.

Section 4

The Congress shall be comprised of the Bishop, the Spiritual Advisor, the Presidents of the member Auxiliaries (“ex-officio”), the Preotese, and two (2) Delegates elected by their Auxiliaries. The Preotese (by virtue of their position in their respective parishes) shall be Delegates to the A.R.F.O.R.A. Annual Meeting with full voting privileges and full rights as Delegates from their Auxiliaries. It is the responsibility of the local Auxiliary to send its President, Preoteasa and two (2) Delegates to the Congress. This will bring to four (4) the number of Delegates from each Auxiliary.

Section 5

The names and addresses of the Auxiliaries’ Presidents, Officers and Delegates to the Congress, and the names of the Preotese, along with a complete membership list (names, addresses and telephone numbers) shall be forwarded by the Auxiliaries to the A.R.F.O.R.A. Secretary and Treasurer not later than March 1st of each year. The list of Delegates prepared by the A.R.F.O.R.A. Secretary shall be used for the Convocation of the Congress and for the Roll Call at the opening session. Any contestations, changes or additions regarding the list of members to be seated, shall be decided by the Congress itself at the opening session. Only Delegates from Auxiliaries who have met their financial obligations toward A.R.F.O.R.A. may be seated with full rights at the Congress.

Section 6

In order to be elected as a Delegate to the Congress of A.R.F.O.R.A., a nominee shall have been a member in good standing of the local Auxiliary and parish or mission for not less than two (2) years.

Section 7

The A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress shall be considered as legally constituted when twelve (12) Auxiliaries, plus one (1), are enrolled as attending the Congress.

Section 8

The officers of the Congress shall be, in addition to the President and Secretary, two (2) Tellers, two (2) Assistant Secretaries, and one (1) Parliamentarian appointed by the President with the concurrence of the Congress.

Section 9

The following are the powers and responsibilities of the A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress:

- (a) To elect the Executive Committee;
- (b) To amend the Constitution and By-Laws;
- (c) To examine and approve the reports of activities of the Executive Committee;
- (d) To examine and approve the budget;
- (e) To initiate programs for the fulfillment of A.R.F.O.R.A. purposes;
- (f) To establish the program of activities for the coming year;
- (g) To establish and assess the membership dues and other contributions of the member Auxiliaries to A.R.F.O.R.A.

Section 10

Voting in the Congress may be done by:

- (a) Raising of hands;
- (b) Secret ballot, if requested by a majority of those present at the meeting;
- (c) Consent without objection.

There shall be no voting by proxy.

In the absence of specific procedures prescribed by these By-Laws, “Robert’s Rules of Order” shall apply.

Section 11

The minutes of the A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress shall be prepared by the Secretaries and the text forwarded to the Bishop and the A.R.F.O.R.A. President for review not later than sixty (60) days after the Congress. A copy of the reviewed minutes shall then be mailed by the Secretary to all member Auxiliaries and Delegates to the Congress.

ARTICLE IV

FINANCES

Section 1

To achieve its goals and bring its programs and projects to realization, A.R.F.O.R.A. may collect and possess:

- (a) Its own funds;
- (b) Dues collected from member Auxiliaries;
- (c) Income realized from Congresses with such funds to be forwarded to the A.R.F.O.R.A. Treasurer within sixty (60) working days, otherwise the ten percent (10%) rebate to the hosting Auxiliary will be forfeited;
- (d) Special projects, donations, offerings, and bequests.

Section 2

All funds shall be deposited in the organization’s bank accounts and shall be used only for the purposes enumerated in Article II of the Constitution. The Treasurer shall keep an up-to-date account of all financial transactions and it shall be the duty of the Auditors to verify the records at least twice a year, or when otherwise deemed necessary. The financial records shall also be available for auditing by the Episcopate Council. An annual financial report shall be presented for inclusion in the report to the Episcopate Congress by the A.R.F.O.R.A. President.

Section 3

The fiscal year of A.R.F.O.R.A. shall commence on April 1st of each year and shall end on March 31 of the following year.

BY-LAWS
of the
Ladies Auxiliaries of the
Romanian Orthodox Parishes and Missions
of North America

PREAMBLE

Each parish and mission under the jurisdiction of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America shall take steps that the women of members of the parish or mission be organized in an Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary may bear the name of the parish or mission or the name of a Patron Saint from the Orthodox calendar.

The Auxiliary shall function under the charter of the respective parish or mission and shall be governed by these By-Laws, adopted by the A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress and approved by the Episcopate Congress.

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE

- (a) To unite the ladies of the parish or mission in a common effort for maintaining, strengthening and propagating the Orthodox Faith;
- (b) To aid the Parish Priest and Parish Council in their parish or mission activities;
- (c) To find ways and means to support their responsibilities;
- (d) To seek and maintain active membership in the international Association of the Ladies Auxiliaries (A.R.F.O.R.A.);
- (e) To support projects of a charitable nature initiated by the local Auxiliary, the parish or mission, by A.R.F.O.R.A., or by the Episcopate;
- (f) To contribute with donations to the church's needs for liturgical objects and vestments.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Any woman eighteen (18) years of age or older, who is a voting member of the parish or mission is a member of the Auxiliary.

Section 2

Only members who have paid their membership dues have full rights to vote and be elected to office.

Section 3

A member loses her rights to election and voting:

- (a) By non-payment of dues in excess of one (1) year;
- (b) By losing her membership in the parish or mission.

A member cannot acquire voting or other privileges by paying her dues retroactively.

Section 4

The official list of membership shall be kept up-to-date by the Secretary.

ARTICLE III

LEGAL POWERS

- (a) The local Auxiliary shall function under the charter of the parish or mission.
- (b) The Parish or Mission Priest shall be the Spiritual Leader of the Auxiliary and an “ex-officio” member of the Committee.
- (c) The Parish or Mission Assembly and Council have the authority to audit the financial records.

ARTICLE IV

EXECUTIVE POWERS

Section 1

The Ladies Auxiliary shall be conducted by an Executive Committee elected for a period of two (2) years.

Section 2

- (a) The Executive Committee shall consist of: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary (optional), Treasurer, Financial Secretary (optional), two (2) Auditors, and a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of five (5) members.
- (b) The term of office shall be two (2) years. An officer may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office—four (4) years in the same office. The term of office of the Past President shall be one year.

Section 3

The Parish Priest, the immediate Past President and the Delegates to the A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress are “ex-officio” members of the Executive Committee.

Section 4

The President may call a meeting of the Executive Committee at any time deemed necessary for the activity of the Auxiliary and at least once prior to the Annual Meeting for the purpose of preparing the activity report and make suggestions for the further activities of the organization.

Section 5

A written notice of the time and place of all Executive Committee meetings shall be mailed by the Secretary to each member at least one (1) week in advance of said meeting.

Section 6

A quorum for any meeting of the Executive Committee shall consist of one half plus one ($1/2 + 1$) of the Executive Committee.

Section 7

Duties of the officers shall be:

- (a) The President shall preside at all meetings. She shall exercise general supervision of the work and the activities of the Auxiliary and shall initiate and carry out the program consistent with the Auxiliary purposes. She, together with the Secretary, calls the Executive Committee and the General Meeting into session. She shall present an annual report of the Auxiliary activities to the Parish Meeting (Synod).
- (b) The Vice-President shall take the place of the President whenever necessary or when so delegated by the President.
- (c) The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Meeting. She shall send notices for the meetings to the membership. Together with the President, she issues and expedites the correspondence. She shall maintain an up-to-date roster with the names and addresses of all the members.
- (d) The Financial Secretary shall be responsible to collect/receive membership dues and other monies, recording such transactions and issue proper receipts for same. She shall report on the membership status when requested. All monies received shall be given to the Treasurer monthly, along with receipts for her records.
- (e) The Treasurer is in charge of all the financial operations of the Auxiliary. She shall receive and disburse the funds and payments as authorized by the General Meeting. She shall deposit all monies in the bank accounts established by the General Meeting. She shall issue receipts for all monies received and keep records of all monetary transactions. She shall keep the financial records at the disposal of the Auditors when requested and shall present a yearly financial report to the General Annual Meeting. The Treasurer and the President shall sign all checks and bank withdrawals. She shall prepare an annual budget for approval at the Annual Meeting.
- (f) The Auditors shall audit the Treasurer’s records at least twice a year and shall prepare, together with the Treasurer, the financial report to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Auxiliary and the Annual Parish Meeting.

Section 8

The election of the officers and members of the Executive Committee shall take place every two (2) years at the General Annual Meeting and shall be done according to the following procedure:

- (a) The electoral session of the meeting shall be presided by the Parish Priest or his appointed representative.
- (b) Nominations for the officers and members of the Executive Committee shall be accepted from the floor.
- (c) In order to be eligible for election on a committee, the nominee must be a member in good standing for at least one (1) year.
- (d) To be entitled to vote, a woman must be a member in good standing of the Auxiliary for at least six (6) months prior to such meeting.
- (e) Voting shall be by a show of hands unless there is a request for a secret ballot. A majority of all the votes shall be necessary to secure an election. In the event that any ballot cast does not show a majority for any nominee then, prior to the second ballot, the nominee having the lowest vote on the first ballot shall be dropped and the same procedure shall be followed on each succeeding ballot until one nominee shall receive a majority of all votes cast.
- (f) Immediately after election, the newly elected members will take the following oath of office:

I do solemnly swear that I will fulfill my duties as a member of this committee correctly, honestly and wholeheartedly, and that I will work at all times in accordance with the By-Laws and with respect for and obedience to the Church authorities, so help me God.

- (g) The outgoing Executive Committee shall present all the organization's financial records and archives to the incoming Executive Committee immediately.
- (h) In the event of a vacancy in the office of President between elections, the Vice-President shall become acting President for the unexpired term. In the event of a vacancy in any other elective office between elections, a majority of the Executive Committee shall elect a qualified member to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE V

GENERAL MEETING

Section 1

The General Meeting of the membership may be called by the President as often as necessary but it shall be mandatory to hold an Annual Meeting for the purpose of electing an Executive Committee and hearing the annual report.

Section 2

The General Annual Meeting shall be convoked through an official call signed by the Parish Priest, the President and the Secretary. Notification of the meeting must be in writing and sent to each member at least two (2) weeks prior to said meeting.

Section 3

To open a meeting and to conduct business, there must be present a total number of members in good standing of not less than one (1) in excess of the number of members in the Executive Committee.

Section 4

The officers of the meeting shall be, in addition to the President and Secretary, two (2) Tellers and one (1) Assistant Secretary appointed by the President with concurrence of the meeting.

Section 5

The following are the powers and the responsibilities of the General Meeting:

- (a) To elect the Auxiliary Executive Committee;
- (b) To examine and approve the reports of activities of the committee;
- (c) To authorize all expenditures within the local authorized limit;

- (d) To decide the program of activities;
- (e) To initiate projects consistent with the purpose of the Auxiliary;
- (f) To establish and assess the membership dues;
- (g) To approve the budget;
- (h) To elect the Auxiliary Delegates to the A.R.F.O.R.A. Congress.

Section 6

Voting in the meeting may be done by:

- (a) Raising of hands;
- (b) Secret ballot, if requested by a majority of those present at the meeting.

There shall be no voting by proxy.

Unless specifically provided otherwise, “Robert’s Rules of Order” shall be parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure.

Section 7

The minutes of the General Annual Meeting shall be prepared by the Secretary and presented for approval at the next General Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VI

FINANCES

Section 1

To achieve its goals and to fulfill its duties and obligations, the Auxiliary may collect and possess:

- (a) Its own funds;
- (b) Dues collected from members;
- (c) Income realized from special affairs and projects;
- (d) Special projects, donations, offerings, and gifts.

Section 2

All funds shall be deposited into the organization’s bank accounts. The Treasurer shall keep an up-to-date account of all financial transactions and the financial records shall be available for auditing by the Auxiliary and Parish Auditors.

Section 3

The Auxiliary’s funds can be spent only with the approval of the General Meeting and for the purpose set forth in Article I.

Section 4

The fiscal year of the Auxiliary shall commence on January 1st each year and shall end on December 31st of the same year.

Section 5

In the case of the dissolution of the Auxiliary, all its funds and assets shall become the patrimonium of the parish or mission under which charter it has functioned.

ARTICLE VII
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Section 1

Each parish or mission Auxiliary shall belong to the international organization established and approved by the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America known as A.R.F.O.R.A.

Section 2

- (a) Each parish or mission Auxiliary shall be represented in A.R.F.O.R.A. by its President (ex-officio), the Preotessa, and two (2) Delegates. The Delegates are elected at the General Annual Meeting for the period of two (2) years.
- (b) To be elected as a Delegate to the A.R.F.O.R.A., a nominee must be a member in good standing for at least two (2) years.

ARTICLE VIII
MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1

The By-Laws shall take effect January 1, 1998, after approval by the Episcopate Congress.

Section 2

The Episcopate shall be the final authority as to the interpretation of the Constitution and By-Laws.

NOTE: The term of the elected officers for a two (2) year period shall start in 1999 to coincide with the elections of the R.O.E.A. Delegates.

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