What is the Local Clergy-Laity Assembly (CLA)? What is its purpose?

The Local, Metropolitan Assembly concerns itself with matters affecting the life and growth of the Parishes and communities within the Metropolis (except for dogmatic or canonical issues). It deals with matters of common concern including the uniform governance of the Parishes, educational programs, financial programs, and philanthropic concerns as well as with the better organization and effectiveness of the Parishes.

How Does This Differ From the National Clergy-Laity Congress (CLC)?

The Archdiocese shall hold a Congress biennially convened by the Archbishop or in special session as he may determine. Except for dogmatic and canonical matters, the Congress is concerned with all other matters which affect the life, mission, growth and unity of the Archdiocese and especially the uniform administration of the Archdiocesan District, the Metropolises and the Parishes. It is also concerned with the educational programs, financial programs and philanthropic concerns of the Archdiocese as well as the participation and role of the Archdiocese in the life of America. The Congress makes such decisions as it deems appropriate and such issues/decisions can be the outgrowth of the local CLA.

How often does the CLA meet?

The CLA meets annually.

Who attends?

The Local Assembly is comprised of the Metropolitan, the Chancellor of the Metropolis, the members of the Local Council, the Vice President of the Metropolis Philoptochos Board, members of the Archdiocesan Council within the Metropolis and Clergy and lay Representatives of the Parishes.

Each Parish shall be represented by four (4) representatives, each having one vote and shall include:

A. The Parish Priest;
B. The President of the Parish Council, and in his or her absence the Vice President, or in his or her absence any member of the Parish Council designated by it; and
C. Two members of the Parish elected by the Parish Assembly.

Each representative to the Assembly shall be in good standing in a Parish as described in Article 18, Section 1 of the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Archdiocese.

Each representative to the Assembly shall:

A. Be entitled to one (1) vote on any issue put to a vote. No proxies shall be permitted.
B. Provide a written report of the proceedings of the Assembly together with copies
of any written reports that were distributed, to their Parishes.

**Why should I participate?**

The local CLA provides each participant the opportunity to learn and grow in our faith, gain new insights into the ministries and programs offered by our Metropolis, and take an active role in the governance of our Church.

**What occurs?**

Each participant is expected to attend the CLA in its entirety, from the reception gathering to the plenary session of the last day including church services. There will be presentations made on the state of the Metropolis, on pressing subjects that affect all parishes, of faith, of administration, of issues all parishes face in their day-to-day management.

There will also be committee meetings of the following committees:

A. Administration  
   a. Address issues in parish/Metropolis administration  
   b. Propose/develop solutions

B. Youth  
   a. Review programs and progress  
   b. Review obstacles, propose improvements

C. Finance  
   a. Review of year-to-date expenses vs budget  
   b. Prepare/propose budget for coming year

D. Religious Education  
   a. Projects, status, best practices, issues/obstacles

E. Stewardship  
   a. Status, best practices, changes, issues/obstacles

F. Greek Education  
   a. Project status, best practices, issues/obstacles

Generally, these committees meet in break-out sessions where multiple committee meetings are held concurrently. Each delegate is expected to attend one or the other of these concurrently held meetings in order to:

1. Learn of issues that need to be addressed within the Metropolis.
2. Share experiences and successes in dealing with such issues.
3. Determine whether recommendations should be made at the plenary session that may be adopted by the Metropolis and/or resolutions that the Metropolis may wish to be taken to the biennial CLC for consideration at the national level.

On the last day of the assembly, there will be plenary session where a representative of each committee will share the minutes of each committee meeting and present, should there be any, proposals and/or resolutions of the committee to be considered by the Metropolis for adoption and/or for the Metropolis’ proposal to the national CLC. It is this method by which each and every parish has a voice at the Metropolitan level and even at the national level.
How long is the CLA?
It is generally 2-3 days.

How Should a Delegate Prepare?
Any Parish having items it wishes considered at the Congress or Local Assembly shall:

A. First submit them to the Parish Assembly for approval, and if approved
B. Send a copy of the approved items together with the necessary documentation to the Metropolis, following which it
C. May present them on the floor of the Local Assembly for consideration and, if approved by the Local Assembly, they shall be included in the items submitted to the Archdiocese.

In order to assist the Archdiocese in preparing the agenda of the National CLC, each Local Assembly shall submit items for inclusion in the agenda together with the reasons therefor to the Archdiocese within thirty (30) days after they have been approved by the Local Assembly, and not later than ninety (90) days before the convening of the Congress.

How Can Parish Delegates Best Benefit From Their Attendance?
Delegates from each parish should expect to participate in every aspect of the CLA and it would be wise if they discuss among themselves which committee meetings they will attend, making certain that each delegate attend different meetings so as to be able to best understand the issues facing each committee, for their best understanding of Metropolis issues and actions, in preparation of a full and balanced report back to their parish.

Metropolis Council Election Process

Any delegate may run for election to Metropolitan Council. Should you be interested, ask your parish priest for an application which will require your current CV and a recommendation from your priest. Election of council members will take place at the CLA for the coming year.

Nominations for Metropolis Council can also be done at the CLA which are to be submitted to the Metropolitan Chancellor by the beginning of the Opening Prayer and Keynote Address. Nominations should include both a CV for the nominee and a letter from his/her parish priest indicating that they are members of the parish in good standing. If the nominee will not be a delegate, they should be present as observers or should request permission to be absent by permission of His Eminence. The Metropolis Assembly in May 2012 made delegate status a prerequisite for nomination.

N.B. The term of office for Metropolis Council members begins with the conclusion of the Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity Congress, and concludes with the following Congress two years later. Elections are thus held at the Metropolis Assembly immediately preceding a Congress. As Congresses are currently held in July of even-numbered years (2012, 2014, etc.), said elections are held in the Assemblies taking place during September of odd-numbered years (2013, 2015, etc.).