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PRESS RELEASE

Establishment of the Endowed Chair “Metropolitan Bishop of Drama Pavlos – Ecclesiastical History and Culture of Eastern Hellenism” with the Presence of the Ecumenical Patriarch

Thessaloniki, 26/1/2026

In the presence of His All-Holiness, the Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the Ceremony for the establishment of the Endowed Chair entitled “Metropolitan Bishop of Drama Pavlos – Ecclesiastical History and Culture of Eastern Hellenism (11th–20th centuries)” will take place on Thursday, 29 January 2026, at 11:00, in Amphitheater II of the Faculty of Theology at Aristotle University.

Aristotle University establishes the new Endowed Chair in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Holy Metropolises of Thessaloniki, Nea Krini and Kalamaria, as well as the Apostolic Diakonia of the Church of Greece. Through this initiative, the University honors the memory and work of the late Metropolitan of Drama, Pavlos (Apostolidis), a distinguished hierarch and scholar of the ecclesiastical history of Pontus and the East.

The Chair operates within the School of Theology of the Faculty of Theology and aims, among other objectives, to promote scientific research and teaching in the ecclesiastical history and culture of Eastern Hellenism (11th–20th centuries). It seeks to attract students and researchers and to establish collaborations with academic and cultural institutions in Greece and abroad.

In addition, the Chair aims to study regions such as Cappadocia, Ionia, Pontus, and the Black Sea zone, as well as issues of refugee memory, spiritual life, ecclesiastical organization, and the cultural presence of Greeks in these regions.

Through its research and educational activities, the Chair aspires to further strengthen the role of Aristotle University as an international center of reference for the study of Byzantine and modern ecclesiastical history and the cultural heritage of Ecumenical Hellenism.

The Chair will receive annual funding from the cooperating ecclesiastical bodies and will soon be staffed with a member of the Teaching and Research Staff specializing in the Ecclesiastical History and Culture of Eastern Hellenism.

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