

**Diocese of Sitka & Alaska**  
**2016 Diocesan Assembly Minutes**

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
St. Innocent Orthodox Cathedral  
Anchorage, Alaska

**I. Opening**

Opening of Diocesan Assembly by His Grace, Bishop David with prayer, “O Heavenly King” @11:00am

**II. Credential Report: (Archived as Item 1)**

	<i>Registered:</i>	<i>In Attendance:</i>
<i>Hierarchs:</i>	1	1
<i>Clergy Delegates:</i>	36	36
<i>Lay Delegates:</i>	19	19
<i>Observers:</i>	14	14
<i>Retired Clergy:</i>	0	0
<i>Guests:</i>	N/A	5
<i>Totals:</i>	70	75

**III. Introduction of Guests**

His Grace announced the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska guests, Board President Mr. John Della Monica and Secretary Linda Coshell of OCCIF, Treasurer Dorothy Gray of ROSSIA, Floyd Frantz and Fr. Andrew Harrison representing the St. Dimitrie Addictions Counseling Program

IV. **Approval of Agenda** (Archived as Item 2)

Rdr. Andrew Ebona made the motion to accept the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Fr. David Rucker, and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

V. **Approval of Minutes from the 2015 Diocesan Assembly**  
(Archived as Item 3)

Fr. Joseph Larson made the motion to accept the Minutes of the 2015 Diocesan Assembly as presented. The motion was seconded by Fr. Maxim Isaac, and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

VI. **Address of the Right Reverend DAVID, Bishop of Sitka and Alaska** (Address archived as Item 4)

His Grace made the point that we, as the Assembly, are representatives of “the entirety of the Parishes, Villages and Deaneries in this vast state of Alaska.” He spoke of how Christ expected us to treat others as we would treat Him. He then went on to recall how when he first arrived, that he “saw a great deal of potential, but very little actual ability” to accomplish what had been left unfinished for many reasons. He went on to list several blessings bestowed on the Diocese by Our Lord. His Grace reminded the Assembly that “we not only have a rich heritage to honor and emulate, we have a task and a duty to continue to add to this legacy in deed and works” and that “we, too, need ourselves, to act in concert with them (outside sources) to build up our Diocese.” He

concluded by saying, “Today, in council, we will work and act together,” and added that we should look to the early Missionaries as both “a legacy and model of for what can be done, when we heed the word of God and love one another as God has loved us.”

VII. **Metropolitan Council, Chancellor’s, Deanery, and Institutional Reports** (reports archived as Items 5 through 20)

*Chancellor’s*

Fr. Thomas Andrew, returning from a personal leave, read his Chancellor’s report and reiterated the importance of serving by love. (Report archived as Item 10)

*Yukon Deanery*

Fr. Stephan Heckman, Dean of the Yukon Deanery asked that the Yukon Deanery be kept in prayer, as Fr. Peter Askoar, Fr. John Larson, and Fr. Nicholai Isaac have medical issues. (Report archived as Item 20)

*Metropolitan Council*

Fr. John Dunlop spoke on behalf of the Metropolitan Council, announcing the location for the 2018 All American Council to be held in St. Louis, MO.

His Grace expressed the importance of the Diocese’s attendance at the AAC.

(Met-C Report is archived as Item 5)

### *St. Herman Theological Seminary*

Fr. John Dunlop announced that St. Herman Theological Seminary is now offering Reader's courses online as part of his SHS Institutional Report.

Fr. David Rucker spoke of he and Matushka Rozanne's two years in Kodiak at the Seminary. He continued with the back story of how they came to be in Alaska through the OCMC. Fr. David then spoke of the SHS's revival of the graduated program of studies being offered, and the Catechesis of the Good Shephard program being taught to catechists to be used in church school ministry. (SHS Report is archived as Item 7)

### *Outreach Alaska*

His Grace expressed appreciation for Outreach Alaska and the work of Mary Ann Khoury, to round out highlights from the institutional reports. (OA Report is archived as Item 8)

## ***VIII. Financial Reports (all archived as Item 21)***

### *P& L Statement*

Matushka Diane Chris presented the financial reports, beginning with the Profit and Loss. She explained that the reports now had a new format, as they are produced by a CPA. It was stated that \$193,594.18 was unrestricted funds, and from this amount a tithe was submitted to the OCA. She also informed the Assembly that we would be switching insurance carriers to accommodate the Diocese's needs.

Rdr. Andrew Ebona made the motion to accept the P& L as presented. Fr. Innocent seconded the motion, and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

*Balance Sheet and 2017 Proposed Budget*

Matushka Diane Chris presented the Balance Sheet and Proposed 2017 Budget. On the Balance Sheet, she explained the line item: FNBA Property Management as a line item placed under the Diocese's finances during previous administration for funding the St. Innocent Cathedral Bell Tower Project. This line item was no longer needed, but that it is recommended by the Diocesan Council that the funds be released to a designated account held by St. Innocent Cathedral. She went on to say that it is also time to close out the line item: FNBA Museum, moving those remaining monies to the General Fund.

Matushka Diane Chris then moved on to the Proposed Budget, going over line items, and proposing the recommendation of the Diocesan Council to include a 2% cost-of-living salary increase for His Grace to offset rising health insurance costs.

Rdr. Andrew Ebona made the motion to accept the Balance sheet and to Adopt the Proposed 2017 Budget, including the transfer of funds from the line item FNBA Property Management to St. Innocent Cathedral, the closing of the line item FNBA Museum by moving remaining funds to the General Fund, and including a 2% cost-of-living salary increase for His Grace, Bishop David. Fr. Michael Oleksa seconded the motion, and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

*Matushka Diane Recognized*

His Grace spoke of his appreciation for the hard work and honesty exhibited by Matushka Diane Chris and announced that 2017 would be her last year as Diocesan treasurer.

***IX. Guest Presentations***

*FOCA*

A video greeting from Marge Kovach, president of FOCA was played. She spoke of continued efforts to raise funds for the Yupik Language Orthodox Activity Books.

*OCCIF*

John Della Monica of OCCIF presented his company as a way of financing parish building projects- including new build, repairs, remodels, and additions without having to go through conventional financial institutions. He presented testimonials through a video presentation. (handout archived as Item 22)

*ROSSIA*

Dorothy Gray of ROSSIA presented the continued efforts taking place in Kenai at the Holy Assumption of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church, one of only forty-nine landmarks in Alaska with the designation of National Historic Property. The fire suppression system is 95% complete at this point. She also presented the progress as a PowerPoint Presentation.

### *St. Dimitrie Program*

Floyd Frantz and Fr. Andrew Harrison presented the St. Dimitrie Addictions Counseling Program to the Assembly by way of video and oral presentations. Floyd Frantz explained that he would be meeting with the seminarians at St. Herman's through the following week and returning to Anchorage for about a week to do further study into creating a model for the approach used by the St. Dimitrie Program. Fr. Andrew Harrison continued the presentation by explaining his connection as both a supporter and as a member of the Orthodox Clergy. Handouts for previous day archived as Item 23)

### *St. Innocent Wellness Resource Center*

Lois Sholl then briefly presented the St. Innocent Wellness Resource Center and its progress throughout the 2016 year. She reiterated that SIWRC is an outreach of the Diocese of Alaska and is to serve as a resource for our clergy in assisting their parishioners, and its intent is to support the wellbeing of all Alaskans. (PowerPoint Archived as Item 24)

## X. **New Business**

### *2016 Bylaws (Unsigned copy archived as Item 24-FYI only)*

His Grace presented the Bylaws of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska, Orthodox Church in America, Inc. (Diocese of Alaska). The copy of the bylaws we have were dated from 2007, adopted, but unsigned. They were first reviewed by the Diocesan Council for corrections to name, and to bring them up-to-date with the bylaws of the OCA. They were then reviewed by the attorney retained by the Diocese of Alaska,

returning no issues. The bylaws would include Article XI which gives provision for gaming. A clarification was made by His Grace on what would be acceptable- approval must be given by the Chancery, Best Practices applied, and will not take place during Great Lent. A question was raised by Igumen Ioasaph (Tucker) as to whether the article on gaming had existed before. Matushka Anna Andrew has a previous (prior to 2007) signed copy of the bylaws containing the gaming provision.

Fr. Michael Oleksa made the motion to accept the Bylaws with Article XI. The motion was seconded by Fr. Christopher Stanton, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### *Diocesan Council Elections*

Nominations were made to fill the following positions on the Diocesan Council: one current Clergy position (exp. 2017), one clergy position (exp. 2019), and one lay delegate position (exp. 2019).

Nominated to fill the clergy position, exp. 2017: Fr. Nicholai Larson. Fr. Nicholai affirmed acceptance.

Fr. Pdn. Prokopy Kapatak made the motion to close the nomination and Rdr. Andrew Ebona seconded the motion.

Nominated to fill the clergy position, exp. 2019: Fr. Daniel Charles, who affirmed his acceptance; Fr. Michael Trefon, Jr., also accepted; and Fr. Ishmael Andrew, also accepted.

Fr. John Kudrin made the motion to close the nomination and Fr. Pdn. Prokopy Kapatak seconded the motion.

Election made by popular vote of the Assembly: Fr. Michael Trefon, Jr. elected.

Nominated to fill the lay delegate position, exp. 2019: Sdn. Patrick Pletnikoff. Sdn. Patrick Pletnikoff affirmed acceptance.

Fr. Michael Oleksa made the motion to close the nomination, and Fr. John Kudrin seconded the motion.

### *Kolb Family*

His Grace asked the Assembly members to consider financial support of the family of Timothy Kolb, a member of the Diocese of Alaska now attending St. Tikhon Seminary. Checks can be made out to St. Juvenaly Mission and earmarked for the Kolb family. See Fr. Mikel Bock for details.

### *Update on the Glorification of Matushka Olga Michael*

His Grace gave a brief update on the progress to canonize Matushka Olga Michael as a saint- it is still ongoing and more stories and personal experience accounts need to be collected.

## *XI. Adjournment*

Fr. Peter Chris made the motion to adjourn the 2016 Diocesan Assembly. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Seraphima Hunter, and carried by unanimous vote.

The 2016 Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska was closed at 3:58 pm with His Grace, Bishop David leading the Assembly by the prayer, “It is Truly Meet...” and giving his Archpastoral Blessing.

Respectfully Submitted by;

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Pamela DiLullo; Secretary.

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His Grace the Right Reverend David,  
Bishop of Sitka & Alaska.