

**Diocesan Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 28, 2006**  
**Christ the Savior Church, San Francisco, CA**

The meeting opened at 10:30 A.M. with prayer.

**Diocesan Council Members Present:** His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN, Auxiliary Bishop and Chancellor; Nadine Wood, Secretary; Mary Caetta, Treasurer; Archpriests Joseph Hirsch and David Brum; Priests David Lowell, Lawrence Margitich, Anthony Karbo, and John Strickland; Johann Morse, Dmitri Solodow, Steve Knowlton, and Carole Shumaik.

**Deans Present:** Archpriests Bazyl Kalinowski, Basil Rhodes, and Lawrence Russell.

**Minutes of the October 2 and 4, 2006 Meetings** were accepted with no corrections.

**Report of the Administrator:** His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN spoke of the sudden death of Deacon Joseph Kerns who was killed in a car accident. His funeral will be held on Wednesday evening at Holy Resurrection Church in Tacoma, WA. He will be buried on Thursday. May his memory be eternal!

His Grace further spoke on the current period of adjustment in the DOW. His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN as locum tenens of the diocese has officially declared the DOW vacant and nomination process slated for January 31, 2007. A special diocesan assembly will be held at St. Paul Church in Las Vegas following the Mission Deanery Retreat. His Grace, Bishop SERAPHIM will preside over the nomination process. His Grace expressed his thankfulness to God for Bishop TIKHON'S work in the DOW and requested our continued prayers for His Grace, Bishop TIKHON during this period of adjustment.

His Grace thanked everyone for a successful Diocesan Assembly and expressed his anticipation of a productive and exciting year. He defined the role of the diocesan council "canonically, is to give council to the bishop", and requested the members of the council to "help drive this bus". His Grace referred to Mary Caetta as a prime example of how God provides, and expressed his gratefulness for her tireless service to the DOW.

His Grace reported that "as Chancellor and Auxiliary Bishop, I always considered my visits to the parishes the best and, perhaps, most important part of my ministry. I hope and pray this will continue as it is a source of strength and comfort to me personally." Since the last meeting of the diocesan assembly, His Grace has visited:

- St. Innocent Mission – Livermore
- Nativity of the Theotokos – Menlo Park
- St. John Monastery
- St. John the Baptist, Berkeley – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- St. Paul – Las Vegas
- St. Innocent – Tarzana
- Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral – Los Angeles

His Grace further reported that he has visited St. Vladimir's Seminary in Crestwood, NY and interviewed several students for possible assignment to our diocese.

His Grace also attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for His Grace, Bishop NIKOLAI in Anchorage, the IOCC Banquet in San Francisco, CA, and the OCMC Conference in San Diego, CA.

With the blessing of His Beatitude, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS, Hiermonk Innocent will be servicing Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church in Menlo Park, CA until the end of May, 2007.

Pending the approval of His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN, the following appointments were made:

- Archpriest Ian MacKinnon – Chancellor/Economos
- Priest Michael Anderson – Youth
- Priest Lawrence Margitich – Liturgical Music
- Archpriest Lawrence Russell – Charities
- Priest Anthony Karbo – Education
- Priest Peter Tobias – Communications

The following changes are being made to the Communications Department:

The publication of the *Vision* is moving to San Francisco. Father Isaac Skidemore will remain editor, but production and layout will be in SF.

In conclusion, His Grace thanked Father David Lowell and Raphael House for providing “a place to hang my klobuk in SFO” and for providing personal support and human contact. His Grace also thanked the LGS Board for providing a room and office space in Boulder City.

Discussion followed. Mary Caetta asked about the legal address of the DOW...the new legal address of the DOW will be Holy Trinity Cathedral, 1520 Green Street, San Francisco, CA. 94123.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Mary Caetta reported that she is still in the process of moving into her new home and is working on reimbursements from the Diocesan Assembly. She further reported that the November Treasurer’s Report is not yet complete as is the transition from United Bank of California to Washington Mutual. Mary suggested moving the “excess” funds from the checking account to a CD.

- Mission Board Stipends: **Dmitri Solodow moved to accept the Monthly Stipend Recommendation for Mission Priests (attached), seconded by Johann Morse. All in favor, so moved.**
- Authorization of Housing Allowance: **Mary Caetta moved that the Secretary submit Housing Allowance Designation Resolutions for Bishop BENJAMIN (\$12000.00); Archpriest Matthew Tate (\$18000.00); and Priest Peter Henry (\$2400.00)...(resolutions attached), seconded by Dmitri Solodow. All in favor, so moved.**

Discussion followed on the following:

Pension fund

Line item 114 in 2007 budget: **Mary Caetta moved that should the need arise, the mission board has the ability to use some of the money for travel, etc. as necessary, seconded by Archpriest David Brum. All in favor, so moved.**

Combining restricted funds: **Nadine Wood moved that Mary Caetta be authorized to combine the funds in the Monastic Deanery Reserve and the Monastic Medical Fund, seconded by Carole Shumaik. All in favor, so moved.**

Audit Committee:

Andre Paez

Steve Ahrens and Hennok Soot will be asked.

**Old Business:**

**Steiner Street:** Discussion of the purchase of the Steiner Street property took place. **Mary Caetta moved to propose at the Special Diocesan Assembly to authorize the Diocesan Council to investigate and authorize the purchase of the Steiner Street property on its behalf. Dmitri Solodow seconded the motion. All in favor, so moved.**

**LGS:** The status of the property tax issue was given (email attached) Discussion followed. **Dmitri Solodow moved that if we need to pay taxes to prevent the auction or sale of the property by the middle of December, we should request reimbursement from the law firm of Jones Vargas. Carole Shumaik seconded the motion. All in favor, so moved.**

**Priest Lawrence Margitich moved that if necessary, we borrow the money from the Home of Mercy. Priest Anthony Karbo seconded the motion. All in favor, so moved.**

**New Business:**

**Point Reyes:** Discussion of the present condition and status of the property took place. **Johann Morse moved to propose at the Special Diocesan Assembly to authorize the Diocesan Council to investigate and authorize the sale of the Point Reyes property on its behalf. Dmitri Solodow seconded the motion. All in favor, so moved.** Bishop BENJAMIN and Johann Morse will speak to the families who donated time and money to improving the property prior to presenting the motion to the Special Diocesan Assembly.

**Charities:** This year the focus will be on Ethiopia, Raphael House and Martha & Mary House. Discussion followed. Priest Anthony Karbo will work with Archpriest Lawrence Russell to plan a diocesan work group to Ethiopia. They will prepare a presentation for clergy to take to their parishes at the Special Diocesan Assembly.

**Special Diocesan Assembly:** His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN will send His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN a proposed agenda. The information will be sent to Mary by the end of December.

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council will be held on Wednesday, January 31 following the Special Diocesan Assembly at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Las Vegas.

The meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine Wood,  
Secretary

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Action Item: His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN and Johann Morse to contact the families who donated time and money to improving the property prior to presenting the motion to the Special Diocesan Assembly**

**MOTION: Dmitri Solodow moved to accept the Monthly Stipend Recommendation for Mission Priests (attached), seconded by Johann Morse. PASSED**

**MOTION: Mary Caetta moved that the Secretary submit Housing Allowance Designation Resolutions for Bishop BENJAMIN (\$12000.00); Archpriest Matthew Tate (\$18000.00); and Priest Peter Henry (\$2400.00)...(resolutions attached), seconded by Dmitri Solodow. PASSED**

**MOTION: Mary Caetta moved that should the need arise, the mission board has the ability to use some of the money for travel, etc. as necessary, seconded by Archpriest David Brum. PASSED**

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**MOTION: Priest Lawrence Margitich moved that if necessary, we borrow the money from the Home of Mercy. Priest Anthony Karbo seconded the motion. PASSED**

**MOTION: Johann Morse moved to propose at the Special Diocesan Assembly to authorize the Diocesan Council to investigate and authorize the sale of the Point Reyes property on its behalf. Dmitri Solodow seconded the motion.**

**Housing Allowance Designation  
Priest Peter Henry**

The following resolution was duly adopted by the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West at their meeting held on November 28, 2006

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, Priest Peter Henry is compensated by The Diocese of the West exclusively for services as a “minister”; and

Whereas, The Diocese of the West does not provide Father Peter Henry with a parsonage;

therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that the total compensation paid to Priest Peter Henry for the calendar year 2007 shall be \$2,400, of which the entire amount is designated as a housing allowance.

**Housing Allowance Designation  
Archpriest Matthew Tate**

The following resolution was duly adopted by the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West at their meeting held on November 28, 2006

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 Father Matthew Tate with a parsonage;

therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that the total compensation paid to Archpriest Matthew Tate for the calendar year 2007 shall be \$1,800, of which the entire amount is designated as a housing allowance.

**Housing Allowance Designation**  
**The Right Reverend BENJAMIN (Peterson), Bishop of Berkeley**

The following resolution was duly adopted by the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West at their meeting held on November 28, 2006

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 Bishop BENJAMIN (Peterson) with a parsonage; therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that the total compensation paid to The Right Reverend BENJAMIN (Peterson) for the calendar year 2007 shall be \$12,000, of which the entire amount is designated as a housing allowance.