

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MINUTES

DIOCESE OF THE WEST

October 10, 2017

His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin convened a regular meeting of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West at St Nicholas Orthodox Church, at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2017.

Present: Archbishop Benjamin, Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Archpriest Lawrence Russell, 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, Subdeacon Paul Pilipenko, Mary Caetta, Dorothy Nowik, Lynnell Brunswig, David Lane.

Absent: Bishop Daniel, Archpriest Basil Rhodes,

Guests: Archpriest David Lowell, Priest Andrew Smith

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – The minutes of the June 7, 2016 meeting of the Diocesan Council were accepted as previously distributed.

REPORT OF THE ARCHBISHOP – Abp. Benjamin gave his archpastoral report, thanking all for their service. Of note is that in the address to Diocesan Assembly, Fr. I. MacKinnon will be retiring as Chancellor. Special thanks for his service and to Mka. Nina, as he retires from serving as chancellor since the time of Bishop Tikhon. Bishop Daniel will be appointed Chancellor.

MOTION to institute a Policy that the serving Chancellor of the Diocese of the West will be signatory on all Diocesan Bank Accounts, by Bishop Benjamin. **SECOND** by Fr. J. Dresko. **MOTION PASSED**

REPORT OF THE TREASURER - M. Caetta reported income in the Diocese is far ahead of budget. Generally, the entire new method for financing the Diocese is working much better, it is easier on the treasurer, and there are no complaints. There will be changes to specific parish percentages next year.

MOTION to institute a Policy that the Diocesan Treasurer is accountable for maintaining the Policies and Procedures Manual of the Diocese by Fr. M. Tate. **SECOND** by L. Brunswig. **MOTION PASSED**

REPORT OF THE CHANCELLOR – Fr. I. MacKinnon, Diocesan Chancellor, addressed his coming retirement

PARISH SCREENING UPDATE – Fr. A Smith reported on the progress of the change to the new program implemented through Protect My Ministry for screening candidates who work with youth: youth workers, parish council members, readers, parish leaders, and others. Fr. A. Smith is now trained and open for helping parishes get background checks done. Parishes will no longer be running their own background checks. General discussion held.

PROPOSED OFFICERS for 2017 Diocesan Assembly:

Chairpersons: 1st Plenary Session - Fr. David Lowell, 2nd Plenary Session - Dorothy Nowik, 3rd Plenary Session – Lynnell Brunswig

Elections Coordinator and Tellers: Fr. Matthew Tate, Fr. Lawrence Russell

Parliamentarian: David Lane

Secretaries: Fr. Damian Kuolt, Fr. Stephen Osburn

FINANCE COMMITTEE – D. Nowik presented the new budget for this year. To explain things to Assembly, Fr. M. Tate will speak to the new \$24,000 housing line item for Abp. Benjamin and the change to funding AAC by saving money over a 3-year period.

MOTION to present the Budget, as corrected, to the Diocesan Assembly for approval, by Fr. J. Dresko. SECOND by Fr. L. Russell. MOTION PASSED

OCCIF - Fr. J. Dresko, who serves on the board of OCCIF, reports that the interest free loan from the Diocese to OCCIF is currently due to be paid back. However, the board of OCCIF wants to have another year before repaying the Diocese. Loan amount is \$200,000.

MOTION to extend the no-interest loan of \$200,000 from the Diocese to OCCIF for another year, by Fr. M. Tate. SECOND by Fr. L. Margitich. MOTION PASSED

Also Reported by Fr. J. Dresko: An anonymous donor paid off a loan from the DOW Point Reyes Fund to St. Paul Parish (Las Vegas, NV), prompting an early return of monies to the Diocese.

MOTION to use the \$150,000 repaid from St. Paul Parish to DOW Point Reyes Fund for investment with OCCIF at standard schedule by Fr. M. Tate. SECOND by D. Nowik. MOTION PASSED

In response to discussion, it was noted that the Legal and Financial costs for OCCIF to get Federally Certified to issue Certificates of Deposit will cost approximately \$150,000.

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. There is a new actuary who will be taking over from the person who has performed this function 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 is at peak retirement and after. **NOTABLE NEW POLICY:** After age 75, the clergy can work and remain in the Pension Plan. The plan now allows for receiving a church salary and the pension at the same time.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE – L. Brunswig reported that our insurance company has declined request to increase the DOW liability coverage for sexual misconduct, due to current cases. Current level is \$100,000 per incident, \$500,000 aggregate. Discuss concurred that the DOW needs to change in our agent-of-record is to 1) join the larger pool of OCA parishes and institutions as a group entity in hopes of being able to increase our sexual misconduct coverage, and 2) to have a more dedicated advocate in the new agency.

MOTION to change the DOW insurance 'agent-of-record' (i.e., Umbrella, Liability, Auto, etc.), by L. Brunswik. SECOND by Fr. A. Cuneo. MOTION PASSED


NEW BUSINESS

MOTION to change policy of the Diocese to allow retired clergy to attend Diocesan Assembly as Observers, at no charge, by Fr. M. Tate. SECOND by Fr. A. Cuneo. MOTION PASSED

NEXT DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING – The next regular meeting of the Diocesan Council will take October 12, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Nicholas Parish, Portland OR.

ADJOURNMENT – Fr. L. Russell moved for adjournment. Archbishop Benjamin adjourned the meeting of the Diocesan Council at 4:06 p.m.

Submitted by:



Fr. Damian Kuolt, Diocesan Secretary