

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MINUTES

DIOCESE OF THE WEST

December 30, 2024

With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop BENJAMIN, **Diocesan Chancellor Archpriest Kirill Sokolov** convened a meeting of the Diocesan Council on Zoom with an opening prayer at 1:01pm on Monday, December 20, 2024

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT: Archpriest Kirill Sokolov, Archpriest Matthew Tate, Archpriest Stephen Soot, Archpriest Lawrence Margitich, Archpriest Michael Anderson, Archpriest Andrew Cuneo, Archpriest David Morrison, Priest Andrew Smith, Priest Edward Henderson, Priest Daniel Lattier, Priest Peter Runyon, Matushka Theodora Blom, Matushka Elizabeth Powell, David Lane, Dorothy Nowik, Catherine Mabus, Katie Huff, Maha Adranly. **Observer:** Archpriest David Lowell

Chancellor comments: Archpriest Kirill Sokolov provided the council with a few pastoral updates:

January 1 – retirement of Archpriest Matthew Tate

New Business:

Proposal of the finance committee related to the compensation for the personal aide of His Eminence, Archbishop Benjamin.

Fr. Kirill updated the council on the results of the finance committee's meeting

Dorothy Nowik reported that the committee (Chancellor Archpriest Kirill Sokolov, Matushka Theodora Blom, and Dorothy Nowik), along with legal counsel David Lane, had drafted a letter of agreement to be signed by Sdn. Leonid Bulannikov and Archbishop Benjamin.

MOTION: Dorothy Nowik moved to accept the agreement stipulated in the letter drafted to Sdn. Leonid Bulannikov (*full text attached*).

DISCUSSION

Priest Edward Henderson asked if Sdn. Leo was satisfied with this new motion. Fr. Kirill and Dorothy corroborated that both Sdn. Leo and the Archbishop were happy with it.

Archpriest Lawrence Margitich asked if there was a job description of what Sdn. Leo does. David Lane said that in the actual agreement, there are duties stipulated, and Dorothy read the pertinent sentence aloud.

Motion called to question

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Additional Comments:

Fr. Kirill relayed information from Mka. Theodora that the Diocese has received over 1 million dollars in remittances in 2024, which is 55,000 dollars over budget.

Potential consecration/enthronement dates: His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON could accommodate August 16, 2025 as previously discussed. It was also reported that at this point, His Beatitude reiterated that Priest Vitaly Permiakov is the only candidate vetted for episcopal service in the Diocese of the West. The two previously submitted candidates were reported as unavailable.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 PM with prayer.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Priest Andrew Smith".

Priest Andrew Smith, Diocesan Council Secretary