Dynamis Tour 2017

...a dialogue to strengthen our Parishes and Parishioners
Dynamis Tour 2017

- keynote address - metropolitan alexios
- metropolis strategic plan update
  - bill marianes
  - chris mandaleris
  - zoe kafkes
- youth ministry update - julie moricz
- questions and answers
Dynamis Tour 2017

• Keynote Address - Metropolitan Alexios
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• **Keynote Address** - Metropolitan Alexios

• **Metropolis Strategic Plan Update**
  - Bill Marianes
  - Chris Mandaleris
  - Zoe Kafkes

• **Youth Ministry Update** - Julie Moricz

• **Questions and Answers**
Metropolis of Atlanta
Strategic Plan
Church Strategic Planning is:

A process for defining our strategy to allocate our resources to achieve our vision.
Church Strategic Planning is:

A process to help manage the “busyness” of our Parish without turning the Parish into a “business.”
The Strategic Plan must answer four fundamental questions:

1. Why do we exist?
2. Where are we now?
3. Where do we want to be?
4. How will we get there?
The 4 P’s of Strategic Planning
4 P’s of Church Strategic Planning

- PEOPLE
- PROCESS
- PERFORMED
- PRODUCT
The 4 P’s of Strategic Planning

1. **PEOPLE** – A diverse group of People with broad-based input

2. **PROCESS** – An inclusive and methodical Process and schedule

3. **PRODUCT** - A comprehensive Strategic Plan Product developed by consensus with a detailed implementation plan and timeline

4. **PERFORMED** – A well-managed, persistent and dedicated team that responsibly Performs the implementation
Metropolis of Atlanta 6 Part Work Plan

• **STEP ONE** – Strategic Planning Opening Retreat

• **STEP TWO** – Task Force Monthly Conference Calls

• **STEP THREE** – Presentation At Metropolis Meetings For Feedback And Consensus Building

• **STEP FOUR** – Strategic Planning 2nd Retreat

• **STEP FIVE** – Writing Of The Strategic Plan

• **STEP SIX** – STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
Strategic Planning is Biblical
Proverbs 29:18

“Where there is no vision, the people will perish”
“For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for well-being, and not for calamity, in order to give you a future and a hope.”
The Strategic Plan must answer four fundamental questions:

1. Why do we exist?
2. Where are we now?
3. Where do we want to be?
4. How will we get there?
Statement of WHY?

A clear, compelling and inspirational reason why we exist and why anyone should want to join us?
A Statement of Why is Biblical
“Men, WHY are you doing these things?”

Acts 14:14
The Metropolis of Atlanta welcomes all people seeking salvation, love, truth and fulfillment.
The Strategic Plan must answer four fundamental questions:

1. Why do we exist?
2. Where are we now?
3. Where do we want to be?
4. How will we get there?
SWOT ANALYSIS

- **Helpful**
  - to achieving the objective

- **Harmful**
  - to achieving the objective

- **Strengths**

- **Weaknesses**

- **Opportunities**

- **Threats**

**Internal origin**
- (attributes of the organization)

**External origin**
- (attributes of the environment)
2. SWOT analysis is:

a "brutal facts" assessment of all of our current strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in our programs, ministries, talent, resources, facilities, finances, etc.
Internal factors

Strengths and Weaknesses

(a) Strengths include things we do well

(b) Weaknesses include internal problems and issues we must overcome
External factors

Opportunities and Threats

(a) Opportunities include things external to our church that could improve our performance or results

(b) Threats include external elements in our environment that could cause us issues
A SWOT Analysis is Biblical
“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves!”

2 Corinthians 13:5
Strengths - Metropolis of Atlanta (p.14)

- 2000 Year old unwavering faith
  (liturgical and sacramental traditions)
- Diakonia Retreat Center facility
- Parish / Community Facilities
- Youth Programs (Hellenic Dance Festival, St. Stephen’s summer camp, Winter Youth Rally, Retreats)
- Philoptochos / Philanthropy
- Family Life Ministries

- Metropolitan Alexios
- Great Clergy
- Effective lay leadership
- Archangel Michael Honors weekend
- Plentiful resources
- Wealth
- Balanced Metropolis budget
- Transparency and accountability
- Attractive geography
Weaknesses - Metropolis of Atlanta (p.14)

- **Clergy** (need for more training and mentoring; evaluation & feedback)
- **Youth** (we don’t understand how best to reach them; they don’t see the relevance of Church; ineffective tools for listening to them; low participation in programs and the life of the Church)
- **Young Adult Ministries** (OCF, etc.)
- **Parents & Family Participation**
- **Financial DRC debt**
- **Stewardship inadequacy** (reliance on festivals and failure to understand it is more than just money)
- **Misunderstanding relationship between Parish, Metropolis, Archdiocese and Patriarchate**
- **Communications/PR** (ineffective communication of Vision and inefficient or inadequate use of new technology, especially to reach youth)
- **Metropolis Administration** (lack of sufficient responsiveness and resources)
- **Parish Governance** (role and responsibilities of clergy and laity, lack of understanding regarding consensus and leadership succession planning, lack of institutional memory)
- **Education** (lack of faith development and culture awareness—youth and adults—lack of collecting and sharing best practices—religious and Greek education—parish council training)
- **Identity Confusion** (as a religious organization—regard to Orthodox faith, Hellenic culture, Greek language, etc.)
- **Ministries/Programs do not reach everyone**
- **Program evaluation process**
- **Worship** (lack of engagement Sunday and other times)
Opportunities - Metropolis of Atlanta (p. 15)

- **Technology** *(data management, web)*
- **Best Practices** *(personal ministries / services / counseling in Parish, stewardship, studying and adapting what others do, “benchmarking”)*
- **Parochial Schools** *(youth educated in faith are more likely to stay in the faith)*
- **Talented Laity and Clergy** we can harness
- **Outreach to Non-Orthodox and Unchurched and Lapsed** *(evangelism, interfaith marriages)*
- **Underutilized young professionals**
- **Advocacy on critical issues** *(Christian rights & freedom—and strengthen relationships)*
- **Gather beauty and knowledge wherever it is** *(don’t merely look internally within Metropolis)*
Threats - Metropolis of Atlanta (p. 15)

- Time challenges of external activities
  (significant number of external youth activities)
- Other Faiths better explain their relevancy and witness/live their faith
- Purposeful erosion of Christian faith in society
- Special time constraints on working families (two parents working—single parents)
- Changing moral values
- Changing family values
- Competition from other charities
- Assimilation of Interfaith marriages
- Current economy
- Change in demographics (we are not as close to our church)
- Other Faiths recruit better and address needs better
Core Values:

1. are beliefs shared among the stakeholders

2. drive an organization's culture and priorities

3. provide a framework for decision-making
Core Values Are Biblical
GOD’S CORE VALUES

I
THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME

II
THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE

III
THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN

IV
REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY

V
HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER

VI
THOU SHALT NOT KILL

VII
THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

VIII
THOU SHALT NOT STEAL

IX
THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOR

X
THOU SHALT NOT COVET
The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3-10
Metropolis of Atlanta Core Values (p. 16)

- Christ-centered
- Love
- Sacred Apostolic tradition
- Education, training and leadership development
- Outreach and evangelism
- Integrity, accountability and transparency
- Family
- Service and philanthropy
- Stewardship
- Hospitality, acceptance, welcoming and embracing
- Spiritual growth
MISSION

Mission Statement
Mission:

• A clear description of the fundamental reason an organization exists

• Mission answers the question: "What do we do?"
A Mission Statement is Biblical
“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations”
The Metropolis of Atlanta’s mission is to energize, cultivate and guide the faithful in the Southeastern United States by proclaiming the Faith and Gospel of Christ, and teaching and spreading the Orthodox Christian Faith.
The Strategic Plan must answer four fundamental questions:

1. Why do we exist?
2. Where are we now?
3. Where do we want to be?
4. How will we get there?
Vision

• Defines what the organization hopes to do in the future.

• Vision answers the question: “Where are we going?”
VISION

A Vision Statement is Biblical
The Great Commission
(Vision – Part 2) Matthew 28:18-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations
...baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you.”
(Vision – Part 2) Acts 1:8

“...and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
We will grow the Metropolis of Atlanta, and personally grow in Christ and make disciples, by living as witnesses of our faith through loving, faithful and purposeful Orthodox Christian communities focused on:

worship,
education,
stewardship,
philanthropy, and
fellowship.
The Strategic Plan must answer four fundamental questions:

1. Why do we exist?
2. Where are we now?
3. Where do we want to be?
4. How will we get there?
Strategic Goals

Strategic Goals are a **roadmap** of how to implement the vision and achieve the organization’s goals.
Strategic Goals are Biblical
“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16
11 Strategic Task Forces and 34 Goals (p. 17)

1. Administration (5)
2. Clergy (3)
3. Communication (3)
4. Education (2)
5. Family (4)
6. Finance (3)
7. Outreach, Evangelism & Philanthropy (2)
8. Spiritual Growth (2)
9. Stewardship (3)
10. Technology (3)
11. Youth (4)
What Have We Done?

• We determined our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

• We reached consensus on our Statement of Why, Core Values, Mission and Vision

• We brainstormed with over 95 goals at the 1st Strategic Planning Retreat
What Have We Done?

- 11 Strategic Task Forces created 34 Strategic Goals and detailed action plans

- 34 Implementation Task Forces were formed to achieve all action plans

- Since the last Clergy Laity Assembly, 34 Implementation Task Forces researched and are developing best practices solutions and materials
3 Key Things To Know About Our Strategic Plan

1. It’s all about the Parishes

2. We have many diverse teams

3. We have 3 Transformational Elements
3 Key Things To Know About Our Strategic Plan

IT’S ALL ABOUT THE PARISHES

• 28 of the 34 Goals are focused on strengthening the Parishes or Parish ministries

• The Metropolis is merely a more efficient vehicle to marshal the best resources to help its Parishes
2 Big Themes

1. “None of us can do as much as all of us can do together.”

2. “None of us is as smart as all of us are together.”
3 Key Things To Know About Our Strategic Plan

2. We had a Strategic Planning Team and now have a separate Implementation Team comprised of 34 Task Forces
“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, **to send out workers** into his harvest field.’”

Matthew 9:37-38
The Strategic Planning Team

- Metropolitan Alexios
- Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis
- Kathy Anemogiannis
- Maria Angeliadis
- Fr. Vasile Bitere
- Frank Boardman
- Fr. Spiro Bobotas
- Fr. John Bociu
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The Implementation Team Task Force Coordinators and Captain Leaders

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- Fr. John Bociu
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- Fr. James Rousakis
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- Costas Soulakos
- Pat Sourlis
- Kiki Tarasidis
- Philip Thevos
- Fr. Demetri Tsigas
- Steve Trakas
- Fr. George Tsahakis
- Constantine Vrettos
- G. Thomas Yearout

PLUS OVER 100 ADDITIONAL TASK FORCE MEMBERS!
Head Coach Gerry Clonaris

3. Communications;
4. Education;
5. Family;
8. Spiritual Growth;
11. Youth;
10. Technology
1. Administration;
2. Clergy;
6. Finance;
7. Outreach, Evangelism and Philanthropy;
9. Stewardship;
10. Technology
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ADMINISTRATION

Task Force Coordinator: Fr. Mark Leondis
a) Within 12 months, we will develop a Parish Strategic Planning process; and

b) Within 3 years thereafter, we teach and implement the Parish Strategic Planning process in the Parishes.
Within 18 months, we will develop and begin teaching a *Ministry Accountability and Performance* process for assessing and evaluating the performance of Parish and Metropolis ministries and programs, with a remediation process to address any issues identified.

Parish Ministry Goal
ADMINISTRATION Goal 1.3

Risk Management

Within 12 months, we will develop and begin teaching a Risk Management evaluation tool and process for Parish and Metropolis programs, ministries and procedures.
ADMINISTRATION Goal 1.4

Metropolis Administration

Within 18 months, we will independently evaluate the current Metropolis Administration structure, programs and staff, and implement a structure, program and staffing plan.
Within 2 years, we will establish a Metropolis **Council of Ministries** that will establish and work effectively with a Council of Ministries at the Parishes.
CLERGY

Task Force Coordinator: Dr. George Koulianos
CLERGY Goal 2.1

Clergy Development Program

a) Within 18 months, we will develop a Clergy Development Program with a comprehensive continuing education, mentoring and leadership development program for our Clergy; and

b) Within 24 months thereafter, we will implement our Clergy Development Program to aid Clergy in their professional, spiritual and personal growth and effectiveness.
CLERGY Goal 2.2

Clergy Transition Plan

a) Within 8 months, will develop a Clergy Transition Plan with a comprehensive plan to effectively manage Clergy transitions at Parishes; and

b) Within 12 months thereafter, we will implement our Clergy Transition Plan.
a) Within 12 months, we will develop a Clergy Evaluation Program with specific and comprehensive criteria for Clergy evaluation; and

b) Within 12 months thereafter, we will fully implement our Clergy Evaluation Program.
COMMUNICATIONS

Task Force Coordinator: Dr. Nick Demos
COMMUNICATION Goal 3.1

**Strategic Plan Communication**

a) Within 6 months, we will develop a plan for communicating our *Metropolis Strategic Plan*, Statement of Why, Vision, Mission, Core Values and Strategic Goals; and

b) Within 9 months thereafter, we will implement our Strategic Plan Communication program on a continuous basis to measure and describe achievement of key milestones.

Parish Goal
Within 18 months, we will create and implement a *Metropolis Communications Plan* for both internal and external communications of our Metropolis and Orthodox Faith that will be best suited for our Parishes and parishioners.
COMMUNICATION Goal 3.3

**Communication Director**

a) Within 12 months, we will identify an interim *Communications Director*; and

b) Within 18 months, we will identify and retain a permanent *Communications Director* for the Metropolis and its programs and ministries.

Metropolis Goal
EDUCATION

Task Force Coordinator: Fr. Spiro Bobotas
Within 18 months, we will create and train the best Educational Materials for use by Parishes and parishioners of different ages that we will make available on an electronic Metropolis Resource Center Portal.
Within 18 months, we will make available a best practices **Orthodox Leadership Training** program for our Parish and Ministry leaders, future leaders and youth, focusing on increasing meaningful results, leadership succession, community involvement and Parish interaction.

**Parish Goal**
FAMILY

Task Force Coordinator(s): Fr. Gregory Georgiou
a) Within 12 months, we will develop an *Orthodox Building Blocks* step-by-step process to assist parents in bringing up spiritually healthy Orthodox children; and

b) Within 8 months thereafter, we will implement and begin teaching the *Orthodox Building Blocks* program in the Parishes.
FAMILY Goal 5.2

Newly Married Couple Mentoring

a) Within 9 months, we will develop a program to connect newly married couples to each other and to the community; and

b) Within 15 months thereafter, we will implement the newly married couples program in the Parishes and Metropolis.
FAMILY Goal 5.3

Orthodox Home

Within 14 months, we will create a program that aids families in creating an Orthodox Home family environment.

Parish Ministry Goal
a) Within 12 months, we will develop a Seniors ministry that will address their physical, emotional, personal, and spiritual well-being; and

b) Within 6 months thereafter, we will begin to train and implement the Seniors ministry in our Parishes and Metropolis.
FINANCE

Task Force Coordinator: Nick Moraitakis
Within 3 years, we will pay down the Diakonia Retreat Center debt by $1 million.
Within 18 months, we will establish a Metropolis Endowment of $250,000 that will grow to $1,500,000 within 3 years, to provide financial support for selected ministries and programs, seminarian internships, and Parishes experiencing temporary financial hardship.
Within 18 months, we will develop the tools to measure Parish financial vitality and to achieve financial transparency across the Metropolis.
OUTREACH, EVANGELISM and PHILANTHROPY

Task Force Coordinator: Fr. Barnabas Powell
Within 2 years, we will establish an Outreach, Evangelism and Philanthropy Ministry in our Parishes, that will:

(a) energize an effective Welcoming Ministry to improve outreach and growth;

(b) plan and execute specific local and regional Parish outreach events; and

(c) implement at least one signature missions, Outreach Evangelism or Philanthropic Ministry.
Within 12 months, we will implement a comprehensive program for effective Parishes to mentor and work with new, mission and challenged Parishes to establish together strong, effective and purposeful Orthodox communities.

Parish Goal
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Task Force Coordinator: Fr. Robert Lawrence
SPIRITUAL GROWTH Goal 8.1

**Spiritual Education Resources**

a) Within 12 months, we will identify or develop at least 52 *Spiritual Growth Resources* that provide educational audio, online or video-based content related to personal spiritual growth.

b) Within 12 months thereafter, we will deliver and communicate the Spiritual Growth Resources on a weekly basis.

Parish Ministry Goal
Within 12 months, we will develop a music program that allows entire Parish communities to actively participate in the singing of the most common hymns of our Faith.
STEWARDSHIP

Task Force Coordinator: Criton Constantinides
Within 3 years, each Parish will begin to implement our Metropolis’ comprehensive Igniting The Flame Of Stewardship program, including a youth stewardship program, adapted to the needs of the Parishes.
Within 2 years, we will establish a process and a resource for collecting and matching parishioners’ skills and talents with Parish and Metropolis needs.
Within 18 months, we will establish a program to inspire Parishes to re-tool, re-dedicate, and re-purpose church fundraising activities to focus on external charitable outreach, evangelism, and hospitality.

Parish Goal
TECHNOLOGY

Task Force Coordinator: Gus Vrettos
TECHNOLOGY Goal 10.1

**Metropolis Website**

(a) Within 6 months we will complete a comprehensive analysis of the Metropolis and its ministries web site and on-line needs; and

(b) Within 6 months thereafter we will redesign and implement a new website and APPS for the Metropolis and its ministries.
a) Within 12 months, we will develop and implement a Social Media Ministry that will include resources, a best practices center and policies; and

b) Within 12 months thereafter, we will complete training for Clergy and Parish leaders throughout the Metropolis regarding this Social Media Ministry.
a) Within 6 months we will develop and have a web-based Best Practices Resource Center Portal to deliver Metropolis Task Force programs and materials; and

b) Within 24 months, we will develop and implement a comprehensive strategy for the full and effective use of available tools, technologies, and resources in our Parishes and Metropolis.

Parish Goal
YOUTH

Task Force Coordinator: Fr. Matthew Carter
YOUTH Goal 11.1

Regional Youth Summit

Within 1 year, we will establish a series of annual Regional Orthodox Youth Summits in major geographic regions of the Metropolis where we offer multi-Parish youth activities, programs, mentoring, training and fellowship.
Within 12 months, we will develop and implement a comprehensive online and in-person Youth Worker Training Program and materials, including compliance and youth protection issues, that thereafter will be regularly taught throughout the Metropolis through the Regional Youth Summits.
Within 18 months, we will develop a comprehensive Parish Youth Ministry Best Practices Center compiling online meaningful, effective and successful youth ministry information, materials, programs and implementation and evaluation processes, that thereafter will be regularly taught throughout the Metropolis through the Regional Youth Summits.
a) Within 1 year, we will complete an assessment and evaluation of the most meaningful and successful college and working age programs and ministries; and

b) Within 2 years thereafter, we will implement these programs and ministries in our Metropolis along with metrics to monitor their effectiveness.

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3 Transformational Elements In Our Strategic Plan

   www.atlstrategicplan.org

2. Parish Champions

3. Faith Forums

www.atlstrategicplan.org

The place to find the best practices materials, programs and resources from all Completed Strategic Goals that you can use in your Parish and life.
Growing the Metropolis of Atlanta together.

Our Mission
The Metropolis of Atlanta's mission is to energize, cultivate and guide the faithful in the Southeastern United

Our Vision
We will grow the Metropolis of Atlanta, and personally grow in Christ and make disciples, by living as stewards of the faith.

Statement of Why
The Metropolis of Atlanta and its Parishes welcome all people seeking Christ, the truth and fulfillment.

Core Values
- Christ-centered
- Love
- Sacred Apostolic tradition
3 Transformational Elements In Our Strategic Plan

   www.atlstrategicplan.org

2. Parish Champions

3. Faith Forums
2. Parish Champions

Each Parish has a “Champion” to:

a) share the progress of our Strategic Plan and all the new resources with the Parish

b) share the additional needs of the Parishes with the Metropolis
3 Transformational Elements In Our Strategic Plan

   www.atlstrategicplan.org

2. Parish Champions

3. Faith Forums
3. Faith Forums

- Information and training sessions to provide the tools, materials, resources and programs from the 28 Strategic Goals focused on the Parishes

- 1st Faith Forum at the Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly in Raleigh, N.C. June 21-24 (specifically Friday June 23rd)
3. Faith Forums

- Beginning in the Fall of 2017, and continuing throughout the years that follow, we will conduct regional Faith Forum workshops throughout the Metropolis.

- We will constantly introduce the latest best practices and share real world experiences.
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You have now been called as one of the 70 Disciples

Luke 10:1
Do Something Today That Your Future Self Will Thank You For