

# PRESS RELEASE

## **“Response to the Online Petition Initiated by the ‘Brotherhood for the Revitalization of Ukrainian Orthodoxy in Canada’”**

**(Winnipeg, MB, 18 December 2012)** On 03 November 2012, the “Brotherhood for the Revitalization of Ukrainian Orthodoxy in Canada (BRUOC)” sponsored an online petition – “Remove the Moscow Patriarchate from Ukraine” – directed to His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew. To-date, 235 signatures have been collected (the goal listed on the web site is 5000).

In regard to the concerns mentioned in the BRUOC petition, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada continues to be guided by its official policy regarding unity of Ukrainian Orthodoxy (visit <http://www.uocc.ca/en-ca/about/documents>), which is based on our historical position of non-interference in the internal decision-making processes of the various church institutions and the Orthodox faithful of Ukraine. Nevertheless, we have never been swayed from our non-indifference toward achievement of a canonically recognized local, autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Our entrance into the world-wide Orthodox communion – over twenty-two years ago – has allowed us the opportunity to be a constant voice at the Great Throne of the Mother Church of Constantinople for said recognition of an autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church. We take every opportunity available to express our unwavering desire for the Orthodox Church of our ancestral homeland to take her rightful place among her sister local churches. Furthermore, a major component to the realization of this goal is the *consolidation* of the Ukrainian Orthodox faithful as opposed to the removal of any one part of them. Until such unity manifests itself, we cannot presume solutions from the diaspora for which the faithful people of Ukraine themselves do not express explicit, unified support.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada wishes to make clear this petition is not, by any measure, an initiative of our Church, nor can we, therefore, endorse the sentiment driving this online petition, sponsored solely by BRUOC.

Questions, comments or concerns regarding this press release may be directed to the UOCC Briefing & Information Team:

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