

Diocesan Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 2, 2005
Christ the Savior Church, San Francisco, California

The meeting opened at 10:30 A.M. with prayer and His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN's blessing.

Diocesan Council Members Present: His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN, Vicar Bishop and Chancellor; Archpriest Ian McKinnon, Vice-Chancellor; Nadine Wood, Secretary; Mary Caetta, Treasurer; Archpriests Joseph Hirsch, Michael Senyo and Matthew Tate; Priests David Lowell and Lawrence Margitich; Dmitri Solodow and Steve Knowlton.

Members Absent: His Grace Bishop TIKHON

Deans Present: Archpriests Bazyl Kalinowski, and John Pierce [Archpriest Matthew Tate]

Archpriest Basil Rhodes was not present due to an automobile accident while on the way to the meeting.

Minutes of the February 8, 2005 Meeting: Archpriest Michael Senyo moved to dispense reading of the minutes of the February 8 meeting, seconded by Mary Caetta. All in favor. The minutes were accepted as written.

His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN reported that Bishop TIKHON was in Pennsylvania and would not be present at this DOW Council Meeting.

Chancellor's Report: His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN reported that traveling throughout the diocese was his major priority, but that his focus changed during Great and Holy Lent due to Archpriest Victor Sokolov's health. Priest David Lowell assisted with services. His Grace also reported that Archpriest Victor is doing much better, there is shrinkage of the tumors and chemotherapy has been stopped. His Grace further reported that he is spending more time in San Francisco and is staying at Raphael House. He is not at LGS very often and suggested that his apartment there could be used for administration purposes if necessary.

His Grace spoke on the following:

- Ordinations in the diocese
- Graduates from St. Vladimir's Seminary coming to the DOW
- Hesperia and Eureka parishes
- The need for a bi-lingual priest in Las Vegas
- Increase in Fair Share to \$104.00 per capita
- The growing debt of parishes (DOW & OCA Assessments)
- His concern over the lack of an administrative office and the files
- His living in two places and his thankfulness for the help he is given by Mary Caetta and Father Barnabus
- Life insurance for Father Barnabus (LGS has been paying since January)
- His desire that Fr. Barnabus moves to SF with His Grace
- Offer to host the next AAC in the DOW
- St. John's Monastery
- New St. Eugene's Committee – His Grace Bishop TIKHON has blessed a new committee to consist of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee and George Artemos.
- St. Spiridon 110th Anniversary
- St. Mary (Calhan) 100th Anniversary
- Retirement of Fr. Vadim Pogrebniak in December of 2006
- Staffing issues at LGS

His Grace expressed his thanks to Father Andrew at LGS and stated that it was time for Father Andrew to move on.

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Treasurer's Report:

Mary Caetta commented that the YTD is finally in the black (she did not pay the full fair share assessment before the 30th of the month and income from the Paschal Appeal). She noted that although there were fewer pledges this year, there are more donations.

Mary discussed the following:

➤ Accounts Receivable Summary

Hesperia is paying at a steady rate although still in the lead

Eureka is increasing. There has been no correspondence to the treasurer.

(Father Matthew Tate will visit the parish. Bishop BENJAMIN stated that the priest needs to communicate with the Bishop)

Tarzana is paying down their old debt

Lake Havasu is paying down their debt

His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN requested that Mary include the direction of the debt in the summary.

- St. Nicholas (Portland) had not submitted a financial report
- Updated mailing lists are needed from seven parishes

Dmitri Solodow questioned Mary for the need to have a motion authorizing Mary to continue paying the National Assessment when she receives it. Mary said she would prefer to have authority from the council. His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN suggested we leave things as they are for now. Discussion followed.

Fundraising is at 42%. Bishop BENJAMIN will distribute pledge cards and envelopes at his parish visitations.

Life Giving Spring:

Dmitri Solodow presented a detailed status report (attached). Dmitri commented that the diocese does not have a retreat culture which uses the retreat center and further stated that the Board of Directors does not recommend keeping LGS if it is not used by the diocese.

Discussion followed:

- Size of LGS and what it takes to run it
- The need to have someone on site to run LGS
- The diocese does not need to be in the business of running the retreat center
- Real Estate – losing LGS would be irresponsible at this time
- It is cost prohibitive for the Pacific Northwest Deanery to use LGS
- The need for a lay person to run LGS
- The need to have someone there who is experienced and is committed to making it work
- The need to find creative ways of using LGS to strengthen the diocese
- Possible DOW uses of LGS

Archpriest Ian MacKinnon motioned that the DOW Council recommend to the DOW Assembly that the DOW Assembly be held at LGS every other year. Dmitri Solodow seconded the motion. All in favor. Dmitri Solodow will prepare a presentation for the DOW Assembly

Metropolitan Council:

Archpriest Matthew Tate distributed reports and minutes from the April 18, 2005 Metropolitan Council Meeting and highlighted the following:

- Inclusion of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey with Washington
- Diocesan Council of New England has been blessed to go through the process of have a Diocesan Bishop
- The acceptance of Fair Share Proposal #1 to submit to the Holy Synod

Discussion followed.

It was suggested and agreed that the members of the Metropolitan Council from the DOW present a Fair Share Proposal to submit at the next Metropolitan Council Meeting.

Steiner Street Property:

Archpriest Ian MacKinnon submitted a proposal prepared by Andre Paez (purchase analysis attached).
The Steiner Street property offers the following: (3 floors plus a basement)

- Bishop Residence
- Office Space – files and archives
- Easy access
- Space to entertain visitors
- Chapel

Discussion followed.

The following motion was made by Archpriest Matthew Tate subject to the approval of His Grace, Bishop TIKHON:

That the Chancellor's Advisory Committee do a full due diligence on issues relating to the purchase of Steiner Street and if viable, authorize the committee to make an offer subject to the approval of the Diocesan Council. The motion was seconded by Dmitri Solodow. All in favor. The Chancellor's Advisory Committee to report at the next DOW Council meeting.

Mission Board:

Archpriest Matthew Tate moved that each of the stipends drop with the exception of Fr. Sergius in Hawaii and that the following be added: \$300. to Dn. Andrew Jacobs (Sonora); \$300. to Father Carlos (Phoenix) and \$300. to Father Lukashonic (Chico). The motion was seconded by Mary Caetta. All in favor. Father Matthew also requested that the \$6000. in moving expenses be used for the six priests coming into the Diocese. A motion was made that \$1000 from the Charity Board Discretionary fund be given to the Naumans in Hawaii, seconded by Dmitri Solodow. So moved.

Father Matthew reported that the mission in Tempe has 25 people, and the mission in Bend is doing well and growing. Four parishes have moved out of the Mission Deanery: Las Vegas, Phoenix, Albany and Corvallis. Future changes will be made in Chico, Eureka, Livermore, Fremont, Hesperia and Sonora.

All American Council:

Priest Peter Tobias will host a booth for our diocese. Banners and photos illustrating the life of the diocese are needed from the deans as well as help manning the booth. A power point presentation will also be made.

DOW Assembly (October 4 – 6, 2005):

Mary Caetta will draft a schedule.

Discussion of possible presentations followed:

- Speaker at banquet
- Power point presentation by His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN
- 10-15 minute presentations between sessions
- Introduction of new priests in the DOW
- Presentation by Fr. Jonah

All reports will be posted on the website for downloading.

Diocesan Development Fund (Mutual Loan):

Dmitri Solodow presented the following proposal which evolved through the collaborations of Dmitri Solodow, Mary Caetta and Peter Schwallenberg:

That the DOW establish a fund whereby parishes could contribute voluntarily and whereby the diocese could fund low interest loans to parishes in the DOW. All monies contributed by parishes would be returned to the parishes at call.

It was suggested that Andy Evans and Craig Norville (diocesan legal counsel) review the proposal.

Matushki Retreat:

The next Matushki Retreat is scheduled to be held at the LGS in February, 2006. Currently \$1000.00 is allocated to the retreat in the budget. Archpriest Ian MacKinnon motioned to increase the amount allocated to the Matushki Retreat to \$2000.00, and that LGS give a discount to the Matushki. The motion was seconded by ?.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Resolutions: Archpriest Joseph Hirsch discussed the resolutions he was asked to prepare at the February 8, 2005 meeting. The resolutions are attached to the minutes of this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Fort Ross: His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN will speak with Father Basil and Father Lawrence. He suggested that everyone bring their own lunch and water and that something be prepared for the clergy. Bob Evans is responsible for the choir and Johann Morse is responsible for obtaining the park permit.
2. Signature Cards: Archpriest Matthew Tate moved that the following people be on the cards, seconded by Dmitri Solodow:
 - a. His Grace, Bishop TIKHON
 - b. His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN
 - c. Mary Caetta (Treasurer)
 - d. Nadine Wood (Secretary)All in favor.
3. Clergy Retreat: His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN suggested that the clergy retreat be held during the post Paschal period next year.

The next meeting of the DOW Council will be held on October 4 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine M Wood

Nadine Wood,
Secretary