



# AGESInitiatives

To Promote and Sustain the Church's Music Ministry

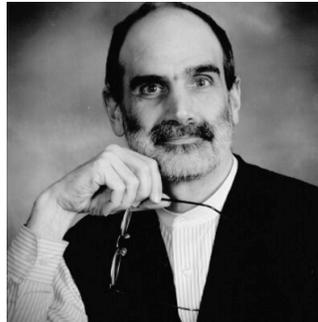
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## 2016 Annual Report

### FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FR. SERAPHIM

Glory to God for all things!

With your help, AGES is now in its sixth year of supporting and sustaining the liturgical music ministry of the Orthodox Church. In 2016, your support enabled us to achieve the following:



- We provided thousands of pages of liturgical texts, services, and music scores, for free, to clergy, cantors, choirs and worshippers throughout the world, by means of the AGES Digital Chant Stand.
- We added new texts and music to the AGES library, including the new English text of the Divine Liturgy that was produced by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and approved by the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
- We added new English-language scores, in both Western and Byzantine notations, including works by up and coming composers, such as Gabriel Cremeens.
- We began development on our Service Book app for phones and other mobile devices.
- We hired a full-time Director of Operations, who will also be in charge of fundraising and development.

In 2017, we look forward to working with composers, translators, metropolises, and jurisdictions to add even more texts and scores to the AGES database. We will expand our library of scores in Byzantine notation, and replace scanned handwritten scores with new digital versions that easier to read. And in the coming months, we expect to roll out the highly anticipated Service Book app. This year, we are very excited to be offering liturgical music seminars, beginning with a Holy Week workshop in March.

With God's help and your support, 2016 was a year of growth for AGES Initiatives, and I am excited about what 2017 has in store. The impact of your generosity and prayers is tremendous; thank you from the bottom of my heart.

In Christ,

Fr. Seraphim Dedes  
Executive Director  
February 2017

Lead me in the path of  
...ation, O Theotokos  
...ouled my soul with sin  
...ns and I heedlessly squ  
...ll of my life's resources. E  
...intercession deliver me fro  
...every uncleanness.

Idiomelon. Mode pl. 2.



Verse: Have mercy on m  
God, according to Your grea  
mercy; and according to the  
abundance of Your compas  
blot out my transgression.

When I ponder in my  
wretchedness on the many  
terrible things that I have  
semble for that fearful da  
y of Judgment. But thro  
mercy of Your comp  
David I cry to You  
on me, O God  
mercy

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# 2016 Finances

## JANUARY-DECEMBER 2016

### Income

<b>Consulting</b>	500.00
<b>Sales</b>	1,185.42
<b>Donations</b>	
<b>Individual &amp; Business</b>	77,192.78
<b>Parish</b>	4,120.00
<b>Interest</b>	69.23

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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>83,067.43</b>
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### Expense

<b>Accounting Fees</b>	1,412.03
<b>Fundraising Fees</b>	350.54
<b>Database Setup/Maintenance</b>	3,185.00
<b>Hardware &amp; Software</b>	37.43
<b>Books, Subscriptions, Reference</b>	239.98
<b>Postage, Mailing Service</b>	100.94
<b>Printing and Copying</b>	236.00
<b>Advertising Expenses</b>	250.00
<b>Meals and Hospitality</b>	431.97
<b>Conference, Convention, Meeting</b>	1,005.58
<b>Travel</b>	800.53
<b>Project Software Development</b>	4,074.55
<b>Insurance</b>	3,600.00

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<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>15,724.55</b>
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<b>Net Income</b>	<b>67,342.88</b>
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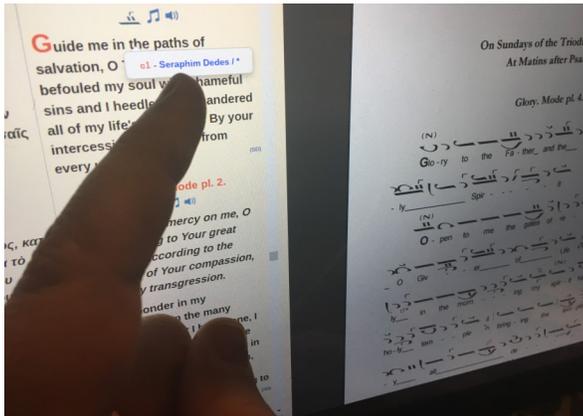
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Primary sources of revenue have continued to be donations from parishes and individuals who use the public version of the Digital Chant Stand. Generous giving meant that income exceeded expenses by more than 400%, allowing us to take on some higher ongoing costs, such as a full-time employee, with at least a year's worth of salary in the bank. The space in the budget also allows us to take on projects such as the software development for the Service Book app, as well as transcription of staff notation scores into

Byzantine notation, a service frequently requested but given a low priority in the past, and be able to see them through to completion.

In 2017 we will be restructuring our fundraising appeals to be more systematic and regular. In particular, we will seek to boost gifts at the parish level, while also restructuring benefits for parishes that do make gifts at graded levels.

## DIGITAL CHANT STAND



*The Digital Chant Stand in use on a tablet.*

The flagship program of AGES continues to be the Digital Chant Stand (DCS), which provides free online access to prepared services for use in our churches. The current edition of DCS offers services in Greek and English, using the rubrics of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; however, we are considering other editions that employ other texts and rubrics. Arabic is one language in particular that has been requested; Slavonic is another that we are considering.

We have customized the DCS for specific parishes, creating for them tailored-to-fit libraries texts, rubrics and musical scores for their use. In addition, the DCS is the official distribution channel for liturgical texts and rubrics employed by the Archdiocese of Kenya.

Coming in 2017 is the implementation of login to DCS, which will allow users to set and save preferences in the DCS interface.

The iOS DCS app, which now runs on iPhone in addition to the iPad, continues to grow in popularity, as more and more church musicians and clergy are using these devices in church.

**Visit the Digital Chant Stand website:**

**[www.agesinitiatives.com/dcs/public/dcs](http://www.agesinitiatives.com/dcs/public/dcs)**

## SEMINARS

Seminars were planned and funded for 2016 that, for logistical reasons, did not come to fruition. We are excited to report in March of 2017 we will offer our first of several intended weekend seminars intended to provide practical preparation for Orthodox church musicians, be they cantors, choir members, or choir directors. The March seminar will concentrate on Holy Week.

The seminar will be Friday, March 10 through Sunday, March 12 at St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church in Charlotte, NC. Clinicians will include Fr. Seraphim Dedes, Gabriel Cremeens, Dina Marinakos, and Richard Barrett. Sessions will include practical tips for directing, vocal stamina, and liturgics, as well as detailed *practica* with major hymns, and more. Scores will be in English and primarily discussed with reference to staff notation.

The seminar has been advertised throughout the GOA and other North American jurisdictions. Registration is ongoing at the time of this writing, and thus far includes participants coming from around the country within multiple metropolises and jurisdictions.

We will be gathering feedback during and after the seminar and planning future seminars accordingly.

**For more information on seminars, visit:**

**[www.agesinitiatives.org/seminar](http://www.agesinitiatives.org/seminar)**

## SERVICE BOOK APP

The use of mobile devices in church is increasing among worshippers. AGES has begun developing a pew-book app that provides access to the texts of services for an entire month, unencumbered with media links which are useful to church musicians. Worshipers will be able to view this service book on phones and devices of their choice. Our initial developer was obliged to step away due to other commitments, but we are currently interviewing other developers who will be able to finish the project. We anticipate rolling the finished app out before the summer.

## TRANSLATIONS

In 2016, we added the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese's new translation of the Divine Liturgy to the AGES database. It is now the default text used for the Digital Chant Stand's publicly-available service texts.

We continue to expand our library of English-language liturgical texts. In 2017, we are pro-actively working to secure permissions for additional translation libraries with the permissions holders so as to provide the fullest range possible of services, as well as the fullest range possible of customizable options.

## TRANSLATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

In collaboration with OCMC, AGES has been working with principal designer and developer Dr. Michael Colburn to develop the Orthodox Christian Translation Management System (TMS). In 2017, we will roll out the web-based version of this system, which enable translators to create and maintain liturgical translations more easily. The TMS was piloted in the Archdiocese of Kenya. The Churches of Hong Kong, Singapore, and Korea have also expressed a need for this tool.

## THE AGES MISSION

Incorporated as a nonprofit in 2013, AGES Initiatives envisions all Orthodox Churches having the texts, music, and trained singers needed to maintain the fullest possible liturgical life. To that end, with the blessing of Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, we have developed and maintain tools to support and sustain the Church's music ministry in the church, home, and classroom using current and emerging technologies. We also develop translation tools for use in the mission field.

Our mission is fulfilled through your prayers and generosity of spirit.

Make a tax-deductible gift today at [www.agesinitiatives.org/support](http://www.agesinitiatives.org/support).

# COMING SOON!

## MARCH 10-12, 2017

### PRACTICAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY WEEK

a seminar for church musicians:  
cantors, choir directors, choir members

For more information and registration visit  
[www.agesinitiatives.org/seminar](http://www.agesinitiatives.org/seminar)

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The Rev. Dn. Paul Tsahakis  
Evelyn Klund  
Will Moye  
John Tesfrikas

Richard Barrett  
Director of Operations  
and Development

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



**AGES**Initiatives  
To Promote and Sustain the Church's Music Ministry