

**Diocesan Council Meeting  
October 19, 2010  
San Diego, CA**

**Diocesan Council Members, Deans and Department Heads Present:** His Grace, Bishop Benjamin; Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Chancellor; Mary Caetta, Diocesan Treasurer; Archpriests David Brum, John Dresko, Anthony Karbo, Lawrence Margitich, John Pierce, Lawrence Russell, Matthew Tate; Priests Michael Anderson, John Strickland and Christopher Swanson; Subdeacon Dimitri Solodow; Maha Estephan, Dorothy Nowick and Ivan Pouchine.

**Others present:** Archpriest David Lowell (Acting Secretary); Priest David Thatcher, Barry Migyanko.

**I. The meeting was called to order at 8:25 PM by His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN.**

**II. Previous Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting were not reviewed.

**III. Bishop's comments:** His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN thanked the Worth family for providing a wonderful meal for the Diocesan Council, and moved us onto items related to the upcoming Diocesan Assembly.

**IV. Assembly Officers were appointed as follows:**

Clergy Moderator (first day) – Archpriest David Lowell

Lay Moderator (second day) – Dorothy Nowick

Tellers: Ed Klavzar and John Bahnson

Parliamentarian: Archpriest John Dresko

Archpriest John Dresko will present the proposed By-Law changes for approval by the Assembly.

Archpriest Matthew Tate will oversee nominations and elections.

Sub-deacon Dimitri Solodow will lead discussion on the strategic plan.

**V. Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget for 2011**

It was Motioned/Seconded/Passed (M/S/P) (Dresko, Strickland) to increase the Treasurer's stipend by an additional \$300 per month.

It was M/S/P (Tate, Dresko) to increase the Diocesan administrator's stipend \$300 per month (an increase from the current \$200; the new monthly stipend will be \$1,000 per month).

The increase in these two stipends will be balanced by reduction of expense in communications (money saved by going to a web company that will host the new Diocesan website for free). The mission stipend line is also reduced in accordance with current need.

The Annual Budget for 2011 showing Income of \$631,000.00 and Expenses of \$627,993.00 was M/S/P (Dresko, Swanson) to be presented to the Diocesan Assembly for final approval.

**VI. Nominations for Diocesan Council and Metropolitan Council**

The Nominating Committee will present the following people for terms of service to be voted on by the Assembly:

Diocesan Council:

Lay members: Dorothy Nowick

Ivan Pouchine, previously elected as an alternate, will serve the remaining term of Nadine Wood who has resigned from the Diocesan Council.

Clergy: Priest Christopher Swanson, Priest John Strickland

Metropolitan Council:

Clergy: Archpriest David Lowell

Lay: Sub-Deacon Dimitri Solodow

## **VII. Other Business**

### *A. Diocesan Loan Reports*

The Treasurer reported that all loans which the Diocese has made to its various ministries (Merced, Manton, Calistoga, Culver City) are being repaid according to schedule.

Archpriest David Thatcher presented the good news that the Merced property which has been on the market for some time is about to go into escrow, to be sold for \$650,000.00.

### *B. Diocesan Loan Program*

John Della Monica will present an update on the Diocesan Loan Program at the Assembly. He will be requesting \$15,000.00 from the Diocese to help with legal and organizational set up costs. Further information will be forthcoming.

### *C. All American Council Planning*

It was M/S/P (Tate, Solodow) that up to \$10,000.00 can be advanced out of retained earnings to cover the Diocese's expenses in preparation for the 16th All-American Council; this money will be returned to our savings when the Diocesan Assessment for 2011 is collected.

### *D. Life Giving Spring*

His Grace reported that we have come through a mediation process concerning our tax liability for the Life Giving Spring Retreat Center in Boulder City, Nevada.

If we pay past property taxes totaling \$70,000.00, we will be given tax-exemption from property taxes in the future, providing we continue to advertise it as a retreat center, and continue to conduct periodic religious services on site.

The county officially owns the property until the taxes are paid.

His Grace will ask the Home of Mercy to loan the \$70,000 and suggest that the Home of Mercy place a lien on the LGS property to be sure it has a clear legal position in the recovery of its numerous loans to LGS. The Diocese will also place a lien against the property so that our loans to LGS are on record.

*E. Upkeep of Life Giving Spring Property*

It was M/S/P (Nowick, Russell) to allocate \$23,000.00 for upkeep of the LGS property, money to come from retained earnings from the sale of Pt. Reyes.

*F. Synaxis Parish Corporation*

The Synaxis Parish Corporation will consult with a knowledgeable San Francisco law firm regarding a new lease for the tenets in their second floor apartment.

*G. Parish and Clergy Screening*

His Grace reported that the Diocese of the West has 100% compliance for background checks on all clergy and youth volunteers in our parishes.

*H. Charities*

Archpriest Lawrence Russell reported that he continues to monitor the charity needs in the Diocese, and that the line item in the current budget proposal has increased slightly for the coming year (to \$5,200.00).

*I. Clergy Retreat*

Hierarch and Clergy from all the Orthodox jurisdictions in the west are invited to gather again this year at the St. Nicholas Retreat Center in Dunlop, CA December 7-9, 2010. His Grace encourages all clergy in the Diocese to attend.

*J. Financial Accountability and Procedures Manual*

It was M/S/P (Nowick, Tate) to adopt the updated Financial Accountability and Procedures Manual as presented.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:57 PM.**