



**Minutes of the Triennial Assembly of the Archdiocese of
Canada (OCA) Archdiocesan Assembly 2017
Wednesday July 26 – Friday July 28 2017
Sandman Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta & St. Herman of Alaska Sobor
Edmonton, Alberta**

The first sessions of the Archdiocesan Assembly were preceded by the Divine Liturgy and an Opening Moleben, served by His Eminence, Archbishop Irénée.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon was greeted by the members of the Assembly, and especially welcomed by His Eminence, Archbishop Irénée.

Chairman of the local planning committee, Rod Tkachuk, brought greetings to the Assembly, and especially welcomed His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon. Rod introduced Mark Petasky, as the Master of Ceremonies for the Archdiocesan Assembly. With the blessing of His Eminence, the First Session of the Assembly was called to order, at 10:00am.

Session I – Wednesday July 26, 2017 – 10:00am

- I. Mr. Mark Petasky announced the appointment of the following persons as members of the Assembly's secretariat.
 - A. Recording Secretaries
 - Father Matthew Francis
 - Deacon Nicholas Svetolovsky
 - B. Scrutineers
 - Carl (*Subdeacon from Kamloops, BC, Mission*) – *require last name*
 - Deacon Kevin Wigglesworth
 - David Pasivirta
 - C. Nominations Committee
 - Father Phillip Eriksson
 - Andrew Janzen

D. Resolutions Committee

- His Eminence Archbishop Irénée
- Father Phillip Eriksson

E. Credentials Committee

- Father John Palmer
- Max Ferguson
- Sean Reid

II. Approval of 2013 Assembly Minutes

At the request of the Assembly, Father Matthew Francis presented the Draft Minutes of the 2013 Archdiocesan Assembly for review. Father Vincent Lehr noted several corrections, particularly typos relating to the year of the Assembly which were duly noted for revision.

The 2013 Assembly Minutes, as amended, were adopted by the consensus of the Assembly.

III. Metropolitan's Address to the Assembly

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon greeted the Assembly of the Archdiocese of Canada, noting that it was his first time visiting the Church in Western Canada as Primate of the OCA, and how pleased he was to get to know the clergy and faithful of the Church on a more personal level.

Metropolitan Tikhon thanked the Canadian Archdiocese for its valuable contribution to the work of the O.C.A. noting in particular the work of Father Alexander Pihach of blessed memory, in his capacity as the O.C.A. representative to the Russian Patriarch in Moscow.

His Beatitude also spoke about the "Pillars" of the life of the Orthodox Church in America.

IV. Archbishop's Address to the Assembly

His Eminence welcomed the Assembly and gave a report on the growth of the Archdiocese of Canada, particularly in the area of new Missions having been established across Canada since the last Assembly.

V. Keynote Address to the Assembly – Father John Behr, Georges Florovsky Professor of Patristics at St. Vladimir's Seminary delivered an address on the topic of "Inviting Christ into our Lives."

- VI. Mark Petasky presented the report of the Credentials Committee, accounting for registered delegates and participants in the 2017 Archdiocesan Assembly.
 - A. Total Participants – 108
 - B. Delegates – 71 (44 Clergy + Metropolitan and Archbishop / 27 Laity
 - C. Observers – 35

The Session was adjourned for a lunch break.

Session II – Wednesday July 26, 2017 – 3:00pm

- I. Archdiocesan Officers' Reports
 - A. Chancellor (Father Anatoliy Melnyk)
Father Anatoliy presented the report of the Chancellor, including calling to remembrance our former Chancellor, Archimandrite Alexander (Pihach), of blessed memory. Father Anatoliy recommended that His Eminence consider appointing Father Phillip Eriksson as the next Chancellor of the Archdiocese.
 - B. Secretary (Mrs. Anna Miller)
Mrs. Anna Miller presented the report of the Secretary.
 - C. Treasurer (Father Justin Mitchell)
Father Justin Mitchell presented the report of the Treasurer. Father Justin responded to questions from the floor relating to 2016 Archdiocesan salaries, the application of records management procedures to digital records, and the cost/benefit of conducting an external audit.

The reports of the Archdiocesan Officers were adopted by the consensus of the Assembly.

- II. Report of the Audit Committee

Father Rodion Luciuk presented the report of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee presented several recommendations, which are included in their submitted report. Nominations are required to fill two positions on the Audit Committee, as Father Rodion Luciuk and Reuben Penner (now Novice Barsanuphius of the Annunciation Hermitage) are stepping down from the Audit Committee at this time.

**MOTION: To adopt the report of the Audit Committee
Treasurer (Father Justin Mitchell; 2nd - Archimandrite Phillip (Speranza);
CARRIED).**

- III. His Eminence, Metropolitan Irénée, asked Father Phillip Eriksson if he would be willing to accept the role of Chancellor of the Archdiocese. Father Phillip indicated he would be willing to serve, with the blessing of His Eminence. His Eminence, Archbishop Irénée appointed Father Phillip Eriksson to serve as Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Canada, effective immediately, for a term of three years. Father Phillip accepted His Eminence's appointment. The Assembly welcomed Father Phillip and offered thanks appointment as Chancellor.

Father Phillip Eriksson then provided instructions for the nomination process for the Assembly-Elected Clergy and Lay Representatives on the Archdiocesan Council, the Metropolitan Council, and the Audit Committee. Nominations were requested to be provided to Father Phillip Eriksson and Reader Andrew Janzen.

- IV. The Written Reports of the Regional Deans were received by the Assembly.
- A. Dean of Quebec and the Maritimes (Father Gregory Nimijean)
 - B. Dean of Ontario (Father Geoffrey Korz)
 - C. Dean of Manitoba and Saskatchewan (Father Gregory Scratch)
 - D. Dean of Alberta (Father Phillip Eriksson)
 - E. Dean of BC and Yukon (Father Michael Fourik)
- V. Additional Committee Reports were received by the Assembly
- A. Website (www.archdiocese.ca) Fr Geoffrey Ready presented the newly redesigned Archdiocesan website to the Assembly. Matushka Anastasia Bartlett and Jordan Eriksson are appointed as editors of the online Orthodox Messenger.
 - B. Canadian Council of Churches (Father Geoffrey Ready)
 - C. Monasticism (Father Gerasim Power)

The Session was adjourned for the evening at 4:25pm.

Session III – Thursday July 27, 2017 – 10:00am

- I. M.C. Mark Petasky began the session by inviting Deacon Sebastian Scratch, who introduced the morning session on “Good News: Parish Stories of Encouragement and Inspiration.”
 - A. Mrs. Christie Oswald spoke on the St. Peter the Aleut Orthodox Camp in Alberta, which is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2017.
 - B. Father Matthew Francis spoke about the visit of the icon and relics of St. Panteleimon, from St. Herman of Alaska Sobor in Edmonton, to the Holy Apostles Mission in Chilliwack, BC.
- II. Archimandrite Philip (Speranza) presented a keynote address on the topic of “Giving Thanks Through Clenched Teeth” – the spiritual and practical necessity of *lament*.
- III. Deacon Sebastian introduced several other “Good News” presentations.
 - A. St. Silas Orthodox Prison Ministry Presentation – Barnabas Neufeld
 - B. Sundry Important Items -- Father Geoffrey Ready
 - C. St. Tikhon Archdiocesan Stewardship Program (STAS) – Father Andrew Applegate
 - D. St. Arseny Institute – Dr. Greg Wiebe

The Session adjourned for lunch at 11:50 am.

Session IV – Thursday July 27, 2017 – 1:36pm

- I. Father Leonard Herrem presented a diamond willow walking stick to newly appointed Chancellor Father Phillip Eriksson on behalf of Holy Resurrection Sobor, Saskatoon, SK.
- II. Father Leonard Herrem and Father Ryan Bishop presented a keynote address on the topic of “Death, Dying, and Assisted Suicide.”
- III. Reader Mark Petasky invited the Assembly to pose questions to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon and His Eminence, Archbishop Irénée. The Hierarchs took time to respond to several questions on a broad range of topics facing the Church.

- IV. More good news stories from the Archdiocese and other presentations
 - A. Father Geoffrey Ready – Holy Myrrhbearers Mission, Toronto presented on the work of both the Mission, the Orthodox School of Theology at Trinity College, University of Toronto, and also the Orthodox Christian Fellowship.
 - B. Zane Green, St. Herman of Alaska Church, Langley, BC, presented on “Orthodox Funeral Practices: Ancient Traditions vs. Modern Practices”. There was considerable interest in this topic, and it was recommended by the Assembly to introduce further discussion at the next Assembly.
 - C. Father Andrew Applegate, St. Aidan Church, Cranbrook, BC, spoke about the growth and development of the St. Tikhon Archdiocesan Stewards program, celebrating its 10th Anniversary in 2017.
 - D. Father Phillip Eriksson, Chancellor, provided a brief update on the Archdiocesan Group Insurance plan;
 - E. Father Phillip Eriksson, Chancellor, introduced one resolution, relating to the use of technology and social media during Assembly Sessions.

- V. Chancellor Father Phillip Eriksson presented the Nominations which had been received for Lay Representative for the Archdiocesan Council
 - A. Sean Reid, All Saints of North America, Hamilton Nominated by Father Geoffrey Korz, 2nd by Father John Palmer
 - B. Protodeacon Jesse Isaac, St. Herman of Alaska, Edmonton Nominated by Father Vincent Lehr, 2nd by Deacon Kurt Jordan
 - C. Greg Rychlo, Holy Resurrection, Saskatoon
Nominated by Father Gregory Scratch, 2nd by Father Matthew Beynon

- VI. Chancellor Father Phillip Eriksson presented the Nominations for Clergy Representative for the Archdiocesan Council
 - A. Father Andrew Applegate, St. Aidan Church, Cranbrook
 - B. Father Leonard Herrem, Holy Resurrection Sobor, Saskatoon

- VII. Chancellor Father Phillip Eriksson requested nominations for the Clergy Representative to the Metropolitan Council
 - Deacon Nicholas Svetlovsky
Nominated by Father Geoffrey Korz, 2nd by Father Andrew Applegate.

- VIII. Following a discussion around eligibility requirements, Chancellor Father Phillip Eriksson requested nominations for the Lay Representative to the Metropolitan Council
- Mark Pestasky
Nominated by Father Phillip Eriksson, 2nd by Protodeacon Jesse Isaac.
- IX. Chancellor Father Phillip Eriksson presented the nominees for the Audit Committee
- German Ovodov, (Holy Resurrection Sobor, Vancouver) nominated by Father Justin Mitchell
 - Constance Scarlet, (St. Herman of Alaska Sobor, Edmonton) nominated by Father Justin Mitchell
 - Alan Lyons, (St. Peter the Aleut Church, Calgary) nominated by Anne-Christine Gurholt
 - Matushka Sarah Hewlett, (St. John of Shanghai Church, Vancouver) nominated by Deacon Kurt Jordan

The Session was adjourned for the evening.

Session V – FRIDAY JULY 28, 2017 – 11:40am – St. Herman of Alaska Sobor

The Session commenced following the service of the Primatial Divine Liturgy and Breakfast.

- I. Chancellor Father Phillip Eriksson called the meeting to order at 11:40am. Father Phillip also provided information at this time about the Archdiocesan Clergy Group Insurance Plan.
- II. Report of the Credentials Committee
60 voting delegates (Clergy and Lay) were present for the Session.
- III. Resolution
Father Phillip Eriksson read the Resolution that had been submitted, and Mr. Kuprowsky withdrew the Resolution. The Assembly instead agreed to treat this as a recommendation for appropriate use of technology and social media during Assembly sessions.
- IV. Ballot for Lay and Clergy Representatives on the Archdiocesan Council
Ballots were distributed and the nominees were asked to provide a two-minute introduction about themselves for the information of the Assembly.

- V. Mark Petasky announced the appointments of Archdiocesan Council Ex-Officio Members
 - A. Chancellor - Father Phillip Eriksson
 - B. Secretary – Anna Miller
 - C. Treasurer – Father Justin Mitchell

- VI. Chancellor, Father Phillip Eriksson, introduced the Regional Deans and the Lay Representatives selected from each Deanery
 - A. Dean of Quebec and the Maritimes – Father Gregory Nimijean; Lay Rep. John Hadjinicolaou
 - B. Dean of Ontario – Father Geoffrey Korz; Lay Rep, Edward Kerms
 - C. Dean of Manitoba and Saskatchewan – Father Gregory Scratch, Lay Rep. Ian Bodnaryk
 - D. Dean of Alberta – Archimandrite Gerasim Power, Lay Rep. Lorna Clark
 - E. Dean of BC and Yukon – Father Michael Fourik; Lay Rep. Deacon Peter Choi

- VII. His Eminence, Archbishop Irénée announced and gave the blessing for the next Archdiocesan Assembly, to be held in the Summer of 2020, to be hosted by the parishes of Montreal.

- VIII. Elections - Report of the Scrutineers – Presented by David Pasivirta
 - A. Archdiocesan Council Member at Large (Clergy) - Father Andrew Applegate
 - B. Archdiocesan Council Member at Large (Lay) Greg Rychlo

- IX. Father Geoffrey Korz moved the adjournment of the 2017 Archdiocesan Assembly.

Following the adjournment, a Molieben was served for the Conclusion of an Assembly.