

71st Eastern Eparchy Conference Minutes

Saturday December 10, 2022

Virtual

The official opening of the conference was conducted by Fr. Volodymyr (Walter) Makarenko
Prayer: “O Heavenly King” and “Vichnaya Pam’yat” (Memory Eternal) for the departed clergy
and faithful of the Eastern Eparchy of the UOCC

1. **Greeting & Address by His Grace, Right Rev. Bishop Andriy**

See *Addendum I* for contents

2. **Election of the Presidium**

During Clergy Conference

- a) Chairperson Fr. Walter Makarenko
- b) Secretary Fr. Petro Tsenov

Assigned lay people:

- a) Chairperson Br. Dr. Paul Slavchenko
- b) Secretary Sr. Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay

3. **Acceptance of the Eastern Eparchy Conference Agenda:**

Moved by Br. Stefan Krawec, seconded by Br. John Moskalyk

Carried

4. **Election of Committees:**

a) *Nominating Committee* (2 year post):

- 1) Fr. Taras Kinash,
- 2) Fr. Dr. Yaroslav Buciora
- 3) Sr. Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay

b) *Resolutions Committee:*

Lay people:

- 1) Br. John Haluk
- 2) Br. John Moskalyk

as per Clergy Conference:

- 3) Fr. Vasyl Fediv
- 4) Fr. Vasyl Kobrii
- 5) Fr. Vasyl Makarenko

5. **Address of His Eminence, Metropolitan Ilarion**

See *Addendum II* for contents

6. **Reports from the Consistory Office and St. Andrews College and CYMK**

a) *Information from the Chancellor* - Fr. Charles Baxter

- preparing to move to Winnipeg
- Master list of all parishes completed and passed forward to Fr. Peter Haugen
- working on identifying all closed parishes
- working to procure additional Insured Liability Insurance
- vital statistic (Wedding and Baptismal info) in being updated
- working with archivists and sorting out information at the Consistory offices
- on going work with USRL and CUF regarding helping Ukraine
- distribution of parish information forms

- reaching out to individual parishes and asking clergy to reach out to past members searching for “the lost sheep and parishes”
- examining the possibilities of installing positions voted upon during the Sobor of 2022, including communications director, Education director etc.. and other decisions reached at the Sobor
- Fr. Charles specifically thanked Sr. Marta Smally and Sr. Dorthy Bolusmiak at St. Anne Church for their kindness and assistance with his move to Winnipeg.

b) **Report from St. Andrews College** - Fr. Roman Bozyk No report

- It was reported that Fr. Roman was not informed about the meeting and was not prepared to present at the time of the meeting.

c) **Report from CYMK** - Christina Paziuk National President

- a Power Point presentation was given see *Addendum III* attached.

7. Questions to the Bishops

- Sr. Lesia Skyba requested to ensure that the proceeds from the Sobor be placed in a discretionary fund for the next Sobor and not into operational funds.
- Question regarding the TOMOS by Sr. Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay a clarification regarding the TOMOS and its boundaries: Metropolitan Illarian answered that the Tomos only abides to the territories of Ukraine and all other Ukrainian churches are under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch. Meaning the Canadian Church
- Sr. Oksana Metulynsky posed the idea to both Bishops and Fr. Charles Baxter the UOCC needs to provide the prayer books Bipa/Faith and that it has a second printing is needed, as our faithful arriving from Ukraine are asking for them. Metropolitan Ilarion agreed and mentioned that the first print of Bipa/Faith was distributed very quickly. He will investigate into a second printing of it.
- Sr. Oksana Metulynsky also requested to know when will our Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada return to pre-pandemic status. Bishop Andriy indicated that the Greek Church has stopped with live streaming Sunday Services, to bring people back into the physical church.
- Fr. Volodymyr Kushnir announce that the church indeed needs to provid spiritual guidance to the newcomers. He has found Bipa/Faith which has been printed in Ukraine and will try to obtain more info regarding this.
- Fr. Volodymyr Kushnir also announced that the Moscow Patriarch has opened more churches within Europe and are fooling the people. He is suggesting that the MP will also open churches here in Canada.
- It was announced that the establishment of an MP church in Richmond Hill and the people are not paying attention to the politics they just wish to participate in the spiritual side of things.
- Fr. Volodymyr Kushnir also indicated that a large group of Ukrainians are in Nova Scotia. He asked permission to go but go slow as these are not stable parishes.
- Metropolitan answered that mission funds need to be determined. He is certain that a mission fund would be supported and approved-UOCC needs to participate, but that the consistory needs to discuss these possibilities. This is positive steps that investigations, with photos and reports need to be conducted.

- Sr. Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay asked about the possibility of a mission to participate in St. John's Newfoundland, since we were invited by a resident of St. John's. Metropolitan Ilarion answered that the response will be forthcoming.

b) & c) **Questions to the Chancellor and for St. Andrews College**

- no questions were posed to the Chancellor or for St. Andrews College

8. **Eparchial Activity Reports**

a) **Orphanage project** - Fr. Myroslaw Shmygelskyy

- in 2021 the Orphanage was presented \$7,000.00
- the director of the Orphanage requested an automobile at a cost of \$9,000.00
- unfortunately, the area around the orphanage was bombed early in the war.

b) **Youth Activities** - earlier in the conference Sr. Christina Paziuk addressed the youth activities

- she indicated that activities such as Remembrance Day commemorations and Holodomor were addressed by CYMKivtsi
- Fr. Taras Kinash reported that a youth group in the Ottawa church has begun
- Fr. Petro Tsenov started "open days in the church" for parents, during the lessons of the Ukrainian school, held in the church hall and attended by about 40 students (parents can pray, have some solitude and talk with the father about their needs)
- Oshawa Parish also maintains a Ukrainian Dance group
- Fr. Vasyl Kobryii indicated that St. Volodymyr Cathedral had 70 children for St. Nicholas concert from the St. Volodymyr Saturday School while at All Saints Chapel in Oakville had 120 children of immigrant children.
- Sr. Oksana Metulynsky announced that although London is a small parish a reading program was purchased by the parish one year of "Learning A-Z" online for the children.
- Sr. Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay reported that St. Demetrius Church has a very large registration sheet for their St. Nicholas concert, many new arrivals come for communion and after the Liturgy fellowship, all of which shows a good and healthy spirit in the movement towards a better future for their parish.

b) **St. Sophia Camp** - Fr. Volodymyr Kouchnir

- announced that the camp had a catastrophic storm which resulted in the kitchen, admin and barracks being destroyed. James Temerty foundation awarded them \$50,000 rebuilt it but during the winter once again there was more destruction, remodelling and renovation continues, and the hope is that it would be re-opened in 2023.
- it was noted that their insurance provider would not cover any of the costs, Montreal is searching for a new Insurance provider.

b) **Web-site** - Fr. Walter Makarenko explained that Eastern Eparchy needs a new web master to overhaul and bring the Website up to date.

- Sr. Lesia Skyba asked for clarification. Again, it was stated that someone needed to completely take over the website. It was suggested that it needed to be a paid position.

- Sr. Lesia upon hearing that the website was run by WordPress, volunteered to be the maintenance person but needs an assistant as she does not know how to update and revamp the existing website.
- it was determined that Sub Deakon Franko Diakowsky possess all the coding information for the Website such as Parish contacts etc was identified and needs to be placed onto this website.
- it was decided to sort all that offline.
- Br. Sterling Demchinsky suggest with the absence of Visnyk it is imperative to have an up-to-date Website.
- Fr. Charles Baxter also suggested that at the Sobor it was approved to hire a communications manager to manage content of website, and this could be run out of Winnipeg.

9. **Acceptance of the previous Minutes from the previous Eparchy Conference**

John Moskalyk moved to accept the minutes as amended.

Oksana Metulynsky seconded the motion.

Carried

a) Business arising from the Eparchy Conference- No business was raised

10. **Reports from the Eparchy Council:**

a) **Statistical** - Fr. Walter Makarenko announced that only 7 Parishes responded and sent back questionnaires from 21 parishes of the Eastern Eparchy

- From the secretary's attendance notes and observations: - of the 21 Eastern Eparchy Parishes, 14 parishes were represented, 32 individuals, Clerics and Lay People participated in this forum,

- representation was from the following parishes:

St. Demetrius, Etobicoke,
 St. Georges, St. Catharines,
 St. Andrews, Toronto,
 St. John the Baptist, Oshawa,
 St. Vladimir, Hamilton,
 Assumption Of the Blessed Virgin,
 Ottawa,
 St. Volodymyr, Toronto,

All Saints of Ukraine,
 Oakville,
 Holy Trinity, Sarnia,
 Holy Trinity, London,
 St. Anne's, Scarborough,
 St. Sophia, Montreal,
 St. George, Grimsby,
 St. Sophia, Waterloo

10. b) **Financial Report** - Br. Michael Kalimin
 see *Addendum IV* attached.

- Noted that several parishes have yet to bring their accounts up to date, however more than normal. Br. Michael indicated that parishes were focused on updating their accounts to be able to attend Sobor 2022

- Br. Michael is working with Jennifer Parks of the consistory office to identify the number of

members in 2022 to obtaining info regarding levies owed.

- the larger Income donations were explained as were the larger expenditures, it should be noted that a surplus of \$9,662 occurred in the previous Budget under utilities, which will be used forward for 2023.

Questions/suggestions from the participants included:

Encourage to send invoices and reminders well ahead of time to the parishes.

- an interesting discussion regarding current membership lists was noted that at times the Eastern Eparchy was working to 4-year historical lists. The consistory office is working diligently to update these membership lists as current as possible.
- Sr. Oksana Metulynsky suggested that the questionnaires be sent out in February or March. Also, a request to return to return to the interactive form, set up by Sub Deacon Franko Diakowsky which were easier to handle
- Br. Greg Taras suggests that those who have not paid be written off?
- Fr. Dr. Jaroslaw Buciora requested that line item 18 of the Current & Arrears Levies sht 3 financial should be two entities ie St. Volodymyr Cathedral and All Saints of Ukraine should be two separate entries
- Fr. Dr. Jaroslaw Buciora asked when the last time Eastern Eparchy applied for GST rebate and suggested that we have lost a great amount of funds not doing so. Br. Michael Kalimin re-iterated his plea from the previous year for assistance in this area. It was determined that the GST rebate can only be back tracked one year. Also, to be noted by Br. Greg Taras that every parish should be entering this practice. Br. Greg Taras also indicated that he would speak to his bookkeeper to assist Br. Michael Kalamini with the GST rebates.
- Fr. Dr. Jaroslaw Buciora also noted that a large amount of charitable funds is being held for Orphanages. His fear is that this money could be lost if we are audited and suggested that we spend at least 50% of these funds, it was noted that Eastern Eparchy is obliged to spend only up to 5%
- several questions raised regarding levies paid. Suggestion that new formula is required to determine memberships. Fr. Myroslaw Shmygelsky suggested that people tithe 5-10% or what they can. Upon participation in regular communion, they automatically become members. Together with Br. Slavko Demchinsky they indicated that this method of paying a membership directly to their Eparchy instead of their parish, it seems to work successfully for parishes not from UOCC in their perspective cities and these parishes seem to be thriving positively. It would need to be regulated by the parish priest working in tandem with their financial secretaries.

10. **c) *Maintenance report*** - Br. Stefan Krawec see *Addendum V* attached.
 - this report included all work done to 3281 Cindy Crescent, Mississauga, Bishop Andriy's residence from June 2022-December 2022 the scope of the works was well outlined. He noted that when employing outside vendors, he tries to incorporate Ukrainian Community members in some cases this results in cash payments of which large portions are donated back to the Eastern Eparchy. Currently obtaining quotes for the replacement of central air conditioning combined with a possible heating system. Br. Stefan will split the quotes to reflect just A/C and combine A/C with heating units. Item 4.

10. **Questions and acceptance of reports.**

(Note questions asked to the financial secretary were asked during his report.)

A question pertaining to the chapel floor in the manse of a possible leak causing buckling in the floor will be investigated.

Motion to accept the reports was presented by Sr. Natalka Olynyk Kowalenko

Seconded by Sr. Orysia Manzitiuk

Carried

11. **Audit Committee Report** no report was presented. It was suggested that an internal Audit Committee needs to substantiate the work of the executive.

A motion to complete an internal audit by January 31, 2023, was moved by:

Sr. Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay, seconded by Sr. Natalka Olynyk Kowalenko

Carried

Noted that Fr. Walter Makarenko as the first vice chair was to notify the Audit Committee to ensure that this work be done. Audit Committee identified as:

Fr. Roman Kocur, Br. Walter Chewchuk, and Sr. Annie Myschenko alternate Sr. Lydia Lilly Tarasiuk.

12. **Approval of the Budget for 2022/2023** see *Addendum IV* attached.
(note it is the last column of the Profit and Loss statement on *Addendum IV*)

- it is a break-even budget
- A/C and heating not included.

Motion to accept this budget

made by Br. Michael Kalimin

seconded by Fr. Walter Makarenko

Carried.

13. **Resolutions Committee Report** - presentation see *Addendum VI*
Read in Ukrainian Only by Fr. Vasyl Kobrii

Motion to accept resolutions as amended made by:

Fr. Petro Tsenov

Sr. Dorothy Bolusmiak seconded.

Carried.

14. **Closing remarks:** His Grace, Bishop Andriy

- His Grace thanked all for our participation and work.
 - He gave a short statistical report of the participation at the Clerics Conference, with a suggestion that in the future we must have knowledge as to who will attend ahead of time to ensure that we have statistics regarding our parishes.
- He wished us good health, Spiritual calm, peace and peace within our Parishes and unity within our communities.

15. **Closing Prayer** Bishop Andriy asked Fr. Petro Tsenov to lead us in prayer which ended the proceedings. Final blessings from Metropolitan Ilarion