



Metropolitan Sheptytsky Society of Saskatchewan (MSSS)  
ТОВАРИСТВО ім. МИТРОПОЛИТА ШЕПТИЦЬКОГО

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MARCH 31, 2011  
REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF METROPOLITAN  
SHEPTYTSKY SOCIETY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
BY PETER V. ABRAMETZ (PRINCE ALBERT)

I was elected a Director of the Metropolitan Sheptytsky Society (representing Prince Albert) at the Annual Meeting of the Society held on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. It is my intention to report to the membership as to the workings of the Society after each Board Meeting. There is presently a motion before the Board calling for the Society to be dissolved, and I think it is appropriate that I share with you some background.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Metropolitan Sheptytsky Society of Saskatchewan (MSSS) was incorporated in 1976 and given a mandate by Bishop Roborecki to operate Sheptytsky Institute. Historically the Society managed the Institute under ten year agreements, however the Eparchy of Saskatchewan **declined** to renew the Society's operating agreement for a ten year term in 2007, and since that time the Society has been managing Sheptytsky Institute on a year-to-year basis. The Society has renovated and updated the facility, and maintained it; it is debt free.

Approximately three years ago, Bishop Bryan, based on the Eparchial SOBOR document, made specific demands of the Society Board, namely:

- i) the conversion of four student rooms into offices;
- ii) loss of the General Manager;
- iii) exclusive use of meeting space/designated parking stalls;
- iv) year to year lease/veto power over Board decisions at Sheptytsky Institute.

The MSSS Board felt these requirements were inconsistent with the Board's management of Sheptytsky Institute for the following reasons:

- i) year-to-year leases excluded the possibility for long term planning and decision making;
- ii) the demand for veto power of MSSS Board decisions by the Bishop was in conflict with the Society Bylaws, and *The Non Profit Corporations Act*;
- iii) the loss of Board independence could result in MSSS losing charitable status;
- iv) a proposal to have Eparchial office space at the Institute would alter the academic and social environment of the building thereby affecting applications for residency, and the quality of the life of the students.

The Board and the Bishop were not able to reach a compromise and the Society returned the administration of the Institute to the Eparchy. A Settlement Agreement signed between the Episcopal Corp. and the Society settled all issues pertaining to Sheptytsky Institute, and the Eparchy granted to the Society a “right of first refusal” to purchase the Institute from the Eparchy, if the Eparchy offered it for sale.

The Eparchy caused to be created the Archangel Gabriel Eparchial Ministries Inc. (AGEMI) and designated it the successor operator of Sheptytsky Institute. After the Agreements were signed, Bohdan Popowych (**President of AGEMI**) presented a motion to MSSS to the effect that MSSS should be dissolved, and any funds held by the Society be paid to the Eparchy (approximately \$250,000.00).

The Board amended its Bylaws to reflect the new reality that it was not managing Sheptytsky Institute, but for the most part these amendments were **not** ratified by the Membership at the Annual Meeting at Hafford on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The Popowych motion to dissolve the Society was scheduled for a Special Meeting March 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **BOARD MEETING – MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2011 (SASKATOON)**

At this Board Meeting I presented a motion that the Special Meeting scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 be postponed as proper notice of the Special Meeting had not been published, which motion was unanimously carried.

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 I met with the MSSS membership at Prince Albert. I shared with the membership that the situation with MSSS and the Bishop has now become a lightning rod for all members of the Eparchy who feel they have somehow been wronged by Bishop Bryan, and it was the unanimous view of the membership that there should be a meeting with Bishop Bryan, and an attempt made to reconcile, including participation of MSSS in the operation of Sheptytsky Institute, if possible.

### **BOARD MEETING – MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2011**

At the Board Meeting of March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the Board passed a motion to the effect that the Society create a Committee of the Board, headed by Peter V. Abrametz, to enter into a dialogue with Bishop Bryan to seek reconciliation with the Society. Members of that Committee, beside myself, are Nadia Prokopchuk (Saskatoon), Mike Kaminski (Regina), Dr. Michael Krochak (Saskatoon), and Dr. William A. Gulka (Meadow Lake).

This Committee is presently communicating with Bishop Bryan for the purposes of setting up such a meeting.

In truth and reconciliation I remain your Director,

Peter V. Abrametz