



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА В КАНАДІ
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA
L' ÉGLISE ORTHODOXE UKRAINIENNE DU CANADA

9 St. John's Avenue Winnipeg, MB R2W 1G8
Tel. (204) 586-3093 (204) 582-8709 Fax. (204) 582-5241
Web Site: www.uocc.ca E-Mail: consistory@uocc.ca

A New Prayer Book – A Common Musical Arrangement

In April of 2007 the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada published its newest and most comprehensive prayer book in over 50 years: the “Good Shepherd” or “Dobryj Pastyr”. In order for the prayer book to bring forth spiritual fruit as effectively as possible two other publications were needed: the priest’s service book or “Sluzhebnyk”, and musical settings for the liturgical hymns.

This collection of musical notes prepared by the Alberta Benevolent Cantors Association serves the need for a common musical arrangement of the new translation according to the Galician melodies commonly used in most parishes of the UOCC. By means of explanation several points regarding these arrangements must be made.

There have always been and always will be local and even personal variations in the way common melodies are sung. In preparing this arrangement the goal was to be as neutral as possible, to avoid embellishment, and to notate the melodies as simply as possible. In this manner the melodies would be more easily sung congregationally, and in those places where embellishments are used the melodies as written would not be substantially affected.

Matching the cadences and syllables of the words to the melody was challenging at times. The original church melodies were composed to fit the cadences of Old Slavonic liturgical texts, and where the new translation matches or approximates these cadences the melodies have been adjusted to reflect this. Otherwise the attempt was made to maintain as much as possible the cadences and accents in current use among our cantors. Effort was made as well to match the English melodic and rhythmic structure with the Ukrainian as far as possible.

In most cases only a melody line is given in order to facilitate the study and learning of these melodies by current and prospective cantors. A CD of the music is also being published for the benefit of those who do not read music well. It is envisioned that fully harmonized versions of these arrangements will be prepared during the coming year for the use of choirs.

It is the fervent hope and prayer of all those involved in the publication of this collection that it will contribute not only to a renewal of the art of “diakiwstvo” or liturgical chanting, but that it will also bring unity to the liturgical singing of our faithful throughout Canada.

May Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless all who will make use of this collection unto the glory of His name.

10/23 January 2008
St. Gregory of Nyssa

Fr. Bohdan Hladio
Winnipeg, Manitoba