

**Minutes of the Archdiocesan Council Meeting
Archdiocese of Canada, Orthodox Church in America
held at the Mission of the Theotokos of the Life-Giving Spring,
meeting at St Phillip's Anglican Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba
2 – 3 November 2007**

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Council members in attendance at this meeting were:

Ruling Bishop of the Archdiocese, Archbishop SERAPHIM
Chancellor, Archpriest Dennis Pihach
Archdiocesan Dean, Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon
Treasurer, Mr Nikita Lopoukhine
Dean of Alberta and North West Territories, Priest Vasyl Kolega
Dean of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut, Archpriest Robert Kennaugh
Dean of Ontario, Archpriest Oleg Kirilov
Dean of Québec and Atlantic Provinces, Igumen Irénée (Rochon);
Dean of Annunciation Cathedral, Archpriest John Jillions
Lay Representative from British Columbia and Yukon, Mr Sava Duran
Lay Representative from Alberta and North West Territories, Mr Peter Ewanchuk
Lay Representative from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut, Mr David Grier
Lay Representative from Ontario, Deacon Gregory Scratch
Lay Representative from Québec and Atlantic Provinces, Dr John Hadjinicolaou
Lay Representative at Large (elected by Assembly), Ms Mira Davidson
Metropolitan Council Lay Representative, Prof Richard Schneider
Archdiocesan Youth Co-ordinator, Mr Matthew Francis
Archbishop's Office Assistant, Ms Olga Jurgens
Canadian Orthodox Messenger Editor, Nun Sophia (Zion)

Members of the Council absent from this meeting with a blessing were: Metropolitan Council Clergy Representative, Archpriest John Tkachuk and Dean of British Columbia and Yukon, Archpriest Lawrence Farley

Specially invited guests were : Archpriest Bohdan Bilas, Chancellor of the Lviv Diocese (Ukraine-MP); Ms Savelia Curniski, Co-Director of NASHI; Mr Spencer Estabrooks, Director of the St Arseny Institute; Archpriest Myrone Klysh, Registrar of the St Arseny Institute; and Ms Katherine Szalasznyj, Archdiocesan Archivist.

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Session I, held on Friday morning, November 2

The Fall 2007 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council began at 9 a.m. with a moleben served by Archbishop Seraphim in the undercroft of St Phillip's Anglican Church. This was followed by a breakfast prepared, as were all the other meals served in this venue, by parishioners of the new Mission of the Theotokos of the Life-Giving Spring.

Agenda # 1 Call to Order

With the singing of "O Heavenly King" and the Archbishop's blessing, the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by the Chancellor, who was in the Chair.

Agenda # 2 Roll Call and Regrets

See p. 1 of these Minutes (above) for details.

Agenda # 3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting [see # 3, attached], and Agenda # 4 Action Items from the Previous Minutes

As the Archdiocesan Council began to review the Minutes of the previous meeting (Spring 2007), in the interest of accountability, the Chancellor went over all the "Action" items listed (**Agenda # 4**). The following points were made:

(p. 2): Fr Dennis Pihach reported that a committee is still working on a diocesan credit card (bearing the Archbishop's name). It should be available from Alberta Treasury Branch very shortly.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

(p. 3): Fr Dennis Pihach reported that the list of parishes which have signed the OCA's Sexual Misconduct Guidelines may still not be complete. Deans must make sure that every parish, mission, and mission station has signed, and the Deans must relay this information to the Archbishop's office promptly.

ACTION: ALL DEANS, ARCHDIOCESAN DEAN, ARCHBISHOP

(p.3): Fr Dennis Pihach said that the recommendation for the Archdiocesan Dean and the regional Deans to stay abreast of parish responses to the Archbishop's directive on stewardship is a continuing process. It must continue, since some parishes still need ongoing education regarding stewardship.

ACTION: ARCHDIOCESAN DEAN AND REGIONAL DEANS

(p. 3): Fr Dennis Pihach reported that the request from members of the Ontario Deanery who are located in Toronto, that there be a sub-deanery council of some kind in that area of the deanery, has been fulfilled.

(p 4): Dr John Hadjinicolaou reported that he and the Administration Unit had not been able to organize conference calls since the last meeting of Council. This will be done before the next meeting of Council. The Chancellor can explain to him and others on the unit how the Executive of Council has been able to organize monthly conference calls quite successfully.

ACTION: FR DENIS PIHACH, DR JOHN HADJINICOLAOU AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

(p. 4): Nikita Lopoukhine said that he has sent the note to parishes informing them that when people give to the United Way, they can list the diocese (with its charitable number) in the slot provided on the donation form.

(p. 6): It was reported that Fr Larry Reinheimer and Nikita Lopoukhine had indeed compiled a list of points which Vladyka Seraphim might make to the 2007 Archdiocesan Assembly with regard to the financial relationship (because of Canadian tax law) of the Archdiocese with the Syosset Central Administration.

(p. 8): It was reported that Archbishop Seraphim, Fr Dennis Pihach, Nikita Lopoukhine, and Fr John Jillions had planned and executed the Agenda of the 2007 Assembly as the Council had requested.

(p. 9): It was also reported that the requested visit to Fair Haven, the Diocesan Centre, was included on the programme of the 2007 Assembly.

(p. 10): Fr Cyprian Hutcheon and Prof Richard Schneider reminded the Treasurer that the diocese still owes the Canadian Council of Churches \$250.00, the amount by which the last meeting of Council recommended we raise our total contribution (from \$500.00 to \$750.00 per year).

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

(p. 10): It was decided to keep the topic of the need for Orthodox Military Chaplains on the Agenda of the next Council meeting, since no one was able to do any research into this matter since the last meeting.

ACTION: FR DENIS PIHACH

(p. 11): Fr Dennis Pihach reported that details with regard to the insurance coverage offered by the Aon and Ecclesiastical insurance companies were dealt with at the 2007 Assembly.

(p. 12): Fr Dennis Pihach also reported that although Fr Thomas Hopko was asked to speak to the 2007 Assembly, as Council had requested, he was unable to do so.

(p. 14): Mr David Grier said that the Diocesan By-Laws Report was indeed given at the 2007 Assembly, with its proposed modifications.

(p.14): It was reported that at the 2007 Assembly, the proper regional composition of the

Archdiocesan Council was established: six Deans were appointed to the Council by the Archbishop (after election by the rectors of parishes in each Deanery), and six Lay Representatives were elected to the Council (five by their deaneries, and one by the Assembly at large). It was also noted at this point that before the end of this Council meeting, two priest members and two lay members would be appointed by the Archbishop, at the Council's recommendation, to the Diocesan Court.

(p. 14): It was noted also that two new representatives to the Metropolitan Council from the Archdiocesan Council (Fr Cyprian Hutcheon and Mr David Grier - to begin their service after the November 2008 AAC), were elected/selected at the 2007 Assembly.

(p.15): Mr Peter Ewanchuk and the Special Focus Group did change the wording at the end of the STAS brochures, just as Council directed. They also, under the Chancellor's supervision, made pamphlets and a DVD, as well as a STAS brochure packet in 250 copies.

(p. 15): Fr Dennis Pihach said that the placing of the monies being repaid from the Cathedral loan into the Bishop Endowment Fund (the designated fund that most of the loan was withdrawn from), is being done and will be a continuing process.

(p. 16): It was noted that the \$10,000 surplus in the 2006 budget, to be allocated in 2007 for administrative support for the Archbishop, has not been allocated yet.

ACTION: ARCHBISHOP, CHANCELLOR, TREASURER

(p. 16): Ms Olga Jurgens reported that the Russian pamphlet project is almost complete.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

(p. 16): Prof Richard Schneider said that he has sent the letter with regard to sending the Tsunami funds to an Orthodox parish in Indonesia, but he has not had a reply yet.

ACTION: RICHARD SCHNEIDER

(p. 16): Fr Dennis Pihach and Nikita Lopoukhine reported that at the IOCC's suggestion, the IOCC funds given in Canada were sent directly from Canada to a school in Lebanon, for the purchase of a water pump for the school.

(p. 16-17): Nikita Lopoukhine said that as recommended by Council, he has placed \$1,024.71 from the Education/Seminary Fund into the Clergy Synaxis Fund (to bring the latter fund out of deficit); he had given \$2,000 to the Sifton Fund for the 2007 summer project; and that he had placed the \$1,287.50 listed under the closed St Astius Mission, into the Mission Fund.

(p.17): Council reminded Archbishop Seraphim again that there is money in the Bishop's Book Fund (\$2,000.00) for his use, as well as money in the Bishop's Wish List (\$934.00). The Treasurer needs only the Archbishop's invoices in order to repay him out of these funds.

ACTION: ARCHBISHOP SERAPHIM

(p.17): The Treasurer reported that he made the following dispersals as recommended by Council last spring: from the Mission Fund he sent \$350 to each of the missions in St John's NF and Cranbrook AB, and \$500 each to the missions of St Nina and St John of Shanghai in BC, St Nicholas' in Toronto, and the Life-giving Spring in Winnipeg. From the Charity Fund he sent \$500 to St John the Compassionate Mission in Toronto, which has an outreach to street people.

(p. 17): The Chancellor said that he did notify the Central Church Administration of the OCA concerning the amount in the fund for their use in Canada (a fund representing our tithe of income for the year 2006).

(p. 17): It was reported that Mr Alexander Ovodov has agreed to be in charge of the diocesan website. In fact, he began immediately after being asked, and has been able to add a lot of material to the site; as well, he has begun organizing helpers and information gatherers to assist him.

(p.18): Fr Cyprian Hutcheon noted that the Education Committee had indeed met during the 2007 Assembly, and that it had also held a meeting the evening prior to the beginning of this session of Council.

(p.18): Fr Dennis Pihach noted that the Minutes of the Saskatoon Assembly were found, and that they were presented at the 2007 Assembly in Ottawa.

(p. 18): Mother Sophia and other Council members reported that the first draft of the Minutes of the spring 2007 Council meeting were sent out, as recommended by Council, to all Council members for comments and suggestions as to possible amendments, and that this first draft did contain the draft number as well as the page number on each page of the draft. The Archbishop said that he did not know how to change the draft number when he sent out the second draft. It was suggested that he and David Grier consult on how to do this, since David seems to be our expert on Microsoft Word applications.

ACTION: ARCHBISHOP SERAPHIM AND DAVID GRIER

Following this reporting on "action items" (**Agenda # 4.0**), the minutes of the previous meeting were then passed unanimously.

At this point there was a brief discussion of the need to put the minutes of Archdiocesan Council meetings on the diocesan website promptly, but Archbishop Seraphim argued that we cannot put minutes up on the website until they are approved at the following Council meeting. Still, some said they thought that it would be wise to have minutes made public much sooner than that. Vladyka then said that an executive conference call would have to deal with this matter, but a process probably could be worked out so that minutes could appear on the website relatively soon after a meeting.

ACTION: EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Agenda # 5 Minutes of 2007 Archdiocesan Assembly *[see attached, # 5]* **and**
Agenda #6 Any Action Items from these Minutes

The Chancellor presented the minutes of the 2007 Assembly, not for adoption (which will have to be done at the next Assembly) but in order to remind Council members of some of the mandates given the Council by the Assembly: the appointment of certain positions (two priest members and two lay representative members to the diocesan court, as well as a lay representative from Council to be on the STAS committee); and the responsibility of establishing internal financial controls of the budget of the Archdiocese. [As far as “action items” from these minutes are concerned, the appointments were carried out later in the meeting, and the Administration Unit began its work and its plans for the future, and a significant emphasis of that work and planning for the next three years will be the establishing of the internal financial controls.]

Agenda # 7 Approval of the Agenda *[see attached, # 7]*

The Agenda of the meeting was approved with the following amendments:

- 16 b. All-American Council was added;
- The Administration and Finances sections were grouped together as a Unit and the topic of the Bishop’s salary adjustment and Fair Haven/Metamorphosis were added to the Unit;
- The Programming and Communications sections were grouped together and the topic of military chaplains and the Archdiocesan website were added to the Unit’s work;
- the rest of the Agenda was totally renumbered, with additions, as follows:

17. Report from the Units

18. Fr Bohdan Bilas and Savelia Curniski – Pochaev Safe House/NASHI

19. Auxiliary Bishop

20. St Arseny canonization

21. a St Arseny Institute Report

21. b St Arseny Institute Financial Report

22. Camps

23. Pilgrimages
24. Youth
25. Sifton Museum
26. New Business
 - a. Canadian Orthodox Church Corp
 - b. Church Court Appointments
 - c. Fair Haven report by Ms Olga Jurgens
27. Date/Place of next meeting
28. Closing Prayers and Adjournment

Agenda # 8 Report of the Ruling Archbishop *[see attached, # 8]*

Archbishop Seraphim read his written report to Council

Agenda # 8.1 Report of the Chancellor *[see attached, # 8.1]*

Fr Dennis Pihach read his written report to Council.

Agenda # 6.2 Report of the Archdiocesan Dean

Fr Cyprian Hutcheon began by saying that he did not have much to report because although he has the title, not too much has been assigned to him yet. He does take part in the Executive Committee telephone conferences, however, and hopes that in the months to come that his job will be refined.

After some discussion it was recommended that the Archdiocesan Dean hold monthly conference calls with the Regional Deans.

ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON

In addition, the Archbishop said that reports on both the monthly Executive meetings and the monthly Deans' meetings should be circulated by the Archdiocesan Dean to all Archdiocesan Council members.

ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON

Agenda # 9 Report of the Treasurer

[see attached, # 9]

Mr Nikita Lopoukhine presented his written report with the statement that revenues are not at this point where they were expected to be at this time of the year (but this was the case a year ago, and we “caught up” by the time the books were closed on the year). Expenses, however, are relatively in check. He also pointed out that there is only about \$3,300 left in the Metamorphosis Fund, but that there is a good deal of money in the charity, education, and missions funds.

With the Council he went over in some detail the “designated funds” on p. 4 of the report, to give members some idea of the amounts that could be discussed in the Units.

The Treasurer was asked to combine the Bishop’s Book Fund and the Bishop’s Wish List into one line item. It will be up to the Archbishop to decide where these monies will be spent.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

It was generally urged that the Deans and the Lay Representatives tell parishes that they need to put a line item in their own budgets for the Archdiocese, and that they should pay the Archdiocese first, not last.

ACTION: DEANS, LAY REPRESENTATIVES

Council asked that for future meetings, the Treasurer divide the parish list on p. 5 into Deanery sections.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

The Treasurer urged strongly that the Deans speak to the missions and mission stations in their respective Deaneries about the disturbing fact that some of them use the Treasurer’s services (e.g., the issue of tax receipts), while at the same time never making any contribution to the Archdiocese.

ACTION: DEANS

Mother Sophia was asked to publish in the spring issue of the Messenger (deadline January 15/08) a list (not a spreadsheet as last year) of all the parishes and missions with the total which each gave to the Archdiocese in 2007. The Treasurer will be responsible for getting these totals to her.

ACTION: MOTHER SOPHIA AND NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

There was discussion of the possibility of having available to the Archdiocesan Council a list from the Archbishop on parishes’ and missions’ incomes for each year. Does the Archbishop receive an annual report from every parish and mission, including a budget of their revenues and expenditures? Can the Executive come up with a parish report form, to include a financial statement? This is very important, since we are beginning to realize how important transparency is, and this transparency works both ways : the diocesan office transparent to the parishes and the parishes transparent to the Archdiocese. It was urged again that the Deans and Lay Representatives must go after those parishes and missions who are not contributing. This should

be an important continuing discussion of both the Administration and the Communications units.
ACTION: COUNCIL EXECUTIVE, DEANS, LAY REPRESENTATIVES, UNITS

The Treasurer concluded his report by saying that if we get the rest of this year's money which is due from parishes and missions, we will meet the budget for 2007.

Session II, held on Friday afternoon, November 2

After luncheon, the meeting was reconvened at 1:40 p.m. by the Chancellor, who introduced Fr Bohdan Bilas, the Chancellor of the Lviv diocese (Ukraine – MP).

AGENDA #18 a Fr Bohdan Bilas

With Fr Dennis Pihach translating, Fr Bohdan spoke about the work of his much-suffering and much-persecuted diocese in the realm of what in North America we would call “Christian social work.”

After thanking Vladyka Seraphim for the blessing of coming to Canada and visiting our OCA parishes, he said that he had seen aspects of our life in Canada which his own diocese does not have, and that that has been beneficial for him.

He then went on to describe some of the many difficulties which the diocese of Lviv lives under. For example, after fifteen years, the ruling hierarch of the diocese still lives in a small office. Before the diocese was split by schisms, there were 1,000 churches belonging to it. Now there are only 62. But they struggle to survive, just as the Archdiocese of Canada is doing.

Their diocese does much social work with the elderly, with youth, with the medical establishment, with the military, etc. And there are brotherhoods and sisterhoods organized to help the diocese with this work. They do a lot of publishing---a newspaper, magazines for youth, for prisoners, and so forth. Each year the brotherhoods and sisterhoods and clergy and laity meet together for reporting and accountability in these many areas.

Fr Bohdan said that he himself is the Secretary of the diocese (i.e., the Chancellor), and as such is responsible for all humanitarian aid within it. He also sits on an inter-church humanitarian foundation which deals with youth, the elderly, soup kitchens, etc.

He said that his church is now very active in two major areas of concern: HIV-AIDS in the populace and the trafficking (most often into sexual slavery) in human beings. Centres have been created in Ukraine to deal with these issues in Lviv and Cimea.

Why is the Church so concerned about human trafficking? Unemployment is very high in Ukraine, and there are very many desperately poor people, so many leave to work abroad and

many do not return. Seven million have left already. Four hundred thousand women under thirty have departed in the past ten years. A large percentage of them end up in the sex trade.

In his diocese seminarians are working with youth to warn them about what can happen when they go abroad. This has to be the case because education is hard to come by in Ukraine since, as a result of the fall of the communist government, education is no longer free. The government, he said, is not concerned about education at all, even though people believe they have a great need for it.

Another problem he cited was this: children are often cared for by their grandparents because their parents have gone abroad for better employment opportunities. Meanwhile, the children back home get into trouble with bad company, and addictions start. Also, the longer the parents are away, the more families fall apart. In addition to warning people about what can happen when they go abroad, the Church social agencies also try to help them back to normalcy if and when they return to Ukraine.

The Church is working on projects which will train young people for work at home rather than abroad---sewing, mechanics, construction, computers, etc---giving them skills to survive in the workplace. For this they are looking for partners to work with them, such as our own Archdiocesan-blessed NASHI organization with its new Maple Leaf Project.

AGENDA #18 b Savelia Curniski *[see attached, # 18 b]*

Fr Dennis Pihach then introduced Savelia Curniski, co-founder and co-director of NASHI.

Ms Curniski described the newest NASHI project, termed the “Maple Leaf Project,” whereby NASHI hopes to raise funds in Canada for the support of a safe house and vocational trade school for youth in Stoyaniv, where Fr Bohdan has also planted a mission parish to support the safe house and trade school. This centre will serve primarily young people who are at high risk of exposure to human trafficking. She urged the Council to make this project known in their deaneries and to support it. She added that there will be a working pilgrimage to Ukraine in 2009, led by Archbishop Seraphim and herself.

AGENDA # 20 St Arseny Canonization *[see attached, # 20]*

Mr Spencer Estabrooks handed out the “Petition for the Transfer of the Relics of Archbishop Arseny Chahovstov to the Archdiocese of Canada,” addressed to Archbishop Seraphim, asking that Council members make the petition widely available in their deaneries

AGENDA # 21 a St Arseny Institute Report *[see attached, # 21 a]*

Mr Spencer Estabrooks, Director of the St Arseny Institute, presented this written report.

AGENDA # 21 b St Arseny Institute Financial Report [see attached, # 21 b]

Fr Myrone Klysh, Registrar of St Arseny's Institute, presented this report which first gave facts and figures on students and recent graduates of the Institute. Then he said that although the Institute is operating in the black, there is no money at all for a stipend for the Director who has worked so hard over the years and continues to devote all his energies to St Arseny's. He requested a grant of \$7,200 from the Archdiocese to provide this stipend for a year.

Fr Dennis Pihach said that if the Council agrees with this proposal, it should be understood as a one-time grant only. He noted that there are funds available for this in the education and evangelism/mission funds, and that the Administration Unit and the Programming Unit should discuss this.

Dr John Hadjinicolaou suggested that Council will also have to help St Arseny's design a plan for future sustainability. In addition, Nikita Lopouskhine said that we need a long-term "business plan" for St Arseny's so that it can be made self-sustaining.

At this point, mid-afternoon, the Chancellor introduced Ms Shelley Greschuk, an insurance agent who made a half-hour presentation on estates, charities, and foundations. She handed out to Council members materials which were offered in order to make them aware of some of the creative and tax-advantaged ways that the faithful might benefit their parishes, or the Archdiocese, through planned giving. Ms Greschuk is herself a specialist in charitable planned giving. The materials she gave Council members were related to Quadrus Funds (trusts/endowments) and Freedom 55 Funds (insurance/planned giving).

AGENDA # 25 Sifton : Canadian Orthodox Pioneer Museum Report [see attached, # 25]

Ms Katherine Szalasznyj, Archdiocesan Archivist, presented this written report.

AGENDA # 12 Role of Council Members and Their Responsibilities

The Chancellor, Fr Dennis Pihach, led a discussion about the role of Archdiocesan Council members and their responsibilities.

He began by noting that there is now, in addition to the Administration/Finance Unit and the Programming/Communications Unit, a third Deans Unit. Because each Dean has an

assignment to either of the other two units, there would not be a separate meeting of this new unit during the current meeting. The plan will be that the Deans Unit will meet at least once a month by telephone conference, under the chairmanship of the Archdiocesan Dean, Fr Cyprian Hutcheon.

After some lengthy discussion, it was decided that the other two units will be organized as follows:

Administration and Finances

Chairpersons: Sava Duran and Peter Ewanchuk

Members: David Grier, Dr John Hadjinicolaou, Fr John Jillions, Fr Vasyl Kolega, Nikita Lopoukhine, Deacon Gregory Scratch.

Programming and Communications

Chairpersons: Mira Davidson and Matthew Francis

Members: Fr Lawrence Farley, Fr Cyprian Hutcheon, Fr Robert Kennaugh, Fr Oleg Kirilov, Fr Irene (Rochon), Richard Schneider, Mother Sophia (Zion).

After this structure was decided, Fr Dennis Pihach went on to talk about accountability and responsible reporting. Dr John Hadjinicolaou emphasized that in the units' meetings, Council members must talk about what they can and will do between meetings of the Council, and how to organize so that work gets done.

The Chancellor then asked each Council member around the table to give his or her vision of the next three years. There were lots of "positives" – desire for more accountability; an emphasis on "getting things done" between Council meetings; hopes for the sustainability of the diocese; hope for more and better communication among people, units, parishes; and a desire to keep the Orthodox *ethos* through everything.

At this point, Archbishop Seraphim said that although it is true that we have grown, nonetheless we are really only back to where we were in the earliest days in the diocese, prior to the Russian Revolution. Therefore, in this context, we are at the beginning of the beginning, and we must always see ourselves as a missionary diocese, not part of an "establishment." We serve Jesus Christ, and Him only. We have a long way to go because in some of our parishes, the Lord is not the first item on the agenda.

He added that he believes that this present new Council is "on the right track."

Session III, held on Friday evening, November 2

After dinner in the hall, Council members divided into the two units (Administration/Finance and Programming/Communications) described above, in order to discuss, make plans, and report to the Council as a whole the next day.

Session IV, held on Saturday morning, November 3

After breakfast in the St Phillip's hall, the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. with the singing of "O Heavenly King" and the Archbishop's blessing. The Chancellor was in the chair.

Agenda # 5 Possible Action Items from 2007 Assembly Minutes *[see attached, # 5]*

Fr Dennis Pihach said these action items were dealt with in the units on the evening prior.

AGENDA # 10 Ottawa Cathedral and 2007 Assembly

Fr John Jillions began his report by thanking Mary Ann Lopoukhine for "doing 95% of the organization of the Assembly," and also by thanking Deacon Gregory Scratch and his committee for building the iconostasis frame in time for the Primatial Divine Liturgy, held at the Cathedral on the Thursday morning of the Assembly.

Fr John reported that at the Cathedral they are continuing with the iconostasis project. They hope to have Heather Mackean working on the icons in the next few months. But there is now a refocusing also on the internal life of the parish, the ministries, including lay ministries. They are also examining how diocesan needs and parish needs can be synchronized (*e.g.*, the possible priestly formation/residential year in Ottawa, if the theological committee's plans get off the ground). These things will be the focus of the parish's discussions for the next year or two.

AGENDA # 11 Theological Education Committee Report

Fr Cyprian Hutcheon is the chairman of this committee, and he gave this report. He said that the committee had met together the evening before at Holy Trinity Sobor. For the new members of Council, he briefly reviewed the various degree-granting programmes already in Canada for Orthodox theological education --- in Winnipeg, Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto. He said that the particular focus of the committee right now is on priestly formation.

The committee is hoping to form an “Archdiocesan Vocational Assessment Committee” (AVAC) which would examine all candidates for ordination (to the diaconate and to the priesthood) as early as possible, advising the Archbishop as to the suitability of potential candidates. Their vision is that if a candidate is approved, he would go on to one of the degree programmes in Orthodox theology, to which would be added a residential year in an Orthodox setting (*e.g.*, the Cathedral complex in Ottawa), during which he would live and worship and receive mentoring with other Orthodox seminarians.

At this point the Archbishop said that he hoped that AVAC would also be used to interview clergy coming from outside the diocese.

Fr Cyprian said that the Theological Education Committee is proposing to set up, before the next meeting of Council, three persons in the East and three in the West to serve on AVAC . Each half of AVAC would consist of a senior priest, an informed and involved lay person, and a person trained in psychological assessment. Fr Cyprian, as Archdiocesan Dean, Secretary of the Archdiocese, and Chairman of the Education Committee, will preside over the both halves of the AVAC, and the main way of functioning will probably be by conference calls.

There is a lot of work to be done before AVAC can begin to function, he noted. What criteria are to be used? What kind of application form(s) should be constructed? There will be also criteria set for letters of recommendation, psychological evaluation(s), police check(s), etc. And all of these things will need to be discussed with Archbishop Seraphim.

The Theological Education Committee will also consult with other Christian bodies to ascertain how they handle the process of vetting possible candidates for ordination. Fr John Jillions will consult with the Anglicans, Dr John Hadjinicolaou with the Greek Church, Prof Richard Schneider with the mainline Protestants, and Fr Cyprian himself with the Roman Catholics.

Fr Cyprian said that at the next meeting of the Archdiocesan Council, the Theological Education Committee will present to the Council (1) the proposed ways/methods by which AVAC will operate and (2) the personnel composition of the AVAC, both the eastern and western halves.

ACTION: THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Fr Cyprian said that the residential year (nine months) is still being discussed, and no firm decision has been made yet about where the year will be held (Ottawa?). The Theological Education Committee is seeking input on this.

In conclusion, Fr Cyprian said that at the next meeting of Council he will present a tentative operating budget for AVAC, to cover costs related to the work of the committee (*e.g.*, teleconferencing, actual meetings, etc.)

ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON

AGENDA # 13 Canadian Council of Churches Report (Ecumenical Activities)

Prof Richard Schneider gave his verbal report. He said that on the Governing Board of the CCC our church is ably represented by either Fr Cyprian Hutcheon or by Paul Ladouceur. There are many project-based things going on at the Governing Board, which has a heavy United Church contingent currently. Fr Cyprian is pushing hard for a new method of electing the Governing Board that would assure a greater balance of faith traditions on it. At the present time, the Executive of the Governing Board is all mainline Protestant; this occurred because none of the other traditions nominated anyone for these positions.

Unlike other national councils of churches, the CCC gets around 90 % of its operating funds from the member churches (other national councils depend largely on grants). Therefore, the CCC is almost always in financial crisis, and particularly so right now.

Many good things are happening on the Faith and Witness Commission, and the OCA is well-represented by Paul Ladouceur and Richard Schneider, but hardly any Orthodox ever show up for meetings of either Faith and Witness or the Governing Board, except for us and the Ukrainians.

Our representation on the Peace and Justice Commission is getting thin. We have only Colin Justin Grimmond and Monk Pierre (Blais), and Colin wants to step down at the end of the current triennium.

After brief discussion, it was decided that Fr Cyprian will send a memorandum to Archbishop Seraphim, asking him to send a letter to the President of the "Canadian SCOBA" before their December meeting, requesting that the other Orthodox churches in the CCC take it more seriously, e.g., paying their dues and showing up for meetings.

ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON

AGENDA # 14 Clergy Insurance / Insurance on Properties

Fr Dennis Pihach reported that we now have nineteen clergy on the policy. Fr Philip Eriksson is working on some problem in the policy having to do with the medical insurance part of it (based on a Manitoba model). Fr Philips says that we need twenty members on the policy to make it more cost-efficient. Fr Cyprian, a medical doctor himself, says the plan is a really good one in his opinion.

Fr Dennis said that he is really getting frustrated about the fact that we still have clergy who have no personal insurance coverage at all. This makes the liabilities which the Archdiocese faces absolutely ridiculous. "We are not going to be responsible for them---they either get some form of insurance, or they are out," he said. He is sure that not everyone is covered, and it truly worries him. It is, he continued, something that the Deans must make a first priority: finding out what each clergyman in their deaneries has in the form of personal insurance coverage, and pressing those who have none to obtain it right away. They should then notify the Archdiocesan Dean concerning who has and who does not have this insurance. Our own plan is

one of the best, and clergy should be told this.

ACTION: DEANS AND ARCHDIOCESAN DEAN

As to parish property insurance, Fr Dennis reported that the process of enrolling parishes in our Aon/Ecclesiastical policy is ongoing and will be for a year, as old insurance policies expire. He says he expects everyone to “get on board” with this policy, but he is having a few difficulties with “little congregational warlords.” “Why,” he asked, “should the Archdiocese be liable if the parish does not play by the rules?”

Fr Dennis ended his report by saying that we must have 100 % compliance on both forms of insurance (clergy personal and parish property) by the end of this triennium. Deans must work on this, and the Archdiocesan Dean will be responsible for checking that this work is done.

ACTION: DEANS AND ARCHDIOCESAN DEAN

Fr Cyprian then announced at this point that he and Deacon Gregory will report at the next meeting of Council, as to which clergy have some form of personal coverage and which do not. They will also ascertain which parishes have some form of insurance on property, and which do not. Fr Cyprian and Deacon Gregory will begin this process by sending a letter or e-mail to parishes explaining all the benefits of our Aon/Ecclesiastical property insurance policy, and notifying them that they must either join this policy or have some other form of property and liability insurance. Compliance with this must be an absolute demand, since the Archdiocese cannot assume liability for the non-compliant.

ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON, DEACON GREGORY SCRATCH

AGENDA # 15 STAS Report *[see attached, # 15]*

Matthew Francis presented this report. He asked that the Deans make sure all their parishes and missions have the STAS information. The STAS Vision Committee hopes to have “STAS representatives” from each parish, and the committee will coordinate all the representatives.

Currently STAS pledges of about \$10,000.00 have been received and monthly donations will begin to be withdrawn from bank accounts starting with November 2007.

Matthew reminded the Council that the STAS Vision Committee is made up of the Chancellor, the Archdiocesan Dean, Colin Justin Grimmond, who was elected at the 2007 Assembly, and one other person who will be elected at this meeting of Council.

AGENDA # 16 a Metropolitan Council Report *[see attached, # 16]*

After Prof Richard Schneider presented his written report, there was much discussion,

with concern expressed about the withholding of funds by other dioceses of the OCA and how this is hurting the Church, as well as concern about ongoing conflicting positions and polarization related to what happened in the past and how the financial and administrative crises are being resolved..

It was decided that an ad hoc committee of Fr John Jillions, Fr Cyprian Hutcheon, and Peter Ewanchuk should formulate a resolution from this Council expressing our concern over the need for the resolving of conflict(s), etc., to be presented to Council for Approval at the afternoon session.

Session IV, held on Saturday afternoon, November 3

After luncheon, the meeting was reconvened by the Chancellor.

AGENDA # 17 a Report from the Programming and Communications Unit.

Matthew Francis and Mira Davidson reported for this unit. They emphasized that much discussion took place in the unit with regard to planning the research of protocols which have been used in the past by this unit. They plan to do this research during the time between the current Council meeting and the next, to be held in the Spring of 2008. It was felt that this research needs to be done so that the unit will not be “reinventing the wheel” with regard to the areas of communications and programming assigned to it.

Meanwhile, the unit recommended the following:

- (1) that \$3,200.00 from the Education Fund and \$4,000.00 from the Mission/Evangelism Fund be used to create one year of monthly payments for a stipend for the Director of the St Arseny Insitute;
- (2) that \$1,000.00 from the Mission Fund be sent to St John of Shanghai Mission in Vancouver;
- (3) that \$1,000.00 be given to NASHI from the Charity Fund, to be sent via the Bishop’s Office West so that the money will be eligible for a matching grant from the Wild Rose Foundation of Alberta;
- (4) that \$500.00 be sent from the Charity Fund to St John the Compassionate Mission in Toronto.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

The Programming and Communications Unit also urged that the Chronology of the Archdiocese of Canada be published as soon as possible. The Chancellor said that he would

Speak to the persons involved in this project.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

AGENDA # 17 b Report from the Administration and Finance Unit.

Sava Duran and Peter Ewanchuk presented this report. They gave a detailed list of the decisions reached by the unit on the previous evening:

(1) Internal Controls

- An Audit Report will be worked on, completed, and submitted between January and the Spring session of Council.
- Fr Dennis will write a letter to the three Auditing Committee members (Fr Rodion Luciuk, Fr Ron Poworoznik, and Lorne Pinkerton). The letter will describe the appointment of Fr Rodion as the chairman of the committee; it will contain the OCA's best practices for auditing guideline; the committee will be asked to review the OCA's Best Practices and to request the information they need to complete an "audit report" [the exact words mandated by the 2007 Assembly] adequately. The unit suggested also that the Auditing Committee could be requested to find someone in Ottawa whom they could appoint to look through the financial books, as proxy for the Auditing Committee, thus saving on travel costs.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH AND THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

(2) Deputy Treasurer

- Nikita Lopoukhine will put together a protocol for the entire financial procedure of the Archdiocese, which should include two people to help him. Both of these people will be appointed by Nikita.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

(3) St Arseny Institute financial appeal

- The unit approved the \$7,200.00 requested.
- The money for this grant should be taken out of the Education Fund (\$3,200.00), and the Mission/Evangelism Fund (\$4,000.00).
- The money should be provided monthly to the Institute beginning this weekend.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

- John Hadjinicolaou will speak to the Director of the St Arseny Institute about a business plan and plans for future sustainability. The Director needs to provide further information on an ongoing basis. For example, a list of the students currently attending

the Institute and their home parishes should be submitted to the Council as soon as possible.

ACTION: DR JOHN HADJINICOLAOU AND SPENCER ESTABROOKS

(4) Bishop's Administrative Assistant

· The unit recommended that \$3,000.00 from the Bishop's administrative funds be allocated to cover the moving expenses of the candidate.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

· If the candidate comes to Fair Haven in July, \$10,000.00 for stipend will be needed for the second half of 2008.

· STAS has \$10,000.00 already pledged for next year. This should be applied to the amount needed for the Administrative Assistant for the latter half of 2008.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

· In the following year (2009), STAS will need to raise \$20,000.00 plus benefits to pay a full year's salary to the Administrative Assistant.

ACTION: STAS VISION COMMITTEE

(5) Operating Budget and replacing the \$650.00 (previously given by Syosset)

· The unit suggested that the needs of the Archdiocesan budget be made known through the continued efforts of STAS on top of the 10 % tithe given by parishes.

ACTION: STAS VISION COMMITTEE

(6) Phillip Bodnar

· The unit proposed to that the \$900.00 being paid monthly to Phillip Bodnar for caretaking at Fair Haven be continued for the next nine months. This money should be taken from the Metamorphosis line item and the St Silouan Chapel/Community line item.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

(7) Responsibility allocation for the Administration/Finance Unit

- Central office: Fr Dennis Pihach
- Western Office: Nikita Lopoukhine and Peter Ewanchuk
- Insurance: Fr Cyprian Hutcheon and Deacon Gregory Scratch
- Treasurer: Nikita Lopoukhine and Fr Dennis Pihach
- Bylaws/Incorporation: David Grier
- Budget: headed by Nikita Lopoukhine, with advice from all the unit
- STAS: Deacon Gregory Scratch, nominated chair of STAS Vision Committee
- Investments: Peter Ewanchuk

(8) Budget for 2008 and 2009

- The unit got a “jump start” on planning budgets for 2008 and 2009. Nikita Lopoukhine will create “bare bones” budgets and pass them on to David Grier for study prior to the next meeting of Council.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE AND DAVID GRIER

- The *Messenger* should publish the budget, with possible deficits, in the Spring issue. David Grier will be responsible for assembling this information article for the *Messenger* by the spring deadline of January 15.

ACTION: DAVID GRIER, MOTHER SOPHIA

[Temporary note to Council members: it seems to me that this deadline is impossible in practicality. Should we make it the summer issue of the Messenger, deadline April 15? I can see publishing the list of all parishes and missions with what they contributed to the Archdiocese in 2007, if Nikita can get this information to me by January 15; but getting a whole new budget(s) to me by that date might be asking him to play Super Man, which I think is asking an awful lot of him!]

At the end of this unit’s report, the Council confirmed the unit’s nomination of Deacon Gregory Scratch as Chairman of the STAS Vision Committee, and accepted the report as given.

AGENDA # 16 b All-American Council in November 2008

Fr John Jillions, who is on the Pre-conciliar Commission, said that the first meeting of the Commission will be on November 16 of this year, and it will give a report to the Holy Synod meeting in December. He said that the Commission wants input from people as to what should be accomplished by the AAC.

At this point the resolution which Fr John Jillions, Fr Cyprian Hutcheon, and Peter Ewanchuk had drawn up was read to Council:

As the Council of the Archdiocese of Canada, meeting under the leadership of His Eminence, Archbishop SERAPHIM, we note with satisfaction the positive and hopeful proceedings of the recent joint meeting of the Holy Synod and Metropolitan Council. At the same time, other recent events serve to highlight the ongoing conflict and polarization within our Church.

In view of the approaching All-American Council, we urge the Holy Synod, the Metropolitan Council and the Preconciliar Commission to lead all of us in taking whatever steps are necessary to foster a climate that will promote the dual processes of seeking truth and effecting reconciliation in the time leading up to, during, and beyond the AAC in 2008.

This statement, representing the mind of the Council, was accepted. It will be sent to the

Metropolitan, with email copies to the Preconciliar Commission (Bishop Nikon, chairman), Fr Alexander Garklavs (Chancellor, OCA), and Fr Paul Bodnar (Secretary, OCA).

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH? FR JOHN JILLIONS?

AGENDA # 22 Camps

Fr Dennis Pihach said that the Programming and Communications Unit will be discussing camps in future.

Peter Ewanchuk was asked to put the information he has developed on the St Peter the Aleut Camp on the diocesan website for the use of other camps throughout Canada.

ACTION: PETER EWANCHUK

AGENDA # 23 Pilgrimages

The Chancellor said that Archbishop Seraphim will go for his first visit to Mount Athos very soon. There are no other announcements at this time, except that there will be another pilgrimage to Ukraine in 2009.

AGENDA # 27 Next Meeting of Archdiocesan Council

The Spring 2008 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council will be hosted by the Alberta Deanery in Calgary on May 9 – 10.

AGENDA # 24 Youth *[see attached, # 24]*

This written report was presented by Matthew Francis.

At this point, although the Chancellor had not asked for written Deanery Reports at this meeting of Council, the new Dean of Ontario, Fr Oleg Kirilov, was asked to give a brief verbal report. Fr Oleg says that he plans to visit the communities of Kingston, Hamilton, and Windsor in the next half year, and he gave some details regarding the several communities in Toronto, which he also plans to visit regularly. He added that he will make sure that all priests are insured, that all parishes are giving to the Archdiocese, and that all properties are insured one way or another.

Frs Vasyl Kolega (Alberta) and Robert Kennaugh (Manitoba/Saskatchewan) also spoke briefly about their Deaneries. Fr Irene (Rochon) (Quebec and Atlantic Provinces) had sent a written report by email *[see attached report]*.

AGENDA # 26 New Business

a. Canadian Orthodox Church Corporation

Archbishop Seraphim explained that this was Vladyka Lazar's corporation, which he has given over to the Archdiocese. He said that our lawyers are now looking at how we can use this. We now own the corporation, and Vladyka Seraphim is president of the Board of Directors.

b. Spiritual Court

The following appointments were made to the Spiritual Court:

Priests: Fr Lawrence Farley and Fr Cyprian Hutcheon

Lay persons: Dr John Hadjinicolaou and Mira Davidson

Archbishop Seraphim said that he would like for the Spiritual Court to meet in order to research how the court will function in judging three different categories of defendants:

1. priest
2. deacon
3. lay person

c. Olga Jurgens: Report on Fair Haven

At this point, just as the Archbishop's Office Assistant, Ms Olga Jurgens was asked to speak about the diocesan centre, Fair Haven, Fr Cyprian Hutcheon explained that Ms Jurgens is retiring from attending Council meetings and that the Council wanted to thank her for so many years of advice and service. He then presented her with a book and a card, and everyone stood and sang "Many Years" to her.

She then spoke about Fair Haven, making three heartfelt points:

- (1) For twenty years, she said, she has heard a lot of negatives about the centre, but it really is "the centre of the world" insofar as convenience of location for the Archbishop is concerned. Of all places in Canada, it is the most central to Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, and Syosset NY -- a true "centre" in every way.
- (2) Her vision is that our diocese could have a retreat centre at Fair Haven some day. Why? For one, there is a need for it. For another, it can be a money maker. Although she hopes that

STAS will be successful, we cannot always depend on donations. We should also be involved in some kind of (godly) business venture.

- (3) She also hopes that there can some day be a cemetery at Fair Haven for our Orthodox people. There is a real need for such a cemetery in the Ottawa area, and it too could bring in revenue. At the diocesan office there is a file of research on this. We have 29 acres there. We should be working on this

In conclusion, she urged the Archdiocesan Council and STAS to continue support of the Archbishop's vision of Fair Haven.

AGENDA # 28 Closing prayers and adjournment

The Fall meeting of the Archdiocesan Council was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. with the singing of "It is truly meet."

Respectfully submitted,

Mother Sophia (Zion)