

**Minutes of the Archdiocesan Council Meeting
Archdiocese of Canada, Orthodox Church in America
Holy Trinity Sobor, Winnipeg, Manitoba
and St Nicholas' Church, Naryl, Manitoba
23 - 25 April 2004**

Council members in attendance at this meeting were:

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

Council members absent with regret and with a blessing from the Bishop were Archpriest John Jillions, Priest James Griggs, and David Rystephanuk.

Observers and guests at various times over the two days of sessions were: Archpriest Anatoly Melnyk, Priest Myrone Klysh, Protodeacon Raphael Cole, Deacon Ignatius Rigden-Briscall, Al Donald, Spencer Estabrooks, Dianne Kennaugh, and Ivan Lazaruk.

Session I, held on Friday afternoon April 23

The spring 2004 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council began at 1:00 p.m. in the temple of Holy Trinity Sobor with a moleben served by Archpriest Dennis Pihach (1.0). The meeting then moved to the church hall next door.

The Chancellor called the meeting to order in the church hall at 1:30 p.m., with the singing of “Christ is risen,” roll call and regrets (2.0). There followed a brief discussion and approval of the agenda (4.0).

3.0 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Chancellor quickly went through the “action portions” of the last meeting’s minutes:

p.2-3: Fr Dennis reported that the action re: Sifton was done.

p.5: Fr John Jillions will report at the Assembly in Saskatoon on the concept of “a cathedral for the diocese.”

p.6: Rod Tkachuk said that he will present possible changes to the by-laws later, because the Holy Synod is now in process of revising the OCA Statutes, and for now we must wait.

p.7: Nikita Lopoukhine said that Brent Magee wrote a most excellent article on the diocesan financial shortfall and stewardship in the spring issue of *COM*. Thus there was no need of such an article from him. But he also suggested that in the minutes the term “shakedown” should be replaced by “encourage.”

p.8: Mother Sophia said that the Bishop wrote the piece about the diocesan deficit, and it appeared in the winter issue of *COM*.

p.9: Rod Tkachuk reported that he had mailed out the copies of the book on stewardship, as promised.

p. 8-9: Olga Jurgens reported that she and the Bishop have mailed out a letter concerning the guidelines on sexual misconduct. Rod Tkachuk said that he has obtained a copy of the insurance policy on Fair Haven and found the wording of the policy very difficult. He thinks the liability may cover the board of directors, but may include only employment situations; also, the coverage seems narrow and does not seem to be sensitive to our situation. It definitely does not cover parishes of the diocese. [Fr Dennis added that he and Fr Philip Eriksson are looking into a group policy for all

the parishes on property, and liability insurance; but more of that later in the meeting.] Nikita Lopoukhine also added that last year we went through a process of getting a certified accountant's report of our finances to the insurer, in order to get the liability renewed. This CA work was done by a volunteer, and saved the diocese considerable money. It will serve as the foundation for all future renewal contracts.

p.9: Fr Lawrence Farley said that Deacon Ignatius Rigden-Briscall will speak later in the meeting on his parish's sexual abuse workshop.

p.9-11: Denis Lessard suggested that all communications "actions" be discussed when the results of the communications unit meeting is reported to the whole.

p.11: The programmes unit has distributed money as requested, except that the money approved for Fr John Hainsworth did not have to be sent, the Church Planting Grant monies having arrived earlier than expected.

p.12: Dr John Hadjinicolaou said he would speak on property negotiations later.

The minutes were approved with corrections.

5.0 Ruling Bishop's Report *[see attached, #5]*

Since the Bishop was not yet present, the Chancellor commended the report to members' reading, and suggested that the Bishop might have more to say the next day, upon his return from the Republic of Georgia.

5.1 Chancellor's Report *[see attached, #6.1]*

Fr Dennis Pihach summarised over his written report, and suggested that the communications unit be the one to come up with ideas with regard to a central system for processing diocesan names, addresses, etc., which would be timely and available for the bishop, the eastern and western offices, the website, etc.

6.0 Regional Reports

7.1 British Columbia Deanery *[see attached, # 6.2]*

Fr Lawrence Farley gave this report, attached.

6.3 Alberta Deanery *[see attached, #6.3]*

Fr Dennis Pihach gave this report, attached.

6.4 Saskatchewan Deanery

In the absence of the new dean, Fr Orest Olekshy, who will take office after the Assembly in July, Fr Rodion Luciuk and David Grier spoke briefly. First, David said that Fr Orest asked him to request a grant from the Charities Fund to aid Fr Anastasy Richter in Moose Jaw, where the parish is struggling financially. Then Fr Rod discussed the mission work that he has been doing in Canora SK since the last meeting of Council. This is a Ukrainian community, and it is the area where St Arseny was shot.

6.5 Manitoba Deanery [see attached, #6.5]

Fr Robert Kennaugh gave this report, attached.

6.6. Ontario Deanery

In the absence of the Dean, Fr John Jillions, four people spoke. Fr Geoffrey Korz said that Fr John Jillions has a difficult portfolio, especially in the sometimes confusing world of Toronto, where chaos sometimes seems to reign. We may have as many as seven missions there now, but there is often conflict between churches, missions, interest groups, etc. Fr Foti Cici is now primarily located in Toronto. He had over 150 present for Pascha at his Albanian mission there. Christ the Saviour is now an almost all-Russian community, and there were over a thousand persons present for Pascha. At St Seraphim's, Igumen Nestor (Mikhailechko) has baptized several Iranian Moslems and Iranian Jews this year.

Mother Sophia, upon queries from the Dean of BC, reported that Fr James Griggs is half-time in Brockville, on loan to the Greek Metropolia, and half-time in Kingston, serving our parish. When she was at St Gregory's on Thomas Sunday, Fr James expressed very strongly his joy at how well the Kingston parish had pulled together to celebrate the last days of Holy Week and the Pascha with the supply priest, Fr Waldemar Kuchta, while he himself had to be away serving in Brockville. He appeared to be greatly encouraged by this. She said she believes that he is very committed to St Gregory's, but the parish appears to be unable to support a full-time priest with a family at this time, so the assignment in Brockville has moderated some financial strain ; and Kingston is where his home is, right beside the church.

Nikita Lopoukhine said that they think the Cathedral is doing well at this time, although some say there is a sense that it has "plateaued" in terms of more and more people attending. The Paschal attendance seemed to be a

bit less than last year (and the space more comfortable!), but this is not really a problem, rather a normal development, and the outlook is really positive. It was also noted that Fr John Jillions is being interviewed for a permanent teaching position at St Paul's.

6.7 Québec and Maritimes Deanery

Fr Irénée (Rochon) reported that the monks in Halifax have sold their house where the mission parish's chapel was and have moved into the country to form a skete. This puts the parish under some strain to find suitable accommodations. He said that in Newfoundland, Fr Oleg Razumov is working with very poor immigrants, so he needs anything and everything that other parishes can donate to him in the way of ecclesiastical goods. Fr Foti Cici is serving liturgy for Albanians once a month at St-Benoît de Nursie, following the parish's own French liturgy. In Rawdon, Fr Daniel Baeyens and Deacon Pao are holding both the regular parish weekend services and daily vespers at the Skete. There are adult persons also being baptized. The parish of St Benoît de Nursie is better now, and for the first time in a long while, people are beginning to think of moving to better accommodations.

7.0 Treasurer's Report [see attached, #7 and #7.1]

Nikita Lopoukhine made several remarks related to his written report. He said that he is now closing the books on 2003 with an excess of \$5,000.00 in operational funds, because (1) he did not transfer any funds to Syosset based on the advice of our solicitor that Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency will not allow it ; and (2) the expected usual amounts from parishes did finally come in during the 4th quarter.

We did overspend substantially and were over-budget on several things, including costs of insurance, heat and electricity and increased taxes, and travel expenses. Council asked him to break down the travel expenses into recoverable and non-recoverable expenses in future reporting.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

He pointed out also that there is a new line item, Archives, and money will be shown for the receipt of grants and for our expenditures on this.

Upon query, there was an extended discussion as he noted that the Bishop wants the small salary he receives from Syosset (\$12,000.00 US per year), which was being placed in an account for the support of Fair Haven, to be now temporarily directed to the St Seraphim's Mission in Toronto. John Hadjinicolaou expressed concern that we develop a policy about Mission financial support, something that is now lacking.

There was a motion from Dr John Hadjinicolaou that the Bishop's remuneration from the Archdiocese be raised by \$3,000.00 per year, proposing that this could be taken from the Syosset/Central Church Administration (Paper) line without changing the overall budget amount. After some discussion, this motion was tabled until after the evening meeting of the Administrative Unit, when the unit will decide how to re-balance the budget.

At this point, because of time concerns, Fr Dennis asked the Treasurer to defer the rest of his remarks until after the next presentation.

9.0 Presentation on clergy insurance *[see attached #9.1 and #9.2]*

The Chancellor presented Mr Al Donald, who is the broker for the diocesan clergy insurance packages. Mr Donald handed out copies of Desjardins' Evangelical Pastors Group policy no. 400419 *[#9.1]* and Sun Life's Evangelical Pastors Group contract no. 22332 *[#9.2]*. He explained that Sun Life offers life and disability insurance; Desjardins offers a small death benefit, health, dental, and vision services insurance. The group contains around 210 persons now, many of them young, which lowers the premium costs. The disability insurance covers only the OCA employment, so other employment which a person may hold will not be covered. The disability portion covers 2/3 of gross pay minus taxes, so it comes to almost 80%. It is definitely the health portion of the insurance which is the most expensive. Clergy in the group may choose which portions of the packages they want to pay for (e.g., many do not opt for the disability because they have other employment also). Upon query he also said that volunteer workers for the church (such as monastics) may also be eligible for these packages if it can be documented that their volunteer work for the church involves at least 50% of the time a paid position would normally require.

7.0 Treasurer's Report *(continued)*

Nikita Lopoukhine reported that since his written report, the amount in the Metamorphosis fund has risen to \$37,000.00.

8.0 Presentation on planned giving, first part

Deacon Ignatius Rigden-Briscall, by means of a "Power Point" presentation, presented concepts related to stewardship vs fund-raising.

The session was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. with the singing of "The Angel cried," and then members went to the downstairs hall where the ladies of Holy Trinity had prepared a supper **(10.0)** for them.

Session II, held on Friday evening, April 23

Upon returning from supper at 7:00 p.m., the members of Council then separated into their respective units to discuss and create reports to be presented to the meeting as a whole the next day. This session had no formal ending, since some committees met for a longer time than others.

During these unit sessions, the Chancellor came around to each unit and asked if all were in agreement with Dr Hadjinicolaou's motion that the Bishop's remuneration be raised by \$3,000.00 per year. All were, so the motion was considered passed.

Session III, held on Saturday morning, April 24

The third session of the meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. in the hall of St Nicholas' Church Narol, with the singing of "Christ is risen." The bishop was now present, and, as before, the Chancellor was in the chair.

The Chancellor then announced that Dr John Hadjinicolaou's motion of the day before, to raise the Bishop's remuneration by \$3,000.00 per year, had been unanimously approved by all of the Council members.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

5.0 Bishop's Report *[see attached, #5]*

The Bishop began by relating some details of interest about the "state visit" to the Republic of Georgia with Metropolitan Herman, from which he had returned the evening before. The visit was made to give the Metropolitan the opportunity to serve for the first time with Patriarch/Catholicos Ilia II of Georgia, as part of the traditional visits of a newly-enthroned primate.

Because of Archbishop Peter's illness, Bishop Seraphim must now be "acting chair" of External Affairs for the Holy Synod. This will entail much more travel, external to Canada, in the next while. Already projected for this year are:

- June.
- pilgrimage to Latvia and Russia with the Tikhvin icon in the middle of
 - possibly to Czech Lands and Slovakia in September
 - Byelorussia in October
 - Russia in early December
 - possibly another visit to Georgia in December when new Tblisi cathedral is built.

During the time of the Bishop's report, there was a discussion of the Fair Haven properties, because this was mentioned in the report. Dr John Hadjinicolaou said

that he will send someone to evaluate the repairs needed at both 2801 and 2800 Newman Road, the main, original house and the second building.

ACTION: DR JOHN HADJINICOLAOU

11.0 Reports from the Units

11.1 Administration Unit

Rod Tkachuk reported for this unit.

A. Real Estate: The unit received the report of the Metamorphosis Project [see 11.1, attached]. About \$20,000 was raised from The Sign in one weekend last spring, another \$13,500 since the brochure went out. There should soon be around \$50,000 in the fund. Dr Hadjinicolaou expects that more will come in over the next three or four months. Negotiations have not begun on the property yet.

B. 2004 budget: The unit has approved the 2004 budget with a few line-item changes.

B. Financing plans for administrative assistant and auxiliary bishop: There was discussion, but no concrete results yet. Some ideas about having the assistant room and board at Fair Haven, with a small stipend, were discussed, but no conclusion was reached.

B. Missions: The unit had concerns about the re-allocation of funds to one particular mission, funds which the budget had directed for the support of Fair Haven.

B. Stewardship foundation of some kind: Again, there were discussions, but no resolutions.

C. Investments: These have increased by 8% in the past six months.

The Bishop asked a question about trustees for the property of the diocese. The corporate status of the diocese is that of “voluntary association”; do we need trustees for the diocesan property? Rod Tkachuk replied that in Ontario the diocese can hold property without trustees. The matter of trustees should be on a property to property basis, as well as province to province basis.

Fr Larry Reinheimer commended John Hadjinicolaou for the beautiful Metamorphosis brochure. John then urged that the diocesan mailing list be updated, because about two hundred of the brochures were returned. The

Bishop said that the main mailing list has not really had an update in a long time. Dr Hadjinicolaou said that this should be a priority.

The Chancellor said that the Communications Unit must look into how to create a system of rapid, coordinated updating of the mailing list.

ACTION: COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

There was agreement that the same committee struck before should be used for the negotiations on the property across the street from Fair Haven, at #2802, next to 2800 Newman Road

ACTION: DR JOHN HADJINICOLAOU, NIKITA LOPOUKHINE, THOMAS TILBROOK

The Bishop then explained his moving of funds from the support of Fair Haven to the support of St Seraphim's Mission in Toronto. He said it is definitely temporary. The mission needs basic lessons on parish funding. Bishop Seraphim directed that Fr Dennis see to this – he has the language, and he understands the mentality. He will later go to Toronto to tell them how the support of the Church is undertaken in North America. Fr Dennis added that he will try to help them create a parish council and a stewardship programme; these structures have to be put in place, he said.

Dr Hadjinicolaou noted that the Archdiocesan Council is not concerned about how the Bishop uses his discretionary fund; they are his to do with as he will. They are concerned that the diocese properly create a structure for financing missions, so that ad-hoc support is not so much needed.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

11.2 Programme Unit

Fr Lawrence Farley spoke for the unit.

He said that the unit proposed the following dispersals of money:

- The \$641.81 left in the Project Mexico Fund should be sent to Fr Larry Reinheimer to be used on the rental of a van for the next trip (August 18) which Fr Larry and a group of young people will make for home-building in Mexico.

- From the charities fund, \$2,000.00 should be sent to Fr Anastasy Richter in Moose Jaw for assistance. The request is from Fr Orest Olekshy.

- There is no money left in the missions fund, so the response to a request from the mission in Halifax will have to be negative. Fr

Lawrence pointed out that their letter, from a Mr Olsen, was very vague. He will write to them, explaining that there is no money for mission assistance at the present time, but encouraging them to write at a later date and giving them instructions to offer more specific details of their needs.

- From the seminaries/education fund, \$1,000.00 should be sent to Richard René to help with his seminary debt.

- The Chancellor has requested a one-time cost of insurance to be sent to Fr Johanna Ayoub. The Chancellor will handle the exact amount (about \$251.00) with the Treasurer.

The requested dispersals of money were unanimously approved by the Council.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

11.3 Communications Unit

Denis Lessard gave the report for this unit.

He said that the unit has dropped the project of having Denis translate the lives of the North American saints into French, because Paul Ladouceur is working on a project to collect the lives of the North American saints in French, and is already in the process of putting them on his French website, where they will be available to all.

He said that Mother Sophia has reported that the Bishop did write to Finland to find out what happened to Fr John Tkachuk's translation of the scriptographic booklet on Orthodoxy into English. They replied that publication has been delayed, but that when it is printed, they will send the diocese copies.

He said that Olga Jurgens reported that the Russian brochure on the OCA has been re-written, and is almost ready to send to the printer. The other pamphlet, on stewardship, was shown to Fr Oleg Razumov who believes it should be completely re-written to be understandable to immigrants newly-arrived from Russia. We have to find a writer who both understands our system of financing churches, and is able to explain this to Russians, who are used to the Church's collecting the money from some other place or sponsors. It is possible that Fr Oleg Razumov could do the brochure himself, once he understands our system.

Olga Jurgens also noted that the Chronology is advancing, according to Prof. Kyrill Holden, who is doing the work. She called him in January,

and he said that he would send a progress report by e-mail to the Bishop, but this did not materialize yet. He has not been able to give a new time-frame. After checking with the Bishop to see if he has received the e-mail subsequently, if he has not, she will call again, and say that the Council is asking.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

As to the Parish Directory, Denis said that Olga Jurgens reported that the only dean who had sent in address changes as requested was Fr Lawrence Farley. By agreement with the Chancellor, the up-dating of the directory will be done as before.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

Denis reported that the article for Readers from *Psalms* which the Bishop has asked him to translate into French should be ready in time for the Assembly.

ACTION: DENIS LESSARD

Denis also noted that the project of collecting Bishop Seraphim's writings, taken from the "From the Bishop's desk" column in *COM* and other presentations, and collected by Katya Szalasznyj and Mother Magdalen, is in the process of being published by Alexander Press, and should be for sale at the Assembly.

A discussion developed, which revealed the concern about the lack of a central clearing house for website changes, diocesan mailing list changes, etc. There is a great need for a central maintenance person. Several Council Members spoke, urging that this be made a priority, and everyone seemed supportive about having one e-mail address to which any and all changes of address could be sent (but not the Bishop's address). Some said that there should be clear directives to parish priests, that they send in changes immediately. The Bishop said that the e-mail address for changes should also be given through the website.

After discussion, it seemed appropriate that Protodeacon Andrew Piasta and Fr Rodion Luciuk work on a computer programme for this. Then it was decided that perhaps Fr Dennis and Protodeacon Andrew could work on coordinating a system of updating of addresses. This is wholly separate from the matter of a website manager, which they will also discuss, and for which they will try to find a candidate. First, Protodeacon Andrew is to write to Fr John Hainsworth and get him to create an e-mail address on the website to which changes can be sent. Also, Fr Dennis and Protodeacon Andrew will make a report about all of this to the Assembly.

**ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH, FR RODION LUCIUK,
PROTODEACON ANDREW PIASTA**

This session was concluded at 12:30 p.m. so that Council members could enjoy a luncheon (13.0) prepared by the ladies of St Nicholas' Church.

Session IV, held on Saturday afternoon, April 24

The meeting was called to order again at 1:30 p.m.

12.0 Presentation on planned giving, second part

Deacon Ignatius Rigden-Briscall led an open discussion on education for stewardship in the diocese, and on project development. Under project development, Council members mentioned mission support, clergy development/training, support for the Cathedral, administrative support for the diocesan office, and the Metamorphosis project for the development of Fair Haven (the last a sterling example of success in the area of project development).

Under the topic of stewardship, there was a question of what is needed: A dynamic specialist on stewardship? A handbook on stewardship? Diocesan conferences/workshops on stewardship? A specialist to design and lead workshops for each particular parish situation? There was definitely expressed the need for vision and communication in the area of stewardship, and this vision and direction should definitely be given at the Assembly.

Deacon Ignatius said that he wishes the diocese had (1) a task-force to talk and plan stewardship vision; and (2) a person in charge of stewardship in the diocese (to coordinate, lead workshops, etc.)

At first the Chancellor said that unfortunately the diocese does not have at this time the funds to employ a person in charge of stewardship workshops, etc., but that he would as of this meeting appoint a small committee to decide what to do next, and what to present to the Assembly on stewardship. He then appointed a committee: John Hadjinicolaou, Rod Tkachuk, and Nikita Lopoukhine, with input from Fr Dennis. Then Dr Hadjinicolaou proposed that Deacon Ignatius prepare some “tips for stewardship” to be present at the Assembly.

**ACTION: DEACON IGNATIUS RIGDEN-BRISCALL,
WITH GUIDANCE FROM FR DENNIS PIHACH**

The Bishop commented that we have to prepare the diocese for how to live as Christians, with generosity, with open hearts, and open hands.

The Bishop, the Chancellor, and David Grier are to let the Assembly Committee know that Deacon Ignatius will be giving a “pep talk and tips” on stewardship at the Assembly, and that this must be put on the agenda.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM, FR DENNIS PIHACH, DAVID GRIER

14.0 Archdiocesan Assembly

David Grier said that the Assembly registration packet has been sent out. The agenda is to be planned after this Council meeting. The Bishop said some words of clarification about the nomination process for the auxiliary bishop. He said that he intends to have people rank the five candidates from 5 to 1 for each. From these rankings he will decide whom to nominate. And it may in the end also involve a drawing of lots.

[A few days after this Council meeting, David Grier contacted all the members by e-mail with the following message:

Subsequent to my brief report about the next steps in the Auxiliary Bishop nomination process, His Grace, through interaction with a number of council members, including both committee members present, revised the process to be as follows:

1. Each voting delegate at the Assembly will write ONLY his/her first choice for Aux Bishop
(i.e. vote for one person only).
2. The vote will take place on Thursday.
3. His Grace Bishop Seraphim ALONE will count the ballots and rank the candidates.
4. HG will think and pray about the ballot results overnight and through the Friday liturgy.
5. HG may select to use a "lot" process to discern the Lord's will.
6. HG will probably announce HIS selection after the Friday liturgy.
7. HG will NOT announce the results of the balloting.

The selection of a person for the position of Auxiliary Bishop is entirely the prerogative of the Ruling Bishop. The balloting process is only to inform him of the choice of the people. He does not have to choose the person the people selected or inform us of who the people selected. Informing us of the ranking and voting numbers would only be divisive and tempt us to sin.]

15.0 Metropolitan Council and All American Council

15.1 Metropolitan Council

Richard Schneider said that there was really nothing to report because two out of the last three meetings of Metropolitan Council were cancelled at the last minute, and the last of the three meetings was very routine. He said that finances were given as the reason for the cancellations. He thinks that this situation is very serious because it represents a breakdown of sobornost (and thus of the Statute and the spirit of the OCA). He said that he is planning to write a letter to Metropolitan Herman, with a copy to the OCA Chancellor, expressing politely his concern that there is a breakdown in the special ethos of the OCA. He asked for Council's agreement in support of this letter because he plans to cite our own diocesan decision to continue the twice-yearly meetings of representatives from the whole

diocese, even though there are serious financial concerns related to this decision – that is, when we had to make the same decision, we voted in favour of sobornost. Council did give Professor Schneider the permission to cite our example.

ACTION: RICHARD SCHNEIDER

15.2 All-American Council

Professor Schneider noted that a local committee in Toronto has been appointed up.

16.0 St Arseny Orthodox Christian Theological Institute [see attached, #16.0]

Spencer Estabrooks went over his written report.

The Bishop directed Spencer Estabrooks to write to the OCA Department of Archives with all the evidence of St Arseny's influence on both mission in the Archdiocese, and on the Institute's remarkable development, and the association of all this with the intercessions of Archbishop Arseny.

Mother Sophia said that she thought that Mr Estabrooks, as well as Fathers Anatoly Melnyk, Myrone Klysh, and Robert Kennaugh should be commended for a beautiful and inspiring report to the Council. Council then applauded with unanimous agreement.

17.0 Archbishop Arseny Glorification

The Bishop says that he wants more of St Arseny's writings, etc., translated as soon as possible. From our diocese, the committee is to be made up of Fr John Hainsworth, Ms Katya Szalasznyj, Kyrill Holden, Fr Anatoly Melnyk, Fr Dennis Pihach, and Fr Andrew Morbey (although not in our diocese anymore, the latter began the translation project).

The Bishop said that the St Arseny Institute is an excellent example of putting Christ first, and being self-starters, as are our clergy and missions. If we offer the Lord our work, He will bring fruit.

18.0 Clergy insurance

Fr Dennis said that things are going well now, after a year-and-a-half of getting the package together, and enrolling the clergy.

19.0 Canadian Council of Churches [see attached, #19]

Richard Schneider presented this written report, attached.

20.0 New Business

20 a Group property insurance

Fr Dennis Pihach said that he and Fr Philip Eriksson are working on getting a group insurance for all the parishes in the diocese. They are finding that the rates for a large group could potentially save about 30%. Such a policy would cover all the parishes and missions, as well as the diocesan properties, wherever located. He said that if the Council agrees, the insurance company will send out packets to each parish for evaluation. It will take a full year for the group to be fully developed, because any given parish can only come into the group at the date on which its current policy expires. Not all parishes have to join to make the group work, only enough to achieve a significant savings. The insurance will cover fire, theft, vandalism, liability (including for sexual misconduct—which is prohibitively expensive or even impossible to get on individual policies). The more parishes that apply, the lower the rates will be, so we should encourage this. The real selling point: affordable sexual misconduct insurance.

Council gave Fr Dennis the approval to send out the packet as soon as possible.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

20 b Abuse Regulations

Deacon Ignatius, who is a social worker by profession, gave a presentation on the education programme/workshop which he and Fr Lawrence Farley have developed at St Herman's in Surrey in response to the OCA's policy guidelines on this subject. He briefly showed Council the points made in the parish workshops on prevention of abuse.

Council agreed that every parish should receive a copy of this excellent programme, both in hard copy and on CD, with a letter from the Bishop recommending it. There should also be a presentation at the Assembly. As well, a yearly written reminder should go out to priests, reminding them that all who work with children and youth should go through this workshop. The package should be given out at the Assembly, and then for those not present, mailed out. **ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM, FR DENNIS PIHACH, DEACON IGNATIUS RIGDEN- BRISCALL**

20 c Structure of new council

- For the lay members of Council, each parish/mission has one vote to nominate a lay delegate to Council. This voting should take place at a deanery meeting.
- A total of six laypersons will be nominated for Council membership (one per deanery). There was concern about the results of possible nominations from the floor. Fr Dennis added that he will try to help them create a parish council and a stewardship programme; these structures have to be put in place, he said.
- Clergy members will be the six Deans.
- Deans who are elected by the rectors of the deanery are appointed by the Bishop for three years, so terms may not coincide exactly with the term between Assemblies. In such cases, the dean serves out his term, i.e., he remains on Council as long as he is dean.

The Bishop would like the outgoing Council to meet for about a half hour before the beginning of the Assembly.

ACTION: ALL CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

The date and place of the next meeting of the Archdiocesan Council will be decided at the Assembly, after the new Council is in place.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. with the singing of “The Angel Cried.”

Respectfully submitted
Nun Sophia (Zion)