09/10/2020

Ecumenical Patriarchate's Holy & Sacred Synod decrees penance of suspension until Christmas for Metropolitan of Boston; transfers Metropolitan of NJ



A communiqué issued by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople on Thursday announced that members of its Holy and Sacred Synod extensively examined issues affecting the Holy Archdiocese of America, in light of reports dispatched by the Archbishop of America, His Eminence Elpidophoros.

Three decisions were announced.

Firstly, the Holy and Sacred Synod suspended the charter of the Holy Archdiocese of America, with the objective of constituting a joint committee of representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Archdiocese for the composition of a new

charter.

Secondly, the Ecumenical Patriarchate placed the Metropolitan of Boston, His Eminence Methodios, under a penance of suspension until the Feast of Christmas, citing canonical transgressions.

Finally, the Mother Church transferred the Metropolitan New Jersey, His Eminence Evangelos, to the Holy Metropolis of Sardes, and appointed Archbishop Elpidophoros as the patriarchal vicar in the vacant eparchy of New Jersey.

The communiqué of the Ecumenical Patriarchate reads:

> Today, Thursday, October 8, 2020, on the third day of its work in this current month, the Holy and Sacred Synod extensively examined, among other items, issues of the Holy Archdiocese of America, and considered reports of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. The following decisions were taken:
>
> a. It placed into abeyance the force of the Charter of the Holy Archdiocese of America, with the objective of constituting a joint Committee of representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Archdiocese for the composition of a new Charter.
>
> b. It placed His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston under a penance of suspension until the Feast of Christmas, on account that he had fallen into canonical transgressions.
>
> c. It transferred His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey to the Holy Metropolis of Sardes and appointed as Patriarchal Vicar in the vacant Eparchy of New Jersey, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America.
>
> From the Chief Secretariat of The Holy and Sacred Synod
>
> October 8, 2020