



**NATIONAL FORUM
OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS**
*The musical arm of the Archdiocese that strengthens and perpetuates
Greek Orthodox liturgical music in America*



Position Statement Regarding

RESOLUTION FOR A COMMON ENGLISH CREED

The Nicene Creed is central to our beliefs as an Eastern Orthodox Christian. For many years, it was recited only in Greek in the parishes of the Archdiocese of North and South America. Now, with our changing congregations, the faithful recite the Creed in English, often in conjunction with the Greek. The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Musicians respectfully wishes to bring to the attention of His Eminence and the Holy Synod a situation about which we are deeply concerned.

As church musicians, we often find ourselves traveling from parish to parish, often across metropolis lines, to join other choir members at metropolis and national events, such as Clergy-Laity Congresses, choir and YAL conferences, and similar instances where members of different parishes gather. On occasions such as these, we encounter many different translations of the Nicene Creed in English. To our dismay, we find ourselves, and the faithful standing next to us, stumbling over the very words that should ring clearly out as our confession of faith.

This variety of English versions of the Creed is one of the most frequent problems brought to our attention by local choir members and from the leadership of the Church Music/Choir Federations of the Metropolises. Some of our beloved hierarchs have attempted to ameliorate the problem by recommending a standard translation within their own diocese, but this does not relieve the national problem.

During the 15th Annual Meeting of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, the delegates from the Church Music/Choir Federations of the Metropolises passed the following resolution:

We respectfully request that the Holy Synod move swiftly to implement a common English text for our Nicene Creed and promulgate its use in all parishes of the Archdiocese whenever the English version of the Creed is recited.

(Adopted July 1991)

NOTE: *On February 17, 2005, the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America authorized a Common English text for the Nicene Creed for use in all parishes of the Archdiocese.*