

Diocesan Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 3, 2008
Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco, CA

The meeting opened at 10:30 A.M. with the singing of "O Heavenly King..."

Diocesan Council Members Present: Bishop BENJAMIN; Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Chancellor; Nadine Wood, Secretary; Mary Caetta, Treasurer; Abbot Jonah; Archpriests David Brum; Anthony Karbo, Lawrence Margitich and Eric Tosi; Priest John Strickland; Dmitri Solodow; Dorothy Nowik; and Carole Shumaik.

Deans Present: Archpriests Joseph Hirsch; Bazyl Kalinowski; John Pierce; Basil Rhodes; Lawrence Russell and Matthew Tate.

Guests: Peter Schwalenberg; Neal and Pattie Smither

Minutes of the January 17, 2008 Meeting were accepted.

St. Eugene Property: Neal and Pattie Smither, Real Estate Agents, reported that an offer of \$1,350,000.00 was received. The purchaser will be putting 30% down and financing 70%. The offer is subject to the purchaser obtaining an appraisal and loan. (Offer attached). Discussion followed.

MOTION: Mary Caetta moved to accept the offer. Second: Dmitri Solodow. PASSED unanimously.

LGS

The retreat center has been listed with a real estate company in Las Vegas. The asking price is \$1,900,000.00. The property has been viewed, but no offer has been received yet.

Report of Bishop BENJAMIN

His Grace reported that the investigation for the Central Administration and the crisis in Alaska is continuing noting that the Holy Synod is responsible for the final decision of determination of Bishop NIKOLAI. It is the hope of the Committee to report to the entire church by July.

Discussion followed.

His Grace also reported that Archpriest Eric Tosi will be leaving the DOW as he has been appointed Secretary of OCA.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Caetta reported that all is going well and her concerns now are where to put the additional funds. Mary stated that she would like to obtain a financial advisor to help with the allocation of monies. She would like to temporarily move funds into rolling CDs. (ING Savings Account)

MOTION: Dmitri Solodow moved that treasurer be authorized to move funds into CDs. Second: Carole Shumaik. PASSED unanimously.

Mary noted that the budget will be adjusted to accommodate the elimination of some categories, correction of some existing budgeted amounts and the possible addition of other items.

The DPA has been calculated for those parishes from which she received financial reports. His Grace asked the Deans to contact parishes for the reports and to advise His Grace of the parishes that do not respond.

Archpriest Matthew Tate stated the diocese should establish a finance committee was to work with Mary. Some discussion followed. Mary requested that anyone interested in serving on this committee contact her. She will submit recommendations for members at the next DOW meeting. Father Matthew volunteered to assist Mary with developing a Charter for the Committee.

Metropolitan Council Report

At the Spring meeting of the Metropolitan Council, held at the OCA Chancery in Syosset, March 31 – April 2, 2008, the major actions were:

In a discussion of events in Alaska, Metropolitan HERMAN reported that Bishop NIKOLAI refused to accept the Holy Synod's decision that he take a leave-of-absence while allegations against him were investigated, and that the Holy Synod then rescinded its decision and allowed Bishop NIKOLAI to return to Alaska. Fr. Garklavs, the OCA Chancellor, was sent to Alaska by Met. HERMAN to investigate those charges, but Bishop NIKOLAI stopped the investigation, claiming "only Bishops can investigate Bishops." At the most recent Holy Synod meeting, Metropolitan HERMAN refused to let Fr. Garklavs present his report, because "someone might be offended." Archbishop NATHANIEL and Bishop TIKHON were sent to investigate the charges, reporting to the next Synod meeting.

This discussion led to a more general discussion of the Church's Harassment and Sexual Abuse Guidelines. Those present with professional, accredited experience in the field expressed their opinion that: the OCA policies were not adequately followed by the Metropolitan's Office of Sexual Abuse; the priest carrying out the investigations was not adequately trained to do so; and that serious legal and financial repercussions could occur. A motion to deal with this was tabled until the next meeting, so various input could be sought and language clarified.

The Audit Committee gave its report, which included several concerns about the adequacy of funding for the Clergy Pension Plan. The Executive of the Plan, who was present to present his own report, dissented from the Audit Committee's methodology and findings. Discussion clarified that the Plan was adequately funded, needed a more frequent actuarial study, and concluded that, in the future, audit reports go to the audited entity for discussion and clarification before being presented to the Council. Additionally, the Treasurer was asked to draft a statement of qualifications for Audit Committee members, ensuring that at least some have expertise in the field, and that they

coordinate more closely with the external auditors.

In his report, OCA Treasurer Fr. Michael Tassos noted that the church ended 2007 with a surplus, and was within budget for 2008. One-third of the funds from the Seminary Appeal will be distributed to SVOTS, one-third to STOTS and one-third held for possible future distribution to St. Herman Seminary. OCA has begun making \$25,000 payments from the 9/11 fund. Financial policies and procedures have been thoroughly reviewed and improvements implemented.

Thaddeus Wojick was recommended to the Synod as the OCA legal Counsel, and Fr. Eric Tosi as the OCA Secretary. A Metropolitan Council Legal Committee was established. The Ethics Committee Policy and Procedures Statement was approved, along with a Financial Committee Charter. The Special Investigating Committee reported in Executive Session, as did the lawyer representing the OCA in its response to a suit against it filed by Bette Kondratick.

The Metropolitan Council met in Executive Session to discuss the crisis in the Church with Metropolitan HERMAN. Later in the meeting, a motion calling on the Metropolitan to retire was tabled to allow him to reflect upon the discussion held in Executive Session.

Old Business:

Charities & Appeals

Priest Anthony Karbo reported 300 pounds of Raphael House coffee have been sold realizing a profit of \$1400.00 to date.

His Grace will write Paschal appeal letter.

Bishop's Housing & Move

The Synaxis Mission celebrated their last Liturgy. His Grace will appoint officers who will be accountable to the Diocese. It will be kept alive as a sub-corp. His Grace read a letter from the Synaxis Parish requesting to discontinue the mission. His Grace will write a letter to the parish blessing the discontinuation.

Duboce Apartments – The Alesondroni's will be vacating on June 20. Fr. Takahashi and his wife will be moving in. His Grace will begin moving to HTC in mid-August. Furniture will be needed for the downstairs livingroom area which will be an 'official reception area'. All Diocesan material will be moved from HVM in Los Angeles to HTC in San Francisco. It was noted that the Duboce property is a \$1.2 million asset of the Diocese.

Steiner Street Property

With the closure of the Synaxis Mission the property at 20 Steiner will revert back to the Brotherhood.

Diocesan Communications

Dmitri Solodow will work with the Deans and Fr. Peter to obtain information for the website.

Clergy Data Forms

His Grace will contact Deans

Parish Youth Worker Screenings

Annual Certification is required.

New Business

Diocesan Assembly

Father Josiah Trenham will be asked to speak on Confession at the next Diocesan Assembly. Information re hotels, etc. with prices will be available in July. Hierarchical Liturgy will be celebrated on the first morning and a second Liturgy on the 9th for St. Tikhon. Father Matthew Tate will confirm schedule with His Grace.

St. John's Monastery

Abbot Jonah is being considered for Bishop of Pittsburg. If he is elected, a new Abbot will be needed. Fr. Jonah submitted a proposal for the relocation of the St. Sergius Chapel to the Monastery property in Manton. Expenses for the move to be paid by St. Eugene's funds. Fr. Jonah to submit concrete budget and plans at the next DOW meeting.

Upcoming Retreats

Deans are asked organize area retreats for Matushki

Audit Committee Updates

An audit is scheduled for June 28. The dated will be confirmed after PASCHA

Clergy Intern Program

Roger Elliot (Dn George) will be ordained and be assigned to St. Paul in Las Vegas. He will receive \$1000 monthly stipend from the Diocese of the West. He is expected to receive another \$1000 from the Las Vegas parish.

Seminary Report

Archpriest Matthew Tate spoke on the 2008 Seminary Visit (Report Attached)

Fr. Matthew is looking at a different way to set up helping the missions.

His Grace meets regularly with bishops of other jurisdiction. There exist sensitivities surrounding ROCOR and the other jurisdictions at the present time. The issue of the National Council of Churches was raised. Fr Matthew suggests we don't participate because their political views are so different than ours. His Grace feels it is important

that our voice not be lost and we should not withdraw. The Orthodox voice would be "Greek" and "Russian" if we were to withdraw. His Grace will approach the synod with our concerns. Fr. Matthew suggests we can perhaps be in the "observer" position such as the Roman Catholics are doing. His Grace will present this. Meetings with the local hierarchs of the Oriental Orthodox Churches have been proposed by Bishop Joseph of the Antiochian Archdiocese. Discussion followed.

Next meeting of the Diocesan Council is scheduled to be June 26 at Holy Trinity Cathedral, San Francisco.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Nadine Wood, Secretary

RESOLUTIONS

The Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West wishes to congratulate Archpriest Eric Tosi on his appointment as Secretary of the OCA.

Furthermore, we wish to commend Fr. Eric for his many years of devoted, exemplary service as Rector of St. Paul's, Editor of the *Vision*, Director of Diocesan Communications, and missionary to the entire Diocese.

Many Years to Archpriest Eric and may God grant him strength and wisdom in his new appointment.

The Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West resolves to petition the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council for the return of the Holy Ascension to the jurisdiction of the Diocese of the West from whence it was taken in 1986.

CORPORATE RESOLUTION

St. Eugene Property:

Neal and Pattie Smither are engaged to represent the Diocese of the West in the sale of the St. Eugene Property, Point Reyes, CA. The offer of \$1,350,000.00 was accepted with the understanding the purchaser will be put 30% down and obtain financing for the remaining 70%. The offer is subject to the purchaser obtaining an appraisal and loan. A written offer is to be received and will be attached to these minutes.

**MOTION: Mary Caetta moved to accept the offer. Second: Dmitri Solodow.
PASSED unanimously.**