

**Diocesan Council Meeting
Diocese of the West
Monday, October 31, 2011 (1st of 2 meetings)
Seattle, WA at AAC venue (Bellevue Hyatt Regency Hotel)**

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, Lawrence Russell, John Strickland, Christopher Swanson and Matthew Tate; Maha Estephan, Dorothy Nowik, Sub-deacon Paul Pilipenko, Ivan Pouschine and Dr. Dmitri Solodow.

Also Present: Barry Migyanko.

I. The meeting was called to order at 8:00am with the singing of “O Heavenly King”.

II. The minutes of the previous meeting on June 16, 2011 were approved by email and are posted on the website of the Diocese of the West.

III. Report of Bishop Benjamin

His Grace Bishop Benjamin said the Diocese of the West is one of the most efficiently run Dioceses in the OCA in terms of finances, close relationships, and spiritual growth in the parishes, and he thanked the Diocesan Council for its good work.

His Grace said that he does not recommend the proposal at the upcoming All American Council to lower the assessment to \$50.00 per person. That would cripple our central Church administration at a time when it is running efficiently with reduced staff. It provides many services essential to our Church which we often take for granted.

IV. Treasurer’s Report

Mary Caetta stated that if a Diocesan stipend is used as a housing allowance, it must be so designated by the Diocesan Council in order to be recognized as such by the IRS.

It was Moved, Seconded, Passed (Lowell, Dresko) that the balance of 2011 compensation to be paid by the Diocese of the West to Priest Andrew Cuneo, i.e. \$1,000.00, shall be designated as a housing allowance.

It was M/S/P (Tate, Solodow) that the balance of 2011 compensation to be paid by the Diocese of the West to Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, i.e. \$1,250.00, shall be designated as a housing allowance.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Upcoming Elections for Diocesan Council

Ivan Pouschine and Paul Pilipenko will be put forward to the Diocesan Assembly as lay candidates on the Diocesan Council. Clergy delegates in nomination shall be Archpriests Michael Anderson and Lawrence Margitich. Additional nominations can be made at the Diocesan Assembly.

B. Finance Committee Recommendations

1) It was M/S/P (Tate, Strickland) to pay \$1,000.00 to the parish in West Sacramento for Health Insurance for Kaiser for their priest.

2) It was M/S/P (Dresko, Pilipenko) to increase the allocation from Point Reyes funds from \$23,000 to \$25,000 to cover expenses for Life Giving Spring Retreat Center in 2011.

3) It was M/S/P (Tate, Dresko) to approve the allocation of \$26,000.00 from Point Reyes funds to cover expenses for Life Giving Spring Retreat Center in 2012.

4) Proposed Budget 2012

It was M/S/P (Estephan/Pilipenko) to recommend to the Diocesan Assembly a budget of \$643,452.90 in expenses for 2012.

VI. Background Checks

It was M/S/P (Solodow/Tate) to do fresh background checks on all Priests and Deacons in the Diocese of the West every three years.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55am.

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council will take place today, following the Diocesan Assembly.