

**Minutes of the Archdiocesan Council Meeting
Archdiocese of Canada, Orthodox Church in America
held at St Herman of Alaska's Sobor, Edmonton AB
7 - 8 April 2006**

Council members in attendance at this meeting were:

Ruling Bishop of the Archdiocese, His Grace SERAPHIM
Chancellor, Archpriest Dennis Pihach
Archdiocesan Dean, Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon
Dean of British Columbia and Yukon, Archpriest Lawrence Farley
Dean of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nunavitt, Priest Robert S Kennaugh
Dean of Ontario, Archpriest John Jillions
Dean of Quebec and Atlantic Provinces, Igumen Irénée (Rochon)
Clergy representative from Alberta and NWT, Archpriest Larry Reinheimer
Metropolitan Council lay representative Richard Schneider
David Grier (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut Deanery)
John Hadjinicolaou (Quebec and Atlantic Provinces Deanery)
Rod Tkachuk (Alberta and Northwest Territories Deanery)
Alexei Vassiouchkine (Ontario Deanery)
Olga Jurgens, Bishop's office assistant
Nun Sophia (Zion), *Canadian Orthodox Messenger* editor

Members of the Council absent from this meeting with a blessing were : Treasurer, Nikita Lopoukhine; Metropolitan Council clergy representative Archpriest John Tkachuk; Sandra Ellis (Deanery of British Columbia and Yukon); David Rystephanuk (Deanery of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut).

Specially invited guests were : Deacon Gregory Scratch, Katherine Szalaszni, Spencer Estabrooks, and Peter Ewanchuk.

Observers at various times over the two days of sessions were : Igumen Philip (Speranza), Hieromonk Vladimir (Lysack), Fr Phillip Eriksson, Deacon Gregory Kopchuk, Greg Fedor, Krista and Matthew Francis, David Goa, Lorraine Grier, Jesse Isaac, Dianne Kennaugh, and Mark Petasky.

Session I, held on Friday afternoon, April 7

The spring 2006 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council began with a with a moleben served in the Cathedral temple at 1:30 p.m. This was followed by a quick lunch in the church hall for late arrivals.

Council was convened by the Chancellor at 2:00 p.m., in the temple, where tables and chairs had been set up for the sessions. There followed the roll call and regrets (**Agenda p. 1, # 1.0**).

Agenda p. 1, # 2.0 Minutes of the previous meeting

In the interest of accountability, the Chancellor went over the “Action” items listed in the minutes of the spring 2005 meeting in Vancouver. The following points were made:

(p.2): The Bishop said that his stewardship directive to parishes was published in the Spring 2006 issue of the *Messenger*.

(p.2): Prof Richard Schneider reported that he and the Bishop had not been able to consult yet about the programming of the free time offered on Rogers Cable. This is yet to do.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM, PROF RICHARD SCHNEIDER

(p. 2): His Grace noted that he and Nikita Lopoukhine had not yet had a chance to consult about an application for a diocesan credit card (bearing the Bishop’s name) which would allow His Grace to charge various travel-related items

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM, NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

(p.3): Rod Tkachuk said that he did not know if Nikita Lopoukhine has been able yet to consult with John Loukadelis regarding the legality of our remitting funds to the Central Church Administration of the OCA.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

(p.3): Fr Dennis Pihach reported that although there has been some discussion, the Financial Committee has not yet been able to meet in order to prepare a financial plan for the compensation of the Bishop, a future Auxiliary Bishop, the Chancellor and the Treasurer.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE (FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON, DR JOHH HADJINICOLAOU, NIKITA LOPOUKHINE, AND DAVID GRIER)

(p. 8): Fr Dennis reported that both the Clergy and the Alberta Deanery Lay Representatives over the years have already talked with parishes to find out what is their commitment for the support of the diocese and to encourage them. As a result, 100% of Alberta’s parishes have some kind of commitment. He encouraged other Deanery Lay Representatives to do the same.

ACTION : DEANERY LAY REPRESENTATIVES

(p.8): Mother Sophia said that the spreadsheet recording parish donations to the diocese in 2005 had not been published in the spring issue of the *Messenger*. The Bishop added that it had not seemed a wise thing to do at that point. He called attention to the fact that a link to the diocese's 2005 tax return, found on the Canada Customs and Revenue website, has been placed on the diocesan website. There is every attempt to be transparent and accountable, but not to embarrass parishes. He also noted that he is willing to be convinced to publish the spreadsheet.

(p. 8-9): Mother Sophia reported that the Bishop's stewardship directive to the parishes was published in the spring issue of *COM*, and that David Grier did indeed help the Bishop with organizing this.

(p.9): Fr Cyprian Hutcheon said that he had written to Kosta Stavrianeas of Montreal, thanking him for his volunteer auditing work for the Archdiocese last fall.

(p.9): Mother Sophia noted that she and Fr John Jillions had not been able to prepare an article on progress at Annunciation Cathedral in time for publication in the spring issue of *COM*. The article is in the works, however, and will be featured in the summer (June) issue.

(p. 10): Fr Cyprian Hutcheon reported that, as requested by Council, he had sent a letter to Fr Symeon Rodger, recognizing both the work he has done on *The Five Pillars of Life*, and also his generosity with regard to the book's use in parish fund-raising.

(p.10): Fr Dennis called attention to the fact that five members of Council had not yet responded to his request to sign The OCA's document entitled *Sexual Misconduct Guidelines*. As a result, all five signed at this point in the meeting, and Fr Dennis said he would send word to the Central Church Administration that all members of Council were signed on now.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

(p. 11): The Bishop reported that the diocesan office does have an updated list of the parishes which have complied with his request that they sign The OCA's document entitled *Sexual Misconduct Guidelines*, but the list does not include all the parishes yet. Fr Dennis asked that a "remiss list" be sent to the Deans for contacting the parishes about compliance.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM AND OFFICE STAFF, DEANS

(p.11): Mother Sophia said that she published Fr Cyprian Hutcheon's "job description" for the position of volunteer Personal Assistant to the Bishop, in the spring issue of the *Messenger*.

(p. 12): His Grace noted that Nikita Lopoukhine had sent the \$5,000.00 from the diocesan Charity Fund to Matushka Anna Sulakov, whose recently-reposed husband, Fr Dn Alexander, was uninsured. Vladyka said that Matushka expressed profound gratitude..

(p.12): Prof Richard Schneider said that Mother Magdalen (Williams) had declined to take an iconography course at St Vladimir's Seminary in the spring of this year. So the \$800.00 allotted for this by the Programming Unit was not distributed.

(p.12): Fr Cyprian Hutcheon reported that he had written to thank Fr Stacey Richter and Ms Becky Machnee for the work they did as youth directors for the diocese.

(P.13): Ms Olga Jurgens said that Fr Vladimir (Lysack) of Edmonton, instead of Ruslan Natmirtsov from the Cathedral in Ottawa, had been asked to create suitable illustrations for the Russian language brochures and will be paid the previously allotted amount (\$50.00 for each brochure, \$150.00 in total.)

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

(p.13): Mr David Grier noted that the Administrative Unit has not yet been able to draft a report on the needs and possibilities for the Archdiocesan executive positions (as well as for the office and personal assistants).

ACTION: ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

(p.16): Fr Dennis Pihach said that he and the Deans have been active in trying to make sure that all priests have insurance coverage of some kind, either with our insurer, Equitable, or with their own insurers. This involves making sure that parishes are co-operative, especially with regard to our group insurance with Equitable.

(p.14): Fr John Jillions said that the Cathedral has a plan and a schedule for repayment of the diocesan loan to the Cathedral. He said that he would report in more detail at p. 1, # 9 on the agenda of this meeting.

(p.14): Fr Dennis noted that the recommendation that the Archdiocesan Dean and the Regional Deans stay abreast of parish responses to the Bishop's directive on stewardship, which was mailed out in February and published in the spring issue of *COM*---particularly with regard to the need for parish stewardship plans---would be discussed later, especially in the Deanery reports. This is an education matter which needs more follow-up.

ACTION: ARCHDIOCESAN DEAN, REGIONAL DEANS

(p.15): Fr Cyprian said that the work of the Theological Education Focus Group will continue----with research, development of contacts, and concrete planning.

ACTION: THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOCUS GROUP

(p,15): Fr Cyprian also reported that he had, as requested, sent a letter from the Archdiocesan Council to Metropolitan Herman in support of Fr Thomas Hopko's recent proposal for union of The OCA with the Antiochian Archdiocese. He said that the response was that it will be taken into consideration and that, basically, when the Antiochians are ready to talk, The OCA is willing to enter into the discussion.

The minutes of the fall 2005 meeting of the Archdiocesan Council, amended by Prof Richard Schneider's clarification that Fr Cyprian Hutcheon should have been included as being on the governing board of the Canadian Council of Churches on pp. 7-8, were unanimously approved.

Agenda p. 1, # 3.0 Agenda *[see attached, p. 1, # 3]*

The Agenda presented by the Chancellor was approved, with the following additions : At Agenda p. 1, # 6, the Ecumenical Affairs Report was appended to the Archdiocesan Dean's Report ; at p. 1, Units, Administrative, "f. Properties" was added ; at p. 1, Units, Programming & Communications, "j. Pilgrimages" was added ; and at p. 2, # 9 New Business, the following were added : "a. Clergy Synaxis," " b. Assembly Ottawa," "c. CCCC—Canadian Council of Christian Churches," and "d. Debit system for donations to the Archdiocese"

Agenda p. 1, # 4.0 Report of the Ruling Bishop *[see attached, p. 1, # 4]*

His Grace read his report. In addition to what was written, he noted that Metropolitan Herman has asked for Fr Vladimir (Lysack) to come to work at Syosset after Pascha, and that Igumen Nestor has been asked by Bishop Seraphim to oversee all of the missions in Toronto, as well as the one in Windsor.

Agenda p. 1, # 5.0 Report of the Chancellor *[see attached, p. 1, #5]*

Fr Dennis Pihach made a few remarks in addition his written report. First, he said that we must emphasize to people, if they make queries to us, that none of the money given to our parishes or to the Archdiocese itself goes to the USA. Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) will not allow this.

Second, he said that we must learn from the possible mistakes of the Central Administration of The OCA. We have to be exceedingly careful in our accounting. We must remember also that if we allocate money for a specific item, it must be spent on that item. For example, we cannot spend on anything else the money specifically collected for support of an auxiliary bishop.

Third, when we spend money on the work of the Central Administration of The OCA (and we have tithed 10% of our income as a diocese for that purpose), the money must be spent in Canada in Canadian funds (CCRA rules). [At this point, Rod Tkachuk noted that he thinks we even have to be careful about this : we have to check that we can do this.]

His Grace added that a letter must be sent to Metropolitan Herman stating that we still need an auxiliary bishop, despite the fact that Fr Cyprian's name has been withdrawn from nomination. The letter, he said, should go from the Archdiocesan Council. Fr Dennis Pihach said that he would write this letter.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

The Chancellor expressed concern that the advertising of the spring 2006 Ukraine pilgrimage did not appear in the fall issue of *COM*. Mother Sophia apologized for this omission, stating that she definitely excepted the blame, but also explaining that she had neglected to copy the advertising, which came in very early, from its email attachment onto paper ; then her hard drive "died" on her computer, and she had to go through the process of replacing it ; and by the time the fall issue was in the process of typesetting and publishing, she had forgotten the original email with the ad.

Fr Dennis also asked that pilgrimages be put on the agenda of each Council meeting henceforth.

As he concluded, the Chancellor introduced the special guests to all present : Fr Vladimir (Lysack), a son of the host parish, formerly at Valaamo, soon to go to Syssoset at Metropolitan Herman's request ; Dn Gregory Scratch of Ottawa, who with others has been appointed by the Bishop to serve on a diocesan administration focus group ; Katya Szalaszni, Diocesan Archivist, who had been asked to give reports on the Sifton church restoration and on the Blessed Arseny Archives ; Spencer Estabrooks, who is director of the St Arseny Institute in Winnipeg, and who has been helping the Council's Theological Education Focus Committee ; Matthew Francis, youth coordinator for the diocese ; Peter Ewanchuk, member of the diocesan administration focus group ; and Dn Gregory Kopchuk, who is in charge of the diocese's radio programme, "Welcome Home."

Agenda p. 1, # 6.0 Report of the Archdiocesan Dean

Fr Cyprian Hutcheon reported that he and Bishop Seraphim have not yet worked out a specific plan for his tasks as Archdiocesan Dean. This will be done soon.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM, FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON

He also said that his new assignment, beginning in August, as rector of Holy Resurrection, Saskatoon is an excellent "fit" for him, and he assured Council that he is completely committed to this assignment.

The Archdiocesan Dean stated also that since the fall meeting of Council, he had looked very thoroughly into the “Micah Challenge” which was presented at that meeting by David Grier and Colin Grimmond, both members of the Peace and Justice section of the Canadian Council of Churches. He reported that he is convinced that the eight goals of the “Micah Challenge” are definitely in accord with the Orthodox faith. He recommended strongly that we as an Archdiocese “sign on” to the challenge.

Agenda p. 1, # 6.0 a Ecumenical Affairs Report *[see p.1, # 6 a, attached]*

This report was offered by Prof Richard Schneider and Fr Cyprian Hutcheon.

The Bishop said that at the meeting of the WCC which he attended in Brazil recently, there were 300 Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox churches present, including representatives from Bulgaria and Georgia, which have formally pulled out of the WCC.

Fr Dennis Pihach asked Matthew Francis to make sure that all of the information about the Nidus Youth Festival, mentioned in the written report, be placed on the diocesan youth website. Fr Dennis will be responsible for checking on this.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

Fr Cyprian said that his recent experience on the governing board of the CCC indicates to him that many churches in the CCC (particularly Presbyterians, Lutherans, Mennonites, and Reformed) are interested in, and respectful of our Orthodox tradition. Our church, he continued, has a good reputation in the CCC.

Agenda p. 1, #7.0 Deanery Reports

#7.1 Deanery of British Columbia and Yukon *[see attached, p. 1, # 7.1]*

In addition to his written report, Fr Lawrence Farley announced that he has written and printed a “Service to St Arseny,” which is available in printed and electronic forms.

He also noted that he has attached to his written report a set of questions from the OCA Department of Evangelism with regard to missions and evangelism, along with his answers as diocesan representative to the department. *[see attached at end of # 7.1]*

#7.2 Deanery of Alberta and Northwest Territories *[see attached, p. 1, # 7.2]*

Fr Dennis Pihach added a few points to his written report. He said that as examples of outreach, St Herman’s in Edmonton has an Eritrian group which meets on Sunday afternoons with their deacon for Bible study (some of these

people have been attending St Herman's for at least twenty years) ; and also, St Herman's provides space for Typika in Slavonic for new Russian immigrants in the west end of the city.

He reported also that St Peter's in Calgary is working on planning a seniors complex.

#7.3 Deanery of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut [see attached, p. 1, #7.3]

This written report was presented by Fr Robert Kennaugh.

#7.4 Deanery of Ontario

There was no written report, but Fr John Jillions made the following comments. A retreat for youth was held for young people from the Ottawa - Montreal area at the Ottawa cathedral on April 14. It was very successful, as was the one held in 2005 at a farm near Montreal. St John's in Windsor seems to be close to solving its problems with Canadian Immigration. Igumen Nestor has been asked to supervise all the missions in Toronto, as well as the one in Windsor. St Astius Mission, Toronto, is dormant for the time being. All Saints' Mission, Toronto, is being served by Fr Eugeny one or two times a month. The mission in Hamilton now has a permanent worship space in an office building. Christ the Saviour, Toronto, is currently dealing with some issues related to investments. St Gregory's, Kingston, holds liturgy twice a month and have just renovated their temple (in the basement of an Anglican church). There will be a report on the Ottawa cathedral later in the meeting.

#7.5 Deanery of Quebec and Atlantic Provinces [see attached, p.1, #7.5]

In addition to his written report, Igumen Irene (Rochon) said that the parish in Rawdon is in process of creating parish by-laws. He also reiterated one point in the written report: a solution must be found for servicing the mission in St John's, Newfoundland.

Session I was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. for supper served by parishioners in the church hall. During the meal, the theological education focus group sat together at one table in order to discuss and prepare their report for the next day.

Session II, held on Friday evening, April 7

At 7:30 p.m., the Chancellor called the meeting to order, and then Council members divided into two units---the Administrative Unit and the Programming and Communications Unit---in order to prepare reports for the next day.

Session III, held on Saturday morning, April 8

The meeting was called to order with the singing of "O Heavenly King." The Chancellor, who was in the chair, showed Council members the medal he had received from the premier of Alberta for "service to the province," apparently one of many medals struck on the occasion of Alberta's 100th anniversary.

Agenda p. 1, # 8.0 Treasurer's Report [see attached, p. 1, #8]

In the absence of the Treasurer, Nikita Lopoukhine, David Grier was asked to go through the Treasurer's report, noting the highlights. After some discussion, it appeared that the real deficit for 2005 is approximately \$20,000.00.

The Bishop asked whether or not the fall in giving might be caused by the lack of episcopal visits compared to earlier years. The Chancellor stated that in his opinion, this does effect the gifts. In 2005, he noted, there were far fewer visits at the diocesan level because of the increase in His Grace's travel for The OCA abroad. Also, the Chancellor continued, special collections (the supreme example being the large sum collected for the support of an auxiliary bishop) appear to affect, sometimes, the regular donations.

At this point, it was decided to hear the report of the Administrative Unit, since so much of their discussion and their recommendations were related to the diocesan budget.

Agenda P. 2, # 1 a Report of the Administrative Unit

It was recommended by the Administrative Unit that there be a line item for the salary of \$10,000.00 for the Chancellor. Council agreed unanimously.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

It was recommended that the Bishop allow for the publishing in the fall 2006 issue of *COM* of a spreadsheet showing each parish's donations for the year 2005, with budgetary explanations by Nikita Lopoukhine and David Grier (as well as after any necessary readjustments by them). Council agreed with this recommendation.

ACTION: BISHOP SERAPHIM, NIKITA LOPOUKHINE, DAVID GRIER, MOTHER SOPHIA

At this point it was noted that the Administrative Unit members think that there needs to be a cleaning up of the “Designated Funds” page of the budget by the Treasurer et al, because some of these things are operational, not special/designated items. Rod Tkachuk added that it is really important to clarify which funds are truly designated, because legally we cannot change their purpose or even borrow from them.

At this point also, one of the observers, Fr Phillip Eriksson, suggested that a separate investment fund be set up for specific/designated monies, so that there will be clarity.

The Administrative Unit then recommended that there be a letter published in *COM* with regard to the keeping and investing of the Auxiliary Bishop Fund. David Grier will draft the letter, and the Bishop will send it to parishes and have it published in the *Messenger*.

ACTION: DAVID GRIER, BISHOP SERAPHIM, MOTHER SOPHIA

The Unit also urged the Treasurer to pay the 2005 dues (\$500.00) to the Canadian Council of Churches as soon as possible. Council asked David Grier to send a note to Nikita Lopoukhine about this.

ACTION: DAVID GRIER, NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

The Bishop said, and the Council agreed, that the travel expenses of the diocese should be broken down and reflected in the budget in the following way:

1. Travel for the Central Administration (related to our 10% CCA obligation)
2. Travel for the Archdiocese
3. Chancellor’s travel
4. Archdiocesan Dean’s travel
5. Council travel

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE, DAVID GRIER

It was agreed by all that we acknowledge that **we have a deficit budget**. It was also recommended that this be explained when the donations spreadsheet is published in the fall issue of the *Messenger*. Mother Sophia called attention to the fact that July 15 is the deadline for the fall issue. She will need the spreadsheet and the various explanatory materials (*e.g.*, the letter regarding the keeping and investing of the Auxiliary Bishop Fund, etc.) by that date, and preferably earlier.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE, DAVID GRIER, MOTHER SOPHIA

Dr John Hadjinicolaou called attention to his diocesan properties report entitled “Fair Haven Management Committee through the Metamorphosis Project” [*see written report, attached, Agenda p. 2, # 1 a*]. It was especially noted that reporting from this committee (made up of Dr John Hadjinicolaou, Nikita Lopoukhine, Lesley-Ann Judge, and Elisabeth Markakis) will be heard at each Archdiocesan Council meeting henceforth.

There was brief discussion of an assistant for the Treasurer, but no recommendations were offered.

Agenda p. 1, # 9.0 Ottawa Annunciation Cathedral Report

Fr John Jillions began his oral report by saying “Your \$125,000.00 investment is paying off!”

He stated that since the parish has moved into the new temple, much practical work has been done on the entire complex; at this point, about \$30,000.00 has been spent on repairs and upkeep, plus free labour. He noted several things which have been done or are ongoing, although this is not an exhaustive list:

- The Stations of the Cross were removed and donated, and painting of the nave (in a lighter shade) was done;
- A very large icon of the Theotokos in a protective case has replaced the statue of the Virgin Mary in the garden;
- Heather Mackean has been contracted to write the iconography for the temple, and she will most likely start in the summer of 2006;
- The apartments in the rectory have been and are being renovated ; at present one married couple and three students are renting the apartments currently available. This brings in income for the parish.
- Still at least \$250,000.00 of work needs to be done (related to brickwork, fire code, roof, etc.)—and all of this is apart from the expense of the iconography;
- There is \$150,000.00 in a reserve account, but because of on-going expenses, this cannot be emptied immediately to repay the diocesan loan.

Fr John said that parish life at the cathedral seems to be growing spiritually, also. A Parish Life Task Force was established several months ago and has worked hard—following models from Calgary and Wayne NJ—to integrate lay people into the ministries of the parish and on the Parish Council. His assessment is that spiritually, things are going very well. He noted that on the first Sunday of Great Lent, the cathedral was able to host the pan-Orthodox Vespers service because of larger premises. This was a first in the history of Orthodoxy in Ottawa. Indeed, the cathedral is an increasing presence in Ottawa. A huge blow, however, came with the death of Igumen John (Scratch), but it is remarkable how his repose brought people together. There is an on-going “small hiccup” right now with regard to trouble over Fr Symeon Rodger’s book.

On the strictly financial side, Fr John reported that he and the Lopoukhines have consulted with a financial expert on organizing a capital campaign to raise money to pay off the mortgage debt and the diocesan loan, but they are not sure about this yet because such campaigns are so expensive.

Meanwhile, there is a **plan to repay the diocesan loan**. The Parish Council has authorized the following : On May 1, 2006, a repayment of \$30,000.00 will be given to the Archdiocese. Thereafter, \$15,000.00 will be repaid every six months until repayment of the loan is complete. This could change if fundraising makes possible paying more with each installment, or paying more often.

Agenda, p. 1, # 10.0 Guidelines to Sexual Misconduct Policy

Fr Dennis Pihach stated that he would send a letter to the Central Church Administration confirming that all Council members have sign the Sexual Misconduct Policy document.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

Agenda, p. 1, #11.0 Parish Initiatives on Stewardship

#11 a British Columbia and Yukon *[see attached, # 11 a.]*

Fr Lawrence Farley presented this report, which was written by Sandra Ellis.

#11 b.1 and # 11 b.2 Alberta and Northwest Territories *[see attached, # 11 b 1.- 2.]*

Fr Dennis Pihach and Fr Larry Reinheimer gave written reports on their respective parishes, St Herman of Alaska and St Peter the Aleut. In addition to the reports, Fr Dennis said that three parishes in Alberta (St Herman's in Edmonton, St Peter's in Calgary, and the mission in Sherwood Park) give 10% of their income to the diocese. All of the Alberta rural parishes do contribute something. But some parishes, like Holy Trinity in Edmonton, need education in stewardship.

#11 c Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Nunavut *[see attached, # 11 c]*

Fr Robert Kennaugh presented this written report.

#11 d Ontario

There was no written report from Ontario, but Deacon Alexei Vassiouchkhine reported that Fr Geoffrey Korz of Hamilton would be giving a talk on stewardship at Christ the Saviour in Toronto after the Pre-sanctified Liturgy on April 19. Deacon Alexei also noted that at the last annual meeting of Christ the Saviour, it was announced that stewardship is not an Orthodox idea. Also, in the deacon's opinion, another negative is that the new treasurer of Christ the Saviour has cancelled the monthly bank debit plan by which some people were giving to the sobor.

#11 e Quebec and Atlantic Provinces

There was no written report, but Fr Irene said that he will attend the next annual meeting of Sts Peter and Paul Sobor, and the Bishop added that things are becoming much more positive at Sts Peter and Paul. Fr Irene continued by saying that the The Sign is giving well. St-Benoit actually does give 10% of its tiny budget, and St Seraphim's in Rawdon has started to give. The mission in Halifax makes contributions also.

Agenda p. 2, # 1.0 b Report of the Programming and Communications Unit

Fr Lawrence Farley reported for the Unit. He began by saying that the Unit recommends that Becky Machnee be given \$1,000.00 from the **Education Fund** to help with next fall's tuition at St Vladimir's Seminary. Council unanimously agreed.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

Next, Fr Lawrence said that the Unit recommends that from the **Missions Fund** \$500.00 be given to Fr John Hainsworth to help offset the last year of support given to his mission by the Central Church Administration, and that \$500.00 be given to Fr Justin Hewlett's St John of Shanghai mission. Council unanimously agreed.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

Fr Lawrence then called attention to the very thorough **Youth Report**, "Archdiocese of Canada Report of the Youth and Young Adults Coordinator," which Matthew Francis had presented to the Unit on the evening previous. *[See the written report attached, Agenda p. 1, Units, Programming/Communications, # d.]*

Fr Lawrence reported that on the matter of **Immigration**, the Chancellor had spoken to the Unit, reminding members that there is a problem of integrating new Russian immigrants into our diocesan structure. We need a process. At least two priests in the diocese are in uncertain immigration status.

In the matter of **Publications**, Olga Jurgens had announced to the Unit that the **Russian brochures** are about to be published. She is awaiting only the drawings of Fr Vladimir (Lysack). Council asked Ms Jurgens to make sure that the brochures are also scanned and place on the diocesan website.

ACTION: OLGA JURGENS

Also in the matter of **Publications**, Katya Szalaszniy explained to the Unit that the **Chronology** project is really stalled because there are two views: one is that of Prof Kyrill Holden, who wants to do a thorough history of the diocese ; the other is hers, that we need a brief time line, like the 1987 version (but updated and corrected), in order to make it available by 2007, the 20th anniversary of His Grace's consecration. Council asked Fr Dennis Pihach to meet with Prof Holden and Ms Szalaszniy and negotiate a way for Katya to complete the briefer *Chronology* by 2007.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

One further topic under **Publications** was the **Parish Directory**. Fr Dennis said that he thinks a list of the parishes' web sites should be printed along with the other information about them. This is something that should be looked into.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH, OLGA JURGENS

With regard to the diocesan **Web Page**, Fr Lawrence reported that Fr Dennis Pihach told the Unit that he thinks the work of updating the Web Page is going too slowly. As a result, Fr Lawrence volunteered to ask Judy Choi to do the updating. Council also asked Fr Lawrence to request of Fr Justin Hewlett that he make the Clergy List easier to use.

ACTION: FR LAWRENCE FARLEY

When he was talking to the Unit, Fr Dennis Pihach also talked about the need to put **Pilgrimages** on the Council's agendas regularly. He mentioned that two pilgrimages are already in the early planning stages: one to Russia in 2007, led by Dn Alexei Vassiouchkine, and another in 2007 to Georgia----a camping experience for youth organized by Fr Larry Reinheimer. Eventually it is hoped that we can have a pilgrimage to Alaska. Fr Dennis said that he would put Pilgrimages on the next Council agenda.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

Near the end of the Unit's report, Prof Richard Schneider brought up the topic of **Web-casting** and described it. He said that it is very inexpensive : all one needs is a web site, a web cam, and a script. He noted that the Anglican Archbishop Huchinson gets 100,000 hits a week on his web-cast. Bishop Seraphim added that Fr Peter Avgeropolis' parish in Toronto has services in his temple broadcast by web cam. Fr John Jillions, Fr Dennis Pihach, and Prof Schneider volunteered to look into this.

ACTION:

FR JOHN JILLIONS, FR DENNIS PIHACH, PROF RICHARD SCHNEIDER

Agenda P. 2, # 2.0 Report of the Theological Education Committee [see hand-written report notes, p.2, #2]

Fr Cyprian Hutcheon reported for this committee. He said that the committee is focusing on a three-year programme for priestly formation which would have a number of possible venues for the first two academic years (Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa), with the third year a residential year in Ottawa (both because there could be pastoral and liturgical formation at the Cathedral and because the Cathedral has residential apartments). There must be some overall admission requirements, and there will be an on-going programme of mentoring. There is a need to meet and vet candidates before they begin. It is felt that candidates should already have a first degree before they begin the programme, but there should be some flexibility for older candidates, life-experience, etc. The third year in residence would have an overall focus on pastoral and liturgical formation and mentoring, with a certificate for this special year. After the programme is fully planned, the committee would like to have suggestions from St Vladimir's and St Tikhon's seminaries, as well as from the Holy Synod.

The committee will work on the following before the next Council meeting:

- admissions procedures (Fr Cyprian Hutcheon and Fr Larry Reinheimer)
- the academic content of the first two years of the programme (Prof Richard Schneider)
- the shape and content of the pastoral/liturgical third year (Fr John Jillions)

All of this must be done really carefully, with much research, and with the approval from the universities involved.

ACTION: FRS CYPRIAN HUTCHEON, JOHN JILLIONS, AND LARRY REINHEIMER, PROF RICHARD SCHNEIDER

The Chancellor suggested that the Theological Education Committee meet in the morning of the first day (Friday) of the next Archdiocesan Council meeting. This was agreed to, and Fr Dennis said that he would put this new time on the agenda of the fall meeting.

ACTION: FR DENNIS PIHACH

After Fr Cyprian's report, the meeting was adjourned to the church hall for luncheon at 12:00 noon.

Session IV, held on Saturday afternoon, April 8

The meeting was called to order again in the temple by the Chancellor at 1:15 pm.

Agenda p. 2, # 3.0 Sifton Church Restoration and Potential Museum Report *[see attached, p. 2, # 3a and 3b]*

This written report was presented by Mrs Katherine Szalaszniij. the Archdiocesan Archivist.

Agenda p. 2, # 4.0 Report on the Vladyka Arseny Archives *[see attached, p. 2, # 4]*

This written report was also presented by Mrs Katherine Szalaszniij.

Agenda p. 2, # 5.0 Metropolitan Council Report

Led by Prof Richard Schneider, the Council discussed recent difficulties related to the Central Administration of The OCA. It was unanimously agreed that in order for there to be healing, we must all support the Metropolitan. This is the balanced way to proceed. And we must realize that the process cannot be rushed. We must wait and be silent while the reparative work is being done.

Agenda p. 2, # 6.0 St Arseny Institute Progress Report *[see attached, p. 2, # 6]*

Spencer Estabrooks, the Director of the Institute, presented this written report.

At the end of the presentation, the Chancellor said that for the next Council meeting, Mr Estabrooks's travel costs should be paid. Council unanimously agreed.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

Agenda p. 2, # 7.0 Report of the Archdiocese of Canada Standing Focus Committee *[see attached, p. 2, #7]*

Deacon Gregory Scratch of Ottawa made this presentation.

Fr John Jillions urged the members of the focus committee to take a survey of the young people of the diocese (perhaps on the Internet). He said this should be done in order to understand their perceptions of the diocese, and their role in it (this would focus on 20- to 30-year old young men and women). Fr John continued that the more stories the focus committee can tell the Council about what the young people say, the better. The Council needs something concrete to work with.

ACTION: Members of the focus committee

Agenda p. 2, # 8.0 Clergy and Property Insurance

Fr Phillip Eriksson, a financial advisor for the Archdiocese, was asked to speak from the observers' floor on diocesan insurance matters. *[See also, attached, p. 2, # 8, the memorandum of the Chancellor in July of 2004 on the Church Workers Group Insurance Plan of the diocese]*

With regard to property insurance on parishes, Fr Phillip said that the insurance companies need a **detailed** overview of all the parishes. Data is very far from complete, but they should be able to crunch the numbers with what they have and come in with some rates by the end of April 2006.

With regard to clergy insurance, he said that only fourteen clergy are enrolled in the diocesan plan, and that really ties our hands because since it is such a small number, the insurers have grouped us with an evangelical group right now. If, he continued, we could get 30 or 35 clergy to join, the insurers would take us seriously and write a policy uniquely for us. **We must encourage parishes and clergy to support this.**

Fr Phillip went on to say that the Bishop really should know if each of his clergy and monastics are surviving, and what the insurance is that they have. He also suggested that the diocese may need a task force to organize some kind of mandatory pension plan. Fr Dennis Pihach noted that we already have this approved, but clergy and parishes just have to be reminded.

Agenda p. 2, #9.0 New Business

9 a Clergy Synaxis

The Chancellor announced that a clergy synaxis will be held in Calgary from July 10 to July 14, 2006. It is very important for all clergy to attend and to be with each other and the Bishop. Fr Michael Oleksa of Alaska will be the guest presenter. Fr Larry Reinheimer needs to know who will be attending. The Deans should give all clergy a call about this.

ACTION: FRS LAWRENCE FARLEY, DENNIS PIHACH, ROBERT KENNAUGH, JOHN JILLIONS, IRENEE ROCHON.

9 b Ottawa Assembly 2007

Fr John Jillions reported that not much has been done yet, but plans will be heating up very soon. The date of the Assembly is July 15 - July 20. Fr John will report on the plans at the next meeting of Council.

9 c Canadian Council of Christian Churches

Fr Dennis Pihach announced that St Herman's in Edmonton has joined this group. They are a good resource, he said, for help in filling out various bureaucratic forms. There is a web site [www.cccc.ca]. They are helpful especially for church treasurers, and they have benefit plans as well.

9 d Micah Project

Having highly recommended that the diocese support the Micah Project, Fr Cyprian Hutcheon moved that the Council do so. Seconded by Bishop Seraphim. Unanimously approved. It is presumed that Fr Cyprian and Prof Schneider will inform those who need to know.

ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON, PROF RICHARD SCHNEIDER

9 e Debit system for donations to the Archdiocese

It was recommended that the Treasurer set up with a bank a system which would debit from the accounts of people who wish to give money to the diocese regularly in this way.

ACTION: NIKITA LOPOUKHINE

Fr Cyprian Hutcheon called attention to a letter addressed to the Chancellor [*see letter, attached*] from Fr Philip (Speranza) calling attention to the fact that the composition of the Diocesan Court is not completely in accord with *The Statute of the Orthodox Church in America*. Fr Cyprian will make a note for the Bishop to appoint one more clergyman and one more lay person from the Council to be on this court.

ACTION: FR CYPRIAN HUTCHEON

Agenda, p. 2, # 10.0 Time and place of next meeting

The Bishop said that we have been invited to hold the fall session of the Archdiocesan Council at Sts Peter and Paul Sobor in Montreal. The dates are Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 4, 2006. For those on the Theological Education Committee, the meeting will start on Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. For everyone else, the beginning will be at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, as usual.

Agenda, P. 2, # 11.0 Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mother Sophia (Zion)