



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

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Glory to Jesus Christ! Слава Ісусу Христу!

Statement on the Joint Commission on Church Unity in Ukraine

On June 8, 2015 a joint commission on dialogue between the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Kyivan Patriarchate took place in Kyiv, Ukraine. As a result of these discussions, the two jurisdictions have expressed their wish to join into a united Orthodox Ukrainian Church (Єдину Помісну Православну Українську Церкву) and have agreed to hold a general Sobor on September 14, 2015 towards achieving this goal.

The meeting of the joint commission adopted an eleven point summary statement. This document establishes the framework for dialogue and principles for unity. This document also noted the support of the Churches of the diaspora and the Mother Church of Constantinople as observers in this process. His Grace Bishop Ilarion, Bishop of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy, attended the commission meeting as an observer at the request of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Also in attendance was His Grace Bishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, also attending as an observer at the request of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Bishop Ilarion and Bishop Daniel signed the summary document as observers.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada greets this meeting of the joint commission and their decision to commence talks on unification. We welcome these efforts towards Church unity in Ukraine. Now, more than ever, it is important for the Ukrainian people's aspirations for their own local Church to be realized. We sincerely pray that the Lord will guide all sides in the upcoming discussions towards this goal.

With Archpastoral Blessing,

† **YURIJ**

Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy
Metropolitan of All Canada
Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada