

**Diocesan Council Meeting
Diocese of the West
Tuesday, June 14, 2011
Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA**

Diocesan Council Members, Deans and Department Heads 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, David Brum, John Dresko, Anthony Karbo, Lawrence Margitich, Basil Rhodes, Matthew Tate; Priest John Strickland; Maha Estephan, Dorothy Nowik, Ivan Pouschine.

Also Present: Priests Andrew Cuneo, Damian Kuolt, David Thatcher; Monk Barnabas Day, Tim McFadden, Barry Migyanko.

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

II. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by email and are posted on the website of the Diocese of the West.

III. Report of Bishop Benjamin

Bishop Benjamin said that the Episcopal Assembly of all hierarchs in the United States also met in Chicago in late May, 2011. The meeting went well. Committees are forming. Archbishop Demetrios is a natural leader and does an excellent job of leading hierarchs to work together cooperatively.

IV. Treasurer’s Report

- Mary Caetta reported that as of June 2011, the parishes of the Diocese of the West collected a total of \$34,771.87 to help the Orthodox Church in Japan following the earthquake and tsunami disasters. The full amount has been wired to the Church in Japan.
- Overall, we are ahead of budget with a net income through May of \$24,980.00.
- The full Treasurer’s report is posted on the Diocese of the West website.

It was Moved, Seconded, Passed (Dresko, Tate) that beginning in 2012 all parishes invoices and statements shall be sent by email.

V. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reports that while we are ahead of budget overall, we have a number of individual expense codes that need to be adjusted to cover additional upcoming expenses.

We are under budget in Diocesan Council and Metropolitan Council expenses.

It was M/S/P (Nowik/Tate) to add:

\$3,000 to Chancellor's Advisory Committee travel expense budget,

\$2,000 to Chancellor's travel expense budget,

\$2,000 to Diocesan business travel expense budget,

with these monies to come from the Diocesan Council travel expense budget which shall be reduced by \$3,000; Metropolitan Council travel expense budget which shall be reduced by \$1,000; the remaining \$3,000 to come from general operating funds.

It was M/S/P (Nowik/Tate) to add \$450.00 to the liturgical supplies line item budget from general funds, increasing it to \$600.00.

It was M/S/P (Tate, Nowik) to add \$2,000.00 to the All-American Council budget for our Diocese of the West booth, observer fees for Diocesan Chancery Staff, and other expenses that may be incurred by the Diocese for this event.

It was M/S/P (Dresko, Pouschine) to approve \$2,000.00 to pay for a reception for the Holy Synod and their guests at the Space Needle in Seattle as part of the All-American Council.

VI. Additional Reports and Discussions

A. Raphael House of Portland

Fr. Matthew Tate reported that Raphael House of Portland is now directly related to the Diocese of the West through its by-laws which allow the ruling hierarch of the diocese to appoint two directors to the Raphael House Board.

B. Life-Giving Spring Retreat Center

Fr. Damian Kuolt is doing an assessment of possible uses for our facility in Boulder City, Nevada, and spoke briefly to the Diocesan Council on this topic.

C. Diocesan Legal Concerns

Tim McFadden has volunteered his time to consult with the Diocesan Council. He does not provide legal advice, but as a former lawyer he is willing to make recommendations as to the types of legal counsel we should seek for various matters as needs arise.

D. Youth Director for the OCA

It was noted that the strategic plan in its present form recommends that the OCA have a full time Youth Director. The Diocesan Council sees this idea as problematic if it merely repeats what we had a few years ago, when a full time Youth Director was part of the OCA Chancery.

We discussed the possibility that a youth Director who is within a particular diocese, working effectively at the local level, could be given additional travel expense and per diem costs to represent the OCA as a whole on Pan-Orthodox committees and boards, but we do not feel that this should be a full time salaried position tied to Syosset.

This is part of an ongoing concern and discussion about how best to grow educational, social and service activities for our youth.

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council will take place in conjunction with the All-American Council in Seattle. Exact time and details TBA.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 2:44 pm.