

UOCC Delegation to Ukraine

KYIV, UKRAINE – On February 18, 2015, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada delegation continued its visitation to Kyiv, Ukraine. The UOCC delegation met with Archbishop Ihor (Isichenko) of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (Renewed) and discussed the present political and religious situation in Ukraine. The focus of the discussion was possible options for developing a broader consensus among Ukrainian Orthodox churches.

Later, the delegation attended a round table discussion called the *Ukrainian Church: Paths to Unity and the Fate of the Moscow Patriarchate in Ukraine*, sponsored by the government of Ukraine news



Round table discussion on Orthodoxy in Ukraine in Kyiv, Ukraine.

service, Ukrinform. His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy was invited to participate with representatives from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyivan Patriarchate; Very Rev. Archpriest Vitaliy Eismont; Very Rev. Archpriest Andriy Dudchenko, Very Rev. Archpriest Heorhiy Kovalenko and Very Rev. Archpriest Mykola Danylevych from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate; Dr. Volodymyr Sahan and Dr. Ludmila Filipovich from the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences; Dr. Yuriy Reshetnikov of the Kyiv Mohyla University and Moderator Lana Samokhvalova, press secretary to Archimandrite Viktor Bed.



His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy participates in round table discussion in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The clergy presented their desire for improved cooperation and better relations between the various churches. However, in contrast, the laity were critical of the lack of unity and were very concerned with the UOC-MP in particular for their lack of cooperation despite their public pronouncements.

Metropolitan Yurij thanked the organizers for this important event. He greeted the participants on behalf of the UOCC and the Ecumenical Patriarch. He conveyed that the Mother Church will never forget its responsibilities towards its daughter, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and is searching for a solution to unite the Church in Ukraine. On behalf of the Diaspora, His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij stated that the Diaspora is impatient for Church unity



Hierarchs of the UOCC and UOC of the USA participate in discussions.

and full recognition of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church by World Orthodoxy. He concluded that the Canadian and American Ukrainian Orthodox Churches have come on the anniversary of the shooting of the Maidan protestors, the *Nebesna Sotnya*, to pray for them and all of the victims of the war in Ukraine as well as to offer the UOCC's support to Ukraine.



The next meeting on the schedule was with Dr. Volodymyr Sagan, former senior official under ex-President Viktor Yushchenko's government. He provided a detailed briefing on the situation in Ukraine, the views of each Ukrainian Orthodox Church and discussed ways in which the UOCC might be able to cooperate in promoting church unity.

-UOCC Delegation members
Dr. Peter M. Kondra
February 18, 2015