



WESTERN AMERICAN DIOCESE

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

MEMORANDUM

To the Clergy of the Western American Diocese.

By the decision of the Holy Sobor of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, as of 7th / 20th September 2018, the eve of the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, His Grace Bishop Irenei is the Ruling Bishop of the Diocese of Great Britain and Ireland and of the Diocese of Western Europe, with the title “Bishop of Richmond and Western Europe” (Richmond, a section of London, being the traditional title of our ROCOR Hierarchs for the United Kingdom). In so doing, the Holy Synod relieved Bishop Irenei, with its gratitude, of his assignment as Vicar of the Western American Diocese.

However, the actual departure of His Grace to London will take some very considerable time, as matters of visas, work permits, housing, etc., most now be begun and are likely to be very lengthy. With the blessing of the Holy Synod and of Ourselves, Bishop Irenei will continue to reside in San Francisco during this period, and while no longer a Vicar of the Diocese, will continue to serve the Diocese in the same capacities as he has to this date maintained: his primary place of service will remain Holy Ascension Church in Sacramento, and he will continue in his roles as Dean for Monastic Life, member of the Diocesan Council, Diocesan Treasurer and Episcopal representative on the Diocesan Youth Committee, etc. While His Grace will gradually relinquish these roles as he transitions to Great Britain and Western Europe, we hereby explicitly instruct that he should continue to be approached, with reference to these and his other existing roles in the Diocese, in precisely the manner as before, until such time notification is given by Diocesan Decree.

We express our gratitude to the Bishop of Richmond and Western Europe for his service as Vicar in the Western American Diocese, and for his willingness to carry on in such service during this period ahead.

September 2018

