

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE WEST
JANUARY 15, 2009

The meeting opened at 8:00 P.M. with prayer.

Members Present: His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN, Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Chancellor, Nadine Wood, Secretary, Mary Caetta, Treasurer, Priests Michael Anderson, John Strickland, Christopher Swanson, and Dorothy Nowick. His Grace noted that although Johann Morse was unable to attend this meeting, he voted "YES" to all motions.

Guests Present: Archimandrite Meletios Webber and Barry Migyanko

Items on the Agenda:

1. Monastery Chapel at Manton
2. LGS Update
3. Motion of Fr. Ian
4. Santa Paula Monastery

Monastery Chapel at Manton:

Email from His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN was sent to all DOW Council Members on Thursday, January 8, 2009 with attachment from Earl Horner, Architect. (Copies enclosed).

MOTION:

Archpriest Ian MacKinnon moved to provide the Monastic Community with a \$20,000.00 interest free loan for a period of three (3) years, seconded by Priest Christopher Swanson.

Discussion followed. Archimandrite Meletios informed the members of the Council that there are fund raising projects in place and he is comfortable with a 3/Yr period payment of the loan. He further informed the members of the Council that the square footage is twice the size of the original plans and the Sanctuary is also larger. The present Community will be housed plus guests. **Motion was unanimously approved.**

LGS Update (FYI only –no action necessary at this time):

Email from His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN was sent to all DOW Council Members on Tuesday, January 6, 2009. (copy enclosed)

The LGS Subcommittee of the DOW Council will be meeting at LGS on February 9, 2009 to discuss the present situation, including the cash flow problem, payment of \$20K in credit card charges on Fr. Andrew's personal credit card for food, etc. for prior retreats, pay-off figure to the nuns, cost of running LGS vs. closing LGS and paying for a caretaker for the center and the house. (members of the subcommittee – His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN, Mary Caetta, Archpriest David Brum and Johann Morse)

Mary Caetta noted that she will be sending \$486.00 (from the Diocese) to LGS in January for operating expenses.

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Further information will be provided to the DOW Council after the February 9th meeting.

Santa Paula Monastery:

Work on the Chapel at the monastery is ready to begin. The cost (to date) to build the chapel is \$360K. The Monastic Community is planning to raise \$60K and is requesting \$300K from the proceeds of the sale of the St. Eugene's property. A contract with the Architect has been signed and the plans are currently in the design stage.

MOTION:

Priest Michael Anderson moved to provide the Monastic Community \$300K from the proceeds of the sale of the St. Eugene's property, seconded by Priest Christopher Swanson.

Discussion followed. Archpriest Ian MacKinnon expressed his concerns that the costs may escalate and we will be in the same situation as in Manton. Mary Caetta stated that, to date, she has paid \$10,632.00 to the Architect.

MOTION AMENDED:

Priest Michael Anderson moved to allocate up to \$40K to the Monastic Community from the proceeds of the sale of the St. Eugene's property at the present time, seconded by Priest Christopher Swanson. **Motion was unanimously approved.**

Motion of Archpriest Ian MacKinnon:

Information of the motion was provided to the members of the Council via email from His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN on Tuesday, January 13, 2009.

MOTION:

Archpriest Ian MacKinnon moved that the Diocese of the West provide Matushka Valentina Szyrnski \$325.00 per month for a maximum six (6) months, to supplement her monthly medical insurance premium, seconded by Priest John Strickland.

Discussion followed...it was agreed by all present that the money would be allocated from the 'charity' line item in the 2009 budget. It was also agreed that Archpriest Ian MacKinnon would write a letter to Matushka Valentina, copying Fr. George of the decision of the members of the DOW Council at the 01/15/09 Teleconference Meeting.

Motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine M. Wood,
Secretary