

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MINUTES

DIOCESE OF THE WEST

June 7, 2017

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 Tuesday, June 7, 2017.

Present: Archbishop Benjamin, Bishop Daniel, Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Archpriest Basil Rhodes, Archpriest John Pierce, Archpriest John Dresko, Archpriest Matthew Tate, Archpriest Stephen Soot, Archpriest Michael Anderson, Archpriest Lawrence Margitich, Archpriest Anthony Karbo, Archpriest Damian Kuolt, Priest Andrew Cuneo, Subdeacon Johan Morse, Mary Caetta, Dorothy Nowik, Lynnell Brunswig, David Lane.

Absent: Archpriest Lawrence Russell, Subdeacon Paul Pilipenko,

Guests: Archpriest David Lowell, Fr Andrew Smith, Fr. Theodore Svane, 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 ARCHBISHOP – Abp. Benjamin gave his archpastoral report. Major points include: Consecration of the new Temple at St. Barbara Monastery, funded substantially by the Diocese and support of the Antiochian parishes nearby. Clergy retreat a success and will have another next year. \$3,000 + collected for Bishop Tikhon, celebrating 30 years of his episcopate. . Improvements at LA Cathedral are quite good; a new Russian language school may be created and is now becoming more attractive to new Russians. Fr. Lawrence Gaudereau will be taking up the pastorate in Merced. Fr. Theodore Svane will be leaving for Norway. Archpriest Kyrill now here. Archpriest Michael Regan needs prayers, Fr Moses McPherson has been transferred to ROCOR. Patriarch Kyrill (Moscow) wants to visit San Francisco, will be discussing preparations.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER - M. Caetta, reported that the internal audit has been completed. Lenten Charity brought in nearly \$8,000. There is a need now for there to be standards for the format of and accounts in P & L Reporting. Assessments to date are already well ahead of budget with the method of a percentage assessment.

REPORT OF THE CHANCELLOR – Fr. I. MacKinnon, Diocesan Chancellor, led a discussion about what is taking place around the Diocese. Of note is the portable Chapel that Fr. Anthony has put together; making the news, including in Russia. Sonora and the two Hawaii missions are now in a better state.

DEANERY CAMPS – Fr. M. Anderson reported that for the second year there are not enough applications for counselors, first aid, etc. The requirements are onerous, so this year camp has been cancelled. Recommending that we contact Diocesan legal counsel/insurance company to get guidelines on how to make this better in the future.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – D. Nowik announced that the deadline to request funds for FY 2018 is July 31, 2017. Bishop Daniel's travel expenses are at 94% of budget YTD. Travel funds will be transferred from other travel line items to augment Bishop Daniel's travel budget for this year.

INTERSHIP PROGRAM - Fr. I. MacKinnon, Diocesan Chancellor, remarked that we have no new Interns coming at this point.

COMMUNICATIONS – Fr. J. Dresko stated that things are continuing to trickle in as needed, and that the viral nature of the online presence of Fr. Anthony's mobile chapel has been good.

OCCIF– Fr. J. Dresko reported that there is a Diocesan appeal coming and it is something to talk about whether a Diocesan Appeal is a bit at odds with the 'separation' of OCCIF from Diocese. Current requests for 4 loans totally

nearly \$2 Million. Will be making a presentation at DOS Assembly, and at the Antiochian National Assembly. Investments are being paid at 3% for a minimum \$50,000 investment

DIOCESAN CHARITIES AND APPEALS – nothing to report, other than what is included in the Treasurer’s Report

PENSION FUND – Fr. M. Tate reported that the Supreme Court has just given religious pension funds a favorable ruling in its relationship to tax issues. New Actuary will be taking over from the person who did it for last 25 years. There is a focus to make certain that pension fund is in good health after the bubble of the baby boomers. NOTE: After age 75 someone can work and remain in the Pension Plan for the church salary and receive your pension at the same time.

PARISH SCREENING UPDATE – Fr. I MacKinnon reported the OCA has adopted the Protect My Ministry background check service will begin after September.

SEMINARY VISITS – nothing to report

SYNTAX CORPORATION – Sdn. J. Morse reported on the plans for the Duboce apartment. Current stage is that we are in negotiation with Tenant and have engaged legal counsel. In lieu of a reasonable offer from the tenant for leaving, we would invoke the Ellis Act, which would delay the availability an additional 9 months to a year.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL – Fr. J. Dresko announced that he next meeting is in September 2017

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY 2017 - Fr. I. MacKinnon reported that the 2017 Diocesan Assembly is in planning for Oct 10-12 at St. Nicholas parish, Portland OR.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE – L. Brunswig reported an initial conversation regarding getting clarification on rental car insurance. She will look for alternatives to fit our needs.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY – Fr. I. MacKinnon presented the 2017 Diocesan Assembly planning is in process. It was noted that the parish at St. Nicholas parish, Portland OR.

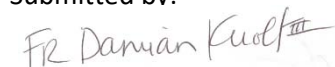
ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Concord parish is having difficulties as the older congregation diminishes and Fr. Michael continues to have health issues. Diocese received a letter that they were not going to pay their Diocesan Assessments. Advisory Council does not want to set this type of request as a precedent and will keep the expectation in place; the Diocese will respond.
- Fr D. Lowell presented concepts developing for a practical solution for having a distance learning, M. Div. program connected to the Seminaries
- Fr. M. Tate presented some changes and clarifications on the form the clergy uses to report on statistics of their parish.
- M. Caetta announced the need to refresh the Diocesan membership mailing list

NEXT DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING – The next regular meeting of the Diocesan Council will take October 10, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Nicholas Parish, Portland OR.

ADJOURNMENT – Fr. B. Rhodes, with unanimous acclaim and encouragement from the council, moved for adjournment. Archbishop Benjamin adjourned the meeting of the Diocesan Council at 1:01 p.m.

Submitted by:



Fr. Damian Kuolt, Diocesan Secretary