

December 13/November 30, 2010  
Holy Apostle Andrew the First Called

Dear Fathers: Christ is in our midst!

I have been informed that, recently, a "Position Paper" was posted from the Metropolis of Portland. This same paper was sent to the members of our Holy Synod a few weeks ago and was answered by Bishop Demetrius and myself (see attached copies).

As we state in our letter, there are still *many* problems to overcome, and one important one is the question of the giving of the Holy Mysteries to new calendarists, which is still happening on a consistent level in the G. O. C. parishes, alas, on an episcopal level. It is our earnest hope and prayer that these hurdles to our attempts towards reconciliation may be overcome, which is precisely why we urge restraint and patience in this holy endeavor. Nothing is served by an undue haste. The Meletian Schism of the fourth century took some 40 or so years to heal, and both parties were fully Orthodox and, in the same city! Not on opposite sides of the ocean.

Properly speaking, these issues are dealt with by the bishops at our Synod meetings.

We ask for your prayers on this issue.

In Christ,  
✠Ephraim, Metropolitan of Boston