

**Minutes of the Archdiocesan Council Meeting,
Archdiocese of Canada, Orthodox Church in America
held at Holy Trinity Sobor, Winnipeg, Manitoba
October 26 - 27, 2001**

Council members in attendance at this meeting were:

Ruling Bishop of the Archdiocese, His Grace SERAPHIM
Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Archpriest Dennis Pihach
Western Secretary, Protodeacon Andrew Piasta
Eastern Secretary, Olga Jurgens
Dean of British Columbia, Archpriest Lawrence Farley
Dean of Manitoba/Saskatchewan, Priest Robert S Kennaugh
Assistant Dean of Manitoba/Saskatchewan, Priest Rodion Luciuk
Igumen Irénée (Rochon)
Priest James Griggs
Priest Larry Reinheimer
David Grier
John Hadjinicolaou
Geoff Korz
Denis Lessard
David Rystephanuk
Rod Tkachuk
Nun Sophia (Zion)

Council members absent with regret and with a blessing from the Bishop were Archpriest John Tkachuk, Dean of Québec, and Nikita Lopoukhine, Treasurer of the Archdiocese.

Observers at various times over the two days of sessions were: Fr Anatoly Melnyk, Protodeacon Ralph Cole, Hilary Cole, Laurie Charles, Spencer Estabrooks, Esther Juce, Linda McIntyre, Sr Rebecca (Redmile), Mother Magdalen (Williams), and the Rev'd Captain Robert Sparks.

Session I, held on Friday evening, October 26

The fall 2001 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council began with a moleben (1.0) served at 7 P.M. in the temple of Holy Trinity Sobor, Winnipeg. The Chancellor called the meeting to order in the parish hall at 7:50 P.M., with roll call and regrets (2.0), and a brief discussion of the Agenda (3.0), which was approved as presented with its new “programming units” format.

4.0 Ruling Bishop’s Address/Report [Attached #1]

The Bishop read his report. In addition to it, he noted the following:

- there is a new Canadian dialogue between Orthodox and Roman Catholic bishops;
- Archbishop Peter has been ill for several months now. He is convalescing, but it appears that more and more of his external affairs work will fall Bishop Seraphim’s way;
- in mid-November there will be a brief extra Holy Synod meeting;
- Vladyka has been asked to go to Finland for the December 16 installation of the new Archbishop, LEO, who was formerly Metropolitan of Helsinki;
- Vladyka and his chancellor have been asked to go again to Kiev and Moscow in mid- January 2002;
- the new ruling bishop of Alaska will be installed in March, and Bishop Seraphim will probably have to attend that;
- Vladyka feels that the pastoral difficulties in the diocese, which are more complex now, are related to how much he is having to be away from it. He needs any ideas the Council can come up with;
- the final decision about Archbishop Lazar and Bishop Varlaam will be made at the April 2002 meeting of the Holy Synod. Their possible reception may help for episcopal visits.
- Holy Trinity Bukowinian Sobor in Ottawa is trying to leave the diocese.

5.0 Chancellor’s Report [Attached #2]

The Chancellor stated that his report is basically a presentation of statistics about the diocese. He also emphasized that there is so much more need for services in Slavonic now than there was a few years ago, because of recent immigration.

6.0 Reports of the Deans

a) Alberta

The Chancellor noted that Holy Trinity Church in Edmonton has come over to our diocese from ROCOR, and is being served by deanery clergy.

St Herman's has a new third priest, Fr Anastasy Richter. Holy Trinity Church in Smoky Lake and the St Tikhon's Community are jointly publishing a monthly bulletin for all the rural parishes. There was a good St Peter the Aleut's Camp for the deanery this past summer, at which Deacon John Hainsworth was a big hit.

b) British Columbia [*Attached #3*]

Fr Lawrence Farley noted two changes which have occurred since he produced his written report: First, Chris Ignatius Rigden-Briscall has been approved for ordination to the diaconate and will be ordained in February by Bishop Seraphim. Second, Fr Lawrence is not as sure now as he was when he wrote his report of the seriousness of the people in the St Nicholas Mission in Kamloops. It remains to be seen whether they will want to or be able to support their own priest in future.

c) Saskatchewan [*Attached #4*]

d) Manitoba [*Attached #5*]

Priests Robert Kennaugh and Rodion Luciuk added some verbal comments and explanations to their reports.

8.0 Final Report of the 2001 Archdiocese of Canada Assembly Committee [*Attached #6*]

Rodion Tkachuk presented this report, briefly mentioning some of the Assembly highlights (Fr Thomas Hopko's presentation, the visit of Fathers Kondratich, Brum, and Dresko from the CCA, etc.) Rod noted that the Assembly was very well attended, although there was disappointment with how many priests who did not attend, and how few of the ones who did attend the workshops. Rod also admitted that the local planning committee perhaps tried to do too much and tired everyone. But finances, as the report shows, went very well, with a surplus at the end of \$3,037.54.

The Friday evening session was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. with the singing of "It is truly meet."

Session II, held on Saturday morning, October 27

The session was called to order by the Chancellor at 9:25 A.M. with the singing of “O Heavenly King.”

7.0 Treasurer’s Report [*Attached #7a & # 7b*]

Fr Rodion Luciuk presented Nikita Lopoukhine’s report and went over it line by line with the Council. (It was noted that, since a deficit was forecast and a balanced budget is necessary, final budget approval would occur after the administrative, programming, and communications units had met for planning, later in this session and the following session.)

New member of Council Rod Tkachuk asked for an explanation of what we give to Syosset, and it was explained that we give 10% of our operational income, because Customs and Taxation Canada will not allow tax receipts if we were to try to give the US\$ 62 per head dues.

In response to Nikita’s concern about the Bishop’s cell phone expenses, Council asked Mother Sophia to contact Elizabeth Markakis about these expenses. Would a cheaper plan be possible? She was also asked to talk with Padre (Military Chaplain) Robert Sparks who suggested that he could do some research into the possibilities. The Bishop needs to know what the possibilities are.

ACTION: NUN SOPHIA

Several members pointed out that we must discuss before the next Assembly whether lay Archdiocesan Council members should be supported for travel to the Assembly by their parishes, since clergy are, in principle, supported by their parishes.

The Bishop said that he wants the Administrative Unit to come up with concrete advice about what to do with our investments. Our current holdings have lost too much money.

All Council members were urged to talk to Fr Rodion if they have recommendations for the budget.

10.2 Proposal for the “Archbishop Arseny Theological Institute” [*Attached #8a & # 8b*]

Spencer Estabrooks presented this proposal. Fr Dennis Pihach noted that several dioceses have programs like this for the diaconate. So far, the Holy Synod demands a seminary degree for priests (there can be exceptions, but these must be vetted by pastoral committee, etc.) . The Bishop added that it is not the degree of MDiv but the course of studies that qualifies one for the priesthood. The Chancellor said that sometimes the

seminaries will give credits for some of the courses taken in the diocesan diaconal programs.

The Bishop said that if we approve this program, and it is developed enough, we would then present it to the Holy Synod as a diaconal preparation course. This would have to be done before the courses begin.

Dr John Hadjinicolaou said that he thinks there is a real possibility that he would be able to get the courses for this proposed institute recognized for credit at the University of Sherbrooke (as in the case of Metropolitan Sotirios' academy in Toronto). Geoff Korz noted that the matter of accreditation is extremely important.

Fr Bob Kennaugh said that we must be very careful vis à vis St Andrews' Seminary. We should avoid terms like "college" and instead use words like "diaconal program." We should also make it clear that we would like to share common things (of course even when we have had students at St Andrew's we have had to supplement their training, and our supplementary programs have been and should continue to be open to them). *We must be very diplomatic in every way at every stage.*

Bishop Seraphim stated that we must be patient and loving in the face of misperceptions of us by the Ukrainians [*e.g.*, that the OCA would take over their seminary, that they would lose their Ukrainian funding, etc.] We must be ourselves, doing what we have to do, but always living in love and reconciliation with them. He said that he can see nothing wrong with proceeding with this programme as long as we are careful in our communications with St Andrews, making it clear that we are creating this programme because of the linguistic difficulties and clearly expressing our hopes for a spirit of mutual cooperation with them.

At the request of Dianne Kennaugh, Vladyka said that he will start by talking to Metropolitan Wasily very soon, explaining our intentions in detail, with assurances that there will be no competition, etc.

The Bishop then told Spencer Estabrooks to write a letter to him, formally asking for the blessing to begin preparations for the programme.

Action: Bishop Seraphim, Spencer Estabrooks

After a brief coffee break, the Council divided into three Planning Units. These were constituted as follows:

Administrative Unit (properties, financial task force, investments, by-laws, diocesan administration and central administration): Chair, Hadjinicolaou; Members: Grier, Korz, Luciuk, Piasta, Tkachuk.

Programming Unit (charities, seminary scholarships, missions, youth, ecumenical affairs, immigration, clergy pension insurance): Chair, Farley; Members: Kennaugh, Reinheimer, Rystephaniuk.

Communications Unit (publishing projects in English, French & Russian; *Messenger*; dedicated communicators; parish directory; web page; pilgrimages; presentations at sobors and assemblies): Chair, Lessard; Members: Griggs, Jurgens, (Rochon), (Zion).

Resource people for consultation with the units: the Bishop, the Chancellor, and the Treasurer.

These units met for approximately one hour before the lunch break, at 12:30 P.M.

Session III, held on Saturday afternoon, October 27

When the meeting was resumed at approximately 1:30 p.m, the units continued to work, for another hour and a half, at planning. At the end of this period they presented their reports.

9.1 Report of the Programming Unit [*Attached #9 a*]

David Rystephanuk made the presentation for this unit. The points he made were the following:

The unit proposed to send \$500.00 CDN to seminarian Anastasy Gallaher for medical needs. This was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

Members of the unit said that we need to set up some kind of channel in Canada for sending donations abroad. Fr Bob Kennaugh and Fr Larry Reinheimer will work on this. It might be a kind of Canadian IOCC, because the IOCC has ignored both our and Metropolitan Sotirios' requests for registration for tax receipts in Canada.

ACTION: FR BOB KENNAUGH AND FR LARRY REINHEIMER

Fr Lawrence Farley will keep in touch with seminarians to let them know what funds are available from the diocese.

ACTION: FR LAWRENCE FARLEY

The unit recommended that the used books given to the diocese by the St Vladimir's Library should still go to St Andrew's Seminary, as a gesture of good will.

ACTION: VLADYKA SERAPHIM

It was noted that Fr Lawrence Farley, Fr Larry Reinheimer, and Fr Rodion Luciuk had completed, by Pascha 2001, the revision of the 1993 Mission Guidelines. The unit asked that Council members look again at these guidelines. They will be mailed from the western office soon.

ACTION: THE WESTERN OFFICE

They also requested that the revision of the Mission Guidelines be placed on the next Archdiocesan Council meeting agenda.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

The unit also proposed that a Missions Director for the Archdiocese be appointed, and a "missions hotline" created – a clearing house for needed objects, etc.). The

Bishop said that before the next meeting of Council he will appoint a Director of Missions.

ACTION: VLADYKA SERAPHIM

It was proposed that, with the Bishop's approval, Fr Larry Reinheimer ask Fr Anastasy Richter to be Youth Director for the diocese. Perhaps also Deacon John Hainsworth can be used for youth work after he has completed seminary. These are understood to be first steps toward a youth board.

ACTION: FR LARRY REINHEIMER

The unit proposed that \$100 CDN be sent for the Project Mexico commemorative book (in honour of its 100th house constructed). This money will help support the orphanage in Tijuana. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

The unit recommended that Professor Richard Schneider continue to be our diocesan representative to the Canadian Council of Churches, and lay representative to the Metropolitan Council of the OCA.

ACTION: VLADYKA SERAPHIM

The unit noted that we need a good resource base for helping people with immigration matters, a resource base to call on for help. (We do have some resource people through the diocese—the Bishop, the Chancellor, Nicholas Ignatieff, etc.). The Chancellor noted at this point that a lot of these concerns are a matter of administration, not programming.

On the matter of clergy pension insurance, the members of the Programming Unit said that it is certainly time to act. They suggested that the Chancellor send out packets to the parishes re: wages, insurance, pension. There should be consultation with the

Greeks and the Ukrainians. It was decided that Fr Dennis Pihach will check which already-existing pension plans are available for us to join, and then he will report back. Fr Dennis will then send a letter to the parishes suggesting that they support their priests in this matter.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

9.2 Report of the Communications Unit [Attached #9 b]

Denis Lessard made the presentation for this unit, making the following points:

Publication projects

The unit made some long-range plans for publishing translations into French of the lives of North American saints (based on the latest texts of Jan Baer and Fr George Gray). The translating will be done by Denis Lessard, who will seek permission from the English authors. Denis hopes to translate and publish one life per year. This series could also include a brief life of Archbishop Arseny, once a writer for the biography is found. The plan is to combine all the biographies into one book eventually.

ACTION: DENIS LESSARD

The English translation of the scriptographic Finish booklet on Orthodox customs(in Russian), translated by Fr John Tkachuk and desk-top published by Sr Stephanie, continues to be a problem. Fr John says he needs to do some more work on the CD version of his translation before he can give it to the Bishop for sending/taking to Finland, and to Mother Sophia for possible publishing by Novalis (contact person: Eileen Sculley). Mother Sophia will keep monitoring this.

ACTION: NUN SOPHIA

Olga Jurgens will contact Evelyn Dumas and Paul Ladouceur about the French version of Bishop Seraphim's book on Holy Communion, to find out where the text is, who will desk-top publish it (at this point, the unit assumes that Paul will be doing this). It was noted that some money was sent from Saskatoon a couple of years ago to facilitate the printing of this French translation.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

The English version of *Rencontre avec l'Orthodoxie* is being done by Paul Ladouceur. Mother Sophia is proofreading part of the English version and will be in contact with Paul about his translating/publishing schedule. It was noted that the original French version has done very well, and publisher Alexandre has already done a second printing.

ACTION: NUN SOPHIA

Plans were also made for the translation into Russian of our Archdiocesan brochure on stewardship. Olga has had Mother Dorofea create two translations – one literal and the other “culturally sensitive.” Olga will consult Fr John Tkachuk about these versions, letting him check for theology and style. Once the text is decided upon, Olga will type the text onto diskette. Mother Sophia should be able to desk-top publish this brochure in close and careful consultation with Olga. It is hoped that this brochure can be printed by the beginning of Great Lent 2002.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS AND NUN SOPHIA

Olga Jurgens will write to (Fr) Evan Lowig to see if he is still willing to help with the revision and updating of the diocesan *Chronology* originally done of 1988. She will try to contact him by mid-November.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

Canadian Orthodox Messenger

The *Messenger* seems to be within budget for 2001. The next issue (winter 2001/2002) should include a line on the banner, in both French and English, about the founder, Archbishop Arseny. Denis Lessard will make sure the translation of the line is correct in French.

ACTION: DENIS LESSARD AND NUN SOPHIA

Dedicated communicators

It was decided that the system of “dedicated communicators” is not working. Olga Jurgens will leave the names of communicators out in the next Parish Directory printing. This will be an indirect way of phasing this out.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

Parish Directory

Olga Jurgens explained that this is done in full printed form every three years. She has found that she needs to wait until after the major changes are made at the Assemblies. She noted that there really is no budget for printing this. The unit therefore recommended that the Treasurer have a line item for this printing.

Web page(s)

The unit consulted with Bishop Seraphim about the status of the diocesan web site. He said that two incomplete sites have been created so far, neither really adequate.

Vladyka said that Syosset, at no charge, is willing to create a proper site for us after he discusses with them what is essential to retain from the existing materials found on the first two site-attempts. Once this third site is finished, Vladyka will have the servers delete the first two attempts.

ACTION: VLADYKA SERAPHIM

Bishop's e-mail

The Bishop had asked advice from the unit on what to do about e-mail overload.. The situation was quickly reviewed: people are now putting into e-mail long, personal matters which used to be communicated by telephone and were therefore one-at-a-time occurrences; now it is possible

for dozens, even scores, of very personal, sensitive e-mails to come in at the same time and sit there, requiring an enormous amount of time for prayerful answer, and therefore creating a massive extra workload for the Bishop and exasperation in the correspondents).

The unit recommended the following: the Bishop could either (1) announce that his currently existing e-mail address, because of high volume, will be accessed by other authorised persons, to be sorted by priority, or whatever. (Concurrently, a new address could be created with access for the clergy of the diocese and Syosset only.) Or, (2) the Bishop could simply announce the policy stated in (1) above and urge in his statement that people bring their concerns to the priests and deans first and, if failing that, to telephone the Bishop—which would bring the volume down to manageable levels.

ACTION: VLADYKA SERAPHIM

Bishop's mobile phone

Because, in his letter, the Treasurer had asked the diocesan council to look at the Bishop's cellular phone costs, this item was also assigned to the Communications Unit. It was decided that Mother Sophia should consult with Elizabeth Markakis of Montréal, and Captain Robert Sparks of Winnipeg, about plans and costs. The information will then be passed on to the Bishop, and by him to the Treasurer, for decisions.

ACTION: NUN SOPHIA

Communications to Archdiocesan Council members

The unit proposed that only the announcement of ADOC meetings, billeting arrangements and agenda for the meeting be mailed out to members (by regular post). Members should photocopy their own reports (20 copies) and bring to each meeting. The Chancellor agreed that his was a good idea.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

Presentations at All American Council

The unit recommended that, primarily because of cost and personnel requirements, no booth for the Archdiocese be set up at the All American Council. It will be more useful, in our missionary setting, to put money instead into our own publications.

Review of budgeting matters for this unit

Monies will be needed for the following: the Russian pamphlet on stewardship; the French translation of the Bishop's book on Holy Communion, if more is needed than was given from Saskatoon; the Parish

Directory (Olga Jurgens will be researching the costs); the English version of the Finnish booklet if Novalis does not want to publish it (Mother Sophia will have to research this); the *Chronology* (research by Olga Jurgens); the first biography in the French lives of the saints series (research by Denis Lessard); and *Meeting Orthodoxy*, the translation of *Rencontre avec l'Orthodoxie* – a \$500 grant is needed, as with the original French version, to get this started.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS, DENIS LESSARD, NUN SOPHIA

The Communications Unit proposes that a 2002 line item in the budget be created for publications other than the *Messenger*, beginning with *Meeting Orthodoxy* (\$500). At the next meeting members will bring further estimates for the other publications.

9.3 Report of the Administrative Unit [Attached #9 c]

Rod Tkachuk made the presentation for this unit, making the following points:

The unit began their work by re-arranging their work into four categories:

1. Properties
 - a. land, property, sacred items
 - b. Fair Haven
 - c. museum
2. Financial Task Force
 - a. annual budgets
 - b. financial strategy
 - c. fundraising
 - d. investment
 - e. major financial decisions
 - f. relation to central administration
3. Archdiocesan Administration
 - a. auxiliary bishop(s)
 - b. bishop's aide
 - c. assistants to/replacements for Treasurer, and for Bishop's secretarial and administrative support.
 - d. deanery administration and support
 - e. relation to central administration
4. By-laws status and structure

The unit's discussion of properties at this meeting focussed on Dr John Hadjinicolaou's report on Archdiocesan properties, with emphasis on the Foreman collection [*see attached report # 9d*]. It was noted that the Metamorphosis Project has raised \$150,000.00 so far over the past years to upgrade Fair Haven. John plans to start a new fundraising appeal based on a new

“bishop’s wish list” by next May; what this appeal emphasizes will have to be decided by the Bishop and Council.

The news about the museum and the Foreman collection is indeed good, but the unit recommended that the diocese **continue the insurance on the icons, on a month by month basis**, until we own them in actuality.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

The unit would like to take over the work of the Financial Task Force, perhaps meeting on the Friday evening of the Archdiocesan Council meetings (at which time, of course, the other units could meet also). This should be arranged by the Chancellor on the agenda.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

David Grier will report to the unit at the next Council meeting re: financial strategy.

ACTION: DAVID GRIER

The unit decided that a top priority is finding an aide for the Bishop. This may require a major fund-raising drive. The unit wants to go on record as being strongly in support of this aide.

It was decided that Fr Rod Luciuk should talk with Fr Phillip Eriksson and ask him to report on a monthly basis re: our diocesan investments. He will communicate the fact that we want a more conservative approach. He was directed to ask Fr Phillip (1) when to divest our present investments, and (2) what to convert them into.

ACTION: FR RODION LUCIUK

Under the heading of Archdiocesan administration, the unit talked about an aid for the Bishop, as well as supports for the Treasurer and the Secretaries. The unit believes that the priest-to-dean-to-bishop communication route is very important. It is hoped that the unit will be able to help and support deans and press for this structure to be supported.

It was decided that Geoff Korz will prepare a general report re: support of the bishop and what form it should take, a report based on consultation with the members of the unit.

ACTION: GEOFF KORZ

The unit recommended that \$800 be added to the budget for office expenses, to pay for the fax line.

The unit also recommended that “maintenance” under “real estate” be listed separately as “wish list.”

7.0 Budget Approval

Fr Rodion Luciuk took note of the budget additions which the Council would like for the Treasurer to make:

CDN\$ 1000.00 should be added to the budget (misc.) for the All-American Council.

The office expenses should be increased by \$800.00 (fax-line).

\$500.00 should be added for “other publications.”

The Parish Directory should be put under miscellaneous.

The Chancellor said that a *very simple, very diplomatic letter* explaining why expenses have exceeded income for the past year should be sent to the parishes.

It was suggested that whatever monies are available from the surplus of the 2001 diocesan assembly, minus \$500 future assembly seed-money, should be added to the operating budget. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

It was also urged that all property insurances be paid on a month to month basis. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Also UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED was a \$ 2000.00 per annum increase for the Bishop.

The Archdiocesan Council agreed that line items cannot be overspent except by permission from the executive after consultation with the Administrative Unit.

On the basis of the Treasurer’s report and the additions and changes listed above, the 2002 budget was approved in principle.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

Nun Sophia was requested to put another boxed notice in the Messenger that all general appeals should be sent to the Archdiocesan Treasurer, not to Syosset.

ACTION: NUN SOPHIA

10.3 Assembly 2004 [Attached, # 10]

David Grier went over with the Council the possible sites for the Assembly 2004 in Saskatoon and their expenses, found in the report made by the Saskatoon committee.

Other items attached to these minutes, which were not discussed in the meeting:

- Ecumenical activities report of Richard Schneider [*Attached, #11*]
- Parish Directory report of Olga Jurgens [*Attached, #12*]
- *Canadian Orthodox Messenger* report from Nun Sophia, consisting of letter from printer Doug Gander [*Attached, #13*]
- a document entitled "Doe v. Canada, 2001 ABCA 216" from Rod Tkachuk, which he indicated that he would like to see discussed in future [*Attached, #14a*]
- a document entitled "OCA Statute, Article X, Section 9, as proposed to be amended," also from Rod Tkachuk who said he would like it discussed later. [*Attached, #14b*]

Bishop's Appointment of Metropolitan Council Members

Bishop Seraphim appointed **Archpriest John Tkachuk** to be the clergy representative of the diocese to the Metropolitan Council, and **Professor Richard Schneider** to be the lay representative.

11.0 Date and place of next meeting

It was decided to hold the Spring 2002 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council in Montreal on 1 - 3 March 2002.

[In the week following the meeting, Fr John Tkachuk of The Sign of the Theotokos in Montreal indicated that this date was impossible for him and his parish. He agreed to have the Council meet there instead on 8 - 10 March 2002.]

The Fall 2001 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council was adjourned at 5:20 P.M. with the singing of "It is truly meet."

Respectfully submitted,

Nun Sophia (Zion)