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ANNOUNCEMENT

**Conferral Ceremony of an Honorary Doctorate by the School of
Theology of Aristotle University**

Thessaloniki, 21 July 2026

The School of Theology of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki will confer the title of Honorary Doctor upon His Grace Bishop Chrysostomos (Maidonis) of Bukoba and Western Tanzania.

The Conferral Ceremony will take place on Thursday, 23 July 2026, at 19:30, in the "Alexandros Papanastasiou" Ceremonial Hall of the Old Building of the Faculty of Philosophy.

Conferral Ceremony Programme

Opening of the ceremony and welcome address by the President of the School of Theology, Professor Ilias Evangelou

Greeting by the Rector of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis

Laudation in honour of His Grace Bishop Chrysostomos (Maidonis) of Bukoba and Western Tanzania, delivered by Associate Professor Petros Panagiotopoulos of the School of Theology

Conferral Ceremony

Reading and presentation of the official resolution and honorary diploma by the President of the School of Theology, Professor Ilias Evangelou

Presentation of the Insignia and Commemorative Plaque by the Rector of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis

Screening of a video highlighting the missionary work in the Diocese of Bukoba and Western Tanzania

Acceptance speech by the honouree, entitled "The Formation of Missionary Consciousness"

Hymns performed by the **"Orthodox Africans" Choir**

Brief Biography of the Honouree

His Grace Bishop Chrysostomos (Maidonis) of Bukoba and Western Tanzania was born in 1956 in Plomari, on the island of Lesbos, Greece. He studied Theology in Athens, attending the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School (1974–1976) and the Faculty of Theology (1977–1981). Immediately after completing his studies, he travelled to Mount Athos in 1981, where he was tonsured as a monk and ordained Deacon in 1982. He was ordained Presbyter in Arnaia in 1983, where he began a long and fruitful ministry of spiritual service, undertaking numerous pastoral initiatives that encompassed every aspect of ecclesiastical ministry.

From 1991 to 1993, he contributed to the reconstruction of the Orthodox Church of Albania in the region of Gjirokastër. His service there came to an abrupt end when the Albanian authorities ordered his expulsion. He subsequently entered the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, where he served in Smyrna (1995–2000) and in Myra of Lycia (1998–2008).

Missionary service has been a defining chapter of his ecclesiastical ministry. Through the Patriarchate of Alexandria, the Church entrusted him with the pastoral care of the Diocese of Bukoba and Western Tanzania over the past six years and, two years ago, also entrusted him with responsibility for Rwanda.

We kindly request that this event be published, broadcast, and covered by the media.