

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MINUTES

DIOCESE OF THE WEST

December 8, 2016

His Grace, Bishop Daniel convened a regular meeting of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West at Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA, at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2016.

Present: Bishop Daniel, Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Archpriest John Pierce, Archpriest John Dresko, Archpriest Matthew Tate, Archpriest Lawrence Margitich, Archpriest Stephen Soot, Archpriest Damian Kuolt, Priest Andrew Cuneo, Deacon George Shumaik, Subdeacon Paul Pilipenko, Subdeacon. Johan Morse, Subdeacon Wesley Smith, Mary Caetta, Lynnell Brunswig

Absent: Archbishop Benjamin, Archpriest Basil Rhodes, Archpriest Lawrence Russell, Archpriest Anthony Karbo, Archpriest Michael Anderson, Dorothy Nowik

Guests: Archpriest David Lowell, Fr Andrew Smith, Monk Barnabas (Day),

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – The minutes of the August 24, 2016 meeting of the Diocesan Council were accepted as previously distributed.

REPORT OF THE BISHOP – His Grace Bishop Daniel gave his archpastoral report. Of note was his attending the 70th birthday of Patriarch Kyrill in Moscow. It was a grand event, with 10 primates and delegations from all 15 Autocephalous Churches and over 300 bishops from around Russia. There was a focus on unity, as literally the whole worldwide Orthodox Church was celebrating the Liturgy together. The Patriarch received all churches in the Daniloff Monastery with media present. The event can be viewed online.

REPORT OF THE CHANCELLOR – Fr. I. MacKinnon, Diocesan Chancellor, led a discussion about what is taking place around the Diocese. Good Diocesan Assembly, though there were a number of voices asking for more social time. Fr Nazari did a good job hosting. St Katherine's in Kirkland has purchased their church facility on a two-year contract with the owner, while they look for long term financing. St. Innocent, currently in Livermore, will be moving to Pleasanton where the parish will be closing the purchase of a commercial building. Fr. Lawrence reported on his festival in Santa Rosa. St. Anthony, Bozeman is doing very well; both Rector and Parish. Bishop Daniel just blessed the all new replacement Church Hall at St. John Damascene, Poway CA, making all their activities work much better. The iconography in the Temple is really looking great, as much of it has been completed. Internships mentioned.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER - M. Caetta, Diocesan Treasurer, reported that parish assessments received to-date are 98% of budget, while the amount passed on to the OCA is 88% of budget. The parish percentage assessment reconciliation instructions for 2016 will be emailed to each parish next week.. The changes to parish percentages for 2017 will go out with the new forms for 2017 – reflecting the 'stepping up' of percentages for smaller parishes and 'scaling down' for established parishes. All forms will be returned to Mat. Theodora Blom, who will then review the results.. Also noted, income for Diocesan Assembly 2016 was \$12,730.00, while actual expenses were \$3,487.00. In the future, these costs will just become part of Diocesan Budget. The Nativity Appeal was mailed out, with donations so far at only \$18,000.00 (45% of budget). There were a few line items from the financial report discussed.

MOTION to approve RESOLUTIONS for 2017 HOUSING ALLOWANCES for each of the following clergy was made by Fr. J. Dresko: Archbishop Benjamin - \$2,000, Fr. I. MacKinnon - \$7,200, Fr. M. Tate - \$24,750, Fr. D. Kuolt - \$12,000, Fr. Andrew Smith - \$10,700.

SECOND by L. Brunswig : **PASSED**

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY – Fr. I. MacKinnon lauded Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral for the successful Assembly this year and announced that the 2017 Diocesan Assembly will be at St. Nicholas, Portland OR.

COMMUNICATIONS – Fr. J. Dresko stated that Fr. D. Lowell has been working on setting up a way to feature each parish on the Facebook Page

OCCIF– Fr. I. MacKinnon reported that there have been several church loans successfully funded. and that OCCIF is continuing to look for investors to match to the growing number of requests. Additional discussion was held on improving OCCIF communications and engagement.

DIOCESAN CHARITIES AND APPEALS – Fr. I. MacKinnon announced that all funds received have been disbursed.

PARISH SCREENING UPDATE – Fr. I. MacKinnon announced new centralized approach to screening and that this will provide uniform checks and a database that can be maintained. Assumed that parishes and diocese will all use it, simplify and save money. A letter was sent out to request support for the Diocese of Alaska by Cindy Heise (see attached letter) asking the other Diocese to help pay their share.

MOTION: by M. Caetta to provide a contribution of \$125.00 for the Diocese of Alaska.

SECOND by Sdn. W. Smith **PASSED**

HEAD COUNT DISCUSSION – Fr. M. Tate introduced the need to discuss how we do head count and how we fund assemblies. Criteria for how we count has been different over time. There was a general consensus that all assemblies, including the ACC be in funded within the operating budget and not by a separate assessment. It was also discussed that we need to get real statistics. Several methods were discussed. .

SYNAXIS CORPORATION – Sdn. J. Morse reported on the remodeling and converting the Duboce 2-story, 2-flat property into a single-family dwelling for the future Rector. It was noted that we will continue to maintain the chapel, storage and guest room on the basemen floor.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL – Next meeting in February, 2017.

CLERGY COMPENSATION – Fr. D. Lowell presented a report and recommendations (see attached report). Follow-on work will include a ‘checklist’ of what each parish needs to do to come up to standards to support their clergy, and forms that will be filled out by Parish leadership and Deans.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE – L. Brunswig reported upon her first draft of the policies statement (previously distributed). It was noted that the OCA website has forms online that we can adopt and Fr. A. Smith explained the current approach to which forms are needed.

MOTION: by M. Caetta. To approve the document: ***Diocese of the West Policy Regarding Reducing the Risk of Sexual Misconduct/Child Sexual Abuse.***

SECOND by Sdn. W. Smith **PASSED**

CLERGY RETREAT – Fr. I. MacKinnon reported that on May 2-4, 2016 there is a mandatory retreat for assigned priests (deacons and attached priests may attend at their option), to be held at the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Alhambra CA.

CLERGY ASSIGNMENTS – Fr. I. MacKinnon reported that Priest Andrew Jacobs, who has been doing well serving with Fr. I. MacKinnon, has accepted a call to serve at St. Mary’s Orthodox Church, Coaldale, PA.

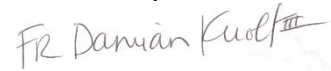
ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bishop Daniel announced Diocesan wide, Diaconal Training in Phoenix January 13-15, 2017.
- Fr. M. Tate announced that he, Fr. J. Dresko and Bishop Daniel will work on a new and consistent way to count the population/attendance/membership of our parishes.
- Beginning 2018 we will need to add an additional line item to our budget to cover the new use of the Synaxis Parish facility on Duboce St., San Francisco CA.
- The cost of the next AAC will be approximately \$40,000.

NEXT DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING – The next regular meeting of the Diocesan Council will take place on March 14, 2017 at Holy Trinity Cathedral. The Advisory Council will meet at 2:30 the day before, at the Bishop’s Residence.

ADJOURNMENT – Fr. S. Soot, with unanimous acclaim and encouragement from the council, moved for adjournment. Bishop Daniel adjourned the meeting of the Diocesan Council at 1:11 p.m.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Damian Kuolt". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a small flourish at the end.

Fr. Damian Kuolt, Diocesan Secretary