

**The Archdiocese of Canada,  
The Orthodox Church in America  
Archdiocesan Assembly  
2017**



**DELEGATE HANDBOOK**

## **FOREWORD**

This Delegate Handbook will provide important information to help you get the most out of our 2017 Canadian Archdiocesan Assembly.

This year's assembly will be held at the Sandman Hotel (West) in Edmonton, Alberta, from July 26-28, with the Clergy Synaxis being held on July 25.

In addition to containing many reports, this handbook also outlines your responsibilities as a delegate and the procedures related to your preparation for and participation at the Archdiocesan Assembly. Please print and bring a copy of this handbook and all accompanying documents, with you to the Assembly. It will be helpful to you to have hole-punches in the documents, as a 3-ring binder will be given to you upon registration.

We welcome you to the 2017 Assembly, and prayerfully hope that it will be a meaningful and productive gathering for the Archdiocese of Canada.

# Table of Contents

1. Letters of Welcome
2. Introduction
3. Role of the Archdiocesan Assembly
4. Features and Structure of the Archdiocesan Assembly 2017
5. Liturgical Services
6. Instructions for Delegates and Observers
7. Delegate Participation
8. Meals and Transportation
9. Special Events during the Assembly
10. Banquet
11. Stories of Encouragement
12. Tour of the "Holy Land"
13. Vendor Room
14. Photo Booth
15. After the Assembly
16. Questions and Concerns
17. Hotel Information
18. Assembly Schedule



**Message from His Worship  
Mayor Don Iveson**



On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, Alberta's Capital City, I welcome everyone to the 2017 Canadian Archdiocesan Assembly.

Edmonton is proud to host this tri-annual event in our city for the first time, greeting priests and clergy from around North America. I am particularly honoured to welcome Archdiocese of Canada, Archbishop Irénée from Québec. This assembly is a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships, share experiences and gather in joyful worship. This year's theme of "*Refreshment for the Journey*," is sure to be inspiring for all participants. May your tours of country parishes across our province provide you many moments of reflection.

I thank the Archdiocese of Canada for offering Edmonton the chance to host this prestigious event. I also commend organizers for your hard work in making this Assembly a success. To those who are visiting our city, I hope you have a chance to explore some of Edmonton's attractions and enjoy the warm hospitality our city is known for.

Best wishes for a wonderful stay in Edmonton!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Iveson", written in a cursive style.



## Assembly of the Archdiocese of Canada

*"Refreshment for the Journey"*  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
JULY 25-28<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

*"Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles; They will run and not get tired; They will walk and not become weary."*

Your Beatitude, Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Glory to Jesus Christ!

It is with joy that I greet you as we assemble in love in the City of Edmonton, Alberta. We are grateful to the members of Saint Herman's Sobor in Edmonton for the tremendous work, their devotion and untiring devotion in planning and organizing this Assembly.

We are grateful to have our beloved Primate, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon with us. In the beginning and at the end of each day, we will gather as a Church to worship and give thanks to God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – for His love for us and to beseech Him His Grace that we may grow in faith and continue to be good stewards of His Church, and for all His blessings bestowed upon us.

Let us pray that our deliberations be conducted in the spirit of love, joy and peace, and that you may all return home bringing these with you to share with your brothers and sisters in our parishes.

This year, the theme of gathering is « Refreshment for the journey », using the words of Isaiah 40:31 as our main text: Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired. They will walk and not become weary.

Since our last meeting in Gatineau, the Canadian Archdiocese has continued to struggle forward by the Grace of God. New missions were founded and the strengthening of our parishes has been our constant goal. Bringing Christ to all the ends of our land is the goal. We must experience the blessings of being THE CHURCH and our coming together here is an essential part of the journey we have set before us.

Our multi-ethnic church in Canada is in the image of our land. We are blessed to have worthy clergy and lay workers who are able to continue the work transmitted down to us by our forefathers and to be able to look forward to the future, continuing to spiritually nourish our God-protected flock with the life-giving Grace and blessings of the Church.

I wish to thank Father Vincent Lehr, Mrs. Barbara North and the organizing committee who have dedicated so many hours of their time to making this as successful as possible. Also I wish to thank all the members of our outgoing Archdiocesan Council, for their

devotion and tireless work during these years of change in our administration. Our Canadian Church has continued to cooperate and work fruitfully with all the other Orthodox Diocese in Canada. Our frequent concelebrations and meetings with the Hierarchs members of the Canadian Conference of Orthodox Bishops and the clergy and parishes which are under their care have continued for the Glory of God. Our Canadian Archdiocese will continue to help and cooperate with them for the wellbeing of Christ's Holy Church here.

In conclusion, I ask that the time spent here be a time of learning, of sharing, of growth and prayer that we may continue to accomplish our Lord's holy will for the welfare of His Holy Church and for our salvation.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ab Irénée". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a long horizontal stroke.

+Ab Irénée  
Archdiocese of Canada



**Assemblée archidiocésaine  
de l'Archidiocèse du Canada**  
*"Rafraîchissements pour le voyage"*  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
JULY 25-28<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

*"Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles; They will run and not get tired; They will walk and not become weary."*

Votre Béatitude, Révérends Pères, frères et sœurs en Christ, gloire à Jésus Christ!

C'est avec joie que je vous salue, alors que nous nous réunissons dans l'amour en la ville d'Edmonton, Alberta. Nous sommes reconnaissants envers les membres de l'église Sobor Saint-Germain d'Edmonton pour leur travail remarquable, leur engagement et leur dévouement inlassable quant à la planification et l'organisation de cette Assemblée.

Nous sommes heureux d'avoir avec nous notre bien-aimé primat, Sa Béatitude le Métropolitain Tikhon. Au début et à la fin de chaque journée, nous nous réunirons en tant qu'Église pour célébrer et rendre grâce à Dieu – Père, Fils et Saint Esprit – pour Son amour et Ses bénédictions envers nous, ainsi que pour Le supplier de nous accorder Sa Grâce en vue de pouvoir croître dans la foi et de demeurer de bons intendants pour Son Église.

Prions pour que nos délibérations se déroulent dans un esprit d'amour, de joie et de paix, afin que vous puissiez tous retourner chez vous pour en faire part dans vos paroisses à vos frères et sœurs.

Cette année, le thème de notre rassemblement est « **Revigoration pour la route** », avec comme texte principal les mots d'Isaïe en 40:31 : « *Mais ceux qui attendent le Seigneur renouvelleront leur force; ils s'élèveront avec des ailes, comme les aigles; ils courront, et ne se fatigueront pas; et ils marcheront, et ne défailliront pas.* »

Depuis nos dernières rencontres à Gatineau, l'Archidiocèse canadien a continué de faire des efforts, soutenu par la Grâce de Dieu. De nouvelles missions ont été fondées et la consolidation de nos paroisses a toujours été notre objectif. Le but est d'apporter le Christ à tout notre pays. Nous devons faire l'expérience des bénédictions liées au fait que nous sommes L'ÉGLISE et notre rassemblement en ce lieu constitue une étape essentielle de la route qui s'ouvre devant nous.

Notre Église multiethnique du Canada est à l'image de notre pays. Nous avons cette bénédiction d'avoir des membres du clergé et des travailleurs laïques estimables qui sont à même de poursuivre l'œuvre nous ayant été transmise par nos prédécesseurs et d'envisager l'avenir, continuant de la sorte à nourrir spirituellement notre troupeau protégé par Dieu à compter de la Grâce vivifiante et des bénédictions de l'Église.

Je veux remercier le Père Vincent Lehr, Mme Barbara North et le Comité organisateur qui ont donné tant d'heures de leur temps en vue d'assurer autant que possible le succès de cette Assemblée. Je veux également remercier tous les membres de notre actuel Conseil archidiocésain pour leur dévouement et leur travail inlassable au cours de ces années de changements pour notre administration. Notre Église canadienne a maintenu sa collaboration avec tous les autres Diocèses orthodoxes du Canada et son travail a porté fruit. Nos fréquentes concélébrations et rencontres avec les hiérarques membres de la **Conférence canadienne des évêques orthodoxes**, ainsi qu'avec les membres du clergé et les paroisses placés sous leurs soins, se sont poursuivis pour la gloire de Dieu. Notre Archidiocèse canadien continuera de leur apporter son aide et sa collaboration pour le bien de la sainte Église du Christ dans notre pays.

En terminant, je demande que le temps passé en ce lieu en soit un d'apprentissage, de partage, de croissance et de prière, afin que nous puissions continuer d'accomplir la sainte volonté de notre Seigneur en vue du bien de Sa sainte Église et de notre salut.

En Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Irénée".

+Archevêque Irénée  
Archidiocèse du Canada





**Assembly of the Archdiocese of Canada**  
*"Refreshment for the Journey"*  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA  
JULY 25-28<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

*"Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles; They will run and not get tired; They will walk and not become weary."*

Your Beatitude, Your Eminence, Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

On behalf of the 2017 Canadian Archdiocesan Assembly Planning Committee, I welcome all of you to Edmonton, Alberta, for our triennial Canadian Assembly and Clergy Synaxis.

The theme for our Assembly this year is Refreshment for the Journey, using the words of Isaiah 40:31 as our main text: "Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles; They will run and not get tired; They will walk and not become weary."

This week of being refreshed and renewed will consist of:

1. Good teaching
2. Renewed Friendships
3. Joyful worship ("The joy of the Lord is my strength")
4. Relaxing activities
5. Opening BBQ on Tuesday evening at St. Herman's
6. Clergy Wives' Gathering with the Archbishop (Wednesday)
7. Wednesday evening Banquet at the beautiful Muttart Conservatory
8. Parish Stories of Encouragement and Inspiration
9. Friday Tour of the "Holy Land" Parishes (visit our country parishes that St. Tikhon worshiped in)

May our Lord bless each of you with much spiritual and physical refreshment during your time here at the Assembly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me directly at (780) 288-5347.

In Christ,

Fr. Vincent Lehr (on behalf of the Archdiocesan Assembly Committee)

## **2. Introduction**

The Archdiocesan Assembly 2017 is being called by the Most Reverend Irénée, Archbishop of Ottawa and the Archdiocese of Canada.

The Church assembles for various reasons: to pray together, to discuss the state of Church affairs, to elect our leadership, to share ideas, and finally, to deliberate and make decisions about the priorities for the future of our Church.

This Assembly is once again a blessed opportunity for the Archdiocesan faithful to consider our past, but also to work towards the development and growth of our beloved Archdiocese of Canada and the Orthodox Church in America at large.

We need to remember the vision of the Orthodox Church in America: a Church that is authentically Orthodox, yet uniquely North American in character and governance. We need to remember the legacy that was handed down to us and rediscover it as we move forward. We need to remember those - the bishops, priests, deacons, monastics, and faithful women and men - who brought Orthodoxy to North America, and more specifically to Canada.

Let us also remember the sacrifices and efforts of those who built our churches, monasteries and seminaries so that future generations could preserve our Orthodox Christian traditions in this New World.

Being a delegate to the Archdiocesan Assembly is an honor and responsibility. You have been chosen by your parish or institution to act on their behalf and to make decisions for the future of our Archdiocese, the Orthodox Church in America and for Orthodoxy on this continent. We should all prepare ourselves through prayer, fasting and repentance and seek to do God's Will.

Please also spend some time in preparation before the Assembly by doing the following:

Review this Handbook and Schedule in order to learn how the Archdiocesan Assembly works and what will occur during its sessions.

Read the reports contained in this Handbook. Some of them will be reviewed during the Assembly, but many of them won't. You are expected to be aware of the full contents of the Handbook prior to your arrival.

As delegate, you are expected to report back to your parish and ensure that decisions and resolutions passed during the Assembly are acted upon in your parish.

## **3. Role of the Archdiocesan Assembly**

According to the Statute of The Orthodox Church in America,

“The Diocese is the basic church body which comprises all the parishes of a determined geographical area. It is governed by the Diocesan Bishop with the assistance of a Diocesan Assembly and a Diocesan Council.”  
(Article VI, Section 1)

The Statute states that in addition to Bishops, all parishes are required to send assigned parish priests and an equal number of lay delegates to the Diocesan (in our case Archdiocesan) Assembly; it also includes a provision for limited representation from Church-related institutions. The purpose of the Assembly is to make present the conciliar authority of our Archdiocese, which is integral part of the Orthodox Church in America and is in communion with other Orthodox dioceses and local Churches worldwide.

The procedures that will be followed are outlined in Article VII of the Statute <http://oca.org/statute> and Article 6 of Archdiocesan by-laws. <http://www.archdiocese.ca/content/archdiocesan-laws-1990>

As preparation for the Assembly, participants and parishes are specifically asked to: Prepare through prayer for the Archdiocesan assembly and ask for discernment, wisdom and guidance for all participants.

Reflect on the needs of our Archdiocese at this present time and in the future to guide your decision.

Discuss the needs of your parish, our Archdiocese and the entire Church with your fellow parishioners to assist you in representing them at the Assembly.

Read or reacquaint yourself with the history of the Archdiocese of Canada at <http://www.archdiocese.ca/content/history>  
The Orthodox Church in America at <http://oca.org/history-archives/orthodox-christians-na>,  
and the lives of the saints of North America at <http://oca.org/FSnasaints.asp?SID=4>

Pray for and support God’s work at the Archdiocesan Assembly together with your fellow parishioners and in your personal life.

We pray that the Grace of the Holy Spirit will descend on this Assembly and open our minds and hearts to doing the Will of God.

#### **4. Features and Structures of the Archdiocesan Assembly**

The Diocesan Assembly shall be opened with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and Moleben Service. The delegates are encouraged to receive the Holy Mysteries of the Church, manifesting their membership in the One Body of Christ and their commitment to live and act accordingly.

During the First Plenary Session, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon and His Eminence Archbishop Irénée will give introductory addresses and open the Assembly.

We are honoured to have several of our clergy give inspirational talks throughout the Assembly, along with Archpriest Fr. John Behr, Professor of Patristics at St. Vladimir's Seminary, providing the keynote address during our Wednesday evening banquet.

## **5. Liturgical Services**

The majority of the worship services will be held at the Sandman Hotel, with the Plenary session room being utilized as our Chapel. The Assembly will open with a Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, July 26, at 7:00 AM, followed by a Moleben. The Assembly will close on Friday, July 28, with a Moleben at St. Herman's Sobor. Please see the Schedule for the complete listing of services and meeting details.

Several events will be taking place away from the hotel. Please make note of the following:

*Tuesday, July 25* – following the Clergy Synaxis at the hotel, buses will be available to transport you to the St. Herman Sobor for an opening night BBQ and Pig Roast. This event is also in honor of the 40th anniversary of our parish. In addition to some great food and drink, there will be activities for children -- street hockey (sticks provided), water sprinkler (please bring towel and swim suits), and bouncy castles. Buses will return to the hotel around 9 PM.

*Wednesday, July 26* – buses will take banquet attendees to the Muttart conservatory, starting at 5:30 PM, and will return at 10 PM.

*Friday, July 28* – all events, including a morning Primatial Divine Liturgy, will be held at the St. Herman Sobor. Buses will transport delegates to the Church at 7 am. After the day's events, one bus will begin the "Holy Land" tour, while another one returns other guests to the hotel.

All delegates should attend the Divine Services and singers are encouraged to help sing the services with the mixed choir.

Clergy who will be invited to serve are requested to bring gold vestments and liturgical headgear. Those clergy who desire to receive communion should bring with them a gold stole and cuffs. Deacons will wear their full set of gold vestments when either serving or receiving communion.

During the entire Assembly, priests are asked to wear both a cassock and a riassa along with their pectoral cross. Other ranks of clergy are asked to wear a cassock and riassa (if

appropriate) during the entire Assembly. Lay people are asked to dress conservatively at all services and during the entire Assembly.

## **6. Instructions for Delegates and Observers**

Every parish and institution of the Archdiocese of Canada, the Orthodox Church in America is to be represented at the Archdiocesan Assembly.

Delegates and observers are responsible for their own hotel and travel arrangements unless other prior arrangements have been made. There are special rates available from with the Sandman Hotel. Delegates must personally handle any special requirements including extended stay time, and special food needs.

Upon arrival at the Assembly, delegates and observers will need to register for the Assembly and/or the Clergy Synaxis at the registration table outside the main Plenary Session room at the hotel. Registration times will be:

Monday, July 24, 6 PM - 9 PM  
Tuesday, July 25, 8 AM - 5 PM  
Wednesday, July 26, 8 AM - 12 PM

Upon registration, delegates, both clergy and lay, will be given a badge that they must wear for entry into each Plenary Session. As well, badges will be given to registered observers, guests, and volunteers who will not have voting privileges. There will be a section of seats available for registered observers, guests, and volunteers.

Representatives of the Planning Committee will be stationed at the entrance door to assist in directing those registered to the appropriate sections to sit in.

Each delegate is expected to come to the session in a timely manner prior to the session's start and to dress appropriately.

## **7. Delegate Participation**

In order to have delegates seated at the Assembly, parishes must have remitted all financial obligations to The Archdiocese of Canada, and have had filed the necessary registration forms with the Organizing Committee. In addition, when you arrive at the Assembly, you must register to verify that your credentials are in order and then you will receive a binder for your Delegate Handbook (please print and bring the handbook with you), a badge (to be worn throughout the Assembly), and special event tickets (Banquet and "Holy Land" Tour).

## **8. Meals and Transportation**

During the Tuesday Clergy Synaxis, July 25, clergy will be provided with a Continental Breakfast following the Divine Liturgy. Clergy will be on their own for lunch. While there

are two excellent restaurants in the hotel (Denny's and Chop's Steakhouse), a map of other nearby restaurants will be included in your delegate binder.

Following the Clergy Synaxis, the Assembly will officially open with a Pig Roast and BBQ held at the St. Herman of Alaska Sobor. Busing will be provided to and from the Sandman Hotel (it's about a five-minute bus ride).

On Wednesday and Thursday, all registered delegates and observers will be provided with a Continental Breakfast after the Divine Liturgy. Registered participants will be responsible for their own lunch and supper.

On Wednesday evening, for those who purchased tickets for the Assembly Banquet, buses will take you to the Muttart Conservatory. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Archpriest John Behr, Professor of Patristics at St. Vladimir's Seminary.

On Friday, buses will take you to the St. Herman Sobor for the final day's events. Following the Primatial Divine Liturgy, delegates and observers will be provided with a brunch before the final sessions of the day. For those who purchased tickets to the "Holy Land" Tour, a meal and snacks will be provided by the country parishes. For those not going on the tour, a bus will return you to the hotel.

## **9. Special Events during the Assembly**

**Tuesday, July 25:** Welcome BBQ at St. Herman Sobor. This BBQ is also a celebration of the 40th anniversary of our parish. In addition to a wonderful meal and fun activities for the children, Fr. Vladimir Lysak was commissioned to do an icon of St. Herman of Alaska, which we will be giving away as a gift to one of our guests this evening. Be sure to bring your BBQ tickets with you (which you will receive upon registration)

**Wednesday, July 26:** Clergy Wives Gathering. All clergy wives are invited to join Archbishop Irenee at the Chop Restaurant (in the hotel) for a complimentary meal (and other goodies).

**Wednesday, July 26:** our Assembly Banquet @ Muttart Conservatory

**Wednesday and Thursday:** Youth Events to West Edmonton Mall and Ft. Edmonton Park

**Thursday, July 27:** Free evening with two "in-house" activities - 1) In the main Plenary session room, the film "A Place Called Shandro" will be shown. This film tells the story of the first pioneers who settled in the area of Shandro, a community near Edmonton. For those participating in the "Holy Land" Tour on Friday, we will be visiting the Orthodox Church in Shandro; 2) STAS will be hosting a wine and cheese event in a Hospitality Suite at the hotel. So, watch a nice film about the history of some Orthodox people, and then go enjoy some good company at the wine and cheese event. Or, have the wine and cheese first, and then come and enjoy the film.

**Friday, July 28:** Primatial Divine Liturgy with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon.

Following the closing of the Assembly there will be a bus tour of several of our country

parishes which were blessed to have saints such as St. Tikhon and St. Vasily Martysz worshipping there. We will also visit the place where the very first Orthodox Liturgy in Canada was held, 120 years ago on July 18, 1897. Walk where the saints have trod, and join us on our local "Holy Land" Tour.

## **10. Banquet**

We sincerely hope you can attend the Assembly Banquet on Wednesday, July 26. We have chosen one of Edmonton's finest and most interesting sites for the venue - the Muttart Conservatory in the North Saskatchewan River Valley. This innovative botanical garden comprises four glass pyramids, each with its own climate, including tropical, desert, and temperate.

Because we are renting the entire facility, we will have the whole site all to ourselves for the entire evening. Children and adults alike are encouraged to roam the pyramids. For more information on the site, visit [www.muttartconservatory.ca](http://www.muttartconservatory.ca).

Cost:                   \$75.00 for adults  
                              \$25.00 for children up to and including 12 years of age

Guest Speaker: Very Reverend Doctor John Behr, Professor of Patristics at St. Vladimir's Seminary

Menu: Vegetarian, with a blessing to have fish and dairy. Wine provided at the table plus a cash bar.

## **11. Good News: Parish Stories of Encouragement and Inspiration**

Very often, as we gather together in small groups, we share little stories of what God is doing in our lives or in our parishes. These stories often serve to provide great encouragement and inspiration to others who are perhaps in need of a little encouragement at that moment in their lives. With all the struggles that we as Priests and laity go through, and with all the bad news that we're daily bombarded with by the various news channels and social media, it's nice to take some time to hear some good news once in a while.

With that in mind, we are setting aside some time during the Assembly for delegates to share with everybody a "good news" story about your parish. What's been happening in the life of your parish? Have you started any new ministries or programs that you find being especially blessed by God? Has someone in your parish been healed, or received a long-sought-after answer to prayer? Is your parish doing any weekly book studies that you would like to recommend to others?

Please take some time to reflect on what God has been doing in your parish, and then share it with everyone at the Assembly. These stories need only be a couple of minutes in length. However, in order to make sure we have the necessary time for everyone to share

them, we will need to know who you are in advance so we can get them all scheduled. So please think and pray about it, and when you've decided which story of encouragement and inspiration you would like to share, email Deacon Sebastian Scratch at sscratch1@gmail.com, or call him at (780) 914-3072.

Perhaps God will use your story to encourage one of the attendees to be renewed in their strength, not to give up, and to help them "mount up with wings as eagles; to run and not be weary; to walk and not faint."

## **12. Bus Tour of the "Holy Land"**

Visit the land on which the Saints have trod, our country parishes which are respectfully and affectionately known locally as our very own Holy Land.

120 years ago, on July 18, 1897, the very first Orthodox Divine Liturgy in Canada was held in a small village about one hour east of Edmonton. The name "Wostok" comes from the Slavic word "vostok, meaning "East". A year after this first Divine Liturgy, the first Orthodox Church in Canada, named after the Holy Trinity, was built in that area. From that one Church, over the past 120 years, another 25 parishes have been established, some of them currently under the Russian Orthodox Church, and some under the OCA. In 1910, St. Vasily Martysz, one of our North American Saints from Poland, was the priest here in Edmonton at the St. Barbara Russian Orthodox Cathedral downtown, and later at the Holy Trinity parish in Wostok. He was here for two years, during which time he was also the Dean of the provinces of Alberta and Manitoba.

On the last day of the Assembly, we have organized a tour of several country parishes northeast of Edmonton, including visiting the location of that first Orthodox Liturgy, which today holds a marker commemorating the momentous occasion. **These country** parishes are among the first Orthodox churches in all of Canada, and many of them continue to be active to this day.

In addition to the historic site of the first Orthodox Liturgy, the tour will include four parishes. Some, if not all, of these parishes had Divine Liturgies served in them by the Saints of God Tikhon, Vasily Martysz, and Arseny of Winnipeg:

1. *Holy Assumption Church, Shandro* – a church blessed by St. Tikhon in 1905. It also contains a Gospel book given by St. Tikhon.
2. *Holy Transfiguration Church, Star* – the oldest Orthodox parish in Canada.
3. *Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Dickie Bush* – dates from 1914. The district was settled by Ukrainian pioneers. The church is framed with hand hewn logs.
4. *Holy Trinity at Smoky Lake* – It has a cemetery which is the largest Parochial Orthodox cemetery in Canada with over 1300 graves. It is the



second largest Parochial cemetery in all of North America. Archpriest and Martyr Fr. Jacob Korchinsky, the first resident Orthodox Priest in Canada, blessed this cemetery.

Date and Time: Friday, July 28, 2017 from 2:00 PM to around 9:00 PM.

Cost of the Tour: \$25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children

Tour includes:

- Round trip bus from St. Herman's to the various country parishes
- Light bag lunch
- Afternoon snack at one of the parishes
- Supper at another parish

### **13. Vendor Room**

We are blessed to have several vendors with us this week. Be sure to check out the Vendor Room, and purchase some new books and other resources.

### **14. Photo Booth**

It's time to get new photos for our Archdiocesan website. Please be sure to visit the Photo Booth in the Vendor's Room during the breaks.

### **15. After the Assembly**

As a delegate to the Archdiocesan Assembly 2017, you represent your parish as an integral part of The Archdiocese of Canada reflecting your parish's life and witness, its stewardship and its vision for the future. Conversely, you represent the Archdiocese of Canada to your parish as well. Your dual role is extremely important since most of your fellow parishioners will never have the opportunity to witness and participate in an Assembly at work.

After the Assembly, it is your responsibility and duty to set a meeting time with fellow parishioners to share the fullness of the Assembly. Ensure your parishioners understand how the Assembly's conciliar decisions affect the parish's spiritual life and stewardship of its resources.

Bring home the message that the entire Archdiocese understands the challenges of parish life and that the decisions of the Assembly are aimed to support and develop the witness and mission of the local parish. While you have been honored to be your parish representative and participate in the work of the Archdiocesan Assembly, you have now become an official spokesperson for the Archdiocese of Canada to your parish as well.

Whether or not you had personally voted for the resolutions passed at the Assembly, the final affirmation by the Archdiocese Assembly represents the "mind of the Church" regarding the resolutions. As members of the Church, we are obliged to support the

decisions because we believe that God is giving us what we need at this time in our Church's history. As a delegate, you are responsible to ensure that those decisions are shared and acted upon in your parish.

#### **16. Questions and Concerns**

Any questions or concerns about the Assembly can be brought to the attention of Fr. Vincent Lehr. Email [PriestVincent@gmail.com](mailto: PriestVincent@gmail.com) or call (780) 288-5347.

#### **17. Hotel Information**

The site for the Canadian Archdiocesan Assembly 2017 is:

Sandman Hotel Edmonton West  
17635 Stony Plain Rd NW  
Edmonton, AB T5S 1E3  
(780) 483-1385



# Assembly of the Archdiocese of Canada

*"Refreshment for the Journey"*

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

JULY 25-28<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

## ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

### MONDAY, JULY 24

6 PM - 9 PM

*Synaxis/Assembly Registration*

### TUESDAY, JULY 25: CLERGY SYNAXIS @ Sandman Hotel

8 am - 5 PM

*Synaxis/Assembly Registration*

- 7:30 am Divine Liturgy  
9:00 am Continental Breakfast  
10:00 am Clergy Synaxis Begins  
Guest Speaker -- Fr. Leonard Herrem:  
*"Spiritual Abuse and How to Prevent It"*  
Noon Lunch on own (See list of restaurants in Delegate Handbook)  
1:00 PM Clergy Synaxis continues  
3:30 PM End of Clergy Synaxis  
4:30 PM Transportation to St. Herman Sobor  
5:00 PM Vespers + 40th Anniversary Moleben (w/blessing of new icons)  
at St. Herman Sobor  
6:30 PM Welcome BBQ hosted at St. Herman Sobor (open to everyone; toonie bar)  
9:00 PM Bus returns to Hotel

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 26: 1st Day of Assembly

8 am - Noon

*Assembly Registration*

- 7:00 am Divine Liturgy + Opening Moleben  
9:00 am Continental Breakfast  
10:00 am 1. Welcome from Planning Committee (Rod Tkachuk)  
and Introduction of MC (Mark Petasky)  
2. Appointment of:  
  - Recording Secretaries (2)
  - Scrutineers (3)
  - Resolution Committee
  - Nominations Committee3. Corrections/Approval of Minutes from Previous Assembly (2013  
Ottawa/Gatineau)  
4. Address to the Assembly: His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

11:00 am	5. Address to the Assembly: His Eminence Archbishop Irene Guest Speaker – Fr. John Behr, Professor of Patristics at St. Vladimir’s Seminary: <i>“Inviting Christ into our Lives”</i>
11:50 am	Announcements and Housekeeping
12:00 PM	Lunch on own ( <i>See list of restaurants in Delegate Handbook</i> ) <b><i>Clergy Wives Lunch meet with Archbishop @ Chop Restaurant</i></b>
1:15 PM	<b>YOUTH EVENT: bus takes youth to West Edmonton Mall; return by 5 PM</b>
1:30 PM	1. Archdiocesan Council Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chancellor (Fr. Anatoliy Melnyk)</li> <li>▪ Secretary (Mrs. Anna Miller)</li> <li>▪ Treasurer (Fr. Justin Mitchell)</li> </ul>
	2. Audit Committee
	3. Resolutions Committee
	4. Regional Reports (Filed Only – not presented) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dean of Quebec and the Maritimes (Fr. Gregory Nimijean)</li> <li>▪ Dean of Ontario (Fr. Geoffrey Korz)</li> <li>▪ Dean of Manitoba and Saskatchewan (Fr. Gregory Scratch)</li> <li>▪ Dean of Alberta (Fr. Phillip Eriksson)</li> <li>▪ Dean of BC and Yukon (Fr. Michael Fourik)</li> </ul>
	5. Committee Reports (Filed Only – not presented) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Canadian Council of Churches (Fr. Cyprian Hutcheon)</li> <li>▪ Monasticism (Fr. Gerasim Power)</li> </ul>
2:30 PM	Guest Speaker – Fr. Geoffrey Korz <i>“God and Mammon? Using Holy Money to Build a Parish Mission”</i>
3:00 PM	Announcements and Housekeeping
3:05 PM	Coffee Break with Snacks
3:30 PM	Vespers
5:30 PM	Buses leaving hotel to Muttart Conservatory
6:30 PM	Banquet at Muttart Conservatory. Guest Speaker -- Fr. John Behr: <i>“The Church as Our Mother”</i>
10:00 PM	Buses return to hotel

#### **THURSDAY, JULY 27: 2nd Day of Assembly**

7:00 am	Divine Liturgy
8:45 am	Continental Breakfast
10:00 am	Good News: Parish Stories of Encouragement and Inspiration (Dn. Sebastian Scratch)
10:15 am	Guest Speaker -- Fr. Philip Speranza: <i>“Giving Thanks Through Clenched Teeth”</i>
11:00 am	1. St. Silas Orthodox Prison Ministry Presentation – Subdn. Barnabas (Barry) Neufeld
	2. Sundry Important Items -- Fr. Geoffrey Ready
	3. St. Tikhon Archdiocesan Stewardship Program (STAS – Fr. Andrew Applegate)
11:50 am	Announcements and Housekeeping
12:00 PM	Lunch on own ( <i>See list of restaurants in Delegate Handbook</i> ) <i>Parish Treasurers Meet</i>

- 1:15 PM YOUTH EVENT: bus takes youth to Ft. Edmonton Park; return by 5 PM**  
 1:30 PM Guest Speaker – Fr. Leonard Herrem: *“Death, Dying, and Assisted Suicide”*  
 2:00 PM Q & A with Metropolitan Tikhon & Archbishop Irene  
 3:00 PM Coffee Break with Snacks  
 3:30 PM Good News: Parish Stories of Encouragement and Inspiration  
 (Dn. Sebastian Scratch)  
 3:45 PM Guest Speaker – Subdn. Zane Green:  
*“Orthodox Funeral Practices: Ancient Traditions vs. Modern Practices”*  
 4:15 PM 1. Deadline for Resolutions and Nominations from the floor  
 2. Insurance (Fr. Phillip Eriksson)  
 3. STAS (Fr. Andrew Applegate)  
 5:20 PM Announcements and Housekeeping  
 5:30 PM Vespers  
 6:15 PM Supper on own (*See list of restaurants in Delegate Handbook*)  
*Resolutions Committee Meets*  
 7:30 PM FREE EVENING with Optional Events
- Film at Hotel: *“A Place Called Shandro”*
  - STAS Wine and Cheese night at Hospitality Suite

**FRIDAY, JULY 28: Final Day of Assembly (@ St. Herman Orthodox Church)**

- 6:15 am Transportation from Hotel for serving clergy  
 7:00 am Buses leave for St. Herman Sobor  
**REMINDER – Bring luggage to Church if you are NOT returning to the Hotel**  
 7:30 am Primatial Divine Liturgy  
 10:00 am Brunch  
 11:00 am 1. Resolution Discussions and Voting  
 2. Appointments of Archdiocesan Council Ex-Officio Members
- Chancellor
  - Archdiocesan Secretary
  - Treasurer
3. Introduction of the new Archdiocesan Council Members
- Regional Deans
  - Deanery Lay Representatives
4. Elections
- Archdiocesan Council Member at Large (clergy)
  - Archdiocesan Council Member at Large (lay)
- 1:00 PM Announcements and Housekeeping  
 1:15 PM Closing Moleben  
 2:00 PM Bus returns to hotel for those who are not going on tour of rural parishes  
 (*NOTE: If you are going on bus tour, do not take this bus back to the hotel*)  
**2:00 PM – 9:00 PM Bus Tour of “Holy Land” (Rural Alberta Parishes; Supper hosted by Rural Parish); bus departs from St. Herman Sobor**  
 10:00 PM Buses return to St. Herman Orthodox Church and Hotel

## DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL

Minutes of the Tri-Annual Assembly of  
The ARCHDIOCESE OF CANADA (OCA)  
Held at the Château Cartier Conference Centre, Gatineau, QC, Canada  
From the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of August, 2013

### Session I – Thursday, August 22, 2012

#### I. Liturgical Services and Call to Order

The 2013 Tri-Annual Assembly of the Archdiocese of Canada began with an Hierarchical Liturgy and an Opening Moleben served for the attendees by Bishop IRÉNÉE.

The sessions of the Archdiocesan Assembly meeting took place in the Conference Centre of the Château Cartier in Gatineau, Québec. Session I convened at 10:30 a.m. with the singing of “O Heavenly King” and the blessing of His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON.

Mrs. Mary Ann Lopoukhine, Chair of the Organizing Committee, welcomed the attendees of the Archdiocesan Assembly and spoke about the factors influencing the planning of the 2013 Assembly. The various decisions made by the Committee related to the theme, scope, goals, and cost of the Assembly. Mrs. Lopoukhine reminded the attendees that this Assembly will focus on the theme “Faithful Stewardship: Our Words, Commitments, and Actions.”

Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko drew the attendees’ attention to the Pochaev Icon of the Theotokos, the Wonderworking Icon of St. Nicholas and his relic, and the belt of St. John of Shanghai that were present at this Assembly.

#### II. Appointments

The following appointments, blessed by His Grace, Bishop IRÉNÉE, were made to assist with the conduct of the Assembly:

1. Vice-chair, clergy – Priest Geoffrey Korz
2. Vice-chair, lay – Mr. Matthew Estabrooks
3. Recording secretaries – Priest Matthew Francis, Deacon Peter Choi, Mrs. Melanie Samaroden
4. Scrutineers – Igumen Gerasim (Power), Subdeacon Justin Mitchell, Reader Sean Reid
5. Credentials committee – Archpriest Nikolay Melnyk, Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko, Mr. Nikita Lopoukhine
6. Travel equalization committee – Archpriest Rodion Luciuk, Mr. Nikita Lopoukhine
7. Resolution committee – Archpriest Phillip Eriksson, Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko, Mr. Matthew Estabrooks, Mr. David Grier
8. Nomination committee – Bishop IRÉNÉE (Rochon), Archpriest Anatoliy Melynk, Subdeacon Jeremy Scratch

#### III. Minutes of the 2010 Tri-Annual Archdiocesan Assembly, held in Victoria, BC, July 26-30, 2010

The Minutes of the July 26-30, 2010 Tri-Annual Archdiocesan Assembly were **ADOPTED** as presented. (Moved by Archpriest John Tkachuk; seconded by Mr. Nikita Lopoukhine; carried unanimously.)

#### IV. Addresses to the Assembly

1. His Beatitude, the Most Blessed TIKHON (Mollard), Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of All America and Canada, addressed the Assembly in both official languages. Metropolitan TIKHON awarded the Order of St. Innocent, Silver Medal, to Archpriest John Tkachuk upon his retirement after 40 years of ministry.
2. His Grace, the Right Reverend IRÉNÉE (Rochon), Bishop of Québec City and Administrator of the Archdiocese of Canada, addressed the Assembly in both official languages (attached).

## DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL

3. Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, addressed the Assembly. He spoke optimistically on the current life of the Central Administration of the Orthodox Church in America.
4. Archpriest Chad Hadfield, Chancellor of St. Vladimir's Seminary, addressed the Assembly. Father Chad reflected on the history of North American Orthodox seminaries and talked about this year's celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of St. Vladimir's Seminary. He spoke about the self-study undertaken by the Seminary this year as part of its preparation for its renewal of accreditation with the Association of Theological Schools. He highlighted three developments: 1) the expansion of the Centre for Liturgical Arts and Sacred Music, a place for education, development, and display of the liturgical arts and sacred music, along with a collaboration with the Estonian Orthodox composer, Avro Part; 2) the establishment of houses of study with formal agreements with institutions of higher theological education of the Serbian Orthodox Church, the Romanian Orthodox Church, the Coptic Church, and the Kiev Theological Academy in Ukraine; and 3) the proposal of the Archdiocese of Canada Seminarian Fund to provide support of Canadians attending St. Vladimir Seminary.

### V. Report from the Credentialing Committee

Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko reported that 66 individuals (29 clergy, 18 lay delegates, and 19 observers) were registered for this Assembly.

### VI. Reports from the 2010-2013 Archdiocesan Council

Archpriest Anatoliy Melnyk, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Canada presented his report (attached).

Session I of the Archdiocesan Assembly adjourned at 12:10 p.m. for lunch.

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## Session II – Thursday, August 22, 2013

Session II convened at 2:00 p.m.

### VII. Plenary Talk #1

Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko, Dean Emeritus of St. Vladimir's Seminary, spoke to the Assembly on "Church Administration as Service to God" with Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4 as its Scriptural basis.

### VIII. Reports from the 2010-2013 Archdiocesan Council (continued)

1. Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko, Episcopal Secretary, Archdiocesan Secretary, and Archdiocesan Lay Representative to the Metropolitan Council, presented his report on his secretarial activities and the activities of the Metropolitan Council (attached).
2. Mr. Nikita Lopoukhine, Archdiocesan Treasurer, presented his report (attached). The totals for the net worth statements of 2010, 2011, and 2012 are incorrect in the attached reports and should be \$266,133.40, \$319,689.60, and \$352,602.50 respectively. Father Rodion Luciuk pointed out a discrepancy between the 2011 actual budget sheet and the 2012 actual budget sheet with respect to the actual amounts of the 2011 fiscal year reported (to be corrected). A discussion ensued regarding the 2013 budget and the consequences of any deficits. Mr. Lopoukhine indicated that the Archdiocese has enough money to cover the specified activities currently but there are no reserve funds to cover any contingencies. Mr. Lopoukhine also emphasized the need to find a replacement for his position soon.
3. Archpriest Rodion Luciuk presented the report of the Audit Committee (attached) on behalf of Mr. German Ovodov, Chair of the Audit Committee. Father Rodion Luciuk mentioned that there is a preliminary report on the 2012 fiscal year, which is not ready for dissemination. He answered

## DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL

several questions on the cost of an external audit (\$3,500 to \$20,000 depending on the state of the books) and on capital gains taxes from the sale of the Fairhaven property (no taxes).

4. Priest Gregory Scratch and Subdeacon Jeremy Scratch, President and Eastern Liason of the St. Tikhon's Archdiocesan Stewards, presented their report (attached).
5. Mr. David Grier, Lay Member from the Deanery of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nunavut, presented the report on behalf of the By-Laws Committee (attached).
6. The following reports (attached) were filed but were not presented:
  - a. Deanery of Québec and Maritimes – Archpriest Anatoliy Melnyk, Chancellor
  - b. Deanery of Ontario – Priest Geoffrey Korz, Dean
  - c. Deanery of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nunavut – Archpriest Rodian Luciuk, Dean
  - d. Deanery of Alberta and the Northwest Territories – Archpriest Phillip Eriksson, Dean
  - e. Deanery of British Columbia and the Yukon – Archpriest Michael Fourik, Dean
  - f. St. Arseny Orthodox Christian Theological Institute – Priest Anthony Estabrooks, Director
  - g. *The Canadian Orthodox Messenger* – Mr. Matthew Zacharias, Co-Editor
  - h. Archdiocesan ecumenical activities – Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon, Professor Richard Schneider, Dr. Paul Ladouceur, and Reader Colin Justin Grimmond
  - i. Archdiocesan website

Session II of the Archdiocesan Assembly adjourned at 4:10 p.m. After travel to the Annunciation Cathedral in Ottawa, Ontario, Metropolitan TIKHON served a Moleben and Blessing of the adjacent Archdiocesan Centre. Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko then spoke on "Faithful Stewardship" in the Cathedral. The parishioners of Annunciation hosted a reception with cold beverages and snacks after the talk.

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### Session III – Friday, August 23, 2012

The Assembly celebrated the name day (Feast of St. Irenaeus of Lyons) of His Grace, Bishop IRÉNÉE. After Divine Liturgy and breakfast, Session III of the Archdiocesan Council convened at 9:40 a.m. with the singing of "O Heavenly King."

#### IX. Plenary Talk #2

Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko spoke to the Assembly on "Clergy Compensation: Our Responsibility." He reflected on the compensation of clergy in 19<sup>th</sup> century Russia as recorded in the historical works of Gregory Freeze and Vera Shevsov and the literature of the period, including the works of Anton Chekhov.

#### X. Workshops

1. Archpriest Bohdan Hladio, Rector of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Ecumenical Patriarchate), Oshawa, Ontario, led the Assembly in a workshop entitled "How to create and cherish the mentality of faithful stewardship in our parishes" with reference to Williams and McKibben's *Orthodox Leadership*<sup>1</sup> and resources on stewardship from Joseph Kormos, Parish Development Ministry, Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania, OCA.
2. Mrs. Mary Ann Lopoukhine shared the experiences with clergy compensation of her reposed parents, Protopresbyter George and Popadia Vera Nicoloff (memory eternal). Dr. Barbara North then led the Assembly in a workshop on the proposed guidelines for clergy compensation (Schedule A to Resolution #3; attached).

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<sup>1</sup> Benjamin D. Williams and Michael T. McKibben, *Oriented Leadership: Why Every Christian Needs It* (Wayne, NJ: Orthodox Christian Publications Center; 1994).



## DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL

On behalf of the Assembly, Archpriest Larry Reinheimer (All Saints of Alaska Orthodox Church, Victoria, BC), Archpriest Phillip Eriksson (St. Peter the Aleut Orthodox Church, Calgary, AB), Priest Pau Ruiz-Gomar (Holy Resurrection Sobor, Saskatoon, SK), Priest Vincent Lehr (St. Herman of Alaska Sobor, Edmonton, AB), Priest Matthew Francis (St. Nikolai of Zhitsa Orthodox Mission, Whitehorse, YT), Priest Gregory Scratch (St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Naro, MB), Ms. Isabel Cunningham (Sign of the Theotokos Orthodox Church, Montréal, QC), Mr. David Grier (Holy Resurrection Sobor, Saskatoon, SK), Mrs. Alexandra Heard (Annunciation Cathedral, Ottawa, ON), Mr. Alan Lyons (St. Peter the Aleut Orthodox Church, Calgary, AB), Mr. David Pensato (St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Naro, MB), and Mr. Greg Rychlo (Holy Resurrection Sobor, Saskatoon, SK) raised questions, requested clarifications, and suggested revisions regarding the proposed guidelines.

Archpriest Phillip Eriksson clarified a number of points about the Archdiocesan group insurance plan.

There was significant discussion on the topic of vacation for clergy. There was a lack of consensus on the number of earned vacation days (see amendments suggested below) and this topic was identified for further discussion tomorrow.

The delegates of the Assembly requested clarification on the employer-covered sick days (item 3.4.2). It was noted that federal government provides up to 6 weeks of paid sick leave *via* the employment insurance program. The employer-covered sick days would provide the employee income while he or she applied for the federal benefit. Although there was discussion, a formal amendment was not made.

There was significant discussion on the topic of “days off” for clergy (item 3.6). Dr. North explained that the purpose of this item was to explicitly dispel the myth, held by parishes or clergy, that priests work 24/7 and to provide guidelines on providing priests with time off. There was some disagreement amongst the delegates regarding the necessity of this item or the ability to implement it.

The absence of a minimum weekly number of hours in the definition of a full-time clergyman was questioned but no formal amendment was suggested.

The following amendments were suggested:

- a) Item 2.0 (Definitions) – Add a new definition “2.6. **Employer** is the parish, Archdiocese, or other Archdiocesan organization responsible for compensation and benefits.”
- b) Item 3.2 – Amend the third sentence of the first paragraph to read “Then the **provincial** going rate for each kilometer will be factored in to arrive at the travel allowance figure.” Amend the first sentence of the second paragraph to read “A priest and his parish may agree to compensate travel through **verifiable** expense claims submitted monthly to the parish.”
- c) Item 3.4.1 – Change “unemployment insurance” to “employment insurance.”
- d) Item 3.5 (Earned Vacation Days) – Raise the minimum earned vacation days from three weeks to four weeks. **This became an item for discussion during Session V.**
- e) Item 3.5.4 – Amend the sentence to read “Paid vacation is not to exceed five weeks **less a day.**” **This became an item for discussion during Session V.**
- f) Item 3.5.5 – Amend the sentence to read “~~Priests may request payment in lieu of vacation, but they~~ may not carry vacation days from one year to the next.”
- g) Item 3.5.9 – Amend the sentence to read “Employees and full-time clergy (~~rectors or priests-in-charge~~) may take vacation entitlement at a time mutually acceptable to them, their –Parish Council and the Bishop.”
- h) Add a new item – “**3.5.10 Time spent participating in professional development or clergy conferences shall not be counted as vacation days.**”

## DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL

- i) Item 4.2 – Revise the sentence to read “Dental Coverage: ~~It is recommended that the parish~~The employer shall pay up to 100% of the premium.”
- j) Item 4.3 – Revise the sentence to read “Extended Health Care Coverage: ~~It is recommended that the parish~~The employer shall pay up to 100% of the premium.”
- k) Item 4.4 – Revise the sentence to read “Employee Life Insurance: ~~It is recommended that the parish~~The priest or lay employee shall pay up to 100% of the premium.”
- l) Item 4.5 – Revise the sentence to read “Long-term Disability Insurance: ~~It is recommended that the parish~~The priest or lay employee shall pay up to 100% of the premium.”

Session III of the Archdiocesan Assembly adjourned at 1:00 p.m. for lunch.

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### Session IV – Friday, August 23, 2012

Session IV convened at 2:15 p.m. after lunch.

#### XI. Workshops (continued)

1. Archpriest John Jillions, Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America, led the Assembly in a workshop entitled “What your parish needs to know about misconduct, sexual abuse and appropriate behaviour.”

The *Policies, Standards, and Procedures of the Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct* (PSP) were adopted in 2002 and revised in 2011 (current version on <http://oca.org/Documents/OfficialDocumentsPDF/040203ocaguidelines.pdf>) and 2013. The 2013 version has been sent to the Holy Synod of Bishops for their review, approval, and blessing. To handle issues related to this subject, Ms. Cindy Davis, Social Worker, has been appointed the Coordinator for the Office of Review of Sexual Misconduct Allegation.

Father John Jillions highlighted the key items of the newly revised PSP to the Assembly. Father John Jillions explained the process of reporting sexual misconduct (and to whom), the process for investigating the complaint, and the criteria for judgment. Discussion ensued on various points in the PSP.

The challenge of compliance from parishes with the PSP was discussed. At this time, several parishes are still non-compliant with the PSP. His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, and Father John Jillions emphasized the consequences of non-compliance to the parish, Archdiocese, and the OCA.

Session IV of the Archdiocesan Assembly adjourned at 4:00 p.m. for Daily Vespers. A wine-and-cheese fundraising reception was held by the St. Tikhon’s Archdiocesan Stewards after Daily Vespers.

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### Session V – Saturday, August 24, 2013

The Assembly celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko and commemorated the first anniversary of the repose of Popadia Vera Nicoloff. After Divine Liturgy and breakfast, Session V of the Archdiocesan Council convened at 9:30 a.m. with the singing of “O Heavenly King.”

#### XII. Plenary Talk #3

Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko spoke to the Assembly on “Stewardship: Our Christian Calling for Action” with 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 as the Scriptural basis.

## DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL

### XIII. Resolutions (Attached) and Follow-Up Actions

1. Adoption of the Resolutions

Mr. David Grier moved that **the Assembly adopt the amendments to the By-Laws of the Archdiocese of Canada** (Schedule A of Resolution #1). Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko seconded the motion (Resolution #1). Carried unanimously. **ADOPTED**

Mr. David Grier moved that **the Assembly adopt the amendments to the By-Laws of the Archdiocese of Canada to enable the Archdiocesan Council to eventually approve articles of continuance and new by-laws, which will be required to allow continuance of the Archdiocese of Canada under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act**. Mr. Nikita Lopoukhine seconded the motion (Resolution #2). Priest Pau Ruiz-Gomar (Holy Resurrection Sobor, Saskatoon, SK) asked for clarification. Priest Leonard Herrem (All Saints Orthodox Church, Meadow Lake, SK) provided clarification. Carried unanimously. **ADOPTED**

Mr. David Grier moved that **the Assembly discuss and adopt the Policy on Compensation and Benefits for Clergy and Lay Employees of the Archdiocese of Canada** (Schedule A of Resolution #3). Dr. Barbara North seconded the motion (Resolution #3). Two amendments to the motion were proposed.

**Amendment #1 to Motion:** That the amount described in Item 3.1.3 of the Policy be changed from \$2000 per month to \$3000 per month. (Moved by Priest Leonard Herrem; seconded by Mr. Greg Rychlo.)

Priest Leonard Herrem provided rationale for the amendment. Archpriest Phillip Eriksson (St. Peter the Aleut Orthodox Church, Calgary, AB) spoke in favour of the amendment. Archpriest Rodion Luciuk (St. Mark the Evangelist Orthodox Church, Yorkton, SK) pointed out that this amount does not include the benefits. Mrs. Alexandra Heard (Annunciation Cathedral, Ottawa, ON) mentioned that an increase in the monthly salary may result in parishes designating their clergy as half-time in order to afford the cost of salary (by avoiding the need to provide other benefits). Subdeacon Justin Mitchell (Église Orthodoxe St. Benoit-de-Nursie, Montréal, QC) pointed out the economic implications of increasing the monthly salary. Archpriest Larry Reinheimer (All Saints of Alaska Orthodox Church, Victoria, BC) asked for clarification whether the Policy will be guidelines or policies and was informed that the Policy will be a policy. Parishes can deviate from the Policy with permission from the ruling Bishop.

The vote resulted in 24 in favour and 9 opposed to the amendment. **ADOPTED**

**Amendment #2 to Motion:** That the duration of vacation described in Item 3.5.1 of the Policy be increased from three weeks to four weeks

AND that the duration of vacation described in Item 3.5.2 of the Policy be increased from four weeks to five weeks

AND that the duration of vacation described in Item 3.5.3 of the Policy be increased from five weeks to six weeks

AND that Item 3.5.4 of the Policy be deleted. (Moved by Priest Leonard Herrem; seconded by Mr. Greg Rychlo.)

Priest Leonard Herrem provided rationale for the amendment. Deacon Jesse Isaac (St. Herman of Alaska Sobor, Edmonton, AB) mentioned that a starting allocation of four weeks of vacation is extremely generous in the context of other jobs. Priest Matthew Francis (St. John of Zhitsa, Whitehorse, YT) pointed out the challenge of finding a *locum tenens* during a priest's absence. Dr. Barbara North (St. Herman of Alaska Sobor, Edmonton, AB) explained the rationale for the original wording of the Policy and mentioned that three week is the industry standard for a starting vacation allocation. Igumen Gerasim (Power) (Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Smoky Lake, AB) clarified that this amendment is regarding vacation only.

The vote resulted in 3 in favour and 35 opposed to the amendment. **DEFEATED**

## DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL

The vote for the amended motion was carried unanimously. **ADOPTED**

Archpriest Phillip Eriksson moved that **the Assembly authorize the Archdiocesan Council to establish a Retirement Savings Plan for clergy and lay employees of the Archdiocese of Canada**. Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko seconded the motion (Resolution #4). Carried unanimously. **ADOPTED**

Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko moved that **the Assembly authorize the Archdiocesan Council to establish specialized committees**. Archpriest Phillip Eriksson seconded the motion (Resolution #5). Carried unanimously. **ADOPTED**

Priest Leonard Herrem moved that **the Assembly approve parish support of the publication of the *Canadian Orthodox Messenger* through contributions of \$3.50 per requested copy of each issue**. Archpriest Phillip Eriksson seconded the motion (Resolution #6). Mr. David Pensato (St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Naro, MB) cautioned that payment may result in the demise of the *Messenger* if parishes choose not to request copies. Priest Gregory Scratch (St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Naro, MB) spoke of the value of the *Messenger* to the Archdiocese. Mr. David Grier clarified that the cost is only for paper copies; parishes will still be able to read the *Messenger* online. Subdeacon Jeremy Scratch (Annunciation Cathedral, Ottawa, ON) asked for clarification for the cost and was informed that the \$3.50 is to offset printing costs. Archpriest Larry Reinheimer asked for clarification on who would pay for the cost (parishes). Mr. Alan Lyons (St. Peter the Aleut Orthodox Church, Calgary, AB) mentioned that the paper copies are not picked up in his parish. The vote resulted in 12 in favour and 21 opposed. **DEFEATED**

Mr. Jack Donald Hill Jr. moved that **the Assembly approve an escrow fund of US\$8,000 to assist Canadian students in securing the necessary visas to study at a seminary of the Orthodox Church in America in the United States of America**. Priest Daniel Friesen seconded the motion (Resolution #7). Mr. Jack Donald Hill Jr. (Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Edmonton, AB) provided rationale for the motion. Priest Justin Hewlett (St. John of Shanghai Orthodox Mission, Vancouver, BC) requested clarification to the amount of the escrow fund. Mr. Nikita Lopoukhine emphasized that the Archdiocese holds an annual seminarian appeal. Carried unanimously. **ADOPTED**

#### **XIV. Appointments of *Ex Officio* Members of the Archdiocesan Council**

His Grace, Bishop IRÉNÉE, appointed the following individuals as *ex officio* members of the 2013-2016 Archdiocesan Council:

1. Chancellor – Archpriest Anatoliy Melnyk
2. Archdiocesan Secretary – Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko
3. Archdiocesan Treasurer – Mr. Nikita Lopoukhine

#### **XV. Regional Deans and Lay Representatives of the Archdiocesan Council**

His Grace, Bishop IRÉNÉE, announced the following individuals as nominees as the deans and lay representatives of the 2013-2016 Archdiocesan Council:

1. Regional Deans
  - Québec and Maritimes – Archpriest Gregory Nimijean
  - Ontario – Priest Geoffrey Korz
  - Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nunavut – Priest Gregory Scratch
  - Alberta and the Northwest Territories – Archpriest Phillip Eriksson
  - British Columbia and the Yukon – Archpriest Michael Fourik

## DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL

2. Regional Lay Representatives  
Québec and Maritimes – Subdeacon Justin Mitchell  
Ontario – Mr. Valentin Losev  
Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nunavut – Mr. Gregory Rychlo  
Alberta and the Northwest Territories – Dr. Barbara North  
British Columbia and the Yukon – Deacon Peter Choi

Mr. David Grier moved that the Assembly elect the nominees as the deans and lay representatives of the 2013-2016 Archdiocesan Council; seconded by Mr. Jack Donald Hill Jr. Carried unanimously.

### **ELECTED**

#### **XVI. Report of the Nominating Committee**

Subdeacon Jeremy Scratch reported on the nominations submitted to the Nominating Committee:

1. Clergy Member-at-Large – Priest Andrew Applegate
2. Lay Member-at-Large – Dr. John Hadjinalaou, Deacon Jesse Isaac, Mr. Pavle Lazic
3. Audit Committee – Archpriest Rodion Luciuk, Mr. German Ovodov, Mr. Doug Petasky
4. St. Tikhon's Archdiocesan Stewards Eastern Liason – Subdeacon Jeremy Scratch
5. St. Tikhon's Archdiocesan Stewards Western Liason – Archpriest Michael Fourik

Mr. Nikita Lopoukhine, Priest Matthew Francis, and Archpriest Phillip Eriksson spoke on behalf of the lay member-at-large nominees Dr. John Hadjinalaou, Deacon Jesse Isaac, and Mr. Pavle Lazic respectively.

#### **XVII. Elected Members of the Archdiocesan Council**

The following individuals were elected or acclaimed to the 2013-2016 Archdiocesan Council:

1. Clergy Member-at-Large – Priest Andrew Applegate (acclaimed)
2. Lay Member-at-Large – Dr. John Hadjinalaou (elected)
3. Audit Committee – Archpriest Rodion Luciuk, Mr. German Ovodov, Mr. Doug Petasky (acclaimed)
4. St. Tikhon's Archdiocesan Stewards Eastern Liason – Subdeacon Gregory Scratch (acclaimed)
5. St. Tikhon's Archdiocesan Stewards Western Liason – Archpriest Michael Fourik (acclaimed)

After the members of the 2013-2016 Archdiocesan Council were confirmed, nominations were requested for the clergy and lay representatives to the Metropolitan Council. Archpriest Anatoliy Melynk was nominated as the clergy representative; Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko and Subdeacon Justin Mitchell were nominated as the lay representative.

6. Archdiocesan Clergy Representative to the Metropolitan Council – Archpriest Anatoliy Melnyk (acclaimed)
7. Archdiocesan Lay Representative to the Metropolitan Council – Subdeacon Justin Mitchell (elected)

Session V of the Archdiocesan Assembly adjourned at 12:05 p.m. for lunch.

\* \* \* \* \*

## DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL

### Session VI – Saturday, August 24, 2013

Session VI convened at 2:00 p.m. after lunch.

#### **XVIII. Elected Members of the Archdiocesan Council (continued)**

Upon recommendation of Archpriest John Jillions, the Assembly elected alternate representatives to the Metropolitan Council (in the event of absence of the primary elected representatives).

Priest Matthew Francis moved that the second candidate for the lay representative to the Metropolitan Council, Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko, be acclaimed as the alternate lay representative in the event of Subdeacon Justin Mitchell's absence; seconded by Mr. David Grier. Carried unanimously.

Archdiocesan Alternate Lay Representative to the Metropolitan Council – Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko (acclaimed)

Priest Matthew Francis nominated Archpriest Phillip Eriksson to be the alternate clergy lay representative to the Metropolitan Council in the event of Archpriest Anatoliy Melnyk's absence; seconded by Deacon Peter Choi. Carried unanimously.

Archdiocesan Alternate Clergy Representative to the Metropolitan Council – Archpriest Phillip Eriksson (acclaimed)

#### **XIX. Amendment to the Resolution to Approve an Escrow Fund to Support Canadian Seminarians**

During the break between Session V and this Session, the Assembly received news from Archpriest Chad Hadfield, Chancellor of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, that the escrow fund should be C\$10,000 instead of US\$8,000.

Mr. Nikita Lopoukhine moved that the amount of the escrow fund described in Resolution #7 (attached) be changed from US\$8,000 to C\$10,000; seconded by Priest Justin Hewlett. Carried unanimously. **ADOPTED**

#### **XX. Question and Answer Period with the Hierarchs**

The attendees of the Assembly were given an opportunity to ask His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, and His Grace, Bishop IRÉNÉE, questions related to Orthodoxy. The hierarchs answered the following questions:

1. What is the current state of the pursuit of Orthodox unity in North America?
2. What is the current state of the pursuit of establishing Canada as a separate jurisdiction (e.g., Canadian Orthodox Church)?
3. What is the current progress of missions in North America?
4. How does the Archdiocese of Canada compare to the other Dioceses in the OCA?
5. Is anything being done on the Central Administration level or the Archdiocesan level regarding mandatory clergy retreats for spiritual well-being?
6. What are some of the things that can be done about some of the sexism that occurs right from birth?

## DRAFT PENDING APPROVAL

Session VI of the Archdiocesan Assembly adjourned at 3:20 p.m. with “It is truly meet”. The 2013-2016 Archdiocesan Council held a brief meeting to determine the date and location of its first meeting, which will be November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013, in the Archdiocesan Centre, Ottawa, Ontario. After Great Vespers at 4:00 p.m., the Assembly held a banquet in the evening with an address from His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON. His Beatitude awarded “challenge coins” to Deacon Jesse Isaac and Mrs. Mary Ann Lopoukhine for their exemplary service to the Archdiocese. In honour of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko, Archpriest John Jillions reminisced on the many lessons that he learnt from Father Tom. His Beatitude awarded Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko with the Order of St. Innocent, Gold Medal. The Assembly was closed with a Primatial Liturgy and Closing Moleben served by His Beatitude, Metropolitan TIKHON, on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at Annunciation Cathedral, Ottawa, Ontario.

\* \* \* \* \*

Respectfully submitted,

Priest Matthew Francis, St. Nikolai of Zhitsa Orthodox Mission, Whitehorse, YT

Deacon Peter Choi, St. John of Shanghai Orthodox Mission, Vancouver, BC

Mrs. Melanie Samaroden, St. Herman of Alaska Sobor, Edmonton, AB

Approved on [DATE],

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+ His Grace, Right Reverend IRENÉE (Rochon)  
Bishop of Québec & Administrator of the Archdiocese of Canada

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+ Archpriest Anatoliy Melnyk  
Chancellor, Archdiocese of Canada

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Protodeacon Nazari Polataiko  
Episcopal Secretary, Archdiocese of Canada

# Chancellor's Report

Your Eminence Archbishop Irenée, dear Fathers, brothers and sisters in Christ!

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

From the time of our last Archdiocesan Assembly, there have been many changes. Most of them were not easy; however, some of them have improved our economic sector and some — our spiritual state.

## Loss of Archimandrite Alexander (Pihach)

First of all, I want to remind you of our great loss, which has changed and continues to change many things to this day. As you know that less than a year ago, on October 8th, 2016, departed to the Lord my predecessor, the Chancellor for 16 years, Archimandrite Alexander (Denis Pihach). To this day, we continue to live with this tragic loss and remember this remarkable person in our prayers.

May his memory be eternal!

Let us stand up to pray for Fr. Alexander.

“Grant rest eternal in blessed repose, O Lord, to the soul of Thy servant Archimandrite Alexander, who is fallen asleep, and make his memory to be eternal!”

Thank you. Please take your seats.

## Transfer of Archdiocesan Office

In February 2016, our Archdiocesan Office has been transferred from Ottawa, Ontario to Rawdon, Quebec, a town that is located near Montreal.

On the one hand, our Archbishop has made this decision due to the fact that Montreal is the oldest center of Orthodoxy in Eastern Canada. On the other hand, all people working in the Office live near Montreal, and it became much easier to manage the Archdiocese from the new place (one example of this is that it takes two hours to get from Montreal to Ottawa).

Furthermore, a special reception room was arranged for our Archbishop in the St. Peter and St. Paul Parish in Montreal. Vladyka Irenée is sometimes inviting people to this office, when they need to meet with him.



## **Many Thanks**

I want to thank Vladyka for his wisdom in reorganization of the Archdiocesan Chancellery.

In addition, I want to thank Nikita Lopoukhine for his 30 years of service as a financial secretary, also in the past protodeacon and now archpriest Nazary Polataiko for his secretary work, and all the people who worked hard for the Archdiocese in the past.

Furthermore, especially I want to thank now serving officers of the Chancellery — the financial secretary Fr. Justin Mitchell and Archbishop's secretary Anna Miller with other people who are helping them.

## **Chancellery Reorganization**

I would like to ask Vladyka to bless my proposal for yet another reorganization of our Archdiocese. A few years ago, we used to have the Western Office and the Chancellor at that time was Archimandrite Alexander (Pihach). Now the Chancellor's office is located in Montreal and because of the Internet and the ease of communication, there was not much need for the Western Office.

However, during my last visit to the Vancouver Deanery I found that we need someone to be physically present and oversee the immense western part of our Archdiocese. Because we still do not have an auxiliary bishop, our Vladyka travels a lot and we must try to protect him from all possible stresses as much as we can.

I propose for Vladyka to move the Chancellor's position back to the West and I think that Fr. Philip Erikson, who lives in the central part of Western Canada, would be an excellent candidate.

## **Spencerville Property**

Since it is not possible to have insurance for our property in Spencerville, the Archdiocese has decided to close this functioning monastery. The people who lived there were well aware of it and at their last meeting the monastic community has been dissolved. They have already moved to live to a different place.

During the last fall session, the Archdiocesan Council has decided to sell this property in Spencerville. There was a proposal to sell it to our parish in Montreal — the St. Peter and St. Paul Parish or to someone else. Now our real estate agent is selling this property.

## **Ottawa House**

Last but not least. The house in Ottawa next to the Annunciation Cathedral, where the Archdiocesan Office was previously located, is now rented by the family from the same parish. The Archdiocesan Archive is still kept in this building.

Thank you!

With love in Christ,  
Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Canada  
Mitred Archpriest Anatoliy Melnyk



Archdiocesan Assembly  
Archdiocese of Canada (OCA)  
Edmonton, AB  
July 26-28<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Secretary Report

Your Beatitude, Your Eminence, Reverend Fathers, all delegates and guests.

I would like to thank Vladyka Irénée for his trust, support, and indisputable patience. I also take this opportunity to thank Fr. Vincent Lehr, Barbara North and the volunteers of St Herman of Alaska Sobor in organizing this assembly.

When Vladyka asked me if I was interested in helping out the Archdiocese with secretarial work, it had been 5 years since my husband passed away and being at home grieving was not good for my health, I welcomed the opportunity.

I would like to briefly outline my experience in the work force. I worked in the transportation (Maritime) industry and was the first female appointed an outside sales representative in North America, in 1973. It was an opportunity to open door for other woman as it was a male dominated industry and continued for almost 30 years in various departments of transportation. I was treasurer/secretary for St Peter & St Paul Sobor in Montreal and currently treasurer for St Seraphim of Sarov parish in Rawdon.

The majority of my secretarial duties are to ensure the clergy files are updated in order to fulfill the mandate of the Holy Synod, mandatory requirement concerning the Policies, Standards and Procedures of The Orthodox Church in America on Sexual Misconduct and the Archdiocesan insurance carrier.

We must ensure that everyone have background checks, **all clergy, Minor Orders (Subdeacons and Readers) altar servers, youth workers (Church School teachers, camp counselors, youth advisors/mentors).**

My nephew, an RCMP officer, currently working near Edmonton, had previously worked in Ottawa investigating backgrounds, advised me that police background checks have no "expiry date" in Canada, and it is at the discretion of the organization to demand updated criminal background checks every 3 or 5 years.

I would like to mention that the RCMP police checks are thorough, that is to say they have access to records across Canada, this report takes up to 4 weeks for clearance, whereas the local police background checks cover only the province and/or city and available within one week. I would highly recommend the RCMP background check.

We have revised the Parish report, these reports are necessary to update your files and summary sent to the OCA. It is impossible to issue a full report without all parishes submitting their respective reports. The 2017 parish reports will be sent out in January to enable the parishes and clergy ample time to submit before March.

All office documentation is filed and organized, Vladyka's correspondence is answered in a timely fashion.

My thanks to Fr. Geoffrey and Matushka Jolan in updating the clergy/parish information on our Diocesan website and would like to have more participation from our parishes to submit photographs and news about their special events. Facebook is not the only source available.

Our council meetings have been successful and would like to thank St Peter and St Paul in Montreal, Holy Trinity in Winnipeg and Christ the Saviour Sobor in Toronto for hosting our meetings, next council meeting will be in Montreal hosted by The Sign of The Theotokos Church.

Our "rural" office in Rawdon, Quebec has been in operation since February of 2016. I must thank Fr. Justin, Fr. Deacon Nicolas for moving the furniture and files just days after a major snow storm in Ottawa. They braved the elements.

Last summer we were blessed to have lunches on our new deck, watching squirrels scampering from tree to tree and birds chirping and as much as possible avoid the nasty mosquitoes, nature at its best.

I ask for your continued prayers that God will guide me and God grant you all many blessed years in the service of His Holy Orthodox Church.

With Love in Christ  
Anna Miller

# **Treasurer Report**

Archdiocesan Assembly  
July, 2017  
Edmonton, Alberta

Please accept my welcome to the Archdiocesan Assembly in Edmonton! Thank you for making the journey, and for making the time, to participate in this year's Assembly.

I would like to thank His Eminence Archbishop Irénée, the Archdiocesan Council, and the Faithful of Canada for the continued opportunity to serve as the Archdiocesan Treasurer since July, 2015. I would also thank Nikita Lopoukhine for his many years of dedicated service as Treasurer.

The following is an overview status report. A more detailed review, including financial statements for 2015 & 2016, will be presented over the course of the Assembly.

## **Banking Relationship**

The Archdiocese maintains three deposit accounts with ScotiaBank: Checking, Savings, & STAS. The relationship with Scotiabank is on-going and normal. Banking fees have been significantly reduced over the two last years.

Currently, the Archdiocese has one loan account with Scotia for the Archdiocesan car. Thank you to those parishes who continue to donate to support this vehicle for the Archdiocese.

All credit cards with Scotiabank were closed in November, 2015.

With assistance of Archimandrite Alexander Pihach and Monk Tikhon, the account with Alberta Treasury was closed in March, 2016.

Presently, online access to Scotia bank accounts is held by Treasurer, Secretary, STAS administrator, and one Audit team member.

## **STAS**

STAS members provide significant financial support for the mission of the Archdiocese. Please take a moment during your time at the Assembly to thank Fr. Andrew and Mat. Sonia Applegate as well as Dr. John Hadjinicolaou for their continued fundraising efforts, the operation of the STAS banking functions, and the maintenance of the donors list with current contact information. Please also thank a STAS member, or see Fr. Andrew or Dr. John to learn more about becoming a STAS member.

You make the difference!

## **Mortgage**

The Archdiocese paid off its mortgage with Scotiabank in November, 2015. The old mortgage included both Spencerville and the Ottawa office. The new mortgage is held by Holy Martyr Peter the Aleut Orthodox Church, Calgary. The new mortgage only includes the Archdiocesan office property in Ottawa as collateral for the loan. All payments have been made on time, and there is a normal operating relationship. Balance as of 12/31/2016 is \$143,077.51. This loan is presently scheduled to be fully paid off in 2020.

## **Bookkeeper**

I would like to thank Mrs. Jennifer Di Giacomo for her many years of loyal service as Bookkeeper to the Archdiocese. Her excellent work has made the transition to the new Bookkeeper very smooth. Mrs. Valentina Tarantchenko, parishioner of St. Peter & Paul Sobor (Montreal), began as Bookkeeper on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

## **Spencerville**

The mortgage on the property was paid off in November, 2015. At the direction of the Archdiocesan Council the property was listed with a Realtor in May, 2017.

## **Property and Liability Insurance**

As of May 1, 2017, there are no open or pending claims with the insurance carrier.

## **LeBreton Property (previous Archdiocesan office in Ottawa)**

The LeBreton Property is rented to tenants to earn income. Approximate market value is \$400,000 according to the tax authorities.

## **Audit Team:**

I wish to express a deep gratitude to the Audit Chairman German Ovodov and the entire Audit Committee for their time and devotion to ensuring the accuracy of Archdiocesan accounts and real estate asset inventory. The internal audit of 2015 financial statements, completed in 2016, uncovered no significant financial issues, but did indicate an opportunity to improve record keeping methods.

In concert with the Audit Team the Archdiocese developed and implemented the following set of procedures to improve recordkeeping and transparency. The Archdiocese operates with a separation of duties among deposits, payments, data entry, and audit. The Secretary prepares deposit slips and makes all check deposits. The STAS administrator handles all STAS deposits electronically. The Treasurer makes all payments for approved items via check or EFT. The Bookkeeper records deposits and payments, and reconciles the bank statements. The Treasurer reviews check deposit slips, STAS deposits, and all bookkeeping entries. Auditors may review any transaction on-line at any time in QuickBooks. All incoming checks are scanned and

uploaded to DropBox. All invoices, receipts, and expense reports are scanned and uploaded to DropBox. Access to QuickBooks and DropBox files are maintained by Treasurer, Bookkeeper, and two audit team members at all times.

The above procedures are detailed to demonstrate that the contributions of the faithful members of the Archdiocese are handled with extreme care. It is also hoped that this overview assists parishes when reviewing and creating their own financial policies and procedures.

Special thanks to Reader Reuben Penner for his on-going and extraordinary efforts on behalf of the Archdiocese in the areas of finance, statement preparation, and government reporting.

### **Estate Bequests**

The Archdiocese gratefully accepts bequests by the departed faithful of Canada, and some of the faithful have donated substantial amounts of such bequests in 2017. All such endowments are immediately restricted and are not placed into the general fund. Donations are placed into a separate fund to support the goals outlined by the donor which may include: seminarians, new missions, monasteries, youth activities, iconography, among many other special and worthwhile projects. Donations specified to be used for general purposes are held until the Archdiocesan Council has made a prayerful decision in the fullness of time. Please speak with your financial planner to learn more about the advantages of charitable giving.

### **Tithing**

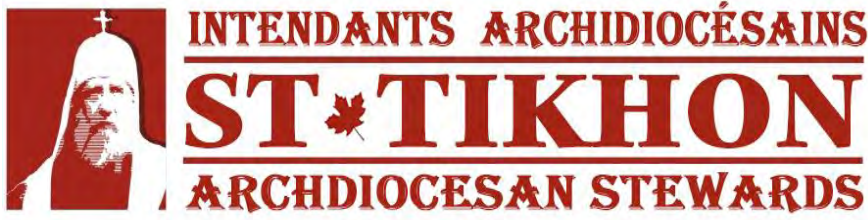
The Archdiocesan financial support comes from you, the Faithful. Parishioners participate in the sacramental life of the Church and one aspect of that is through tithing. There is a link between the faithful sacrifice offered by a parishioner into the collection basket and the sacrifice offered on the altar. "Freely ye have received; freely give" (Matthew 10:8). We are called to be cheerful givers.

The goal is for each parish to tithe 10% of its regular donation income to the Archdiocese. If your parish has not yet reached this level of commitment, please consider becoming an active advocate on your parish council. The new missions, seminarians, monasteries, clergy, and the Archdiocesan Administration thank you!

Again, thank you for attending this year's Archdiocesan Assembly. Your comments and questions about this report are most welcome at any time.

May God Grant You Many Years!

Prayerfully Submitted by: Priest Justin Mitchell, Treasurer



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## STAS report for Archdiocesan Assembly in Edmonton July 26, 2017

### A Little STAS History:

This 2017 Edmonton Assembly marks the 10-year anniversary of Saint Tikhon Archdiocese Stewards (STAS). Preliminary work leading to the formation of STAS at the 2007 Ottawa Assembly, was done at the two Archdiocesan Council (ADC) meetings before the Ottawa Assembly. In Nov. 2006 at Montreal, the “Administrative Focus Group” members; (future **Fr.**) **Matthew Francis, Sb.Dn. Jeremy Scratch** and **Sb.Dn. Peter Ewanchuk** gave a presentation on behalf of the group which also included (future **Fr.**) **Dn. Gregory Scratch**, (future **Fr.**) **Dn. Alexei Vassiouchkine, Mark Petasky, Michael Luciuk**, and **Alexandra Lopoukhine**. The report was the conclusion of research and surveys done at the request of the then Archbishop, Seraphim regarding priorities for the Archdiocese. They concluded the immediate needs were:

- 1) funding to hire an Administrative Assistant
- 2) Establishing an Archdiocesan office in Ottawa
- 3) Deans funded to travel for minimum twice a year deanery meetings in their deaneries
- 4) Double the income for the Archdiocese in the next 3 – 5 years.

In reaction to these goals **Dr. John Hadjinicolaou** is reported to have told the group “*We know what we need, please go back and tell us how – where does the funding come from?*”

The committee then went back to the drawing board and emerged at the next ADC meeting (April 2007 in Saskatoon) where Matthew Francis and Peter Ewanchuk gave the draft proposal for STAS, complete with banking direct deposits set up and in place and plans to produce brochures etc. to roll out at the upcoming Ottawa Assembly. Council immediately approved this new STAS formation and gave them a \$2000 working budget.

The July 18, 2007 Ottawa Assembly roll out was a great success. At the Assembly itself, the first 12 STAS Stewards enrolled and more than \$8,000 in annual income was committed. Four months later at the Nov. 2007 ADC meeting in Winnipeg, Matthew Francis reported to the council that they had pledges of \$10,000 and auto monthly donations would commence in November. Deacon Gregory Scratch was nominated chair of the STAS vision committee and Peter Ewanchuk chair of investments. The next goal was to have STAS representatives in each parish. **Fr. Dennis Pihach, Fr. Cyprian Hutcheon, Dn. Peter Choi, Sava Duran, Colin Justin Grimmond, Dn. Jesse Isaac** and others joined in the efforts. By the spring of 2008, eight months after the Ottawa Assembly, there were 25 STAS stewards enrolled, and by summer of 2009, 54 members and \$30,000 annually was committed.

Over the last 10 years STAS has been able to raise more than \$300,000 through small regular monthly contributions by faithful individual stewards of the Canadian Archdiocese. The needs 10 years ago of the Archdiocese, as listed earlier were;

- securing the Archbishop secretarial and administrative help,
- setting up a proper head office location,
- helping fund the travel expenses of the Deans...
- greatly increase Archdiocese income





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These goals have been achieved, and the new focus of STAS is now quite different, as we look forward to our next 10 years. Fast forward to today and we have presently 94 STAS Stewards and STAS sent out tax receipts for 2016 for \$58,165.

### **STAS Today and into the Future**

STAS answers to and is directed by our ruling Archbishop (Irénée) and the Archdiocesan Council, which meets at least twice a year. Dr. John Hadjinicolaou is the Eastern Canada coordinator/chair and Fr. Andrew Applegate is the Western Canada coordinator/chair. He and Matushka Sonia are responsible for on-going administration, maintaining the STAS steward records, and bi-monthly auto-transfers into the Archdiocesan STAS account. All donations are recorded at the Archdiocesan office and the Archdiocese issues tax receipts for all donations at the end of every year. We are projecting \$65,000 in annual STAS revenue for 2017 (up from \$58,000 in 2016). We operate STAS on a very slim budget of 5% for expenses. In the world of charitable giving organizations this is unheard of. A 20% administration, marketing and expense rate is considered exceptional. This allows STAS to commit 95% of every dollar donated to go towards top priority needs in our own Canadian Archdiocese! You will not find a better opportunity to invest in the kingdom of God - supporting your Canadian Orthodox Church & your Archbishop!

We are currently looking for STAS members in every OCA parish who are willing put in about 4 hrs. per month to serve as STAS point people in their Parish. In addition, we are setting up a 6 member STAS advisory committee with 3 STAS members in the West and 3 STAS members in the East who have committed to be available for about 8 hrs. per month, and help with not just their individual parishes, but with ongoing operations and STAS activities throughout their deanery. In the deaneries of the West you may contact the STAS Deanery Coordinators at:

- Fr. Matthew Francis (BC) [matthewwilliamglennfrancis@gmail.com](mailto:matthewwilliamglennfrancis@gmail.com) PH: 604-845-1063
- Melanie and James Samaroden (AB) [msamaroden@gmail.com](mailto:msamaroden@gmail.com) PH: 780-604-7510
- Gregory Rychlo (SK/MN) [cgrychlo@yourlink.ca](mailto:cgrychlo@yourlink.ca) PH: 306-860-7756

Thank you to our new Western Deanery STAS coordinators! Dr. John Hadjinicolaou is presently looking to fill the three Eastern deanery spots, and we need many more parish reps across Canada. Please contact us if you could help in this way.

The current top five STAS priorities and the approximant percentage of the STAS budget allocated to them (and dollar amounts based on the 2017 projected income of \$65,000) as set at the March 2017 Toronto ADC meeting are:

#1 – Help needy clergy survive, especially in mission parishes which can only offer a small amount to pay for a priest as they get established. Helping with struggling and start up missions in other ways is also included in this #1 priority.

40% = \$26,000

#2 – Start a fund for an Auxiliary Bishop to aid our much-travelled Archbishop Irénée. We need to demonstrate we can pay at least a living wage to an Auxiliary Bishop before finding one.

20% = \$13,000

#3 – Clergy training. Help subsidize costs, loan payments, etc. for both for seminary students graduating with large debt and small income potential, and currently serving Clergy.

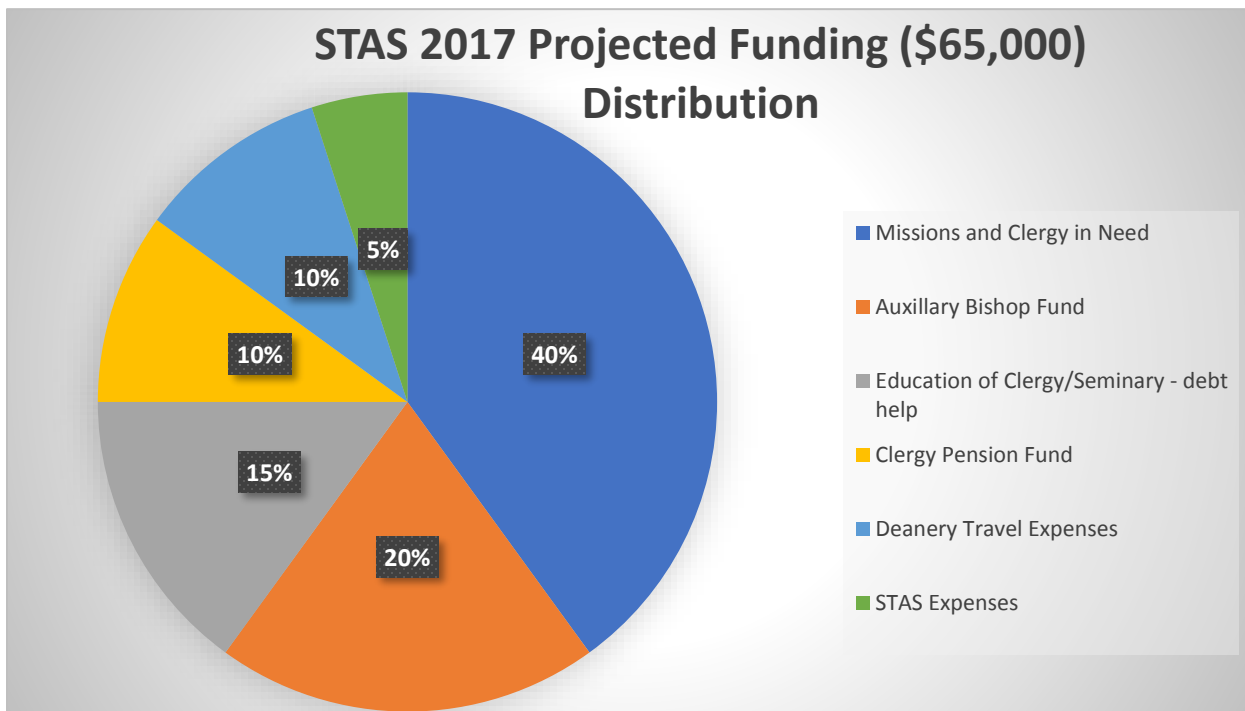
15% = \$9,750

#4 – Establish a Clergy pension fund. Some of our aging Clergy are very close to needing to retire and have very little to live on, as they have served for decades for very low wages and with no little or no pension savings available.

10% = \$6,500

#5 – Continuing to help Deans by funding basic travel expenses and paying for supply priests at their own parishes, as our five Dean’s travel to fulfill the needs of their large Deanery areas.

10% = \$6,500



STAS is a very important and significant part of the strategic plan for the Archdiocese of Canada! While we are grateful for the many faithful STAS members we already have, we are in great need of attracting many more. The vision of STAS is to give every person in every Canadian OCA parish the opportunity to share in the work of establishing and growing Christ’s Church here at home in Canada. STAS stewards through their membership honour the words of St. Tikhon, our patron saint, *“Devoting ourselves to the Orthodox faith not in tongue only, but in word and truth,”* and *“The spread of Christ’s faith ought to be near and dear to the heart of every Orthodox Christian.”*

**How You Can Help the Mission of the Orthodox Church in Canada (OCA)**

- 1) **Pray...** for our Metropolitan Tikhon, our ruling Archbishop Irénée, and the clergy and faithful throughout the entire Archdiocese of Canada daily!

- 2) **Encourage your Parish to meet its 10% commitment...** The Archdiocese is completely funded from member parishes and individuals. Every member parish is required to send a 10% tithe from their parish income to the Archdiocese. This is far less than the requirements of other Orthodox Dioceses in the USA, however, many of our member parishes fall far short of living up to even this requirement. Please encourage your local parish community to plan to increase it's giving to the Archdiocese to eventually meet the 10% requirement.
  
- 3) **Remember Christ's Church in your will and estate planning...** As we age and do our estate planning, as committed Orthodox Christians we should include some money or provision in our wills to be a lasting legacy, continuing to support the work of Christ and His Church even after we have completed our earthly journey. This will be not only a great eternal investment to our credit, but will also be a wonderful testimony to our families as to how important it is in our short earthly journey to give back to God from what He has given us. Of course, we wish to continue to show our love to our children and families through bequeathing them an inheritance, but giving a portion of our treasure back to God's work can be a valuable lesson and treasure to them. They will expect us as faithful Orthodox Christians, to remember the Church in our wills. Please contact Dr. John Hadjinicolaou or Fr. Andrew Applegate to discuss donating, setting up or contributing to a Trust, or other ongoing ways you can name the Archdiocese of Canada in your will, and continue to help support Christ's Church.
  
- 4) **Join us as a STAS Steward....** Becoming a STAS steward helps us to look beyond our local parish, to recognize and participate also in the mission of the Canadian Orthodox Church, uniting us all into a larger vision and mission. We are asking you for a small regular monthly contribution – over and above your regular commitment to your local parish. Receiving small regular donations from many people, allows us to plan and fulfill what Christ has called us to as an Archdiocese. Every dollar you contribute makes a difference to your Orthodox community in Canada. The Archdiocese of Canada receives no funding whatsoever from any other source apart from you and our Canadian OCA parishes. Although we are doing much to help as is indicated on the pie graph, there is so much more we have been called to do. Please join us and help in making the Orthodox Church in Canada a vibrant force, calling all to precious union and love in Christ. Join us as a STAS steward!
  
- 5) **Join us in becoming a STAS volunteer...** STAS began and has remained a grass roots volunteer run organization. One of our main goals therefore is to greatly increase the STAS volunteer base. We are looking to add parishioners from across Canada to serve a 4 hour per month commitment as a STAS representative in their parish. All STAS volunteers would agree to do a minimum of 2 STAS presentations per year in their parish and personally meet with and give a STAS presentation to 12 or more individuals/families per year (one per month). In addition, we are hoping to have 6 STAS volunteers (3 in the East and 3 in the West) who would agree to commit 8 hours per month and help with the overall STAS work and planning, as well as being a STAS parish representative. Please contact us if you can help, we would love to team up with you in serving Christ and His Church through STAS

STAS gives us all the opportunity to practice God-pleasing stewardship. Stewardship is letting the riches that God has entrusted us with to share with others, flow through us without getting stuck. We are blessed when we humbly direct them to where they can do the most good in terms of love, compassion and furthering the kingdom of God. Our heavenly eternal investments in Christ's Church and His



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mission will prove much more valuable than our temporary earthly savings accounts in the reality of God's kingdom. Please unite with your many brothers and sisters across the Archdiocese of Canada, and join us as a Saint Tikhon's Archdiocesan Steward! Together through STAS we can invest where thieves cannot steal nor moths and rust destroy.

### **Special Thank You to STAS 10-Year Pioneers**

This Edmonton Assembly marks the 10-year anniversary since Saint Tikhon's Archdiocesan Stewards (STAS) was first rolled out at the Ottawa Assembly in July 2007! We are most grateful for all of our STAS Stewards, from the most recent who are coming on board here at this Assembly, to our pioneers! At this Assembly, we would especially like to thank those faithful STAS "pioneers" who were part of the initial roll out, most of whom have faithfully supported the mission of the Canadian Orthodox Church through their monthly STAS pledge ever since. If you are a pioneer who has had to discontinue your monthly pledge for a season, please consider re-instating once your circumstances have improved. If you have any concerns, advice or questions regarding STAS operations and vision today, please contact us.

#### **Eastern Canada Pioneer List:**

David Decaire; Michael & Jan Griggs; Justin Grimmond; Dr John Hadjinicolaou and Dr. Evangelia Amirali –Hadjinicolaou; Anouk Iversen; Stuart Iversen; Lesley-Ann Judge; Evthymios Katsikas; Fr. Constantine & Mat. Patricia Katsilas; Fr. Oleg Kirilov +; Alexandra Lopoukhine; Nikita & MaryAnn Lopoukhine; Leslee Mansour; Ketevan Natsvlichvili; Nino Natsvlichvili; Tinatin Natsvlichvili; Aaron & Krystle Olson; Nikita Pchelin; Maria Pergantis; Gillian Perry; Fr. Fr. Gregory and Taesia Scratch; Jeremy & Helen Scratch; Richard & Elisabeth Schneider; Vladyka Seraphim Storheim; Nadine & Dn. Gregoire Svetlovsky; Aurore Therrien; Luidmila Tomarovskaya; Mother Sophia (Rhoda) Zion.

#### **Western Canada Pioneer List:**

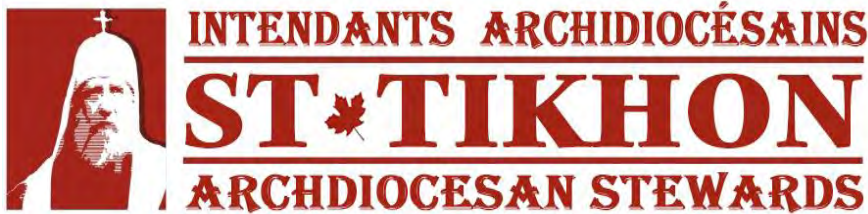
Fr. Andrew & Mat. Sonia Applegate; Rodrigue + & Linda Belzile; Susan Bloomquist; Edmond Buhler; Moira Calder; John and Sylvia Chinery; Peter Choi; Sava Duran; Fr. Phillip & Mat. Barbara Eriksson; Boris & Audrey Ewanchuk; Peter & Rebecca Ewanchuk; Greg & Lydia Fedor; Fr. Matthew & Krysta Francis; Andrew Friesen; Fr. Daniel & Mat. Valerie Friesen; Micah Friesen; David & Lorraine Grier; Alexander & Irina Grountsev; Fr. John & Mat. Sharon Gryba; Gelu & Elena Halmaghi; Michael & Lydia Holden; Fr. Cyprian Hutcheon; P.Dn. Jesse & Mat. Roxanne Isaac; Dn. Kurt & Mat. Victoria Jordan; Fr. Bob & Mat. Dianne Kennaugh; David Kozinsky; Vince & Laurel Litardi; Fr. Vladimir Lysak; Alan & Wendy McGee; Katherine Mitchell; Barbara & Alan North; Alexander & Galina Ovodov; Doug Petasky; Mark Petasky; Archimandrite Alexander Pihach +; Matthew Root; Greg & Carol Rychlo; John and Susan Syrnick; Rod Tkachuk; Mother Magdalen Williams.

## **Thank You STAS Pioneers!**

Yours in Christ

Fr Andrew Applegate and Dr. John Hadjinicolaou  
STAS Co-chairs (Western and Eastern Canada)





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### STAS ENROLLMENT FORM

The St. Tikhon Archdiocesan Stewards (STAS) was founded with the purpose of financially supporting the ongoing ministry, vision, & pastoral care of the ruling Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Canada. STAS members are committed to the vision that Christ has called us all together to enable the Orthodox Church in Canada to fully function as the Church, bringing the Kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven." Through regular giving to the Archdiocese through STAS, members contribute above and beyond the support of their local parish, to join in fulfilling the work of the Canadian Orthodox Church (OCA). We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting the vision of St. Tikhon, and join us as a STAS steward.

**I would like to commit to partaking in the ministry of the Orthodox Church through the Archdiocese of Canada by a monthly contribution of:**

- \$25/mo.       \$50/mo.       \$75/mo.       \$100/mo.       \$250/mo.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (amount of your choosing)  
 Please find enclosed my yearly cheque to support STAS and the Archdiocese of Canada  
\_\_\_\_\_ (amount of your choosing)

### PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT DONOR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**If making a pre-authorized monthly donation from your chequing account, please include a cheque marked "VOID."**

This is your authorization to debit the account # \_\_\_\_\_

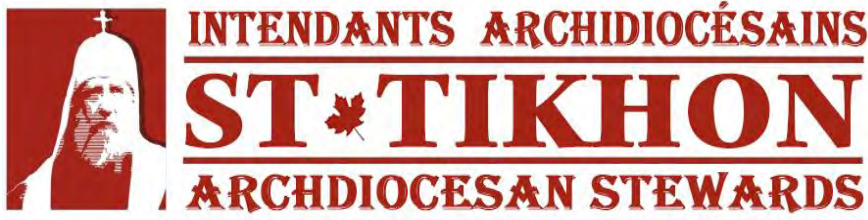
At (Bank name, location & Branch) \_\_\_\_\_

For the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to be withdrawn on the 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_ or 15<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_ of each and every month as a donation to the Archdiocese of Canada until further notice.

This authorization may be cancelled at any time upon written or e-mail notice to the Archdiocese of Canada. It is warranted by the donor that all persons whose signatures are required to sign on the above account have signed this authorization. All charitable donations will receive an annual charitable donation receipt (#134835297-RR001).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (if second signature required) \_\_\_\_\_



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## What is STAS?

**STAS** (Saint Tikhon Archdiocesan Stewards) provides an opportunity for the faithful to live the words of St. Tikhon in *“devoting ourselves to the Orthodox faith not in tongue only, but in deed and truth”*

**STAS** is a method in which the faithful Orthodox Christians of the Archdiocese of Canada can contribute in a straightforward, intentional, and meaningful way to the witness of Orthodoxy in Canada. STAS is a tangible way to directly support the work of the Church in addressing her current and her future needs.

**STAS** contributions should be always above-and-beyond your regular parish stewardship. They should not replace or diminish current tithing to your home community. All contributors will be issued a charitable tax receipt.

**STAS** was started in 2007 and has a great record of achievement. STAS funding has provided: administrative assistance to the ruling Bishop; basic travel expenses for the 5 Deans; support to seminarians, and missions; and other pressing needs. Current priorities are to compensate clergy stipends where needed and provide support for struggling missions; help support retired clergy with little means of support; and is establishing funding to support a future auxiliary bishop.

**STAS** is based upon many people contributing fairly small amounts monthly. Currently individual monthly contributions range from \$15/mo. to \$600/mo.; but only 9 of the 101 members are contributing \$100 or more per month, with the average monthly donation being \$50/mo. For 2016, total yearly revenue total revenue to Archdiocese from STAS was \$58,000 and STAS expenses < 3%.

Please prayerfully consider supporting our ruling bishop, His Eminence Archbishop Irénée’s vision, and the Orthodox Church in Canada in this God-pleasing way; it will pay you great eternal dividends unto ages of ages!

Please phone or e-mail anytime if you have any questions or suggestions, or would like to help work with STAS in your parish.

Dr. John Hadjinicolaou, Eastern Canada STAS Coordinator PH: 514-738-4018 E-mail: [johnhadjinicolaou26@gmail.com](mailto:johnhadjinicolaou26@gmail.com)

Fr. Andrew Applegate, Western Canada STAS Coordinator PH: 250-420-1582 E-mail: [frandrewapplegate@gmail.com](mailto:frandrewapplegate@gmail.com)



## **Rapport de IAST pour l'Assemblée archidiocésaine d'Edmonton le 26 juillet 2017**

### **Un peu de l'histoire de IAST :**

L'Assemblée 2017 d'Edmonton marquera le 10<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de l'association des Intendants archidiocésains Saint-Tikhon (IAST). Le travail préliminaire qui a mené à la création de IAST lors de l'Assemblée 2007 à Ottawa a été effectué au moment des deux réunions du Conseil archidiocésain (CAD) ayant précédé l'Assemblée d'Ottawa. En novembre 2006 à Montréal, des membres du « Groupe de discussion administratif », **le sous-diacre (depuis lors Père) Matthew Francis, Jeremy Scratch et le sous-diacre Peter Ewanchuk** ont donné une présentation au nom du groupe composé également du **diacre (depuis lors Père) Gregory Scratch, du diacre (depuis lors Père) Alexei Vassiouchkine, de Mark Petasky, de Michael Luciuk et d'Alexandra Lopoukhine**. Le rapport était l'aboutissement d'une recherche et de sondages faits à la demande de l'archevêque à l'époque, Seraphim, en ce qui avait trait aux priorités de l'Archidiocèse. Le groupe a conclu que les besoins immédiats étaient :

- 1) ramasser des fonds pour embaucher un assistant administratif;
- 2) établir un bureau archidiocésain à Ottawa;
- 3) constituer un fonds de déplacement pour les doyens pour couvrir les frais de leurs réunions au moins biennuelles dans leur doyenné;
- 4) doubler le revenu de l'Archidiocèse au cours des 3 à 5 années ultérieures.

En réaction à ces objectifs, le **D<sup>r</sup> John Hadjinicolaou** a dit au groupe : « *Nous savons de quoi nous avons besoin, veuillez vous pencher à nouveau sur la question pour nous dire comment – d'où viendra ce fonds? »*

Le comité s'est alors remis au travail jusqu'à la réunion ultérieure du CAD (avril 2007 à Saskatoon) lors de laquelle Matthew Francis et Peter Ewanchuk ont apporté une ébauche de proposition concernant IAST, assortie d'un établissement des virements bancaires automatiques requis et de plans pour la production de brochures, etc., en vue de son lancement à la prochaine Assemblée à Ottawa. Le Conseil a immédiatement approuvé la création et a alloué au groupe un budget de fonctionnement de 2 000 \$.

Le lancement lors de l'Assemblée du 18 juillet 2007 à Ottawa a remporté un grand succès. À l'occasion de cette Assemblée, les 12 premiers intendants IAST se sont inscrits et plus de 8 000 \$ de revenu annuel étaient en voie d'être générés. Quatre mois plus tard, lors de la réunion du CAD à Winnipeg en novembre 2007, Matthew Francis a annoncé au Conseil un montant de 10 000 \$ en promesses de contributions et que les dons automatiques mensuels commenceraient en novembre. Le diacre Gregory Scratch a été nommé président du comité des visions IAST et Peter Ewanchuk, président des investissements. L'objectif suivant était d'avoir des représentants de IAST dans chaque paroisse. Le **Père Dennis Pihach, le Père Cyprian Hutcheon, le diacre Peter Choi, Sava Duran, Colin Justin Grimmond, le diacre Jesse Isaac** et d'autres personnes se sont joints au mouvement. Au printemps 2008, huit mois après l'Assemblée à Ottawa, 25 intendants IAST s'étaient inscrits; à l'été 2009, 54 membres s'étaient engagés et 30 000 \$ étaient en voie d'être générés annuellement.



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Au cours des dix dernières années, IAST a pu recueillir plus de 300 000 \$ à compter des petites contributions mensuelles régulières versées par de fidèles intendants de l'Archidiocèse canadien. Les besoins établis au cours de ces 10 années ont été :

- assurer à l'archevêque un soutien en administration et en secrétariat;
- établir un emplacement de bureau central adéquat;
- contribuer au fonds de dépenses de déplacement des doyens;
- augmenter considérablement le revenu de l'Archidiocèse.

Ces objectifs ont été atteints et la nouvelle orientation de IAST est à présent très différente, au moment où nous envisageons les 10 prochaines années. À ce jour, nous avons 94 intendants IAST et en 2016, l'association a envoyé pour 58 165 \$ de reçus fiscaux.

### **IAST présentement et dans l'avenir**

IAST est placé sous la direction de et rend des comptes à notre archevêque dirigeant (Irénée) et au Conseil archidiocésain qui se réunit au moins deux fois par année. Le D<sup>r</sup> John Hadjinicolaou est le coordonnateur/président pour l'Est du Canada et le Père Andrew Applegate est le coordonnateur/président pour l'Ouest du Canada. Ce dernier, ainsi que Matouchka Sonia assument la responsabilité de l'administration courante, de la tenue des registres et des virements automatiques bimensuels dans le compte archidiocésain de IAST. Tous les dons sont enregistrés au bureau archidiocésain et l'Archidiocèse émet des reçus fiscaux pour tous les dons à la fin de chaque année. Nous prévoyons qu'en 2017, IAST générera un revenu annuel de 65 000 \$ (comparé à 58 000 \$ en 2016). Pour ce qui est de ses dépenses, IAST opère à compter d'un très mince budget de 5%, ce qui est du jamais vu dans le monde des organismes de bienfaisance. Un taux de 20% en matière d'administration, de marketing et de dépenses est considéré comme étant exceptionnel. Ce mince budget permet à IAST de consacrer 95% de chaque dollar donné aux besoins prioritaires de notre Archidiocèse canadien! Vous ne trouverez pas une meilleure occasion d'investir dans le Royaume de Dieu qu'en apportant votre soutien à notre Église orthodoxe canadienne & à notre évêque dirigeant!

Nous recherchons présentement des membres IAST de toute paroisse de l'ÉOA qui consentiraient à consacrer environ 4 heures de leur temps à servir comme personne-ressource IAST dans leur paroisse. De plus, nous mettons en place un comité consultatif composé de 6 membres IAST, dont 3 membres IAST de l'Ouest et 3 membres IAST de l'Est, qui s'engagent à être disponibles environ 8 heures par mois et apportent leur aide non seulement dans leur propre paroisse, mais également au niveau des opérations et activités de IAST à travers leur doyenné. Dans les doyennés de l'Ouest, vous pouvez communiquer avec les coordonnateurs de doyenné IAST suivants :

- Père Matthew Francis (C.-B.) [matthewwilliamglennfrancis@gmail.com](mailto:matthewwilliamglennfrancis@gmail.com)  
TÉL. : 604-845-1063
- Melanie et James Samaroden (AB) [msamaroden@gmail.com](mailto:msamaroden@gmail.com) TÉL. : 780-604-7510
- Gregory Rychlo (SK/MN) [egrychlo@yourlink.ca](mailto:egrychlo@yourlink.ca) TÉL. : 306-860-7756

Merci à nos nouveaux coordonnateurs de doyenné IAST de l'Ouest! Le D<sup>r</sup> John Hadjinicolaou recherche présentement trois personnes pour remplir cette fonction dans les doyennés de l'Est et nous avons besoin de beaucoup plus de représentants à travers le Canada. Veuillez communiquer avec nous si vous pouvez nous aider de cette manière.





# INTENDANTS ARCHIDIOCÉSAINS

# ST TIKHON

## ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDS

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Les cinq priorités actuelles de IAST, ainsi que le pourcentage approximatif du budget de IAST leur étant alloué (et le montant en dollars selon le revenu projeté de 65 000 \$ en 2017), telles qu'établies lors de la réunion du CAD à Toronto en mars 2017 sont :

#1 – Aider les membres du clergé dans le besoin à survivre, en particulier dans des paroisses missionnaires qui ne peuvent verser au prêtre qu'un petit salaire au moment où elles sont en phase d'établissement. Venir en aide de d'autres façons à des Missions qui sont en difficulté ou qui démarrent est également compris dans cette priorité #1.

40% = 26 000 \$

#2 – Débuter l'établissement d'un fonds pour un évêque auxiliaire en vue de venir en aide à notre archevêque Irénée qui doit beaucoup voyager. Nous devons démontrer que nous pouvons verser au moins un salaire de subsistance à un évêque auxiliaire avant d'en trouver un.

20% = 13 000 \$

#3 – Soutenir l'éducation des membres du clergé. Aider les séminaristes ayant une dette importante et un faible revenu potentiel, de même que les membres du clergé actuellement en service, en subventionnant les coûts d'éducation, les remboursements de prêts, etc.

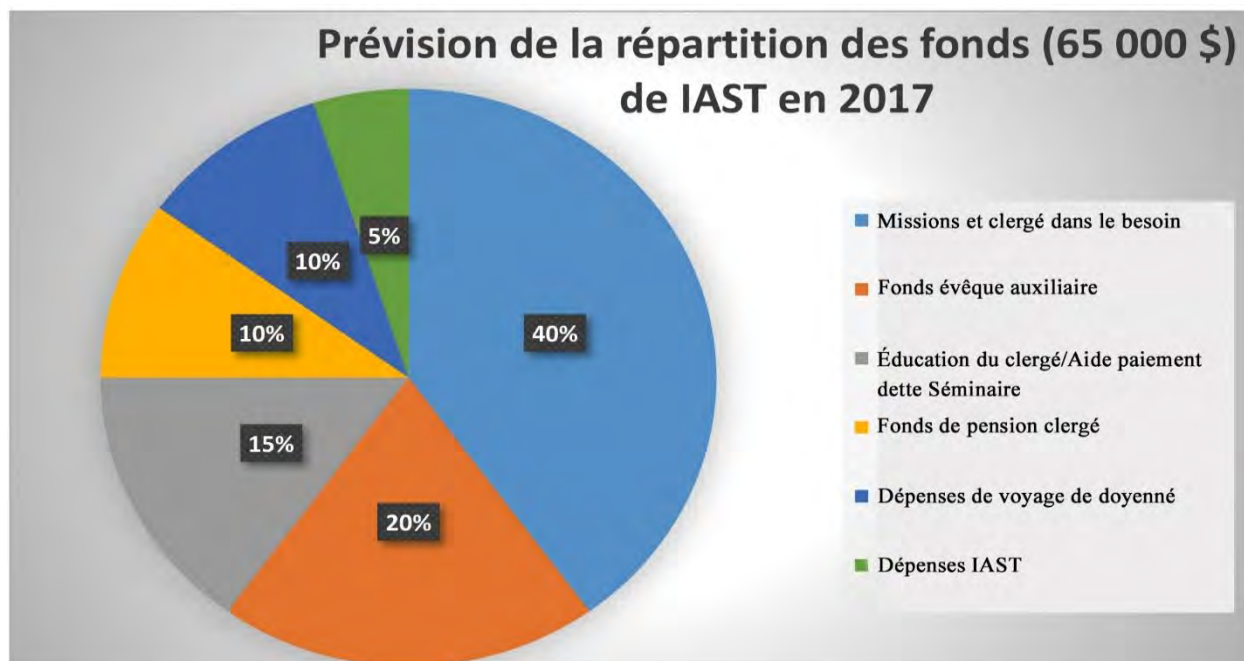
15% = 9 750 \$

#4 – Établir un fonds de pension pour les membres du clergé. Des membres âgés de notre clergé devront bientôt prendre leur retraite et ils n'ont que très peu d'argent pour vivre, ayant servi pendant des décennies à des salaires très bas et n'ayant pu mettre de côté que très peu d'argent, ou pas du tout, pour leur pension.

10% = 6 500 \$

#5 – Continuer à aider les doyens en défrayant leurs dépenses de voyage de base et en payant les prêtres suppléants dans leur paroisse, nos cinq doyens voyageant pour répondre aux besoins de leur grande région de doyenné.

10% = 6 500 \$





IAST est un élément très important et très appréciable du plan stratégique de l'Archidiocèse du Canada! Bien que reconnaissants pour les nombreux membres fidèles de IAST que nous avons déjà, nous avons grand besoin d'en attirer de nombreux autres. La vision de IAST est de donner l'occasion à chaque personne des paroisses canadiennes de l'ÉOA de prendre part à l'œuvre d'établissement de croissance de l'Église du Christ dans notre pays. Par leur adhésion à IAST, les membres donnent un sens aux paroles de saint Tikhon, notre saint patron, à savoir « *Nous consacrer à la foi orthodoxe non seulement en paroles, mais aussi en actes et en vérité* » et « *Tout Chrétien orthodoxe doit avoir au cœur la propagation de la foi dans le Christ* ».

### **De quelles manières vous pouvez aider la mission de l'Église orthodoxe au Canada (ÉOA)**

- 1) **Prier...** quotidiennement pour notre métropolite Tikhon et notre archevêque dirigeant Irénée, de même que pour les membres du clergé et les fidèles de tout l'Archidiocèse du Canada!
- 2) **Encourager votre paroisse à respecter son engagement des 10%...** L'Archidiocèse est entièrement financé par ses paroisses membres et leurs paroissiens. Chaque paroisse membre doit envoyer à l'Archidiocèse une dîme représentant 10% des revenus paroissiaux. Bien que cela représente beaucoup moins que les exigences requises par d'autres diocèses orthodoxes des États-Unis, plusieurs de nos paroisses membres sont loin de répondre à cette exigence. Veuillez encourager votre communauté paroissiale locale à planifier une augmentation de sa contribution à l'Archidiocèse pour en arriver éventuellement à rencontrer l'exigence des 10%.
- 3) **Vous souvenir de l'Église du Christ dans votre planification testamentaire et successorale...** Alors que nous vieillissons et faisons notre planification successorale, nous devrions, en tant que Chrétien orthodoxe engagés, inclure dans notre testament de l'argent ou une disposition comme legs durable, en vue de continuer à apporter notre soutien à l'œuvre du Christ et de Son Église même après avoir complété notre parcours terrestre. Cela ne sera pas seulement un important investissement éternel à notre crédit, mais également un merveilleux témoignage indiquant à notre famille qu'il est important, lors de notre court parcours terrestre, de redonner à Dieu une part de ce qu'Il nous a donné. Bien entendu, nous désirons continuer à montrer notre amour à nos enfants et nos familles en leur léguant un héritage, mais redonner une part en vue de l'œuvre de Dieu peut s'avérer être pour eux une leçon et un trésor de grande valeur. Ils attendront de nous qu'en tant que fidèles Chrétiens orthodoxes, nous n'oublions pas l'Église dans notre testament. Veuillez communiquer avec le D<sup>r</sup> John Hadjinicolaou ou le Père Andrew Applegate pour discuter au sujet d'un don ou d'une contribution à une fiducie ou de la création d'une fiducie, ou encore concernant les autres façons de citer l'Archidiocèse du Canada dans votre testament, et continuer ainsi à apporter votre soutien à l'Église du Christ.
- 4) **Joignez-vous à nous en tant qu'intendant(e) IAST...** Devenir un/une intendant(e) IAST nous aide à regarder plus loin que notre paroisse locale, tout en reconnaissant la mission de l'Église orthodoxe canadienne et en y participant, nous unissant ainsi autour d'une



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**V1C 1W7**

vision et une mission élargies. Nous vous demandons une petite contribution mensuelle régulière venant s'ajouter à votre engagement régulier envers votre paroisse locale sans la

remplacer. Recevoir de petits dons réguliers de plusieurs personnes nous permet de planifier et mener à terme ce à quoi nous appelle le Christ en tant qu'Archidiocèse. Chaque dollar que vous versez fait une différence pour votre communauté orthodoxe du Canada. L'Archidiocèse du Canada ne reçoit de fonds d'aucune autre source que vous et nos paroisses canadiennes de l'ÉOA. Bien que nous accomplissions beaucoup en termes d'aide, tel que l'indique le graphique circulaire, nous sommes appelés à faire encore beaucoup plus. Veuillez vous joindre à nous et contribuer à faire de l'Église orthodoxe du Canada une force dynamique, appelant toute personne à l'union et à l'amour précieux en Christ. Joignez-vous à nous en tant qu'intendant(e) IAST!

- 5) **Joignez-vous à nous en devenant un/une bénévole IAST...** L'association IAST a commencé en tant qu'organisation ancrée dans le bénévolat et elle l'est resté. L'un de nos objectifs principaux est donc d'accroître substantiellement notre banque de bénévoles. Nous aimerions y ajouter des paroissiens/paroissiennes de tout le Canada en vue qu'ils/elles s'engagent à servir 4 heures par mois en tant que représentant(e) IAST dans leur paroisse. Tous les bénévoles de IAST consentiront à faire 2 présentations IAST par année dans leur paroisse, ainsi qu'à rencontrer personnellement 12 personnes/familles par année (une par mois) pour leur faire une présentation IAST. En outre, nous espérons avoir 6 bénévoles IAST (3 dans l'Est et 3 dans l'Ouest) qui consentiront à donner 8 heures de leur temps par mois pour contribuer au travail et à la planification d'ensemble de IAST, tout en étant un/une représentant(e) IAST dans leur paroisse. Veuillez communiquer avec nous si vous pouvez nous aider : nous aimerions faire équipe avec vous pour servir le Christ et Son Église à travers IAST.

L'association IAST nous donne à tous l'occasion de pratiquer une intendance qui plaît à Dieu. Cette intendance consiste à offrir en partage aux autres les richesses que Dieu nous a confiées, les laissant sans arrêt rejaillir sur eux. Nous sommes bénis lorsque nous les dirigeons vers l'endroit où elles feront le plus de bien en termes d'amour, de compassion et de promotion du royaume de Dieu. Dans le royaume de Dieu, nos investissements éternels célestes dans l'Église du Christ et Sa mission auront beaucoup plus de valeur que nos comptes d'épargne terrestres temporaires. Veuillez vous joindre à vos nombreux frères et sœurs de l'Archidiocèse du Canada en devenant un/une intendant(e) archidiocésain(e) Saint-Tikhon! Ensemble nous pouvons investir à travers IAST là où les voleurs ne peuvent dérober ni les vers et la rouille ne peuvent détruire.

### **Un merci tout spécial à nos pionniers IAST d'il y a 10 ans**

Cette Assemblée d'Edmonton marque le 10<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la création de l'association des Intendants archidiocésains Saint-Tikhon (IAST) lors de l'Assemblée de juillet 2007 à Ottawa! Nous sommes très reconnaissants envers tous nos intendants IAST, de celui/celle qui y adhèrera lors de la présente Assemblée à nos pionniers! À l'occasion de cette Assemblée, nous aimerions remercier particulièrement ces fidèles « pionniers » qui ont adhéré à IAST au moment de sa



**INTENDANTS ARCHIDIOCÉSAINS**  
**ST TIKHON**  
**ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDS**

**912 12 St. S.**  
**Cranbrook, BC**  
**V1C 1W7**

création initiale et dont la plupart ont depuis lors fidèlement apporté leur soutien à la mission de l'Église orthodoxe canadienne à compter de leur contribution mensuelle IAST. Si vous êtes un pionnier/une pionnière qui a dû cesser sa contribution mensuelle pendant une saison, veuillez envisager de la reprendre une fois que votre situation se sera améliorée. Si vous avez des

préoccupations, des conseils ou des questions ayant trait aux opérations et à la vision actuelles de IAST, veuillez communiquer avec nous.

**Liste des pionniers de l'Est du Canada :**

David Decaire; Michael & Jan Griggs; Justin Grimmond; D<sup>r</sup> John Hadjinicolaou & D<sup>r</sup> Evangelia Amiralí-Hadjinicolaou; Anouk Iversen; Stuart Iversen; Lesley-Ann Judge; Evthymios Karsikas; Père Constantine & Mat. Patricia Katsilas; Père Oleg Kirilov +; Alexandra Lopoukhine; Nikita & MaryAnn Lopoukhine; Leslee Mansour; Ketevan Natsvlichvili; Nino Natsvlichvili; Tinatin Natsyllichvili; Aaron & Krystle Olson; Nikita Pchelin; Maria Pergantis; Gillian Perry; Père Gregory & Taesia Scratch; Jeremy & Helen Scratch; Richard & Elisabeth Schneider; Vladika Seraphim Storheim; Nadine & diacre Gregoire Svetlovsky; Aurore Therrien; Luidmila Tomarovskaya; Mère Sophia (Rhoda) Zion.

**Liste des pionniers de l'Ouest du Canada :**

Père Andrew & Mat. Sonia Applegate; Rodrigue + & Linda Belzile; Susan Bloomquist; Edmond Buhler; Moira Calder; John & Sylvia Chinery; Peter Choi; Sava Duran; Père Phillip & Mat. Barbara Eriksson; Boris & Audrey Ewanchuk; Peter & Rebecca Ewanchuk; Greg & Lydia Fedor; Père Matthew & Krysta Francis; Andrew Friesen; Père Daniel & Mat. Valerie Friesen; Micah Friesen; David & Lorraine Grier; Alexander & Irina Grountsev; Père John & Mat. Sharon Gryba; Gelu & Elena Halmaghi; Michael & Lydia Holden; Père Cyprian Hutcheon; protodiacre Jesse & Mat. Roxanne Isaac; diacre Kurt & Mat. Victoria Jordan; Père Bob & Mat. Dianne Kennaugh; David Kozinsky; Vince & Laurel Litardi; Père Vladimir Lysak; Alan & Wendy McGee; Katherine Mitchell; Barbara & Alan North; Alexander & Galina Ovodov; Doug Petasky; Mark Petasky; Archimandrite Alexander Pihach +; Matthew Root; Greg & Carol Rychlo; John & Susan Syrnick; Rod Tkachuk; Mère Magdalen Williams.

# Merci aux pionniers IAST!!!

Vôtre en Christ

Père Andrew Applegate et D<sup>r</sup> John Hadjinicolaou

Co-présidents IAST (Canada de l'Ouest et de l'Est)





### FORMULAIRE D'ADHÉSION À IAST

L'association des Intendants archidiocésains Saint-Tikhon (IAST) a été fondée en vue de soutenir financièrement le ministère, la vision & les soins pastoraux continus de l'archevêque dirigeant de l'Archidiocèse du Canada. Les membres de IAST font leur cette vision voulant que le Christ nous a appelés tous ensemble à permettre à l'Église orthodoxe du Canada de fonctionner pleinement en tant que l'Église, pour qu'advienne le Royaume « sur la terre comme au ciel ». En faisant des dons à l'Archidiocèse sur une base régulière à travers IAST, dons venant s'ajouter à ceux qu'ils accordent déjà à leur paroisse locale, les membres contribuent à l'accomplissement du travail de l'Église orthodoxe canadienne (ÉOA). Nous vous demandons de prier en vue d'apporter votre soutien à la vision de saint Tikhon et ce, en vous joignant à nous comme intendant(e) IAST.

**Je voudrais m'engager à prendre part au ministère de l'Église orthodoxe à travers l'Archidiocèse du Canada par le biais d'une contribution mensuelle de :**

- 25 \$/mo.       50 \$/mo.       75 \$/mo.       100 \$/mo.       250 \$/mo.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (montant de votre choix)  
 Veuillez trouver ci-inclus mon chèque annuel pour soutenir IAST et l'Archidiocèse du Canada  
\_\_\_\_\_ (montant de votre choix)

#### RENSEIGNEMENTS PERSONNELS DU DONATEUR/DE LA DONATRICE POUR LES PRÉLÈVEMENTS PRÉAUTORISÉS

Nom : \_\_\_\_\_

Adresse : \_\_\_\_\_

Ville : \_\_\_\_\_ Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Code postal \_\_\_\_\_

Paroisse : \_\_\_\_\_

Téléphone résidentiel : \_\_\_\_\_ Cellulaire : \_\_\_\_\_

Courriel : \_\_\_\_\_

**Si vous faites un don mensuel préautorisé à compter de votre compte chèque, veuillez joindre un chèque portant la mention « ANNULÉ ».**

Ceci est votre autorisation en vue de débiter le compte # \_\_\_\_\_

À (nom de la banque, emplacement & succursale) \_\_\_\_\_

Pour un montant de \_\_\_\_\_ \$ à être retiré le 1<sup>er</sup> \_\_\_\_ ou le 15 \_\_\_\_ de chaque mois comme don à l'Archidiocèse du Canada jusqu'à nouvel ordre.

Cette autorisation peut être annulée en tout temps sur avis écrit par lettre ou par courriel à l'Archidiocèse du Canada. Le donateur/la donatrice atteste que toutes les personnes devant apposer leur signature pour ce compte ont signé cette autorisation. Pour tout don de bienfaisance sera émis un reçu de don de bienfaisance (#134835297-RR001).

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (si une deuxième signature est requise) : \_\_\_\_\_



## Qu'est-ce que IAST?

**IAST** (Intendants archidiocésains Saint-Tikhon) donne une occasion aux fidèles de faire passer dans leur vie les mots de saint Tikhon en « *se consacrant à la foi orthodoxe non seulement en paroles, mais aussi en actes et en vérité* ».

**IAST** constitue une formule permettant aux fidèles chrétiens orthodoxes de l'Archidiocèse du Canada de contribuer d'une manière simple, intentionnelle et significative au témoignage de l'Orthodoxie au Canada. IAST s'avère être une façon tangible de soutenir le travail de l'Église en répondant à ses besoins actuels et futurs.

Les contributions apportées à **IAST** doivent toujours venir s'ajouter à vos contributions régulières paroissiales. Elles ne devraient pas remplacer ou diminuer la dîme actuelle faite à votre communauté. Un reçu de bienfaisance sera émis à tous les donateurs.

**IAST** a été implanté en 2007 et a de grandes réalisations à son actif. Les fonds de IAST ont fourni : de l'aide administrative à l'évêque dirigeant; des frais de déplacement de base aux 5 doyens; du soutien aux séminaristes et aux missions, de même qu'une réponse à d'autres besoins urgents. Les priorités actuelles sont : apporter une compensation au niveau de la rémunération des membres du clergé là où c'est nécessaire, ainsi que du soutien financier aux Missions en difficulté; venir en aide aux membres du clergé à la retraite ayant peu de moyens de subsistance; établir un fonds en vue d'apporter un soutien financier à un futur évêque auxiliaire.

**IAST** a comme appui les nombreuses personnes qui donnent mensuellement de petits montants d'argent. À l'heure actuelle, les contributions mensuelles individuelles varient entre 15 \$/mo. et 600 \$/mo., mais seulement 9 des 94 membres donnent 100 \$ ou plus par mois, le don moyen mensuel s'élevant à 50 \$/mo. En 2016, le montant total annuel versé à l'Archidiocèse par IAST a été de 58 000 \$ et les dépenses de IAST représentent < 3% de son revenu total annuel.

Veillez envisager dans la prière d'apporter votre soutien à la vision de notre évêque dirigeant, Son Éminence Mgr Irénée, et à l'Église orthodoxe du Canada de cette manière agréable à Dieu; cela vous rapportera à jamais de grands dividendes dans l'éternité!

Veillez téléphoner ou envoyer un courriel en tout temps si vous avez des questions ou des suggestions, ou encore si vous aimeriez apporter votre aide au travail de IAST dans votre paroisse.

D<sup>r</sup> John Hadjinicolaou, coordonnateur IAST pour l'Est du Canada

TÉL. : 514-738-4018 Courriel : [johnhadjinicolaou26@gmail.com](mailto:johnhadjinicolaou26@gmail.com)

Père Andrew Applegate, coordonnateur IAST pour l'Ouest du Canada

TÉL. : 250-420-1582 Courriel : [frandrewapplegate@gmail.com](mailto:frandrewapplegate@gmail.com)



## Orthodox Church in America

### Archdiocese of Canada

Deanery of Alberta & the Northwest Territories

Office of the Dean

Very Reverend Fr. Phillip Eriksson

Rector - Holy Martyr Peter the Aleut Orthodox Church

c/o 156 Signal Hill Cir. SW

Calgary AB T3H 2H2

Office/Home: (403) 686-4270 FAX: (403) 290-8510

## ***MEMO***

**To:** *Archdiocesan Assembly - July 2017*

**From:** *Archpriest Phillip Eriksson*

**Subject:** *Update on the Group Insurance plan*

**Date:** *May 16, 2017*

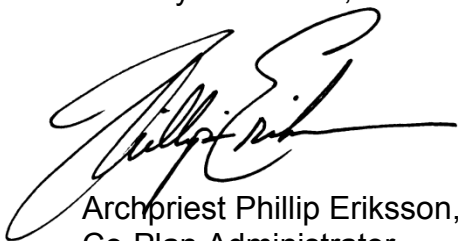
At the Archdiocesan Council Meeting held in the spring of 2016, it was decided to change the plan configuration for the Archdiocesan Clergy & Employees group insurance plan. The existing plan was being phased out by the Cooperators Insurance Company and one of their alternatives was a much more attractive option. The premiums are roughly identical with overall benefits that are more useful to our group.

Because of some unforeseen complications between the broker (ClearBenefits Solutions) and the insurance company, the changes did not become effective until the fall.

The 2017 renewal was changed from April 1 to June 1. Each year, group insurance premiums tend to increase because of the Extended Health Care plan costs which are affected by changes in government coverage & plan usage. Paramedical Services and various medical appliances (CPAP machines as an example) have become much more popular as people are working on healthcare preventative measures much more conscientiously than in the past. This year's premium increase was more significant than usual as the insurance company has held off on significant increases for some time. We've been assured that next year's premium renewal will not be near as hefty as it was this year.

I've attached a copy of the comparison between the insurance coverage which has just been replaced with the coverage that is now effective.

Humbly Submitted,



Archpriest Phillip Eriksson,  
Co-Plan Administrator



RECOMMENDED

ClearBenefits.co

Lifestyle Benefits Program **NEW**

ClearBenefits.co

CURRENT

Classic Benefits Program **trade**

Basic Life Insurance & Accidental Death/Dismemberment	Option 1
Employee Life Insurance (each benefit)	\$50,000
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	\$50,000
Dependent / Child	\$15,000 / \$7,500
<b>Optional Life Insurance</b>	
Available in units of \$10,000 (\$500,000 maximum)	Optional
Available to employee and /or spouse	Optional
<b>Healthcare</b>	
Overall Maximum	Unlimited
Out-Of-Country Emergency \$5,000,000 / 90 days per trip	100%
Hospital/Ambulance	100%
Drug Expenses - Pay Direct Drug Card included on all options Generic / Brand coverage	100% / 80%
Drug Expense Annual Limit — per eligible family member	\$25,000
All Other Covered Expenses	100%
Paramedical Practitioners Options 1–5 max. \$100 visit	\$750
Vision: eye exams once every 12 months	R&C
Lens, Frames, Contacts per 12 months	\$350
<b>Dental</b>	
Annual Dental Maximum (per family member)	\$3,000
Recall Exams	1 / 6 months
Annual Deductible (single / family)	\$0
<b>Basic: (Routine Coverage)</b>	
Cleanings	80%
X-Rays	80%
Scaling	80%
Root Canals	80%
Oral Surgery	80%
Fluoride	80%
Gum Disease Treatment	80%
Denture Maintenance	80%
<b>Major Restorative</b>	
Crowns	60%
On-lays	60%
Bridges	60%
Dentures	60%
<b>Long Term Disability</b>	
% of eligible monthly earnings	66.7%
Maximum monthly benefit	\$6,000
Benefit period	Up to age 65
Employee Assistance Program — by Solareh	Yes
Second Opinion Consult — by WorldCare	Yes
Short Term Disability (66.67% 1/8/17 Benefit Period)	Optional
Critical Illness	Optional

Basic Life Insurance & Accidental Death/Dismemberment	Platinum
Employee Life Insurance (each benefit)	\$25,000
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	\$25,000
Dependent / Child	\$10,000 / \$5,000
<b>Optional Life Insurance</b>	
Available in units of \$10,000 (\$500,000 maximum)	Optional
Available to employee and /or spouse	Optional
<b>Healthcare</b>	
Overall Maximum	Unlimited
Out-Of-Country Emergency \$5,000,000 / 90 days per trip	100%
Hospital/Ambulance	100%
Drug Expenses - Pay Direct Drug Card now included on all options *Essentials: \$2,000 annual max. per person	80% unlimited
Drug Card Deductible — per prescription	\$0
All Other Covered Expenses	100%
Paramedical Practitioners	\$500
Vision: eye exams once every 24 months	Yes
Lens, Frames, Contacts once every 24 months	\$250
<b>Dental</b>	
Annual Dental Maximum (per family member)	\$2,500
Recall Exams	1 / 9 months
Annual Deductible (single / family)	\$0
<b>Basic: (Routine Coverage)</b>	
Cleanings	80%
X-Rays	80%
Scaling	80%
Root Canals	80%
Oral Surgery	80%
Fluoride	80%
Gum Disease Treatment	80%
Denture Maintenance	80%
<b>Major Restorative</b>	
Crowns	50%
On-lays	50%
Bridges	50%
Dentures	50%
<b>Long Term Disability</b>	
% of eligible monthly earnings	66.7%
Maximum monthly benefit	\$6,000
Benefit period	Up to age 65
Employee Assistance Program — by Solareh	Optional
Second Opinion Consult — by WorldCare	Optional
Short Term Disability (66.67% 1/8/17 Benefit Period)	Optional
Critical Illness	Optional



**Archdiocese of Canada  
Orthodox Church in America**

**Assembly of the Archdiocese of Canada  
Edmonton, Alberta  
July 26-28, 2017**

***Report to the Assembly  
on Archdiocesan Participation  
in the Canadian Council of Churches***

The participation of the Archdiocese of Canada in ecumenical activities is a major way ***of bearing witness to the Orthodox Church as the One, True and Full Church of Christ on earth.*** Our involvement in ecumenical bodies is an acknowledgement that numerous other Canadians are also seekers and followers of Christ, according to the light that they have received and to which they respond in all sincerity. The ecumenical movement in Canada, at a national level represented mainly by the Canadian Council of Churches, thus reflects the desire of all Christians to fulfil Christ's words in his priestly prayer with his Apostles "That they may be One, even as we are One" (Jn 17:22).

The broadest and most accessible ecumenical body in Canada for the Archdiocese is ***the Canadian Council of Churches*** (CCC), founded in 1944. The CCC now has 25 members, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, the major Protestant Churches, a number of Evangelical communities, three Eastern Orthodox (Greek, Ukrainian, OCA) and three Oriental Orthodox Churches (Coptic, Ethiopian, Armenian). The CCC is the most comprehensive national association of churches in the world, representing about 85% of Christians in Canada. Its governance is vested in a Governing Board, to which member churches send one or more representatives. For the past 15 years the mode of operation and decision-making at CCC has been by consensus; there are no votes (except on fiscal matters, a legal requirement). Each member church of the CCC is able to speak authentically and faithfully from its own fundamental principles and is received with respect by all the others. This "forum model" of decision thus allows smaller churches, such as the Archdiocese, to participate in the Council on a basis of equality with much larger churches.

The Archdiocese of Canada is represented on the major bodies of the CCC. Despite its small size relative to the major Christian denominations, the Archdiocese plays a leading role in the Council. The Archdiocese has unquestionably been ***the strongest and most consistent Orthodox participant in the CCC***, especially since the other Orthodox members of Council are not always represented at CCC meetings. Thus Archdiocesan representatives are frequently the only Orthodox voice on issues discussed in the CCC. The contributions of our participants in the various CCC bodies are valued and respected by other CCC members.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the main activities of the CCC and the contributions of Archdiocesan representatives.

## 1. Governing Board (GB).

Archdiocesan Representative: Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon (Saskatoon SK).

The GB is composed of representatives of all CCC members and responsible for **the overall orientation and management** of the Council. The GB oversees the work of the **Commission on Faith and Witness** (CFW) and the **Commission on Justice and Peace** (CJP), and three Reference Groups: **Faith and Life Sciences** (devoted to studying the increasingly complex ethical and faith-challenging issues generated by new biotechnologies; formerly called the Biotechnology Reference Group); the **Christian Inter-Faith Reference Group** (monitors and promotes existing and future contacts and dialogues between Canada's Christian communities and other faith traditions); and, as of the GB meeting of May 2017, the **Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning** (FILL) (prepares Canadian Christians and their churches to function within and across Canada's increasingly complex demographic boundaries). One of this new entity's "parents" is a long term CCC affiliate, the Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries (CCFGM) a historically Protestant body that prepared Canadian missionaries for overseas service. Out of this long intercultural experience, the CCFGM developed a very successful program called **Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry**, which the new FILL RG will continue to make available at major centres across Canada. *Canadian Orthodox communities, either locally or nationally, could profitably participate in this challenging new venture.*

The CCC also has a longstanding relationship with **Project Ploughshares**, a highly respected and independently funded Christian peace research and advocacy organization which focuses on informing Canadians about such moral issues as nuclear weapons limitation and the arms trade.

Over the past several years, there has been increasing concern voiced by some member churches (including the Catholic Church, several Orthodox bodies and some Evangelical groups) about a perceived lack of coordination between the CFW and the CJP in pursuing their respective activities. "Theologizing" disconnected from inspired action, and random activism with little theological underpinning have both been decried, especially by a thoughtful letter in 2016 from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB). In the light of an open discussion held during the fall 2016 GB meeting, the membership responded positively to the CCCB's plea for greater integration of the work of the two Commissions, a plea which is already bearing fruit in **a cooperative effort to promote peace as an identifiable focus** for the Commissions' joint contemplation and action.



Orthodox delegates at the meeting of the CCC Governing Board, May 2017, with the President, the General Secretary and a representative of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church.  
 Front row (L-R): Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton (General Secretary); Rev. Canon Dr. Alyson Barnett-Cowan (President); Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa (Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church); Very Rev. Fr. Cyprian Hutcheon (OCA); Rev. Vazgen Boyajyan (Armenian Church); Rev. Dr. Fr. Jaroslaw Buciora (Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada).  
 Back row (L-R): Rev. Fr. Kyrillos Fakhouri (Coptic Orthodox Church of Canada); Rev. Fr. Daniel Chacko (Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church); Prof. Richard Schneider (OCA).

The GB meets twice annually: a spring meeting in Ottawa devoted to Justice and Peace concerns and to contacts with federal decision-makers to bring to bear Christian perspectives on issues of public concern, such as poverty, climate change, religious freedom and aboriginal justice issues; and a fall meeting in the Greater Toronto area deals mainly with Faith and Witness matters.

The CCC's long term **General Secretary**, the Rev. Dr Karen Hamilton (United Church), has submitted her resignation after serving capably for three five-year terms. An interim General Secretary will be appointed for the next nine months, pending the appointment of a new General Secretary. In another year, a new GB Executive will be elected (president, treasurer, and three vice-presidents) to serve for three years. Those chosen come from a variety of confessional backgrounds. *Thought and prayer needs to be devoted to choosing suitable candidates for these offices*, who can be nominated by any member church, either from within or outside of their own communion.

The financial status of the CCC is reasonably stable, despite reductions in contributions from major member churches, themselves under financial strain from decreasing membership. There is a need to identify and cultivate new sources of long term financial support beyond the contributions of the member bodies. The CCC was recently the subject of a lengthy and intensive audit by the Canada Revenue Agency. This process consumed an inordinate amount of valuable staff time, but the audit has now been terminated without any significant repercussions.

Matushka Jolan Ready (Toronto ON) currently serves as Executive Assistant to the General Secretary of the CCC.

## 2. Commission on Faith and Witness (CFW).

Archdiocesan Representatives:

Dr. Paul Ladouceur (Rawdon, QC).

Fr. Geoffrey Ready (Toronto, ON).

Professor Richard Schneider (OCA, Toronto, ON), a past president of the CCC, is Chairman of the CFW and as such does not formally represent the Archdiocese. The CCC covers his participation in the CFW.

The CFW is the major body for **theological discernment** in the CCC, focussing mainly on specific theological issues examined in common, with a view to mutual understanding and the identification of points of commonality and of residing differences. Archdiocesan representatives bring a much appreciated historical and patristic perspective on theological issues under discussion and have been in the forefront of every major CFW project and study in the past decade.

Common statements, reports and working and discussion papers emerging from the CFW are available on a broad range of issues, including **baptism, marriage, theological anthropology, suffering and hope, doctrine and salvation**. Many documents arising from the work of the CFW may be downloaded from this page: [https://www.councilofchurches.ca/?page\\_id=6784](https://www.councilofchurches.ca/?page_id=6784).

During the past triennium the CFW has been working on the urgent problem for our time -- especially in multicultural, immigrant-welcoming Canada -- of "**being Christian in an age and environment of religious diversity**." The Commission has readily found consensus around recognition of the human value of "the other" as our neighbour [Lk 10:36-37] and therefore on

"hospitality" as a prime ethic for Christians, yet Christians also have the obligation to evangelize [Mt 28:19] in the name of Jesus [Phil 2:9-10]. But how can these two obligations be harmonized without falling back on a triumphalist approach to other religions? This is the kind of problem we work deeply on, and while the Orthodox have a forefront role in the study and will have a forefront role in the final publication of results, we gain many insights from working on them together with our fellow Christians -- who also are our neighbours -- faced with the same difficulties. Dr. Paul Ladouceur made presentations on Orthodox perspectives on religious diversity at Commission meetings in October 2013, November 2014 and October 2016.

In response to the decision of the federal government to legalize physician-assisted death, the CFW produced a consensus statement, with the endorsement of Archbishop Irénée, calling *for universal access to palliative care*. The statement is attached as Annex I and may be accessed via this page: [https://www.councilofchurches.ca/?page\\_id=323](https://www.councilofchurches.ca/?page_id=323).

The CFW is responsible for supporting the preparation of Canadian material for the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* (WPCU), held worldwide in January each year. Many Orthodox parishes, including those of the Archdiocese, participate in local Week of Prayer activities. Preparation of Canadian material for the WPCU is undertaken by a writing team which reports to the CFW. The participation of Fr. Geoffrey Ready (OCA, Toronto) in the writing team has permitted the production of material suitable for Orthodox parishes. Whereas in the past specifically Canadian material (in both official languages) was made available in print form, in recent years digitized versions have become more popular, with the result that print versions are now reduced to a minimum. The CFW is proceeding towards the establishment of a website dedicated to the WPCU, coordinated with the CCC website. Pending the full establishment of the dedicated website, information on the WPCU is available here:

[https://www.councilofchurches.ca/?page\\_id=331](https://www.councilofchurches.ca/?page_id=331).

The CFW is exploring the use of *audio-visual media* to give higher visibility to its activities. The most prominent outcome to date has been a series of podcasts relating to the Commission's work on the theology of salvation, together with interviews of persons associated with the CCC and the Commission. Nine podcasts were produced in the first year, with members of the Archdiocese (Dr. Paul Ladouceur, Fr. Geoffrey Ready and Prof. Richard Schneider) participating in one podcast each. The CFW is also working to produce short videos, with minimal resources, but the learning curve for such productions is quite steep. Podcasts are available here (requires iTunes): <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/podcast/faith-witness/id1119633358?l=fr&mt=2>.

### **3. Commission on Justice and Peace (CJP).**

Archdiocesan Representative: Dr. Emanuel Kolyvas (Montreal, QC).

The CJP brings *Christian responses and initiatives to social and political issues* in Canada and abroad. Archdiocesan involvement presents an opportunity to bring to fruition the teachings of the Church Fathers and modern Orthodox theologians on major societal issues such as inequality, poverty and war. The major priority issues of the CJP are poverty, indigenous rights, religion and public discourse, climate justice, peace and disarmament, human trafficking, refugee and immigration policies, religious freedom and minorities, racism in Canada, and prison chaplaincy. A unique feature of the CJP is that it serves as convening body, forming and sustaining important coalitions for shared work and witness.

In 2016 the Commission reaffirmed its purpose and adopted a new three-year plan, defining its purpose as providing ***a forum for sharing information and concerns among those involved in ecumenical work*** on peace and social justice in Canada and the world; reflecting biblically and theologically on peace and social justice, and facilitating the inter-church cooperation in peace and justice concerns. The Commission's priorities for the triennium are a theological reflection on peace; poverty and economic justice in Canada, including and indigenous peoples' perspectives, voices and implications; climate and environmental justice. Based on presentations by members of the Commission, the CJP adopted a consensus document of "A Theological Statement on Peace" (see Annex II).

The Commission supports the activities of Project Ploughshares; the Working Group on Sexual Exploitation in Canada (see below); the Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network ; and the Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group. In August 2016, the CCC President, Rev. Canon Dr. Alyson Barnett-Cowan, articulated the foundational biblical principles of the CCC's work through Project Ploughshares (see [https://www.councilofchurches.ca/?page\\_id=280](https://www.councilofchurches.ca/?page_id=280)).

#### **Human Trafficking Committee.**

Archdiocesan Representative: Savelia Curniski (Saskatoon).

Human trafficking is modern day slavery, typically when human beings are bought and sold for sexual exploitation. The scale of human trafficking is alarming; the UN estimates that 30 million people are victims of human trafficking, with 1.1 million new victims a year. The CCC has established a committee addressing human trafficking primarily in Canada. The committee has developed workbooks and resource material available to all churches. Some of our sister churches are extremely involved and have active programs and awareness raising within their congregations. The Archdiocese needs to make our parishes more aware of this man-made disaster and travesty of human dignity and rights. See this page:

[https://www.councilofchurches.ca/?page\\_id=786](https://www.councilofchurches.ca/?page_id=786).

Savelia Curniski's involvement in this committee is through NASHI, a Saskatoon-based voluntary organization dedicated to exposing human trafficking and assisting victims and potential victims. It has built and maintains a large safe house and trade school in Ukraine, called Maple Leaf Centre. This educational live-in centre provides basic life skills development, temporary housing and support for at risk youth, especially young girls, who are often targeted by sexual predators. For additional information on this project, visit: <http://www.nashi.ca/>.

#### **4. Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group (FLS).**

Archdiocesan Representative: Dr. Emanuel Kolyvas (Montreal, QC).

The Reference Group sought a new name to better reflect its activities, since "Biotechnology" alone was not representative of the main work of the committee, which acts as a forum for theological and ethical reflection on scientific and technological advances. As part of the Group's ***theological reflexion on Christian anthropology***, Archdiocesan representative Dr. Emanuel Kolyvas prepared a paper on Christian Anthropology in the Orthodox Christian Tradition. This initiative was well received and members of the FLS RG are preparing a series of denominational theological reflections on Christian Anthropology which will be posted online shortly.

The Reference Group prepared a study resource/curriculum for parish use, dealing with the moral dilemmas created by **new genetic technologies**, entitled *When Christian Faith and Genetics Meet: A Practical Group Resource*

(download at: [www.councilofchurches.ca/?page\\_id=361](http://www.councilofchurches.ca/?page_id=361)). Fr. Cyprian Hutcheon prepared an appendix for Orthodox readers. The FLS RG is re-evaluating the distribution of the Curriculum, with a goal of holding another four to six workshops in the next two years across Canada.

The Reference Group is finalizing **six fact sheets** providing concise information on scientific developments, benefits and potential concerns, covering Synthetic Biology, Stem Cells, Genetic Testing, The Human Embryo, and Genetically Modified Organisms (online shortly).

An international conference to be co-sponsored by the FLS Reference Group with the World Council of Churches is planned for Toronto in the first week of November 2017. This will examine theological, spiritual, social, and ecological implications of **synthetic biology in agriculture** and explore ways of how faith groups can engage their own members and participate more broadly on these issues.

### Conclusion

Members of the OCA Archdiocese of Canada who represent the Archdiocese in the various bodies of the CCC have found it to be **a universally rewarding experience**. It provides a unique opportunity for contact and dialogue with fellow Christians of different backgrounds including – and perhaps most importantly – with other Orthodox. The "Orthodox caucus" on the Governing Board is in the privileged position of being able to share with other Christians the riches and unique insights of the Orthodox tradition. Members of Western Christian traditions are often little acquainted with Orthodoxy and warmly receive **the Orthodox perspective on theological and social issues** such as end-of-life care, religious diversity, religious freedom, poverty, aboriginal rights, immigration, Christian peace-making and human trafficking. In our increasingly secular and post-Christian Canadian context, it is vital that the Archdiocese, together with other Orthodox jurisdictions in Canada, continue to witness to the fullness of Christianity present in the Orthodox Church.

The other Orthodox participants in the CCC embrace the CCC with a level of interest and commitment that is often lacking in our Archdiocese. Metropolitan Sotirios (Greek Orthodox) and Metropolitan Yuriy (Ukrainian Orthodox) have repeatedly borne public witness to the warmth of their regard for the CCC by, for example, inviting the General Secretary to attend special church events and feast days. Our own commitment as an Archdiocese to the mission of inter-Christian cooperation embodied in the Canadian Council of Churches should grow to match that of our fellow Orthodox Christians.

Respectfully submitted.

Savelia Curniski  
 Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon  
 Dr. Emanuel Kolyvas  
 Dr. Paul Ladouceur  
 Archpriest Geoffrey Ready  
 Professor Richard Schneider.

June, 2017.



## ANNEX I.

**Commission on Faith and Witness  
Canadian Council of Churches**

**Statement of Support for Universal Access to Palliative Care in Canada**

Adopted by consensus October 2016.

As Christians in Canada, we support just access for all to dignified, quality palliative care (1).

We see the provision of such care as an intrinsic human responsibility toward the suffering person because of the inestimable worth and dignity of every human being, created as we are in the image of God, and because of Jesus' command to care for the sick (Mt 25:36). All life is sacred (2) but all earthly life must end. When an illness cannot be cured or when natural life draws to a close, it is essential to offer relief of pain and suffering.

The provision of palliative care surrounds the dying person with compassion and enables this person, and her or his family, to prepare for death while living life as fully as possible. Palliative care "places the priority on the worth and dignity of the whole person and their biological, emotional, physical, environmental, social and spiritual needs wherever they may be in Canada" (3). It embraces concern for the well-being and comfort of all in the process of dying, regardless of the cause of death. Access to palliative care should be universal, that is, available to all the dying in our country in accordance with their particular needs and wherever they reside.

Providing palliative care to all in need of it is the joint responsibility of all members of society including private caregivers, the health care system, and government. We understand that dignified palliative care need not always occur in hospital or hospice, but may well happen at home. But in any case, mutual support between government-supplied health care workers, family, friends and others is the foundation of any experience of palliative care. Our churches are committed to participating in this work, and to collaborating wherever possible to ensure that no one in Canada need face death and dying without the dignity and support of quality palliative care. We rely upon all levels of government to accept and support their necessary role in this key aspect of universal health care.

1. The World Health Organization provides the following definition: Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual. Palliative care • provides relief from pain and other distressing symptoms; • affirms life and regards dying as a normal process; • intends neither to hasten nor postpone death; • integrates the psychological and spiritual aspects of patient care; • offers a support system to help patients live as actively as possible until death; • offers a support system to help the family cope during the patient's illness and in their own bereavement; • uses a team approach to address the needs of patients and their families, including bereavement counselling, if indicated; • will enhance the quality of life, and may also positively influence the course of illness; • is applicable early in the course of illness, in conjunction with other therapies that are intended to prolong life, such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy, and includes those investigations needed to better understand and manage distressing clinical complications.

2. See the full discussion in Commission on Faith and Witness, *Becoming Human: On Theological Anthropology in an Age of Engineering Life*.

3. Canadian Council of Churches, *A Health Care Covenant for All People in Canada*, p. 3.

## ANNEX II

### Canadian Council of Churches Commission on Justice and Peace Principles of Peace (2016)

#### **Introduction**

Peace is core to the mission and identity of all member churches and the heart of ecumenism. Members of the Commission were asked to prepare a brief responding to the question: What are the key teachings on peace from my tradition? Drawn from those briefs, these *Principles of Peace* articulate the shared witness and testimony of The Canadian Council of Churches.

#### **Sovereignty of God**

The Creator is sovereign over all creation. Because God acts first, peace is a gift from God.

#### **Peace is Rooted in Relationship with God**

The plan for creation is that all shall live in a harmonious relationship with God, the tranquility of order. Peace is the fullness of life. Peace and justice are at the heart of the Good News proclaimed by Jesus.

#### **Peace and the Church**

The church reveals the presence of God's Kingdom to the World. The church sacramentally restores humanity's relationship with God, with each other, and with creation one person at a time. The healing, restoration and salvation of God's creation is the church's first priority. Peace building and justice making are necessary and indivisible imperatives that guide the church's thinking and action.

#### **Peace is the Mission of God's People**

Doing justice, loving one another as Christ loves us, and working for peace are central to the mission of God's people in the world.

#### **Peace as Vocation and Testimony**

Christ calls his followers to seek peace in the world. Peacemaking is the vocation of Christians: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Mt. 5:9). Peacemaking is a testimony of life; a witness to the world not only through what we say but how we act and how we live. It is a consistent body of words and action. It is both a personal and corporate way of putting belief into action. Our contributions toward peace flow from faith in God's gift and come in response to God's call.

#### **Peacemaking as Political Engagement**

There can be no peace without justice. God's peace cannot be separated from God's righteousness, justice and steadfast love. Peacemaking and the establishment of conditions for just relationships are indispensable to our common faith. Working for peace is about establishing justice among persons and societies and in all areas of our public life. The path to peace is through service, the laying down of one's life for the other and by being witnesses to the Truth. Peace is nurtured and animated by charity and brought about by human freedom.

#### **Peace as Establishing Justice**

Peace must be founded on truth and built up on justice. Christians perform political work as an expression of the hope that is in them, especially when fear and despair threaten to paralyze the human community. Just Peace may be comprehended as freeing human beings from fear and want, of overcoming enmity, discrimination and oppression, and of establishing conditions for just relationships that privilege the experience of the most vulnerable and respect for the integrity of creation. The dignity and freedom of the person is rooted in the reality of humanity's divine origin. Because we are created in the Image of God this essential human dignity forms the basis of human rights.

Principles of establishing justice include the political responsibility of growing the common good; that all created things are shared fairly; subsidiarity and differentiated responsibility; participation in society; partnership and the preferential option for the poor; solidarity; social values inherent in the dignity of the



human person; fostering mutual respect and understanding between peoples of all races, ethnic origins, socioeconomic backgrounds, religions and cultures; and the way of love.

### **Peace, Conflict and States**

Peacemaking is a testimony of abolishing war and transforming conflict. The church must address the well-organized roots of violence, also through the responsibility to prevent conflicts and the responsibility to protect people. Engaging in war represents a failure, and assessments of the causes and conduct of war must assume reluctance toward entering into conflict and promote a deep desire for resolution and a lasting peace. Weapons of mass destruction must be eliminated; conscientious objectors must be accommodated; spending enormous sums of money to produce ever more and newer types of weapons threatens human development. Humanitarian aid must be provided based on need and the capacity to meet the need without discrimination to all who suffer because of war, civil unrest, or other forms of violence.

### **Peacemaking is Restorative**

Restoration of peace requires taking responsibility for injustices, asking forgiveness, and seeking reconciliation. The restoration of peace demands great love, mercy and forgiveness, a recognition and promotion of truth, human dignity, and human rights.

### **Holistic Vision of Peace: Shalom**

Peace is a state of well-being and harmony, right relationships, among people and nature where there is no fear. Nothing and no one is excluded from God's vision of peace, it includes all nations, cultures, and peoples, the whole inhabited Earth, and indeed the whole cosmos. The quest for peace is the heart of ecumenism and the shared path of reconciliation, of walking one another home.

# Canadian Archdiocesan Monastic Report

## March 2017

Life for monastic in the Archdiocese remains pretty much as always. Here in Canada our monastics are few and far between. They are as likely to be quietly painting icons in their studios or running around to far flung small parishes in rather remote and out of the way places, as they would be in a community of cenobitical monks or nuns. Those who are in the cenobitical communities are usually occupied with prayer (as are all monastics) and some sort of enterprise to make ends meet. Dewdney BC has a book operation and store, along with a good size church which meets the spiritual needs of many laity, especially those of more recent immigration primarily from Eastern Europe. It draws many visitors continually. Nova Scotia is home to Annunciation Monastery which also offers the wayfarer a place of peace and solace with their calm life of peace and prayer. The interior of BC has a monastery very much modeled on the desert in a remote area and less contact with the outside world, while praying constantly for the whole world and producing fine beeswax candles. Some monastics live by themselves in hermitages and do various things to support themselves, some are very much 'rhythmic' while others are very 'ideo-rhythmic' in their mode of life. Our Canadian monastics have all one thing in common - an inner sense of the solitude of the desert and the constant sense of prayer even though it is not always outwardly obvious. This was the message given to the OCA Synaxis of Monastic Superiors last October in Ellwood PA, USA.

The OCA in the USA is blessed with several monasteries of both men and women. The more familiar cenobitical model of monastic life is much more visible in that country as a result. We Canadians are rather invisible, and as a result, it is kind of difficult to convince many in the OCA administrative realm and the clergy and people at large that we do have genuine monastics and their mode of life is fully valid and good. The monastic superiors at the Synaxis have no trouble grasping this and celebrating it with us, even if others in the OCA, including some in the Hierarchy do, (no disrespect intended here).

The general theme for the Synaxis had to do with the Metropolitan's five pillar plan for the OCA as discussed at the 18th AAC. The big question is just how do monastics fit into the plan? Such things as being places of retreat and refuge - i.e. hospitality and prayer were brought up. Also the very often lacking of spiritual nurturing for the non-monastic clergy by study days and retreats was discussed and the idea of using the monastic establishments more fully in partnerships with the dioceses for addressing this need for the clergy could be explored further. Perhaps more monastics could be asked to do spiritual retreats, especially for clergy, but also parishes so as to share our spiritual gifts more widely and raise greater awareness of monasticism throughout the whole OCA.

It was reported that in Canada, following a distinct historical pattern that dates from the earliest missionaries, the monastics often find themselves living alone in solitary places so as to serve the pastoral needs of the faithful across this vast country, where it isn't always easy to place a resident

married priest who is in constant availability, not having to hold down a full time secular job so as to feed a family. Even our monastic cenobitical communities are so spread out that it is tough to have any real connection between them. A few of the monastics and certainly the Hierarchs present at the Synaxis were rather adamant that monastics should not be engaging in any pastoral work as such and should be completely separate from the world. Several others challenged that by maintaining that even the most anchoritical monastic in a cave somewhere is, while not 'of' the world, still in it somehow as all monastics play a crucial role in the life of the Church as being often intercessors, spiritual fathers and mothers, and continuous 'pray-ers.' Once again the superiors at the Synaxis affirmed that all of our work and modes are life are needed and good.

In Canada, things seem to be somewhat status quo although some developments have taken place. Nova Scotia has suffered the temporary loss of the onsite presence of one of the monks due to serious health issues, as well as serious financial need which had developed for the monastery. Dewdney seems to be in line for some possible increase with a prospective member from Ukraine. Things in the Interior of BC seem to be status quo. The solitary monastics in the country are doing as always - St. Elias Hermitage in Alberta has been enjoying the fact that one of the two members, who lives and works in Edmonton is now out to the country on a regular basis with the abbot on Sundays and is a very welcome addition in the music end of things in the rural parishes. Even with the various activities and needed work of our solitary monastics, once the parochial or other task is done, the 'inner hermit' finds himself quietly in the hermitage engaged in silence, prayers, and chores as any other solitary monastic. The life of any monastic has much less to do with what is seen on the outside and mainly to do with the 'inner life of the desert'!

Please pray for us monastics and we also prayer for you.

Asking your forgiveness for all of my shortcomings, and failings,

In Christ,

Archimandrite Gerasim (Power),

Abbot of St. Elias Hermitage in Alberta

# BC DEANERY REPORT

## to the Archdiocesan Assembly in Edmonton,

July 25-28, 2017

*Submitted by Archpriest Michael Fourik, the Dean of BC and Yukon*

*(using the materials of Rector's Reports)*

### **1. St. Nikolai of Zhitsa Orthodox Mission Whitehorse, Yukon**

Over the past three years, Saint Nikolai of Zhitsa Orthodox Mission has changed from having priests serve four or five times a year, with Reader services held between priest visits, to having a resident priest when Priest John and Mat. Sharon Gryba returned from studies at Saint Tikhon's Seminary in Pennsylvania in June 2014.

It has proven to be a significant spiritual struggle for many in the community to take advantage of the weekly availability of Holy Communion. Having weekly and festal services has become a decisive challenge to people's time and priorities and financial commitment continues to be a struggle. Membership and attendance has not increased to any consistent extent, averaging between 4 and 10 people for Divine Liturgy, with 2 to 4 usually attending Great Vespers. "An infant of a regularly-attending family was baptised in March 2015, but a short time later the husband announced his family was going to make their communion with the Ukrainian Catholic church, with no intention of being Orthodox" - Fr. John Gryba indicated in his Report.

An opportunity came available in September 2015 to purchase a piece of land with wonderful potential for an Orthodox Church property. However, as only 3 families in addition to the Priest and Matushka indicated interest in exploring a purchase, that initiative was dropped and Mission continued to rent from the Roman Catholic parish for Saturday Great Vespers and Sunday Divine Liturgy, with restrictions on using incense on Saturday and not being able to set up most of the icons.

In October 2015, only five members were willing to serve on the Mission Council, but as some Council members were related, the new Council was no longer compliant with the CRA Charities requirements and Mission has had to withdraw our Charities application.

In October 2015, the Mission sponsored a visit from Fr. Michael Oleska of Alaska. They held two public presentations, with 12 and 10 people attending. Fr. John and Matushka Sharon travelled with Fr. Michael to the village of Teslin, 180 kms south of Whitehorse, and met with some of the Elders of the Tlingit First Nation.

A young man was made a catechumen in December 2015, but he had to leave Yukon because of lack of work and continued his preparation in the Church in Hamilton. The Mission received one senior man, from Lutheran background, into the Church in January 2016 and then served his funeral in March 2016. The Mission had an infant baptism in October 2016.

In October 2016, the Mission Council made a letter and phone appeal among local Orthodox as a lead up to the Annual General meeting. At the AGM, signed membership increased from 7 to 10 people (including Pr. John and Mat. Sharon) and financial support commitment increased

from \$600/month to \$1,200/month. The members at the meeting were encouraging in their desire to see a home for the Mission services in Priest's own facility rather than continuing using the Roman Catholic Church. A parishioner in the Mission offered space within a building he was going to lease in the downtown area of Whitehorse. On Palm Sunday 2017, the Mission moved into its new downtown rental location.

A senior couple who had been regularly attending the Mission services moved to Alberta at Pascha. However, the young man who was made a catechumen in 2015 was received into the Church at the Mission on the Feast of the Annunciation.

We pray that the reception and the move to a dedicated space for the Mission is a new start of growth for Saint Nikolai of Zhitsa Mission in Whitehorse.

## **2. Holy Aposle Barnabas Mision, Comox Valley, British Columbia**

Holy Apostle Barnabas Mission is the most westward Orthodox parish in Canada. It was established in September 1998. During these past 19 years the parish has worshipped in several different venues. Presently the parish is gathering in the presbyter's home using a large room which has been 'permanently' set aside as a chapel. The mission serves Great Vespers every Saturday evening, Divine Liturgy every Sunday morning and Vespereal Liturgies for Feasts that occur during the week. Liturgies on Sunday are followed by lunch which is always a time of joyous fellowship. All services are conducted in English and the mission uses the 'new' calendar. The mission has remained small for many years but during the past several years has seen a steady increase of parishioners and is now actively looking for a larger venue.

## **3. Holy Theophany Mission, Gibsons, BC**

**Note** that Fr. Aleksey Isakov has been rector of this parish for less than one year. As a result, this report includes only the time from November 2016- May 2017.

**Overview:** Average service attendance: 10.

The efforts of Mother Anna bore fruit: our parish was granted standing use of the auxiliary chapel at St. Bartholomew's Anglican church. Having a semi-permanent home is a blessing, especially for such a new mission.

**News:** The mission has access to the auxiliary chapel at St. Bartholomew's where we have been welcomed us as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in their space.

**Concerns:** Mother Anna's health issues revealed how integral to the heart of the parish she is, and it is our hope that we will be graced with her presence and choir experience for many years to come. I have regularly served at least one service per month at this mission; limitations to increased services are: scheduled nursing rotations, and simultaneous serving as parish priest for St. Nicholas in Kamloops.

## **4. St. Nicholas Mission, Kamloops, BC**

**Note** that I have been rector of this parish for less than one year.

**Overview:** Average attendance of 21 people per service. The parishioners of St. Nicholas are quite steadfast in their piety and hold Reader's Services every Sunday that there is not a Liturgy.

**News:** Parish Status: The parish council completed and submitted the paperwork necessary for official government charitable status on March 12, 2017. An open mission outreach committee was formally established to identify viable advertising methods and planning fundraising activities that will commence once official charitable status is received.

Extreme weather conditions and personal injury caused fewer services to be held in the months of December 2016 - February 2017.

Subdeacon Carl is taking distance coursework through the Diaconal Studies program of Trinity College in Toronto in preparation for the diaconate.

There was a good turnout to the community Paschal feast starting at 10am and we were fortunate enough to see many visitors, including all members of our inquiring family. This was an indicator of positive future growth and our parish's welcomed status in the community.

**Concerns:** The main concerns with this parish is in regards to transportation during the winter season and the St. Olph hall's fluctuating availability for our parish use.

## **5. MONASTERY OF ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA**

Baptisms - 103, Marriages - 8, Deaths - 15, Blogs, etc. -- Number of subscribers – Total of 10,638

Broadcasts on Youtube – 304, New Books Printed – 5, Books Reprinted – 17

Books translated into other languages – 5

Relics: more than 100, majority donated by Metropolitan Theodosios.

Major waterway works by B.C. Department of Wildlife in conjunction with the monastery

Waterfowl refuge created on the Monastery grounds with the help of Dept. Of Wildlife Mgmt.

Full set of Russian bells was donated. They have been placed in the new belfry.

Belfry and new altar area were built and new church was finished and is in use.

In January and February, 2017, the entire interior of the main corpus of the monastery was repainted by volunteers from the congregation.

Both the old chapel and the new Church were recarpeted, as was the main hall where the agape meal takes place. All material and labour were donated by members of the congregation.

The Monastery road was repaired and much work was done on the monastery gardens and grounds.

The hand-carved Romanian Troitsa Cross was added and a small troitsa garden was created around it.

Many dangerous trees were felled and cut up for firewood for the winter.

An experimental garden of quinoa and of winecap mushrooms has been planted to test whether it would be a viable crop.

## **6. All Saints of Alaska, Victoria, B.C.**

The parish of All Saints of Alaska has faced very challenging financial struggles over the last three years. They have not been able to meet their annual budgets, despite cutting from their expenses everything except the absolutely necessary. Consequently, it is necessary to have a change in the major expense, that being the rector's stipend. They are no longer able to support fully a priest. As a result, Fr. Larry is resigning and completes his responsibilities with the parish at the end of April, 2017. Fr. Kyle and Leanne Parrott will be moving to Victoria and Fr. Kyle will assume the pastoral leadership of the community. Leanne will be required to work full time.

Despite the financial difficulties a number of improvements have been made to the rented facility. The landlords have supplied the funds for new flooring throughout, paint, beautiful icons by Fr. Vladimir (Lysak) for new Royal Doors from funds collected for that purpose many years ago, classrooms for church school by donations and all done by volunteer work.

## **7. ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA CHURCH, LANGLEY**

The last three years have been busy ones for St. Herman of Alaska Church in Langley. Church building plans have taken the next steps. The congregation are still collecting funds for the building of a new church on the current property, and hope to build in 2019.

St. Vladimir's seminary student, Ryan Bishop, has completed his studies at the seminary and has been ordained priest. He and his wife Robyn and their family have now moved to serve parishes in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

In 2016 the parish celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was well attended by clergy from near and far, including of course of own beloved bishop. The choir produced a CD of its church music for the occasion, and a pictorial history of the parish was also distributed to those attending the post-Liturgy banquet.

Fr. Lawrence's writing ministry continues, with new books being published each year by Ancient Faith Publishing. His most recent is *Unquenchable Fire*, a study of the Church's teaching on hell, written to respond to the current growing popularity of the universalist heresy that all will be saved. Previous to that was *The Empty Throne*, a study on the history and development of the Orthodox episcopate.

The parish continues its charitable outreach through its *Diakonia* programme, collecting food and clothes for the homeless, working with other local ministries in the area.

The Parish also have expanded the choir through the introduction of a Junior Apprentice programme, bringing the younger members of the community into the choir for half of the Liturgy each Sunday until they are old enough to join for Choir for the entirety of the service.

Each Sunday they serve an abbreviated Matins with all Byzantine music, followed immediately by the Divine Liturgy at 10.00 a.m. A full meal follows, after which Fr. Lawrence teaches the catechumens or inquirers in the church library.

## **8. HOLY RESURRECTION SOBOR IN VACOUVER**

Parish continues to grow since the last Archdiocesan Assembly. There are quite a few young families, whose children attend Sunday School classes and receive Holy Communion.

Liturgical life continues on a regular basis in both English and Slavonic.

A lot of people attend **Vespers and Matins, Divine Liturgies, General Panikhidas, Thanksgiving Molebens, Confession, Soborovanie (Holy Unction)**. Parish continues to have **Akathist to Mother of God** on the first Saturday of each month.

In addition to the regular services conducted during 2014-2017 in accordance with the schedule the following services were also performed at Church: 58 Baptisms, 17 Weddings, 28 Soborovanie (Holy Unction) and 26 Funerals.

After the Divine Liturgy, on Sundays the Congregation has tea and coffee with pirozhki for a social hour among parishioners. On a regular basis, there are **pot Luck Lunches** and **Fundraising Lunches** which were very successful in the last years.

**Church Choir group** consists of very dedicated people, especially choir director, who get together almost every week and practice church music for 2 hours. Church singing improved dramatically in the last five years.

From the Montessori School, which rents our hall, Church receives \$30,000. This amount helped Church to meet financial needs.

**Bible study lectures, Sunday School classes** also continue to be held following the Divine Liturgy every Sunday. Gratitude goes to the teachers: G. Povorozniuk, matushka Elena Fourik, Alexander Grountsev, Natalia Sudakova and her helpers. Sunday school teachers are doing an excellent job, having very interesting classes, crafts and activities for our children. There are 3 groups of children, divided in accordance with the age, and one adult group. Cathecumen classes take place for those who want to be baptized.

There are several **performances** prepared by our children for Christmas and Paskha, with poems, live plays, singing and dancing. **Hiking club** for youth and young adults is something new that is organized now, it is taking place once a month. The goal is to bring and keep church youth together.

Every Sunday some parishioners make sandwiches and hot dogs for the homeless downtown Vancouver. Last December church youth with parents prepared a hot meal and cookies which were distributed for the needy.

The representation of Holy Resurrection Parish was quite substantial in **All Saints of North America Orthodox Summer Camp** which takes place in Nanaimo, BC. Parents and children support the Camp in an active way and continue doing so.

The Parish also organized a **Folk dance group**, free of charge, where children, youth and now parents participate in dancing, and this way they connect and support each other as in a family. Parishioners are grateful to organizers and especially choreographer O. Petrova-McKenzie for her work. This allows the Church to be visible in the community, for the third year in a row. Church Dance group participated at the European



festival in Vancouver. With folk performance, there is always a Christian message involved which stands out nowadays.

**Pre-Marriage Counselling** is organized by Matushka Elena Fourik, who compiled her own course in preparing Orthodox couples for mutual life. The course consists of 8-10 meetings before the Sacrement of Matrimony. During these meetings they discuss various aspects of life: importance of Church and family prayer within a family, skills in conflict resolution, finances, communication and daily issues.

Parishioners make **Prosporas** for the Church by themselves. They get together 4 times a year, 8-10 people, and make 2,400 prosporas which last approximately 3-4 months. A. Morley bakes big Lamb Prosporas on a regular basis.

All the parishioners are grateful to His Grace Bishope Irinee and Deacon Nikolai Svetlovski for their great Services at the Patronal Feast Days every year and Holy Paskha in 2017.

**Garage Sale** is organized every year in July which is a very successful Fundraiser.

**Annual parish Picnic** takes place in summer which promotes friendship and communication in our community.

The Rector would like to thank all the Parishioners of Holy Resurrection Sobor for their support, prayers, assistance in many aspects of our Church life, for their great job to the glory of God and to the good and prosperity of the Church.

## **9. Holy Apostles Mission Station in Chilliwack, BC**

The Holy Apostles Mission Station, was established by His Eminence, Archbishop Irénée, November 27, 2014, with the first services being offered February 7-8, 2015.

What follows is a very brief report on the past two-and-a-half years since Holy Apostles Mission Station was established, from Lent of 2015 to Pascha of 2017.

**Liturgical Life & The Holy Mysteries.** The Parish goal is to live out the Orthodox, apostolic faith by being truly *eucharistic* and *doxological*, giving thanks and glory to God. Great Vespers, Sunday Matins, and Divine Liturgy are served weekly, with services also served on Great Feast days, wherever possible. The waters of Cultus Lake have been blessed twice, with the Great Blessing of Water at Theophany, in 2016 and 2017. 11 people have been received into the Orthodox Church through Holy Baptism and/or Chrismation. Two Funerals have been served, Holy Unction was offered in the presence of the relics of St. Panteleimon in April 2016, and one Marriage has been Crowned. His Eminence tonsured three Readers at the Hierarchical Liturgy served in June 2015.

**Church Premises.** After holding initial services for Lent and Pascha 2015 at Camp Charis, Holy Apostles was able to move into an older, unused Church building owned by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, in downtown Chilliwack, during Bright Week 2016. Slowly, since that time – with the great dedication and involvement of the faithful – the Parish has been making it more conducive for Orthodox liturgical services. In May of 2016, the main structure of church Iconostasis was installed by the Orthodox craftsman, Tony Machnee, from Saskatoon.

**Outreach and Education.** Father Matthew offered a series of classes – open to the public – providing a basic introduction to the Orthodox faith. Ongoing catechesis for several individuals is also taking place. Congregations continue serving a monthly meal at the local Ruth and Naomi's Soup Kitchen, and are also preparing to welcome a refugee family from Syria.

"Please pray for the Holy Apostles Mission in Chilliwack, that Lord will help us to reflect the love of the Holy Trinity, here in the heart of the Fraser Valley" - Fr. Matthew is asking.



***Agape Vespers of Pascha 2017, Holy Apostles Mission Station, Chilliwack, BC***

***The community gathered with His Eminence, Archbishop Irénée***

## **10. St. John of Shanghai and St. Nina of Georgia Orthodox Church, Vancouver, BC**

"In the last three years, I have personally adjusted to the loss of my father and the arrival of a new daughter. Both new realities were unexpected and challenging to adjust to: hard blessings that, in Christ, have ultimately been transformative and led to spiritual growth" -- Fr. Justin Hewlett.

The mission parish of St. John's has been through a similar experience over the past three years, forced to adjust the abrupt loss of so many of Parish core members due to the high cost of living in Vancouver, but also blessed with unexpected new arrivals that have balanced and broadened the overall demographic of our community. Over the past few years the average attendance at Sunday morning liturgy has gone from the low 40s (down from an average in

the high 50s) to around 50 or so every Sunday. "We have gone from a church largely composed of young families who have converted to Orthodoxy from Protestantism, to a more balanced mix of "cradle" Orthodox and converts - including some more mature members, as well as some of our own children who are now growing up "cradle" Orthodo" says Fr. Justin..

St. John's remains committed to being *the* primary English-language Orthodox presence in Vancouver.

"The primary challenge facing St. John's at this moment is the recent revelation that the Catholic landlords, who have rented our current building to us on very generous terms for the last ten years, are considering a plan that would involve the destruction of our current building and thus necessitate our relocation.

Building a stable community in a city with the most expensive cost of living in Canada has already been a challenge - adding the challenge of finding a new place to worship in a city that has put a freeze on new church development and that has the third most expensive real-estate market in the world makes our mission's future all the more uncertain and difficult. We trust that God will continue to provide for us, as He always has, but the prayers and support of all those committed to the cause of making the Orthodox faith understandable and available in our land are much needed and very much appreciated!"-- Fr. Justin.



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## **Deanery Report to the Archdiocesan Assembly July, 2017**

The Deanery of Alberta and the Northwest Territories continues to witness to the fact that change is an ever present reality. In the midst of it all, the clergy and faithful of this deanery have handled things remarkably well. I continually rejoice at the mutual support and assistance that the clergy and faithful have been to each other, both within the deanery and Throughout the Archdiocese.

Again, in this reporting period, much has changed with regards to Pastoral assignments, movement of clergy and ordinations.

Fr. Gerasim (Power), Fr. Phillip (Speranza) & Fr. Phillip Eriksson have continued to oversee the flocks entrusted to them with positive results.

Clergy changes since the last Archdiocesan Assembly:

- Fr. Ron Poworoznik requested and was granted transferred to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.
- Fr. Vincent Lehr status from Priest-in-Charge to Rector of St. Herman of Alaska in Edmonton.
- Archbishop Irénée was made Ruling Bishop of the Archdiocese of Canada and also became Archbishop.
- Fr. Andrew Applegate becomes full-time Rector of St. Aidan's in Cranbrook BC and he and Sonia move to Cranbrook.
- Fr. Kyle Parrott was assigned as second Priest on a part-time basis at Holy Martyr Peter the Aleut in Calgary awaiting full-time assignment. Effective July 1, 2017, he is transferring to the Deanery of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory as the priest of All Saints of Alaska and Arseny of Konevits Church, Victoria, BC.
- Fr. Larry Reinheimer has been granted retirement effective April 1, 2017 from All Saints in Victoria BC and is being attached to St. Aidan in Cranbrook. As of the writing of this report, his intentions are to reside in Creston BC. He is granted permission to attend Holy Myrrhbearers Antiochian Orthodox Church in Bonner's Ferry Idaho (Fr. Gregory Horton is the Rector of this parish. It's much closer to him than St. Aidan's in Cranbrook.
- Fr. Nicolai Nikolaev retires.
- Fr. Ryan Bishop joins the deanery and assumes responsibility for The St. Tikhon Group of Parishes.
- Archimandrite Alexander Pihach who was on assignment as the OCA representative to the Moscow patriarchate in Moscow, fell asleep in the Lord. He will be missed.

- Though not part of the deanery, Archpriest Orest Olekshy, who had great deal to do with the successful planting of English as an acceptable language of worship in Canada, also fell asleep in the Lord.
- Father Michael Schaplowsky has returned to Alberta and has been of help to Fr. Vincent Lehr at St. Herman's in Edmonton
- Fr. Matthew Francis has moved to Chilliwack BC with his family and established a mission (Holy Apostles Mission Station, Chilliwack, BC) which is off to a very good start.
- Fr. Daniel Friesen has been made Rector of St. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Dickie Bush Alberta.

The following additions to the Clergy of the Deanery include:

- Dn. Sebastian Scratch
- Dn. Colin Bergland
- Dn. Kurt Jordan
- Dn. Paul Bartlett

We were also blessed to be the Deanery in which Fr. Nils Nellis was ordained to the priesthood for the Deanery of BC.

Parish Changes:

- All Saints Orthodox Church in Meadow Lake, while under the umbrella of the deanery of Deanery of Manitoba and Saskatchewan is currently being served by Fr. Ryan Bishop who resides with his family in stony plain and also has responsibility for the St. Tikhon group of parishes.

The clergy of the deanery work very well together and are of great assistance to each other in many ways. The cooperation developing also within parish communities and the deanery as a whole has been encouraging. It is a challenge, particularly for the Northern parish groups to accommodate all the needs of the various communities under one priest. However, I have to say that by and large, they have been up to the challenge of the cooperation necessary to make this effective. St. Herman's in Edmonton has done extensive renovations and beautified their temple with many excellent icons over the last few years. St. Peter the Aleut in Calgary has moved into a new building and is in the process of working through a lease/purchase arrangement with the Anglican Archdiocese of Calgary. St. Aidan's has just purchased the temple that they have been renting from the Ukrainian Catholic church and is in the process of preparing to do some renovation work in their building.

All of the above has made the responsibility of being Dean a task which is not onerous with many bright spots. For this I am thankful.

Humbly submitted,



Archpriest Phillip Eriksson,  
Dean of Alberta & Northwest Territories

## Manitoba and Saskatchewan Deanery Report for the Archdiocesan Assembly Edmonton AB 2017

Your Eminence, Fathers, brothers and sisters.

Since the last time we came together at an assembly, so much has changed. New faces, serving and leading our diocese and parishes, new missions and growth. This is not to say that we have not faced challenges, and or setbacks along the way (for we certainly have) rather, that by the grace of the Holy Spirit, our diocese, parishes, clergy and members have trusted that what we have, is indeed the Lord's Church, a "rock that the gates of Hades will not prevail against" (Mt. 16:18)

That despite the challenges of resources (few), the death of beloved fathers and community leaders and great distances we have been able to change without inhibiting growth of the Church. A witness to the Lord's love and the Saints intercessions.

Throughout the past four years, my duties have primarily been dedicated to a few specific tasks and issues. Although there has been good work and progress addressing and facilitating solutions and perspectives, I have not been able to visit, and get to know the faithful of the Deanery as much as I would have like. This includes not being able to arrange and facilitate a deanery tour, and deanery meetings as often as it should be done. For this I offer my apologies', with the assurance that the Dean (myself or not) will be working towards addressing these deficits in a positive way. May the Lord bless.

I could detail each community, and the victories, and celebrations they have shared, but in the interest of not putting people to sleep I will highlight a number of pivotal instances that might serve as a point of reference for how we facilitate the life of the Church in Canada.

### **The merger of the Mission of the Theotokos of the Life Giving Springs and Holy Trinity Sobor in Winnipeg MB.**

At the previous Archdiocesan Council meetings in Winnipeg this past fall, it was made very apparent that the Mission community (Theotokos of the Life Giving Springs) had very limited resources (both materially, and financially), and that without any change, would become a redundant community. As well it was noted that Holy Trinity had space and the need of a larger dedicated core group (the 20% who do 80% of the work) and some financial flexibility to deal with an aging infrastructure.

This was the context in which Vladika Irene directed that both communities amalgamate to become one parish (Holy Trinity Sobor) composed of two liturgical communities. There would be one parish, one rector, one executive and one membership, yet two complementary liturgical traditions. It was Vladika's direction that each community could not lose its language, identity, and or mission in the process.

This amalgamation became more imperative with the Mission community being exiled from their space by an infestation of bed bugs in the Anglican Church they rented from.

In December both communities started to serve together while constant meetings between myself and the clergy and the respective executives were happening. A total of 4 bilingual liturgies were held with each community working to accommodate the other. A date was fixed to start serving separate liturgies

with the arrangement that the divine Liturgy for the English community would start at 8:45 for hours and 9:00 for the Liturgy. The Slavonic service would start at 10:15 and 10:30 for Liturgy. Although has taken a little time to work out the kinks, both communities seem to be agreeable to the arrangement. The English community is continuing with the “revised Julian calendar” for pastoral reasons, although there is a willingness to explore adopting the “old calendar” as the English community becomes more settled.

The amalgamation has largely been self directed, with Vladika Irene trusting in each party. This has been as great blessing that has given each community an opportunity to participate and direct the process, rather than have to the process directed to them. Many conversations have been held to calm people down, and remind them of the benefits of such an amalgamation, but the current situation seems hopeful.

I can not express how grateful I am to the extraordinary work of the Priest Roman Pavlov (who risen to the occasion as being a strong and compassionate rector), the Priest Anthony Esterbrooks, and the newly ordained Priest Matthew Beynon, who have all borne the brunt of any anxiety, and confusion. Their ability to work with each other as brother priests, and not competing clergy, as well be obedient to the directions given them is a breath of fresh air.

This has been an beautiful example for the faithful of both communities. That different clergy, from very different backgrounds can be unified in their proclamation of Orthodoxy without having to apologize or change who they are, where they came from, and who they serve.

A special note must be said about Fr. Matthew. He has become a natural leader and voice of clarity for the English community as Fr. Anthony's health has precluded him from being more involved liturgically. I could never have expected the blessings he has brought to this process, and am ever so thankful to the work of the Holy Spirit that has brought peace and direction in what could be a very difficult time.

They are number of administrative issues that must still be sorted out in the coming few months, namely the official closing of the Mission of the Theotokos of the Life Giving Springs as a legal entity, and the reconciliation of parish membership, finances, and legal obligations (ie: insurance). A transitional council has been struck to include members from the English community to work with Holy Trinity's executive as non-voting members. This transitional council is working on addressing any issues related to the amalgamation, as well has developed a budget that reflects new income and expenditures.

The present success of this endeavor presents a whole new way to facilitate mission work in our diocese. It makes no sense to have a mission community struggling to find an appropriate and affordable space to serve, and be crippled with the cost of insurance and building costs (let alone purchasing property) when an established parish community and building exists within a short drive.

Regardless of whether it is a English or a Slavic or Romanian mission, the willingness of an established parish to take under its wings a mission, is a bold step that sets the Church into the depths, where the Lord commands us to lower our nets, that we might draw the world into our nets, truly become fishers of men and women (Mk. 1:17)

## **Increased liturgical life at All Saints parish in Meadow Lake SK.**

About ten years ago, the parish of All Saints in Meadow Lake SK, changed jurisdictions from the UOCC to our Archdiocese. They also adopted English and the new calendar in the process. This coupled with a new membership from a few younger families has made this parish a bright light on the prairies, especially as church after church either closes down, and or slips to intermittent and irregular services in this part of the country.

The parish initially had an arrangement with its serving clergy (now the Priest Ryan Bishop) for once a month services.

This would not be an issue if the parish in Meadow Lake was “retirement parish” or was looking to someone to serve only Panhkida's and bless baskets at Pascha. But it is a parish that is wanting to grow, and is working with what tools it has to enable that. Although the All Saints parish is not going to support a full time parish priest tomorrow, they nonetheless have set a course that could make it a reality in the near to distant future. The challenge is that this can not happen with either a inconsistent service schedule, let alone a once a month Liturgy.

Not wanting to lose the momentum generated at All Saints I have had conversations with the Warden at All Saints (Paul Szpakowski) and their community about taking those next steps to facilitate a greater liturgical and pastoral life, noting that it takes faith (and a financial commitment) to grow.

My hope is that our Archdiocese will be able to accommodate these steps of faith, and that they might be an example of what can come about when we serve the Lord with “with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind,” (Lk. 10:27)

## **Christ the Saviour Mission Station, Winkler MB**

What started out with two men from Winkler MB (1 ½ hr south of Winnipeg) who were received into Orthodoxy at St. Nicholas in Narol MB, has developed into ten adults (one catechumen, two children and six “inquirers” in just over a year. A small place has been procured to serve in once a month, complemented by weekly bible studies and monthly catechism classes. Yet for these blessed joys, the reality is there is no way this community could even have achieved any of these gains independently or using the current models of “pay for services”, considering they are young families and students, as well they are too few of them.

But as gas is not free, nor is time, a method that encouraged stewardship that could compensate for the time and cost of trips to Winkler was adopted, through St. Nicholas becoming the sponsoring parish for the Mission Station, and the residents from Winkler being full members at St. Nicholas Narol (just north of Winnipeg) and more to the point the member of this fledgling community becoming members at St. Nicholas.

Although St. Nicholas as a parish can not set aside money for the Mission, it nonetheless offers marital support for the Station in the form of candles, furniture/ holy vessels, as well cover the travel cost and stipend for any services offered (liturgical or not). I (as the rector of St. Nicholas) am able to serve the Mission Station as the rector of St. Nicholas because they are our own parishioners.



In time (and with God's grace) the Mission Station in Winkler will have the resources and members to warrant a greater and independent liturgical life, eventually growing into a full time parish. But their membership at St. Nicholas presently, is where they learn what a healthy parish looks like, and the work needed to be a healthy parish, and the grace of being a part of a diverse and historic community.

This is an option that I believe has potential, throughout our Archdiocese, regardless of whether the parishes and missions are in the same city, or province.

### **Sustaining life in our rural parishes**

The backbone of our Archdiocese is those tiny (and some not so tiny) rural parishes that dot the prairies, and every effort must be made to insure that they are around for decades to come. Although they are serious challenges of depopulation and changing demographics, they are still people around these communities that are in as much need of the Lord's saving work, as those who live in urban centers. Our challenge is to find models and ways in which we can reach out to them, regardless if they have Ukrainian heritage, or are young millennials with no connection to Orthodoxy at all.

The wonderful work done in the Century parishes in Alberta by the Archimandrite Gerasim (Powers) is a model that can be in principle applied in various locations throughout this Deanery. His work of integrating with the community beyond Sunday mornings (like being a chaplain in the Fire Department for example) is a demonstration of being more than the priest who shows up, serves a liturgy, receives a cheque and then leaves.

This is not to say that this make an immediate impact, but if done it can bear witness to icon that is Christ who is the saving God, beyond what happens on Sunday morning. Like Fr. Gerasim, the work done in the community of Sandy Lake MB over the past four years, has started to slowly gather more people to Church for my monthly services.

This kind of work, and the constant encouragement that the faithful should attend services when and wherever they are served, has eased the prejudices and animosity of past feuds and division that has marked much of the history of these parishes.

But if the survival of our rural parishes, is to be a reality, our rural faithful have to see that the survival of their parishes is not simply dependent on the character of the clergy serving them, or their family connections; but on their willingness to be Orthodox Christians every Sunday, regardless of what Church they are in. If they can't serve the Lord in someone else's parish three Sundays in a month, there is not much hope for them serving the Lord in their own community in the years to come.

### **Blessings.**

I could go on and on about the blessings we have received and seen in the past four years; that in just about every active parish in this Deanery there is growth, greater stability and life. It might be incremental, maybe one family here or there, but it is growth nonetheless. This could not be the case if it were not for the God loving clergy who serve in this deanery. Day in and day out the clergy of this Denery serve and bear witness to a loving God who saves and redeems us. I am indebted to the love they offer the Lord and those whom they serve, and humbled by the love and commitment they offer Him, inspired to serve like them. May the Lord grant them many blessed years!

Priest Gregory Scratch  
Dean of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

## **Quebec & Atlantic Provinces Deanery**

### **Report to the Archdiocesan Assembly - Edmonton July 2017**

#### **Parish Life in the Deanery**

For this report, have provided extracts from written reports provided by the clergy of the Deanery.

#### **The Sobor of St. Peter and St. Paul - Archpriest Anatoliy Melnyk**

The Abbess of Mount Athos Icon of the Most Holy Mother of God and the Holy Relics of St. Gabriel of Mount Athos were at the Cathedral in November 2015.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presided (with Archbishop Irénée) at Vigil and Divine Liturgy on July 11th and 12th 2015, the Cathedral's patronal feast.

Father Deacon Gleb Melnyk was ordained to the holy priesthood by His Grace Bishop Irénée at Sts Peter and Paul Sobor in Montréal on 14/1 October 2016, the feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (Pokrov).

Repair work (construction and upgrade) was done in the Administrative building of the parish: the reception room of the Archbishop; the Office of the Rector and Secretary; the apartment for the second priest of the cathedral and the apartment for a parish choir director.

Three priests and one deacon serve at the Sobor of St. Peter and St. Paul on a regular basis. One of the priests, Fr. Gleb, recently graduated from the St. Petersburg Academy with a Master's degree in Theology. Our Parish has grown: to meet the needs of a growing population, we recently started a second Divine Liturgy, once a month starting at 8:00 am, in the Moldavian language. As an outreach program, a series of lessons on various topics in Orthodoxy were given to the students attending l'Université de Hearst in Ontario. To save on operating costs of the parish, we switched from a paper version of the parish newsletter to an electronic format. Finally, one major accomplishment was that our parish completely renovated the Rector's residence, a cottage in Rawdon, Quebec.

#### **Paroisse St Seraphim de Sarov, Rawdon**

For the past 3 years, regular Sunday Liturgies have been served during the summer months and twice a month during the winter, weather permitting. In 2014 repairs were made to the Transfiguration Skete, including a new bathroom, new kitchen and the back wall was repaired due to cracks, at a cost of more than \$20,000. In 2017 Vladyka Irénée consecrated the altar assisted by Fr. Anatoliy Melnyk, Prodeacon Jesse Isaac and Deacon Nicolas Svetlosky. The altar was built and designed by Michael Vertuozov.

In 2015 we purchased a house on 15th Avenue that is now used as the Archdiocesan office and in 2016 we purchased a house that serves as our parish house.

Our parish feast in 2016 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Canada and the 60th anniversary of the parish, welcomed His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon from the OCA and about 30 clergy for the Hierarchal Liturgy. The chapel served as the altar and tents were set up for the parishioners and visitors, followed by a reception at the local high school.

## **The Sign of the Theotokos - Archpriest Gregory Nimijean**

Fr. Antoine Emmanuel head of the Monastic community of Jerusalem spoke at the first ACE session of the 2014-2015 series, Fr. Gregory made a reciprocal visit to the monks and nuns of the community.

While in Montreal for the Colloquium of the Montreal Institute of Orthodox Theology, the weekend May 2-3 2015, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon presided (with Archbishop Irénée) at Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy at the Sign.

After more than a millennium since the last Ecumenical Council, and 50 years of planning, 2016 was marked by an historic ecclesial event with the gathering in council of the Primate of most of the local autocephalous (self-governed) Orthodox Churches in Chania, Crete. This council and the documents it produced are the subject of a special series of adult education presentations at The Sign of the Theotokos Orthodox Church which will be held between September 2016 and May 2017. The series commenced on Saturday 24 September with a workshop and overview of the council by Dr Paul Ladouceur, lecturer at the Orthodox School of Theology at Trinity College, Toronto and with the Faculté de théologie et de sciences religieuses, Université Laval and will end with The Montreal Institute of Orthodox Theology's Colloquium "Reflections after the Great Council of the Orthodox Church in Crete in 2016" with guest speaker His Grace Bishop Maxim (Vasiljevic), Bishop of the Western American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America, who was a participant at the Council.

We continue to address some maintenance issues on our building. We have replaced the icon above the front door, installed new handrails at the Church's entrance, and refreshed/renovated the women's bathroom. We continue to beautify the church through the acquisition of commissioned icons. Fr. Alexis Vinogradov designed, built and installed a Cherry Wood Arch to complete the iconostasis.

The Parish Greeters Ministry held an "Open House" chapel visit during the Sign's Annual Bazaar.

Mrs. Olga Mogiljansky, in her early 90s, the oldest and one of the most faithful parishioners, received the St. Tikhon medal from Archbishop Irénée on November 25th 2016, during his visit for our patronal feast.

## **Paroisse Orthodoxe Saint Benoit-de-Nursie - Priest Dragos Giulea**

Cette année (2015) nous avons organisé une conférence sur les icônes et deux liturgies avec paroisses hors de la ville. En raison de nos possibilités restreintes, nous nous sommes attachés aux activités de charité effectuées par des paroisses plus grandes, en particulier l'Eglise Le Signe de la Theotokos et l'Eglise Antiochienne Saint George. Une conférence soutenue par Mgr. Irénée, l'Archevêque du Canada, en octobre 2015.

L'année dernière (2016), la paroisse St Benoit de Nursie a continué sa vie liturgique et pastorale habituelle. Nous avons eu des Vêpres chaque samedi et la Divine Liturgie chaque dimanche. Nous avons célébré les grandes fêtes de l'année et parfois même des fêtes pendant la semaine.

En ce qui concerne le catéchisme et la mission pastorale, nous avons organisé une conférence à l'automne dernier et une autre en janvier de cette année. Comme d'autres événements, le Père diacre Justin Mitchell a été ordonné à la prêtrise. À partir de janvier de cette année, j'ai été demandé d'aider avec une liturgie en roumain, une fois par mois, à la cathédrale Saint Pierre et Paul, pour les paroissiens d'origine moldave.

### **St. Vladimir Prince Of Kiev Church - Igumen Vladimir (Tobin)**

A major event in the life of our parish was the ordination to the holy priesthood of (formerly) Deacon Alexander Treiger by Archbishop Irénée on the feast of Theophany January 2016.

At present, we are anticipating some serious renovations to our temple building. The local Antiochian parish has recently completed the building of a new temple, and we will be receiving a lot of the furnishings from their old temple, including iconostasis, altar table, episcopal throne, chandeliers, and a number of other items. This will greatly enhance the appearance of our present temple. The chandeliers have been installed, but so far we have no one to install the iconostasis.

### **Paroisse Orthodoxe de la Sainte-Trinité de Québec - Archpriest Andrey Syrkin**

Holy Trinity Church in Québec City enjoys a new location with a new iconostasis and altar built by parishioners. Our Dirst Liturgy was celebrated on Sunday, September 18th, with Fr. Andrii Syrkin, Fr. Nectaire Féménias and Deacon Igor Aleksandrovsky.

Presently we are able to serve the vigil and liturgies during the week. We are also fortunate to have a new choir who are able to sing in two languages: Slavonic and French. Just recently, we celebrated the Maslenitza, where 200 people attended. Other programs the Church offers include Sunday School for children, Russian lessons on Saturday. We also created a library that houses Russian and French books. As with most churches, our biggest challenge is finding solutions to decrease our deficit. To date we face a yearly deficit of \$11,000.

### **La Liturgie à Trois-Rivieres**

Chaque dernière samedi de mois notre prêtre sert la Liturgie dans une petite paroisse Orthodoxe à Trois Rivieres.

### **Holy Lady of Vladimir Mission Station - Priest John Palmer**

Inquirers lectures are offered. A Mission trip to Cornerbrook/Clarendville was held. The mission has lost the full-time use of the chapel at Queen's College (MUN).

Particularly noteworthy is the fact that Matushka and I have moved into a house large enough to have a functional chapel in the basement. This has allowed us to distance ourselves from the Anglican chapel at Queen's College during the week and thus avoid being a nuisance, but also allows us to more easily follow the traditional rhythm of Orthodox parish life. Now, not only are we able to hold services on the appropriate days and at the appropriate times more easily, but we also able to have daily Matins and Vespers services.

In addition, about a year ago, we began to take a special collection on the first Sunday of the month which we have exclusively dedicated to fulfilling needs in the community surrounding us. This serves the double purpose of offering tangible signs of our love and concern for our neighbour and is a step in the direction of more fully living the apostolic mission of the Church, but also serves to make the general community increasingly aware of our presence. This is vital since we are in many respects invisible on account of our lack a church building.

The economic downturn continues to be a struggle here. Job losses continue to affect many in Newfoundland, and have forced the relocation of a number of our community's families in the past year.

### **Orthodox Mission Station of the Holy Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos - Octavian Blaga**

In May Rev. Fr. Octavian BLAGA was released from The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate to the Archdiocese of Canada and was received into the ranks of clergy of the Archdiocese and attached to the Saint Benoît De Nursie. In June, The Orthodox Mission Station of The Holy Dormition of Most Holy Theotokos was blessed to be established in the City of Sherbrooke, QC. and Fr. Octavian was assigned as Priest-in-Charge. His Eminence and Deanery clergy celebrated the feast of the Dormition at the newly established Orthodox mission at the Frost Village Church.

### **Mission of the Presentation of the Mother of God in the Temple - Priest Mykola Andriienko**

In February 2017, Priest Mykola Andriienko, was appointed priest-in-charge of the newly founded mission of the Presentation of the Mother of God in the Temple, located in Montréal (Verdun).

Respectfully submitted by,  
Archpriest Gregory Nimijean  
Dean of Quebec & Atlantic Provinces