

UOCC Delegation to Ukraine

KYIV, UKRAINE – On February 20, 2015, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada delegation completed its visitation to Kyiv, Ukraine. The final day in



The Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine serve a *Panakhya* memorial service for the heroes of the Heavenly Hundred, *Nebesna Sotnya*, in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Ukraine began with the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops beyond the Borders of Ukraine serving a *Panakhya* memorial service for the heroes of the Heavenly Hundred, *Nebesna Sotnya*, and for those killed in the conflict in eastern Ukraine. His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy of the UOCC and His Eminence Metropolitan Antony of the UOC

of the USA, together with the delegation members from the UOCC and UOC of the USA as well as several hundred faithful, gathered at the memorial on Institutka Street. This street has been renamed to Alleya Nebesnoyi Sotni, or “Heavenly Hundred Lane” in memory of these heroes of Ukraine. It was on this street that most of these unarmed Ukrainians were killed when special forces snipers carried out a mass shooting of demonstrators one year ago.

During the service the name of each person killed was read and those in attendance were moved to tears that delegations from the Ukrainian



Each of the 117 names of the Heavenly Hundred were commemorated by the hierarchs of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops beyond the Borders of Ukraine.

Orthodox Church of Canada and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America were praying for their countrymen. After the service Metropolitan Yurij spoke of the sacrifice of Ukrainians in building a new society, free from



Wooden chapel near the memorial.

corruption and tyranny. Also, he spoke of the UOCC's support for Ukrainians and volunteer efforts on behalf of the victims of the war with Russia.

Near the outdoor memorial, a wooden chapel has been constructed by donors from Western Ukraine using wooden logs brought in from the Carpathian forests. The chapel has a wooden cross and pictures of each hero of the Heavenly Hundred.

In attendance was Dr. Ulana Suprun, director of the office for Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine of the Ukrainian World Congress. She heads the *Patriot Defence* initiative which supplies NATO-standard Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs) for the patriotic defenders of Ukraine as well as conducts NATO-standard tactical field medicine training. This humanitarian initiative supplies IFAKs and training to the Security Service of Ukraine, Interior Ministry of Ukraine and Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Metropolitan Yurij, on behalf of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, presented a donation of \$10,000 to Dr. Suprun to purchase the IFAKs. Dr. Suprun's husband Mark, also in attendance, is a past member of the



Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine, Roman Waschuk (left) and His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij (right).

Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This donation will be a significant help to the *Patriotic Defence* initiative to support the servicemen and servicewomen in Ukraine to fulfill their mission to defend Ukraine.



Injured Ukrainian soldiers share their stories with Metropolitan Yuriy and Rt. Rev. Prot-presbyter Victor Lakusta.

For the final official event, the UOCC delegation paid a visit to the Chief Military Clinical Teaching Hospital located in Kyiv, Ukraine, which is a hospital complex under the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The hospital treats members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and since last year, has been treating patients injured during the Revolution of Dignity as well as those injured daily on the front lines in the fighting in the eastern oblasts of Ukraine. There, the delegation members distributed icon cards of the

Mother of God of Canada to the patients as well as monetary gifts from delegation members. The delegation visited the psychiatric, intensive care, trauma and orthopedic wards of the acute care hospital. Metropolitan Yuriy engaged in very moving conversations with the patients.

February 20 was declared for all of Ukraine the official day of commemoration of the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred, Nebesna Sotnya. In the evening UOCC delegation members attended the official state commemoration on Maidan Nezalezhnosti, the central square of Kyiv, Ukraine.



Ukrainian soldiers recovering from injuries.

Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the Heroes!

*-UOCC Delegation members
Dr. Peter M. Kondra
February 20, 2015*