



UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA

“Як то добре і як то гарно, коли брати живуть у згоді!” (Пс. 132:1)

*“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Ps. 132:1)*

XXIII

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2015

July 13-19, 2015

**Fort Garry
Hotel,
222 Broadway
Ave.,
Winnipeg, MB**

XXIII SOBOR of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada July 13-19, 2015

COMMUNIQUÉ #2, July 15, 2015



His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy gives a blessing

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA – On Wednesday, July 15, the clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church gathered to celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the Holy Trinity Metropolitan Cathedral on Main Street in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This liturgy preceded the official opening of the 23rd SOBOR of the UOCC. Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy, presided and, in addition to our



*UOCC and visiting Hierarchs lead the
Divine Liturgy before the 23rd
SOBOR officially commences.*



Bishops, His Grace Ilarion, Bishop of Edmonton and the Western Eparchy, and His Grace Andriy, Bishop of the Eastern Eparchy, His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis represented the Ecumenical Patriarch, and His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Primate of our sister Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, also con-celebrated.

Following the Liturgy a *Moleben'* to St. Volodymyr the Great was served on the occasion of the 1000th year of his repose. He is honoured because St. Volodymyr led his people of Kyivan Rus'-Ukraine to Christ, having them baptized in the Dnipro River.



The 23rd SOBOR was officially opened with the procession of the Icon of the Canadian Mother of God written by Vera Lazarovich Senchuk, member of the St. Mary the Protectress cathedral in Winnipeg, MB.



Then followed prayers and the election of officers for the SOBOR. The agenda and procedures, or *Pravylnyk* were approved and the SOBOR Working Committees were ratified. The minutes of the 22nd SOBOR were adopted as amended. The Credentials Committee reported that there were 245 clergy and laity registered for the Sobor, of which 234 were already present, and 203 could vote.

His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy addressed the SOBOR participants, bringing greetings. He was followed by His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, who conveyed greetings and

blessings from the Ecumenical Patriarch. His Grace Bishop Ilarion and His Grace Bishop Andriy also spoke, highlighting the theme of the SOBOR regarding brethren living together in harmony, guided by the Holy Spirit.

His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony of the UOC of the USA reminded us that we ought to celebrate being the Light of Christ for the world around us. Greetings also came from abroad. A greeting was read from His Holiness Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Kyivan Patriarchate.



Chancellor of the UOCC, Rt. Rev. Protopresbyter Victor Lakusta, offered additional remarks to the written report that was in the packet of materials given to the delegates. He focused on the urgent need for us to be missionaries, gaining active members for our Church, as well as to be generous donors for her many needs.

Presidium Treasurer Victor Hetmanczuk reported on Church finances since the 22nd SOBOR. Of particular note was the sad fact that there are a large amount of receivables, due to parishes not being up to date with the payment of levies. This, in addition to the decrease of membership has brought us to a rather challenging financial state, although we do not owe anyone any money.



There were large legal expenditures – not due to litigation against anyone on the part of our Church, but due to our defense of our properties and assets, which has been very successful. There are also costs (and more to come) with regard to the closure of a number of church buildings and disposal of their properties. After questions and answers, the SOBOR ratified the work of the Consistory since the 22nd Sobor.

Following Vespers in the La Verendrye Room, the Chapel for the SOBOR set up within the Fort Garry Hotel, and the evening meal, there was a session dedicated to the role of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

in World Orthodoxy. The presenter was Daniel Bilak, a UOCC member. He enjoys close relations with Ukrainian Church and government leaders, as well as the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He has often been a liaison between them – at times, on behalf of our UOCC. Part of his presentation included a moving film entitled *Frontier Church*, dealing with the pastoral work of Ukrainian Orthodox chaplains of the Kyivan Patriarchate with the Ukrainian soldiers fighting in Eastern Ukraine in the Anti-Terrorist Operation. Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Dr. Ihor Kutash from St. Mary the Protectress parish of Montreal, Quebec again read the Midnight Office in the Chapel, as he, with the blessing of Metropolitan Yuriij, intends to do at midnight each day of the Sobor.

Respectfully submitted by the SOBOR Press Committee

-Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Dr. Ihor Kutash

-Marusia Kaweski

July 14, 2015