

**Diocesan Council Meeting
Diocese of the West
Thursday, December 15, 2011
Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA**

Diocesan Council Members, Deans Present: His Grace, BENJAMIN, Bishop of the Diocese of the West; Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Chancellor; Mary Caetta, Treasurer; Archpriest David Lowell, Secretary; Archpriests Michael Anderson, John Dresko, Anthony Karbo, Lawrence Margitich, John Pierce, Lawrence Russell, John Strickland, and Matthew Tate; Dorothy Nowik, Sub-deacon Paul Pilipenko, and Ivan Pouschine.

Also Present: Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor of the OCA; Barry Migyanko.

I. The meeting was called to order at 10:30am with the singing of “O Heavenly King.”

II. the minutes of the two previous meetings held on October 31, 2011 in Seattle, WA were reviewed and approved and are posted on the website of the Diocese of the West.

III. Report of His Grace, Bishop Benjamin, Ruling Hierarch, Diocese of the West

A. Welcome

His Grace welcomed back the re-elected and continuing members of the Diocesan Council, and expressed his appreciation for their willingness to assist in caring for the life of our vast diocese.

B. New OCA Chancellor

Bishop Benjamin introduced Fr. John Jillions, the new Chancellor of the OCA. They have known each other since their days in seminary and in subsequent years Fr. Jillions has shown himself to have the skills and wit to negotiate the tempests that beset us, and has already demonstrated the ability to work well with the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan.

C. Successful All-American Council in Seattle

Bishop Benjamin thanked Archpriest John Pierce and his local committee for the excellent work they did in organizing the All-American Council in Seattle, making it such a great success. His Grace also expressed his appreciation for the work of Archpriest John Takahashi in creating a display booth at the Council. We also owe a debt of thanks to Deacon Serge Kapral who was kind enough to ferry the entire display up to Washington, saving us the large cost of shipping.

D. New Clergy/Ordinations

Christopher Grant was ordained to the diaconate this month at Port Townsend, WA. Archpriest Matfey Ismailov has been received into the Diocese to serve in West

Sacramento. Deacon Panayiotis Tekosis has moved from the UK to our Diocese and has petitioned to be received into the OCA. His Grace will be ordaining Andre Paez at St. Vladimir's Seminary and Benjamin Higgins of St. Tikhon's Seminary into the Diaconate. Both are hoping to return to the Diocese of the West.

E. The Metropolitan and the Holy Synod

His Grace reported that Metropolitan Jonah has undergone the evaluation requested by the Holy Synod. The Holy Synod is encouraged that progress is being made.

F. Administrative Assistant

Barry Migyanko would like to move on to other opportunities within the church in the coming year. Bishop Benjamin is actively looking for someone who can serve as our administrative assistant in the Diocesan Chancery. Barry has done a terrific job organizing the diocesan office in San Francisco.

G. Visit of Archbishop Yuraj

An invitation has been extended to Archbishop Yuraj of the Czech Republic to join us for our 2012 Diocesan Assembly and see Colorado where many Slovaks settled a century ago.

IV. Report of the OCA Chancellor

Fr. John Jillions is setting up meetings with the Chancellors and Treasurer's of each diocese. He is impressed by the way the Holy Synod works together. In addition to meetings with the hierarchy as a whole, Fr. Jillions spent a day with His Beatitude and feels confident they will work well together. He reports that the central administration is highly functional and responsive.

V. Report of the Treasurer

Mary Caetta reported that the Diocese has total assets of 1.7 million dollars.

With \$2,000 remaining in the seminarian budget, it is the recommendation of Bishop Benjamin that the money be divided among our seminarians, to help defray some of their living expenses at seminary. This will be done and is in addition to other support already given.

There is also a surplus of \$378.28 in our discretionary charities budget. The chairman of the Charities Department, Father Lawrence Russell, recommended that the surplus be sent to Project Mexico.

Mary emphasized that she is glad when parish treasurers call and ask for help.

VI. Old Business

A. Portland Raphael House

Fr. Matthew Tate reported that the by-laws of the Portland Raphael House have been officially changed. The ruling Bishop of the Diocese of the West appoints two board members. Charitable giving previously divided between the Portland and San Francisco Raphael Houses now goes entirely to the Raphael House of Portland.

B. Diocesan Loan Program (OCCIF)

OCCIF has asked to borrow our DOW mailing list to do a mailing. Permission is given for a one time use of our mailing list.

C. Life-Giving Spring Retreat Center

Fr. John Dresko reported that we may have a serious buyer for the retreat center. We hope to know for certain by the next meeting.

D. Metropolitan Council

Fr. David Lowell, diocesan representative to the MC, and Fr. Michael Anderson, church-wide alternate delegate elected at the AAC in November, are both participating with Sub-deacon Dmitri Solodow on the implementation of the Strategic Plan in its next phase which is:

- 1) to present key goal areas to the MC and Holy Synod in February, and
- 2) to work with implementation teams and the post-conciliar planning committee.

A question was raised: Can anyone, aside from those who are part of the long range strategic planning process, remember a single goal that came out of the strategic plan at the AAC? No one could. A lively discussion followed.

E. Terms of elected Diocesan Council Members

1) The elected members of the Diocesan Council have staggered three-year terms which conclude at the annual Diocesan Assembly in the year below:

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|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2012 | Clergy – Archpriest John Dresko
Archpriest David Brum |
| | Lay – Maha Estephan
Sub-deacon Dmitri Solodow |
| 2013 | Clergy – Archpriest Christopher Swanson
Archpriest John Strickland |
| | Lay – Dorothy Nowik
Mary Caetta |
| 2014 | Clergy – Archpriest Lawrence Margitich
Archpriest Michael Anderson |
| | Lay – Sub-deacon Paul Pilipenko
Ivan Pouschine |

2) Metropolitan Council members elected by the Diocesan Assembly have terms that conclude in 2013.

Clergy - Archpriest David Lowell

Lay – Sub-deacon Dmitri Solodow

Archpriest Michael Anderson is the church-wide alternate delegate to the Metropolitan Council. His term as alternate extends until the next AAC in 2014.

3) Officers of the Diocese and Council are:

Chancellor – Archpriest Ian MacKinnon

Treasurer – Mary Caetta

Secretary – Archpriest David Lowell

4) The Deans who participate ex-officio on the Diocesan Council are:

Pacific Northwest Deanery – Archpriest John Pierce

Pacific Central Deanery – Archpriest Basil Rhodes

Rocky Mountain Deanery – Archpriest Anthony Karbo

Pacific Southwest Deanery – Archpriest Lawrence Russell

Mission Deanery – Archpriest Matthew Tate

VII. New Business

A. Stipends and Housing Allowance for Deans and Chancellor

It was motioned/seconded/passed (Caetta, Lowell) that the following portions of compensation from the Diocese of the West shall be designated as Housing Allowance:

1) Bishop Benjamin - \$300.00 per month

2) Archpriest Ian MacKinnon - \$7,500.00 for calendar year 2012

3) Archpriest Matthew Tate - \$21,900 for calendar year 2012

4) Fr. Andrew Cuneo - \$6,000 for calendar year 2012

B. On Proportional Support of the Diocese and the Central Church

It was M/S/P (Dresko, Caetta) that beginning in 2012 the Treasurer of the Diocese shall be instructed to combine the diocesan and OCA Fair Share amounts for each parish into one invoice each month instead of the current two; the calculations for total amount will be determined in the current manner (i.e. the diocesan percentage amount and the OCA Fair Share at \$105 per reported adult member of each parish).

Discussion: It is the intention of the Diocese of the West to move towards a totally proportional system of support for the annual budgets of the Diocese and the Orthodox Church in America. During the calendar year 2012, each parish's total amount in

assessments due in 2012 will be calculated as a percentage of their respective (2012) income.

The motion passed unanimously.

Further discussion: Gathering accurate information of what the real percentage of income parishes are already paying will help us set a reasonable average percentage. This will be worked into a proposal to be presented to the Diocesan Assembly for final approval.

C. On Restitution to Kathryn Short

It was M/S/P (Dresko, Anderson) that the Diocese of the West authorize a loan from the Point Reyes Fund to the Life-Giving Retreat Center in Boulder City, NV in the amount of \$23,884.90 and that the same amount be reimbursed from the center to Kathryn Short for injuries suffered on March 16, 2008 while working at the retreat center. The same amount is to be reimbursed to the Diocese upon the sale of the retreat center property.

D. Next Diocesan Assembly

The 2012 Diocesan Assembly will be held on October 2 - 4 at Holy Transfiguration Cathedral in Denver, CO.

E. Schedule of Upcoming Diocesan Council Meetings

The next Diocesan Council meetings will be held on Thursday, April 26th and Thursday, July 12th in San Francisco.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 2:12pm.

Archpriest David Lowell, Council Secretary