

UOCC Delegation to Ukraine

KYIV, UKRAINE – On February 19, 2015, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada delegation continued its visitation to Kyiv, Ukraine. The delegation of the



The golden domes of the many churches at the Kyiv Monastery of the Caves in Kyiv, Ukraine, located on the banks of the Dnipro River.

UOCC, joined by the UOC of the USA delegation, visited the Kyiv Monastery of the Caves, the Pecherska Lavra, where they met with His Eminence Metropolitan of Boryspil and Brovary Antoniyy (Pakanych) and other representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate. His Beatitude Metropolitan of Kyiv and All-Ukraine Onufriy,

Primate of the UOC-MP, was absent from Kyiv during this time. Metropolitan Antony, Administrative Affairs head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Moscow Patriarchate, greeted the joint delegation from the Ukrainian Diaspora. He expressed that the UOC-MP was the largest and the only canonical Orthodox Church in Ukraine.

His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy conveyed greetings to the UOC-MP on behalf of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. He described the meetings of the UOCC delegation with the Ecumenical Patriarchate and outlined the UOCC delegation's mission to Ukraine. The mission's purpose was to commemorate the eternal memory of the fallen



The UOCC delegation and UOC of the USA delegation meet with representatives of the UOC-MP.

heroes of the Maidan in Kyiv, Ukraine, the *Nebesna Sotnya*. Metropolitan Yurij explained that the present ecclesiastical situation in Ukraine was abnormal, not in proper order. He stated that the Mother Church of Constantinople as well as the Diaspora views the annexation of the Kyivan Metropolia in 1686 to Moscow as non-canonical and invalid, thereby causing the present dysfunctional ecclesiastical situation in Ukraine. Further, he stated that the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has expressed that he is willing to facilitate and assist with normalizing this situation. Metropolitan Yurij spoke of His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew's willingness to bless a second Symposium on Ukrainian Orthodoxy which would continue the work of consensus-building among Ukrainian Orthodox churches of Ukraine that began in Toronto, Ontario, Canada in May 2014.



The Nativity of the Theotokos Church at the Kyiv Monastery of the Caves, Pecherska Lavra in Kyiv, Ukraine.



His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij, His Grace Bishop Ilarion, His Grace Bishop Daniel.

Metropolitan Yurij spoke of the important role that all churches in Ukraine must play in support of the Ukrainian nation in its current war with Russia, including naming the enemy and not supporting Russian forces by their silence or active support. Metropolitan Antony of the UOC of the USA expressed the American Church's desire for church unity and a quick, peaceful resolution of the present conflict in eastern Ukraine.



National Holodomor Museum complex in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The two delegations next visited the National Holodomor Memorial Museum in Kyiv. The visit began with a prayer to commemorate the Holodomor victims at the Bitter Memories of Childhood statue. His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy and His Eminence Metropolitan Antony laid flowers at the statue in commemoration. During the tour of the underground Holodomor museum, it became very apparent how this museum was playing a crucial role in developing Holodomor awareness at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada by providing educational materials, films and exhibits.



The delegation of the UOCC and the delegation of the UOC of the USA pray for the eternal memory of the victims of the Great Famine, the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine.

In the afternoon we met with three representatives of the St. Andrew, the First Called Ukrainian Orthodox Stavropegial Brotherhood located in Lviv, Ukraine. They expressed their desire for church unity and presented their views on how this could be achieved based on the two Stavropegial Churches in Ukraine.



The UOCC delegation meets with representatives of the UAOC.

The next meeting was with Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine hierarchs. The delegations met its Primate His Beatitude Metropolitan Mefodiy as well as Metropolitan Andriy and Metropolitan Makariy. There was an exchange of ideas regarding possibilities for church unity and forward steps.



The delegation of the UOCC and the delegation of the UOC of the USA at the entrance to the National Holodomor Memorial Museum complex in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Metropolitan Yurij then participated in an interview on the television program *Current Events Today* at TVi television channel in Kyiv, Ukraine. His Eminence conveyed greetings from the Ecumenical Patriarch, the purpose of the delegation's visit and the UOCC perspective of the war in Ukraine.



His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij and His Grace Bishop Andriy light memorial candles in the underground exhibit area of the Holodomor museum.



Dormition Cathedral at the Kyiv Monastery of the Caves in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The final meeting of the UOCC delegation took place with Andriy Yurash, Director of the Department of Religious Affairs and Nationalities under the Ministry of Culture. He presented the delegation with current information regarding Ukrainian Orthodox churches in Ukraine. The discussion centred on the role of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada in promoting church unity in Ukraine.



His Eminence Metropolitan Antony (left), His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij (right) lay memorial flowers for the victims of the 1932-1933 genocide in Ukraine.

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The Bitter Memories of Childhood statue stands at the entrance to the Holodomor museum complex in Kyiv, Ukraine.

