

## **Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America - Holy Eparchial Synod speaks up for Hagia Sophia**



**On July 10, the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America issued a statement regarding the decision made by the Turkish government to convert Hagia Sophia of Constantinople into a mosque.**

### **The statement reads:**

Today, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros convened a special session of the Holy Eparchial Synod, and with great sorrow and heartfelt anguish informed its members of the decision made by the Turkish government earlier today to convert Hagia Sophia of Constantinople into a mosque.

For Orthodox Christians around the globe, and also for the entire Christendom, Hagia Sophia, Constantinople, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate are sacred spiritual centers and comprise a repository of our

Christian Faith and tradition. Therefore, we call the Turkish government to respect the pan-Orthodox and pan-Christian consciousness, which today has been deeply wounded by this decision.

We hope that this decision is not a manifestation of the deterioration in the stance of the Turkish government toward the Ecumenical Patriarchate and other religious minorities in Turkey.

The hierarchy, the clergy, the monastics, and the faithful people of our Holy Archdiocese are deeply distressed, and pray fervently that peace, love, and well-being will prevail in that region and that the Turkish government annuls this decision.

From the Chief Secretariat of the Holy Eparchial Synod