



УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА В КАНАДІ 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 #5, July 18, 2015

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA – The final day of working sessions of the 23rd SOBOR of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada commenced on Saturday, July 18, 2015 in Winnipeg, Manitoba at the Fort Garry Hotel. Clergy and faithful gathered for the Divine Liturgy in the SOBOR Chapel celebrated by clergy of the Western Eparchy.



Delegates receive their ballots.

Donna Reed and
Bohdan Shumsky.

The rest of the day was dedicated to voting on the changes to the Bylaws and the resolutions, which were previously submitted and published in *The Visnyk/The Herald* and those submitted to the Resolutions Committee during the SOBOR. The process was greatly expedited by the fact that they had already been

The day's session opened with voting in the second round to complete the Consistory Board. Delegates were to elect two additional clergy and three laity members to the Consistory Board. The clergy elected were: Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Roman Bozyk and Very Rev. Archpriest Slawomir Lomazkiewicz. The laity members elected were: Dr. Tony Harras,



Delegates listen to presentations on resolutions.



Delegates vote by hand for the resolutions presented.

discussed during the breakout sessions on July 17, 2015 and the Resolutions Committee had studied the reports from these and conveyed the results to the delegates together with recommendations.

Among those adopted were: a resolution addressing the current demographic challenges to our Church, including procedures for amalgamation and dis-

solution of parishes; another dealing with the upcoming centennial celebrations of the UOCC in 2018; a resolution on Consistory Church Goods operations; another reaffirming the UOCC's position on the sanctity of life in view of recent federal legislation on medically assisted suicide.

The SOBOR was grateful for a letter from His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew explaining that the resolution of the matter of the title of our

Bishop in the Eastern Eparchy was in the process of being diligently and actively studied.

While most of the delegates were completing the business of the resolutions, Vespers took place in the Chapel.

The SOBOR concluded in late afternoon as it had begun with prayer and the procession of the



SOBOR closing procession of the Mother of God of Canada Icon.

Icon of the Mother of God of Canada. (See: <http://www.uocc.ca/sobor2015.asp>; <https://twitter.com/sobor2015>)

In the evening there was a reception and SOBOR banquet. At the banquet delegates heard inspiring speeches and messages from His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij, Archbishop of Winnipeg and the Central Eparchy, Primate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, and visiting hierarchs, His Eminences Metropolitan Sotirios of Toronto, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and His Eminence Metropolitan Antony, Primate of the UOC of the USA.

A lively key-note address was given by His Grace Bishop Daniel, Bishop of Chicago and the Western Eparchy of the UOC of the USA on the topic: “*Enter to Worship, Exit to Serve*”.



His Eminence Metropolitan Yurij officially close the 23rd SOBOR of the UOCC.



His Grace Bishop Daniel, Bishop of Chicago and the Western Eparchy of the UOC of the USA gives the banquet address called, “Enter to Worship, Exit to Serve.”



Valentyna Dmytrenko (left) offers poetry readings. Fr. Volodymyr Kouchnir Volodymyr singing at the banquet.

A musical program followed the speakers. A quintet of clergy sang the *Prayer from the Akathist to the Theotokos* and Very Rev. Archpriest Volodymyr Kouchnir sang inspirational songs. His repertoire consisted chiefly of a number of poems written by Metropolitan Ilarion (Ohienko) of blessed memory set to specially-

composed music. In between musical sets were readings of Metropolitan Ilarion's poetry by Valentyna Dmytrenko.

One of the events of the Sobor was the Church Goods featuring a booklet project by the Christian and Heritage Education Standing Committee. Fr. Dr. Jaroslaw Buciora, who is a member of this Standing Committee of the UOCC, authored this work entitled *Wounded by God's Love*. A second project of the Christian and Heritage Education Standing Committee of the UOCC was the Ukrainian Language pamphlet on the Divine Liturgy. This was distributed through the registration packages provided to delegates of the UOCC. The day ended with Fr. Ihor Kutash reading the Midnight Office in the Chapel.



A Hierarchical Divine Liturgy took place at the Holy Trinity Metropolitan Cathedral in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

On July 19, a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy took place at the Holy Trinity Metropolitan Cathedral in Winnipeg, Manitoba celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Yuriy, visiting hierarchs and the nine clergy elected to the new Consistory Board. A brunch follows at the Holy Trinity Metropolitan Cathedral auditorium in the lower level.

Delegates to the 23rd SOBOR of the UOCC

departed fortified and strengthened by the experience of this SOBOR which was marked by harmony and a vision geared towards the whole Church rather than merely one's own particular community.



His Grace Bishop Andriy of the Eastern Eparchy gives the homily on true faith.



A Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 19, 2015, follows the closing of the 23rd SOBOR of the UOCC.

Thanks be to our Blessed Lord and His Blessed Mother for their intercessions and direction of the 23rd SOBOR. We trust in their continued blessing and help in the work of the newly-elected Consistory which faces an enormous task in the ongoing ministry and outreach of the Church.

Respectfully submitted by the SOBOR Press Committee

-Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Dr. Ihor Kutash

-Marusia Kaweski

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July 19, 2015