

## **MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

Statutes indicate that the applicant must be prepared to fulfill both spiritual/moral as well as financial obligations to the church as a member.

Process to ensure consistency, objectivity and full understanding amongst both new and existing members of what this means.

We want the membership to allow us to continue to grow, function and sustain our church congregation as the priority.

**Financial** – annual dues plus contribute either monetarily or voluntarily to the overall operation and wellbeing of the church.

### **Moral/Spiritual**

1. Be a parishioner on the territory of the Church-School Congregation unless exempted by the Diocesan Bishop
2. Be 18 years of age or older
3. Exhibit exemplary life and behaviour according to the moral teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church
4. Be ready at all times to defend the interests of the Serbian Orthodox Church and Orthodoxy in general
5. Regularly participate in worship of the Church
6. Regularly receive the holy sacraments of Confession and Communion and perform other Christian duties prescribed by the Church
7. Be obedient to the rules and by-laws of the Congregation and the decisions of the Diocesan authorities and of higher bodies and entities of the Serbian Orthodox Church i.e. Diocese Statutes
8. Execute the prescribed application form of membership
9. Be willing to swear the oath required of members of a church-school congregation.

### **PROCESS**

1. **Applicant completes the application**
2. **Application is signed by 2 sponsors**
3. **Priest reviews the application & applicant against the above requirements**
4. **The Executive Board considers the application at its next meeting & delivers its decision in agreement with the Priest – captured in the minutes**
5. **Application is signed off by the President & Secretary- filed with minutes**
6. **6 Month probationary period after which they may vote and stand for election to offices of the Congregation.**



## DIOCESE OF CANADA, CHURCH SCHOOL CONGREGATION OF ST. GEORGE AND ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- The St. George & St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church Congregation of Niagara is an integral part of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Canada, one of five dioceses which comprise the Serbian Orthodox Church in the North & South America, which is an integral part of the Serbian Orthodox Church (Patriarchate) with its See in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia.
- The Church unreservedly and irrevocably abides by the ecclesiastical authority of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Canada as part of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the North & South America, which is canonically and historically under the supreme ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the autocephalous Serbian Orthodox Church with its See in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia.
- The Church is guided by the Constitution, Statutes and By-Laws, the administrative rulings, the canons, discipline, worship, customs, regulations and encyclicals of the Diocese of Canada and Serbian Orthodox Church in the North & South America, and by the legislation adopted at the Annual Assembly of the Diocese of Canada.
- Upon acceptance into membership, the new member shall attend in Church before the parish priest and swear the following oath:
  - "I, \_\_\_\_\_ swear by Almighty God, and with my honour that I will as an Orthodox Christian, respect, obey, fulfill, protect and defend the Holy Canons, laws, traditions, regulations, and orders, of the Holy Orthodox Church and my Diocesan Bishop, and that I will, as a member of the Serbian Orthodox Church-School Congregation of St. George in Niagara, regularly and devotedly fulfil all duties and obligations, prescribed by this Statute and the By-laws prescribed by the Church-School Congregation. I agree that I will attorn to the jurisdiction of the Diocesan Ecclesiastical Court and will be bound by its decisions, subject only to any right of appeal available to me under this Statute, as amended from time to time so help me God."
- New members in the Church-School Congregation must review and become familiar with the rules of membership as written in the Statutes of Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Canada, Articles 29.3 to 29.28.
- New members in the Congregation are probationary for a period of 6 months, after which they may exercise their vote at Assemblies of the Congregation, stand for election to offices of the Congregation unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws of the Congregation and enjoy other membership privileges.
- While financial obligations are voluntary and are encouraged as participation by members in the stewardship of the Church, an annual membership fee of \$100 is mandatory.
- Membership in any one Serbian Orthodox Church-School Congregation is recognized in all Church-School Congregations throughout the U.S.A. and Canada.

- I \_\_\_\_\_, after having read carefully and understood the above instructions and rules, hereby appeal to the Church Board to be accepted in the regular membership of The St. George & St. Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church Congregation in Niagara Falls, Diocese of Canada which is an integral part of the Serbian Orthodox Church (Patriarchate) with its See in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia.

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- PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of spouse \_\_\_\_\_ No of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Patron Saint: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation / Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you previously a member of a Serbian Orthodox Church School Congregation? If yes Where?

Name of Parish \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

#### STATEMENT OF WITNESSES:

The undersigned members of the above mentioned Church School Congregation personally know the applicant and confirm that the above information concerning the applicant is true and correct to the best of our knowledge, and we recommend that the applicant be accepted as a regular member of the above mentioned Church School Congregation.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Name

Address

Telephone

1. 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Name

Address

Telephone

ACCEPTED/REJECTED AS A MEMBER AT THE MEETING OF THE EXUCUTIVE BOARD OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL CONGREGATION,

Date \_\_\_\_\_

In Niagara Falls

\_\_\_\_\_  
Congregation President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Congregation Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parish Priest