



**19th Triennial Church Assembly—Sabor
Of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the U.S.A. & Canada
August 9-11, 2006 – Detroit, Michigan**

DECISIONS

CA-01 Opening of Assembly and first keynote address

On behalf of the Assembly Presidium, Metropolitan Christopher, Bishop Georgije, Bishop Longin, Bishop Mitrophan, the Assembly was officially opened by His Eminence, Metropolitan Christopher, host bishop. The keynote address given by His Eminence, Metropolitan Isaiah of the Diocese of Denver—Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. His Eminence spoke on the theme of this Assembly, ***“Jesus Christ is the Same Yesterday, Today and Yes, Forever! (Hebrews 13:8) The Church and the Future.***

CA-02 Election of Sabor Secretaries

The Assembly elected the following secretaries for the Sabor: Fr. Nedeljko Lunich, Fr. Rodney Torbic, Dn. Djurica Gordic.

CA-03 Appointment of the Committee for Sabor Resolution

Fr. Rade Merrick, Fr. Rastko Trbuhovich, Fr. Velimir Petakovich, Fr. Dragoljub Popovich, Fr. Dragan Veleusic, Dr. Branimir Simic Glavaski, and Davor Milicevic were elected to serve on the Sabor Committee for Resolutions.

CA-04 The Agenda

The Assembly adopted the agenda as presented.

CA-05 Credentials Report

The Report of the Credentials Committee was as follows:

There were a total of 180 delegates represented at the Sabor, which included: 1 Metropolitan (who also as Dean represented the School of Theology) 4 Bishops, 64 Priests (including 1 Abbott) 7 Deacons, 6 KSS representatives, 38 Congregation Presidents, 41 Elected delegates, 6 Diocesan Council members, 5 Central Council members.

CA-06 Central Church Reports

The following Central Church Reports were presented:

1. Decisions of the 2003 Sabor
 - i. It was noted that the financial statements of some dioceses and theological school lacked a balance sheet and not in accordance with the suggested made at the 2003 Sabor.
2. Decisions of the Meetings of the Central Church Council
3. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Director's report
 - b. Christian Education
 - c. Stewardship
 - d. Youth Ministry
 - e. Liturgical Music
 - f. Study of Serbian Language, Culture and Heritage

These reports were all accepted by the Assembly as presented.

CA-07 Amendments to the Uniform Rules and Regulations

The proposed amendments to the Uniform Rules and Regulations were adopted with the following additions and exceptions:

ARTICLE 3

The parish has its office in which are kept the parish seal and stamp; metrical books of **births & baptisms**, marriages, **burials**, conversions to the Orthodox faith; church protocols; the official parish register and annual parish chronicle; and other parish archives. If there are more parishes attached to one church, there is only one parish office with one, joint set of metrical and other official books and one seal.

ARTICLE 5

5. A **parish** which requires more than one priest shall be **separated** into more than one parish, with one priest assigned to each parish. One of the parish priests shall be deemed the head of the church and is the custodian of the church seals and the official church documents.

6. **Where there is only a parish, the parish priest nominates parishioners to the Diocesan Bishop, who appoints them to be trustees of the parish and determines the scope of their work.**

ARTICLE 7

PARISH CLERGY

Previous (original) text remains with the following addition:

The Office of the Diaconate:

(1) A deacon is a canonically ordained person and appointed by a Bishop to a designated church service.

(2) The Episcopal Cathedrals shall have a deacon. Other parishes may have one or more deacons if they are able to support him financially and the Diocesan Bishop deems it necessary.

(3) Deacons at the Episcopal Cathedrals are under direct supervision of the Diocesan Bishop, who compiles their job specifications. The deacons at the Episcopal Cathedral as well as those in parishes enjoy all rights and benefits as the Parish priests.

(4) Deacons in the parishes are appointed by a Diocesan Bishop. The parish deacons assist the parish priests or the rector of parish in administrative matters and other duties assigned to them by the rector of the Church.

(5) The years in a diaconate service are recognized in the same manner as the years in priest's service.

(6) The Deacons with other employment are under the supervision of the Diocesan Bishop. They are attached to a specific parish. They may serve in a parish and preach only with the blessing of the Diocesan Bishop and with the knowledge of the parish priest. The parish has no financial obligation towards them.

ARTICLE 8

Where there is more than one priest attached to one church, the Diocesan Bishop appoints one of them to be the rector (superior) of the parish and, simultaneously, to be in charge of the parish office. The rector (superior) is responsible for order in the church office.

ARTICLE 9 – *To be placed in proper place (Ecclesiastical Court section)*

If a formal complaint is submitted against a parish priest, the Diocesan Bishop may suspend the priest until the Ecclesiastical Court renders its judgment. The Ecclesiastical Court must consider such a matter to be urgent and is obliged to decide the matter within one (1) year.

ARTICLE 10 – To be placed in proper place (Ecclesiastical Court section)

A parish priest under a suspension shall receive one half (1/2) of his regular salary and the remainder shall be paid to his substitute, until such time the cause for suspension is resolved.

ARTICLE 11

Revert to previous text

ARTICLE 21

In the event of the death of the parish priest, the Church-School Congregation will pay to his family his regular salary for at least **three (3)** months and cannot remove the family from the parish home for at least three (3) months from the date of death.

ARTICLE 39

CHURCH-SCHOOL EXECUTIVE BOARD

2. Candidates for the Executive Board shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee elected at the Annual Assembly the year before the next Annual Assembly. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of parishioners in good standing and the Parish priest, which shall not be less than three (3) or more than nine (9). The Nominating Committee should begin its work at least three (3) months prior to the Annual Assembly. Any parishioner in good standing desiring to serve on the Executive Board should notify the Nominating Committee. The parish priest shall announce in the bulletin and in church the names of the members of the Nominating Committee that potential candidates should contact. Two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Assembly, the Nominating Committee, subject to the approval of the Parish priest, shall announce their nominations to the parishioners in good standing. The Nominating Committee may make as many nominations for election to a particular position as it shall, determine, in its discretion. Except for Member at Large positions, no person shall be nominated for more than one (1) position. All candidates expressing an interest in serving on the Executive Board shall meet with the priest, at which meeting the priest shall explain and discuss the Uniform Rules and Regulations and the significance of the affirmation of office. At the conclusion of the meeting, the candidates must sign a statement acknowledging that they understand the Rules and Regulations and will abide by them and the affirmation of office.

Diocesan Caucuses

The Assembly conducted Diocesan Caucuses to elect new members to the Central Church Council.

Oratorical Festival

The Assembly witnessed the First Triennial Saint Nicholai Oratorical Festival.

CA-08 Central Church Reports

The following Central Church Reports were presented in written form and taken into acknowledgement by the Assembly with the recommendation that the Financial Reports be standardized by the next Sabor:

- Path of Orthodoxy
- Financial Report
- Theological School
- Theological Foundation
- Clergy Pension Plan
- Group Hospitalization Plan

CA-09 Release of the Central Council

The Episcopal Council released the present Central Church Council of their duties and thank them for their service to the Church

CA-10 Confirmation of new Central Church Council elections

The Assembly confirmed the election to the Central Church Council:

Midwest Metropolitanate: Brane Branko, Nancy Colaković, Andy Nygren
and Alternate Ray Vukas

*Vice President of Council: Milos Saravolats
Bishop's Deputy: Fr. Nedelko Lunich
Appointed Priest: Fr. Dennis Pavichevich*

Eastern Diocese: Milan Visnic, James Springborn, Drazo Visekruna and Alternate George Topich.

*Vice President of Council: Savo Cugalj
Bishop's Deputy: Fr. Nedelko Grgurevic
Appointed Priest: Fr. Rastko Trbuhovich*

Western Diocese: Donald Kral, Bosko Momic, Dr. Debra Tasić and Alternate Mimo Papich.

*Vice President of Council: Ron Radakovich
Bishop's Deputy: Fr. Velimir Petakovic
Appointed Priest: Fr. Nikola Čeko*

Canadian Diocese: Nedjo Petkovic, Dr. Goran Popovic, Zoran Čurčić. Alternate: Milan Lazich.

*Vice President of Council: Ilija Rakanovic
Bishop's Deputy: Fr. Vasilije Tomic
Appointed Priest: Fr. Djuro Samac*

CA-11 Report of the Resolutions Committee: *The entire text will be published in the Path of Orthodoxy*

The committee presented two resolutions:

- a. Greeting His Holiness Patriarch Pavle, Hierarchs of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the declaration of protection to all of the Holy Places and return of refugees. The Assembly offered it support to the Standing Committees of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the U.S.A. and Canada. The Assembly also called on all parishes and faithful to adhere to the teachings of the Church regarding proper means of parish support and unity. The Resolution also addressed moral issues faced and a call to work together and speak out on social issues and the support of charities. It additionally expressed the joy of the service to the church by graduates of our Theological school, the youth association established by this assembly and the ongoing work of our K.S.S..
- b. A separate Resolution on Kosovo and Metohija, calling for the attention of the USA and Canada and the world to assure human rights for all and protection for the holy places—Churches and Monasteries of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and that it always remain a part of Serbia and all displaced persons be returned.

CA-12 Report of the Secretariat on the 2006 Assembly

The secretaries presented this summary of decisions of the 19th Church Assembly—Sabor.

CA-14 Closing remarks by the Episcopal Council and Adjournment

His Eminence, Metropolitan Christopher thanked everyone for their participation in the 19th Sabor and especially commended the Standing Committees and host committee for all their work. The Assembly was adjourned with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, On behalf of the Assembly secretaries,

Very Reverend Nedeljko Lunich
Secretary of the Central Church Council