



# World Council of Churches

## General Secretariat

150 route de Ferney, PO Box 2100  
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland  
Phone: +41 22 791 6111 Fax: +41 22 791 0361  
Email: infowcc@wcc-coe.org www.oikoumene.org

Direct phone: +41 22 791 6285  
Direct e-mail: dcb@wcc-coe.org

Geneva, May 13, 2019

His Eminence Archbishop  
Elpidophoros of America  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America  
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Your Eminence,

*"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it"* (Psalm 118)

Within the joyful atmosphere of the Easter season, we welcome joyfully your election by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the head of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, one of the most prominent sees of the Church of Constantinople.

We do rejoice for the election to such an important ministry of one member of the central committee of the WCC and a professor of inter-Christian relations at the Theological Faculty of Aristoteleion University in Thessaloniki.

You will carry with you a very rich ecclesial, academic and ecumenical baggage as well as an important pastoral and spiritual experience.

We are confident therefore that, in your new position, you will generously share your skills, will continue your ecumenical commitment and will do your best in order to fertilize with your dynamism and your vision the ecclesial and ecumenical life in the new context of your ecclesial and pastoral responsibilities.

We are also confident that from your new position you will continue serving and defending the interests of both the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Theological School of Halki, having already successfully served as the Superior of the Holy Trinity Monastery in the island of Halki, hosting the famous "silent school", closed by the authorities in 1971.

We would like to assure you, Your Eminence, that the thoughts and prayers of your many friends and companions in the WCC and the ecumenical movement at-large will accompany you.

May Christ our common Lord and Saviour, the Lord of life and resurrection, be with you and guide your steps in proclaiming, protecting and defending life.

Yours in the Risen Lord,

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit  
General Secretary