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Sacred & Holy Synod of Ecumenical Patriarchate approves retirement of Archbishop of Crete Irineos due to health reasons



The Sacred and Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople on Thursday approved a recent decision by the Church of Crete's Holy Eparchial Synod to relieve Archbishop of Crete Irineos from his duties, due to his deteriorating health condition.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate urged the Holy Eparchial Synod of Crete to instruct a three-hierarch committee for the election of a new Archbishop of Crete, while expressing its love and respect to His Eminence Archbishop Irineos, who "…dedicated himself in the sacred affairs of the Church and in the Christian people of God".

Another hierarch of the Church of Crete by the same name, Metropolitan Irineos of Sfakia, assumes the position of Locum Tenens of the Holy Archdiocese of Crete.

The Holy Eparchial Synod of the Church of Crete, in an announcement, emphasized that the Metropolitan of Sfakia will initiate legal procedures to instruct the three-hierarch committee in its mission towards the election of a new Archbishop.

The same announcement expressed respect and gratitude for the contribution and work of its chairman, now retired Archbishop Irineos, for his many years of devotion, fidelity and love, while at the same time thanking the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, and the Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for its historic decision.