



## St Phoebe Center FOR THE DEACONESS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Phoebe Center for the Deaconess  
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### **Revised Version Released: “Proposed Guidelines for the Revival of the Ordained Female Diaconate in the Orthodox Church Today” *Document to be Reviewed at September Zoom Event***

August 23, 2024 - The St. Phoebe Center for the Deaconess has released a new set of proposed guidelines for ordaining women as deaconesses in the Orthodox Church today.

In a Zoom event to be held September 23, 2024, three St. Phoebe Center board members — Dr. Carrie Frederick Frost, Dr. Teva Regule, and Dr. Helen Creticos Theodoropoulos — will introduce and comment on this new version of the “Proposed Guidelines.” They will review the document section by section and explain the incorporated feedback. St. Phoebe Center Advisory Board Member Rev. Dr. Radu Bordeianu will serve as moderator. Attendees are encouraged, but not required, to read the “Proposed Guidelines” in advance. [See more information about this event and register here.](#)

The [“Proposed Guidelines for the Revival of the Ordained Female Diaconate in the Orthodox Church Today”](#) were created by the St. Phoebe Center to generate discussion within the Orthodox Christian community, to expand its imagination of what this ancient order might look like today, and to move forward together to ordain deaconesses once again. The document was first published in 2023, during the Center’s tenth anniversary symposium “Deaconesses for the Orthodox Church Today” held at Hellenic College Holy Cross in November 2023 with the blessing of Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and with a greeting from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

At that symposium and in other venues, the St. Phoebe Center solicited and received feedback from the whole church including laywomen, laymen, deacons, priests, and bishops. The document was revised based on this valuable and appreciated feedback, and now the Center offers this new version to the Church for discussion and inspiration.

The St. Phoebe Center continues to welcome comments and feedback at:  
[stphoebecenter@gmail.com](mailto:stphoebecenter@gmail.com).

The St. Phoebe Center is a US non-profit organization, and its mission is to “educate and prayerfully advocate for the revival of the ordained female diaconate to help serve the ministerial needs of the Orthodox Church and the world today.”

The mission of the St. Phoebe Center is in accordance with the *1988 Conclusions of the InterOrthodox Consultation on the Place of the Woman in the Orthodox Church and the Question of the Ordination of Women*, Rhodes, Greece and the numerous other calls for revival of the female diaconate from across the world.