

**ST. ANDREW'S
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX SOBOR PARISH**

9831 - 75 STREET
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
CANADA T6A 2Y8



Слава Ісусу Хресту! Слава Навіки! Glory to Jesus Christ! His glory forever!

August 24, 2022

Dear Honorary Members, Members, and Associate Members,

Today, the date of this letter, is the anniversary of the independence of Ukraine, and especially as the ancestral homeland to most of us is being subjected to war and atrocities by the Russian Federation, I also greet you with:

Слава Україні! Героям Слава! Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the heros!

On behalf of the Board of Management, I pray that you and your families have experienced a wonderful spring and summer to this point. It has been some time since my last communication to you – my sincere regret. It is indeed a privilege to communicate this update of our parish.

Fr. Yuriy continues to pray for the safety and health of you and your families. It is asked that you pray for his and his family's health and safety, too.

With this communication we provide information regarding:

1. Our UOCC Has Its New Metropolitan
2. SOBOR XXIV – Brief Summary
3. Assistance to Ukrainian Nationals in Alberta and to Ukrainians in Ukraine
4. More Ukrainian Nationals are attending our Parish
5. Unfortunately, COVID-19 is still here
6. Updated COVID-19 protocol and a new COVID-19 vaccination protocol for St. Andrew's
7. A call for volunteers to greet worshippers and host Sunday fellowships
8. The Board of Management and the whole parish needs your help!
9. St. Andrew's Sobor Parish Special General Meeting October 2022
10. September Sunday and other day worship services with extra-special significance
11. A Celebration of Protopresbyter Reverend Stephan Semotiuk
12. An Announcement from Dnipro Choir

Our UOCC Has Its New Metropolitan

During the assembly of the Holy and Sacred Synod July 21 and 22, 2022, His Grace Bishop Ilarion was elevated be to His Eminence Archbishop Ilarion of Winnipeg, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada under the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!

Please pray that God grant His Eminence Archbishop Ilarion the strength, wisdom, and health to lead our church.

SOBOR XXIV – Brief Summary

SOBOR XXIV took place on June 13-19, 2022 as a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting. Delegates gathered in each of 6 cathedrals across Canada (Vancouver, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Montreal) and each of the cathedral gatherings were connected virtually to each other – a rather impressive technological undertaking in my opinion. So, all Alberta based delegates gathered in St. John's Cathedral in Edmonton, including the delegates from our Parish - Lesia Perrit, Vivian and Ernest Skakun, and Michael Zukiwsky. The reason for the hybrid nature was to minimize travel of delegates from across Canada to a common location, because at the time of planning, COVID-19 pandemic was much less settled than it is now. Minimizing travel minimized risk to the delegates considering people gathering and the potential difficulties of travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At this SOBOR XXIV we elected a new Metropolitan, a new Chancellor, and a new Consistory Board.

The new Metropolitan of the UOCC is as written in the previous section of this letter. However, the delegates of the SOBOR elected a different candidate. This difference between who was elected and who was elevated is seen in some circles as concerning. This concern will likely be addressed by the Consistory Board.

The new Chancellor for the UOCC is Father Charles Baxter.

Members of the new Consistory Board are not listed herein as my notes of those elected are not complete. However, I do comment that the 9 Board members from the laity representatives were acclaimed without election because the number wishing to run and the number of positions to fill were equal. A first and a second ballot was required to fill the positions from the clergy representatives.

As well as elections as identified above, the delegates reviewed, debated, and voted on 4 previously presented resolutions, 12 "from the floor" resolutions, and 8 previously presented changes to bylaws. Reports prepared and circulated ahead of time to delegates were heard from the Chancellor (outgoing), the Consistory Treasurer, Auditors, and St. Andrew's College. As usual, the UOCC Foundation AGM was held, occurring as part of the SOBOR itinerary. Ratification of the actions of the following committees also occurred: SOBOR working groups: SOBOR Planning Committee, SOBOR Program Committee, Credentials Committee, Rozmet Committee, Nominating Committee, Media and PR Committee, Resolutions Committee, and Rules and Procedures Committee.

Was this hybrid nature perfect and without issues and technical glitches? Of course not, but we succeeded in holding SOBOR XXIV. In my opinion, the technicians who brought this hybrid meeting together were top notch and deserve credit for a job well done. At the end of SOBOR XXIV there was a questionnaire in which the delegates were asked participate, where a number of questions were in regard to SOBOR's hybrid nature. Of all the people attending at the Edmonton Cathedral that I talked to, I did not find a single person who liked the hybrid nature SOBOR.

More information will be presented to the membership after the official minutes of the SOBOR XXIV are issued. I also notice that at the time of writing, the UOCC website has not been updated to show the result of the SOBOR XXIV elections.

If you have any questions, please call me or any of the other Parish delegates directly.

Assistance to Ukrainian Nationals in Alberta and to Ukrainians in Ukraine

Ukraine continues to suffer from the inhumane assault and war from The Russian Federation, displacing millions of residents to other parts of Ukraine and to international destinations including Canada and Alberta. **Ukrainians continue to need our assistance whether financial, material, or through you being a volunteer.**

To make a monetary donation for specific or general need to Ukrainians near or far, a donation to the Canada-Ukraine Foundation can be made.

To make a monetary donation for humanitarian aid for those in Ukraine, a donation to the Western Eparchy of the UOCC can be made, specifying that it be transferred the **Orthodox Church in Ukraine** for Humanitarian Aid.

PLEASE SPECIFY THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN UKRAINE (WHICH IS UNDER THE PATRIARCH IN CONSTANTINOPLE AND IN COMMUNION WITH OUR UOCC) versus the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (which is under the patriarch in Moscow no longer in communion with our UOCC). **PLEASE SPECIFY THE FORMER!**

St. Andrew's Sobor Parish continues to collect cheques and cash to either of these organizations, and we will pass on these collected monies to the appropriate organizations. Ensure to include your name and address on the cheque or with your cash donation if you wish a receipt suitable for income tax purposes.

PLEASE DO NOT MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO ST. ANDREW'S SOBOR PARISH DESIGNATED FOR HUMANITARIAN AID DONATIONS.

For material donations, I copy words from an email received from Ukrainian-Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council (UCC-APC) on Aug. 14, 2022 below and attach a copy of a letter requesting Edmonton members to donate for Ukrainian Nationals in Edmonton and a poster targeted those who are interested in hosting Ukrainian Nationals, both sent from UCC-APC to His Eminence Archbishop Ilarion.

From: Sonia Shalewa <prairielily56@gmail.com>

Sent: August 15, 2022 4:56 PM

Subject: FREE Store Information for Distribution

1) UKRAINIAN CANADIAN SOCIAL SERVICES (EDMONTON) welcomes Ukrainian Nationals at their office 11717-97 Street Mon to Friday 9 am - 4:30 pm by appointment. New Ukrainians to Edmonton receive a Welcome kit of hygiene products. Donations are needed of kits/backpacks with shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, lotion, bar soap, toothbrush & floss, comb or brush, kleenex, bandaids, q-tips, shaver and shaving cream, facecloth, sanitary pads, a personal Welcome/Vitaemo note. All these kits are accepted at the office. Kits should be labelled man/male or woman/female, child by sex and age. The kits or ziploc bags of hygiene products can be dropped off at Ukrainian Social Services anytime. If there are group donations call 780-686-3078. Someone can pick them up. Please NOTE: Laptops and notebooks are accepted at UCSS office for school and English language learning for adults.

2) *FREE STORE* regular hours are 3pm to 7 pm Wednesdays.
Saturdays 11 to 3pm. Closed August 20th. Next open day for Saturday is August 27th

Hello Friends! **FREE STORE**

We are now accepting the following donations on **TUESDAY AUGUST 16th 12-2PM** and **WEDNESDAY AUGUST 17th 3-7PM** at the Free Store 10137-104 Street Edmonton.

CLOTHING:

New/Next to New/Gently Used **WINTER** clothing for **KIDS, WOMEN, MEN.**

BABIES snow suits and car seats only, no clothing or strollers at this time.

***Please note, we cannot accept items that are soiled or damaged and we kindly ask that you bring clothing in freshly laundered.

URGENTLY NEEDED: Household items - We are completely out of pots and cooking wear. Please bring only **CLEANED** items in very good to excellent condition.

TOILETRIES: High need for shampoo, body wash, deodorant, etc.

Donations can be brought to our Free Store at 10137-104 Street Edmonton during our regular hours. Wednesdays 3pm to 7pm and Saturdays 11am to 3 pm. Closed August 20th, open August 27th.

Thank you so much to our donors for following our donation request guidelines. When we get items we cannot use, it creates additional work for our volunteers. When you follow our donation requests it greatly helps us give our Newcomers the items they need to get settled in Canada.

We appreciate your support.

3). **FREE UKRAINIAN FURNITURE WAREHOUSE** is at 15330 -114 ave. Boilermakers Warehouse. Hours are Tues & Thursday 6 to 8 pm. And Saturday & Sundays, 12 to 4pm. On Saturdays, a Settlement counsellor is available from 1 to 3 pm.

Furniture needs to be delivered to west side of warehouse. UCC APC has an urgent call for volunteers for the warehouse hours and for volunteers with trucks. Many donations are lost because seniors cannot get a truck to deliver to the warehouse.

Please donate: Beds, tables, chairs, sofas, dishes, pots pans, household items, used clean, mattresses, New packaged sheets, new pillows, blankets quilts, bicycles, cribs all are needed.

PLEASE DO NOT DROP OFF CLOTHING DESIGNATED FOR DONATIONS AT THE PARISH AS WE DO NOT ACCEPT THEM ON BEHALF OF UCC-APC FREE STORE.

More Ukrainian Nationals are attending our Parish

Over the past little while, more Ukrainian Nationals are starting to attend our Parish. Please introduce yourselves to them. They may not speak English, but try to communicate nonetheless even if you cannot speak Ukrainian. The Board is gathering information for distribution about where the newcomers can reach out for assistance.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 is still here

Unfortunately, COVID-19 and its variants remain in our community and can still make us sick, especially those who are immunocompromised. Therefore, precautions continue to be necessary for all of us at St. Andrew's Sobor Parish.

We ask and strongly urge you – if you are feeling sick, have any of the symptoms of COVID-19, or have come in contact with a COVID-19 or a variant case (regardless of vaccination status), that you do not attend worship services or come to any other function at the parish.

We ask that you follow the AB Government's isolation and quarantining recommendations.

Furthermore, regardless if you have symptoms and have taken a rapid test at home and it shows you to not have COVID-19, we ask you to remain away from the parish. It is reported that the results of those tests can be wrong because of the nature of the test and that the procedures to implement a rapid test are specific – any individual who incorrectly performs those procedures can easily and inadvertently affect the test result.

Updated COVID-19 protocol and a new COVID-19 vaccination protocol for St. Andrew's

To ensure that we continue to be as safe as we can to each other, we continue to monitor how we celebrate worship services in our Parish. The *Parish Plan for Worship Services During COVID-19* (previously entitled the Re-opening Plan) is updated and a *COVID Vaccination Policy* is developed. Both documents are available on the Parish website. For those without access to the website and would like a copy of the documents, please contact Michael Zukiwsky – contact information available at the end of this letter.

A call for volunteers to greet worshippers and host Sunday Fellowships

The following is a copy of an email sent on August 6, 2022 to those with email addresses in our possession asking for volunteers to welcome those attending Sunday worship services and to host Sunday Fellowship following Sunday Worship Services.

Please consider volunteering.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Parish Members, Associate Members, and Friends of the Parish;

As we cautiously approach the beginning of a New Church Year in September, we are requesting your participation in serving as greeters and hosting Sunday Fellowships. This request is being made on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary and the Parish Board of Management.

Very briefly, greeters are like host and hostess in a home. They meet and greet church attendees when they come into the church. If they are first-time attendees, have them sign the guest book, help them to a pew, introduce them to other Parish members, and invite them to join the Sunday Fellowship following the service.

Hosting a Sunday Fellowship requires a team of 2-4 people (men can be hosts) who prepare a light snack (not a full course meal) with coffee following the Sunday Divine Liturgy Service. The team is responsible for buying/ making and preparing the items for the light snack. The team is also responsible for cleaning up. If you are willing to help host a Sunday Fellowship, please let us know.

Many of you have served as team captains for Sunday Fellowships in the past. If you are willing to serve as team captain again, we suggest that you contact your team members and see whether they can serve again. Please let us know who are your team members.

If you can serve as a greeter and/or help host a Sunday Fellowship, we prefer to hear from you by Wednesday August 17 so that we can plan a roster of greeters and teams for Sunday Fellowship.

Please send your replies to Ernest & Vivian Skakun at BLUEMALVA@shaw or phone at 780-434-0543.

If you have any questions regarding greeters or Sunday Fellowship, please contact Ernest Skakun by email or phone.

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to your replies.

In Christ,

Astrid Prytuluk - Sunday Fellowship Chair

Kathy Buchanan - Co-Chair - Ladies Auxiliary

Vivian Skakun - Co-Chair - Ladies Auxiliary

Ernest Skakun - Past President - Parish Board of Management

The Board of Management and the whole parish needs your help

This section of the letter is a repeat from the previous letter to the membership due to its extreme importance. Please consider volunteering!

At the Annual General Meeting, all positions on the Board of Management were not filled. And, most of this year's Board members have been on the Board for two terms. Consequently, the following issues exist:

1. Some activities within the parish are not being completed as thoroughly as they should, as some Board members are pulling "double duty" and completing their usual and additional duties. This is not healthy for the organization as perhaps some activities are not being completed and volunteer burnout can occur.
2. Decisions requiring broad debate by the Board may only see limited debate because the number of "opinions" is reduced with reduced Board size. And, perhaps some differing points of view are not brought forward and discussed. This is indirectly not healthy for the parish members as appropriate stewardship of the parish's assets could be eroded.
3. New Board members are not learning from experience. The existing procedures and items necessary to manage the parish are not being shown to less experienced Board members and new members are not learning from the mistakes that undoubtedly occur regardless of Board experience.

Without a full complement of Board members, the whole health of the Parish is not only directly and immediately affected, but the longevity of OUR parish is reduced.

Please talk to any of the existing Board members about volunteering to serve on the Board of Management. The parish will benefit directly and you will benefit indirectly!

St. Andrew's Sobor Parish Special General Meeting October 2022

St. Andrew's Sobor Parish will have a special general meeting likely on October 2, 2022 following Divine Liturgy. It is an opportunity to hear the latest news from the Board of Management and provides you an opportunity to address Board members on the issues of the agenda. We will be addressing our financial situation which continues to be not good whatsoever!

It is also an opportunity to simply meet and be with each other.

Stay tuned for the official notification and agenda which will be emailed and announced following Divine Liturgy services leading up to the actual date.

September Sunday and other day worship services with extra-special significance

The following list shows extra-special services celebrated in September. Divine Liturgy on Sundays not listed commence at 10am with requested attendance at 9am for those wishing Confession. If you have any questions, please call Fr. Yuriy directly on his mobile – 780-885-8143.

1. Sunday, September 4th – 12th Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 Confession and 10:00 Divine Liturgy
2. Friday, September 9th
6:00pm Akathist to the Mother of God for the sick (cancer and other) and for the people in Ukraine
3. Sunday, September 11th – 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Beheading of the St. John Baptist Fasting day
9:00 Confession and 10:00 Divine Liturgy
4. Wednesday, September 14th
Beginning of the new Church Year
9:00 New Church Year Moleben
5. Sunday, September 18 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Church School Registration
9:00 Confession, 10:00 Divine Liturgy, and 11:30 Prayers for the New Church and School Year
6. Wednesday, September 21 – Nativity of the Theotokos and Ever- Virgin Mary
9:00 Confession and 9:30 Divine Liturgy
7. Sunday, September 25th – 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
9:00 Confession and 10:00 Divine Liturgy
8. Tuesday, September 27th – Exaltation of the Holy Cross
9:00 Confession, 9:15 Procession and Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and 9:30 Divine Liturgy

A Celebration of Protopresbyter Reverend Stephan Semotiuk

At the request received in writing from the President of St. John's Cathedral in Edmonton, we inform you that Protopresbyter Reverend Stephan Semotiuk is retiring from pastoral service after spending 53 years in service for the UOCC, of which the latest 30 years as Dean at St. John's Cathedral. On September 25, 2022 commencing at 9:30am, Divine Liturgy and Moleben' will be celebrated at the Cathedral followed by a dinner and program in St. John's Cultural Centre where all are invited to attend. Tickets (\$60 for adults and children aged 5-12 are \$20) and more information available by contacting the Cathedral office at (780) 425-9692. Confirmation of attendance required by no later than September 16, 2022, but indicating your interest to attend by contacting the Cathedral office is better to be completed sooner than later.

An Announcement from Dnipro Choir

Dnipro Choir requests the following announcement be made to our Parish:

Dnipro Choir is welcoming new members to join our choir as we start our next season. All voice parts are welcome to join in singing a wide variety of classical, folk, and contemporary Ukrainian music. Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings at St. John Cultural Centre (10611 110 Ave NW, Edmonton). Transliterated lyrics are available. If interested please email: ukrainiandniprochoir@gmail.com

Хор «Дніпро» запрошує нових учасників до нашого хору, оскільки ми починаємо наступний сезон. Голоси усіх партій можуть приєднатися до співу різноманітної класичної, народної та сучасної української музики. Репетиції відбуваються щопонеділка ввечері в St. John Cultural Center (10611 110 Ave NW, Edmonton). Зацікавлені пишуть: ukrainiandniprochoir@gmail.com

Help the Men's Club by working at a Bingo which helps our Parish

Gordon Ostapchuk is requesting assistance from Parish members or their friends or family by volunteering to work at bingos that they host. Part of the profits made at the bingos are given to the Men's Club and its from those monies that they donate money to the Parish for our use.

The volunteer work is easy, will be explained to you, and quickly comprehended. You will not be given hard tasks!

If you or someone you know can volunteer to work one or more of these bingo games listed in the table below, please contact Gordon @ 780-463-0454. Your assistance is appreciated and your efforts go toward our Parish.

Location of bingo games: Parkway Bingo @ 8775 51 Avenue in Edmonton

Time Commitment: 10:30am to 3:30pm and a lunch is provided to all volunteers

Friday	July	22	2022		Thursday	Jan.	5	2023
Monday	Aug.	8	2022		Friday	Jan.	20	2023
Thursday	Aug.	18	2022		Monday	Feb.	6	2023
Friday	Sept.	9	2022		Wednesday	Mar.	22	2023
Wednesday	Sept.	21	2022		Monday	Apr.	3	2023
Friday	Oct.	14	2022		Wednesday	Apr.	19	2023
Monday	Oct.	24	2022		Friday	May	12	2023
Wednesday	Nov.	2	2022		Monday	June	12	2023
Thursday	Dec.	1	2022		Friday	June	23	2023
					Thursday	July	6	2023
					Monday	July	24	2023
					Wednesday	Aug.	9	2023
					Friday	Aug.	18	2023

If you have any questions regarding this update or otherwise, please call me on my cell (780) 660-0789 or email me at president@uocc-standrew.ca.

Yours truly,

Board of Management President, St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Parish

Michael Zukiwsky