

**REPORT OF THE ARCH-DIOCESAN DEAN (Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon)
TO THE ARCH-DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY
Ottawa, July, 2007**

Your Eminence, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Since the position of Arch-diocesan Dean is not mandated by any statute of the Church, whether of the OCA or of the Archdiocese, there is no "job description" or "role model" for this position. It seems only natural, therefore, that it is taking time for the precise role(s) and function(s) of this position to evolve, and for His Eminence to become accustomed to making "use" of his Archdean in one capacity or another.

His Eminence has been keeping me up to date with all matters pertaining to changes in clerical and parochial status by regularly sending me copies of all official correspondence that pertains to these two areas.

In February of this year, I was His Eminence's representative at the annual "Church Leaders Retreat" sponsored by the Canadian Council of Churches [CCC] and held this year at the Queen of Apostles Retreat Centre in Mississauga, Ontario on Thursday, February 1st and Friday, February 2nd.

Those present at one or more sessions of the retreat included: 3 members of the United Church of Canada (including the current Moderator); 2 Eastern Orthodox (myself and Fr. Peter Avgeropoulos from the Greek Orthodox); 2 Lutherans (including their retiring National Bishop); 2 Presbyterians (including the current Moderator, a non-ordained woman); 2 representatives of the Christian Reformed churches; a representative from the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops (an auxiliary bishop from the Toronto Archdiocese); and one representative from each of the Armenian Orthodox, Anglican and Baptist communions.

It was an interesting event from the "networking" point of view, though I was personally disappointed that there weren't more representatives present from the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox families of churches. The overall tone of the 24-hour retreat was relaxed and informal, and the stated purpose of the gathering was primarily a sharing of information and experiences. Worship according to various traditions featured prominently, including my leading an Orthodox service of Small Compline on the Thursday evening.

Substantive moments during the retreat included:

- a discussion on Canada's role in Afghanistan. It was felt to be impossible for the CCC to try and adopt any "official" position at the time;
- a discussion on Aboriginal issues. Would we be interested in participating in a renewal of a *New Covenant for Native Peoples?*;
- a meeting with the CCC executive on Friday morning. Issues highlighted included: 1) the CCC's ongoing financial crisis; member churches were asked to reconsider their levels of support; 2) a pressing need for more members on the various CCC committees, especially the Personnel Committee which is under its constitutional minimum; 3) a proposal was shared for revising the way in which the triennial executive is elected.

It is my sincere hope that during the coming year, His Eminence will feel able to call on me to assume one or other of the many occasional responsibilities that over-burden him.