

**Minutes of the Archdiocesan Council Meeting,
Archdiocese of Canada, Orthodox Church in America
held at Christ the Saviour Sobor, Toronto, Ontario
16 – 17 February 2001**

* * *

Council members in attendance at this meeting were:

Ruling Bishop of the Archdiocese, His Grace SERAPHIM
Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Priest Dennis Pihach
Treasurer, Nikita Lopoukhine
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
Priest Larry Reinheimer
David Grier
John Hadjinicolaou
Nicholas Ignatieff
Denis Lessard
David Rystephanuk
Richard Schneider
Nun Sophia (Zion)

Council members absent with regret and with a blessing from the Bishop were:
Archpriest John Tkachuk (Dean of Québec) and Audrey Ewanchuk.

Observers at various times over the two days of sessions were: Priest Evan Lowig,
Subdeacon Brian Keen and his wife Jean, Rasophor Monk Pierre (Blais), and Matushka
Dianne Kennaugh.

Session I, held on Friday evening, February 16

The spring 2001 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council began with a moleben (1.0) served at 7 p.m. in the temple of Christ the Saviour Sobor, Toronto. The Chancellor called the meeting to order in the basement of the parish hall at 7:35 p.m., with roll call and regrets (2.0), followed by a brief discussion of the minutes of the autumn 2000 meeting (3.0). In answer to a query about the phrase “an identity between the Bishop and the Archdiocese,” His Grace explained that there is no separation/distinction between the Bishop and his administration. The diocese does not exist without the Bishop and vice-versa. He did note that “approximate equivalence” might be substituted for “identity” in the questioned phraseology. As he had done at the autumn meeting, Denis Lessard offered his carefully proof-read copy of the minutes in order to accelerate the process of

correcting typos. The minutes were passed with corrections. There then followed the adjustments, additions to, and approval of the agenda of the meeting (4.0).

5.0 Ruling Bishop's Report [*Attached, #1*]

His Grace said that because this meeting had to be finished prior to Vespers on Saturday evening, he would neither read nor go over his report. Spurred on by questions, however, he did make three additional points. First, he said that he had been able to attend all of the Canadian Episcopal Millennial Liturgies. He also noted that in the nearly 14 years he has been a bishop, the canonical bishops of Canada have gone from not knowing or not talking to each other to what is a very congenial relationship: presently they meet once a year, call each other by telephone, etc. Second, he noted that it seems to him that having so many of our meetings in the East is perceived as a burden on the handful of targeted churches. We must think what to do about this, he said. And third, he accepted the suggestion from Council members that when we meet at a church, we should ask its parish council to report on their goals, progress, etc.

6.0 Regional Reports

6.1 Chancellor's Report [*Attached, #2*]

Fr Dennis Pihach made the point that from his perception, this diocese is changing with respect to both clerical and lay membership. Immigration from the former Soviet Union and Iron Curtain countries in the 1990s has resulted in many more Slavic-speaking priests and people than the diocese has experienced for a few previous decades. He noted that he currently has to write many letters in Russian and Ukrainian and has also had to build some expertise in dealing with the Canadian immigration department, various consular offices, etc. And there is always a lot of this to do, since the Bishop seems to be out of the diocesan chancery two-thirds to three-fourths of the time, he said.

6.2 Reports of Deans

(a) Alberta [*Attached, #2*]

(b) British Columbia [*Attached, #3*]

Fr Lawrence Farley added to his written report that it now appears that Fr Johanna's church is no longer in imminent danger of having to move, because the building, which was to be sold, has been declared a Heritage Building, which has made the deal fall through with the purchaser.

(c) Manitoba and Saskatchewan [*Attached, #4*]

In the brief discussion that followed the report of Fr Bob Kennaugh and Fr Rodion Luciuk, the Chancellor said that he believes strongly that we must never cooperate with, and should even attempt to root out the habit of underpaying of priests. This would probably involve amalgamations, which should be encouraged in rural areas.

8.7 Youth

Fr Lawrence Reinheimer said that there is the possibility of another Project Mexico venture from the diocese (in September 2001), but it will most likely involve adults/young adults rather than youth.

The Chancellor noted that there will be a special parallel youth assembly at the sobor to be held in Edmonton in July.

8.9 Project Ukraine

The Chancellor said that although there was nothing to report about Project Ukraine, he would like to note how successful the Childcare International programme is going in Ukraine, which in this particular location has a SYNDESMOS connection.

9.2 Archbishop Arseny Glorification Commission

The Bishop reported that Archbishop Arseny is being painted at the Winnipeg sobor, without nimbus. There is a process of locally developing him. Kyrill Holden of Edmonton is carefully sifting through the materials on the archbishop's life. Deacon John Hainsworth is working on the hierarch's biography for his M.Div. thesis at St Vladimir's. The Bishop is trying to get Willie Hatten in Winnipeg to write reminiscences about the times he was the Archbishop's acolyte.

His Grace also asked Fr Rodion to organize someone (probably Fr Phillip Eriksson) to go and talk with Kay Mocuik in order to gather her reminiscences of the hierarch.

ACTION: FR RODION LUCIUK

The first session of the spring 2001 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council was adjourned at 9 p.m. with the singing of "It is truly meet."

Session II, held on Saturday morning, February 17

The second session of the meeting was called to order the next morning by the Chancellor at 9:10 a.m. with the singing of “O Heavenly King.”

9.11 Insurance

Mother Sophia reported that the diocese has now succeeded in insuring the Bishop and Council for liability, should the diocese ever be named in a legal suit. This does NOT insure individuals, only the diocese. Each church should have its own liability insurance to cover its pastor if he is named in a legal suit. The diocese has also succeeded in insuring properly the Foreman collection, at great expense.

9.6 Directory [Attached, #5]

Olga Jurgens handed out the current revision of pp. 1-2 of the diocesan directory. She said that a new revision of the entire directory will be prepared and distributed to parishes after next summer’s sobor in Edmonton.

7.0 Treasurer’s Report [Attached, #6]

Nikita Lopoukhine began by announcing that the Council would have some hard decisions to make at this meeting, because for the calendar year there is a deficit of \$18,000. If we stay on the current course, he further said, we will be short approximately \$12,000 next year. Some of the reasons for this were cited: insurance (two houses now instead of one, chapel, diocesan liability, and Foreman collection - for a total of around \$10,000); utilities going up because of the extra house; taxes on property expected to jump from \$1500 to \$2500; etc. Also, expenses for travel were \$7000 more than budgeted for. We did save some money on supplies and services, but not much.

At this point Nikita asked Dr John Hadjinicolaou to report on the visit of the government bureaucrats who came to inspect the premises we have been preparing for the museum to house the Foreman collection.

8.3 Diocesan Properties

In reply, John said that the bureaucrats now want a system of climate control installed, at a cost of \$30,000 to \$60,000. They refused to give any kind of time frame for granting the Class B status, and they could not indicate that there would be no further extra, surprise requirements. This has led John into thinking that we must try a different direction.

He is in touch with Dr Foreman and the Foreman accountants, and he said that he thinks there would not be any problem for the diocese itself to give the tax receipt(s). But this must be in keeping with the law and also acceptable to Dr Foreman and his accountants, because there is a large difference between a receipt from a charity and from a Class B museum with regard to capital gains taxes.

Nicholas Ignatieff said that we must be very careful/hesitant about receiving government grants because there will be implications for control, demands, etc.

The Bishop noted that not being connected to the government in any way (museum, grants, etc.) would give us control over conservation of the collection (using the Finnish-government sponsored icon restoration shop at Valaamo, for example, which might well not be allowed under Canadian regulations).

There was general agreement among all on Council that John should continue whatever negotiations would be necessary *not* to go the museum route. We want them for use by the Church, according to the original intention of Dr. Foreman.

7.0 Treasurer's Report, continued

As a result of the above discussion, Nikita said that he would reduce the insurance item on the budget.

There was discussion of how high the travel expenses were in 2000. It was noted that this was due to several things: the purchase of the Bishop's new car, His Grace's episcopal millennial liturgies trips, etc. Nikita said that this item can be reduced for 2001.

The Chancellor noted that we never budget for clergy emergencies—therapeutic treatment, immigration-related expenses, etc. This is an area of budgeting which we need.

Nikita noted that the diocese's ACN connection has proved very positive. Telephone expenses have been greatly reduced and ACN is actually paying the diocese small monthly amounts. Fr Dennis said that Dianne Storheim experienced many difficulties with people who were negative and critical when she was working on setting up the ACN account. She should be thanked formally by a letter from Council. It was agreed that Olga Jurgens would send this letter of thanks.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

Nikita said that an article explaining how ACN helps the diocese will be written by Mary Ann Lopoukhine for the next issue of the *Messenger*.

ACTION: MARY ANN LOPOUKHINE AND MOTHER SOPHIA

Nikita also said that he would send a letter to the parishes explaining how ACN helps the diocese.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

It was generally expressed also that there should in future be a line item for ACN income.

The treasurer reported that because of the “market correction,” our reserve funds have lost some money recently.

On a more positive note, he remarked that parishes are growing, and there are more contributions coming in.

8.3 Diocesan Properties, continued

Dr Hadjinicolaou asked Council if the Metamorphosis Project should begin a new appeal for money in April – May, concentrating on the new property across the street from the chancery. It was generally agreed that he should indeed launch this new appeal.

ACTION: JOHN HADJINICOLAOU

9.9 Orthodox Metis [Attached, # 7]

Riasophor Monk Pierre (Blais), a Metis who is a part-time, contract lecturer at the University of Toronto, presented a proposal to Council for an Orthodox – Metis chaplaincy at U of T. He said that he has already been doing chaplaincy-type work there, counselling Metis students and referring Orthodox students to Orthodox priests in Toronto (Fr Peter Avgeropoulos and Fr Evan Lowig). But this work is not allowed by U of T policy (which sees it as proselytizing) unless the chaplain has official status. Because of this, he said he cannot continue without remuneration. He said that the Presbyterian chaplain on campus is willing to sponsor him for the official chaplaincy board if funding can be found (\$14,000 per annum). Brother Pierre also expressed anxiety about the fact that he is not insured for liability with regard to the counselling he does, and he also noted that the First Nations Council at the U of T is actively opposed to aboriginals’ becoming Christians.

At this point the Bishop asked Council if there is anything we can do to help. There was some discussion. For example, Richard Schneider said that he thought that there is a conflict in the proposal, that it would be confusing to try to combine Orthodox chaplaincy with aboriginal/Metis counselling. The Chancellor then ended the discussion by saying that it was moot in view of the diocese’s present deficit budget. There simply is no \$14,000 available for the chaplaincy.

It was suggested that the diocese could, however, help to pay for the liability insurance (\$750) required by Brother Pierre for counselling Metis students. At this point an observer, Fr Evan Lowig, said that he would raise \$375 of this sum if the diocese would give the other \$375. It was unanimously agreed to do so.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

7.0 Treasurer's Report, continued

Nikita presented his new numbers for a balanced budget for 2001. This was unanimously passed by Council.

8.1 Metropolitan Council

Richard Schneider reported that Fr John Tkachuk attended the fall meeting of Metropolitan Council. It was a business-as-usual type of meeting, and 90% of the discussions did not apply to the Canadian situation. He noted that Fr Paul Kucynda has been appointed Secretary and Fr Dimitri Oselinski the Treasurer of the OCA. Two points of interest to Canada : (1) the summer internship programme for seminary students is going well, and (2) although clerical recruitment is way down in most of the USA, the Canadian archdiocese will have five seminarians at St Vladimir's next year.

Richard said that he will attend the spring meeting and will present a "state of the diocese" report there. He asked that if any Council members had anything to give him for this report, he or she should give it to him by the end of April.

The second session of the spring meeting of Council was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. for luncheon in the church hall.

Session III, held on Saturday afternoon, February 17

The Chancellor brought the meeting back to order at 1:10 pm.

8.2 Special Appeals

Fr Dennis said, and it was generally agreed, that a letter should go out to the parishes explaining what the special appeals are for, why people should give to them through the diocese rather than through Syosset, etc. The next appeal will be for seminarians in June: in this letter we could describe how many men and women from the diocese we have in seminary. The letter should go out well before the June appeal.

ACTION: AUDREY EWANCHUK

8.3 Diocesan Properties, continued [Attached, # 8]

Nikita said there is still \$4,424.25 left in the Bishop's Wish List Fund which was raised by Metamorphosis.

At this point, Dr John Hadjinicolaou, who holds the diocesan properties portfolio, handed out the newest *Bulletin du Certificat de théologie orthodoxe* from the University of Sherbrooke, and also an announcement of the colloquium to be held 21 April 2001 at the university on "Orthodoxy in the modern world: the individual and the person." He also announced that Ms Kyriaki Fitzgerald will speak to this spring's OCW conference in Montreal, and that Fr Andrew Morbey will be the speaker at this spring's OTI retreat in Chateauguay. In addition, he noted that Professor Dragas of Holy Cross will teach and advise students in the Orthodox programme at the University of Sherbrooke, beginning in September 2001.

8.4 Ecumenical Affairs [Attached, #9]

Richard Schneider first spoke about the new forum-based revisions to the constitution and by-laws of the CCC. Basically the CCC just wants to know if each member church wants to receive the revisions.

The Bishop said that the forum model allows each church to be itself. This is why, for example, the Roman Catholic Church in Canada is a full member of the CCC. The forum model of the CCC is also beginning to influence the WCC - the model allows for more understanding of differences and does not give false hopes or expectations. Richard said that this is now how it is. If a church does not approve the revisions, they must leave the CCC.

Bishop Seraphim and the Council unanimously agreed to approve the revisions.

Richard then went on to explain that now the CCC wants to move into Phase II - getting these revisions, this new forum model, into practical, universal mode of operations, to get it “into the pews.” He said that he and His Grace had been working on answers to a recent questionnaire sent out by the governing board (sheet beginning “List the three hottest topics . . .”). Various members of Council at this point made a few suggestions about the answers to the questionnaire which Richard said he would work into the document.

It was noted that Fr Evan Lowig has been placed on the Peace and Justice Commission, a first for the Orthodox. The effect of the forum model on this commission is more emphasis on theology first, then action. Also noted was the latest of the meetings of the heads of churches (see sheet “Canadian Leaders Call for Peace with Justice in the Middle East”). This meeting has already had its effect on the United Church (see sheet on “Resolution on a just peace in the Middle East”).

Richard finally reported that at the recent food seminar held in the West, the worship service looked like a borrowed mass or liturgy, written by Protestants. He and Bishop Seraphim thought that this was just a simple mistake, a lack of education. So he and His Grace wrote to the governing board in a loving spirit but speaking strongly in the forum sense, in which the Orthodox view of this service was clearly explained. The general secretary of the CCC was delighted with their letter and has had it distributed widely around the CCC. With good will, Richard said, people are willing to learn.

8.6 Immigration [Attached, #10]

Nicholas Ignatieff said he thinks that the needs of immigrants are changing, with more concern now about cultural preservation and the educational system, and that at this point his portfolio must be reflected upon and re-thought.

He also handed out an appeal from Fr Alexander (Dr Rory) Williams in Scotland re: a very tragic Russian asylum case there. Nicholas asked that Council members distribute this information as widely as they can, because someone in Canada may be able to help.

9.1 Archdiocesan Assembly [Attached, #11]

The Chancellor announced that mailings have been sent out to parishes and that there will be one more mailing will go out before the registration packages go out in the late spring. He said that Fr Larry Reinheimer has volunteered to be the chaplain of the parallel youth assembly, which will combine a project with a retreat. Further he said that he expects about 125 people and that Metropolitan Sotirios has said that he will attend. At this point finances for the Assembly are running through the western office.

Council was asked to appoint a resolutions committee, which it did.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: FR RODION LUCIUK, ROD TKACHUK, AND DAVID GRIER

Council was asked to appoint a nominations committee, which it did.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: FR DENNIS PIHACH, FR LAWRENCE FARLEY, DR JOHN HADJINICOLAOU, AND NICHOLAS IGNATIEFF

9.8 Incorporation [Attached, #12]

Rod Tkachuk's search shows that our incorporation is not registered federally. An additional 1983 incorporation was found, but it was supposed to be renewed yearly, and it was not. Thus in Rod's opinion, we do not have incontrovertible corporate status. The Bishop said that Rod must pursue this and tell us what to do.

ACTION: ROD TKACHUK

9.7 Missions [Attached, #13]

Fr Dennis handed out a sheet of paper containing excerpts from the minutes of the Vancouver (1993) and the Ottawa (1996) assemblies. He asked "Is this the set of Guidelines we proposed, or has anything been done since?" It was agreed that the "Proposed Mission Guidelines" is indeed the latest document and that we should now change the word "proposed" to "final." The Bishop asked Fr Lawrence Farley, Fr Larry Reinheimer and Fr Rodion Luciuk to have one more look at these guidelines, decide if this is the best format to present, and decide if any final adjustments are needed. The Bishop also announced this time frame: the three cited above should complete their work by Pascha, circulate the document among Council members by mid-May, and then present their final version to the Bishop and the Chancellor, who would like to promulgate the "Final Mission Guidelines" at the Edmonton Assembly in July.

ACTION: FR LAWRENCE FARLEY, FR LARRY REINHEIMER, FR RODION LUCIUK.

9.10 Parish Structure [Attached, #14]

Fr Larry Reinheimer distributed the paper "Parish Ministries Model Proposal," essentially an explanation of how his own parish is structured to function, and answered questions about the model. The Bishop asked Fr Larry to create a narrative around this proposal so that we can distribute it to the assembly in July.

ACTION: FR LARRY REINHEIMER

9.12 Publications [Attached, #15]

In addition to the written report of Denis Lessard, Mother Sophia reported that Fr John Tkachuk has promised that his English version of the Finnish booklet on Orthodox

customs on CD will be in her hands soon. Richard Schneider reminded Mother Sophia to check with Eileen Sculley of the University of Western Ontario re: the possibility of using Novalis as a publisher.

ACTION: MOTHER SOPHIA

Richard Schneider also reported that our diocesan website, created largely by his son Michael, should be completed by the end of March. He reminded the Bishop that Michael needs a list of the parishes for this website. The website address is: web.ripnet.com/~zoe/

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM

Olga Jurgens reported that the Chronology is now in the hands of Fr Evan Lowig for revision. Fr Evan reported from the floor that he thinks it will not be a lengthy process to do this second edition.

There was then a brief discussion of translating the Archdiocesan stewardship pamphlet and the description-of-the-diocese pamphlet into Russian. Olga Jurgens volunteered to talk to Mother Dorofea (Mirochnitchenko) about this.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

9.5 Seminarians

His Grace gave the Council an account of every seminarian the diocese has currently: at St Vladimir's, St Andrews, St Serge, and in correspondence programmes.

8.11 Bishop's Administrative Aid

The Bishop said there simply is no money for this and, more important, certain other things have to happen to reveal God's will about this matter before it can become an actuality. He said that he thinks it is premature to push the matter at this time. Led by Nicholas Ignatieff, the Council wanted it known that the Bishop has their unanimous support to find the money if the right person comes along.

9.4 Stewardship

Mother Sophia asked David Grier to offer more articles like the excellent, down-to-earth, entertaining one he wrote to be published in the Messenger's Spring 2001 issue. David agreed to try to have another one ready by the summer issue deadline - April 15, 2001.

ACTION: DAVID GRIER

As the meeting, the last of the current triennium, drew to a close, the Chancellor said that :

- (1) we may need to departmentalize our Council work more in the future and,
- (2) we must get our reports in ahead of the meeting.

There was a suggestion that we e-mail our reports in to one person, such as the Bishop, for centralized distribution.

10 Date/Place of the Next Meeting

This will take place in Winnipeg October 26 – 28.

Nikita Lopoukhine stated again, and more fully, that he would like for the parish councils where we meet to give a report on their parish to the Council—parish profile, financial status, issues and problems of the parish, goals, etc. It would be a wonderful opportunity for parish–diocesan interaction, an opportunity for understanding and fruitful dialogue. Nikita said that he will write a note about what he wants from parish councils when we meet with them, and will circulate it among Archdiocesan Council members.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

The spring 2001 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council of the Archdiocese of Canada was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. with the singing of “It is truly meet.”

Respectfully submitted,
Nun Sophia (Zion)

Final Copy (03.11.2004)