



# **BYE-LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF CIRCLES OF SERBIAN SISTERS OF THE METROPOLITANTE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND OF THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

## **BY-LAW 1 NAME**

The name of the organisation shall be the

**Federation of Circles of Serbian Sisters**

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(hereinafter called the “Federation”).

## **BYE-LAW 2 OBJECTIVES**

1. The objectives of the Federation are:

- a) To be an auxiliary organisation of the Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand of the Serbian Orthodox Church (hereinafter called the “Metropolitanate”) which serves to amalgamate all of the local Circles of Serbian Sisters of the Church Communities and Mission Parishes throughout the Metropolitanate;
- b) To facilitate and sponsor the operation of Children’s Summer Camps (hereinafter called the “Summer Camps”) throughout the Deaneries of the Metropolitanate;
- c) To promote and further educational programmes throughout the Metropolitanate;
- d) To erect and maintain buildings to house offices of the Federation;
- e) To erect and maintain buildings to house Metropolitanate Summer Camps;
- f) To apply to all necessary statutory and government bodies and appropriate commissions for appropriate consents, authorisations, and exemptions in connection with these objectives;
- g) To apply to all persons, corporations, and government bodies for such assistance as may be necessary for the promotion of these objectives;

- h) To enter into any arrangements with any Government or authority, Federal, State, Municipal, local or otherwise, that may seem conducive to the Federation's objects; and to obtain from any such government or authority any rights, privileges, and concessions which the Federation may think it desirable to obtain; and to carry out, exercise and comply with any such arrangements, rights, privileges, and concessions;
- i) To appoint, employ, remove, or suspend such manager, clerks, secretaries, servants, workmen, and other persons as may be necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Federation;
- j) To borrow or raise or secure the payment of money in such manner as the Federation may think fit and to secure the same or the repayment or performance of any debt liability contract guarantee or other engagement incurred or to be entered into by the Federation in any way and to purchase, redeem, or pay off any such securities;
- k) To, make, draw, accept, endorse, discount, execute, and issue promissory notes, bills of exchange, and other negotiable or transferable instruments;
- l) To invest and deal with the money of the Federation not immediately required upon such securities and in such manner as may from time to time be determined;
- m) To accept subscriptions and donations whether of real or personal estate and devises and bequests for all or any of the purposes aforesaid and to sell and dispose of or to lease and accept surrenders of leases of and manage all real estate including leaseholds so received and not required to be capable of use or occupation for any of the aforesaid purposes and generally to manage, invest and expend all monies and property belonging to the Federation;
- n) To take such steps by persons or written appeals, public meetings, or otherwise as may from time to time be deemed expedient for the purposes of procuring contributions to the Federation by way of annual subscriptions or otherwise;
- o) To make donations for charitable purposes provided that the recipient of such donation is accepted by the Australian Taxation Office as a charitable institution or fund or accepted by the Commissioner of Taxation for the purposes of Division 30 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 as amended and in all cases the donation is made to an organisation which is part of the Metropolitanate and which has rules which prohibit the distribution of its assets and income to members; and
- p) To do all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objects and the exercise of the powers of the Federation.

### **BYE-LAW 3 ORGANISATION**

1. The organisation of the Federation is church-hierarchical and church-administrative and authority is exercised in accordance with the Constitution of the Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand of the Serbian Orthodox Church (hereinafter called the "Constitution").

2. The church-hierarchical governing authorities within the Metropolitanate are the Metropolitan (that is the Diocesan Hierarchy), the Metropolitanate Ecclesiastical Court, the Dean, the Spiritual Advisor and the Camp Directors.

3. The church-administrative governing authorities within the Metropolitanate are the Metropolitanate Assembly, the Metropolitanate Executive Board, and the Federation Committee.

#### **BYE-LAW 4        JURISDICTION**

1. The Federation is an integral part of the Metropolitanate and as such must recognise its authority and jurisdiction.
2. The Federation must be governed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, these Bye-Laws and the decisions of the proper ecclesiastical authorities.
3. All governing documents of the Federation must be consistent with the Constitution. Any provisions inconsistent with the Constitution are of no force and effect.

#### **BYE-LAW 5        THE FEDERATION**

1. The Federation is an auxiliary organisation of the Metropolitanate comprised of member organisations that have voluntarily obligated themselves to assist in furthering the objectives of the organisation.
2. These Bye-Laws must be approved by the Federation Assembly, submitted to the Metropolitan and the Metropolitanate Executive Board for ratification by the Metropolitanate Assembly, and must comply with the Constitution.
3. In order to be considered a member organisation and to have and retain rights and privileges as set out in these Bye-Laws an organisation must:
  - a) Be an auxiliary organisation of a Church Community or Mission Parish which is part of the Metropolitanate;
  - b) Have the status of a Circle of Serbian Sisters within that Church Community or Mission Parish;
  - c) Abide by all of the provisions of the Constitution and these Bye-Laws;
  - d) Co-operate in every way toward the welfare and well being of their Church Community or Mission Parish and the Metropolitanate;
  - e) Have completed an application form for membership and been accepted as a member; and
  - f) Have paid all membership subscriptions due to the Federation.
4. The Federation shall adopt procedures and maintain records as prescribed by the Constitution to enable the Federation Committee and Spiritual Advisor to determine whether an organisation meets the criteria applicable for membership. The Spiritual Advisor, in tandem with the Federation Committee, shall oversee maintaining the Register of Member Organisations.

5. If the Spiritual Advisor and the Federation Committee determine that a member organisation is no longer eligible or is unfit to be a member and that by its work it harms the general well being of its Church Community, Mission Parish or the Metropolitanate, they will make a proposal to the Federation Assembly for the expulsion of the member from the Register of Members.

6. An organisation who is determined not to be or no longer a member, or one who is expelled, has the right to appeal to the Federation Assembly through the Federation Committee within fourteen (14) days from the day it received the decision of the Federation Committee. The decision of the Federation Assembly can be appealed by the Federation Committee or the organisation to the Metropolitanate Executive Board. The decision of the Metropolitanate Executive Board on appeals is final and obligatory for all parties.

7. The Spiritual Advisor and the Metropolitanate Executive Board shall supervise the work of the Federation and shall give them the necessary instructions and directives to ensure that its activities are in accordance with the Constitution and the teachings of the Church.

#### **BYE-LAW 6 THE SPIRITUAL ADVISOR**

1. The Spiritual Advisor is that priest canonically ordained and appointed by the Metropolitan to the Federation.

2. The Spiritual Advisor represents the Federation together with the Federation Committee in all matters and is responsible directly to the Metropolitan.

3. The Spiritual Advisor performs his duties both independently of and in tandem with the Federation Committee, and stands under the immediate control and direction of the Metropolitan and the Ecclesiastical Court.

4. The Federation Committee is neither authorised to discharge its Spiritual Advisor, nor to bring another in his place. The Spiritual Advisor can be transferred or removed from the Federation Committee only by direction of the Metropolitan.

5. All grievances from the Federation Committee or of an individual against the Spiritual Advisor or by the Spiritual Advisor against the Federation Committee or an individual must be submitted in accordance with the Constitution.

#### **BYE-LAW 7 CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMP DIRECTORS**

1. The Children's Summer Camp Directors (hereinafter called "Camp Directors") are those priests canonically ordained and appointed by the Metropolitan to the Federation.

2. The Camp Directors represent the Federation together with the Federation Committee in all matters concerning the Summer Camps and are responsible directly to the Metropolitan.

3. The Camp Directors perform their educational and liturgical duties independently of and administrative duties in tandem with the Federation Committee, and stand under the immediate control and direction of the Metropolitan and the Ecclesiastical Court.

4. The Federation Committee is neither authorised to discharge its Camp Directors, nor to bring others in their place. The Camp Directors can be transferred or removed from the Federation Committee only by direction of the Metropolitan.

5. All grievances from the Federation Committee or of an individual against the Camp Directors or by the Camp Directors against the Federation Committee or an individual must be submitted in accordance with the Constitution.

#### **BYE-LAW 8 THE FEDERATION ASSEMBLY**

1. The Federation Assembly (hereinafter called the "Assembly") is the legislative body of the Federation in external matters of local administration. An Assembly is comprised of member organisations.

2. The Federation Committee decides the agenda, date and place of an Assembly provided that a Biennial Assembly must be held within four (4) months of the end of the financial year of the Federation. A written notice with the agenda is sent to all member organisations at least fourteen (14) days before the Assembly. Questions and proposals which arise outside of the agenda must be submitted in writing by any member organisation at least one week in advance of the Assembly and shall be incorporated at the discretion of the Federation Committee.

3. The Spiritual Advisor shall petition the Metropolitan for his written approval to call the Biennial Assembly and approve its agenda.

4. The Spiritual Advisor opens an Assembly with prayer and opens nominations for the election of the remainder of the Presidium of the Assembly: the Vice-President and Secretary.

5. The Biennial Assembly performs the following duties:

- a) Elects the Presidium of the Assembly, subject to subclause 4 of this Bye-Law;
- b) Elects one person who will join the President as delegates to the Metropolitanate Assembly;
- c) Elects the Federation Committee, and other necessary committees;
- d) Elects, appoints or removes any Trustee in accordance with the terms of any Deed of Trust;
- e) Deliberates on the facilitation of Summer Camps, educational programmes, and all other matters and proposals which are related to the Federation;
- f) Proposes Operating Rules for the Assembly, which must be approved by the Metropolitanate Executive Board;

- g) Proposes amendments to these Bye-Laws for consideration and approval by the Metropolitan Executive Board; and
- h) Adopts budget(s) and the biennial financial report of the Federation and submits them to the Metropolitan Executive Board for approval.

6. Each member organisation may send two (2) delegates to an Assembly and each delegate shall be entitled to one vote, which shall be deemed to be a vote of the member organisation. The member organisation must advise the Federation Committee in writing of the names and addresses of their delegates at least 7 days before the date of any Assembly, and such notice will be deemed sufficient evidence of the delegates entitlement to represent the member organisation,

7. In the event that some important questions should arise during the course of the year which the Federation Committee is not authorised to decide and it is evident that its decision cannot be postponed until the Biennial Assembly, the Federation Committee with the written approval of the Metropolitan may call a Special Assembly which can decide only upon the matters for which it was summoned.

8. Upon the written request of one-half (1/2) of the members of the Federation or if demanded by the Metropolitan Executive Board the Federation Committee is obliged to call a Special Assembly.

9. For a Special Assembly which is to determine the sale, purchase, mortgage or lease for a term of more than ten (10) years including options or otherwise encumbering of church property, the erection of new buildings and major renovations or extensions to existing buildings, blessings must be sought in writing from the Metropolitan and permission given on behalf of the Metropolitan Executive Board.

10. The Metropolitan may appoint his representative(s) to preside over or observe any Assembly or meeting of the Federation.

11. The quorum for an Assembly, Biennial or Special, is a simple majority (i.e. fifty percent plus one) of member organisations. If a quorum is not present, another Assembly shall be called within fourteen (14) days. At such time the members present may make valid decisions.

12. With respect to matters pertaining to the sale or encumbering (i.e. mortgaging or long leasing) of Federation property, the quorum for an Assembly shall be two thirds (2/3) of member organisations. In the event a quorum is not present, the Metropolitan shall have authority to reduce the two-thirds (2/3) quorum at a subsequent Assembly.

13. All decisions at Biennial or Special Assemblies are rendered by a simple majority vote of the member organisations present, unless a greater majority is required by the Constitution, or these Bye-Laws. In case of a tie, the Presiding Officer of the Assembly shall have a casting vote.

14. The Presiding Officer of the Assembly may expel from the Assembly any member organisation if its delegate abuses her privileges, creates disorder or obstructs the proceedings of the Assembly.

15. Should an Assembly exceed its jurisdiction and/or prevent the execution of the directives of the Metropolitan, the Metropolitanate Ecclesiastical Court or the Metropolitanate Executive Board, the Metropolitanate Executive Board is empowered to annul decisions made in such circumstances. Until a new Assembly is summoned, the Metropolitanate Executive Board may entrust the governing of the Federation to the former Federation Committee or appoint an Interim Committee. The Metropolitanate Executive Board will grant permission to call a new Assembly only when there is sufficient evidence that the Assembly will be conducted in accordance with the Constitution and these Bye-Laws.

## **BYE-LAW 9 THE FEDERATION COMMITTEE**

1. The Federation Committee is the executive body of the Federation Assembly which administers the affairs of the Church Community pursuant to its given authority.
2. The Federation Committee is comprised of:
  - a) The Spiritual Advisor;
  - b) President;
  - c) Vice-President;
  - d) Secretary;
  - e) Treasurer; and
  - h) Four (4) Deanery Representatives.
3. Members of the Federation Committee are to be elected at a Biennial Assembly of the Federation. To be eligible for election and to continue to hold her position a member must be at all times a member of their Church Community or Mission Parish.
4. The term of office for members of the Federation Committee is for the period between Biennial Assemblies. The office of President cannot be held for more than three consecutive terms unless otherwise determined by the Constitution.
5. To serve on the Federation Committee is a ministry and all Federation Committee members are called to worthily represent Christ and the Orthodox faith before all whom they meet and in all aspects of life.
6. The service of members of the Federation Committee is honorary and subject to Bye-Law 11.2.
7. Candidates for the Federation Committee shall be nominated for election at the Biennial Assembly.

8. The Spiritual Advisor shall explain and discuss the Constitution and these Bye-Laws and the significance of the affirmation of office with all elected members of the Committee.

9. Members of the Federation Committee must be approved by the Metropolitan Executive Board and take office only upon notification of the approval and after taking of the oath of office. The members of the previous Federation Committee are not released from duty until the new Federation Committee is approved and sworn in.

10. Newly-appointed members of the Federation Committee take an oath of office in the Church before the Spiritual Advisor and from that moment shall be considered members of the body to which they were elected and approved. A person who refuses to take the oath cannot assume the duties of a member of the Federation Committee.

11. Whenever a vacancy occurs in Federation Committee positions, the vacancy shall be filled through direct appointment by the Metropolitan, upon the recommendation of the Spiritual Advisor.

12. In the event the Metropolitan Executive Board determines that a Federation Committee has failed to perform its duties in accordance with the teachings and the regulations of the Church, it may dissolve the Federation Committee and appoint an Interim Committee to perform the daily duties of the Federation until the Metropolitan Executive Board determines that conditions have normalised for the election of a new Federation Committee.

13. The President summons the Federation Committee at least twice annually. Should the Metropolitan Executive Board or the majority of the Federation Committee members so require the President is obliged to call a meeting of the Federation Committee.

14. The Federation Committee may render valid decisions if the meeting is attended by a majority of its members, on the condition that the Spiritual Advisor and President of the Federation Committee are present or that they have reviewed the agenda and given written permission for the meeting to take place in their absence. Decisions are rendered by a majority of the members present. Should the vote end in a tie, the Spiritual Advisor has a casting vote.

15. The Metropolitan Executive Board may, if requested by the Federation Committee, or by official duty, suspend any member of the Federation Committee who neglects her duty or without justification, does not attend three (3) consecutive meetings, or who does not obey the decisions and directives of higher Church authorities and prevents the execution of their decisions and directives.

16. The Federation Committee performs the following:

- a) Represents the interests of the Federation whenever the need arises;
- b) Executes the decisions and directives from the Metropolitan, the Ecclesiastical Court and/or the Metropolitan Executive Board and the Assembly;



- c) Seeks approval from the Metropolitan to issue official invitations to persons from outside the jurisdiction of the Metropolitanate;
- d) Insures the facilitation of Summer Camps and educational programmes;
- e) Interfaces with the Serbian Orthodox Youth Association of the Metropolitanate (SOYA) and other auxiliary organisations of the Metropolitanate;
- f) Keeps an inventory of personal property of the Federation in its archives;
- g) Proposes the means for acquiring funds for the building and repair of any buildings used by the Federation; submits plans and building estimates to the Assembly for their consideration and, thereafter, submits the same to the Metropolitanate Executive Board for final approval;
- h) Administers the property owned by or used by the Federation and provides for the needs of the Federation;
- i) Prepares and submits budgets and biennial financial statements to the Assembly for their review and forwards the same to the Metropolitanate Executive Board for its approval;
- j) Submits reports of its work to the Assembly;
- k) Sees that the budget of the Federation is realised;
- l) Cares for all property and material, including digital and electronic records, materials and resources;
- m) Regularly inspects the condition, maintenance, order and cleanliness of all buildings of or used by the Federation;
- n) Prepares and updates where necessary the application for membership of the Federation; and
- o) Accepts or declines applications for membership of the Federation.

17. The Federation Committee is obliged in its entire work and decisions to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Constitution, the Rules, these Bye-Laws and the directives of the higher Church authorities.

18. In addition to the Spiritual Advisor, the President of the Federation Committee is its lawful representative before both the civil and ecclesiastical authorities.

19. The President and the other members of the Federation Committee are obliged to protect the dignity and honour of their Spiritual Advisor and Camp Directors and must not demand anything from them that would lessen their dignity.

20. The President summons, opens and closes Federation Committee meetings, proposes matters for discussion, brings them to a vote and announces its findings and decisions. She ensures that peace and order is maintained at the meetings and that all members present strictly adhere to the agenda.

21. When the President of the Federation Committee is unable to perform her duties, the Vice-President is her substitute.

22. The Secretary keeps the minutes of Federation Committee meetings; conducts all correspondence of the Federation which she signs, together with the President; maintains the register of member organisations, maintains the register of official Federation acts; maintains the archives of the Federation, all exclusively in the Federation or Metropolitanate Office; and functions as the Federation publicist.

23. The Treasurer keeps a record of all the income and expenditures of the Federation throughout the entire year; receives monies and deposits them in the bank, and pays all bills. The Treasurer submits her financial report to the Federation Committee and to the Assembly. The Federation Committee may appoint a bookkeeper to assist the Treasurer.

24. The Deanery Representatives, one (1) for each of the Sydney, Brisbane-Wellington, Melbourne and Perth-Adelaide Deaneries of the Metropolitanate, shall be the liaison officer for the Federation Committee to the Deans of the respective Deaneries.

#### **BYE-LAW 10 FEDERATION AUDIT BOARD**

1. The Federation Audit Board (hereinafter called the "Audit Board") shall be the same as the Audit Board of the Metropolitanate Executive Board. The Federation may in lieu of an Audit Board engage a Certified Public Accountant firm with the experience and necessary accreditation to perform an audit of the financial records of the Federation.

2. The Audit Board meets at least once during the fiscal year and reviews the handling of financial funds of the Federation and submits its report annually to the Metropolitanate Executive Board and biennially to the Federation Assembly.

3. The Audit Board may perform the review of the financial records of the Federation more than once a year, should the need be justified, or if the Metropolitanate Executive Board demands it.

#### **BYE-LAW 11 INCOME, PROPERTY AND OTHER ASSETS**

1. All income, property and other assets of the Federation must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objectives of the Federation as provided in these Bye-Laws.

2. No part of the income, property and other assets of the Federation may be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly, by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise, to the Federation Committee or any delegates of member organisations. If such payments are approved by the Federation Committee, nothing in these Bye-Laws shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any officers or servants of the Federation, or to any member of the Federation Committee in return for any services actually rendered to the Federation or for goods supplied in the ordinary and usual way of business, nor prevent the payment of interest at a rate not exceeding the overdraft rate for small business loans by the bank with which the company

does its banking at the time of any borrowing from any member of the Federation Committee, nor reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by any member to the Federation Committee and subject to this, the Federation is prohibited from paying fees to members of the Federation Committee or delegates of member organisations.

3. The income, property and other assets of the Federation may only be utilised in/and about the Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand.

#### **BYE-LAW 12 PROPERTIES**

1. All of the real and personal property which is owned by Federation is held in trust for the use and benefit of all of the faithful of the Metropolitanate.
2. Property of the Federation:
  - a) Any personal property acquired by the Federation shall be managed, controlled and administered by the Federation Committee as trustees, pursuant to the authority and instructions granted by the Assembly; and
  - b) Any real property of the Federation shall be held in trust pursuant to a Deed of Trust approved by the Metropolitanate Executive Board, and such property shall be managed, controlled and administered by the Federation Committee pursuant to the authority and instructions of the Assembly, and subject to the Constitution and these Bye-Laws.

#### **BYE-LAW 13 SPECIAL BEQUESTS**

Private persons may specifically designate as bequests real and personal property, including but not limited to land, buildings and Federations, to be used by and dedicated in trust for the Federation. Prior to their dedication, the Metropolitanate Executive Board must approve the governing document for the administration of the property and/or funds held in trust.

#### **BYE-LAW 14 DISSOLUTION**

1. If the Metropolitanate Executive Board determines that the Federation is incapable of sustaining itself or the Board desires the Federation to be dissolved, the Board shall summon an Assembly. If a simple majority of members present favour such dissolution, the Metropolitan shall dissolve the Federation.
2. In the event that the Federation has been disbanded by default and an Assembly cannot be summoned, the Metropolitan shall have the power to declare the Federation dissolved or disbanded.
3. If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Federation, there remains, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Federation or members of the Church Community or stewards of a Mission Parish but shall be given or transferred to some other organ or organisation of the Metropolitanate having objects similar to

the objects of the Federation, and which shall prohibit the distribution of its of their income and property among its or their members, to an extent at least as great as is provided in the Federation Bye-Law 11.2 such organ or organisation to be determined by the members of the Assembly and approved by the Metropolitan at or before the time of dissolution or in the absence of such determination by the Metropolitan at or before the time of such dissolution as aforesaid

#### **BYE-LAW 15      HERESY, SCHISM OR DEFECTION**

In the event of heresy, schism or defection from the Metropolitanate management, administration and control of any affected property shall be entrusted by the Metropolitanate Executive Board to those who remain loyal to the Metropolitanate.

#### **BYE-LAW 16      CHURCH OATHS**

All newly-appointed members of the Federation Committee, upon the assumption of their duties, shall take an Oath of Office before their Spiritual Advisor:

“I, (name and surname), pledge by my honour before Almighty God that I will be loyal to the Holy Orthodox Church, that I will conscientiously obey all Church Canons, the Constitution of the Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand, and other Church laws and regulations, that I will, as a member of the Federation of the Circles of Serbian Sisters, carry out correctly my duties, guard official information, and that I will always protect and defend the interests of the Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand. As I do this, so may God help me in this and the other world.”

#### **BYE-LAW 17      SEALS**

The Federation shall have its seal with the official Coat-of-Arms of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the centre and the corresponding inscription circumscribed.

#### **BYE-LAW 18      OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

The official languages of the Federation are Serbian written in Cyrillic and English.

#### **BYE-LAW 19      TEXT**

For all purposes, the English text of these Bye-Laws shall be the official text.

#### **BYE-LAW 20      AMENDMENTS**

These Bye-Laws may be amended either by a simple majority vote of all the members present at an Assembly and subsequent written approval of the Metropolitan, or by resolution of the Metropolitanate Assembly.

#### **BYE-LAW 21      COMMEMORATIVE FEAST DAYS**

1. The Federation shall have as its Patronal Feast the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos celebrated annually on the 15/28 August. The Patronal Feast shall be celebrated in accordance with the precepts of the Serbian Orthodox Church and held in the parish church of the host member of the Federation.

2. The members of the Federation in the Sydney Deanery shall have as their Foundation Feast the Holy New Martyrs of Jasenovac, celebrated annually in accordance with the precepts of the Serbian Orthodox Church on the 31 August/13 September at a monastery within the Deanery.

3. The members of the Federation in the Melbourne Deanery shall have as their Foundation Feast the Venerable Mother Angelina of Serbia, celebrated annually in accordance with the precepts of the Serbian Orthodox Church on the 30 July/12 August at a monastery within the Deanery.

#### **BYE-LAW 22 INTERPRETATION**

In these Bye-Laws, unless the context or subject matter otherwise indicates or requires:

- a) "Constitution" means the Constitution of the Metropolitanate and includes the General Regulations of the Metropolitanate;
- b) "Metropolitan" means the Spiritual Head of the Metropolitanate in all matters pertaining to teaching, liturgical-sacerdotal officiation and governance and who is elected and appointed by the Holy Assembly of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church;
- c) "Metropolitanate" means the Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand which is body of Orthodox Christians, canonically and hierarchically an integral part of the Autocephalous Serbian Orthodox Church;
- d) "Metropolitanate Assembly" means the Metropolitanate legislative body in external matters of church administration as provided for in the Constitution;
- e) "Metropolitanate Ecclesiastical Court" means the Metropolitan's tribunal for ecclesiastical adjudication and internal church matters as provided for in the Constitution;
- f) "Metropolitanate Deanery" means a church territorial unit, which is comprised of a designated number of Parishes and their Church Communities and Mission Parishes, headed by a Dean;
- g) "Metropolitanate Executive Board" means the executive authority in matters of external church administration in the Metropolitanate and is the executive body of the Metropolitanate Assembly; and
- h) "Serbian Orthodox Church" means the Autocephalous Serbian Orthodox Church with its See in Belgrade, Serbia.

#### **BYE-LAW 23 IMPLEMENTATION**

These Bye-Laws shall become effective immediately upon their approval by the Assembly of the Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

**BE IT KNOWN THEREFORE**

These Bye-Laws of the Federation of the Circles of Serbian Sisters of the Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand of the Serbian Orthodox Church have been approved for implementation in the Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand of the Serbian Orthodox Church by the Assembly of the Metropolitanate on 05 September 2015 in Melbourne.

**+IRINEJ**

Bishop of the Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand  
The Serbian Orthodox Church

Given at the Metropolitanate See in Sydney  
E. No. 283/15  
09 October 2015