

**Diocesan Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 27, 2007**  
**Christ the Savior Church, San Francisco, CA**

The meeting opened at 10:30 A.M. with prayer.

**Diocesan Council Members Present:** His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN, Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Chancellor; Nadine Wood, Secretary; Mary Caetta, Treasurer; Archpriests Joseph Hirsch and David Brum; Priests David Lowell, Lawrence Margitich, Anthony Karbo, and John Strickland; Dmitri Solodow, Steve Knowlton, and Carole Shumaik.

**Deans Present:** Archpriests Matthew Tate, John Pierce, Basil Rhodes, and Lawrence Russell.

**Guests:** Priest Michael Regan, Peter Schwalenberg, Matushka Elaine Lowell

**Minutes of the April 26, 2007 meeting** were accepted with no corrections.

**2007 DOW Assembly:** Matushka Elaine Lowell presented four options for the banquet. A motion to ask Matushka Elaine to reserve Castagnolas Restaurant for the banquet was made by Nadine Wood, seconded by Dmitri Solodow. All in favor, so moved. Discussion of the Assembly took place. Mary Caetta was asked to reserve rooms for the visiting OCA Hierarchs.

**Report from the Ruling Hierarchy:** His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN spoke about his installation as ruling hierarch of the DOW and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Orthodox Liturgy in San Francisco in 1857. Since our last meeting, His Grace has met with the Serbian, Greek and Antiochian hierarchs, attended St. Eugene summer camp, visited the St. John Monastery, the St. Barbara Monastery, the Kazan Skete and the Protection of the Holy Virgin Monastery. He also made archpastoral visits to Santa Maria, Las Vegas, Ben, Ashland, Saratoga, Chico, San Diego, Calhan, Berkeley, Puolsbo and Fremont. He also visited with the clergy in Denver, Pueblo, and Colorado Springs. His Grace will be traveling to Romania with Mother Cassiana August 9-24. His Grace also spoke on the current situation in Syosset and the All American Council which will be held in 2008.

**Report of the Metropolitan Council:** Archpriest Matthew Tate reported that there will be a deficit budget again this year. The Martin Drive house has been sold and the proceeds applied to the loan. He and Mary Caetta are on the committee to interview candidates for treasurer of the OCA. They are hopeful that a selection will be made in the next month. Mary reported that the "best practices" has been passed and will be presented for approval by the Holy Synod at the next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mary Caetta presented the report for June and spoke on the Report Summary. She noted that Hesperia is paying \$100 on their open invoices. They have not been invoiced for DPA and Fair Share since 2004. Discussion followed and it was agreed to wait one year before putting Hesperia back on the records. Archpriest Matthew Tate presented the request from the Olympia mission for relief of \$1200.00 of the \$1872.00 owed for their DPA assessment. A motion for the Olympia mission to pay forward on their DPA was made by Priest Lawrence Margitich, seconded by Carole Shumaik. Discussion followed. The motion was withdrawn. Dmitri Solodow moved that the finance committee direct the treasurer to put \$100K in a high yield money market account. The motion was seconded by Priest David Lowell. All in favor, so moved. The treasurer, chancellor and Bishop will be signatories on the account.

**Audit Committee Report:** Priest Michael Regan spoke on the recommendations of the Audit Committee. Discussion followed. It was recommended that the finance committee (Archpriests Matthew Tate and Lawrence Russell, Priests Michael Regan and David Lowell and Subdeacon Dmitri Solodow) find a CPA and look at the finances and present to the council best ways to invest funds.

## **Old Business:**

**Point Reyes:** The law firm of Silk & Adler is researching the will.

**Steiner Street:** Discussion of the increase in price took place. Priest David Lowell recommended that the offer to purchase the Steiner Street property be withdrawn. A motion was made by Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, seconded by Dmitri Solodow. 4 in favor, 5 opposed. A motion to resubmit our current offer was made by Archpriests David Brum, seconded by Priest Lawrence Margitich. 6 in favor, 4 opposed. So moved.

## **Diocesan Communications:**

*The Vision* will be published by the monastery  
Web-site – His Grace will speak with Priest Peter Carmichael

**LGS:** The Life Giving Spring is self sufficient. Katherine Short is doing a wonderful job running the facility. A hearing regarding the payment of the back taxes is scheduled for September 21.

## **New Business:**

**Charities & Appeals:** Raphael House will be the focus of the Lenten Appeal this year.

A clergy retreat will be held after PASCHA and a readers' workshop will also be planned. Father John Pierce is working on a "Welcome to the Diocese" packet for new clergy.  
A DVD of the Hierarchical Liturgy will be made to be used as a training tool. The DVD will be made at the Santa Rosa parish.

## **DOW Assembly:**

Nominating Committee:

Archpriest Basil Rhodes (chair)  
Priest John Strickland

Positions needed:

2 Clergy  
2 Lay  
Metropolitan Council: 1 clergy and 1 lay  
Audit Committee  
Financial Committee

Dmitri Solodow will chair the Budget Committee. A line item for expenses incurred for receiving new clergy in the diocese needs to be included in the budget for 2008.

Archpriest Joseph Hirsch and Dmitri Solodow will chair the 2007 Assembly.

Archpriest Matthew Tate spoke on the current situation of the Merced mission. Discussion followed.

In closing, His Grace asked the council to pray for the health of John Della Monica and Mother Cassiana.

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council will be held on Monday evening, October 1 following the dinner for Hierarchs and Council at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

The meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine Wood,  
Secretary

