

Diocesan Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 6, 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 TIKHON, His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN, Auxiliary Bishop and Chancellor; Archpriest Ian McKinnon, Vice-Chancellor; Nadine Wood, Secretary; Mary Caetta, Treasurer; Archpriests Joseph Hirsch and Matthew Tate; Priests David Lowell, Lawrence Margitich and John Strickland; Johann Morse, Dmitri Solodow, Steve Knowlton, and Carole Shumaik.

Deans Present: Archpriests Bazyl Kalinowski, John Pierce, Basil Rhodes, Lawrence Russell, and Matthew Tate.

Guests: Dorothy Nowik, Metropolitan Council, Peter Schwalbenberg

Minutes of the March 21, 2006 Meeting:

At the request of His Grace, Bishop TIKOHN, the Minutes of the March 21, 2006 Diocesan Council were read by the Secretary. The following corrections were noted:

- Page 1: "That no delegates from the DOW parishes attend the next AAC" should read, "That no lay delegates..."
- Page 2: Charities Motion: Archpriest Lawrence Russell "used"... should read , Archpriest Lawrence Russell "moved"...
- Page 3: Framework for Growth: "Dmitri reported he plans..." should read, "Dmitri reported the council needs..."

His Grace, Bishop TIKHON'S Remarks: His Grace opened his remarks with the request for questions from the members of the Council. His Grace informed the members of the Council of his decision to retire in November of 2006. His Grace spoke on the following:

- Meeting of the Lesser Synod in February of 2006 wherein His Grace, Bishop SERAPHIM was directed to write a letter to His Grace, Bishop TIKHON asking him to retire immediately.
- The treasurer of the Diocese sent a check for the assessments held in escrow to the National Church
- His disagreement with the Metropolitan Council's approval of proceeding with the loan (questions were mailed to the Metropolitan Council members prior to their meeting. The questions were not answered prior to voting).
- Dn. Eric Wheeler's accusations
- Candidates for the Episcopacy
- Release of the audit report and the possibilities of future audits of Stavropegial Institutions
- Surveillance tapes at St. Catherine's Church in Moscow
- Protopresbyter Rodion Kondratich's dismissal as Chancellor of the OCA
- OCA Pension Fund
- Alaska land sales

His Grace was asked about his work on the revisions of the Statutes of the OCA. His Grace stated that he hoped to finish before his retirement.

His Grace was asked if he had any sense of timing of the public release of the audit report. His Grace stated that he expected the auditors would continue until they find something. Discussion of possible audits of Stavropegial Institutions took place.

His Grace was asked if our Church was involved in the discussions with the Patriarchate and the Church Outside of Russia. His Grace stated that the OCA has nothing to contribute to the discussions.

His Grace opined that the Central Administration should exist for the service of the Diocesan Bishops and their diocese.

His Grace reported the following Synodal Awards for clergy in the Diocese of the West:

Protodeacon:

George Haloulakos

Archpriest:

Priests Anthony Karbo, Daniel Jones, Nicholas Letten, Stephen Soot and Thomas Renfree

Palitza:

Archpriests Lawrence Russell, and Michael Senyo

Chancellor's Report: (Written report attached). In answer to the question about the *Vision* being online, His Grace reported that he and Father Peter Tobias are continuing discussions. His Grace further reported that he will contact clergy who do not have photos in either the DOW or the OCA website. He also reported that Mission Stations will be listed on the OCA website.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Caetta expressed her concern that she has not received payment or contact from HVM Cathedral, nor has she received an annual report. His Grace, Bishop TIKHON reported that he spoke to the treasurer and followed up with an email. His Grace will speak to the treasurer again. Mary reported that she received negative feedback from the appeals. She opined that mailings don't work and that the resurrection of the perception committee is needed. Mary suggested that the next appeals letter should include diocesan funds information (budgetary information) and should clarify the financial practices of the DOW. His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN suggested that the letter be created by the Chancellor's Advisory Committee. Discussion followed. Mary confirmed her move to Port Townsend, WA and expressed her concern that Union Bank of California (checking account) does not have a local branch in Washington. She further reported that St. Eugene's fund is currently in Bank of America. Discussion followed. Mary suggested that the accounts be moved to Washington Mutual Bank as they have a branch in Port Townsend. Archpriest Matthew Tate suggested the accounts be moved to Bank of the West as they are Church friendly and are also local. Mary will check both banks. **The following Resolutions proposed by Mary Caetta were moved by Archpriest Joseph Hirsch and seconded by Archpriest Matthew Tate. PASSED.**

Be it resolved that, on this date, the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West, authorizes the Diocesan Treasurer, Mary Caetta, to open an account for the Diocese of the West at a local branch of Bank of the West. The St. Eugene Hermitage funds currently on deposit at the Bank of America shall be transferred into this account.

This account shall have the following signers:

Bishop TIKHON
Bishop BENJAMIN
Mary Caetta
Archpriest Ian MacKinnon

Be it resolved that, on this date, the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the West, authorizes the Diocesan Treasurer, Mary Caetta, to open an account for the Diocese of the West at a local branch of Washington Mutual Bank. The St. Eugene Hermitage funds currently on deposit at the Bank of America shall be transferred into this account.

This account shall have the following signers:

Bishop TIKHON
Bishop BENJAMIN
Mary Caetta
Archpriest Ian MacKinnon

His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN presented Dmitri Solodow with an icon of the Theotokos, the Life Giving Spring from the members of the Board of Life Giving Spring.

Mary Caetta distributed an Accounting Procedures Manual to members of the council and moved that the manual be accepted to be reviewed by the Audit Committee. Dmitri Solodow seconded the motion. PASSED. Discussion of the fiduciary responsibility of the council took place.

Deanery Reports: Nothing new to report.

Archpriest John Pierce asked Mary if she received a report from St. Nicholas Church. She reported that she had not.

Archpriest Matthew Tate submitted the following resolution, moved by Dmitri Solodow and seconded by Priest David Lowell. PASSED:

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 balance of calendar year 2006 shall be \$1,800, of which the entire amount is designated as a housing allowance.

Archpriest Matthew Tate suggested the 2007 budget include the provision for vacations for mission clergy.

Diocesan Assembly 2006: The Assembly will be held October 2, 3 & 4, 2006 in Las Vegas, NV. Rooms will be available at LGS and area hotels. Participants will be responsible for making their own reservations. Further information will be made available at the next council meeting.

Life Giving Spring: Our attorneys are still working on the tax situation. Documents have been submitted to the County. Katherine Short, a parishioner at St. Paul in Las Vegas has been appointed Director of LGS.

Home of Mercy: No report.

Steiner Street: Dmitri Solodow moved to authorize the inspection of the property, seconded by Johann Morse. PASSED. Further developments will be discussed at the next council meeting.

July Fourth: Priest Lawrence Margitich will be responsible for the music. BYO picnic baskets.

Charities: Archpriest Lawrence Russell reported that \$2000. was received for the Gobezie House in Ethiopia. He further reported that the home would be receiving 22 more destitute elderly this month and

that they are also receiving children. His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN asked Father Lawrence to contact parishes requesting they send in the money they collected. His Grace said he would obtain a report from Father Alexander about the Children's Hospice in St. Petersburg.

New Business:

His Grace, Bishop TIKHON appointed the following council members to serve on the Nominating Committee:

Archpriest Matthew Tate, Archpriest Lawrence Russell and Carol Shumaik

His Grace, Bishop TIKHON appointed the following council members to serve on the Budget Committee:

Archpriest Matthew Tate, Priest David Lowell, Mary Caetta and Dmitri Solodow

St. Eugene Hermitage: His Grace, Bishop TIKHON read a letter from Father Jonah. Discussion followed. His Grace, Bishop TIKHON requested His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN request Father Jonah write a letter to His Grace, Bishop TIKHON informing him that Father Jonah fully understands his responsibility to the to St. John's Monastery at Point Reyes Station.

Framework for Growth: A presentation was made by Dmitri Solodow, focusing on ways to increase the income of the diocese, determining the strengths and weaknesses of the diocese, determining how we see the future and what we can do in 2007 to move us towards that future. Priest David Lowell spoke about fund raising efforts and the need for confidence within the diocese of the future especially because of His Grace, Bishop TIKHON's retirement in November and the unease in the OCA. Discussion followed. His Grace, Bishop TIKHON informed the council that a bishop cannot name his successor and that after his retirement, Metropolitan HERMAN could chose a temporary administrator of the diocese, declare the diocese vacant, and have an election in three months. His Grace, Bishop TIKHON agreed that for fund raising efforts, expressing the desire that His Grace, Bishop BENJAMIN would remain in the DOW as the next ruling bishop would be acceptable. Further discussion followed. It was agreed that Dmitri would prepare a presentation for the Diocesan Assembly to be reviewed at the next Diocesan Council meeting.

His Grace Bishop TIKHON reiterated that the purpose of the Church is charity and we need to find a way to implement charity. He further stated that the mission of the Church is to teach charity.

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council will be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2006 at 10:30 A.M. at Christ the Savior Church, Anza Street, San Francisco.

The meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nadine Wood,
Secretary

ACTION ITEMS:

Action Item: Chancellor's Advisory Committee to write the next appeals letter

Action Item: Mary Caetta to open an account for the DOW at a local branch of either Washington Mutual Bank or Bank of the West (Resolutions attached)

Action Item: His Grace Bishop BENJAMIN to request Father Jonah write a letter to His Grace, Bishop TIKHON re: St. John's Monastery.

Action Item: Dmitri Solodow to prepare a presentation on Framework for Growth for the Diocesan Assembly to be reviewed at the next Diocesan Council meeting.

MOTION: Mary Caetta moved that the Accounting Procedures Manual be accepted to be reviewed by the Audit Committed, seconded by Dmitri Solodow. PASSED

MOTION: Archpriest Joseph Hirsch moved to accept the Resolutions made by Mary Caetta for opening a bank account at a local branch of either Washington Mutual Bank or Bank of the West (Resolutions attached), seconded by Archpriest Matthew Tate. PASSED

MOTION: Dmitri Solodow moved to authorize the inspection of the Steiner Street property, seconded by Johann Morse. PASSED

MOTION: Dmitri Solodow moved to accept the Resolution submitted by Archpriest Matthew Tate (attached), seconded by Priest David Lowell. PASSED