

Executive Summary of

The ARCHDIOCESE OF CANADA (OCA) Council Meeting Held at Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Sobor, Montreal, Quebec October 14-15, 2011

I. Preamble

The third meeting of the Archdiocesan Council (hereafter “the Council”), elected at the 2010 Archdiocesan Assembly, took place on the 14th – 15th October, 2011 at Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Sobor, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. After the Divine Liturgy and a Moleben, the Council convened to discuss matters related to the administration and the care of the parishioners of the Archdiocese of Canada.

Over the two days, the Council reviewed a number of reports from members of the Executive Council, the Episcopal Secretary, the Treasurer, the Administrative and the Programming / Communications Units, the Archdiocesan representatives to the Metropolitan Council, the Canadian Council of Churches and the representatives from St. Tikhon’s Archdiocesan Stewards. The Council deliberated on a number of items related to ongoing and new business. The required actions and recommendations resulting from this meeting are summarized below.

A. Action Items

- 1) **ACTION:** To act on behalf of the Archdiocese with regards to the purchase of the property at 31 LeBreton Street, Ottawa – **ADEC; DONE**
- 2) **ACTION:** That the Bishop prepare and distribute a letter to the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese regarding the purchase of the Property at 31 LeBreton as well as the potential for use at the Spencerville Property - **His Grace Bishop IRÉNÉE DONE**
- 3) **ACTION:** To review the sections of both www.archdiocese.ca and www.oca.org that list our Archdiocesan participants in the work of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC), to make sure that it is current and accurate – **Archpriest Cyprian Hutcheon; DONE**
- 4) **ACTION:** To establish three annual Archdiocesan appeals to be taken up in all the Parishes of the Archdiocese for “Charities,” (Sunday before the Feast of St. Herman, December 13th) “Seminarians,” (the 1st Sunday of October), and “Missions/Evangelism” (Palm Sunday) - **ADEC**
- 5) **ACTION:** For a letter to be written from the Bishop to all the Rectors of the Archdiocese explaining the purpose and timing of these appeals, and for the Chancellor to Communicate with the Deans. - **His Grace Bishop IRÉNÉE**
- 6) **ACTION:** To have an envelope designed and printed for the purpose of these three annual appeals, clearly marking out with selection boxes for the three categories stated above, and also for “General.” – **Western Secretary Mark Petasky**

- 7) **ACTION:** That an allocation of \$500.00 be provided to both Annunciation Monastic Community / Holy Transfiguration Hermitage at Gibson's, as a gesture of support for monastic life in the Archdiocese – **Treasurer.**
- 8) **ACTION:** That ADEC research and fully disperse the "IOCC" and "Middle East" funds Appropriately according to the spirit of their intended purpose – **Secretary and Treasurer.**
- 9) **ACTION:** To develop a policy and practice in dealing with designated funds being received – a disclaimer – so that donors understands and agrees that if funds cannot be allocated as designated, then they can be applied to other areas of ministry – **Treasurer;**
- 10) **ACTION:** That the Treasurer draft a letter to the parishes explaining how they may give appropriately (within Canadian charitable laws and standards) directly to charitable organizations. – **Treasurer.**
- 11) **ACTION:** To send out a letter to all Parish Council Presidents, with similar content as the one previously sent out to rectors, inviting ideas on enhancing communication across the Archdiocese – **Deacon Matthew Francis.**
- 12) **ACTION:** That a description of the responsibilities of an Archdiocesan Archivist be established, and that an Ottawa-based individual be requested to take on the role of Archdiocesan Archivist and appointed – **ADEC.**
- 13) **ACTION:** That Katya Szalasznyj be formally recognized for her work establishing the Archives over many years – **His Grace Bishop IRÉNÉE**
- 14) **ACTION:** That the expenses for shipping the Archdiocese's archival materials and collections from Saskatoon to Ottawa, where they will be consolidated, be covered by the Archdiocese – **Secretary and Treasurer.**
- 15) **ACTION:** That a line item for the Archdiocesan Archives be established, with an initial annual allocation of \$1000.00 – **Treasurer.**
- 16) **ACTION:** that the Archdiocese continue to explore options for the long-term use of the Spencerville property, such as the potential presence of on-site monastic community. At this time, it was recommended that the property simply be maintained – **ADEC.**
- 17) **ACTION:** That STAS be allocated up to \$3000.00 annually to communicate STAS in the parishes – **Treasurer and STAS. DONE**
- 18) **ACTION:** That a permanent Bylaws committee be established to review and consolidate all official Amendments made by Archdiocesan Assemblies to the Archdiocesan Bylaws since the last official edition was published. The members of the Committee would be appointed by the Bishop and may include those who have been involved in Archdiocesan Bylaws work in the past - **His Grace Bishop IRÉNÉE**
- 19) **ACTION:** That the following recommendation regarding our Metropolitan Council representation be referred to the newly formed Bylaws Committee. **ADEC and Bylaws Committee.**
- 20) **ACTION:** That the Archdiocese continue to pay the life insurance policy held for Mother SOPHIA (Zion) until March of 2012. **Treasurer. DONE**
- 21) **ACTION:** that the insurance coverage provided for His Grace Bishop IRÉNÉE be brought up to appropriate levels. **Secretary and Treasurer. DONE**

- 22) ACTION:** That a standardised format for creating a *“Policy on Guidelines for Preventing Sexual Misconduct”* be prepared and distributed for parish use. **ADEC will contact Mr. Gabe Lanteigne to request a template.**
- 23) ACTION:** That the Assembly be moved until 2013, to be held in Ottawa. **ADEC. DONE**
- 24) ACTION:** that the Bishop or the Planning Committee of the next Archdiocesan Assembly (2013) invite the Hierarchs of all the local Orthodox Dioceses (or their representatives) to attend the Assembly. **His Grace Bishop IRÉNÉE.**
- 25) ACTION:** That there be a Clergy Synaxis, to be held in 2012, potentially in June in Winnipeg, just after Pentecost, with Archdiocesan Council to follow. **Bishop and Chancellor. DONE**
- 26) ACTION:** That the Archdiocese of Canada, requests the Holy Synod of Bishops of the OCA to provide a Pastoral Letter to the faithful of the Archdiocese of Canada regarding the wisdom of the Church about the meaning of clergy suspension, specifically with reference to Archbishop Seraphim. **His Grace Bishop IRÉNÉE. DONE**
- 27) ACTION:** That St. John of Sochava Church supplies prepares a proposal for the consideration of the Archdiocesan Council regarding the development of a Archdiocesan Pilgrimage Resource Centre. **Subdeacon Jeremy Scratch.**
- 28) ACTION:** That the Bishop appoint the Church’s representatives to serve on the CCC - **His Grace Bishop IRÉNÉE. DONE**
- 29) ACTION:** That the Archdiocese will contribute \$1500 this year to the CCC. **Treasurer. DONE**
- 30) ACTION:** That the Bishop appoint members to fulfill current and expected vacancies on the Archdiocesan Council (Ontario Lay Rep, Alberta Lay Rep) - **His Grace Bishop IRÉNÉE.**
- 31) ACTION:** That David Goa be invited to attend the June meeting of the Archdiocesan Council to follow up on the conversation facilitated at the April meeting, on *“Our Direction, Future, and What Steps Need to be Taken.”* – **Chancellor DONE**

32) **ACTION:** That in the next year each Dean organize a meeting in their Deanery with the Bishop, Chancellor, and Secretary in attendance. The goal of these meetings will be to help articulate and share our vision of functional deanery structures throughout the Archdiocese. This will be piloted during the visit of the Bishop, Chancellor and Secretary to the BC Deanery prior to the AAC. **Deans**

Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held from **June 5-10, 2012**, inclusive at the Sobor of the Holy Trinity in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.