

Diocesan Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 26, 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; Archpriest David Brum; Priest John Strickland; Dmitri Solodow; Dorothy Nowik; and Carole Shumaik.

**Deans Present:** Archpriests Joseph Hirsch; Bazyl Kalinowski; John Pierce; Basil Rhodes; Matthew Tate and John Takahashi

**Guests:** John Della Monica

**Minutes of the April 3, 2008 Meeting** were accepted with the inclusion of the Metropolitan Council Report submitted by Dmitri Solodow to reflect a more detailed report. Note that His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN states that the portion of the inclusion by Dmitri Solodow regarding His Grace, Bishop NIKOLAI is not true and that Bishop NIKOLAI did not any investigation.

**Report of Bishop BENJAMIN**

His Grace reported that his work on the SIC is continuing. The findings will be reported to the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council at the end of August. With regard to the Diocese of Alaska, His Grace reported that the Holy Synod met and retired Bishop NIKOLAI. Bishop NIKOLAI had requested to be placed on a leave of absence, however since there had been no further communication from Bishop NIKOLAI since his original request, the Holy Synod retired Bishop NIKOLAI. The Chancellor, Archimandrite Isidore, and Hierodeacon Panteleimon have been suspended. It was reported Bishop NIKOLAI, the Chancellor and Hierodeacon Panteleimon were no longer in Alaska. His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN has been appointed Administrator of the Diocese of Alaska. As Administrator, he plans to travel to Alaska 4 to 5 times a year. His Grace will request the Diocese of Alaska reimburse him for a portion of his telephone charges.

The Diocese of the South has requested Igumen Jonah be consecrated Vicar Bishop for His Eminence, Archbishop DMITRI. Bishop BENJAMIN will release Archimandrite Jonah to the Diocese of the South upon his election by the Holy Synod. His Grace has requested the release of Archimandrite Miletios Weber from the Greek Archdiocese. His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN will appoint Archimandrite Miletios temporary Superior of the monastery and expressed his belief that Archimandrite Miletios will be a positive influence on the life of the monastic community. Archimandrite Miletios is a graduate of Oxford and has authored two books, one of which was recently published by Concilliar Press.

**Report of the Chancellor:**

There was no formal report. Father Ian informed the members of the Council that Matushka Regan was hospitalized for internal bleeding and requested we pray for her.

**Treasurer's Report**

Mary Caetta reported that excess funds have been placed in rolling CDs with an interest rate of 3%. (The May Balance Sheet reflects the details of the accounts). Mary further reported that there are sufficient funds to pay bills. Parishes are paying down their past-due invoices.

Pursuant to the suggestion made by Archpriest Matthew Tate at the April Meeting of the DOW Council:

Archpriest Matthew Tate stated the diocese should establish a finance committee to work with Mary. Fr. Matthew volunteered to assist Mary with developing a Charter for the Committee.

**MOTION: Mary Caetta moved the following members of the DOW Council to be appointed to a Finance Committee:**

**Archpriest Matthew Tate  
Subdeacon Dmitri Solodow  
Dorothy Nowik**

**Second: Nadine Wood.**

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mary read the *preliminary* Charter for the Committee. Upon review, modification and acceptance by the members of the Committee, Mary will include this in the DOW Policy Book.

### **Report of John Della Monica: Capital Improvement Fund – Budget Modification**

John submitted a letter (attached) requesting an adjustment to the amount presently budgeted for the committee. Paragraph 3 “requests an adjustment to the existing budget from three years to two. The fiscal impact of this request would be to alter this year’s allocation of \$4,000 to \$8000; keeping the next year’s budget fixed at \$4000 and eliminating year three completely. The proposed change would allow us to progress in a more timely fashion with the hope of getting our fund up and running sooner...”

Discussion followed. His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN requested that John submit *guidelines* at the next DOW Assembly.

**MOTION: Dmitri Solodow moved the request made to adjust the budget as noted above.**

**Second: Mary Caetta.**

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Metropolitan Council Report:**

Nothing new to report. The SIC Report is scheduled to be ready and distributed to the members of the Holy Synod and the Metropolitan Council at the end of August.

Discussion of the Town Hall Meetings took place.

#### **Point Reyes Sale:**

**MOTION: Mary Caetta moved to allocate \$60,000.00 from the St. Eugene Fund for to move the present Chapel to the St. John Monastery, Manton, CA.**

**Second: Archpriest Ian MacKinnon.**

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

His Grace suggested that the DOW consider that a portion of the funds from the sale of the Point Reyes property be put aside for a second chapel – St. Eugene Chapel to be erected at the monastery in Santa Barbara.

**MOTION: Archpriest Ian MacKinnon moved that a plaque be made recognizing the efforts of Mr. Constantine Chekene and Mr. Tsenin be placed in the rebuilt Chapel in Manton.**

**Second: by Dmitri Solodow.**

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Calistoga:

His Grace informed the members of the Council the Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, CA has been returned to the DOW and that he sent a letter to welcome Father Sergious Gerken to the diocese. His Grace stated that he expected to make no changes to the life of the community at this time. Discussion followed. Mary Caetta was asked to send a letter to Fr. Sergious outlining the monastery's community's responsibility to the DOW and requesting a financial report and a copy of the Bylaws of the community.

**Bishop's Housing/Fr. Takahashi's Housing:**

**Part I: DOW:**

**MOTION: Dmitri Solodow moved the Advisory Committee's recommendation to the DOW Council to give Fr. John \$3000.00 from the DOW Budget for his move from Holy Trinity Cathedral to Duboce Street.**

**Second: Carole Shumaik.**

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Part II: Holy Trinity Cathedral:**

Parish needs to provide some funding to assist in Fr. Takahashi's move from Aromas, CA His Grace appointed Johann Morse to accompany Fr. John and Fr. Thomas Alessandroni to determine what is necessary to make the 1<sup>st</sup> floor apartment habitable for Fr. John. Johann will report his findings at the next DOW meeting.

**Part III: Duboce Property:**

A portion of the monies in the 'House Fund' which is now controlled by the DOW, will be used to assist the Alessandronis in their move.

**Synaxis Parish Corporation:**

The new name for the former Synaxis Parish, legally incorporated as Christian Community of San Francisco, is now responsible to the DOW Council. The bylaws of the Synaxis Parish now state the diocesan bishop is responsible for appointing members of the Board of Directors. His Grace appointed the following members of the DOW Council to the Board of Directors:

Archpriest Ian MacKinnon

Archpriest Matthew Tate

Priest David Lowell

Mary Caetta

Reports are to be made to the DOW Assembly in October.

The minutes should reflect the Diocesan Council recommends that the Bishop of the Diocese of the West, as Rector of Holy Trinity Cathedral, live in the Rectory at Holy Trinity Cathedral. In compensation for this provision, the DOW will provide housing for the Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral at the Duboce Street Property. This provided housing is not in perpetuity and changes may be made.

At the present time His Grace's personal items need to be moved from Boulder City to San Francisco. The files and furniture for the diocesan office need to be moved from Boulder City and Los Angeles to San Francisco.

Father John Takahashi will keep the use of his office at the Cathedral.

MOTION: Johann Morse moved \$10,000.00 be allocated for the moving and furnishing expenses connected with the Bishop's housing at Holy Trinity Cathedral,

Second: Dmitri Solodow.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

**Diocesan Communications:**

The Vision: will be produced and distributed annually.

The Website: His Grace will as Priest John Schroedel of Kona, HI to manage the website.

Dmitri Solodow is appointed the Communications Coordinator.

**Parish Screening Procedures/Compliance – Timeline:**

Background checks are required on all adult parishioners who have more than incidental contact with minors in the parish. His Grace will be sending a form to all Clergy – the return date will be *September 1, 2008*. A document relating to safeguards for our children was distributed. Discussion followed. It was suggested that some parishes may opt to appoint a Risk Management Committee to assist with the Clergy in compliance with this mandate.

**LGS:**

LGS has been marketed. No offers have been received at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Town Hall Meeting:** will be held at Holy Trinity Cathedral beginning at 7:00 P.M. this evening.

**Parish Discussions:**

**Merced:** has half-completed building and property on the market for sale. There is a pending offer and counter offer awaiting acceptance. Currently there is \$200K in liens on the property. Should the pending sale not go through, Father Matthew would ask the DOW Council to loan the parish the \$200K to pay the lien holders enabling the parish to hold the property until a viable offer is received.

**San Diego:** The St. Nicholas parish is experiencing some problems in parish administration once again. The Chancellor is addressing these problems.

**Berkeley:** A parishioner has raised some questions as to financing of the parish school and the choir director. His Grace has addressed this problem and finds nothing to be out of order.

**Las Vegas:** Father John Dresko is assigned as Rector, replacing Fr Eric Tosi who has accepted the position of Secretary of the OCA. Priest George Elliott has been assigned as second priest.

MOTION: His Grace requested the Council approve an additional \$500.00 monthly to be applied toward insurance for Fr. George for a period of one year, to be reconsidered at the end of that term. Moved: Dmitri Solodow

Second: Johann Morse.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

**Tarzana:** Pastoral and financial problems continue at St. Innocent Church. His Grace will attend a parish meeting on July 13 and try to bring things to some resolution.

**Charities and Appeals:**

\$12K was raised throughout the diocese for Raphael House during the Great Fast. Next year's Diocesan Charity will be Martha and Mary House.

This year's Nativity Appeal will be mailed on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

His Grace and the Diocesan Council expressed thanks to Dorothy Nowik and Carole Shumaik for their assistance in the mailing of the Paschal Appeal.

**Diocesan Assembly:**

Father Matthew Tate reviewed the preliminary agenda for the Assembly. He noted that a significant amount of time will be allocated to the discussion of the SIC Report. Fr. Matthew and Dmitri Solodow will finalize the agenda and present it to His Grace for approval for the next DOW council meeting.

His Grace appointed Archpriest David Brum, Archpriest Basil Rhodes and Johann Morse to be on the Nominating Committee.

**Upcoming Retreats & Workshops:**

His Grace suggested geographic area retreats for Matushki including all jurisdictions might be a better approach for participation. He requested the deans to work with clergy in all jurisdictions to schedule these retreats. A clergy retreat will be planned for after Pascha next year.

**Audit Committee Recommendations:**

Archpriest David Brum will follow up. Mary Caetta is continuing her efforts to find an auditor in her area.

**Receiving New Clergy in the Diocese:**

Archimandrite Meletios in the monastery

Priest George Elliott in Las Vegas

Archpriest John Dresko in Las Vegas

Priest Nikolai **Khalimonov** in Los Angeles

Igumen Sergious Gerken in Calostoga

**Long Range Planning:**

**MOTION:** Dmitri Solodow moved that a long range planning committee be created to review ways to invest the income realized from the sale of the Pt. Reyes property.

Second: Carole Shumaik.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Dmitri Solodow was appointed to Chair the committee. Members are Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Archpriest David Brum, Priest David Lowell and Carole Shumaik.

**Diocesan Attorney:**

It was the consensus of the Council that there is a need for legal counsel from time to time and that since Vladimir Norville is no longer available His Grace will make inquiries as to who might serve as Diocesan Attorney.

**LGS:**

His Grace appointed Archpriest Ian MacKinnon and Johann Morse to the Board of Directors. A review of the bylaws is necessary prior to the possible sale of the property.

The next meeting of the DOW will be on October 7, 2008 at the Diocesan Assembly.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine Wood,  
Secretary

**Resolution of the Diocesan Council  
The Diocese of the West  
Orthodox Church in America  
26 June 2008**

Be it resolved that, on this date, the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West, authorizes His Grace BENJAMIN, Bishop of the Diocese and Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Chancellor of the Diocesan to sign documents for the sale of the property located at 135 Balboa in San Francisco, CA.

Recorded by:

Nadine M. Wood,  
Secretary  
Diocesan Council  
Diocese of the West

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Diocesan Council  
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