

## UOCC Delegation to the Ecumenical Patriarchate

**ISTANBUL, TURKEY** – In response to the gracious invitation of the His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I to our Primate, His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada delegation had its first meeting at the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Phanar, February 12-15, 2015.



Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada delegation arrives at the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the Phanar, Istanbul, Turkey, and begins its visitation. The delegation has an audience with His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I (centre).

The meeting consisted of an official audience and greeting by His-All Holiness together with the members of the Holy and Sacred Patriarchal Synod that was also in attendance.

His All-Holiness expressed very warm greetings to our UOCC Hierarchs; His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij, Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy,

Primate of the UOCC, His Grace Bishop Ilarion, Bishop of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy, and His Grace, Bishop Andriy, Bishop of the Eastern Eparchy, and indeed to every member of the delegation that also included Chancellor, Rt. Rev. Protopresbyter Victor Lakusta, and Dr. Peter M. Kondra, member of the Presidium of the UOCC Consistory, together with Mr. Vasyl' Balan, member of UOCC Consistory Board. In addition, Mr. Daniel Bilak, Mr. Peter Bayrachny and Mr. Alexander Ochrym were members of the delegation.



His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij, Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy, Primate of the UOCC (*centre*), His Grace Bishop Ilarion, Bishop of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy (*right*), and His Grace, Bishop Andriy, Bishop of the Eastern Eparchy (*left*).



His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarchate Bartholomew (right) welcomes His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij and the UOCC delegation to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Following our formal audience, the UOCC delegation was invited to join with the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for a dinner and reception with discussions that continued for several hours. We returned for a brief repose to our hotel and then joined His-All Holiness and members of the Patriarchal Synod for a supper reception and several hours of further discussions.

One topic of extensive discussion was the current situation in Ukraine and the ceasefire that was concluded February 11, 2015 in Minsk, Belarus. The significance and effects of Russian aggression and invasion of Ukraine especially relating to the Orthodox Churches in Ukraine was a focus of active discussion. This will be continued in our forthcoming meetings. Also discussed were the details that had emerged about the recently concluded second Minsk agreement.



His All Holiness and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate invite the UOCC delegations to a supper reception.

### The Patriarchal Church of St. George

The UOCC delegation visited the Patriarchal Church of St. George (the Great Martyr and Trophy-Bearer). It is the fifth church in Constantinople to house the Ecumenical Patriarchate since the 15th C. Formerly a convent for Orthodox nuns, it was converted to the patriarchal offices by Patriarch Matthew II (1598-1601).



The icon screen that separates the nave from the altar is an 18th-century conglomeration of Byzantine, Renaissance, Baroque, and Ottoman styles. Carved out of wood and recently gilded, the screen is divided into three levels; its smaller icons allow individual veneration.

*-UOCC Delegations members  
Dr. Peter M. Kondra  
and Mr. Vasyl' Balan  
February 12, 2015*