



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

9 St. John's Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 1G8
toll-free (877) 586-3093 F (204) 582-5241 www.uocc.ca

TO THE CLERGY AND FAITHFUL OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX
CHURCH OF CANADA
GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

Akathist Saturday – April (4) 17th, 2021

Your Graces, Reverend Clergy, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we write to you today, we are quickly approaching Passion Week and then the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ and once again find ourselves for the second consecutive year in the midst of a pandemic. This third wave of the Coronavirus is said to be the worst so far. Many of us feel tired; many feel isolated; in some instances, we are losing hope; we are having difficulty in coming to terms with the world changing around us in ways we never thought to encounter.

Yet, despite the tribulations of the past year, as we come closer to our Paschal celebrations, we see hope on the horizon in the very reality of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit's inspiration to so quickly develop and distribute the vaccines to address this virus.

While this past year has been difficult and in spite of many restrictions, we have nonetheless devoted great time and effort to keep our UOCC functioning and serving our clergy and membership. This includes the work of members of our Consistory Office administration led by Fr. Taras Udod, Chair of the Presidium, and the Presidium and Consistory Board, as well as in particular, Fr. Gene Maximiuk and Sr. Lesia Skyba, Co-Chairs of our Sobor Planning Committee, who have freely given many, many hours of their time to plan, first, an in-person Sobor for 2020, and when that became impossible, to plan a virtual Sobor for 2021. As with all things, the best laid plans often do not and cannot come to fruition.

It is with this in mind that we write to advise that *your* Consistory Board, after hours of deliberation, decided to once again postpone the XXIVth Sobor which was scheduled to be held virtually in July of this 2021 year. It was not an easy decision nor was it taken lightly. Many factors were considered and robustly debated. There was no perfect or even good solution to the problems we confronted in planning a virtual Sobor. These are outlined in the recitals (the “Whereas”) in the **motion** passed by *your* Consistory Board, attached to this letter. We took what we viewed to be the best decision in the best interests of our Church and **all** of Her membership in circumstances that did not offer any good options.

We will be writing to His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew to seek his blessing for our XXIVth Sobor to now be held in person beginning on or before **July 10, 2022**. Much of the work has already been done in the planning stages and will not have to be redone, rather readjusted for the new reality. There will be no need for those parishes who have submitted resolutions to re-submit them. We will continue to update our website with Sobor information to keep our UOCC informed of the progress towards the next Sobor. We invite your feedback and ask for your prayers so that we may continue to labour and serve for the Glory of God and the good of our beloved UOCC.

We pray that the Holy Spirit, guide and inspire us all to a fruitful conclusion on this our third effort to hold the XXIVth (*regular*) Sobor. We pray for the safety and health of all of our hierarchs, clergy and families and all our faithful and call upon all for understanding and support as we move ahead during these trying times.

May Our Lord and Saviour bless and protect you as we conclude the Great Fast, and enter into Holy Week, leading to that ultimate victory of Our Lord’s Holy and most Glorious Resurrection!

With love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+YURIJ, Metropolitan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+YURIJ, Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy
Metropolitan of Canada