

Diocesan Council Meeting
Diocese of the West
Tuesday, December 15, 2009
Bishop's Residence, San Francisco, CA

His Grace Bishop Benjamin convened the meeting of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West 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 Dresko, Bazil Kalinowski, Anthony Karbo, Lawrence Margitich, John Pierce, Basil Rhodes, Lawrence Russell and Matthew Tate; Priests Michael Anderson and John Strickland; Subdeacons Paul Pilipenko and Dmitri Solodow; Maha Estephan and Dorothy Nowik,

Guests: Priest David Thatcher, Barry Migyanko, Johann Morse, and Peter Schwallenberg

Minutes of the October 14 and 16 Meetings were accepted with corrections.

Report of Bishop Benjamin:

His Grace reported that the 2011 All American Council will be held in Bellview, WA.

Archpriest John Pierce will chair the Pre-Conciliar Committee.

The Monastery Board approved the sale of the Santa Paula property for \$260K. Proceeds from the sale will be used to pay back the DOW loan.

His Grace will be traveling to Northern California in December, Mexico City and Guatemala in January and St. Petersburg in February.

Background checks have been completed for almost all clergy.

His Grace expressed his thanks to Fr. Ian and to Barry.

Report of the Treasurer:

Mary presented the Treasurer's Report and spoke on the Summary Report. Mary also presented the formal housing allowances designations for Bishop Benjamin and Archpriest Matthew Tate adopted by the Council on October 16th. Discussion followed.

Old Business:

- **Construction of Monastery Chapels:**
Additional invoices totaling \$10K were received.

Motion: Archpriest John Dresko moved, seconded by Dorothy Nowik, to authorize an additional \$30,000.00 to Santa Barbara from the Pt Reyes fund.

The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Diocesan Communications:**

Website:

Archpriest John Dresko is the chair of the Website and will be redesigning the website. His email address is frjohn@me.com.

- **2010 Diocesan Assembly Preparation** – St. John’s in Poway. The dates are October 19-21, 2010.
- **Charities:** Father Lawrence Russell spoke on the Gobezi Goshu Home.
- **Raphael Houses:** Father David will be retiring and a new director and chaplain will be needed. Bishop Benjamin appointed Archpriest John Dresko and Barry Migyanko to fill the two open positions on the Board. Both were approved by the Board.
- **Parish & Clergy Screening/Background Checks:** Background checks have been completed for almost all clergy. There are no incidents with anyone. There is 100% compliance with Youth Workers. Certification is required every year.
- **Diocesan Loan Program:** Peter Schwallenberg reported that the program has received Federal non-profit status. Fr. Stephen Soot is working actively on fund raising and 2 people on the Board of Trustees are bankers. A loan process will be presented in 2010. Discussion followed.
- **LGS:** The property is not sold. Fr. John Dresko is overlooking the property and Catherine Short is showing the property weekly. Both the tax and zoning issues are receiving legal attention.
Motion: Dorothy Nowik moved, seconded by Archpriest John Dresko to authorize spending a maximum of \$4288.00 out of the Pt Reyes Fund for LGS ongoing expenses for January through April 2010.
The motion was unanimously approved.
- **Status of Diocesan Loans:** Priest David Thatcher submitted a written report (attached) noting that the property tax exemption has been lost due to cessation of construction and they are delinquent for the first installment by over \$4000.00. Discussion followed. Archpriest Matthew Tate spoke on the Culver City Loan Application.
Motion: Archpriest John Dresko moved, seconded by Priest John Strickland to loan the Culver City parish \$25,000.00 interest free for a period of six years. The first year loan payments would be forgiven with payments beginning at the end of the first year for a 60 month period beginning January, 2011.
The motion was unanimously approved.
- **Audit Committee:** Archpriest Michael Regan, Maha Estephan and Paul Pilipanko are the “Internal” Audit Committee members and will look at the policies and procedures being followed. An “External” Audit will be performed yearly.
- **Metropolitan Council:** Dmitri Solodow and Archpriest Matthew Tate reported on the latest meeting. Melanie Ringa is the new treasurer and is doing a very good job. Discussion followed. Fr. Matthew reported that his term on the Metropolitan Council will expire in October of 2010 and expressed his desire to remain on the MC which would require a change in the DOW Bylaws to extend the term of service on the Metropolitan Council. Discussion followed.
- **Diocesan Attorney:** Bishop Benjamin
- **Strategic Plan:** Dmitri Solodow reported that the Metropolitan Council gave the committee four documents to consider and will meet with the Lesser Synod to discuss. Discussion followed. Bishop Benjamin appointed John Ericson and Archpriest David

Brum to prepare a “position paper” on the canonical relationship between Metropolitan and Bishops, and Bishops and Clergy to present at the next Diocesan Council Meeting .

New Business:

- **Diocesan Bylaws:** Archpriest Basil Rhodes, Archpriest John Dresko and Dmitri Solodow are members of the Review Committee. Archpriest Basil Rhodes is the coordinator.
- **Appeals:** This year the Lenten charity appeal is for the Gobezi Goshu Home in Ethiopia. The Orthodox Stewards of the West appeal will go out during the Saints Peter and Paul fast.
- **Upcoming Retreats & Workshops:**
 - January 26-28, 2010 Royal Priesthood, Lay Ministry and the Church presented by Fr. John Shekos
 - Deacon Workshop conducted by Archdeacon Kyrill Sokolov
- **New Clergy in the Diocese:**
 - Deacon Michael Tarras in Denver
 - Archdeacon Kyrill Sokolov in the Bay area
 - Priest Joseph Valez, Chaplain in Tacoma
- **Budget Increase:**

Motion: Dorothy Nowik moved, seconded by Mary Caetta to increase the 2010 budget line item for health insurance as follows:
Hierarch - \$1896.00
Fr. Barnabas - \$420.00

The motion was unanimously approved.
- **December 18, 2008 Motion to return a percentage of the Net Income to parishes:**

Discussion followed

Motion: Archpriest John Dresko moved, seconded by Archpriest Lawrence Margitich to rescind the December 18, 2009 motion that a percentage of net incomes would be returned to parishes.

The motion was unanimously approved.
- **Assessment Arrearages:** Archpriest Matthew Tate will submit a draft policy to Mary Caetta to be discussed at the next Council Meeting.

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council will be held following the Assembly on March 23, 2010

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Nadine Wood,
Secretary



The Diocese of the West
THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
Rt. Rev. Bishop Benjamin of San Francisco
1520 Green St San Francisco, CA 94123-5102
(702) 277-1857

2010 Housing Allowance Designation

The Right Reverend BENJAMIN (Peterson),
Bishop of San Francisco and the West

The following resolution was duly adopted by the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West at their meeting held on October 16, 2009.

Whereas, ministers who own their home do not pay federal income taxes on the amount of their compensation that their employing church designates in advance as a housing allowance, to the extent that the allowance represents compensation for ministerial services, is used to pay housing expenses, and does not exceed the fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities);

And

Whereas, The Right Reverend BENJAMIN (Peterson) is compensated by The Diocese of the West exclusively for services as a "minister"; and

Whereas, The Diocese of the West does not provide The Right Reverend BENJAMIN (Peterson) with a parsonage; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that of the total annual compensation of \$68,000 paid to The Right Reverend BENJAMIN (Peterson) for the calendar year 2010, \$3,600 shall be designated as a housing allowance.

Signed,

Secretary



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THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
Rt. Rev. Bishop Benjamin of San Francisco
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2010 Housing Allowance Designation

Archpriest Matthew Tate,
Department of Missions

The following resolution was duly adopted by the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West at their meeting held on October 16, 2009.

Whereas, ministers who own their home do not pay federal income taxes on the amount of their compensation that their employing church designates in advance as a housing allowance, to the extent that the allowance represents compensation for ministerial services, is used to pay housing expenses, and does not exceed the fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities);

And

Whereas, Archpriest Matthew Tate is compensated by The Diocese of the West exclusively for services as a "minister"; and

Whereas, The Diocese of the West does not provide Archpriest Matthew Tate with a parsonage; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that of the total annual compensation of \$18,900 paid to Archpriest Matthew Tate for the calendar year 2010, the entire portion shall be designated as a housing allowance.

Signed,

Secretary