



The HOLY SYNOD  
of the  
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

To: The Very Reverend John Kreta, Chancellor, and All of the Clergy and Faithful  
of the Diocese of New England of the Orthodox Church in America

**SYNODAL DECREE**

- WHEREAS His Eminence, the Most Reverend NIKON, Archbishop of Boston and New England and the Albanian Archdiocese of The Orthodox Church in America, fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, September 1, 2019;
- THEREFORE A Special Meeting of the Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America, under the presidency of His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, was convened by teleconference on Tuesday evening, September 3, 2019; and
- WHEREAS Article VIII (The Vacant See), Section 5 of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America states: "The office of a Diocesan Bishop shall be declared vacant by the Holy Synod in the event of the incumbent's death, retirement or resignation accepted by the Holy Synod, medical incapacity accepted by the Holy Synod, transfer, or deposition by canonical process";
- THEREFORE In accordance with the canons of the Holy Orthodox Church and Article VIII, Section 5 of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, it was moved, seconded and approved by the hierarchs present that due to the falling asleep in the Lord of His Eminence, Archbishop NIKON of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese, the Holy Synod declares "vacant" the office of the Bishop of the Diocese of New England (moved by Archbishop Mark, seconded by seconded by Archbishop David; all were in favor [no opposition or abstentions]); and
- WHEREAS Article IV (The Metropolitan), Section 2 (Competence), d of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America states: The Metropolitan shall ... "appoint a Locum Tenens in the event of a vacancy in the office of a Diocesan Bishop";
- THEREFORE In accordance with the canons of the Holy Orthodox Church and Article IV, Section 2 of the Statute of the Orthodox Church in America, His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON decided that he himself will serve as Locum Tenens for the Diocese of New England, effective September 3, 2019.

Respectfully recorded and submitted,

*f Michael*

Archbishop of New York and New Jersey  
Secretary of the Holy Synod of Bishops  
of The Orthodox Church in America  
Submitted this Date: September 3, 2019