

THRIVING CONGREGATIONS INITIATIVE

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH | 10 AM-3 PM

FALL 2022 DISTRICT SEMINAR

EXPLORING VALUES, MISSION AND VISION

ST. GEORGE
LYNN, MA

ST. GEORGE CATHEDRAL
MANCHESTER, NH

ST. SOPHIA
NEW LONDON, CT

ST. NICHOLAS
LEXINGTON, MA

ST. GEORGE CATHEDRAL
SPRINGFIELD, MA

ST. GREGORY
MANSFIELD, MA

STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN
WEBSTER, MA

T C I B O S T O N . O R G



METROPOLIS
OF BOSTON

ARCHPASTORAL ADDRESS



Reverend Fathers and Members of the Thriving Congregations Initiative Parish Teams,

Thank you for your presence here today at the third district seminar of the Thriving Congregations Initiative. This most important program will build on the work of the previous year which asked parishes to reflect on the changing makeup of their existing communities and local neighborhoods. This next phase of the Thriving Congregations Initiative is aimed at exploring our collective values and mission to clearly articulate a path forward for each parish in light of the work already completed.

I am grateful to Mr. Bill Marianes who is offering much of his time and knowledge to the parishes of the Metropolis of Boston. Throughout the day, I encourage you to listen attentively to the information he will share and ask any questions you may have.

Through the generosity of the Lilly Endowment, Inc., several offerings will be made available during today's seminar. I hope that all of our parishes will take advantage of the resources, seminars, and information presented.

With Archpastoral Love,

Methodios



METROPOLIS
OF BOSTON

METHODIOS
METROPOLITAN OF BOSTON

WHAT IS THE THRIVING CONGREGATIONS INITIATIVE?

The Thriving Congregations Initiative is a response to the reality of a **shifting and ever-changing religious landscape** affecting the 62 parishes of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston. Through a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment, **the Metropolis is coordinating a program aimed at enhancing the vitality of its parishes and helping them thrive.** The guiding principles for all curriculum and learning activities connected with this program stem from extensive research conducted by the Lilly Endowment, which found: **Thriving congregations exhibit three characteristics: they understand their changing social and cultural context, have clarity around their mission and vision, and cultivate authentic Christian practices.** In today's seminar, this program will highlight the first of those characteristics. In the Fall of each year, efforts will focus on education on one of the characteristics, while in the Spring, the focus will change to application of concepts learned and insights gained during the Fall.



Lilly Endowment Inc.

A Private Philanthropic Foundation

Learn more about the other Thriving Congregations Initiative efforts coordinated by **Duke Divinity School's Leadership Education Institute** by visiting: thrivingcongregations.org



**THRIVING
CONGREGATIONS**

A program of Leadership Education at Duke Divinity

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:30 am Registration**
- 10:00 am Archpastoral Remarks**
His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston
- Program Introduction and Recap**
Panos Coufos
- 10:20 am Faithtree Resources: The Relationship Project**
Michelle Moujaes, Executive Director
- 10:30 am Session 1: WHY are we doing this?9**
Bill Marianes
- 11:30 am Small Group Discussion12**
- 12:00 pm Lunch**
- 12:30 pm Session 2: HOW do we do this? 13**
Bill Marianes
- 1:30 pm Small Group Discussion 17**
- 2:00 pm Peer to Peer Sharing**
- 2:30 pm Special Offerings 19**
- 3:00 pm Closing and Departure**

PROJECT TIMELINE

Over the next few years, we will focus on each of the Lilly Endowment's Characteristics for Thriving Congregations...



Phase Cycle

FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
Education	Application	Evaluation



NEXT STEPS

FALL 2022 TCI DISTRICT SEMINAR

WHAT SHOULD MY PARISH HAVE DONE BETWEEN THE SPRING AND FALL SEMINARS?

- Identify a 'TCI Champion' to coordinate TCI efforts at the parish level.
- Assemble a team of individuals comprised of members from all levels of parish and ministry leadership from the parish to lead the TCI charge.
- Review the introductory meeting materials found under 'Presentations' at tciboston.org/resources.
- Complete as many of the learning activities as possible from the Fall 2021 Seminar's Contextual Understanding Toolkit.
- 6 • Submit a micro-grant proposal from the Spring 2022 Seminar.



KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



BILL MARIANES

stewardshipcalling.com

**STS. RAPHAEL, NICHOLAS, AND IRENE
CUMMINGS, GA**

Bill Marianes has been dubbed a “stewardship calling evangelist” and “the “Orthodox WHY guy” by the many Hierarchs, clergy, laity, and churches he has been blessed to serve. He is the founder and “Chief Evangelist” for Stewardship Calling, a totally free ministry whose WHY is: “To help people and parishes discover and live their stewardship callings so that they may have a good account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.” For the last 20+ years, Bill has crisscrossed the United States and logged well over 375,000 miles inspiring and training Parishes, clergy, and laity to understand what true Christian stewardship is, how to live their stewardship calling and reorganize and re-energize their Parishes using best practices. Bill has been blessed to lead the development of strategic plans for church jurisdictions, ministries and parishes that cover over 26% of all Orthodox Christians in America and has delivered training for well over 600+ Parishes. His programs and materials are available at his always-free website: www.stewardshipcalling.com.

Prior to retiring early to start his full-time volunteer Stewardship Calling ministry, Bill was as a partner at two global law firms, McGuire Woods, and Troutman Pepper, each of which have over 1,100 lawyers. He served in management in both firms. Bill was the Managing Partner of the McGuire Woods Atlanta office and was on the Executive Committee and Head of the Technology and Intellectual Property Practice Group at Troutman. He specialized in corporate work and mergers and acquisitions. He was a lead lawyer in the creation of CNN Headline News, the Georgia and North Carolina State Lotteries, Verizon Wireless in Atlanta, and the \$3.3 Billion outsourcing technology joint venture between AT&T Global Information Services and Delta Airlines He closed well over \$10 Billion of mergers and acquisitions and outsourcing deals.

Bill has 2 Stewardship Calling live internet radio shows and podcasts on the global Ancient Faith Radio platform: (<https://www.ancientfaith.com/radio/live>) that air the 1st Wednesday of every month and any month that has a 5th Sunday.

Bill is also a founding member of a new, nonprofit, pan-Orthodox Christian ministry support and venture philanthropy fund, Orthodox Ministry Services who’s WHY is to help transform and improve Orthodox Church organizations, parishes, and ministries in order to strengthen the Body of Christ. <https://orthodoxministry.org/> Bill currently serves on the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops Secretariat and its Legal Committee; Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Archdiocese Council and Legal Committee; and is the General Counsel of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta and serves on its Metropolis Council. Bill was the Co-Chair of the 2010 Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America National Clergy Laity Congress in Atlanta.

Bill is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarch – Order of Saint Andrew and is a member of Leadership100. He has been awarded the Medal of Saint Paul from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; the medal of Saints Boris and Glib from the national Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA; and the Archangel Michael Honors award from the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta.



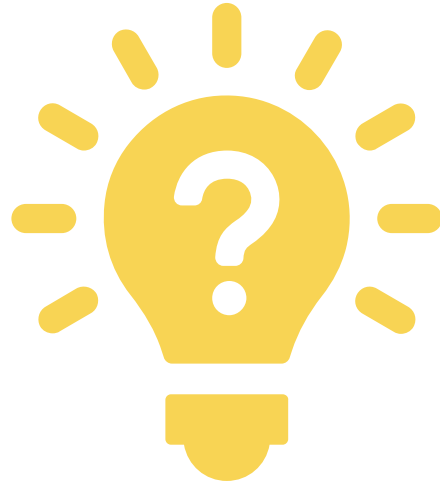
WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

"Without a vision, the people will perish."

(Proverbs 29:18)

The Four Critical Vision and Planning Questions &
The 10 Deliverables for a Good Parish Vision and Strategic Plan

1. WHY does our parish exist? = WHY Statement and Core Values
2. WHERE are we now? = Effective Parish Assessment/SWOT Analysis
3. WHERE do we want to be? = Mission and Vision
4. HOW will we get there? = S.M.A.R.T. Goals, S.M.A.R.T. Goal Accountability Process



HOW DO WE DO THIS?

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it.”

(Luke 14:28)

The Four Ps of Vision and Planning

1. People 2. Process 3. Plan 4. Performance

The Tools The Metropolis of Boston Will Offer

- A comprehensive Effective Parish Assessment to receive an empirical consensus assessment of your parish’s effectiveness in the Six Pillars and 30 Building Blocks of a healthy and effective parish.
- Six-part monthly ZOOM Sessions teaching the elements of Effective Orthodox Strategic Planning
- Metropolis Effective Orthodox Strategic Planning Retreat (at Metropolis of Boston Retreat Center) - March 17-19, 2023

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION HOW DO WE DO THIS?

- Is your parish willing to undertake an Effective Parish Assessment?
- What does your parish hope to get out of the 9-part Effective Orthodox Strategic Planning programs, and who will participate?
- Is your parish ready to start a strategic planning process?
- Is your parish willing to participate in the Metropolis Effective Orthodox Strategic Planning Retreat, and what does it hope to learn?



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

REMEMBER TO VISIT THE
TCI WEBSITE FOR ALL
OFFERINGS FROM TODAY'S
DISTRICT SEMINAR

[TCIBOSTON.ORG](https://tciboston.org)

The Metropolis of Boston's
unique response to the
challenges that churches
in America face today.

[LEARN MORE](#)

STRIVING FOR THRIVING: PARISH VISION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

A MONTHLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR PARISHES
OF THE METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

Join a monthly Zoom call led by Bill Marianes of stewardshipcalling.com to take a deep dive with your parish leadership and ministry team into strategies and techniques that your parish can use to enhance its vitality.

Participate on the following TUESDAY NIGHTS AT 7:30pm:

Tuesday, January 24th

Tuesday, February 28th

Tuesday, March 28th

Tuesday, April 25th

Tuesday, May 30th

Tuesday, June 27th

[REGISTER AT TCIBOSTON.ORG/EVENTS](https://tciboston.org/events)



EFFECTIVE PARISH ASSESSMENT

A FREE OPPORTUNITY TO OPTIMIZE YOUR
PARISH HEALTH & OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Empirical research identified Six Operational Pillars and 30 Building Blocks that must be optimized to excellence in the most healthy and effective Orthodox Parish.

- Doctors can assess your personal health.
- Financial planners can assess your financial health.
- Until now, your Parish lacked similar empirical and validated assessment tools to assess its operational health and effectiveness.
- After 20+ years of working with over 500 Orthodox parishes, the Orthodox Ministry Services (OMS) team developed its Effective Parish Assessment (EPA).
- The EPA is a reliable, easy, and empirical way to assess the health and operational effectiveness of your Parish.

VISIT [BOSTON.GOARCH.ORG/EPM](https://boston.goarch.org/EPM) TO LEARN MORE

OMS EFFECTIVE PARISH MODEL



THRIVING CONGREGATIONS INITIATIVE

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston

STRATEGIC PLANNING PARISH RETREAT

MARCH 17-19, 2023

ST. METHODIOS FAITH AND HERITAGE CENTER | CONTOOCOOK, NH



BILL MARIANES

STEWARDSHIPCALLING.COM

Come spend a few days at the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, NH to learn the basics of strategic planning and begin your parish's journey towards becoming a Thriving Congregation.

VISIT [TCIBOSTON.ORG/EVENTS](https://tciboston.org/events) FOR MORE INFO!



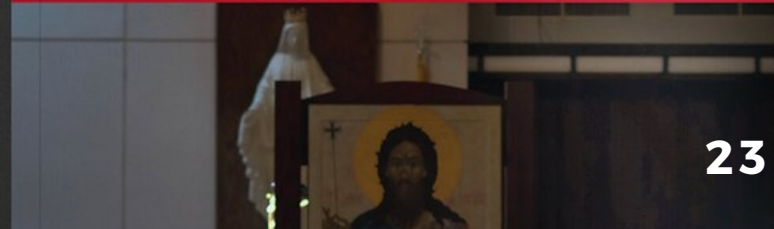
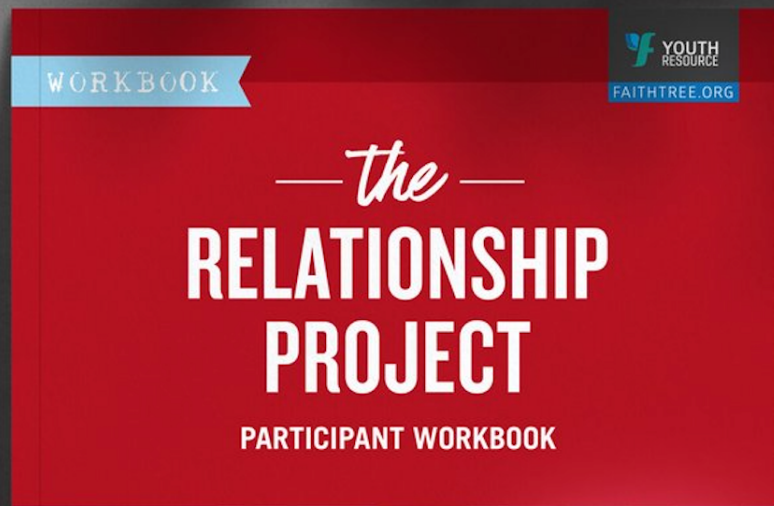
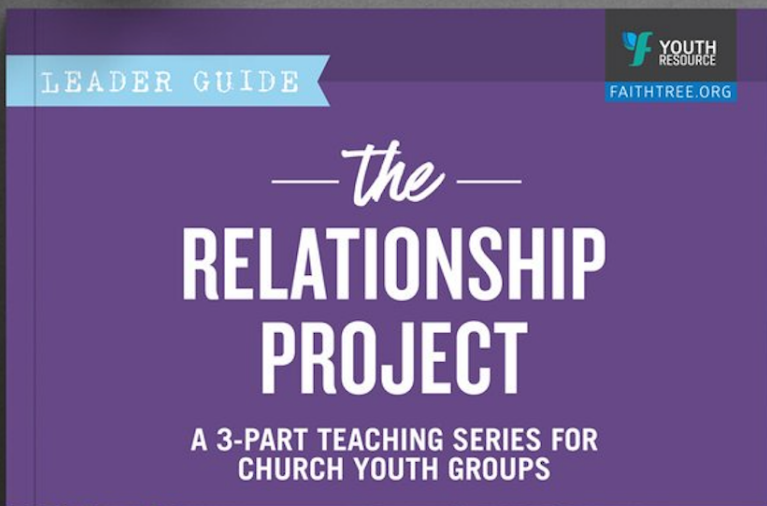
THE RELATIONSHIP PROJECT

A CURRICULUM GIFTED TO THE PARISHES OF THE METROPOLIS OF BOSTON BY HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN METHODIOS THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF THE LILLY ENDOWMENT, INC.

What We Create

Faithtree specializes in articulating the fullness of the Orthodox Christian Tradition in a language people can understand and apply. *In other words: we're about putting our Faith into practice.*

Our materials inspire dialogue and relationship building in the context of small groups. We produce live events, develop curated mastermind groups, and build specialty content to support our leaders in their mission to engage their faithful. Through this work, our people grow in the Faith, grow closer to each other, and grow closer to God. All of our resources are intentionally designed to promote healthy, daily application.



HOW DO I LEARN MORE?

CLERGY ONLY SESSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH - 3PM

YOUTH WORKER AND SUNDAY SCHOOL SESSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH - 7:30PM

REGISTER AT [TCIBOSTON.ORG/EVENTS](https://tciboston.org/events)

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP PROJECT?

PART 1: UNDERSTANDING IDENTITY—EXPLORES THE DIFFERENT WAYS TEENS IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND WHAT REAL IDENTITY IS.

SESSION 1: PRIMARY IDENTITIES
SESSION 2: MADE IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS
SESSION 3: CHILD OF GOD
SESSION 4: SHIFTING IDENTITIES

PART 2: UNDERSTANDING INTIMACY—EXPLORES WHAT IT MEANS TO BE DEEPLY KNOWN, AT OUR CORE.

SESSION 1: REDEFINING INTIMACY
SESSION 2: UNPACK YOUR HEART
SESSION 3: BUILDING INTIMACY
SESSION 4: BUILDING INTIMACY WITH GOD

PART 3: UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH—EXPLORES THE IMPACT OF OUR MENTAL HEALTH ON OUR INNER LIVES AND HOW TO PURSUE GOOD MENTAL HEALTH.

SESSION 1: AN INTRO TO GOOD MENTAL HEALTH
SESSION 2: FRIENDSHIP AND LONELINESS
SESSION 3: ANXIETY AND STRESS
SESSION 4: SADNESS AND DEPRESSION

SAVE THE DATE

DISTRICT SEMINAR
SPRING 2023

SATURDAY, MAY 6TH

A WORD OF THANKS

THIS DAY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE HELP OF OUR HOST PARISHES WHO SO WARMLY WELCOMED MEMBERS FROM NEIGHBORING PARISHES INTO THEIR COMMUNITIES. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR LOVE AND SUPPORT.

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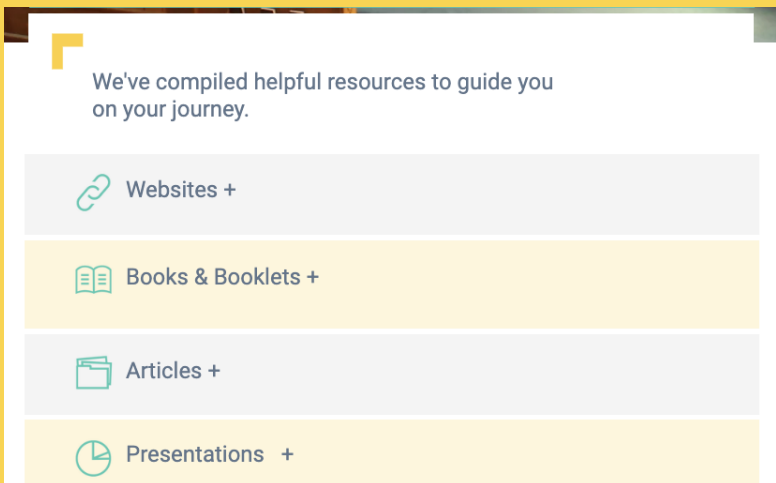
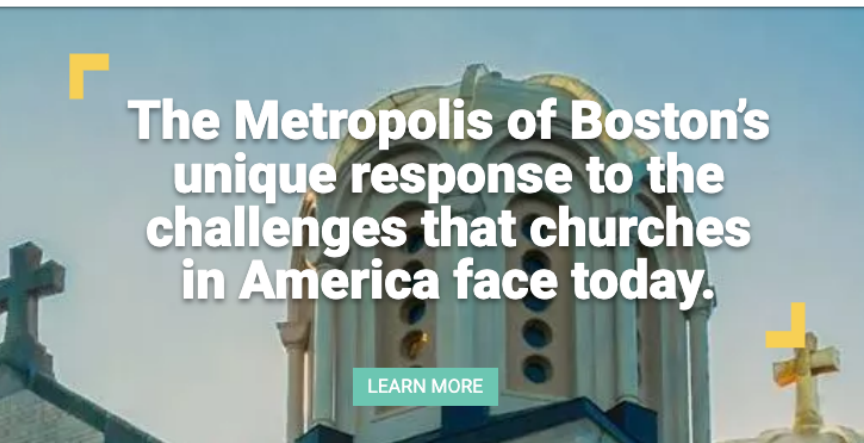
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SPRINGFIELD, MA

ST. GREGORY
MANSFIELD, MA

STS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN
WEBSTER, MA

ADDITIONALLY, WE THANK THE LILLY ENDOWMENT FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO OUR METROPOLIS THAT WE MAY SEE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE FILL THE HEART OF ALL NEW ENGLANDERS THROUGH YOUR PARISHES' EFFORTS

www.tciboston.org



EVENTS PAGE

**LEARN MORE ABOUT
UPCOMING EVENTS
BY VISITING:
tciboston.org/events**





JOIN OUR TEAM

WE WANT YOUR HELP!

HOW TO JOIN OUR TEAM!

If you are interested in joining our working team, please send us a note at tci@boston.goarch.org letting us know a little bit about you and where you would like to help specifically!

- Program facilitation
- Reports, feedback, & analytics
- Content & curriculum creation
- Resource compilation and development
- Website development & maintenance

WHAT'D YOU THINK?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

boston.goarch.org/tcifeedback



FILL OUT OUR SURVEY!

Your love and dedication to Christ, the Gospel, and your parish has the power to transform the lives of the people of New England. We are committed to learning how we can better support you to that aim and in this journey. Please take some time to fill out the survey below and let us know how we can do just that!



METROPOLIS
OF BOSTON