

УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА В КАНАДІ
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA
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St. Volodymyr 1000th Year Commemorations in Ukraine



Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko addresses the Extraordinary Meeting of the All Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations on St. Volodymyr Hill in Kyiv, Ukraine on July 28, 2015 marking the 1000th year of the repose of St. Volodymyr the Great.

KYIV, UKRAINE – His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy participated in a moving commemoration on St. Volodymyr Hill in Kyiv, Ukraine on July 28, 2015 to remember the 1000th year of the repose of St. Volodymyr the Great and the 1027th anniversary of the Baptism of Kyivan Rus’-Ukraine. This commemoration formed part of an expanded extraordinary meeting of the All Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations, titled *The Law and Grace of the Ukrainian Lands*, to which the Primates of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA were specially invited to attend.



The meeting was counted in the open air next to the commanding St. Volodymyr monument with representatives of all the Churches and religious organizations of Ukraine present as well as Ukraine's President, Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Kyiv Mayor Vitaliy Klitchko and other officials. His Eminence travelled to Kyiv, Ukraine at the invitation of Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko to participate in the state-organized events for these notable anniversaries. The meeting opened with the singing of the Lord's Prayer by the special St. Volodymyr commemorative choir. President Poroshenko, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk, and leaders of Churches and religious organizations in Ukraine presented

commemorative addresses. President Poroshenko called for a unified Ukrainian Church to unite the nation.

“Overcoming the divisions in Ukrainian Orthodoxy is a matter, foremost, for the faithful. The government is pleased with progress in the unity process, but it is also saddened when personal ambition separate us from the greater goal,” the President noted. His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy also spoke. A common theme among the speakers was the call for unity of the Ukrainian people in order to overcome this difficult period of Ukrainian history. Each speaker recalled the various aspects of St. Volodymyr's legacy to his descendants –Baptism into Christianity, his choice to become a European state, the need to reform, and his humanitarian and social improvements. The meeting concluded with choir and meeting participants singing the prayer hymn for Ukraine, *Great and Holy God* (Боже Великий, Єдиний).





His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij (right) and His Eminence Metropolitan Antony (left) meet President Petro Poroshenko at the Presidential Administration.

Later in the day, His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij and His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the UOC of the USA met with President Petro Poroshenko at the Presidential Administration. Metropolitan Yurij told President Poroshenko that it was indeed an honour and a pleasure to be present at such a significant event in the spiritual life of the Ukrainian people. “The Patriarch [of Constantinople] requested that the two Metropolitans from Canada and the USA would join the government and people of Ukraine to commemorate this momentous day – the 1000th year of the repose of St. Volodymyr the Great,” he stated. He also expressed

hope that the dialogue towards unity of the Ukrainian Orthodox Churches in Ukraine would continue.



His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij, Primate of the UOCC (centre) meets with Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatseniuk (left) in Kyiv, Ukraine on July 27, 2015. His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Primate of the UOC of the USA (right) also attended the meeting.

Previously, His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij, together with Metropolitan Antony of the UOC of the USA, met Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk on July 27, 2015 to discuss cooperation between the Ukrainian Diaspora and Ukraine as well as developments in state-church relations, social, volunteer and missionary

activities of churches in Ukraine. Christian unity was a key topic of discussion. Prime Minister Yatseniuk, on behalf of his government, extended his gratitude to

His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew I for his unwavering and sincere attention given to Ukraine and its people.

The Ukrainian faithful began this feast day of St. Volodymyr the Great by attending a Divine Liturgy service. Each of the Ukrainian Orthodox jurisdictions held Hierarchical Liturgies at their Patriarchal Cathedrals which were televised across Ukraine. President Poroshenko and his family attended the service at the historic St. Volodymyr Cathedral under the Kyivan Patriarchate jurisdiction. Under the rainy skies, each Church jurisdiction held its own separate procession of clergy and faithful to the St. Volodymyr monument on Volodymyr Hill by the Dnipro River and *Moleben'* prayer service. Estimates were as many as 10,000 to 20,000 faithful joined in the processions.

Eight miracle-working icons of the Mother of God kept in various locations in Ukraine were brought to the monument for a special *Moleben'* service and veneration by the faithful the day prior to the feast day of St. Volodymyr. According to tradition, one of the icons had been a gift from the Patriarch of Constantinople to Byzantine Empress Anna as a blessing for her marriage to St. Volodymyr.

The day concluded with a majestic performance commemorating the Baptism of Kyivan Rus'-Ukraine and honouring St. Volodymyr. The outdoor concert of music and theatre took place on the St. Michael the Archangel Square and was attended by Ukrainian government members, state officials, dignitaries and guests, visiting hierarchs, including His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, Metropolitan Antony and Bishop Daniel of the UOC of the USA and members of the public.



Celebration of the feast day of St. Volodymyr on July 28, 2015 in Kyiv, Ukraine at the St. Volodymyr Cathedral in Kyiv, Ukraine attended by President Petro Poroshenko and his family. It was built in 1852 to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the baptism of Kyivan Rus'-Ukraine. The cathedral today is the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Kyivan Patriarchate.