

**Minutes of the Archdiocesan Council Meeting
Archdiocese of Canada, Orthodox Church in America
held at Annunciation Cathedral, Ottawa, Ontario
11- 12 November 2005**

Council members in attendance at this meeting were:

Ruling Bishop of the Archdiocese, His Grace SERAPHIM
Chancellor, Archpriest Dennis Pihach
Treasurer, Nikita Lopoukhine
Secretary, Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon
Dean of British Columbia, Archpriest Lawrence Farley
Dean of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Priest Robert S Kennaugh
Dean of Ontario, Archpriest John Jillions
Dean of Quebec and Atlantic Provinces, Igumen Irénée (Rochon)
Clergy representative from Alberta, Archpriest Larry Reinheimer
Metropolitan Council clergy representative, Archpriest John Tkachuk
Metropolitan Council lay representative, Richard Schneider
Sandra Ellis (British Columbia Deanery)
David Grier (Saskatchewan Deanery)
John Hadjinicolaou (Quebec Deanery)
Rod Tkachuk (Alberta Deanery)
Alexei Vassiouchkine (Ontario Deanery)
Olga Jurgens, Administrative assistant
Nun Sophia (Zion), *Messenger* editor

Absent (with a blessing): David Rystephanuk (Deanery of Manitoba and Saskatchewan).

Specially invited guest: Spencer Estabrooks (St. Arseny Institute).

Observers at various times over the two days of sessions were: Archpriest Anatoly Melnyk, Hieromonk Vladimir (Lysack), Helene Culhane, Peter Ewanchuk, Colin Grimmond, Denis Lessard, and Mary Ann Lopoukhine.

Session I, held on Friday afternoon, November 11

The fall 2005 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council began with a molieben served in the Cathedral temple (1.0).

At 2:35 p.m., the Chancellor called the meeting to order in the temple, where tables and chairs had been set up for the sessions. There followed the roll call and regrets (2.0) (as noted above).

3.0 Minutes of the previous meeting (with updates on “Action Items”)

In the interest of accountability, the Chancellor went over some of the “Action items” listed in the minutes of the spring 2005 meeting in Vancouver. The following points were made:

(p. 3): The Bishop said that he had not been home long enough to write the planned Stewardship Directive to the parishes; he will do this as soon as possible. [Subsequently, it was decided that the Bishop will have this letter ready by February 1, in order to publish it in the spring 2006 issue of *COM*, alongside a list of the 2005 contributions of each parish to the diocese.]

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM

(p. 9): Richard Schneider said that the social justice report would be given later in the meeting.

(p. 10): Fr Dennis Pihach said that the youth report has been distributed to Council. Matthew Francis has been appointed as youth representative to replace Becky Machnee.

(p. 10): Fr Lawrence Farley said that he passed on the request (as minuted) regarding the diocesan website to Fr Justin Hewlett who has done the required work.

(p. 11): Richard Schneider pointed out that he is *not* in charge of the hour of free time that Rogers Cable is offering the diocese; he is simply acting as the “middle man” between the Bishop and the cable company. He and the Bishop have not yet found time to consult about details of any future programming.

ACTION: RICHARD SCHNEIDER & BISHOP SERAPHIM

(p. 12): Nikita Lopoukhine reported that an application has not yet been made for a diocesan credit card (bearing the Bishop’s name) that would allow His Grace to charge various travel-related items. The Bishop, perhaps in consultation with others, will need to study the different companies and sign the applicable form.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM & NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

(p. 12): Fr Dennis Pihach reported that the process of explaining to parishes the need for reimbursing the diocese for the Bishop’s travel to them has been partially done; the

Western parishes seem to understand this need best, whereas parishes elsewhere in the country will need more education. When asked if the diocese plans to bill parishes for the Bishop's travel costs, His Grace replied that this could not be done since some parishes already tithe ten percent of their income to the diocese which ought to cover the costs of their episcopal visit(s).

(p.13): Fr Cyprian Hutcheon distributed a job description for the Bishop's Personal Assistant.

[see attached report, # 4a]

(p. 14): Rod Tkachuk reported that he has been attempting (with limited results thus far) to work with John Loukadelis regarding the legality of our remitting funds to the Central Church Administration of The OCA. Nikita Lopoukhine apologized, saying that Mr Loukadelis had written to him as Treasurer with several questions, to which he had not yet had a chance to reply.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE & ROD TKACHUK

(p. 15): Fr Dennis Pihach explained that the "OCA Canada account," located in Montreal, is one in which Canadian cheques sent to The OCA in Syosset NY (in response to special appeals, etc.), are placed after Syosset sends them back to the Archdiocese. This Montreal account is being transferred to a separate account on the Treasurer's books.

(p. 15): Fr Dennis Pihach said that the Financial Committee has not yet prepared a financial plan for the compensation of the Bishop, an Auxiliary Bishop, the Chancellor and the Treasurer. They hope to work on this for a possible presentation at the spring 2006 meeting of Council.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH & FINANCIAL COMMITTEE (FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON, JOHN HADJINICOLAOU, NIKITA LOPOUKHINE, & DAVID GRIER)

(p. 16): Fr Dennis Pihach said that he and the Deans have been trying to ensure that all priests have insurance coverage of some kind, either with our insurer, Equitable, or with their own insurers. This involves making sure that parishes are co-operative, especially with regard to our group insurance with Equitable.

The minutes of the spring 2005 meeting of the Council, amended by Richard Schneider's clarification about the Rogers cable programme on p. 11, were unanimously approved.

4.0 Agenda *[see attached, # 4]*

The Agenda presented by the Chancellor was approved, with the addition of the Theological Education Focus Group to meet concurrently with the Administrative and Programming/ Communications Units..

5.0 Report of the Ruling Bishop *[see attached, # 5]*

Bishop Seraphim asked members to note how faint were the circulated copies of his report! – the **photocopier in the Fair Haven office** must be replaced very soon.

He next noted that he has been appointed **Chairman of The OCA's Department of External Affairs**.

His Grace then proceeded to talk about the **new Cathedral complex**, saying that the blessing of God was clearly discernible in this move. He said that the wall behind the large icon of Christ, which hung in the High Place at the old cathedral building, was found to be totally blackened, except for a pure white spot directly behind the hand of Christ raised in blessing. [At this point an observer, Mary Ann Lopoukhine, reported that eleven years ago, when the old building was painted, this white spot was noticed then, surrounded by soot. This area was cleaned up and the white spot was painted over.] Fr John Scratch, who was not sure about the move, prayed before the Kursk Root Icon, which was visiting a church in Kanata [an Ottawa suburb], and received assurance that the Theotokos was protecting this move. His Grace also noted that the large icon behind the new cathedral's altar (an Orthodox icon now in Rome and called "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" by Roman Catholics) has hung there ever since the church's foundation in 1939. People in the neighbourhood still come to venerate it, one even walking to it on her knees.

While on the subject of wondrous signs of God's blessing, His Grace also reported that when the **Sifton church** was moved recently to a new foundation, a cross clearly appeared in the sky above the church. Photos attesting to this blessed event were circulated for all to see.

The Bishop asked that anyone knowing of a person/persons who might like to volunteer to help with the upkeep of the **diocesan web page** should notify Frs John Hainsworth or Justin Hewlett.

[At this point Fr John Jillions, the Dean of Annunciation Cathedral, led Council members on a **tour of the new Cathedral complex**.]

The Bishop discussed the subject of his **nomination of a candidate for Auxiliary Bishop**. He said that he himself, along with the Council, had followed correct procedures for nominating a person whom he believes God blesses for this position. The recent reaction at the Holy Synod's fall 2005 meeting contradicted Metropolitan Herman's words to us at our Archdiocesan Assembly in July of 2004 where His Beatitude stated that we would have an Auxiliary Bishop within a year. It has now been a year and three months. We also did what the Holy Synod had required, namely that we raise money for the support of this position. Indeed, many people throughout the diocese gave sacrificially so that the money could be raised in a very short time.

Bishop Seraphim cautioned that we should not react strongly just yet. It is clearly true that the Bishop and the Archdiocese badly need help; thus, while he and Fr Cyprian

Hutcheon decide what to do next, we could consider the proposal of Dr John Hadjinicolaou for a new position in the diocese and proceed with temporarily naming Fr Cyprian Hutcheon as “Archdiocesan Dean.” [In the Greek model, the position of Archdiocesan Dean is more pastoral than administrative in character, and is generally occupied by a man who is being prepared for eventual episcopal duties. *[see Dr Hadjinicolaou’s proposal, # 5.a, attached]*.

John Hadjinicolaou said that we need to be proactive; this position of Archdiocesan Dean is our response to the Holy Synod, and in doing this, we are preparing to meet all the Holy Synod’s requirements. Our main goal to provide help for our Ruling Bishop. He suggested that letters be sent to the Metropolitan with our response, one from the Bishop and the other from the Council.

Fr Cyprian Hutcheon wondered whether creating the position of Archdiocesan Dean might impede the process of developing the local Deans and their responsibilities, and/or impede the process of eventually getting an Auxiliary Bishop.

Fr Dennis Pihach observed that we have time before the next Holy Synod meeting in May to meet as the Archdiocesan Council (in April) and to draft any necessary letters. This will give us much more time to think, discuss with each other, etc.

His Grace reiterated that he feels that a perfectly good candidate has been proposed, and that he is not ready to nominate anyone else. He will not make any change to this position until Fr Cyprian decides what he wants to do. The Archdiocesan Deanship is in Fr Cyprian’s capability and it will not hurt to put him in this position for now. The Bishop concluded discussion of this matter by requesting Council to approve John Hadjinicolaou’s proposal, stating that if Council agrees, he will appoint him. *[This matter was tabled, to be discussed further under # 20c below.]*

6.0 Regional remarks

6.1 Chancellor *[see attached, # 6.1]*

In addition to his written report, Fr Dennis Pihach noted that there are constant crises for him to handle in the Archdiocese while the Bishop is away on diocesan visitations or overseas travel for The OCA..

6.2 Deanery Reports

6.2.a Deanery of British Columbia *[see attached, # 6.2.a]*

A written report was distributed by Fr Lawrence Farley.

6.2.b Deanery of Alberta *[see attached, # 6.2.b]*

A written report was distributed by Fr Dennis Pihach.

6.2.c Deanery of Manitoba and Saskatchewan *[see attached, # 6.2.c]*

A written report was distributed by Fr Robert Kennaugh. In addition, with reference to the Sifton restoration project, John Hadjinicolaou reported that Katya Szalaszni had asked him to translate into Greek a letter requesting funds for this project. He did so and sent it out to contacts he has in that country. He said that he had just received a response from Bishop Ignatios of Volos who says that he has a potential donor willing to contribute 20,000.00 Euros.

6.2.d Deanery of Ontario

Fr John Jillions reported that in Toronto, people are still in a state of shock over the sudden accidental death in Ukraine of Deacon Alexander Sulakov. In Hamilton, the parish is searching for another venue, where they will not have to set up and take down everything for every service. In Kingston there are some recent developments which he did not elaborate upon. In Windsor there is interest by the son of a former priest there, in trying to restore the church and revive the parish. At the Bishop's Chapel near Spencerville, the Liturgy is served twice a month by Fr Eugeniusz Zdrojewski, with approximately twenty people in attendance. For Ottawa, there will be a report about the Cathedral later *[see # 8.0 below]*..

6.2.d Deanery of Quebec *[see attached, # 6.2.e]*

Igumen Irene (Rochon) distributed a written report.

Session I was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. for supper served by parishioners in the church hall.

Session II, held on Friday evening, November 11

After calling the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m., Fr Dennis Pihach handed out a flyer announcing the 4th annual pilgrimage to Ukraine which he and Bishop Seraphim will be leading from May 28 to June 13, 2006. *[see flyer, attached]*

15.0 Metropolitan Council Report *[see attached, # 15.0]*

The recent meeting of the Metropolitan Council [MC] was attended by both of our diocesan representatives. Fr John Tkachuk did most of the verbal presentation concerning this meeting, noting that Richard Schneider had written their distributed report. Fr Tkachuk spoke of what he perceived as “the two solitudes” – the USA and Canada; Syosset does not understand us nor we them. The MC spent an hour and a half discussing recent allegations of financial mismanagement in The OCA, and the ensuing “whirlwind” that has been stirred up. Regarding this matter, the attention of Council was directed to page three of the written report. Richard Schneider suggested that as a Church, we must concentrate on the present and the future, striving to achieve full and thorough accountability in financial matters. It would be incredibly expensive to undertake forensic accounting of past years.

Richard Schneider also called attention to page two, emphasizing that the Canadian diocese is committed in theory to being a “Fair Share” contributor to The OCA. However, as is well known here, we are not allowed by Canadian law to send large sums of money to the USA. (Our current assessment is US\$8,000.00; the equivalent in Canadian funds is to be spent in Canada on Central Administration expenses such as travel, etc.).

Richard closed by saying that Syosset wants all parishes to adopt the Church’s Sexual Misconduct Guidelines. His Grace said that our parish response is much better on this than Syosset has claimed; he is assembling the documentation to prove it.

9.0 Ecumenical Affairs

9.1 Canadian Council of Churches report *[see attached, # 9.1]*

Richard Schneider distributed this written report. He noted, in addition, that the OCA is admired by many at the CCC. Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon (Governing Board Representative), Paul Ladouceur (Faith and Witness), David Grier (Peace and Justice), and Colin Grimmond (recently made vice-chairman of Peace and Justice) are all making an impact. The Archdiocese of Canada is extremely well-served by these people who make our point-of-view noticeable.

9.2 Three Reports on Peace and Justice

9.2.a Some “First Principles” (Theological, Anthropological, Sociological) for Informing Discussion about Involvement of the OCA-Archdiocese of Canada with Various Initiatives of the Commission on Justice and Peace of the Canadian Council of Churches [see attached, # 9.2.a]

Fr Cyprian Hutcheon distributed this written report

9.2.b Principles and Activities of Social Justice [see attached, # 9.2.b]

David Grier gave a Power Point presentation, leading a meditation and discussion, with concentration on 1) the Micah Challenge, 2) the Ecumenical Health Care Network, and 3) the SCOBA Pastoral Letter for the New Millenium, issued in 2000.

9.2.c Preliminary Report on the Activities of the CCC’s Commission on Justice and Peace [see attached, # 9.2.c]

Colin Grimmond presented this written report.

It was recommended by the three presenters (Fr Cyprian Hutcheon, David Grier, and Colin Grimmond that the Archdiocese of Canada-OCA should “sign on” to the Micah Project, as a platform from which the Orthodox can speak out and have some influence; if we sit back and do nothing, we will miss the opportunity to have an influence.

There was some discussion but no consensus for “signing on” at this time. His Grace asked that the matter be tabled until the next Archdiocesan Council meeting in the spring of 2006.

Session II of the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. with the singing of “It is truly meet.”

Session III, held on Saturday morning, November 12

Fr Dennis Pihach called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

7.0 Report of the Treasurer *[see attached, # 7]*

The Treasurer, Nikita Lopoukhine, began by saying that his report was not yet complete, since certain heating oil expenses were yet to be added in. He also called attention to a new line item on page 1, namely the Archdiocese's advance of \$125,000.00 (as a loan) to assist with the purchase of our new Cathedral (this now appears as an asset). Nikita also emphasized that \$23,000.00 had been disbursed for expenses relating to our commitment to The OCA's Central Administration. (These funds went towards AAC costs incurred in Canada). Finally, he noted that heating costs at Fair Haven have tripled because of the rise in the price of fuel.

The "bad news", Nikita reported, is that we are facing a deficit of approximately \$50,000.00. The "good news" is that we have exceeded our target already in creating and building up a fund for the support of an Auxiliary Bishop.

Fr Dennis Pihach said that the lay representatives from each deanery should talk to the parishes and find out what is their commitment for the support of the diocese. They should actually approach "delinquent" parish councils to inquire why there has been no recent support for the diocese, and to encourage them to make such a commitment for the future.

ACTION: COUNCIL LAY REPRESENTATIVES: SANDRA ELLIS, ROD TKACHUK, DAVID GRIER, DAVID RYSTEPHANUK, ALEXEI VASSIOUCHKINE, & JOHN HADJINICOLAOU.

The Bishop said that we should publish in the spring 2006 issue of COM the spreadsheet showing what each parish had given the diocese for the year ending December 31, 2005. Included in this spreadsheet should be 1) regular contributions to the diocese and 2) contributions to the Auxiliary Bishop fund. The ultimate goal, His Grace reminded everyone, is that each parish contribute 10% of its yearly income to the Archdiocese.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE AND MOTHER SOPHIA

In addition, for the spring 2006 issue of COM, the Bishop will write a stewardship letter to be published on the verso of the spreadsheet.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM AND MOTHER SOPHIA

David Grier volunteered to write a first draft of the Bishop's stewardship letter (with Nikita Lopoukhine's help). Should send this to the Bishop no later than January 15, 2006.

ACTION: DAVID GRIER

Council offered its thanks to Kosta Stavrianeas of Montreal for his volunteer auditing work for the diocese this fall. Fr Cyprian will write him a letter of thanks.

ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON

8.0 Ottawa Cathedral

Fr John Jillions, Dean of Annunciation Cathedral, presented a verbal report. He said that ownership of the Cathedral is in the parish's name, but there will be a fluid relationship with the Archdiocese of Canada. He emphasized that the parish realizes that the \$125,000.00 is a loan from the diocese, not a grant. The intention is to pay back this loan as fast as possible.

A property manager for the Cathedral, Mr Mark Steski, has been appointed. He is doing a fantastic job of making sure that the fabric of the Cathedral complex is being and will be maintained. Many people have been helping with repairs and upkeep. On the premises is a live-in Orthodox student caretaker who is given an apartment in exchange for his care-taking duties. At present there is also an Orthodox student couple who are renting an apartment, and there will likely be two more Orthodox renters in a month or so. In addition, there is a small apartment furnished and ready for the Bishop (*gratis* for His Grace), and there are plans for renovations which may allow for further rental possibilities. There are also rental possibilities for the basement hall. Iconographers have been contacted about the adornment of the temple, and are offering plans; at present there is no money available for this purpose. There are no plans yet as to how the diocese might use the Cathedral.

The first liturgy in the new temple was served on September 18, and a dedication service was held on October 1. The biggest push now is for a fund-raising plan to pay costs and to repay the diocese ("the first priority" as was mentioned above). The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Ottawa holds a mortgage of \$475,000.00, so this fund-raising plan has to be an ambitious one, probably encompassing The OCA at large.

Fr Jillions said also that he would like to see the Cathedral / Archdiocese eventually develop a real income-generating business (e.g., Maple Syrup), as has been done so successfully by many Eastern European Churches.

Upon being asked, Fr John agreed to write a progress report article on the Cathedral to go in the spring 2006 issue of *COM*, with pictures.

ACTION: FR JOHN JILLIONS AND MOTHER SOPHIA

John Hadjinicolaou encouraged fund-raisers in churches to raise funds for helping the Cathedral pay off the \$125,000.00 diocesan loan, as he has done by already raising \$10,000.00 at The Sign of the Theotokos in Montreal. This money, he said, would be given directly to the diocesan treasurer to be paid against the loan.

11.0 Presentation by Fr Symeon Roger

Fr Symeon Roger gave a presentation on his new book, *The Five Pillars of Life*, a "how-to manual on fixing every aspect of one's life." In an attempt to attract readers who will not buy a "religious" book, he has purposefully not displayed any Orthodox influence on

the cover. It is inside, he said, that the book will lead readers into seeing the depth of Orthodox spirituality for life-change. The book tries to give a step-by-step approach to applying the spirituality of the ancient traditions of Orthodox Christianity, Buddhism, and Taoism to one's life. It is written in a popular, self-help style but it has all the footnotes for educational use.

Fr Symeon said that he sees the book as a way to help with fund-raising. Any parish in North American which wants to use it for fund-raising can split the profits fifty-fifty with him. He hopes that the book will also make Orthodoxy better known in the general population. He plans to have soon two web-sites related to the book (<rocksolidlife.com> and <rocksolidchristian life.com>) and to have an electronic newsletter, "Paradise Within." He also plans to offer a course on *The Five Pillars of Life* via the Internet.

At this point Fr John Jillions spoke, saying that he has read the book and is very positive about it. In fact, he had been quite unprepared for how really good it is. It is lively and thorough, he said, and truly "fills a gap."

The book will retail for US \$29.97, and the profit of \$26.00 per book can be split fifty-fifty between Fr Symeon and the fundraisers. Fr Symeon distributed free copies of his book to Council members.

After Fr Symeon had left the room, Dr John Hadjinicolaou suggested, and Council agreed, that Fr Cyprian Hutcheon write to Fr Symeon Roger, recognizing both the good work he has done on *The Five Pillars of Life*, and his generosity with regard to the books's use in fund-raising.

ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON

10.0 Sexual Misconduct Guidelines

Fr Dennis Pihach said that he would send out as soon as possible a paper for all Council members to sign in support/adoption of The OCA's *Sexual Misconduct Guidelines*.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

The Bishop's office staff will double check parish files to make sure that we have a complete list of parishes which have adopted these *Sexual Misconduct Guidelines*.

ACTION: BISHOP'S OFFICE STAFF

4.0 Bishop's Personal Assistant

Fr Cyprian Hutcheon distributed a proposed "job description" for the position of volunteer Personal Assistant to the Bishop. Council instructed that this document be published in the spring 2006 issue of *COM*.

ACTION: MOTHER SOPHIA

13.0 Sifton Church

The church in Sifton has now been elevated and placed on a new foundation. As this was being done, a cross appeared in the sky over the church; Katya Szalaszni has given the Bishop several photographs of this. Katya has also applied for a Farah Foundation grant to help with ongoing expenses involved in the restoration. It was noted that a second annual pilgrimage to the Sifton site was held in August of 2005.

16.0 St Arseny Institute Progress Report *[see attached, # 16.0]*

Spencer Estabrooks distributed this report.

17.0 St Arseny Glorification

The Bishop said that the process is continuing but that there is a certain resistance in the USA about this matter. There is not much we Canadians can do about this attitude for now; instead, it is for us to recognize the sanctity of St Arseny and be grateful. His Grace also noted that we cannot proceed with a diocesan canonization without the Holy Synod's blessing. In the meantime, we can pray to St Arseny, write troparia, etc.

19.0 Report of the Youth and Young Adults Coordinator *[see attached, #19.0]*

This written report was distributed.

The third session was adjourned at noon for luncheon in the parish hall.

Session IV, held on Saturday afternoon, November 12

At approximately 1:00 p.m., Council members gathered for discussion in three units: the Theological Education Focus Group, the Administration Unit, and the Programmes/Communication Unit. The Council re-convened, with the Chancellor in the chair, at approximately 3:00 p.m.

11.0 Reports from the units

11.1 Report from the Programming / Communications Unit

The report for this unit was given by Fr Lawrence Farley.

11.1 (a) Requests for funds

Fr Lawrence reported that Bishop Seraphim had recommended that Deacon Alexander Sulakov's widow, Matushka Anna, be given \$5,000.00 from the diocesan Charity Fund, because Deacon Alexander was uninsured. This was unanimously approved by Council.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

Richard Schneider requested that Mother Magdalen (Williams) be given support to take an iconography course at St Vladimir's Seminary in 2006. The Programming Unit recommended that she be granted \$800.00 from the Education Fund. Council unanimously approved.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

11.1 (b) Youth

The Communications/Programming Unit recommended that Fr Stacey Richter and Ms Becky Machnee be formally thanked in writing for the work they did as youth directors for the diocese.

ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON

11.1 (c) Publication matters

11.1 (c) 1: Parish Directory [see # 11.1 (c), attached]

Fr Lawrence reported that Olga Jurgens had printed the Parish Directory for 2005 with a closing date of May 2005. Because of some complications, it was not distributed until August, with an insert to cover changes from May to August. She has sent to Fr Justin Hewlett a version in which all lay persons' personal information (addresses, telephone numbers) has been omitted. Olga would like the clergy to consider whether or not they want their personal addresses and telephone numbers to be included on the web-site in future.

11.1 (c) 2: Translation of the PSALM article

With regard to the translation into French of the PSALM article on Readers done by Denis Lessard, it was reported that no one knows whether permission to publish was ever sought or received. Olga Jurgens sent a letter asking for approval to print the article in English and French on the diocesan website, but has not yet received any reply.

11.1 (c) 3: Russian language brochures

Olga Jurgens has three brochures in Russian almost ready for publication:

1. a translation of the English brochure which explains what the OCA is;
2. a strict translation of the original stewardship brochure; and
3. a culturally-adjusted version (for new Russians) of the stewardship brochure.

She further reported that she needs suitable illustrations for the Russian language brochures, and requested that we pay Ruslan Natmirtsov from the Cathedral for small illustrations for the brochures, at \$50.00 per brochure, or \$150.00 in total. Since this would be a help not only to us but to him, she requested that the money come from the Charity Fund. Council unanimously agreed to this expenditure.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS AND NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

11.2 Report from the Administrative Unit

The report for this unit was presented by Mr David Grier.

11.2 (a) Bishop's Personal Assistant *[see attached, # 11.2 (a)]*

David Grier said that the Unit would like the Bishop to have a regular Personal Assistant. It recommended that \$10,000.00 be available from the budget for travel expenses of the personal assistant if and when he travels with the Bishop. (Fr. Cyprian Hutcheon earlier distributed a job description for this position.)

11.2 (b) Bishop's staff job descriptions and compensation

It was reported that the Unit had discussed compensation +/- job-descriptions for the Bishop, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocesan Dean, Chancellor, Treasurer, office secretarial assistant(s), and Bishop's personal assistant. His Grace stated that if decisions have to be made between one form of help or the other, he would consider office assistance to have higher priority than a personal assistant. It was further stated that the Administrative Unit will produce a draft report on the needs and possibilities for the Archdiocesan executive positions (as well as for the office and personal assistants) by the end of January 2006.

ACTION: ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

11.2 (c) Diocesan loan to the Cathedral

There was strong concern expressed about the diocesan loan of \$125,00.00 to the Cathedral. Fr John Jillions reiterated that paying back this loan is of the highest priority for the Cathedral parish. He further said that he hopes to have a plan in place in early 2006 for a capital campaign for repayment in 2006-07.

ACTION: FR JOHN JILLIONS

11.2 (d) Stewardship plan

The Administrative Unit discussed the resolution from the 2004 Archdiocesan Assembly in Saskatoon, that there be parish plans for stewardship. It was recommended that a letter should go out with follow-up by the Archdiocesan Dean and the Regional Deans. This is definitely an area where education is called for, explaining and encouraging the taking up of responsibility for supporting the diocese. It was noted earlier [*see 3.0 above*] that the Bishop will have this letter ready by February 1, 2006 for publication in *COM*. It is important for the Archdiocesan Dean and the Deans to follow up.

BISHOP SERAPHIM, ARCHDIOCESAN DEAN, AND DEANS

11.2 (e) Fair Haven

The Unit reported that a lot of work has been going on recently at Fair Haven. In August, Philip Bodnar came as a volunteer to help Jeremy Scratch who had been organizing workers from time to time to do renovation work at the Diocesan Centre. Since then, Philip has discovered that he really likes working there, his requirements for living expenses are minimal, he gets along exceedingly well with the part-time maintenance staff which the Bishop has retained over many years, and, most important of all, he does excellent work in many areas of both renovation and maintenance. On the recommendation of John Hadjinolaou, Philip is being paid \$900.00 per month out of Metamorphosis funds, and is given free lodging. For the next three months, he will be renovating the house in which His Grace lives.

The Bishop said that he hopes to restore the old small barn and make a library there.

It was also noted that we have now spent \$8,000.00 of the \$15,000.00 allotted for renovation/ repair.

21.0 Date and place of next meeting

It was decided that the spring 2006 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council be held in Edmonton on April 7 – 8, beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 7.

11.3 Theological Education Focus Group

Fr John Jillions, Fr Cyprian Hutcheon, and others spoke for this group. The group reported that they had discussed what Orthodox theological courses and programmes already exist in the diocese: St Arseny Institute (Spencer Estabrook), the University of

Sherbrooke programme (John Hadjinicolaou/ Fr Cyprian Hutcheon), the Trinity College/University of Toronto courses (Richard Schneider), and the St Paul University/Sheptytsky Institute courses. This discussion then moved toward the possibility of eventually creating a three-year programme of 30 courses for the formation of clergy, especially priests. Fr Jillions cited one possibility: as a part of the total programme, candidates for priesthood would spend a year in Ottawa – attending courses at Saint Paul in the day time with evenings devoted to seminars and/or mentoring activities, possibly based in the rectory of the Cathedral. Living at the rectory would also expose the students to the Orthodox liturgical cycles, etc., and provide some actual Orthodox “seminary living.” Another thing the group discussed was the need for a Dean of Students/ Spiritual Director for such a seminary programme. There is also the important question of who would actually grant the degree. Would the University of Sherbrooke be interested? There would also be the matter of internship experience. In addition, there are the questions of common entry, of financial support for students, of transfers of credits among the institutions/course programmes, of legal complications related to provincial boundaries, etc.

It was recommended by the Theological Education Focus Group that they continue their research, development of contacts, and concrete planning in order to move toward an Archdiocesan programme for priestly formation, with a minimum of one year of seminary experience in Ottawa. The Council unanimously agreed with this proposal.

ACTION: THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOCUS GROUP

Before the meeting was adjourned, Fr John Jillions recommended that a letter from the Archdiocesan Council be sent to Metropolitan Herman in support of Fr Thomas Hopko’s recent proposal for union of the OCA with the Antiochian Archdiocese. The Council was supportive of this recommendation and asked that Fr Cyprian write the letter.

ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON

20.0 c Appointment of Archdiocesan Dean

As a final item, His Grace asked if there was unanimous approval for his appointment of Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon as Archdiocesan Dean. Council unanimously approved.

The fall 2006 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. with the singing of “It is truly meet.”

Respectfully submitted,
Mother Sophia (Zion)
(Revisions by Fr. Cyprian Hutcheon)