

Diocese of the South Assembly

20 July 2015

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by V.Rev. Fr. Marcus Burch, Chancellor.

Members present:

Metropolitan TIKHON, *Locum tenens*
Archimandrite Gerasim, *Administrator*
V.Rev. Fr. Marcus Burch, *Chancellor*
Mr Milos Konjevich, *Treasurer*
Hon. E. Ray Lanier

Approval of agenda:

- Motion: Fr. Stephen Freeman moved to approve the previously distributed assembly agenda. Chris Herbert seconded.
- Vote: Motion carried unanimously.
- Resolved: Agenda approved as proposed without modification.

Business:

Proposed presidium for the plenary sessions.

- Metropolitan Tikhon – President;
- Archimandrite Gerasim – Vice-President
- Archpriest Marcus C Burch and Judge Ray Lanier – Clergy and Lay Vice-Chairs
- Priest Christopher Foley, Priest Nikolay Miletkov, and Priest Jason Foster– Credentials
- Archpriest Basil Zebrun and Priest Joseph Lucas – Secretariat
- Priest Nicholas Roth, Gary Popovich, Fr Daniel Hickman – Tellers

His Beatitude Metropolitan TIKHON gave opening remarks, touching on his role as *locum tenens* for the Diocese of the South, the episcopal nomination of Archimandrite Gerasim, and the impressive growth of the diocese. He also discussed the statute revision process, and answered questions on the episcopal nomination, the OCA's stance on marriage in light of the recent Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges, and the difference between the current statute and the proposed revisions to the statute. Judge Ray Lanier and Fr. Alexander Rentel also responded to questions about the proposed revisions.

Archimandrite Gerasim gave opening remarks, detailing how he has been fulfilling his new role as administrator of the Diocese of the South. He discussed how he has been learning about diocesan activities, as well as traveling to visit parishes and monasteries across the diocese. He pointed to the diocese's growth, and pointed out areas that need our attention, especially in clergy formation, supporting our seminarians, expanding our web presence, and implementing the sexual misconduct policies mandated by the Holy Synod.

Motion from Fr. Ernesto Rios to approve the minutes from the 2014 Assembly held in Dallas, TX. Fr. Dmitri Cosby seconded. Motion carried unanimously; minutes approved without modification.

Motion from Fr. Philip Reese to approve the minutes from the 2015 Special Assembly held in Miami, FL. Fr. Stephen Freeman seconded. Motion carried unanimously; minutes approved without modification.

2014 Reports: *(As these reports are posted on dosoca.org, they will not be summarized.)*

Chancellor's Report: V.Rev. Fr. Marcus Burch gave the chancellor's report, discussing the episcopal nomination and the history of bishops overseeing the Diocese of the South. He championed the deanery development reserve, as well as the establishment of Mississippi River Deanery.

Deanery Reports:

Appalachian Deanery: Fr. David Arnold

Atlanta Deanery: Fr. Alexander Fecanin

Carolinas Deanery: Fr. Thomas Moore

Central Florida Deanery: Fr. Ted Pisarchuk

Dallas Deanery: Fr. Basil Zebrun

Mississippi River Deanery: Fr. Jason Foster

South Florida Deanery: Fr. Philip Reese

Monastery Reports:

Saints Mary and Martha Monastery: Mother Thekla

Metropolitan Council Report: Fr. Gleb McFatter

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Milos Konjevich

2016 Diocese of the South Proposed Budget:

Motion from Fr. Christopher Foley to accept the proposed budget. Fr. John Cox seconded. Motion carried unanimously; budget approved without modification.

Episcopal Election Update:

This had been covered in the opening remarks from Metropolitan TIKHON, Archimandrite Gerasim, and V.Rev. Fr. Marcus Burch.

Diocesan Elections:

DOS Metropolitan Council

- Laity candidate
 - Fr. Gleb Mc Fatter nominated Angela Parks.
 - Motion from Fr. Dmitri Cosby for the election of Angela Parks as the laity delegate to the Metropolitan Council. James Gordon seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- Clergy candidate
 - Fr. John Parker nominated Fr. Joseph Lucas.

- Motion from Fr. Dmitri Cosby for the election of Fr. Joseph Lucas as the clergy delegate to the Metropolitan Council. Fr. Philip Reese seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DOS Diocesan Council and DOS Audit Committee

Motion from Fr. Justin Patterson for the currently serving members of the DOS Diocesan Council and the DOS Audit Committee to continue serving in their positions until they are replaced. Hieromonk John Anderson seconded. It is announced that the *locum tenens* will appoint someone to fill the position for the newly established Mississippi River Deanery. Motion carries unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings and Assemblies:

Episcopal Consecration/Reinterment: No definitive date as of this assembly.

2016 Pastoral Conference

- Week of February 9 – 12, 2016
- St. Symeon Church, Birmingham, AL

2016 Diocesan Assembly

- Week of July 25 – 29, 2016 is a strong possibility
- Location TBD, possibly St James' in Port St Lucie

Motion from Fr. Antonio Perdomo to adjourn. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m. by singing “Truly Meet.”