

ABOUT HUMS

HUMS is a ministry of the Metropolis of Atlanta founded by Fr. Paul Tsahakis, MD in 2017. We are a group of faith based Orthodox Christian health care providers who uplift and support one another through the 4 pillars upon which the society was founded: Worship, Fellowship and Education, Acts of Service and Philanthropy. HUMS organizes and sponsors an annual retreat at the metropolis' Alexios Retreat Center in Salem, SC each Fall. Our retreats are designed to enlighten, educate and inspire health care providers along each step of their professional journey. HUMS is administered by St. Nektarios Church in Charlotte and is managed by an elected board of directors serving 2 year terms.

HUMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2024-2026



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Dr. Emmanuel Zervos - HUMS President
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HOLY UNMERCENARIES MEDICAL SOCIETY

A Ministry of the
Metropolis of Atlanta



ANNUAL RETREAT
September 25-27, 2026
Alexios Retreat Center
Salem, SC

Holding Hope and Limits: Orthodox Christian Approaches to Medical Futility, Miracle Language, Prayer, and Trust

Featured Speakers



Sarah Byrne-Martelli, DMin, BCC-PCHAC, has served as a Hospice and palliative chaplain since 2003. She is endorsed by the Antiochian Archdiocese. Sarah is on Faculty at the Harvard Medical School Center for Palliative Care and is a sessional

Assistant Professor of Spiritual Care at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. She is currently serving a two-year Research Fellowship in Supportive Oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where her research is related to spiritual distress, miracle language, and medical decision-making. Sarah holds a Doctor of Ministry from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School. She attends St. Mary Orthodox Church in Cambridge, MA, with her husband, Dr. Peter Martelli, and their son Rafael. She is the author of *Memory Eternal: Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians* (Ancient Faith, 2022).



Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis is the author of *Painless, Blameless & Peaceful: Orthodox Christian Reflections on Death, Dying, and Eternal Life*—drawing on his pastoral experiences to guide readers toward hope and peace in confronting mortality. He has served as a Greek Orthodox priest since 1998, and since 2004 has served St. John the Baptist

Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa, FL. Father Stavros graduated in 1994 from Whittier College with a degree in history, and from Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, MA, with a Master of Divinity in 1998. He has written a daily inspirational email called "The Prayer Team" (www.prayerteam365.com) since February 2015, which has resulted in the publication of ten books. He currently lives in Tampa with his wife, Lisa, and their son, Nicholas.

RETREAT AGENDA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

4:00-6:00 pm Arrival / Check In
6:00-7:00 pm Dinner
7:00-7:30 pm Program
Second Victim Syndrome - Fr. Stavros and Emmanuel Zervos, MD
7:30- 8:30 pm Interactive Group Discussion
8:30-10:00 pm Fellowship Social

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

8:00-8:45 am Morning Prayer and Breakfast
8:45- 9:45 am Plenary I
Sarah Byrne-Martelli
Hoping for a Miracle and Medical Decision Making:
A Chaplain's Perspective on Spiritual Distress, Hope
and Discernment at the End of Life
Break

10:00 - 11:00 am Plenary II
Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis
Painless, Blameless & Peaceful: Orthodox Christian
Reflections on Death, Dying and Eternal Life
11:00-12:00 pm Clinical Vignettes I
12:00- 1:00 pm Lunch and Fellowship
1:00- 2:00 pm Plenary III
Sarah Byrne-Martelli and Fr. Stavros
Ambiguous Loss: Orthodox Perspectives on
Presence, Absence and Identity in Demential Care
Break

2:00-3:00 pm Clinical Vignettes II
3:00-4:00 pm Open Forum
4:00-5:30 pm Free Time
5:30-6:30 pm Vespers
6:30-9:00 pm Dinner and Social

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

9:00 - 10:15 am Orthros
10:15 - 11:30 am Divine Liturgy
11:30 - 12:30 pm Lunch and Depart

REGISTER



**Pricing is all inclusive: program , lodging
and 5 meals beginning at \$250 (lodge) to
\$350 (cabin). Children are welcome!**

**There is a children's program on Saturday
from 8:45-4:00 pm hosted by the youth
activities ministry from Holy Trinity GOC
Charlotte. (\$50 ages 5-12, \$80 age 13+)**

**For detailed pricing
information and to
register, scan the
QR code or visit:**

www.gohums.org

