

Diocesan Council Meeting
Diocese of the West
Wednesday, October 14, 2009
Anderson Home, Santa Rosa, California

His Grace Bishop Benjamin convened the meeting of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West at the Anderson home in Santa Rosa, California with the singing of “O Heavenly King”.

Diocesan Council Members, Deans, and Department Heads Present: His Grace, Bishop Benjamin, Archpriest Ian MacKinnon, Chancellor; Nadine Wood, Secretary; Mary Caetta, Diocesan Treasurer; Archpriests John Armstrong, David Brum, Anthony Karbo, Lawrence Russell, Lawrence Margitich, John Pierce, Basil Rhodes and Matthew Tate; Priests Michael Anderson, David Lowell, John Strickland and Christopher Swanson; Sub-deacons Johann Morse, Dr Dmitri Solodow and Paul Pilipenko; and Dorothy Nowik.

Guests: His Grace, Bishop Alejo, John Della Monica and Barry Migyanko

Minutes of the June 30, 2009 Meeting were accepted with the following correction:

Page 6 – change Tuesday, October 12 to Wednesday, October 14

Report of Bishop Benjamin:

His Grace, Bishop Benjamin welcomed His Grace, Bishop Alejo to the 2009 Diocese of the West Assembly.

His Grace reported that the nuns at Santa Barbara in Santa Paula, CA have been living in RVs on the property. This is against the zoning laws and the nuns have been given 30 days to remove the RVs. The plan is for the nuns to move to the monastic community in Calistoga. Father Sergius Gerkins submitted a ‘wish list’ to Father Ian which will be reviewed by His Grace. The cost to build a chapel at Calistoga is approximately \$350K.

The Monastery Board will meet to discuss the sale of the Santa Paula property.

Father Matthew visited LGS. An attorney has been hired to represent us regarding the zoning issues. There has been much interest, but no offers.

Father David Lowell has been appointed Dean of the Denver Cathedral. He is at the Cathedral every other week during his transition from Raphael House.

His Grace received an email from Monk Stavros (?) expressing his desire to establish a new monastic community in the DOW. His Grace replied that the DOW has 5 monastic communities and that Monk Stavros can enter one of the existing monastic communities.

His Grace has been contacted by Bishop Andres of a non-canonical group who wishes to join the OCA. His Grace invited Bishop Andres to attend the Assembly tomorrow. Discussion followed.

Report of the Treasurer:

Mary presented the following action item for this meeting of the DOW Council:

Signatories on the LCBA Mission Board Annuity Account need to be appointed.

Motion: Archpriest Ian MacKinnon moved, seconded by Mary Caetta, that the following members of the DOW be signatories on the LCBA Mission Board Annuity Account: His Grace, Bishop Benjamin, Archpriest Matthew Tate and Mary Caetta, Treasurer.

The Motion was unanimously approved.

The following motions were made in response to the Treasurer's Report:

Motion: Johann Morse moved, seconded by Priest Christopher Swanson, that Metropolitan Council Travel be increased by \$5000.00 to cover the expenses that are no longer paid by the National Church.

The Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: Archpriest Anthony Karbo moved, seconded by Priest Michael Anderson, that Chancellor's Travel be increased by \$2000.00.

The Motion was unanimously approved.

Motion: Archpriest Anthony Karbo moved, seconded by Priest Christopher Swanson, that Traveling for Auditing Function be increased by \$4000.00.

The Motion was unanimously approved.

Assembly Planning:

The following names were presented to facilitate the DOW Assembly:

Chair (Day 1): Priest David Lowell

Chair (Day 2): Dorothy Nowik

Secretariat: Archpriest David Brum
Priest Andrew Jacobs

Tellers & Credentials: Archpriest Matthew Tate

From the Nominating Committee:

Terms Ending: Clergy Delegates:

Archpriest Anthony Karbo

Archpriest David Brum

Lay Delegates:

Sub-deacon Dmitri Solodow

Sub-deacon Johann Morse

Clergy Delegate Nomination:

Archpriest John Dresko

Agenda:

Diocesan Loan Program

Strategic Planning

Old Business:

➤ Synaxis Parish Corporation:

- Elect replacement for Archpriest Joseph Hirsch

- **Diocesan Communications:**
 - Web-Site Changes:
 - Archpriest John Dresko is appointed Director of Communications Material is needed...Deans need to contact parish clergy.
- **Diocesan Charities** are currently at the max...concern was voiced about mission parishes
- **Raphael House** – Father David Lowell is resigning – His Grace, Bishop Benjamin will appoint two (2) new members
- **Parish & Clergy Screening** – Less than 50% compliance. Deans are to contact parish priests:
 - 30 days non-compliance, youth activities in the parish will be suspended
 - 60 days non-compliance, clergy salary will be suspended
 - Clergy non-compliance will result in removal from the DOW
- **Diocesan Loan Program** – there will be a 10 minute power point presentation at the Assembly. The fund will be generated by donations.
- **Finance Committee Recommendations** were distributed by Dorothy Nowik.
 - Re: Property Insurance at Holy Assumption Monastery:

Motion: Priest Christopher Stanton moved, seconded by Priest Michael Anderson that the DOW allocate \$7000.00, interest free, to Holy Assumption Monastery to be paid upon the sale of the property in Petrolia.
The motion was unanimously approved
 - Re: Martha and Mary House: It is the consensus of the Council to leave as is. It was suggested that a committee be created to establish Diocesan Policy consistent with these discussions.

Motion: Dorothy Nowik moved, seconded by Priest John Strickland to accept the updates to the Financial Policies and Accounting Procedures Manual.
The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Metropolitan Council** members will stay the same
- **Merced** – the property may be sold next month

New Business:

- **All American Council** will be held in the DOW. Seattle is being considered.
- **Upcoming Retreats & Workshops:** A Pan-Orthodox retreat for all canonical bishops will be held at Fresno Ranch.
- **Budget:** Dorothy Nowik presented the proposed 2010 Budget – Discussion followed.
Motion: Johann Morse moves, seconded by Dmitri Solodow to increase travel for Diocesan Business to \$5000.00
The motion was unanimously approved
Archpriest Ian MacKinnon suggested the stipend for the treasurer be increased by \$2000.00. Discussion followed. It is the consensus of the Council not to increase any salaries at this time.

Motion: Priest Michael Anderson moved, seconded by Dmitri Solodow to accept the modified budget to be presented at the Assembly.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council will be held following the Assembly on October 16.

His Grace Bishop Benjamin adjourned the meeting with the singing of *It is Truly Meet*

Respectfully Submitted,

Nadine Wood,
Secretary