

**Diocesan Council Meeting  
Diocese of the West  
Tuesday, October 2, 2012  
Diocesan Assembly, Denver, CO/Maggiano's Restaurant**

**Diocesan Council Members Present:** His Eminence, BENJAMIN, Archbishop of the Diocese of the West; Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Chancellor; Mary Caetta, Treasurer; Archpriest David Lowell, Secretary; Archpriests David Brum (also a Dean), John Dresko, Lawrence Margitich, John Strickland; Sub-deacon Paul Pilipenko Dorothy Nowik and Ivan Pouschine

**Deans Present:** Archpriests David Brum (also an elected clergy member), Anthony Karbo, John Pierce, Basil Rhodes, Lawrence Russell and Matthew Tate.

**Also Present:** Archpriest John Jillions, OCA Chancellor; Sub-deacons Andrew Smith, Wesley J. Smith

**I. The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm with the singing of "O Heavenly King".**

**II. The minutes of the previous meeting held on July 12, 2012 were approved (M/S/P Lowell/Russell) without corrections.**

**III. The Diocesan Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the 2011 Diocesan Assembly held in Seattle, WA, in conjunction with the 16<sup>th</sup> All-American Council. These minutes are posted on the Diocesan website.**

**IV. Report of His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin, Ruling Hierarch, Diocese of the West**

**A.** His Eminence thanked the Council Members for their service to the Church this past year. Archbishop Benjamin underscored the progress we are making in ensuring good investigations of sexual misconduct allegations. In many cases we will use professional investigators working on contract to help us arrive at impartial, untainted judgments.

**B.** His Eminence reported that Fr. Meletios Webber has resigned as Abott of the Monastery of St. John. This is not a resignation that Archbishop Benjamin desires but the stress and internet publicity over the recent turmoil involving monks leaving the monastery led Fr. Meletios to conclude that he can no longer serve in the capacity of Abbot at this monastery. Fr. Meletios will be returning to Europe.

Fr. Meletios put a lot of energy into building the monastery, including very generous financial contributions to help build residential quarters. This is a sad

situation all the way around. The monks who left without a blessing will not be allowed to return without a face to face meeting with His Eminence.

## **V. Review of Assembly Procedures**

The following are appointed to serve at the 2012 Diocesan Assembly:

Clergy Moderator – Archpriest David Lowell

Lay Moderator – Dorothy Nowik

Secretaries – Sub-deacons Paul Pilipenko, Andrew Smith, Wesley Smith

Tellers – Deacon Antony Dyl, Sub-deacon David Hirsch, Thomas Cope

Parliamentarian – Archpriest John Dresko

## **VI. External Audit**

Mary Caetta noted that the report of the External Audit is available on the DOW website.

## **VII. Treasurer's Report**

- A. Mary Caetta reviewed the September Financial Report (posted on the DOW website) and Dorothy Nowik presented the budget for 2013 for the Diocese of the West.

**It was M/S/P (Pierce/Dresko) to recommend the 2013 Budget of \$645,630.00 income/\$639,254.00 expenses to the Diocesan Assembly for approval.**

- B. Mary also discussed possible ideas for moving to proportional giving. More work needs to be done. Fr. Matthew Tate and Fr. John Dresko promised to put together, with the help of the Finance Committee, a serious proposal for proportional giving which will be reviewed at an upcoming Diocesan Council meeting with the goal of having a Council-approved recommendation to bring to the Assembly in 2013.

**VIII. OCA Chancellor, Archpriest John Jillions, was welcomed by His Eminence and the Council members. He will speak to the Diocesan Assembly on Wednesday.**

**IX. The next meeting of the Diocesan Council will occur at the conclusion of the Diocesan Assembly on Thursday, October 4, 2012.**

**X. The meeting adjourned with “It is Truly Meet” at 9:30pm.**