

**Minutes of the Archdiocesan Council Meeting
Archdiocese of Canada, Orthodox Church in America
held at Christ the Saviour Sobor, Toronto, Ontario
May 2 - 4, 2003**

Council members in attendance at this meeting were:

Ruling Bishop of the Archdiocese, His Grace SERAPHIM
Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Archpriest Dennis Pihach
Treasurer of the Archdiocese, Nikita Lopoukhine
Western Secretary, Protodeacon Andrew Piasta
Eastern Secretary, Olga Jurgens
Dean of British Columbia, Archpriest Lawrence Farley
Dean of Manitoba/Saskatchewan, Priest Robert S Kennaugh
Assistant Dean of Manitoba/Saskatchewan, Priest Rodion Luciuk
Archpriest Larry Reinheimer
Priest Geoffrey Korz
David Grier
John Hadjinicolaou
Denis Lessard
Richard Schneider
Nun Sophia (Zion)

Council members absent with regret and with a blessing from the Bishop were:
Archpriest John Tkachuk, Higoumène Irénée (Rochon), Priest James Griggs, David Rystephanuk, and Rod Tkachuk.

Observers at various times over the two days of sessions were: Priest Alexie Kaluzhnyi, Priest Foti Cici, Héléne Culhane, Alban Hobdari, Alex Milochenko, Tina Parker, and CCC General Secretary, Dr Karen Hamilton.

Session I, held on Friday evening, May 2

The spring 2003 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council began with a moleben, served at 7:00 p.m. in the temple of Christ the Saviour Sobor, Toronto.

The Chancellor then called the meeting to order in the church upper hall at 8:15 p.m., with the singing of "Christ is Risen," roll call, and regrets. There followed a brief discussion and approval of the agenda (1.0).

2.0 Minutes of the previous meeting

There being no amendments to the Minutes of the Fall 2002 meeting, the Chancellor announced that the document was approved in principle, with the proofed text by Denis Lessard to be given to the Bishop for typographical corrections.

Chancellor's remarks

The Chancellor at this time said that he wanted to give those assembled a brief look at recent statistics in the diocese. In the past six to eight months, the Archdiocese of Canada has experienced the greatest acceleration of growth in fifteen years. There are now 55 priests, 14 deacons, two retired bishops and one ruling bishop. There are 17 parishes, 20 missions, two parishes asking to come into the diocese, and one parish we serve but which is not ours. In addition, there are three monasteries, five sketes, and one Bishop's chapel. Ten of the priests have either come to us or been ordained in the last little while, and five more clergy are in process of being brought into the Archdiocese.

Unit meetings

At this time the Council broke into the three Units (Administration, Programme, and Communication), to hold discussions and to plan presentations for the next day.

At 10:00 p.m. the session was concluded with the singing of "The Angel cried."

Session II, held on Saturday morning, May 3

The second session was brought to order at 9:00 a.m. with the singing of “Christ is risen.”

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

Because the Bishop’s report was not yet completed in printing, he delivered it orally, with the assurance that it would be delivered to Council members later by e-mail.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM

His Grace said that the general instability of world affairs, and certain matters of church diplomacy recently have kept Metropolitan HERMAN from travelling, so diplomatic travelling (which often involves Bishop Seraphim) has been postponed, perhaps until the Fall of 2003.

His Grace also stated that he has been appointed co-chairman by SCOBA of the Orthodox-Roman Catholic Bishops’ Dialogue. Largely because of this, he will be presenting a paper to the Orientale Lumen II Conference in Australia in July. Prior to that, in late May - early June, he will make a pilgrimage to Ukraine, keeping an eye open for clergy willing to be missionaries here in Canada. He also hopes to visit Poland at some time this year, as a result of an invitation from Metropolitan SAWA.

Because of the transition between priests at the Cathedral in Ottawa, His Grace will probably be tied down there for parts of two months in July and August: Fr Andrew Morbey leaves in mid-June and Fr John Jillions arrives in mid-August.

There is a great lack of clergy to meet all of our needs in the diocese. Overwork is a reality for most of the current clergy, and new ones are quickly almost overwhelmed. Some clergy cannot get health insurance, even in our diocesan plan, because they do not have enough income.

Vladyka said that he is gradually getting used to his new laptop computer. There has been a lot of trouble with the office computers recently. Protodeacon Cyprian Hutcheon is now helping with office routines, and His Grace has great hopes for him. In fact, the Protodeacon, Olga Jurgens, and H el ene Culhane have become “turbo-charged paper-handlers.” It should be noted too that telephone calls and office visits are very heavy when His Grace is at home.

He also said that he perceives a need for balance at home from all who reside there — not too much sense of compulsion from volunteers, and not too many demands from those being helped.

His Grace also said that the Holy Synod meeting in March gave the blessing for the Archdiocese to begin investigating candidates for Auxiliary Bishop. The Holy Synod at this meeting also confirmed that Archbishop Lazar and Bishop Varlaam were received into the Archdiocese of Canada, as retired bishops, on May 24, 2002.

Richard Schneider queried Vladyka about the possibility of the creation of a Patriarchal Russian diocese in North America. His Grace replied that this will be a very hard sell in the OCA.

6.0 Report of the Chancellor [*Attached, # 6*]

Archpriest Dennis Pihach spoke emphatically about several items in his written report.

With regard to clergy insurance, the Chancellor is very concerned that some of the priests who need it are not on this plan. This is a real liability for the Archdiocese. Deanery structures must be put in place and parishes forced to pay. He said that he believes we must be tough: if the parishes do not pay, the priest will be taken away. The insurance must be a condition of having a priest, unless the priest has a waiver of insurance from other work.

It should be noted to parishes also, he said, that in Canada, the priest, upon retirement, could sue his parish if it has not provided a retirement plan for him.

A letter will need to be sent to parishes which are in default on these insurance and retirement matters.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM, FR DENNIS PIHACH

Insurance of church buildings is a major concern, he stated. Also, we have more insurance on some of the rural parishes than we really need. We need a group policy for all our churches, because this would be much less expensive than insuring each individually. Fr Dennis has Mark Stesky of Ottawa shopping around on this. They have already discovered an agency in Saskatoon which, with a group policy, may save all the parishes of the diocese a lot of money on building insurance, and such a policy can be made to cover sexual abuse also.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

The Orthodox Foundation in Canada needs to be realized.

Why are some of our parishes not giving their fair share (which should be called “stewardship share”)? We must press that the stewardship share for each parish/mission

is 10%. This is our policy.

He noted also that the “Bishop’s Office West” for now is just the Chancellor’s office.

7.0 Reports of the Deans

7.1 Manitoba Deanery Report [*Attached, # 7.1*]

Fr Robert Kennaugh gave this written report.

7.2 Saskatchewan Deanery Report [*Attached, # 7.2*]

Fr Rodion Luciuk gave this written report.

7.3 Alberta Deanery Report [*Attached, # 7.3*]

Fr Dennis Pihach gave this written report.

7.4 British Columbia Deanery Report [*Attached, # 7.4*]

Fr Lawrence Farley gave this written report.

At the end of the deanery reports, the Bishop offered some information about the church’s growth in Toronto since the Council met last in the city. Since then, the Russian Mission in north Toronto, under Fr Nestor, has received an OCA planting grant. Also, Fr Nestor started a weekly Akathist/discussion group, primarily among English-speaking people, at the University of Toronto. Currently, there is also the beginning of a second Russian mission in Mississauga, west of Toronto, which meets every Saturday morning, and on all the twelve great feasts. It uses one of a group of three churches (Anglican, United, and Lutheran) which share a hall. In addition, there is now the St Astius Albanian mission in Toronto, led by Fr Foti Cici. Since the Council was last in Toronto, the Podvorie of St Tikhon has been established and has moved to Scarborough, in the eastern part of Toronto. Also, Fr Alexander Shkalov is serving for us at a Byelo-Russian parish belonging to Metropolitan Sotirios.

His Grace noted too, that this summer we will have two St Vladimir’s Seminary interns serving in Canada, one in Edmonton AB and the other in Yorkton SK.

9.0 Canadian Council of Churches

Bishop Seraphim introduced to the Archdiocesan Council the Rev'd Dr Karen Hamilton, the new General Secretary of the CCC, who currently is on a round of visiting all the member churches to introduce herself and to become familiar with these churches. Dr Hamilton said that she is working on the visibility of the CCC, and on convincing the churches of how important this ecumenical organization is. It is a very Canadian organization, founded in 1944 — a very dark time. It has always resisted being part of the American Council of Churches because it has always wanted a deliberately different way of being together, emphasizing *relationship* among the member churches in their endeavours in the fields of education, evangelism, and social service.

Membership now consists of 18 denominations, one associate member, and one observer. The Roman Catholics have been involved as members since 1995; the Orthodox for a long time. The Orthodox are very visible and important in the CCC, she stated, and she has been profoundly moved by what she has seen in the Orthodox churches.

The CCC has used the “forum” structure since 1995, largely inspired by Orthodox input. All of the churches have a voice at the table and the representatives are chosen and sent to the CCC by their churches (*i.e.*, the CCC does not request specific representatives who might be particularly favourable to the CCC). There is never any voting. There is either consensus, or churches decide whether or not they want to participate in any given project. This structure has enabled so much dialogue and allowed other churches to be there who formerly could not (*e.g.*, the Roman Catholics).

At the end of Dr Hamilton's presentation, the floor was opened for comments and questions. Prof Richard Schneider commented that although the CCC is strapped financially, they are trying to work out finances so that they can meet once a year in other places in the country besides Toronto, in order to expose the work of the CCC to a broader constituency.

Fr Geoffrey Korz asked about a newspaper report he had seen in the religious press that implied that all member churches of the CCC were in agreement with Bill C-250 which would make the Bible “hate literature.” Richard responded, but he had misunderstood what was Fr Geoffrey's reference, and explained a recent discussion on proposals for same-sex marriages which was done “forum-style” by the CCC. The Orthodox position was concentrated on the iconological arguments against, the Reformed on the scripture-based arguments against, and the United Church on the ethical position for. It was a forum of disagreement, he said, but it did not break the fellowship. Fr Geoffrey said, but did not explain, that he was referring to something different, and Prof Schneider thanked him for his expression of concern, as did Dr Hamilton who also emphasized that one often cannot

really trust the religious press to report accurately, and also that she was very glad to get an idea of how strong the opposition to same-sex marriages is among most Orthodox, since this is what her concentration is on currently — getting to know the mind set of the different member bodies.

Bishop Seraphim thanked Dr Hamilton for her brief visit, noting that he was happy that she had gotten a bit of a taste of the fact that the Orthodox will sometimes hold very different understandings and positions from other members of the CCC on various things which may come up for discussion. As she left the hall, Dr John Hadjinicolaou presented her with a copy of a book as thanks from the whole Council.

8.0 Report of the Treasurer [*Attached, # 8 & 8.1*]

Nikita Lopoukhine apologized that he had brought the wrong print-out of his report, but said that the one sent to Council members by e-mail was correct.

He called attention to his e-mailed “Notes” [*Attached, # 8.1*], and further commented that although overall contributions are down (by approximately \$3,000), this is significant because we have new parishes. Some parishes are contributing more, some less, and some never change. The most alarming fact is that the leading Russian parishes in Montreal and Toronto had drastically lowered their contributions without giving Nikita any notice beforehand. Especially he noted that the \$5,200 difference in revenue vs operating costs is approximately equal to the default of the Sobor of Sts Peter and Paul.

He noted that his quarterly letters had received little response, although encouragement to parishes to contribute toward the purchase of the Bishop’s car did bring a few responses.

He said that Council needs to give him advice on how best to oversee and keep track of expenditures in the Western office, noting also that we cannot be cavalier about our tax returns: Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) is making all returns available in a database. We are vulnerable, and must always closely follow the law in keeping track of finances.

ACTION: FINANCE COMMITTEE

That we now have two residences at Fair Haven and the instability of electrical costs in Ontario have raised the residential costs. He expects blackouts in Ontario this summer, as well as a rise in electrical costs. Travel costs are up, but every effort is being made to keep them down.

There are also increasing taxes on the diocesan properties at Fair Haven, and Nikita again

asked that we seek relief from these as a religious organization. Council members were in agreement that we must pursue getting tax relief for Fair Haven. The Bishop commented, however, that we dare not open the tax problem until our corporate status is assured. It is a complicated thing because the Archdiocese, for tax relief, must be registered for it under the Ontario Religious Societies Act (provincial), but taxes for the properties are a municipal matter. Seeking tax relief will require from the municipality this provincial registration, which would probably require a look at our federal incorporation, which Rod Tkachuk says is not at all certain. It was agreed that Fr Dennis will press Rod Tkachuk to clarify the corporate status of the diocese and make it firm so that we can be registered under the Ontario Religious Societies Act.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

Nikita asked where the tax bill for the Sifton property should be sent. Fr Bob Kennaugh said that he will confirm to Nikita that the address of the man in Sifton to whom it should be sent is correct in the parish directory.

ACTION: FR BOB KENNAUGH

The Bishop and Nikita said that the OCA is now insisting that Vladyka take a stipend (US\$630.00 per month). Nikita is receiving this and applying it to the costs of Fair Haven, rather than giving it to His Grace in salary. Nikita expressed anxiety that we are not keeping track of this money adequately, should the CCRA ask. It was proposed by several Council members that Nikita create a separate account for this money for the Bishop's use on expenses, on which His Grace could write cheques and therefore have a record of income and expenses, in order to be accountable to the CCRA for the OCA money. The Treasurer said that after consultation with the Administrative Unit at this meeting, as to how to set this up, he would do it.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

Nikita also asked where the money from the Ottawa cathedral collected for Bishop Seraphim's Ukraine pilgrimage should go, onto the cost of diocesan operations, or to the trip to the Ukraine. Council unanimously said "Ukraine."

The morning session was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. for luncheon in the church hall.

Session III, held on Saturday afternoon, May 3

The third session of the meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. with the singing of “Christ is risen.”

Continuing his financial report, the Treasurer said that there is a \$12,000.00 deficit in the budget. After further discussion, the budget was approved with this deficit. The Deans and the Chancellor will press defaulting parishes to pay. It should be announced to them that 10% of their income is the norm, but they can negotiate. Technically, however, they owe the diocese 10%. This is our policy, noted the Chancellor.

ACTION:

FRS. DENNIS PIHACH, LAWRENCE FARLEY, ROBERT KENNAUGH, RODION LUCIUK, AND JOHN TKACHUK.

It was suggested that Nikita talk to Mark Steski about the inclusion of Fair Haven on a group insurance policy for church property.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

His Grace asked the Treasurer to group the small parishes near Yorkton under “Yorkton rural parishes” in financial reports.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

The Treasurer said that he will adjust the budget with the deficit and send out a letter to parishes regarding their responsibilities.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

Search Committee

The Search Committee for an Auxiliary Bishop met with Bishop Seraphim, to discuss its progress. The Members present were: Fr Robert S Kennaugh, David Grier, Hélène Culhane.

4.0 Unit Reports

4.1 Programme

The Programme Unit suggested the following for Council’s approval:

That out of the Charity Fund the following grants be made:

\$800.00 to Fr Stacey Richter as a one-time grant of catch up on insurance.

\$500.00 to Fr Nikolai Nikolaev for the same purpose (above).

\$1,000.00 to Fr John Hainsworth for emergency dental work.

That out of the Seminarian Fund and the Bishop Office West funds be granted:

\$250.00 to Spencer Estabrook, for initial start-up costs for the Blessed Arseny School (\$100.00 from Seminarian Fund and \$150.00 from BOW).

That out of the Seminarian Fund the following grants be made:

\$1500.00 to 3rd year student Deacon Edward Hewlett

\$1500.00 to 3rd year student Richard René

\$700.00 to 3rd year student Anastasy Gallaher

All these grants were approved unanimously by Council.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

The Programme Unit also suggested that Fr Stacey Richter's request that Becky Machnee be made his official assistant, with the title Assistant Youth Coordinator of the Archdiocese, be approved [*see attached request, #4.1.a*]. Approved unanimously. The Chancellor will notify Fr Stacey and Becky.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

4.2 Communication

Denis Lessard began by saying that the Communication Unit still has questions for the Treasurer, to wit: Is there now a line-item in the budget for non-*Messenger* publications? Also, is the \$500.00 for *Living Orthodoxy* accounted for in the budget? Nikita's answer to both questions was affirmative.

***Lives of the North American Saints* (in French, from English):**

The biography of St Herman from the original has now been translated into French. Denis, the translator, now has the tropar, but he still lacks the akathist. Tina Parker, who was an observer at this session, said that she could give Denis a copy the next day. Denis has received the formal letter of request to publish from His Grace. He will send his translation with Vladyka's request to the Diocese of the West.

ACTION: DENIS LESSARD

[The request was sent last May, and to date there is no reply.]

The scriptographic book (in English, from Russian):

The translation by Fr John Tkachuk has been sent to Finland. They have offered copies for the Archdiocese. How many should we request? His Grace suggested 100 copies, both for archival purposes and to hold in reserve for situations where they might be required. Denis will write to Finland to make the request once Mother Sophia has given him the address. The original idea of approaching Novalis is being dropped because of unnecessary duplication.

ACTION: DENIS LESSARD, MOTHER SOPHIA

[The letter has been sent.]

***Living Orthodoxy* (in English, from French):**

Denis reported that the translation is complete and a new English preface has been done by Bishop Seraphim, so everything is ready to print (except the cover which is in preparation).

[This has now been published.]

The Bishop's book on Holy Communion (in French, from English):

This work, translated by Evelyn Dumas and typeset by Paul Ladouceur, is ready to print. Fr Irénée (Rochon) has ordered 50 copies; John Hadjinicolaou has ordered 100.

[This has now been published.]

The new Russian leaflets on the OCA and on stewardship:

Olga Jurgens still needs to get these leaflets proof-read by either Fr Irénée, Fr John Jillions, or Fr Nestor (Mikhailechko). His Grace confirmed in earlier Minutes that 500 copies should be made of each. When they are sent to parishes, a letter should go along explaining that they can photocopy and/or adapt.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

The old English and French OCA and stewardship brochures:

Olga Jurgens reported that almost all the old French and English brochures on stewardship and on the OCA have been distributed or destroyed: all French copies of both, except a few for the archives, have been sent to Fr Irénée; all the OCA English copies have been destroyed except for a few

for archives; and all stewardship brochures in English will be sent in a separate mailing to select parishes with a covering letter.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

[This has been done.]

New edition of the *Chronology*:

Ms Jurgens has reported that the communication difficulty between Prof Holden and K. Szalasznyi has been rectified, with the latter assisting the former collaboratively.

***Parish Directory*:**

This is kept up-to-date in Olga Jurgens' computer. Updated printouts are available upon request between triennial meetings.

Web page:

Olga Jurgens has reported that Fr John Hainsworth, who has volunteered to create the page, says that he foresees the site's being up and running by sometime in September 2003. Olga will send an abbreviated version of the Parish Directory (the regular one minus personal addresses) to Fr John when he is ready to put it on the site.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

Priorities for Denis Lessard:

Denis asked Council what his translation priorities should be. The Bishop and Council directed him to proceed in the following descending order:

1. Request for translation of the Instruction for readers (from *PSALM Notes*).
2. The longer biography of Blessed Archbishop Arseny by Fr John Hainsworth, first printed in *COM*.
3. The Lives of the Saints (perhaps doing St Peter the Aleut next). This is available on the website of Paul Ladouceur, *Thabor*.

Denis announced that, because of the heavy pressure of various factors in his daily life, he would be leaving the Council after the Saskatoon Assembly, and he suggested Paul Ladouceur as a replacement.

Metrical records:

At the end of the unit's report, Fr Dennis Pihach asked about the keeping of metrical records and what the policies are for archiving at Fair Haven. The Bishop clarified the following:

1. All functioning parishes keep the original record and send copies to Fair Haven (this includes the western parishes — all copies should now go to Fair Haven), and
2. The metrical records and copies of them from defunct parishes must be stored at Fair Haven.

The Bishop said he would communicate these policies to all the parishes, with instruction that the parishes that have not done so should photocopy their metrical books and send them to the Bishop's office.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM

At the conclusion of the unit report, David Grier requested that attachments to the minutes of each Council meeting should be scanned and included with the e-mailed minutes.

ACTION: MOTHER SOPHIA, BISHOP SERAPHIM, OLGA JURGENS

4.3 Administration

Members of the Administration Unit requested that there be a change in assigned tasks of the units, since experience at three meetings of the Council thus far indicates that their load is the heaviest. They asked that the matter of clergy pension and insurance be moved to the Programme Unit, and Council agreed.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

a. Properties:

The unit would like to initiate another fund-raising programme in order to purchase the second house across the road from the Archdiocesan office, possibly as a home for the Bishop. Mother Sophia was asked, and she agreed, to work with John Hadjinicolaou to produce a brochure (text, pictures, etc.) which would outline the history of the Metamorphosis of the Bishop's Residence fund-raising appeals, and emphasize the new project of buying the second house across the road, with the drive to begin in September 2003. John will need to get estimates of value on the second house, taxes and insurance, and possible needed repairs. He will ask Jeremy Scratch to assess the house's structure.

ACTION: JOHN HADJINICOLAOU, MOTHER SOPHIA

It was also suggested that we need to get an estimate on the fixing up of the first house across the road, the one in which Schemamonk Basile resides. John said that this could be done when Jeremy assesses the first house.

At this time the Bishop said that his estimate on the refitting of the main house, where the diocesan office is, with wood-fired oil-heating is approximately \$10,000.00. Such a refitting could really cut expenses on oil, electricity, etc.

Dr Hadjinicolaou noted that the mailing list for Metamorphosis must be updated before September, in time for the new Metamorphosis appeal. Also, address labels will have to be printed out for him.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM, OLGA JURGENS

c. Investments:

David Grier noted that although we lost a lot of money during the past two years as a result of economic downturn, the funds appear to be coming back now-it is hoped that the fall in stock prices has bottomed out. He said that Fr Phillip has not always been sending monthly reports, so these monthly reports must be requested of him again. David will remind him.

ACTION: DAVID GRIER

d. By-laws:

Although there was scheduled a discussion of By-laws, time did not permit.

e. Administration:

1. Office administration:

The Bishop reported that Protodeacon Cyprian is planning to come two times per week, starting in September.

2. Diocesan charitable foundation:

The Chancellor will write a fuller form of his proposal for this foundation and give to the Administrative Unit to work on.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

3. Mission projects with charitable donation status [*see attached, 4.3.e.*]:

Fr Dennis called attention to the letter from the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (02/13/03) allowing the issue of charitable donation receipts for the cost of the pilgrimage to Ukraine, if the cost of the travel is paid to the Diocese for missionary purposes (which the Bishop believes is proper, since we have now received several missionary priests for Canada from his contacts in

Ukraine), and the Diocese then buys the tickets. The Council approved of this, so the Treasurer will be able to issue receipts to the persons involved.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

11.0 Other business

11.1 Archbishop Arseny Glorification

After a brief discussion, the Bishop and the Archdiocesan Council reached the decision that “Blessed Archbishop Arseny” should be the term used in the Archives, in the Theological Institute in Winnipeg, and in all other references to this hierarchy.

[Subsequently, the Holy Synod directed that “Blessed” was not an Orthodox term. It must be “St” or “Holy” or some like term, or perhaps simply “Archbishop Arseny”.]

11.2 Metropolitan Council Report

Richard Schneider began by saying that he thinks that the most recent meeting of the Metropolitan Council — over the telephone and across three countries — was a great impediment to dialogue. The issue was fair-share funding of the “dream budget,” but there is a big shortfall and cuts were huge to balance the budget. All this was done in advance, and the MC was told to approve. He said that the net effect of these massive cuts is a lot of administrative cutbacks at Syosset (people lost jobs, etc.), and those remaining have more stress because of heavier job loads. He further said that there is now a day-to-day concentration of decision-making at the very top. No date for the spring meeting had been set at the time of this Archdiocesan Council meeting.

His Grace said there is a re-working of the OCA Statute in the works, and this will probably affect the Metropolitan Council.

11.3 Canadian Council of Churches Report

Richard Schneider reported that the forum model continues to work well. He believes that because of it there has been singular success in the areas of (1) church and state (the CCC had a real impact on the federal government with regard to Iraq) and (2) biotechnology. In the latter area, there is a historical Canadian success on the OncoMouse: the Canadian government, on which Richard believes the CCC had a major impact in this area, has refused to allow Harvard to patent the mouse in Canada, saying that life must not be patented.

He said that the two CCC commissions in which we take part have also done well. Faith and Witness has just produced a pamphlet on Christian anthropology. (He noted that only in Canada is this commission called “Faith and Witness.” Elsewhere it is “Faith and Order.” The Canadian designation is clearly related to forum model and to bearing witness, rather than trying to force agreement, which is the reason Orthodox can be there — to bear witness). The Peace and Justice Commission is currently at work on terrorism, anti-racism, globalization, and health care (Romanow report).

The two commissions together produced an ecumenical prayer service in Toronto which was held just prior to the war in Iraq. All the members of the CCC had representatives present for this.

There is little tension in the CCC. Where tension is coming, however, is in any interfaith discussion in which the CCC takes part. At the moment Christians and Moslems seem to be getting closer together, and Christians and Jews farther apart. Recently the Canadian Jewish Congress walked out of a joint meeting, thinking that the CCC supports the Palestinians.

On the financial side, the CCC is in big trouble, largely because its largest member churches are in financial straits, primarily because of residential schools legal settlements. As small as our own Archdiocesan contribution is, it is nevertheless being used as a model of responsible behaviour, since at our last Council meeting we raised our contribution from \$300.00 to \$500.00 a year.

At this juncture, Fr Geoffrey Korz brought up the newspaper article he had alluded to earlier in the day when Dr Hamilton was present. It concerns Bill C-250, proposed by Svend Robinson, that would make illegal anything seeming to condemn homosexual activity as “hate literature,” which could include the Bible. Richard said that he would take the article to the governing board of the CCC, because the article does make it appear that the OCA is supportive of the bill, and see what can be done about it.

ACTION: RICHARD SCHNEIDER

Richard further noted that there is in our church an “official opposition” to the OCA’s official policy of taking part in ecumenical discussions. He is also aware that Frs Lawrence Farley and Geoffrey Korz represent the opposition position, and that he is grateful for both their watchfulness and their frankness. Things like this warped newspaper article should be sent immediately to Richard so that he can straighten things out. Our reason to be in the CCC, he said in conclusion, is *witness*, not “unity.” He assured all that he will respond to this article, and to Bill C-250 on the Governing Board.

ACTION: RICHARD SCHNEIDER

11.4 All American Council 2005

Fr Dennis, when queried about the Holy Synod's decision to hold the 2005 All American Council in Toronto, said that after what he had observed in Orlando (where the Syosset staff did almost all the planning and streamlined the work), he is confident that Toronto will be managed the same way.

11.5 Canadian Assembly in Saskatoon, 2004

David Grier reported that the Clergy Synaxis, the Assembly, and the banquet are all booked for the 3rd week in July. Bishop JOB has agreed to be the keynote speaker. Subcommittees will be formed later in May of this year. There has been a \$600.00 advance from the Treasurer. Fr Dennis said that the music books are in Edmonton, and arrangements should be made to transfer them to Saskatoon.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH, DAVID GRIER

11.6 Retired Bishops

The Bishop announced that we now have two retired bishops in the diocese: Archbishop Lazar (Puhalo), and Bishop Varlaam (Novakshonoff), who reside in the Monastery of All Saints of North America in Dewdney, BC. They have with them also a priest and a deacon, and St Nicholas' Church in Langley, BC, a metochion (podvoriye) of the Monastery, which has also entered our diocese.

11.7 Auxiliary Bishop [*attached # 11.7*]

The Bishop noted that finances for an auxiliary bishop will have to be worked on. At this time, we can only afford part time, so the candidate must be put in a parish where there will be at least a priest and a deacon also. The Chancellor urged that we need a presence in the West. For now, everyone in the diocese who is even remotely eligible is on the list of possibilities. Fr John Tkachuk is working on a methodology for narrowing down the list (see his attached e-mail note). The Bishop hopes that we can come to a list of at least three names to give to the Holy Synod, thoroughly investigated.

11.8 Meetings of the Archdiocesan Council

The Chancellor, with a view to cutting travel costs, said he has been thinking that perhaps the Council could hold one yearly meeting all together, and a second meeting each year on a regional basis. For example, at the regional meetings would always be the Bishop, Chancellor and Treasurer, but those on the programme unit would always meet in the west, those on the Communication Unit always in the east, and the administration unit could be divided with incorporation, bylaws, etc. in the west and properties, investments, etc. in the east.

There was a lengthy discussion of this proposal, but in the end Council agreed with the Treasurer, who said that he believes such a move would tend to fracture the diocese between east and west, a problem which we have been working over a decade to overcome. One of the reasons for the Archdiocesan Council is to create union, not polarization, he said. The proposal was not carried.

The next meeting of the Archdiocesan Council will be held in Ottawa 24 - 26 October, 2003. It is hoped that the spring 2004 meeting could be held in Vancouver.

At the end of the session, John Hadjinicolaou highlighted the recent University of Sherbrooke Orthodox Colloquium in Montreal, and the upcoming courses in Montreal and Toronto in September. Fr Paulos Koumarianos, of the Greek Metropolis, is going to the USA ; Richard Schneider, and Andreas Andreopoulos will oversee and teach in Toronto. At the conclusion of John's words, Bishop Seraphim thanked him for the extensive organizing work he has done for the diocese for so many years.

The spring meeting of the Archdiocesan Council was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. with the singing of "The Angel cried."

Respectfully submitted,
Nun Sophia (Zion)