

**23rd Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, July 12-19, 2015**

**Communiqué 4**

On Friday, July 17, the Clergy and Faithful gathered to celebrate the Divine Liturgy at Clergy and Faithful gathered in the Chapel in the La Verendrye Room to celebrate the Divine Liturgy which was celebrated by the Clergy of the Central Eparchy.

The first item we dealt with was the election of the Chancellor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. The result of the voting was announced later in the day: Fr. Taras Udod was elected. Metropolitan Yurij expressed profound thanks to Fr. Victor Lakusta for his diligent, self-sacrificing exercise of his duties – and also to his family for their support of his demanding ministry. The Sobor responded with an extended standing ovation. A standing ovation was also given to Fr. Taras Udod after His Eminence congratulated him on his election and offered prayerful best wishes for a fruitful term at his demanding post.

During the time taken to count the votes and throughout the afternoon there were breakout sessions during which the delegates, divided into groups, discussed and took straw votes on the proposed changes to the bylaws and resolutions, including those which were brought forth to the Resolutions Committee at the Sobor. The results of these sessions recorded by the designated secretaries and studied and summarized by that Committee, will facilitate the voting on them by the Sobor the next day.

We also voted in the first round for members of the Consistory (there must be 9 Clergy – of which one is the Chancellor, who is elected independently – and 9 laity). Clergy elected were: Frs. Peter Haugen, Bohdan Hladio, Ihor Kutash, Taras Makowsky, Eugene Maximiuk and Cornell Zubritsky. Laity: Ivan Franko, Stephania Luciuk, Vladimir Pylypchuk, Vasyl Rybalka, Lesia M. Skyba and Zennia Yuzik. Two more Clergy and three laity will be elected tomorrow

Walter Saranchuk gave a report from the Ukrainian Orthodox Foundation of which all members in good standing of our communities are members, and which at this time has assets of almost a million dollars. The Foundation's funds are administered by the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko. It provides financial support to our Church and its communities upon approval of projects submitted to it.

Metropolitan Yurij noted that today is the anniversary of the shooting down of Flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine and offered a prayer for the 298 victims of that tragedy. We sang a heartfelt "Vichnaya pamyat" as may be seen here: <http://youtu.be/SIkYkrsBLo>.

There are children at the Sobor and today Fr. Evan Maximiuk had a chat with them and Dobrodiyka Kathy Yamniuk took them to a baseball game.

After Vespers in the Chapel and supper, the day ended with a solemn Convocation of the Faculty of Theology at St. Andrew's College, which was held in the Provencher Room of the Hotel. An honorary Doctorate of Divinity was presented to Metropolitan Antony, Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (formerly a graduate of the Faculty). Bachelor of Theology degrees were conferred on Frs. Michael Solomko of Australia (cum laude) and Bohdan Statkevych, and Subdeacon Jacob Mielnik. A Diploma of Theology (cum laude) was awarded to Fr. Lubomyr Hluchaniuk and a Certificate of Theology (magna cum laude) to Dr. Catalin Gheorghiu. The awarding of scholarships followed, including a first-time award [the Doreen & Charles (Sandy) Keir Award] for a deserving student of the Faculty given to Ivan Zhovnych. There was a reception during which guests, faculty and students were able to socialize. Fr. Ihor Kutash read the Midnight Office in the Chapel.

Respectfully submitted by the Press Committee

Fr. Ihor Kutash

Marusia Kaweski