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L100 APPROVES GRANTS OF \$2.5 MILLION AT FINAL DAY OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Naples, FL – In an extraordinary session here today - the final day of the 16th Annual Conference of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, Incorporated - the Executive Committee approved more than \$2.5 million in new and continuing grants for 2007, with Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology receiving \$1,472,935, the bulk of the funding for 2007 and out year commitments totaling more than \$3 million. The National Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese will receive a total of \$886,145. Other recipients included the Metropolis of San Francisco, \$100,000 for a Family Wellness Center; the Orthodox Christian Fellowship, \$50,000 for Campus Ministry; and Retired Clergy in Need, \$12,600 pension supplement.

The majority of the funding in 2007 for Hellenic College/Holy Cross, \$1,121,660, was for the continuation of a 10-year, \$10 million scholarship program. Supplemental funding of \$1,420,000 through 2010 was also approved to provide for the incoming seminarian class of 2007, while a study committee will report on a request from the school for a Phase II of the scholarship program over ten years. Additional funding of \$250,000 a year over four years was awarded to the school for a major infrastructure plan to modernize, integrate and connect the school's administrative and telecommunications systems, building a massive fiber-optic ring that will circumnavigate the school's campus.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America will receive previously approved funding for Internet Ministries (\$165,200); Archives Digitization (\$100,000 a year over three years); and Religious Education (\$94,820). New funding will go to Greek Education Teacher Development (\$135,000); the Center for Family Care (\$132,950); Parish Stewardship and Development (\$121,240); the Home Mission Parish Program (\$102,000); Office of the Archbishop Correspondence Tracking System (\$84,500); Preparing for Marriage and Beyond (\$29,410); and a Youth Protection Manual (\$22,300).

George D. Behrakis, Leadership 100 Chairman, said the grants approved in 2007 represented a broader range of support for both Orthodoxy and Hellenism, continued substantial support of Hellenic College/Holy Cross as a strategic priority to ensure well-trained highly qualified priests to serve parishes for decades to come, and innovative support for the Metropolises of the Church.

The conference ends tonight with a Grand Banquet at which former Mayor of New York City, Rudy Giuliani, will be given the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Award for Excellence, the first time it is to be awarded to someone outside the Greek Orthodox American community, but who exemplifies in his leadership the values and principles of Orthodoxy and Hellenism.