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PRESS RELEASE

With the Presence of the Ecumenical Patriarch, the Celebration of the Three Hierarchs and the Ceremony for the Establishment of the Named Chair “Metropolitan of Drama Pavlos – Ecclesiastical History and Culture of Eastern Hellenism” Took Place

Thessaloniki, 29/1/2026

With the presence of His All-Holiness, the Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, today, Thursday 29 January 2026, the Aristotle University hosted the Ceremony for the Celebration of the Three Hierarchs and the Ceremony for the establishment of the Named Chair entitled: “Metropolitan of Drama Pavlos – Ecclesiastical History and Culture of Eastern Hellenism (11th–20th century).”

The Ceremony for the Celebration of the Three Hierarchs, which took place in the Ceremonial Hall, began with hymns in honor of the Holy Three Hierarchs. The choir of the Faculty of Theology of the Aristotle University, “The Three Hierarchs,” performed the hymns, under the direction of Associate Professor of Ecclesiastical Music of the School of Social Theology and Christian Culture, Ioannis Liakos.

Following the address by the Rector of the Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis, His All-Holiness, the Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, delivered the keynote address of the day.

Establishment of the Named Chair: “Metropolitan of Drama Pavlos – Ecclesiastical History and Culture of Eastern Hellenism”

Earlier, in the B' Amphitheater of the Faculty of Theology, a special ceremony established the Named Chair entitled: “Metropolitan of Drama Pavlos – Ecclesiastical History and Culture of Eastern Hellenism (11th–20th century),” honoring 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 Aristotle University established the Chair in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, the Holy Metropolises of Thessaloniki, Neapolis and Stavroupoli, Nea Krini and Kalamaria, as well as the Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece.

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 century), to attract students and researchers, and to establish collaborations with academic and cultural institutions in Greece and abroad.

Another objective of the Chair is the study of regions such as Cappadocia, Ionia, Pontus, and the Black Sea Zone, as well as refugee memory, spiritual life, ecclesiastical organization, and the cultural presence of Hellenism in these regions.

Through its research and educational activities, the Chair aspires to further strengthen the role of the 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 participating ecclesiastical bodies and will soon be staffed by a member of the Teaching and Research Personnel specializing in the Ecclesiastical History and Culture of Eastern Hellenism.

Attached are: (a) the address by the Rector of the Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis, at the Ceremony for the Celebration of the Three Hierarchs; (b) the keynote address of His All-Holiness, the Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I; (c) the greeting of the Rector of the Aristotle University, Professor Kyriakos Anastasiadis, at the special Ceremony for the establishment of the Named Chair entitled “Metropolitan of Drama Pavlos – Ecclesiastical History and Culture of Eastern Hellenism (11th–20th century)”; and (d) the address of His All-Holiness, the Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, at the Ceremony for the establishment of the Named Chair.

The customary Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at the Church of the Holy Three Hierarchs (Voulgari area), presided over by His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, tomorrow, Friday 30 January 2026, at 8:30 a.m. This will be followed, at 10:00 a.m., by the Memorial Service for the late professors, benefactors, donors, students, and former employees of the Aristotle University.

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