

The Coptic Charter

Of the People's Front

“Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them” [Acts 6:3]

To the Beloved Coptic People

These are critical times in Coptic history. The current state of affairs, however depressing, is not a reason to lose hope or to be let down. Rather this state of affairs should drive optimistic and dedicated servants of Christ's vineyard. The signs of the modern Coptic renaissance are everywhere. The awareness and determination of the Copts to end corruption, chaos, and divisions in the church are evident.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the “voice shouting in the wilderness” is now clearly heard in the midst of the Copts: “Now is the hour to wake up.... for the darkness of the night is over and the morning light is upon us.”

God has provided the Coptic people with a unique opportunity to deliver their will as part of the upcoming election of the Lay Council, the results of which will be a transformative turning point on the road towards Coptic renaissance. This election is not about preferences for individuals; rather it is about preferences between church reform programs along a number of dimensions.

In pursuit of this supreme goal, and as an expression of the hopes of the Coptic people for a united front that will be strong enough to pursue this goal, un-phased by expected significant consequences, we have formed the “People Front” of the Alexandrian Lay Council.

This is a single united front, presented to the electorate as a cohesive, well-integrated team with complete understanding among its members who share a focused thought and determination to work together to carry this awesome responsibility.

As the Coptic electorate makes its choice, it should remember the importance of choosing individuals who pursue a coherent message and who will speak with a single voice.

The People Front is happy to announce its charter and its reform agenda, which has the following principles:

- (1) The Coptic Renaissance is founded on spiritual renewal and on adherence to the true faith, in order to protect Copts from deviation and apostasy.
- (2) Decisively end all forms of corruption in the church and remove all stumbling blocks that may slow down or reverse the current reform movement to clean up church affairs; and never agree to anything that will jeopardize the stability of the Church supreme order, subject to a regimen that has the consensus of the people.

- (3) Take care of the relationship with the Ethiopian Church to underscore its union with the mother church in Egypt, and to strengthen the ties between the two churches so as to reverse the conditions that led to separating them in the last ten years.
- (4) Strengthen the ties between the Church, the Coptic society, and the Coptic household in a way that ensures that the church fulfills its spiritual and educational role to protect Coptic families based on the sacrament of matrimony which has its foundation in the Holy Bible, and which must be preserved as such.
- (5) Work on ridding the church from all hate and from all grudges, and work on sowing the seeds of love that unites us with Christ by strengthening the ties among our pastoral fathers and by connecting the clergy and their congregations through the practical field work pursued by Coptic civil organizations and through lay councils.
- (6) Improve and enhance religious and Coptic language education, and ensure that the Coptic youth is familiar with the Church's history.
- (7) Organize the various services of the Church to ensure basic spiritual service to all and to ensure that these services are abundantly available for free to poor and needy members of the church.
- (8) Establish a College of Catechetical Studies with organized programs focusing on theological foundations and on reinforcing and maintaining the glorious history of our church.
- (9) Develop services that improve the conditions of the Copts living in poor neighborhoods by ensuring the delivery of social services and communal support.
- (10) Continue to develop and modernize the Coptic real-estate endowments and to use them in support of social and community services.

Beware – Children of the Coptic People

You are the essence of our mission and you make up the message written in our hearts and known to all of you... Our qualifications are not based on our own capacities. Rather, they are gifts from God who has entrusted us to serve in a new covenant... Amen.

Farid El Pharaoni, Justice of the Appellate Court

Gobran Labib, Former Finance Secretary of the Ministry of Health

Albert Barsoum Salama, Lawyer

Dr. Hanna Barsoum, Professor in Medical School of Alexandria University

Dr. Tadros Michael, Director of the Mabarra Hospital

Grant Sadek Eskaros, Director of Production in Alexandria Customs Office

Adel Azer Bestavros, Lawyer in Appellate Court

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