

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MINUTES

DIOCESE OF THE WEST

October 14, 2015

His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin 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 Wednesday, October 14, 2015.

Present: Archbishop Benjamin, Bishop Daniel, Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Archpriest John Pierce, Archpriest Lawrence Russell, Archpriest Matthew Tate, Archpriest John Dresko, Archpriest Lawrence Margitich, Archpriest Anthony Karbo, Archpriest Michael Anderson, Archpriest Damian Kuolt, Priest Andrew Cuneo, Subdeacon Paul Pilipenko, Subdeacon Wesley Smith, Mary Caetta, Dorothy Nowik, Lynnell Brunswig

Absent: Archpriest Basil Rhodes

Guests: Monk Barnabas (Day), John Dellamonica, Linda Koshell

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – The previously-distributed minutes of the July 20, 2015 meeting of the Diocesan Council were accepted.

REPORT OF THE ARCHBISHOP – His Eminence, Abp. Benjamin reviewed current developments in the life of the Orthodox Church, the Orthodox Church in America, and the Diocese of the West. Archbishop Benjamin reported on the recent Canonization of St. Sebastian of San Francisco and Jackson, CA. Also welcomed were newly ordained Priest Andrew Smith, assigned to Menlo Park, CA, Priest Ian Shipley, Chico, CA, and Archpriest Nazari Polataiko, Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER – M. Caetta, Diocesan Treasurer, noted that she distributed the latest Diocesan Financial Report, and that everything is in good order. Funds from the LGS sale are in and it should be noted that though we are showing a net loss of approximately \$93,000, this will be the last of it as the sale has closed.

MOTION by D. Nowik: Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. **MOVED/SECONDED/PASSED (MS&P)**

MOTION by Fr. J. Dresko: Add Theodora Blom to the Diocesan Bank accounts to allow her to access and manage the online banking **(MS&P)**

REPORT OF THE CHANCELLOR - Around the Diocese – Fr. I. MacKinnon, Diocesan Chancellor, led a discussion of what is taking place around the Diocese, after reiterating that the Financial Proposal was approved at the 2015 AAC. Good reports about the Matushki retreats and Summer Camps. Our Internship Program new priests is up and Running this year on a limited basis

OCCIF (ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND) – J. Dellamonica gave an update: Working on some good prospects for funding, including an Antiochian Parish an entire to present to the Diocese of the . The recent capital campaign has raised \$7,000, double their operating expenses. OCCIF expects to have finished the funding of the loan for the Monastery of St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco before Nativity; six months before the balloon payment on the current mortgage comes due.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Fr M. Tate reported that the Finance committee had missed the mark in a couple of areas of budgeting and would review how to improve for next year. Fr. J. Dresko has made it known that the St. Paul parish, Las Vegas NV has a current Bond issue that the Diocese could take advantage of to earn interest of 3.25% to 7.25% for Bonds that mature in a range from 6 months to 5.5 years. Though there are certain risks, it is far better than bank accounts, earning virtually nothing. Adequate due diligence has been done.

MOTION by Fr. M. Tate: To adopt the following Corporate Resolution.

At a legally convened meeting on October 14, 2015 in San Francisco, CA, of the Diocesan Council (Board of Trustees) of the Diocese of the West, Orthodox Church in America, incorporated in the State of California, the purchase of bonds issued by St. Paul Orthodox Church in Las Vegas, Nevada in an amount no greater than \$200,000 was approved by majority vote. Discretion is granted to the Treasurer of the Diocese, Mary Caetta, to determine the various interest rates and maturities purchased based on availability. **(MS&P)**

DIOCESAN INTERNSHIP PROGRAM – Fr. M. Tate reported on the development of a Diocesan Internship Program. Noted was the importance of owning housing near select parishes where priests can live temporarily while being mentored. A line item for this program has been added for annual budgeting.

PROPORTIONAL GIVING PLAN (PGP) – M. Caetta presented an update on the execution of the proportional giving plan for the DOW. Of note: The details of the PGP have not been well communicated within parishes of the diocese, therefore Mary has distributed the detailed documents to every treasurer. The walk up to the rollout is going well and she is fielding questions so everyone will be prepared for the changeover.

COMMUNICATIONS – Fr. J. Dresko reports that everything is posted as received, however there have been few submissions.

OCA PENSION BOARD – no update

DIOCESAN CHARITIES AND APPEALS – Fr. L Russell, Director of Diocesan Charities: The reported amount of the Lenten Appeal for the designated charity (Gobezie Goshu Foundation) was updated to reflect the approximately \$10,000 received.

MOTION by Fr. A. Cuneo: Approve a gift of \$1,000 for Fr. L Gaudreau. **(MS&P)**

SEMINARY VISITATIONS – no update

PARISH AND CLERGY SCREENING UPDATE – Abp. Benjamin pointed out that everything that has been required is now required to be submitted in the coming November 1, deadline. The importance of bringing documentation for every Reader and Sub-Deacon was especially emphasized, as well as the consequences for not doing so.

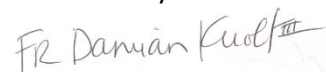
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL – W. Smith: After the turmoil of past years, Metropolitan Council is really working quite well, with both a vision for the future and awareness of external outreach. Fr. J. Dresko has been appointed to Chair the Finance Committee, as well as continue to serve on the Human Resources Committee. W. Smith has been appointed to work on the Legal Affairs Committee. Please note that Fr. Tate will attend the Chancellors/Treasurers meeting in place of Fr. Ian. That meeting will be either January 19 or 26 in Syosset.

NEXT DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING – The next regular meeting of the Diocesan Council will take place at Holy Trinity, February 11, 2015. The Chancellor's Advisory Committee will meet the previous day at 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment - His Eminence adjourned the meeting of the Diocesan Council at 1:48 p.m.

A Special Motion of the Diocesan Council is entered into these minutes on December 29, 2015. (see attachments)

Submitted by:


Fr. Damian Kuolt

Diocesan Secretary