



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

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COMMUNIQUE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE METROPOLITAN

Christ is in our midst!

First of all, we wish to express our deep appreciation for the vast majority of parishes who chose – in September of this year – to co-labour with your Metropolitan to bring consideration of Resolution R3 of the XXIII Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada to an appropriate conclusion.

We acknowledge the great majority of our parish communities who, through prayerful and careful consideration, have chosen to make decisions on how they will proceed with transitioning to the Revised Julian Calendar. We commend the honesty and courage of those parishes who have expressed to their Metropolitan the sincere desire to remain on the Julian (Old) Calendar, at this present time.

It is satisfying that an overwhelming number of the clergy and faithful of our Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada have clearly understood both the spirit and direction of the Primatial Encyclical of 01 December 2023 – that now is the time to bring closure to the “calendar question” in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, without His Eminence compelling anyone to accept a change they are not ready to make at the present time.

Sadly, the otherwise tranquil, contemplative time of the Nativity Fast has been disrupted by the regretful actions by individuals who seek to disturb and divide at a time when we should be preparing to joyfully greet the incarnate Son of God who comes bringing peace, “For He Himself is our peace...” (Ephesians 2:14). In response to Christ’s birth in the flesh, our responsibility as believers, as images of God, is to preserve and cultivate peace, first between us and God, secondly to be peacemakers in the midst of humanity having, as our Lord instructed, “peace with one another.” (Mark 9:50)

This small number of individuals, without any authorization by the Consistory Board of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (past or present), without the blessing of any Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada (past or present) have increasingly taken upon themselves actions for which they simply do not have authority to enact in our sobornal system (*cf. attached letter of His Eminence Metropolitan Emeritus Yurij to His Eminence Metropolitan Ilarion, 14 October 2022*). In what can be described as a grave contradiction, while declaring the cause of unity, harmony and peace, they are, in reality,

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seeding division and enmity in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and among those who co-labour in it.

Almost two weeks following the Primatial Encyclical blessing the adoption of the Revised Julian Calendar by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, when an overwhelming majority of our parishes have indicated a willingness to move toward making the transition (whether immediately or in the new year), and on the day commemorating the Holy First-called Apostle Andrew, many of you received correspondence from these individuals which intruded into the lives of our parishes by encouraging you to challenge the sobornal nature of our Church and the authority Her Primate, encouraging “special meetings” which are intended to formalize opposition to a decision the great majority of you have already made – freely and without being forced in anyway whatsoever.

In response to the above-mentioned provocation, the Office of the Metropolitan reminds all clergy and members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada that any actions related to parish life are directed by official channels exclusively, which include blessings by the Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. Parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, our clergy and faithful are directed to ignore any correspondence that direct, encourage or suggest any actions by parishes, clergy or faithful that are contrary to those blessed by the Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada.

Brothers and sisters in Christ! Please forgive this most unfortunate disruption during this season. In this time of the Nativity Fast, we call those individuals seeding division among our faithful to sincere repentance, that such temptation may not lead to more serious canonical sanction. We are all called to be the instruments of unity and peace; first among you called to act to preserve and protect this peace and unity is the bishop. We have all worked together to achieve an appropriate solution to a challenging issue. Your good works ought not be negated by those who choose personal agendas over the sobornal voice of the Body of Christ.

*Distributed by the Office of the Metropolitan with the blessing of
HIS EMINENCE ILARION, METROPOLITAN
ARCHBISHOP OF WINNIPEG & THE CENTRAL EPARCHY
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