

**Minutes of the Archdiocesan Council Meeting
Archdiocese of Canada, Orthodox Church in America
held at St Seraphim's Church, Rawdon, Quebec
November 5 - 6, 2004**

Council members in attendance at this meeting were:

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

Observers at various times over the two days of sessions were: Andrei Boldireff, Helene Culhane, Evthymios Katsikas, Paul Ladouceur, and Hierodeacon Amvrozi (Mlodzik).

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Session I, held on Friday afternoon, November 5

The Fall, 2004 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council began with a moleben (**agenda item 1.0**) served at 1:30 p.m. in the temple of St Seraphim's parish, Rawdon, QC. The Chancellor then called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. in the parish hall, which is located across the street from the temple. There followed the roll call (**item 2.0**) with no regrets being received.

3.0 Minutes of the previous meeting

In the interest of accountability, the Chancellor went over all the "Action" items listed in the minutes of the April 23 - 25, 2004 meeting. The following points were made (page references are to the minutes of the April meeting):

- (p.5): The Treasurer, Nikita Lopoukhine, has done as requested, and has broken down the diocesan travel expenses into recoverable and non-recoverable expenses in all reporting.
- (p.7): Mr Lopoukhine has raised the Bishop's compensation by \$3,000.00 per year.
- (p.8): Because of his expected later arrival at this meeting, Dr John Hadjinicolaou will be asked about the Fair Haven properties at a later time.
- (p.9): The Chancellor, Fr Dennis Pihach, stated that the communications unit needs to talk more about the creation of a rapid, co-ordinated updating of the diocesan mailing list, as well as a "major clergy" Internet list (i.e., priests and deacons) which the Bishop and Chancellor can tap into rapidly.
- (p.9): His Grace said that for now, the occupant of 2802 Newman Road (adjacent to Fair Haven) has decided not to sell his property. Discussion therefore must be held, both in the administrative unit and by the Council as a whole, about what to do with the money raised for the anticipated purchase.
- (p.9): The Chancellor reported on his visit the previous weekend to St Seraphim's Mission in Toronto. The Council needs understand that many of the members of this community, recent arrivals in Canada, do not understand much of what the Archdiocese and its Council send to them. Everything emanating from the diocese must be thoroughly explained to them either by the chancellor or by the local dean. Neither priest nor people understand our Church structures here in North America since, in the former Soviet Union, they were accustomed to everything being supported by "the System." Nevertheless, the Chancellor is encouraged by signs of progress in their coming to understand the functioning of our Church life here in North America.

(p.10): The monies requested from the charities, missions, and seminaries funds have been distributed.

(p.10): The Bishop's office secretary, Olga Jurgens, reported that Prof. Kyrill Holden has been obliged to put his update of the Archdiocese's 1987 *Chronology* on the "back-burner" for now. Ms. Jurgens expressed her concern that the two persons working on this project may be trying to produce a new and comprehensive history of the diocese, rather than an updated version of the 1987 *Chronology* along the lines suggested earlier by the Bishop and Council (i.e., that revisions should be limited to: 1. the insertion of new materials pertaining to diocesan life since 1987; 2. the correction of certain errors or omissions in the 1987 text; 3. some judicious and brief additions to existing entries; and 4. greater sensitivity to the manner in which other Orthodox jurisdictions are referred to).

(p.11): Ms Jurgens reported that a letter has been sent to clergy for the yearly major updating of the *Parish Directory*. She is awaiting their replies.

(p.11): Mother Sophia reported that the article on Church Readers from *Psalm* magazine has been translated by M Denis Lessard into French and is with the Bishop.

(p.11-12): The Chancellor said that he, Fr Rodion Luciuk, and Protodeacon Andrew Piasta are still working on co-ordinating a system for updating of clergy addresses. This may come about also with the help of an Internet clergy (priests and deacons) discussion list which Frs John Hainsworth and Justin Hewlett are attempting to set up.

(p.12): The Chancellor noted that, as requested, a presentation on stewardship was made at the Archdiocesan Assembly by Deacon Ignatius Rigden-Briscall.

(p.14): Professor Richard Schneider reported that he had written the requested letter (re: the Metropolitan Council, *sobornost*, and the ethos of the OCA) and had received the Bishop's approval of it. He will be taking it with him next week to the Metropolitan Council meeting.

(p.15): The Chancellor said that church property group insurance will be discussed later in the present meeting.

(p.15-16): The Chancellor also noted that the package of materials and information on the sexual abuse guidelines has been properly distributed.

(p.16): A brief meeting of the new Archdiocesan Council took place at the conclusion of the Archdiocesan Assembly in Saskatoon.

At the end of this reporting, the Minutes of the last Council meeting were approved with corrections of a number of typographical errors. One factual error was noted – on page 2

of the minutes, under agenda item 3.0, it should read “Brent Applegate” rather than “Brent Magee.”

4.0 Agenda [*Attached #4*]

The Agenda circulated by the Chancellor was approved, with the following changes or additions:

- a. For the time being, the programming and communications units will meet as a single unit. To the work of this combined unit will be added: 1. discussion of a rapid communications system; and 2. the procuring of versions of the Canadian national anthem and folk-songs for the forthcoming All-American Council in Toronto.
- b. the discussion of stewardship would be placed on the Saturday afternoon session.

5.0 Report of the Ruling Bishop [*Attached #5*]

His Grace Bishop Seraphim read his report which had not been distributed in advance.

6.0 Regional remarks

Chancellor:

The Chancellor indicated that there would be very few written reports in this area because they had been recently presented at the July Assembly in Saskatoon.

He highlighted a favourable recent trend, namely, that as a result of the Bishop’s frequent absences due to his overseas travels, diocesan clergy are turning more to their Deans or the Chancellor for consultation, a process that should be encouraged even when the Bishop is in residence.

His Grace and the Chancellor were in Toronto last weekend. They met with the parishes and missions there, all of which are Russian-speaking other than one that is Albanian. A noteworthy sign of our improving relations with the Moscow Patriarchate’s Toronto *podvorye* was the latter’s presentation during the weekend of relics of Kievan saints to our communities of Christ the Saviour and St Seraphim. The OCA clergy of the area met on Monday; they will be trying to sponsor three inter-parochial functions a year in order to encourage fellowship among the communities.

Work continues on the property insurance plan for the diocese’s parishes.

At a recent teen retreat in Alberta, Abbess Ambrosia of the ROCOR monastery in Bluffton greeted this OCA contingent warmly and encouraged them to pray in her chapel. [There followed a brief accounting by several of the Deans about improving relations with ROCOR, especially in Rawdon (QC), Toronto, Ottawa,

and Alberta. It was also noted that relations with the Ukrainians continue to be cordial.]

Deanery of Manitoba [*attached # 6*]

Fr Robert Kennaugh tabled a written report. He highlighted the fact that, at recent OCA celebrations in Sifton, Fr Krawchenko of St Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Seminary had served with OCA clergy.

Deanery of British Columbia

Fr Lawrence Farley spoke about a recent trip to the deanery by Fr. Thomas Hopko during which he spoke to students at the University of Victoria and at Trinity-Western University.

Deanery of Ontario

Fr John Jillions reported that he and Mary Ann Lopoukhine have begun preparatory work for the projected 2007 Archdiocesan assembly in Ottawa. He also said that the Cathedral parish is actively seeking a larger building and that several real possibilities exist. Toronto clergy are very concerned about the lack of a priest in Windsor and state of the temple building there. The Bishop is still looking for a priest for Windsor, someone who can also hold down a secular job, at least in the beginning. Since Windsor is across the river from Detroit, a priest with dual citizenship would be ideal. It was also reported that Kingston *may* need a new priest in the near future.

Deanery of Saskatchewan

Fr Orest Olekshy reported that Fr Waldemar Kuchta is taking over Holy Trinity in Moose Jaw and the seven country parishes which its priest serves occasionally. The former rector, Fr Stacey Richter, is going to St Mary's in Minneapolis as second priest. Before he left, Fr Stacey was able to take Fr Waldemar to seven country churches (that belong to three different Orthodox jurisdictions). Some of these country parishes have joined in a co-operative venture, "The South Saskatchewan Orthodox Council." Holy Trinity, Moose Jaw, is technically *not* a member of this but takes part from time to time. A real revival in these member parishes took place under the ministries of Frs Dan Guenther, Phillip Ericksson, and Fr Stacey. As a result, the people/parishes are working well together as a council. Fr Orest expressed the hope that Fr Waldemar will continue this good work and that he may be able to improve relationships in the area between OCA and Ukrainians.

It was reported that, according to Fr Rodion Luciuk, the Kenora mission is going well, and Protodeacon Andrew Piasta is very helpful both there and in Yorkton.

Attendance is slightly down in Yorkton, but a new educational programme is beginning soon.

Holy Resurrection, Saskatoon, is still recovering from its hosting of the 2004 Archdiocesan Assembly. There is ongoing loss of parishioners to our parishes in Calgary and Edmonton.

The St Vladimir's Institute in Saskatoon has been now been going for six years. Fr Dan Guenther is hoping to change the Institute's format by having weekend events in May and sometime in the fall (instead of the present one-week event in spring). One St. Vladimir's faculty member would attend each weekend event. It is hoped that this would encourage a higher attendance and lessen strain on the seminary's resources.

OCA involvement in Saskatoon's "Windows to the East" university programme has ceased. Of late, the programme seemed to have become more focused on Ukrainian and/or Ukrainian-Catholic concerns.

Deanery of Quebec and Atlantic Provinces

Fr John Tkachuk called attention to events planned for Montreal in early 2005. On Jan 9, the Orthodox Clergy Association of Quebec is planning a pan-Orthodox municipal Blessing of Waters with the help of a city councillor, Helen Fotopoulos. On March 12, the Orthodox Christian Women of Montreal will hold their annual retreat at St George's Antiochian Church with Fr Thomas Hopko as speaker.

Fr John Jillions reported that Fr Oleg Razumov is doing very good work among Russian immigrants in Newfoundland. He has very little income and an uncertain immigration status. Despite this, he has given lectures in Russian at Memorial University, and overall remains cheerful. He and his 13-year old son are in St John's, while his wife and 21-year old son remain in Russia.

In response to a question, the Bishop reported that Hieromonk Vladimir (Tobin) will retire from Dalhousie next summer. The other monks have moved into the countryside in a skete of their own, and the parish mission in Halifax has found a venue in an Anglican parish hall. His Grace plans to visit them in January 2005.

7.0 Report of the Treasurer [Attached #7]

Mr Nikita Lopoukhine reported that 2004 expenditures to date are \$82,000 with an income of only \$79,000.00. He expects that income will reach at least \$100,000.00 by the year's end. The loan for the Bishop's car has been paid off.

RE: fossil fuel exploration on the property of the parish in Sachava, Alberta: The diocese has received \$13,000.00 from a natural resources exploitation company as an initial rental

of a portion of the parish property for the purposes of beginning to explore for fossil fuels. Future estimated revenues will be about \$3,000.00 per year for the next 25 years. Bishop Seraphim has directed that the total rental money be sent from the diocese to the parish. The parish has in turn agreed to give back to the diocese annually a percentage of the money received. There are only six families in this parish which has a history of very cordial relations with the diocese (e.g., the community has already donated \$1,000.00 this year to the diocese).

It is noted that the diocese has received a little over \$3,000.00 in investment income this year.

The Treasurer requested direction from the Council on funding for support of a future Auxiliary Bishop; this expense is not provided for in the 2005 budget proposal. Bishop Seraphim pointed out that until we can demonstrate concretely our ability to support an Auxiliary financially, the Holy Synod will not proceed to the canonical election of said Auxiliary.

The Bishop also indicated that he wants the Council to decide how the “Additional Operational Support” line-item in the budget is to be put to use within the diocese.

David Grier asked about the Stewardship Resolution of the Archdiocesan Assembly in July and the Bishop’s directive to all the clergy and parishes on this resolution. His Grace said he had received almost no response to the directive which was sent out on August 30 [see copy of directive, attached # 7.1 / 13]. Since several Deans indicated that they had not the directive, His Grace said that he would send it out again to all rectors and parish councils with a new deadline.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM

It was further agreed that there should be an article on the stewardship directive in the spring issue of the *Messenger*.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM AND MOTHER SOPHIA

8.0 Discussion of Unit Groupings on Council

As minuted above, the programming and communications units are to meet as one unit for now. The administrative unit will continue as is, since it has a heavier workload. New members of Council were urged to circulate between the two units and decide which one to join in future.

To increase efficient use of the Council’s time, the Chancellor requested that general sessions of Council be used for discussion purposes and not for the dissemination of information. Council members are requested to circulate their reports by e-mail to all other members at least a month before scheduled Council meetings

ACTION: ALL ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEMBERS

9.0 Auxiliary Bishop nomination [see attached #9]

With all candidates absent from the room, the Bishop read a report (also circulated) describing how, following the serving of a short moleben and a drawing of lots, it was His Grace's decision to nominate Protodeacon Cyprian Hutcheon for canonical election by the Holy Synod as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Canada.

Various Council members commended His Grace for: the manner in which the entire nomination process had been conducted; for the final resort to a drawing of lots ("it symbolizes such deep trust in the Lord"); and for the wording of the present report which shows great sensitivity towards and appreciation for all the candidates.

Following Council's unanimous approval of the report and acceptance of the nomination, the three candidates were invited back into the room (the fourth, in Finland, had been notified of the decision a few hours earlier in an e-mail from His Grace).

Prof. Richard Schneider was requested by Council to write a letter to Metropolitan Herman, expressing Council's enthusiasm for the nomination process as conducted and its unanimous support for the nominee. He was also directed to write an official letter from the Council to Bishop Seraphim (with a copy to Metropolitan Herman), thanking His Grace for the care, sensitivity, and prayerfulness with which he had conducted the whole process.

ACTION: PROF RICHARD SCHNEIDER

Council directed that copies of His Grace's report of nomination, and the Council's above-mentioned letter to His Grace, should be mailed out to the parishes along with forthcoming issues of the *Messenger*.

ACTION: MOTHER SOPHIA

John Hadjinicolaou said that he will send the Bishop's report on the nomination to Fr Justin Hewlett for publication on the web-site as soon as possible.

ACTION: DR JOHN HADJINICOLAOU

His Grace expressed his gratitude to St Herman's Sobor in Edmonton for carrying such a heavy responsibility in funding the Archdiocesan Chancellor and putting up with his many necessary absences from the parish. Fr Denis Pihach and Rod Tkachuk were requested to relay this message to St Herman's parish council.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH AND ROD TKACHUK

The first session of the Council's Fall meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. with the singing of "It is truly meet", following which dinner was served by the parish of St Seraphim.

Session II, held on Friday evening, November 5

The second session of the meeting was brought to order at 7:30 p.m. with the singing of "O Heavenly King." The Chancellor directed members of Council to meet in their units for approximately two hours of discussion. Since the two units completed their work at different times, there was no formal end to this session.

Session III, held on Saturday morning, November 6

The meeting was called to order by the Chancellor at 9:45 a.m. with the singing of "O Heavenly King..."

11.0 Reports from the Units

11.1 Administrative Unit (Rod Tkachuk reporting)

RE: Incorporation. It is recommended that the "Sample By-laws" be used by new parishes, and that they form themselves into "voluntary associations" rather than either "societies" or "non-profit corporations." "Voluntary association" status would allow for a hierarchical structure, whereas the other two entities are legally structured as democratic. Mr Tkachuk says that he will get in touch with a lawyer who is an active member of Fr Geoffrey Korz's parish to see if he will be willing to help on legal matters. It was also noted that **insurance coverage** is affected by a parish's legal structure of the parish.

RE: Properties. Approximately \$42,000.00 has been raised by the Metamorphosis Project for the specific purpose of purchasing a third house on Newman Road. The unit believes this money must be used at Fair Haven. Dr Hadjinicolaou suggested that the \$42,000 could be used to erect a pre-fab. building that would house the bishop (with or without an auxiliary). Such a structure could be located where one of the barns currently stands. Dr Hadjinicolaou asked for (and received) Council's permission to investigate this possibility and report back at the spring 2005 meeting.

ACTION: DR. JOHN HADJINICOLAOU

RE: Financial Plan for the Archdiocese's support of the proposed Auxiliary Bishop. Following a general discussion of this matter by the whole Council, three things were decided:

- (1) The Bishop is to write a letter to the Holy Synod stating that the Archdiocese proposes to provide a "compensation package" for the Auxiliary Bishop of \$25,000.00 per year salary plus residence, car expenses, travel, and benefits. He will further explain that the Council is initiating immediately a fund-raising campaign for short- and long-term funding, that will be tied to the stewardship plan/initiative which the diocese is promoting at the same time. His Grace will also inform the Holy

Synod that the Archdiocese has \$80,000.00 in reserve funds that could be used as a back-up for this funding of the bishops (a sort of “insurance”).

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM

(2) Dr John Hadjinicolaou will immediately begin to investigate the possibilities of using the \$42,000.00 (raised by the Metamorphosis Project to buy another house on Newman Road) for a Bishops’ residence that would include accommodation for the Auxiliary Bishop (probably at Fair Haven).

ACTION: DR JOHN HADJINICOLAOU

(3) A committee will be created to co-ordinate fund-raising for compensation of the proposed Auxiliary Bishop. Its members will be: Fr Dennis Pihach, David Grier, Dr John Hadjinicolaou, and Nikita Lopoukhine.

1.2 Communications / Programming Unit (Fr Lawrence Farley reporting)

It is recommended that \$2,000.00 be drawn from the **Seminaries Fund** and given to aid Deacon Ignatius Rigden-Briscall and his family (who have incurred important emergency medical expenses since arriving at St Vladimir’s Seminary). Accepted unanimously.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

Recommended that Bishop Seraphim appoint Ms Becky Macnee to be **Youth Director for the Archdiocese**, and that Deacon Richard Rene be appointed her clergy advisor in this capacity. Becky is to be invited to attend the next meeting of the Archdiocesan Council. His Grace agreed with this recommendation.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM

Bishop Seraphim appointed Fr Reinheimer, Deacon Richard Rene, and Becky Macnee as to formulate a **Youth Programme** for the Archdiocese; they are to present a preliminary report at the spring 2005 meeting.

ACTION: FR LARRY REINHEIMER AND COMMITTEE

Recommended that \$700.00 be drawn from the **Charities Fund** and given to Fr Oleg Razumov as a token of encouragement and assistance. Council unanimously agreed.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

Recommended that the Archdiocese increase its annual contribution to the Canadian Council of Churches from \$300.00 to \$350.00, which is a 17% increase. Unanimously accepted.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

Recommended that Prof Richard Schneider be appointed to coordinate the design and staffing of an Archdiocese of Canada table/booth at the July 2005 All American Council in Toronto. Richard will try to obtain the table gratis since we are the host diocese.

ACTION: RICHARD SCHNEIDER

[At this point, an observer, Mr Tim Katsikas, suggested that the Local Committee of the AAC contact Heritage Canada, to invite them to pay for a booth/table on Canada.]

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

Fr Lawrence reported that Denis Lessard's translation into French of an article on Church Readers (originally published in English in the periodical *PSALM*) is completed and in the Bishop's hands. Mr Paul Ladouceur will put the translation on his French Orthodox website. Council thought that this article, in both English and French versions, should be on the Archdiocesan website also. Olga Jurgens agreed to write for permission to reprint the English version.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

The Unit has been informed by Olga Jurgens that the two Russian brochures (one on the OCA and the other on stewardship) are ready for printing. Council unanimously approved that the diocese print 500 of each brochure at a cost of \$80.00 per 500.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

Fr Lawrence explained that a recent e-mailing to clergy by Fr Justin Hewlett, assistant webmaster of the **diocesan website**, was not at all clear, so that most clergy apparently erased the initial message. This message was an attempt to start a "private" Internet discussion list (i.e., limited to priests and deacons of the diocese) which could also serve as part of the "rapid communications system" that the Chancellor is anxious to create. Fr Lawrence will request that Fr Justin send the message out again, making clear who he (Fr Justin) is and why he has been asked to initiate the list.

ACTION: FR LAWRENCE FARLEY

Mother Sophia proposed to the unit, and the unit recommended to Council, that the June 2005 issue of the *Canadian Orthodox Messenger* be a double run (3,000 copies) so that the paper can be distributed not only to the parishes as usual, but also to those who attend the AAC in Toronto in July. She said this issue will focus on the history of the diocese, its demography, and the life and work of St Arseny. Unanimously approved.

ACTION: MOTHER SOPHIA

John Hadjinicolaou reported that 700 copies of *From the Bishop's Desk* have been sold; \$2,000 will be going to the diocese from this. Another printing may soon be needed. John also reported that St Vladimir's has listed *Living Orthodoxy*,

Rencontre avec l'Orthodoxie, and *From the Bishop's Desk* in their Christmas catalogue. 600 copies of *Living Orthodoxy* are currently being reprinted.

The third session of the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. for a lunch, served once again by the parishioners of St Seraphim's Church.

Session IV: Saturday afternoon, November 6

The Council reconvened at 2:15 p.m. with the Chancellor in the chair.

11.1 Administrative Unit report - continued (Rod Tkachuk reporting)

A) A proposal was presented (by Rod Tkachuk) regarding a **stipend for the Archdiocesan chancellor**, namely that a stipend of \$1,500 per month should be paid to Fr Dennis for his chancellorship work; after discussion, the proposal was withdrawn. B) There followed a motion (also from Rod Tkachuk) that the Archdiocese make a one-time grant of \$12,000 to St Herman's Sobor in Edmonton to cover a portion of the salary of their pastor, Fr Dennis Pihach, who also serves as Archdiocesan Chancellor; after discussion, this motion was withdrawn. C) Dr John Hadjinicolaou then moved that the *status quo* regarding the Chancellor's compensation remain in place until the Council's next meeting; after discussion, this motion was also withdrawn.

Rod Tkachuk then presented the Administrative Unit's **recommendation that the financial plan for the Archdiocese ought to encompass: a) compensation for two bishops; and b) compensation for the time which the Chancellor and the Treasurer give to Archdiocesan work.** Council unanimously agreed in principle to this recommendation.

Rod Tkachuk then moved that, for a period of 6 months beginning November 1, the \$9,000.00 in the Bishop's Office West account be used (at the rate of \$1,500 per month) to recompense temporarily the Chancellor for his work. Motion unanimously passed.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

Rod Tkachuk also reported that the Administrative Unit believes that, as part of their creation of a financial plan for the Archdiocese, the Financial Task Force must consider the role, placement, and compensation of the chancellor.

ACTION: FINANCIAL TASK FORCE

His Grace then directed that the **"Additional Operational Support" line in the diocese's budget** (approximately \$9,000.00 yearly, based on past contributions) be used for administrative support once the need is apparent.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

12.0 Insurance

The Chancellor, Fr Dennis Pihach, spoke about the property insurance plan for parishes of the diocese. Within the next six months, the plan will come into effect and parishes which opt to be in the plan will start coming on board. (It will take a full year for all to be in the plan, since they must wait until renewal time to join.) The plan will be run from the Chancellor's office.

14.0 All American Council

Fr Dennis reported that on November 16, he and His Grace will meet in Toronto with the Local Committee of the AAC. They will be joined by Chancellor of the OCA Fr Robert Kondratick, the AAC manager Fr Myron Manzuk, and others.

15.0 Metropolitan Council [*see attached # 15 a and # 15 b*]

Professor Richard Schneider presented a draft for Council's perusal of a letter he had written [*15a*] to Metropolitan Herman (c.c. Fr Robert Kondratick) thanking him, on behalf of the Archdiocesan Council, for the resumption of Metropolitan Council meetings, and explaining why they are so important to Canada as a means of communication. Unanimously approved with corrections.

ACTION: RICHARD SCHNEIDER

Professor Schneider then presented the draft of a letter to His Grace Seraphim [*15b*] (c.c. Metropolitan Herman, Fr Robert Kondratick) thanking Vladyka for the manner in which he conducted the entire process of choosing his nominee for Auxiliary Bishop. Letter unanimously approved; to be signed "from the entire Archdiocesan Council, Archdiocese of Canada."

ACTION: RICHARD SCHNEIDER

16.0 St Arseny Orthodox Institute

Fr Robert Kennaugh reported that there are at least as many students this year as last year. The Treasurer added that the diocese-wide appeal for St Arseny's in October raised at least \$1,000. An additional \$550 will be coming to the Treasurer directly from Manitoba.

18.0 Archbishop Arseny Glorification

His Grace and Fr Dennis spoke of the work of the glorification committee which has been working for some time now and which prepared documents, containing much new research done both in Russia and at St Tikhon's Seminary, for presentation to the Holy Synod at its recent fall meeting. As a result of this committee's painstaking work, the Holy Synod at the same meeting appointed Bishop Seraphim to head an OCA commission to examine the possible glorification of both Archbishop Arseny and Metropolitan Leonty. Council directed Protodeacon Cyprian Hutcheon to write to the

Archdiocesan committee (Fr Anatoly Melnyk, Fr John Hainsworth, and Katherine Szalasznyj) to thank them for their work.

ACTION: PROTODEACON CYPRIAN HUTCHEON

9.0 Clergy Insurance/Benefits

The Deans were requested to check that each of their clergy has the information on this.

20.0 Ecumenical Affairs [*see attached #20 a, #20 b, #20 c, #20 d*]

Professor Richard Schneider circulated his written reports.

21.0 Holy Resurrection Church, Sifton MB

The Chancellor drew to Council's attention a brochure that was sent to all the parishes regarding the renewal of this historic church. He reported also that FOCA (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians of America) have made the Sifton project their focus of charity this year. Finally he noted that a man near White Mouth River, MB has stated that he will eventually be giving a property there to the diocese.

22.0 Date and place of Spring 2005 Archdiocesan Council meeting

After discussion, the date of the Spring 2005 Archdiocesan Council meeting will be April 15 - 16, 1:00 p.m. Friday through to the evening of Saturday. The venues will be Holy Resurrection Church, Vancouver BC, and St Herman's Church, Surrey/Langley BC.

23.0 2004 Archdiocesan Assembly report [*see attached #23*]

David Grier briefly presented Lorraine Grier's Assembly report, noting that there was a surplus of approximately \$3,000. The Secretary was directed to write a letter from the Archdiocesan Council thanking Lorraine Grier and her committee for their excellent work.

ACTION: PROTODEACON CYPRIAN HUTCHEON

The Bishop said that we will decide what to do with this surplus later, but some of it will probably be held for "seed money" for the next Assembly.

David Grier gave two CDs to Bishop Seraphim which were made from videos of the two keynote speeches given at the Assembly (by Fr Lawrence Farley and Deacon Kevin Smith). Dr Hadjinicolaou said that he will look at these CDs and decide if they are worth reproducing and attempting to sell, presuming that he can get the copyright from the speakers.

ACTION: DR JOHN HADJINICOLAOU

13.0 Stewardship

Dr Hadjinicolaou spoke at length on this topic. He said that in his thinking, there should be a fund-raising campaign for the short term, and another one for the long term. He said that he thinks that we must immediately begin a campaign (short-term) to raise \$50,000.00 prior to the Holy Synod meeting in the spring of 2005. He believes that in the ten largest parishes, someone should be approached to ask at least 50 people for \$100.00. If all ten succeed in getting 50 people for this, the \$50,000.00 will be raised. This personal approach, he has found through experience, is the best.

Fund-raising for the diocese in the long-term, he said, will be on a different scale. For right now, however, we need to focus on the short-term plan, and report on the results of this short-term campaign at the next meeting of Council.

ACTION: DR JOHN HADJINICOLAOU

Fr John Jillions said that for those who approach others, it will be important to have a brochure about the campaign in hand. Mother Sophia urged that a simple brochure be printed and personal contacts set up as soon as possible, in order to capitalize on the November-December tax-receipt-for-donations season. Fr John Jillions volunteered to write a 2-page draft of a letter from the Bishop to be used by fund-raisers right away. He will write the letter, the Bishop will sign it, and Dr John Hadjinicolaou will print it and send to the list of fund-raisers which he collected from Council members.

ACTION: FR JOHN JILLIONS, BISHOP SERAPHIM, DR JOHN HADJINICOLAOU

The Bishop said that he would be sending out a letter on stewardship to the parishes soon.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM

Meeting of the Archdiocesan Council closed with the singing of "It is truly meet", followed by Vespers at St Seraphim's Church and dinner at a local restaurant for members who could stay.

Respectfully submitted,
Nun Sophia (Zion)