

## **CONSISTORY RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE BEGINS PREPARATION FOR SOBOR 2010**

The Spring 2009 Meeting of the Consistory confirmed the mandate and composition of the Sobor 2010 Resolutions Committee. The theme of Sobor 2010 is "*Created in His Image and likeness – we are living Icons*". The Consistory has voiced a desire to have resolutions passed in 2010 that celebrate and build on the tradition and Christian example established by our pioneer priests of the Church.

The membership of the Committee, as confirmed by the Consistory, strives to ensure input from all clergy and faithful of the UOCC from across Canada. The Eastern Eparchy members are Fr. Ihor Okhrymtchouk and Stephania Spytzkowska. The Central Eparchy is represented by Fr. Taras Makowsky, Vasyl Balan and Gerald Luciuk. The Western Eparchy members are Fr. Taras Krochak and Tom Haugen. Metropolitan John, Archbishop Yuriy, Bishops Ilarion and Andriy are members ex officio as is the Acting Chancellor, Fr. Victor Lakusta. Fr. Henry Lakusta in his capacity as Sobor Organizing Chairperson is Secretary to the Committee. Gerald Luciuk has been designated Chairperson.

The overall emphasis of the work by the Resolutions Committee is on:

- Creation of a focus
- Expanding dialogue
- Fostering consensus

An additional overriding concern of the Consistory is to ensure that adequate time is available both prior to and during the Sobor for preparation and thorough discussion of resolutions. To this end, the following milestones have been established:

- Confirmation of Committee and Membership in Spring, 2009
- An information update on work of Committee and process by mid-November 2009
- Issue formal call for resolutions with background information to all clergy and parishes by early December, 2009
- Submission of resolutions to Consistory and Committee by February 28, 2010
- Compile submissions and return resolutions package to Parishes for discussion by May 1, 2010
- Resolutions review and decision in July 2010 at Sobor

Progress on this mandate from the Consistory is advancing well. The membership of the Committee has been approved and two meetings were held this fall. Working sub-groups have been established to assist with various thematic areas. Reports from the Committee have been

presented to all the Eparchial Annual Meetings this fall. During the past four years of this Consistory term, significant work has been completed to itemize all Sobor and Consistory resolutions since 2000. An assessment has been made of what decisions have been implemented, which resolutions are works in progress and what decisions remain outstanding. Most recently a detailed work-planning workshop was held by the Presidium to determine specific actions that could further be undertaken to implement outstanding decision items by July 2010. The Resolutions Committee is working on a summary of these materials that could be provided as background information to Parishes to assist in the effective preparation of resolutions.

The Committee is emphasizing an approach that builds on the work and deliberations of previous Sobors. Sobor 2000 approved a comprehensive action plan entitled *Vision 2000: A Blueprint for the Future*. This 'Vision' was based on a comprehensive set of reports and decision resolutions that focused on three major thematic areas – spiritual renewal; educational development and responsible stewardship. Sobor 2005 reaffirmed those directions with further specific decisions on:

- Rural area issues
- Work of Office of Missions and Education
- Liturgical text development
- Formation and work of the UOCC-Ukrainian Self Reliance League Joint Committee.

In addition, Sobor 2005 mandated the development of a policy for Episcopal renewal and election. Sobor 2005 elected Archbishop John as Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy and Metropolitan of the UOCC. Finally, the Extra-Ordinary Sobor of 2008 approved three major decisions – a policy and process for the election of Bishops, the election of Bishops Ilarion and Andriy and approved a new set of By-Laws for UOCC.

In planning for the future, it is important to reflect upon and note the major accomplishments since our last Sobor. Since 2005 the UOCC has elected a Metropolitan and two new Bishops. Standing Committees have carried out extensive deliberations and provided concrete recommendations. These Committees include the Episcopal Search and Development Committee; Standing Committee on Education, Liturgical Publications, Inter-Church Affairs, UOCC-USRL Joint Committee. Two major liturgical publications have been released and work is well advanced on other texts. The new By-Laws are the culmination of two decades of work.

Building on these accomplishments, the Committee is aware that many areas of concern remain to be further address, including:

- Financial and overall sustainability of UOCC
- Adequate resourcing and delivery of work by the Office of Missions and Education

- Continued decline of rural parishes
- Hierarchical succession
- Discussion of Church governance and principles of conciliarity – ‘Sobornopravnist’
- Various local parish concerns
- Inter-Church and jurisdiction concerns

Whatever the issues, a complete and stepwise process is being encouraged. At the Parish level, faithful are encouraged under the leadership of local clergy and Bishops to develop a clear understanding of issues, their background and context. With this understanding in hand, Parishes will be expected to formulate resolutions and decision items that would advance the life of individual members, Parishes and/or UOCC at large in a concrete and constructive manner. In the period May to July, 2010, Parishes will be asked to review the complete set of concerns and resolutions brought forward from across Canada.

At Sobor 2010, the Resolutions process will have three steps:

- Information and context clarification as needed in workshops (e.g. ecclesiastical teaching with respect to governance, roles, and inter-jurisdictional protocols)
- Workshops for interactive dialogue and redirection of resolutions as appropriate
- Plenary debate and decisions on resolutions

By-Law resolutions will be directed to the standing Committee on UOCC By-Laws for consideration and presentation to Sobor 2010. Any general resolutions brought forward after the deadline of February 28, 2010 or from the Sobor floor will be accepted on a time limited and sequenced basis only.

Once again, the Resolutions Committee in cooperation with Parishes wants to emphasize the following principles:

- A transparent and interactive process throughout the resolution submission and consideration process
- Respect for the input of all our faithful
- A process that follows our Sobor theme and the example of our pioneer priests with directions that build our Church, actions that develop us as Believers and outcomes that bring people together.