

**Minutes of the Archdiocesan Council Meeting  
Archdiocese of Canada, Orthodox Church in America  
held at Holy Resurrection Sobor, Vancouver BC  
and St Herman of Alaska's Church, Langley BC  
April 15 - 16, 2005**

Council members in attendance at this meeting were:

Ruling Bishop of the Archdiocese, His Grace SERAPHIM  
Chancellor, Archpriest Dennis Pihach  
Treasurer, Nikita Lopoukhine  
Secretary, Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon  
Dean of British Columbia, Archpriest Lawrence Farley  
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 lay representative Richard Schneider  
Sandra Ellis (British Columbia Deanery)  
David Grier (Saskatchewan Deanery)  
John Hadjinicolaou (Quebec Deanery)  
Rod Tkachuk (Alberta Deanery)  
Alexei Vassiouchkine (Ontario Deanery)  
Olga Jurgens, Bishop's chancery secretary  
Nun Sophia (Zion), *Messenger* editor

Absent from this meeting with a blessing were Dean of Saskatchewan, Archpriest Orest Olekshy; Metropolitan Council clergy representative, Archpriest John Tkachuk; and David Rystephanuk (Manitoba Deanery).

Observers at various times over the two days of sessions were: Archbishop Lazar, Bishop Varlaam, Archpriest Nikolai Kondratiev, Archpriest Michael Fourik, Hieromonk Moses, Priest Justin Hewlett, Rebekah Goodyear, and Peter Ewanchuk.

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## **Session I, held on Friday afternoon, April 15 at Holy Resurrection Sobor, Vancouver BC**

The spring 2005 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council began with a with an akathist to the “Theotokos Joy of Canada” (1.0) served by Archbishop Lazar at 2:00 p.m. in the temple of Holy Resurrect Sobor, Vancouver BC.

Following the akathist, the Chancellor then called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. in the parish hall, which is located above the temple. There followed the roll call and regrets (2.0).

### **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 November 5 - 6, 2004 meeting in Rawdon QC. The following points were made:

(p.7): The Bishop said that he had not been home long enough to write the stewardship directive to the parishes. He still must do this. However, Mother Sophia reported that the next issue of *COM*, which immediately followed the Rawdon meeting, contained two articles related to stewardship.

#### **ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM**

(p.7-8): The Chancellor said that at least 50% of the reports required for the general sessions of the Council were circulated by e-mail prior to the present meeting, as he had requested. He urged that members aim for 100% compliance next time.

(p.8): Prof Richard Schneider noted that he had written and sent the two letters requested, one to Metropolitan Herman expressing the Council’s enthusiasm for the nomination process as conducted by Bishop Seraphim, the other to the Bishop (with copy to Metropolitan Herman) expressing thanks for the way he conducted the process. Mother Sophia noted that both of these were published in *COM*.

(p.8): Dr John Hadjinicolaou said that there was some difficulty in getting the Bishop’s report on the nomination process onto the diocesan website. The Bishop and the Chancellor noted that there are some problems related to the website at the moment; it is not fully functioning yet. More will be discussed about this later in the meeting.

(p.9): Rod Tkachuk reported that he and the Chancellor had relayed the Council’s thanks to the parish of St Herman’s in Edmonton for carrying such a heavy responsibility in funding the Archdiocesan Chancellor and putting up with his many necessary absences from the parish.

(p.9): Dr John Hadjinicolaou said he would report on the properties investigation later in the meeting.

(p.10): Bishop Seraphim reported that he had presented the plan for funding an Auxiliary Bishop, and the plan for fundraising to support this, to the Holy Synod.

(p.10): Dr Hadjinicolaou said that the investigation into the possibilities of using Metamorphosis Project monies for accommodation for an auxiliary bishop will be discussed further in committee during the present meeting.

(p.10): Mr Nikita Lopoukhine reported that the Seminaries Fund monies were distributed as requested.

(p.10): Bishop Seraphim said that Ms Becky Machnee has been appointed Youth Director for the Archdiocese. Upon query, he confirmed that the appointment for this position will run from Assembly to Assembly.

(p.10): Fr Larry Reinheimer noted that he will discuss progress in formulating a Youth Programme for the diocese under the programming unit report.

(p.11): The Treasurer said that the funds had been sent to Fr Oleg Razumov. He has also sent the increase in annual contribution to the CCC.

(p.11): Professor Schneider reported that he has been able to obtain, gratis, the Archdiocese of Canada's information table at the 14<sup>th</sup> AAC.

(p.11): The Chancellor said that he had suggested to the local committee of the AAC that they contact Heritage Canada, inviting them to pay for a booth or table at the Council. He does not know if they will follow up on this.

(p.11): Ms Olga Jurgens noted that she has not yet been able to gain permission to reprint the *PSALM* article on Readers. She also noted that the Russian brochures are now at the printer's, and that the Parish Directory is up to date.

(p.11): Fr Lawrence Farley said that he had talked to Fr Justin Hewlett about the clergy discussion list on the Internet, and that Fr Justin had, as a result, sent out the new message explaining who he is and why he was requested to initiate the list.

(p.12): Mother Sophia reported that 3,000 copies [a double run] of *COM* will be printed for summer 2005. Permission has been received for including a copy in each packet that delegates and observers to the AAC will receive.

(p.12): Nikita Lopoukhine said that he had not transferred the "additional operational support" funds yet, but that he would do so immediately.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

(p.13): Prof Schneider reported that he had sent the letter to Metropolitan Herman (cc to Fr Robert Kondratik), thanking him on behalf of this Council for the resumption of Metropolitan Council meetings, and explaining why they are so important to Canada as a means of communication.

(p.14): Fr Cyprian Hutcheon said that he had sent a letter to the Archbishop Arseny Glorification Committee which has been preparing materials related to the formal glorification of St Arseny, thanking them for their work. He also said that he had written to Ms Lorraine Grier and her committee, thanking them for their work in organizing the 2004 Assembly of the Archdiocese.

(p.15): Dr Hadjinicolaou announced that he has produced three video CDs [DVDs?] from the filming which was done at the 2004 Assembly. Two are of the keynote addresses and the other of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

(p.15): Dr Hadjinicolaou also reported that fund-raising for the support of an auxiliary bishop is going extremely well.

At the end of this reporting on “action items,” the Minutes of the last Council meeting were approved, with typographical corrections and errors (specifically p. 10, 1.2 : “Macnee” should correctly read “Machnee.”).

#### **4.0 Agenda** [*see attached, # 4*]

The Agenda presented by the Chancellor was approved, with the following additions : Under the combined Programming/Communications Unit, the topic of “Bishop’s Personal Assistant-Intern” was added; under New Business, two more topics were added: Ukrainian Church Advertisement and Resolution re: the Name of the OCA.

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

In addition to his written report, Bishop Seraphim spoke about his recent visit to Rome, as official representative of The OCA, for Pope John Paul II’s funeral. He said that the funeral was very well done, but that he thinks the Orthodox serve funerals better! The Greek Catholics at the end of the ceremony were a source of confusion, especially in the USA, where TV commentators implied that they were Orthodox. He also expressed concern that he might be sent also to the enthronement of the new pope, although he had suggested that someone else go. [It transpired that Bishop Tikhon of South Canaan was sent the next week instead.]

He noted that travel has become extremely unpredictable for him, and this could become even more so, because following the Holy Synod meeting next fall, the Metropolitan will

appoint the chairs of Synodal committees, and he could be appointed chairman of External Affairs, where he is now vice-chairman an acting chairman.

He reported that at the spring Holy Synod meeting, he had formally nominated Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon for Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Canada, and the Holy Synod had agreed that the process will continue, with further examinations. He said that there may be a consecration in January of 2006, if the Holy Synod elects the candidate at its fall meeting. The title of the Auxiliary Bishop will depend on who replaces the Ukrainian Metropolitan (whose title is Edmonton). Calgary will be a possibility (and there is a precedent for this with Bishop Joasaph), although the location for the auxiliary will be Edmonton. It is hoped that the western administration can be expanded eventually. The OCA bishops have insisted that the new Auxiliary live at Fair Haven at first, and then move west. Outfitting the new Auxiliary with vestments and the other accoutrements of the office will be a concern for us soon, he added.

He noted that Fr Basile, who lives at Fair Haven, had experienced a TIA two weeks prior to this meeting [it transpired that tests revealed that it was a true small stroke rather than a TIA], and it will take time for him to get back to normal.

His Grace also reported that from mid-January until the time of this Council meeting, Peter Ewanchuk had been helping the him as a personal assistant---chauffeuring, tidying the office, researching for travel reservations, etc. He thanked Peter for serving so flexibly, and then asked whether it might be possible for there to be a rotation of such young men from the diocese to help the Bishop. It would be a volunteer position, but with food and travel expenses paid by the diocese. If Council is willing to consider it, criteria should be established for what we are looking for in such people. He said that he also envisions this temporary volunteer appointment as a kind of “internship” in the work of the diocese : the young man would, upon finishing his time in the position, be able to go back to his parish and describe the work of the Bishop, the functioning of the diocese, and so forth.

At this point, Dr John Hadjinicolaou suggested, and Council agreed, that the diocesan secretary, Fr Cyprian Hutcheon make a list of the duties of the personal assistant. It would be understood Fr Dennis Pihach, the Chancellor, would be the one to interview applicants. It was planned that action for this item would come after the unit reports to Council as a whole.

On two other matters, His Grace noted the following : (1) with regard to the visit of diocesan youth to Georgia in 2006, there has been some delay of late in the planning because Archbishop Nicholas of Georgia was in an accident; and (2) with regard to the jurisdictional situation in Ottawa, Metropolitan Phillip of the Antiochian Church has created a Bishop of Ottawa in that jurisdiction who is responsible for eastern Canada and upper New York state, although this person will live in Montreal.

## **6.0 Regional remarks**

### **6.1 Chancellor [see attached, # 6.1]**

Fr Dennis made some further remarks to the information written about in his report. First he noted that of the over 100 people involved in the Toronto local committee for the AAC, about 95% were not born in Canada. People are from The OCA, the Bulgarians, the Romanians, and The OCA's stavropegial parish (including the priest, who belongs to the Moscow Patriarchate).

The "snag" referred to in the paragraph on parish insurance is the fact that many parishes did not fill out all of the questions, so the whole thing has to be redone. As a result, everything is on hold until the new, complete information comes in.

The radio programme to which Fr Dennis refers to in his last paragraph costs the western office about \$600.00 per month. On May 1, a tape of Bishop Seraphim speaking will be aired on this programme.

The Chancellor then reminded deanery members of Council (both clergy and lay) that they must be representatives for their deaneries. They are responsible for visiting the parishes in their deaneries and for knowing what is going on in them. There has been a tendency for members of Council to be too parochial, he said.

The Bishop noted at this point that the church in Kysilew AB wants to be designated an historic site. He said that they had called him the week before this meeting, asking who is the owner of the church. His Grace told him that he is.

The Chancellor then said that The OCA says that we have 1,900 voting members. We of course serve a lot more than that.

He also said, in conclusion, that the Holy Synod has decided that the title of our church is "The Orthodox Church in America."

### **6.2 Deanery of Quebec**

In his verbal report Fr Irénée (Rochon) noted that the skete of Fr Luke (Majoros) at St-Eusèbe has been sold. Fr Luke will soon be living with Fr Pierre (Vachon) at St Anthony's Skete in Westport. St Seraphim's Church in Rawdon has been made a parish by Bishop Seraphim. His Grace will be visiting the mission in St John's, Newfoundland during Bright Week. There he will first meet with the community and its priest, and then it is hoped that he will be able to meet with the Anglican bishop, in whose

cathedral Fr Oleg Razumov's mission community meets. There is a Pontic Greek at the mission in St John's who will be made a subdeacon, as well as another person, a convert professor. The former has been taking courses through the St Arseny Institute.

### **6.3 Deanery of Ontario**

Fr John Jillions reported that St Gregory's in Kingston and St Seraphim's in Toronto are both in need of priests. Fr James in Kingston is serving mainly at Greek parishes in Brockville and Cornwall, and Fr Nestor in Toronto is primarily serving Byelorussians. For St John's in Windsor, some interest in helping out has been expressed by a Romanian deacon. The priests for parishes like St Gregory's, St Seraphim's, and St John's, the need to be men who are able to hold secular employment while they try to build up the parishes. There is also a great need for an English mission in Toronto. A good sign of the stability of the mission in Hamilton is that they have applied for status with Canada Customs and Revenue in order to give tax-deductible receipts for donations. Fr Jillions then discussed at length some new developments in the property search for the Cathedral in Ottawa. He promised that more would be reported about this later in the meeting.

[At this point an observer, Fr Nikolai Kondratiev, said that missions must be willing to give to a priest the initial support of helping him find a job, accommodation, etc.]

Professor Richard Schneider then noted that the parish of Christ the Saviour in Toronto and the mission in Hamilton had put together two excellent Lenten lecture series.

### **6.4 Deaneries of Manitoba and Saskatchewan [see attached, # 6.4]**

[While Fr Orest Olekshy, Dean of Saskatchewan, is ill, Fr Robert Kennaugh is reporting for both his own deanery and that of Fr Orest.]

### **6.5 Deanery of Alberta [see attached, # 6.5]**

In addition to his written report, Fr Dennis reported that Bishop Seraphim would serve a Pre-sanctified Liturgy with Archbishop Mark of Kashira on April 20. This will be part of a farewell, which will also include a dinner, that St Herman's in Edmonton will be giving him. Bishop Mark will be returning to Ukraine to be a bishop there. Bishop Seraphim added that when he was at the pope's funeral in Rome, Archbishop Kyrill of

Smolensk told him that it will take some time to decide whether or not there will be another Moscow Patriarchal bishop in Canada. For the time being, the only Patriarchal bishop in North America will be in New York City. His Grace said also that he would be giving Archbishop Mark The OCA's medal of St Innocent, second class (silver) at the ceremonies on April 20. It is from Metropolitan Herman and is for Archbishop Mark's ten years of service in Canada.

Fr Larry Reinheimer noted that his parish, St Peter the Aleut's in Calgary, has recently bought the lot next door to the temple, and that three parishioners own three lots next to it. So now there is room for expansion.

#### **6.6 Deanery of Alberta** *[see attached, # 6.6]*

In addition to his written report, Fr Lawrence Farley said this his parish of St Herman's in Langley had just voted the night before to expand the property they now have, instead of looking for new property. Fund-raising will continue for this. He noted also that Fr Justin Hewlett is beginning plans to develop a daughter mission to St Herman's, to the west of Langley. He hopes to begin in the fall with initial forays, but he also must find a new job, because his current contract has expired.

#### **7.0 Report of the Treasurer** *[see attached, # 7]*

The Treasurer, Mr Nikita Lopoukhine, began by announcing that he was in his last week of employment with Parks Canada. Henceforth, he will have more time to give to his position on Council. He also said that his Treasurer's Report is up-to-date as of 31 December 2004.

He first noted the parish page, commenting that overall contributions are up. Turning to the designated funds page, he said that no monies have gone to Syosset because of our legal situation with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. It was agreed long ago that we would pay for the Bishop's travel in the US, and this has to be explained to Syosset again. Richard Schneider commented that he keeps telling them. Fr John Jillions says this must be spelled out clearly in black and white.

Rod Tkachuk said that in view of the new packet from Syosset re: "fair share giving," which will be discussed at the AAC, for Canada this is matter of "can't," not "won't." We must somehow communicate to them that we cannot pay because of Canadian law. But somehow also we should communicate what we do spend in the equivalent on the bishop's travel, etc.—showing that we do support them by doing thus and so.



Prof Schneider said that he needed a resolution on the above matter before the end of this spring meeting, so that he could take it to Metropolitan Council on the following Monday.

His Grace recommended that the Treasurer give one-fourth of the money designated for the St Astius' Mission in Toronto to Fr Miroslaw Wojtiuk, who has been serving the parish.

**ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE**

Also under the designated funds page, the IOCC money was briefly discussed. Because IOCC has refused to register as a charity in Canada, we cannot send them the money. The Chancellor said that we must move it into our charities funds.

**ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE**

The Bishop said that the money from the sale of the St-Eusebe property should go to the Westport skete.

**ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE**

The Treasurer noted that the income and expenses page shows that we are in the black for the year 2004.

The Treasurer also reported that the investment portfolio of the diocese had income of \$7,977.66 in 2004. [*See attached, # 7.1*]

His Grace then gave the Treasurer three CDs in thanks for his work for the diocese, and as a gift for his retirement from Parks Canada.

The first session was then adjourned for supper in the parish hall at 6:00 p.m.

## **Session II, held on Friday evening, April 15**

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, April 16 in the parish hall of St Herman of Alaska’s Church, Langley BC**

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

### **11.0 Reports from the units**

#### **11.1 Report from the Programming / Communications Unit**

The report for this unit was given by Fr Lawrence Farley.

##### **11. 1 (a) Ecumenical affairs**

Fr Lawrence began by saying that the unit recommends the CCC’s Youth Festival to be held in Kitchener ON in August be commended to our young people. Pastors should tell their youth that it is very inexpensive and give them details on registering. David Wagschall and Becky Machnee are involved in the planning of this festival and can be contact persons.

##### **11.1 (b) Principles of social justice**

Fr Lawrence said that the unit had discussed several things under this heading. There are two global ecumenical initiatives of the CCC which concern principles of social justice. One is the “National Health Covenant,” and it seeks to portray health care as a social right; the other is “the Micah Project,” and it aims to eradicate poverty—especially child poverty. Though there may be many points of view regarding the best way to implement these goals, the unit agreed that it is important to speak out about these goals, and to strive to place them on the national agenda. The unit suggested that it is important and more effective for these things to be dealt with by a coalition of concerned voices, and not by a single body alone, or by several bodies independently of one another. There is power in uniting and speaking with one voice.

It further suggested that the Orthodox Churches have been too silent about such social matters, and have been concerned mostly with the matter of their own survival. A case in point is related to the situation of Bishop Henry, Roman Catholic Bishop of Calgary, who is about to be investigated for spreading hate because of his moral and pastoral guidance opposing homosexual practice. This has the potential of going to trial as a hate crime. The unit thinks that we should not only support him and others like him in their defence of Christian values and truths, but also be more concerned to speak the truth to power ourselves. The unit suggests therefore that, as a beginning to such social-prophetic work, one or several people take responsibility to learn more and make a recommendation about the matters above, perhaps under the guidance of David Grier, who represents us on the Peace and Justice Commission.

Council generally decided that Colin Grimmond, David Wagschall, and David Grier could research and report on these social justice matters. The theological underpinnings should be sought and presented. Council asked Prof Schneider to strike a committee of himself, Fr Cyprian Hutcheon, and the three persons noted above. It is hoped that a presentation can be made at the fall Archdiocesan Council meeting.

**ACTION: PROF RICHARD SCHNEIDER**

#### **11.1 (c) Youth** *[see # 11.1 (c), attached]*

**11.1 (c) 1:** The unit noted the absence of Becky Machnee, although her presence was mandated at the last Council. This appears to have been an oversight related to the communication of action items.

In response, the Bishop apologized for not having had enough time at home to communicate the information from Council to Becky.

The Chancellor said that in future he will be responsible to contact Becky Machnee about attendance at Council meetings.

**ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH**

It was also decided that action items should be sent out as soon as possible to Council members, even before the Minutes are carefully vetted.

**ACTION: MOTHER SOPHIA**

Fr Cyprian Hutcheon stated that from now on, he and Mother Sophia will attempt to have the Minutes of Council meetings sent to members within six to eight weeks of the meeting.

**ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON  
AND MOTHER SOPHIA**

Fr Cyprian also stated that he will make a list of the Bishop's action items and present them to His Grace two months prior to the next meeting.

**ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON**

**11.1 (c) 2:** The unit requested that Fr Larry Reinheimer ask Fr Richard Rene (clergy advisor to Youth Representative Becky Machnee) to ask Fr Michael Anderson for more information about the Youth Programme at the AAC, since there seems to be a sense that the programme has not been clearly presented to parishes.

Fr Dennis Pihach responded that an intense programme for youth at the AAC is being organized by Elizabeth Markakis, who had just been appointed. He said that the local committee is very well-organized. He noted also that there is a brochure in the AAC registration packet, which had just been mailed out, which details the youth programme. [Many Council members had not received this packet yet at the time of this meeting.]

**11.1 (c) 3:** The unit suggested that the a portion of the next Assembly seed money, the \$560.00 ear-marked for Youth work from the last Archdiocesan Assembly, be given to Youth Representative Becky Machnee and her clergy advisor Fr Richard Rene as seed money for future youth work, as guided by the rector of the Calgary parish, Fr Larry Reinheimer. (Some possibilities briefly discussed were the 2006 trip to Georgia, youth representation at the July AAC, etc.)

After discussion of the above proposal, Council decided that \$3,000.00 from the next Assembly seed money be given to the Youth Committee to provide for attendance of youth (ages 13 to 19) at the Toronto AAC. Fr Larry Reinheimer will tell Fr

Richard and Becky about this available money, and they will decide how to distribute it.

**ACTION: FR LARRY REINHEIMER AND  
NIKITA LOPOUKHINE**

**11.1 (c) 4:** The unit also proposed, and the proposal was accepted, that the future diocesan budgets include cost of transportation for the Youth Representative to attend future Archdiocesan Council meetings (as mandated by both the last Council meeting and the last Assembly).

**ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE**

#### **11.1 (d) *Messenger***

**11.1 (d) 1:** Fr Farley reported that the June issue of the *Canadian Orthodox Messenger* will be a double run in order that copies may be distributed in the information packet which the delegates and observers will receive at the AAC in Toronto.

**11.1 (d) 2:** He also reported that the unit wants to urge that each issue of *COM* be put on the diocesan website as soon as possible after publication.

**11.1 (d) 3:** If the above is done, then the unit wants clergy to be invited in a *Messenger* issue to let Helene Culhane know if they need fewer copies than they are usually mailed (to save cost of bulk shipping), and,

**11.1 (d) 4:** The Bishop should say how many individual copies of the *Messenger* will be sent out (since such individual mailing is very expensive).

**11.1 (d) 5:** Mother Sophia was asked to put a notice in *COM* that donations for printing and mailing the paper are welcome, as well as a notice about the fact that each issue will also be published on the website.

**ACTION: MOTHER SOPHIA**

#### **11.1 (e) Archdiocesan web page**

The unit noted that the diocesan web page could benefit from another volunteer to help keep it up to date, since Fr Justin Hewlett is so busy. Fr Lawrence Farley volunteered

to contact Fr Justin with suggestions of people who might be willing to assist.

**ACTION: FR LAWRENCE FARLEY**

### **11.1 (f) Donations to IOCC**

The unit recommended that the monies collected in the diocese for IOCC be sent to them, since it is a small enough amount as not to be contested by the CCRA.

After some discussion, the Council did not agree with this recommendation. Instead it recommended that the monies designated for IOCC remain in the treasury until the lawyer John Loukadelis of Hamilton ON can consult with Rod Tkachuk, who will report to Council next time on this. This report could include the clear statement of why we cannot send money to the US, but also asking him how we might send money to the US.

**ACTION: ROD TKACHUK**

### **11.1 (f) Announcement of Alexander Press publications**

Dr John Hadjinicolaou was asked to report on recent publications of the press, and he handed out a written report [*see attached, # 11.1 (f)*]

At the conclusion of Fr Lawrence's unit report, Professor Richard Schneider stated that Rogers Cable in Toronto is offering the diocese one hour of free time, the segment to be created any time that we can do it, and broadcast three times. Richard volunteered to write the script, in consultation with Bishop Seraphim.

**ACTION: PROF RICHARD SCHNEIDER**

In view of time pressures for luncheon, the Chancellor decided at this point to deal briefly with agenda item 10 rather than to go on to the report of the Administrative Unit.

### **10.0 All American Council, Toronto**

Fr Dennis explained that the traditional Wednesday night Canadian banquet should be held at the hotel, at a cost of \$40.00 per person. Fr Dennis will find a volunteer to coordinate this.

**ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH**

Fr Dennis also reported that Fr John Hainesworth and Ms Katherine Szalasznyj are preparing a diocesan ad for the AAC souvenir book. The cost of \$250.00 will

be billed to the diocese. The St Arseny Archives will also have a half-page in the book, but this ad will be sponsored.

Fr Dennis also noted that it is most appropriate for parishes to put ads in this book. There is a very flexible deadline of April 15.

At the Liturgy on Sunday (July 16), all Canadian OCA clergy present will be concelebrating.

Canadians who donate to the AAC will be receipted by the Archdiocese (through Prince Alexis Troubetskoy). People are being solicited for this.

Fr Dennis urged Council to approve His Grace's sponsorship of one of the Bishops' dinners at the AAC, which will require \$1,000.00 from the diocesan treasury. Council approved this unanimously.

**ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE**

Richard Schneider presented his written report on the "Plans for a 'Canada Table' at the AAC." [*see # 10, attached*] He restated how important it is that no commercial sales be done at this table. It is for information only about the Archdiocese of Canada.

At 12:30 p.m. the Council adjourned for luncheon in St Herman's parish hall.

## Session IV, held on Saturday afternoon, April 16

At 1:30 p.m., the meeting was reconvened in the St Herman's parish hall, with the Chancellor in the chair.

### 11.0 Reports from the units (continued)

#### 11.2 Administrative Unit

The report for this unit was given by David Grier.

##### 11.2 (a) Bishop Care

The unit recommended, and Council agreed, that the Treasurer obtain an Archdiocesan credit card for the Bishop's use for all his expenditures on travel and travel accommodations.

**ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE**

The Chancellor will tell the parishes about this credit card, explaining that those parishes which have been remitting money to the Bishop to help defray the cost of his travel to them, should now remit this money instead to the Archdiocese, which will get the credit card bill.

**ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH**

##### 11.2 (b) Investments *[see # 7.1 / # 11.2 (b), attached]*

The unit drew Councils's attention to the fact that the diocesan investments, under the management of Fr Philip Eriksson, have grown from approximately \$100,000 to \$125,000 in the past year.

##### 11.2 (c) Fair Haven *[# 11.2 (c), attached]*

David Grier said that Peter Ewanchuk had recently prepared a report *[see attached]* on repairs which need to be made to the Fair Haven properties to make them suitable for living for both the Ruling Bishop and the Auxiliary Bishop.

It was proposed by the unit, and approved by Council, that \$15,000 be taken from the Metamorphosis monies to repair the main building and the first floor of the one across the street. Dr John Hadjinicolaou volunteered to coordinate volunteers for this work.

**ACTION: DR JOHN HADJINICOLAOU**



It was recommended that there be a report in the *Messenger*, as well as on the diocesan website, about this work, made possible by Metamorphosis donations. This should be done after the repairs are made so that “before and after” photographs can be displayed.

#### **11.2 (d) Personal Assistant (“Apprenticeship for Archdiocesan Life”)**

The unit and Council discussed the possibility of having a diocesan position, to be filled by a succession of young male temporary volunteers from the diocese, of personal assistant to the Bishop. Mr Peter Ewanchuk served in this volunteer position from mid-January to mid-April of 2005 and began to set the pattern for it with his work in chauffeuring, researching travel tickets and accommodations, keeping the diocesan office neat and tidy, running small errands, etc. Council agreed that this was valuable help for the Bishop and asked Fr Cyprian Hutcheon to write a criteria list for the position, as well as a fairly generic job description. These documents should be published in the *Messenger* and on the diocesan website. The Chancellor will select the suitable applicants.

**ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON**

#### **11.2 (e) Ottawa Cathedral [see # 11.2 (e), attached]**

After Fr John Jillions had presented his written report, Council authorized Dr John Hadjinicolaou, Nikita Lopoukhine, and Fr Cyprian Hutcheon to negotiate with the vendors, up to a ceiling of \$1 million.

**ACTION: DR JOHN HADJINICOLAOU, NIKITA LOPOUKHINE, AND FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON**

#### **11.2 (f) Auxiliary Bishop’s Appeal [see # 11.2 (f), attached]**

In addition to Dr Hadjinicolaou’s report, Council discussed the problem of the refusal of the rector of Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Toronto to advertize or collect for this appeal. Fr John Jillions volunteered to visit and talk with the parish, hopefully with an invitation from them. Alexis Vassiouchkine volunteered to advertize the appeal in the parish bulletin and to invite Fr Jillions to come and discuss the work of the diocese with the parish. The Bishop blessed Alexis Vassiouchkine to put the Auxiliary Bishop Fund notice in the weekly bulletin of Christ the Savioure and to report to the Bishop as soon as possible if there is any problem about this. He also directed Alexis to invite Fr John Jillions to visit the parish to discuss the work of the diocese and the need for the appeal.

**ACTION: FR JOHN JILLIONS AND ALEXIS  
VASSIOUCHKINE**

**11.2 (g) OCA Central Administration**

There was a lengthy discussion at this point about the financial relationship of the Archdiocese of Canada with The Orthodox Church in America's Central Administration (CCA), looking at relatively recent past history and then at the present situation.

First, it was recognized that the Archdiocese of Canada long ago committed to "tithing" part of its annual budget to the CCA. (For example, since January 1, 2004, 10 % of income received from the diocese' parishes has been set aside to be used for the CCA, pending advice on transfer of money outside Canada.) The Bishop was asked to find the letter detailing the original tithing commitment, so that it can be presented again.

**ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM AND OFFICE STAFF**

It was then sometime later discovered that the diocese would lose its charitable status if anything more than a very minimal amount of the diocese' yearly income (this being strictly regulated by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, or CCRA) were sent to the US.

The Bishop and Council have always been committed to doing everything "by the book" vis a vis the CCRA, since our charitable status is absolutely vital.

The Bishop and Council have also always been committed just as completely to trying to find some way to support the CCA. When the cross-border charities problem became obvious, the diocese then sent a fixed amount to the CCA on the legal basis of paying for "service provided" (for example, The OCA newspaper). The CCA's representatives at one meeting did not seem to like this, but seemed also to realize that if this is the law, there is little they could do about it.

Then the diocese stopped sending even that fixed amount, based, according to the diocesan lawyer, Mr Rod Tkachuk, on advice which he had given but which he thinks may have been misunderstood, since he cannot recall saying that money for services could not be sent, at least up to \$5,000.00.

Then The OCA brought in the concept of “fair share” giving, one of the forms of which would have the CCA create a budget and allocate a varying percentage of that budget to each diocese, supposedly based on the percentage of the total membership that is in any given diocese. The Archdiocese of Canada then received an example of a “fair share invoice” for \$120,000, which would be more than our annual budget. Or, they said, the Archdiocese of Canada could “tithe.” [As Mr Rod Tkachuk has noted, “We are not sure at this point what ‘they’ know or remember about the cross-border issue. We are not even sure that the ‘fair share they’ are the same as the ‘they’ that we communicated with a number of years ago.”]

Of the “tithe” to which the Bishop and Council have always been committed, we want to be able to get across the border to the CCA as much as can be sent legitimately. We also want to find some way of expending the rest of the “tithed amount” in ways that will directly benefit the CCA. (Examples would be things like the travel costs involved with the Metropolitan’s visit to the Archdiocesan Assembly in Saskatoon last year, or the recent visit of The OCA’s Chancellor to the BC parishes—these probably [but we need expert legal opinion] could be paid for in Canada with Canadian money, and therefore meet the CCRA’s regulations.)

Unfortunately, the Bishop and Council believe that much of the information which has been sent from us to the CCA has been formed in the negative (“we can’t do this,” “we can’t do that,” etc.)

The Bishop and Council want to have a definitive understanding (based on expert legal opinion) of exactly what can and cannot be done.

As well, the Bishop and Council want to begin communication and dialogue about this with the Central Church Administration, and we would like to do this before the All-American Council convenes in Toronto in July.

Therefore, Rod Tkachuk was asked to contact the tax lawyer Mr John Loukadelis (a parishioner at All Saints of America in Hamilton ON) for his legal opinion, asking him to address this issue both negatively (what we cannot do) and positively (what way or ways we can send to, or somehow make available for, the CCA, the tithed money that we have all along been committed to remitting). It is hoped that Mr Tkachuk can get this opinion before the convening of the AAC in July.

**ACTION: ROD TKACHUK**

### **11.2 (h) The Montreal Miklashevsky account**

Attention was briefly directed to the account which Mr Paul Miklashevsky manages in Montreal. These are donations collected in Canada for the support of the Metropolitan. Chancellor Fr Dennis Pihach was asked to discuss the desirable use(s) of these funds with OCA Chancellor, Fr Robert Kondratick

**ACTION: FR DENNIS PICHACH**

### **11.2 (i) Financial Plan**

Council reminded the Financial Committee that at the November 2004 Council meeting in Rawdon QC, the Financial Committee was charged with preparing a financial plan for the compensation of the Bishop, the Auxiliary Bishop, the Chancellor and the Treasurer. They should report on this at the fall 2005 meeting of Council.

**ACTION: FINANCIAL COMMITTEE [FR DENNIS PIHACH, FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON, NIKITA LOPOUKHINE, DR JOHN HADJINICOLAOU, AND DAVID GRIER]**

### **11.2 (j) Sifton Church**

There has been a request to the diocese that we give a matching grant of \$1,000 to help with the restoration of the Sifton building. Council decided to take \$1,000 from the charities account to designate for help in this restoration because the temple is still ours and can be used to hold services, pilgrimages, etc. Nikita Lopoukhine was asked to remit this money only after checking with Ms Katherine Szalasznyj to make sure that the Sifton people are indeed raising their share.

**ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE**

The Chancellor was asked to let Ms Szalasznyj know that the money has been designated.

**ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH**

## **17.0 St Arseny Glorification Project**

His Grace said that this project is progressing slowly because documentation is difficult to acquire and incomplete. There is documentation in St Petersburg,

Russia which we must obtain. We must also look for copies of the *Canadian Orthodox Messenger* from the 1920s and 1930s. No one as yet has been found with copies. We still hope to find some. *The Canadian Field* should be searched in the Canadian Archives.

His Grace also noted that even though St Arseny founded both St Tikhon's Monastery and St Tikhon's Seminary, these institutions are only now realizing this fact, thanks to the Canadians' reminding them of how important he is to them.

Canadians do not doubt his sanctity. Bishop Seraphim plans to canonize him in Winnipeg at some time next year (canonization of a local saint). In the Orthodox Church, this process starts from the bottom up.

### **15.0 Metropolitan Council Report [see # 15, attached]**

Professor Richard Schneider gave this written report.

### **16.0 St Arseny Institute [see # 16, attached]**

This report was handed out, and the Council commended the people who have been working with the Institute for all the good work they have done so far.

### **18.0 Clergy Insurance**

Fr Dennis Pihach reported that the insurer has been changed to Equitable. More and more parishes are cooperating, he said. (They are supposed to send 12 equal payments per year.) The Deans, he urged, must make sure that all priests have coverage of some kind.

**ACTION: ALL DEANS**

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

In addition to his written report, Prof Richard Schneider spoke about the World Aids Conference being held in Toronto in August, 2006. Fr Cyprian Hutcheon volunteered to think about whether we want to become involved in this or not.

**ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON**

### **20.0 New Business**

#### **20 (a): Insurance for Churches**

Fr Dennis reiterated what he said the day before : many parishes did not send in complete information, so the entire project has to be re-done. It is on hold for now, until new forms can be sent to parishes, received back, and given to the insurers.

#### **20 (b): Ukrainian Church advertisement**

Fr Dennis reported that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church has asked if the Archdiocese would be interested in putting a one-half page advertisement in the commemorative book being published for their assembly July 12 - 17, 2005. He noted that they have been very supportive of our endeavours in the All-American Council planning. The cost of the advertisement would be \$600.00, and Fr Dennis would ask Fr John Hainsworth and Ms Katya Szlasznyji to write/design it. Council unanimously agreed to this proposal.

**ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH AND NIKITA LOPOUKHINE**

#### **20 (c): Name-change Resolution [see # 20 (c), attached]**

Fr Larry Reinheimer presented his draft resolution which he wanted Council to amend and/or approve, to be presented at the 14<sup>th</sup> AAC in Toronto in July [for the draft resolution, see # 20 (c), attached]. It proposed changing the name of the “All-American Council” to “All-North American Council” and that the Statute of the OCA be amended thereto. After some discussion, he and others also proposed that the name of the Church be changed to “The Orthodox Church in North America,” and that the title of the Metropolitan be in sync with this.

Council agreed that we should indeed present a resolution regarding the name change, to be presented as one of the resolutions at the AAC, particularly asking that those who are going to revise the Statute and By-laws of The OCA consider this.

A committee was struck to draft the resolution : Fr John Jillions, Fr Cyprian Hutcheon, and Prof Richard Schneider.

**ACTION: FR JOHN JILLIONS, FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON,  
AND PROF RICHARD SCHNEIDER**

#### **21.0 Date and Place of Next Meeting**

It was decided that the fall 2005 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council will take place in Edmonton AB on November 11-12, following the Bishop’s planned trip to Damascus, Syria from November 1 to 7.

## **22.0 Adjournment**

As the meeting came to a close, Fr Lawrence Farley, Dean of British Columbia, was thanked for the organizing of this meeting in his Deanery.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. with the singing of “It is truly meet . . . .”

Respectfully submitted,  
Nun Sophia (Zion)