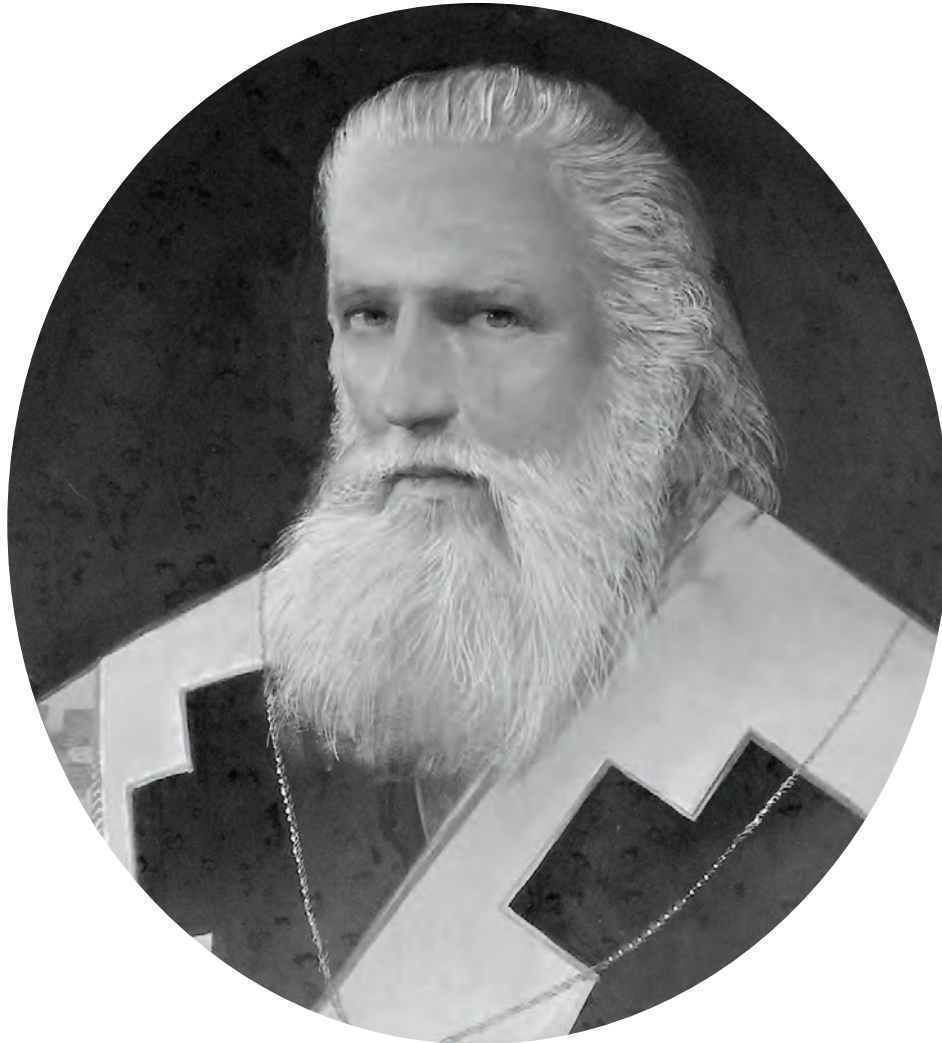


Honouring Metropolitan **Andrei Sheptytsky** and His Legacy



April 22 – 29, 2012

TORONTO | OTTAWA | WASHINGTON | NEW YORK

Ukrainian Jewish Encounter (UJE)

For centuries, the territory of modern-day Ukraine was a meeting ground for diverse and flourishing cultures, and the dwelling place of one of the oldest and most populous Jewish communities in Eastern Europe.

That community, consisting predominantly of Ashkenazi Jews, lived alongside the indigenous Christian Ukrainian population through long periods of normal coexistence and multifaceted cultural cross-fertilization.

The Ukrainian Jewish Encounter is an initiative founded in 2008 on the belief that these two peoples have much to gain by better appreciating their joint and each other's historical experience in all its complexity.

*Our stories are incomplete
without each other*



Ukrainian
Jewish
Encounter

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PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

April 22-27, 2012

Greetings from the Prime Minister

I am pleased to welcome leaders of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations (UCCRO) to Canada at the invitation of the Ukrainian-Jewish Encounter (UJE) Initiative. I greatly admire the efforts of the UJE to promote mutual understanding between the Ukrainian and Jewish peoples.

This historic visit is a wonderful opportunity to honour the millennium-long relationship between the Ukrainian and Jewish peoples. A dialogue between distinguished leaders from the two communities encourages thoughtful consideration of the historical challenges each group has surmounted. By developing this understanding, you are fostering new relationships, addressing prevailing stereotypes and honouring the memory of the victims of past crimes.

It is especially significant that you are honouring the legacy of Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky. As a prominent religious leader, he spoke out against murder and acted to shelter Jews. His compassion and courage made him a role model and an exemplar of the values that the Ukrainian and Jewish people aspire to uphold to this day.

I understand the importance of learning from the past. “Never again” must be more than words – it must be defined by actions. In 2013, Canada will chair the Taskforce for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF). The goals of the UJE are a wonderful complement to our efforts to press for global action through the ITF. I commend everyone involved in organizing the UJE initiative.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my best wishes to UJE and UCCRO. I hope members of both the Ukrainian and Jewish communities will participate in this visit and extend their support to the work of UJE.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



1812.gc.ca

Minister
of Citizenship
and Immigration



Ministre
de la Citoyenneté
et de l'Immigration

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

Greetings from the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism

I am pleased to join Prime Minister Stephen Harper in welcoming leaders of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations (UCCRO) to Canada for a visit hosted by the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter (UJE).

As Minister responsible for Multiculturalism, I am pleased that such a landmark visit is taking place in Canada, where our vibrant Jewish and Ukrainian communities have been developing a relationship that can serve as a model for cooperation. Both communities are actively engaged in unique initiatives, such as the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, which seeks both to encourage open and honest dialogue about historical experiences and to chart a new course for the future.

Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, to whom the visit is dedicated, is particularly worthy of a shared interest. Although Metropolitan Sheptytsky led the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church through a time of great turmoil for Ukrainians, he always strove for harmony between ethnic and religious groups and led by example. Notably, he learned Hebrew and risked much to save the lives of Jewish children during the Second World War.

This visit will contribute to a more thorough understanding of this righteous figure in shared Ukrainian and Jewish history and will undoubtedly draw the interest of all Canadians. I wholeheartedly commend the organizers on their efforts and I look forward to joining the participants in Ottawa.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP
Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism



Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytskyi*

Metropolitan-Archbishop Andrei Sheptytskyi was a distinguished civic activist and cultural figure. But, most importantly, he was a committed Christian and church hierarch who came to be viewed by his flock as a leader of patriarchal stature. His career, which spanned most of the first half of the twentieth century, unfolded in a historic territory called Galicia, located in the heart of central Europe. Galicia was a multicultural land of several peoples, in particular of Ukrainians, Poles, and Jews. During Sheptytskyi's lifetime it was ruled by no less than five states: Habsburg Austria-Hungary, the West Ukrainian National Republic, Poland, Nazi Germany, and Soviet Ukraine within the framework of the Soviet Union.

Sheptytskyi was born on 29 July 1865 on his family's estate in the village of Prylbychi, which today is in Ukraine, very near the border with Poland. The Sheptytskyis had been a family of Ruthenian/Ukrainian nobles, who in the eighteenth century became polonized. The future metropolitan, named at birth Roman, was raised as a Roman Catholic Polish aristocratic subject of the Habsburg Empire. When he reached the age of twenty, Roman decided to return to the church of his ancestors. He adopted the Byzantine (Greek) rite of the Catholic Church, entered a Basilian Monastery, and chose as his new Christian name, Andrei.

After being awarded doctorates in law and theology, Father Andrei was ordained to the priesthood (1892) and, thereafter, rose quickly through the ranks of the Greek Catholic Church: as superior of two monasteries, as seminary professor, and as diocesan bishop. In 1900, Rome appointed him archbishop of L'viv and metropolitan of Galicia. Andrei Sheptytskyi was to lead the Greek Catholic Church for nearly the next half century, a period marked by two brutal world wars and the destruction of all the states which for a time had ruled Galicia. The frequent foreign invasions, changes of regime, and underground movements opposed to the ruling states all had a profound impact on the metropolitan. He experienced arrest, exile, and harsh criticism for what some thought were his politically unrealistic and pacifistic policies, on the one hand, or his overly accommodationist attitudes, on the other.

Throughout these turbulent decades, Metropolitan Sheptytskyi consistently defended the religious, social, civic, and national interests of his ethnic Ukrainian flock. These efforts took several forms: promotion of Ukrainian scholarship and education, opposition to anti-Ukrainian measures in Polish-ruled Galicia, establishment of a modern health clinic and museum of folk and religious artifacts, rapprochement with the Eastern Orthodox Christian world, and support for Ukrainian governments struggling for independence at the close of World War I and then again in the early years of World War II.

Despite his sympathy for Ukrainian political aspirations, Metropolitan Sheptytskyi never lost sight of basic moral principles and the sanctity of life. Therefore, he condemned politically inspired assassinations carried out in the name of the Ukrainian national cause—whether the victims were Habsburg Austrian and Polish officials, or Ukrainian activists killed by other Ukrainians. During World War II, and at great personal risk, he criticized the Nazi German rulers of Galicia and those among his own Christian flock who committed or condoned what he called “political murder,” in particular the murder of Jews. He called on his community to respect the commandment “Thou Shalt Not Kill,” which he linked with the precept, “Thou Shalt Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself.” Acting on what he asked of others, Sheptytskyi sheltered Jews personally and arranged for Greek Catholic monasteries to protect hundreds of Jewish children, many of whom survived the war and Holocaust to tell their stories of appreciation for the extraordinary actions of the metropolitan.

As World War II drew to a close and German armies were retreating, Soviet forces arrived in Galicia in the summer of 1944. The aged and by then infirm metropolitan did his best to defend the Greek Catholic Church against the increasingly restrictive measures imposed on it by the new Soviet regime. Metropolitan Sheptytskyi feared the worse—the destruction of his church—although he was spared from witnessing what in a few years did, indeed, become the church’s destruction and forced descent into the underground. He was spared from having to witness this tragedy, because he died peacefully in his sleep at the metropolitan’s residence in L’viv on 1 November 1944.

In the more than half a century since his passing, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church has been restored and Sheptytskyi’s admirers, both Christian and non-Christian, have been urging the Vatican to beatify him—the first step in the process of declaring him a saint. As the cause for his beatification as well as for his recognition by Israel’s Yad Vashem as one of the Righteous among Nations continues, we are privileged to honour and to draw moral inspiration from the legacy, in the words of one Holocaust survivor, of “this spiritual giant”—Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytskyi.

Professor Paul Robert Magocsi, FRSC
Chair of Ukrainian Studies
University of Toronto

*Sheptytsky

Sunday April 22 (Toronto)

Arrival of delegates

- 18:00 Reception
Park Hyatt Yorkville Hotel
18TH floor – Roof Salons 1 and 2
- 19:00 Dinner
Park Hyatt Yorkville Hotel
18TH floor – Roof Salons 1 and 2

Monday April 23 (Toronto)

- 9:30 Transportation from Hotel
- 10:00-11:30 Meeting with **His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins**,
Archbishop of Toronto, Roman Catholic Church
- 11:30-17:30 Tour of Niagara Falls and UCCRO meeting
- 18:30 Dinner and discussion with leaders of the
Ukrainian and Jewish communities
Park Hyatt Yorkville Hotel

Tuesday April 24 (Toronto and Ottawa)

8:00	Transportation to Airport
9:40	Flight to Ottawa
11:30	Tour of the Canadian Parliament
12:00	Lunch Parliamentary Restaurant
13:30	Seating in Speakers' Gallery
14:00	Proclamation regarding Metropolitan Sheptytsky and work of other faiths in Ukraine; ministerial and other parliamentary remarks
16:30	Interfaith Gathering at Machzikei Hadas Synagogue Hosted by Rabbi Reuven Bulka
18:00	Reception Fairmont Chateau Laurier Drawing Room
19:00	Dinner Fairmont Chateau Laurier Drawing Room

Wednesday April 25 (Ottawa and Washington)

8:30 Transportation to Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute

9:00-11:00 **Ethical Action in Extreme Conditions**

Symposium organized by the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter Initiative in cooperation with the Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at Saint Paul University and the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Ottawa.

9:00-9:15 **Introductory Remarks:**

Rev. Stephen Wojcichowsky, Director, Sheptytsky Institute

James Temerty, Chairman, Ukrainian Jewish Encounter

Greetings from Ukraine:

Major Archbishop/Patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk,
Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Rabbi Jacob Dov Bleich, Chief Rabbi of Kyiv and Ukraine

9:15-11:30 **Discussion Panel:**

Chair: **Very Rev. Peter Galadza**, Kule Family Professor of Liturgy,
Sheptytsky Institute

Liliana Hentosh, Chair of History of the Catholic Church,
Institute for Historical Research, Lviv National University

Myroslav Marynovych, Vice-Rector, Ukrainian Catholic
University, Lviv

Right Rev. Andriy Chirovsky, Kule Family Professor of Eastern
Christian Theology and Spirituality, Sheptytsky Institute.

Wednesday April 25 (Ottawa and Washington)

13:00	Lunch Fairmont Chateau Laurier Canadian Room
15:00	Transportation to Airport
17:50	Flight to Washington
20:00	Dinner Park Hyatt Washington Victoria Park Room

Thursday April 26 (Washington)

- 8:30 Transportation to United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- 9:15 Tour of Museum
- 12:00 Lunch and panel discussions:
Moderator: **Paul Shapiro**, Director, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
Martin Dean, Applied Research Scholar, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
"Camps and Ghettos in Nazi-occupied Ukraine"
Oleksandr Marichenko, 2011/12 Diane and Howard Wohl Fellow in the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
"Soviet POW camps in Ukraine"
Suzanne Brown-Fleming, Director, Visiting Scholar Programs, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
"Work of Yahad-In Unum"
Paul Shapiro, Director, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
"Rescue"
- 13:30 Afternoon program to include visits to the Holodomor and Taras Shevchenko Monuments
- 16:30 Transportation to United States Senate
Meeting Hosted by Senator **Joseph Lieberman**
- 18:30 Transportation to Embassy of Ukraine to the United States
- 19:00 Reception
Embassy of Ukraine
- 21:30 Transportation to Park Hyatt Washington

Friday April 27 (Washington and New York)

7:00	Transportation to Union Station
8:00	Train to New York
10:45	Transportation to Jumeirah Essex House Hotel
12:00	Meeting and lunch with US Jewish Community Leaders Hosted by Ronald Lauder , President World Jewish Congress
14:15	Transportation to Ukrainian Museum
14:45	Meeting and reception with US Ukrainian Community
17:00	Transportation to Jumeirah Essex House Hotel
19:00	Transportation to Shabbat Service and Shabbat Dinner (Park East Synagogue) Hosted by Rabbi Schneier and Rabbi Bleich
21:30	Transportation to Jumeirah Essex House Hotel

Saturday April 28 (New York)

Religious Services

10:00 Meeting with US Ukrainian Community

18:00 Wrap up dinner for delegates
Jumeirah Essex House Hotel
Hyde Park Room

Sunday April 29 (New York)

Religious Services

16:00 Transportation to Airport

Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations

HIS HOLINESS FILARET, PRIMATE OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF KYIV PATRIARCHATE, PATRIARCH OF KYIV AND ALL RUS-UKRAINE



Was born Mykhailo Denysenko in 1929 in the village Blahodatne (Donetsk region). In 1946 he entered the Odesa Seminary, completed it with honors and became a student of Moscow Theological Academy the same year. Shortly thereafter he took monastic vows and was named Filaret. In 1950, Patriarch of Moscow and all the Rus Alexius ordained him as a hierodeacon. Following his graduation from the Moscow Theological Academy in 1952, Filaret taught at theological seminaries and occupied various posts within the Orthodox hierarchy in Ukraine, Egypt, Austria and Russia. In 1966, he was elevated to the rank of Archbishop and appointed the Exarch of Ukraine, Archbishop of Ukraine and Galicia, permanent member of ROC Holy Synod.

In 1968, he became metropolitan. In the years 1960-80, Filaret took active part in international peace-making and interdenominational activity.

In July 1990 the Ukrainian Episcopate unanimously elected him the Primate of UOC, which received the right of independence and self-government from the ROC later in the year. After the death of the second Head of the UOC-KP Patriarch Volodymyr (Romaniuk) in October 1995 Filaret was elected the Patriarch of Kyiv and All Rus-Ukraine. For ecclesiastic and peace-making activity he is awarded with many orders and medals of independent Ukraine, the USSR, Orthodox Churches, Ukrainian and foreign NGOs.

HIS BEATITUDE SVIATOSLAV (SHEVCHUK), MAJOR ARCHBISHOP OF KYIV-GALICIA, FATHER AND HEAD OF THE UKRAINIAN GREEK – CATHOLIC CHURCH



Was born in 1970 in Stryi (Lviv region). After completing his theological studies in Buenos Aires and Lviv, Mr. Shevchuk was ordained a priest in 1994. Between 1994 and 1999 he continued his studies at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Rome, Italy), where he completed his doctorate Summa cum laude in the area of Theological Anthropology. In 1999-2000 he was the Prefect of Holy Spirit Seminary in Lviv. In 2000-2007 he served as Vice-Rector at the same Seminary and concurrently held several others posts at educational institutions and within the ecclesiastical hierarchy. On January 14, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI blessed the decision to appoint Sviatoslav Shevchuk Assistant Bishop in Buenos Aires (Argentina). His consecration to episcopacy took place on April 7, 2009 at St. George's Archcathedral in Lviv. On April 10, 2010, he was appointed the Apostolic Administrator of the Eparchy of Intercession of the Theotokos.

On March 23, 2011, at the Electoral Episcopal Synod of UGCC he was elected the Head of UGCC. On March 25 this election was blessed by Pope Benedict XVI. He was enthroned on March 27, 2011, in Kyiv in the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ.

MARKIYAN TROFIMYAK, BISHOP OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN UKRAINE



Was born 1947 in the village Kozova (Ternopil region). He studied in Lviv and Riga, where after graduating from the local seminary on May 26, 1974 he ordained to the priesthood. He served as a Church Rector in several Ukrainian cities.

January 16, 1991 he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Lviv. There took place his bishop's consecration on March 2 of the same year. On March 25, 1998 Trofimyak was appointed Bishop of Lutsk. He heads the Lutsk Diocese of the Latin rite.

He represents the Catholic Church at the meetings of the Ukrainian Council of Churches and religious organizations.

RABBI YAAKOV DOV BLEICH, CHIEF RABBI OF KYIV AND UKRAINE



Was born in New York in 1964. He received a Jewish upbringing and education, studying in Yeshivas in Chicago, Cleveland, Israel and New York. In 1990 after graduating from the Karlin Stolín Yeshiva Rabbi Bleich was sent to Ukraine by Rebbe Karlin Stolín to help restore Jewish religious life and education in Ukraine. As part of this mission Rabbi Bleich founded many Jewish educational institutions. In 1997, the President of Israel honoured Rabbi Bleich with the International Award of Jerusalem for his contributions to the development of Jewish education in the Diaspora. Rabbi

Bleich is also a founder of the Union of Jewish Religious Organizations of Ukraine and a cofounder of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine in 1999. Rabbi Bleich has brought about significant advances in improving inter-religious and inter-ethnic relations in Ukraine and around the world. Since 1998, he is a member of the Council of Churches and Religious Organizations of Ukraine. Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich is a Vice President of the World Jewish Congress, the Treasurer of the European Jewish Congress and the Chairman of the Board of the Conference of European Rabbis.

METROPOLITAN MEFODIY, PRIMATE OF UKRAINIAN AUTOCEPHALOUS ORTHODOX CHURCH



Was born in 1949, in the village of Kopychentsi, Husiatyn district, Ternopil region. He received the higher theological education at the Moscow Seminary and Moscow Theological Academy.

He was ordained as priest in 1981 (Russian Orthodox Church).

He was ordained as archiereus in 1995 (Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyivan Patriarchate).

Consecrators: Patriarch of Kyiv and All Rus-Ukraine Volodymyr (Romanyuk), Bishop of Donetsk and Luhansk Iziaslav (Karha).

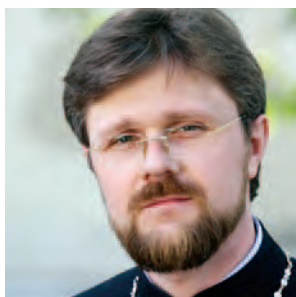
In May-October 1995, he was the Bishop of Khmelnytskyi and Kamianets-Podilskyi (UOC-KP).

In October 1995, he separated from the UOC-KP and recognized the jurisdiction of Patriarch of Kyiv and All-Ukraine Dymytriy (Yarema).

In 1997 he was elevated to the rank of archbishop, in 1999 – to the rank of metropolitan. On March 1, 2000, he was elected the locum tenens of the Patriarchal See.

On September 14, 2000, he was elevated as the Primate of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church.

ARCHPRIEST MYKOLAY DANILEVICH (UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH – MOSCOW PATRIARCHATE)



Was born in 1977 in the Rivne region.

He received his education at the Pochayivski Theological Seminary, Moscow Theological Academy, University of Patras and University of Reggio di Calabria (Italy) (1994-2003)

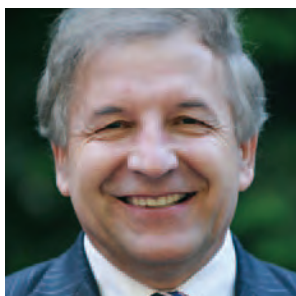
Between 2003 and 2007 he worked as a teacher at the Sreten Theological Seminary (Moscow).

Between 2004 and 2007 he was an employee at the Department of External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate.

In 2006 he was ordained deacon by the Metropolitan of Smolensk and Kaliningrad (now Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia). In the following year he returned to Ukraine, where he continues teaching at spiritual schools and work in the Department of external Church Relations of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Mykolay Danilevich was ordained a priest by Antonyi, Bishop (now Archbishop) of Boryspil in 2007 and assigned Archbishop in 2008.

From 2007 until present he's been Deputy Head of the Department of External Church Relations of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

VYACHESLAV NESTERUK, PRESIDENT OF ALL-UKRAINIAN UNION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS-BAPTISTS



Was born in 1953, in the Rivne region in the family of believers. He repented and was baptized by faith in 1974. Several years later he was elected for deacon ministry in the First Baptist Church in the city of Rivne. The church sent him to Moscow to the Extramural Bible School. In 1990 he was ordained to minister in the same church. He then worked with the Bible Institute educational program and later he took up managing it in Rivne region, and subsequently in the whole of Ukraine.

In 1994 he was elected Assistant to the Chief Presbyter of Rivne region. In 1996 he became the Chief Presbyter of the region. In the same year he received the degree of the Doctor of Ministry. In 2002 he was elected the Vice-President of the AUA ECB. On May 12, 2006, by the decision of the 25th congress of the AUC ECB he was elected the President of the AUC ECB.

He is married and has two daughters and a son. The Nesteruks have raised 8 foster children.

MYKHAILO PANOCHKO, PRESIDENT OF THE ALL-UKRAINIAN UNION OF CHURCHES OF CHRISTIANS OF EVANGELICAL FAITH-PENTECOSTALS



Was born in 1951 in the village of Sulymiv, Zhovkva district, Lviv region, in the family of believers.

In 1976, the church elected him for presbyter ministry in the village of Sulymiv and he was ordained by brother R.I. Bilas in 1980. Between 1976 and 1998 Panochko served as a pastor of the Sulymiv village church in addition to holding several other posts in the church hierarchy during the same period.

In May 1998 – the All-Ukrainian Congress of Churches of Christians of Evangelical Faith-Pentecostals elected Mykhailo Panochko the Head of the Union of Churches of Christians of Evangelical Faith-Federation of Unions of Christians of Evangelical Faith, later called International Assembly of Christians of Evangelical Faith and subsequently headed several other Ukrainian and international Evangelical associations. In May 2010 the 16th Congress of Churches of Christians of Evangelical Faith reelected him as Chief Presbyter for the fourth term. From August 2010 he's been an elected Presidium member of the Pentecostal European Fellowship.

LEONID PADUN, SENIOR PASTOR OF THE UKRAINIAN CHRISTIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Is a senior pastor of the Donetsk World of Life Church, Rector of the “Word of Life” Bible Institute, a member of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organisations, a co-founder and member of the Council of the representatives of the Christian Churches of Ukraine, a co-founder and member of the Council of Evangelical Protestant Churches of Ukraine.

L. Padun represents evangelical Protestant movement at a national level in the state-church and interdenominational dialogue and is a member in full standing of generally acknowledged confessional associations.

For his significant contribution to the spiritual development in Ukraine and his perennial fruitful activity in the church realm Leonid Padun was granted a high state award – Order of Yaroslav the Wise, Fifth Class.

VASYL RAICHYNETS, SENIOR PRESBYTER OF THE UNION OF FREE CHURCHES OF CHRISTIANS OF EVANGELICAL FAITH OF UKRAINE (FCCEFU)



Was born in 1952, in a multi-child family of a preacher and evangelist. In 1952, his father was sentenced to 25 years of imprisonment for his Christian faith and evangelism. The children were raised by the mother alone. In 1968 V. Raichynets' finished secondary school and started working to support the family. He became a believer in 1969. After his marriage in 1972 he raised six children, all of them are believers. In 1974, church of Christians of Evangelical Faith in the village of Polyana elected him for deacon's ministry. In 1979-1983, he studied in Moscow at the pastor-regent Bible department. In 1990 after 3 years as a minister in the village Polyana, Raichynets' was elected the Assistant to the Chief Presbyter of the Union of Free Churches of Christians of Evangelical Faith. In 1991 he organized a reach-out ministry among the holiday-makers in the health resorts of the Polyana village.

In 1992 he became the first rector of the Higher Theological School for training UFCCEFU ministers. In 1992 he started the current fruitful cooperation with several international charitable organizations to implement relief projects for various social institutions and individuals, who live below the poverty line in Ukraine. Since 2006, he has been a member of the Council of Evangelical Protestant Churches of Ukraine.

VIKTOR ALEKSEIENKO, PRESIDENT OF THE UKRAINIAN UNION CONFERENCE OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



Was born in 1969, in Bila Tserkva, Kyiv region. In 1991, he was ordained as presbyter of the Church of the Seventh-Day Adventists, and in 1998 he was ordained as pastor. He ministered in various cities of Ukraine: 1991 – Trostianets, Vinnytsia region, 1994 – Zhytomyr, 1998 – Donetsk. In 2001, he was elected the Secretary of the Eastern Conference of the Ukrainian Union Conference of the Church of SDA, in 2004 he was elected President of this Conference. In 2006, together with his family he moved to Moscow, because he was invited to carry out the ministry of Director of Saturday School Department of the Euro-Asia Division of the Church of SDA.

The delegates of the 9th Congress of the Ukrainian Union Conference of the Church of SDA held on August 29, 2010, elected him President of the UUC of the Church of SDA.

In 2000, he graduated Zaoksky Theological Academy as a Bachelor of Theology, and in 2010 he received the Master of Theology degree at the Andrews University.

He has a family: wife Alekseienco Alla Pavlivna, son Oleh (20) and daughter Alina (14).

SHEIKH AHMAD TAMIM, MUFTI OF UKRAINE, CHAIRPERSON OF SPIRITUAL ADMINISTRATION OF MUSLIMS OF UKRAINE



Was born in 1956 in Lebanon. He is the Chairperson of Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Ukraine, Mufti of Ukraine Sheikh Ahmad Tamim.

In 1976 he came to Ukraine where he studied at the Computer Engineering Department of Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. In 1982 he received higher education in the area of "Microprocessor Systems and Local Networks". He is a citizen of Ukraine. He is married and has five children.

He received Islamic theological education at Theology Department Al-Imam Al-Ouzai at the Beirut Arab University. He has a degree of the Bachelor of Theology. He is the author of several books on various Islamic disciplines. Sheikh Ahmad Tamim received considerable knowledge in Islam Theology from his teacher and spiritual mentor, prominent theologian of modernity, famous scholar muhaddis of the Sham countries Sheikh Abdullah Al-Harariyy, who gave him a ijazah (permission) to teach Islamic sciences by all his books and to spread Tariqas "Rifa'iyya" and "Qadiriyya".

Sheikh Ahmad Tamim also has an ijazah to spread the Tariqa "Naqshbandi" from the Head of Imam-Khatibs of Dubai Emirate (UAE) Sheikh Muhammad Adil Azizat Al-Kayali Al-Khasani.

HRYPHORY KOMENDANT, PRESIDENT OF THE UKRAINIAN BIBLE SOCIETY



Was born in 1946, in the village Stavysche in Khmelnytskyi region. His father and grandfather (repressed in 1939) were also pastors of Baptist congregations. In 1965 H. Komendant was baptized by faith.

In 1968 he started preaching and in 1971 he was ordained as deacon. After graduating from the Moscow Extramural Bible School in 1973, he served as a presbyter of ECB church in the city of Dunaievtsy in Khmelnytskyi region. He continued his theological education in the 70's at the Hamburg Seminary.

In 1979-1981, after several years as a presbyter in Irpin, he carried out the ministry of the Chief Presbyter of Ukraine. On July 17, 1981 the Republican Council elected him Assistant to Chief Presbyter of Ukraine.

In 1994 he was elected the President of the AUA ECB. He directed the ECB union until the 25th Congress of the AUA ECB (May 2006). After that he headed the newly-established Spiritual Advisory Council at the AUA ECB leadership. In 1995 he was elected Vice-President of the Baptist World Alliance, the congregations of which exist in 214 countries of the world.

In 2001-2003 he was President of European Baptist Federation. In 2007, he was elected President of the Ukrainian Bible Society.

YEVSTRATII, ARCHBISHOP OF CHERNIHIV AND NIZHYN, UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF KYIV PATRIARCHATE

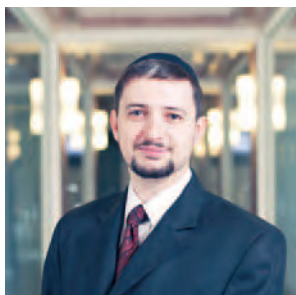


Was born in 1977 in Cherkassy. Yevstratii (Ivan Zoria) graduated from high school in 1994 and enrolled in the Kyiv Theological Seminary of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC - KP) from which he graduated in 1997. Subsequently he studied at the Kyiv Theological Academy. Today he is professor at the Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy.

From 1997 to 1998 he served as the subdeacon of the Head of the UOC-KP Filaret. He took monastic vows at St. Michael's Monastery in Kyiv in 1997 under the name Yevstratii. In 1998 he was ordained a deacon and soon thereafter became hieromonk and full-time priest of St. Michael's Golden-Dome Cathedral. After serving as press secretary of the Kyiv Patriarchate, Yevstratii was promoted to the rank of the Archimandrite (2007). The following year the Holy Synod elected him as the Bishop of Vasylykiv, Vicar of the Kyiv Eparchy and the head of Information and Publishing Department of the Kyiv Patriarchate.

In 2011 Yevstratii was appointed the Bishop of Boguslav, Vicar of the Kyiv Eparchy. He was raised to the rank of Archbishop and appointed as the Head of the Chernihiv Eparchy of the UOC-KP in 2012.

GENNADY BELORITSKY, LEGAL ADVISER OF CHIEF RABBI OF KIEV AND UKRAINE, UNION OF JEWISH RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION AND OF JEWISH CONFEDERATION OF UKRAINE



Has studied at a Jewish School in Kyiv, has BA from the International Solomon University, MA from the Ukrainian Academy of Foreign Trade and is currently completing PhD in international law at the Institute of State and Law of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Mr. Beloritsky is a member of the Ukrainian Bar Association, of the Advisory Boards for Relations with Religious Organizations at Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, and Ministry of Health.

He's also Acting Member of Secretariat of the Ukrainian Union of Churches and Religious Organizations and expert of the National Expert Committee of Ukraine on the Protection of Public Moral.

Mr. Biloritsky is a co-author of a number of bills in the area of human rights and freedoms, protection of ethnic and religious minorities, as well as in legislation against anti-Semitism.

OLEKSANDR ZAIETS, HEAD OF THE BOARD OF THE NGO “INSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM”, KYIV (UKRAINE)



Was born in 1968. Since mid-1990s he has concerned himself with issues of religious freedom and state-church relations.

Between 1999 and 2001 Zayets' was an assistant to a deputy of Ukraine. In 2001 together with like-minded people he founded an NGO The Institute for Religious Freedom (during 2001-2008 – the director, since 2008 – the Chairman of the Board) of which he became directive. Mr.Zayets' has served as an expert of the Working Group on religious freedom at the Secretariat of the President of Ukraine, as well as at

the National Council for Culture and Spirituality. In the latter capacity he took part in developing a number of legislative initiatives and amendments to laws concerning various religious issues.

Mr.Zayets' is now a member of the Public Council of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine on Matters of Cooperation with Churches and Religious Organizations, the Public Council of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on Matters of Cooperation with Religious Organizations, the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Association of Religious Freedom.

MITERED ARCHIPRIEST OLEXA PETRIV, PHD IN LAW, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF UKRAINIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH (UGCC)



Was born in 1967. After completing high school in 1984, he enrolled at the Technical Forestry Faculty of the Archangelsk Forestry Engineering Institute (Russian Federation).

Following the military service and the study at the Lviv Forestry Technical Institute and the Lviv Theological Academy, Mr. Petriv became a priest. Since 1994 he worked as the Vicar of Youth, Catechesis and Evangelization and later as the Head of Catechetical Commission of Sambir-Drohobych Eparchy of UGCC. At the same time he served as Boryslav-Hubychi parish administrator and worked as the

teacher of the Christian Ethics. Since 1996 Olexo Petriv is the Secretary of the Highest Archbishop Synod of the UGCC and the protocols recorder of Synod of Bishops of UGCC.

Mr. Petriv have taken part in different working groups which elaborated on the concept of State-Church relations as well as on the development of the new edition of “The Law of Ukraine on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations” Olexo Petriv is a member of Scientific Advisory Board of the National Expert Committee of Ukraine on the protection of public morals and the Public Council under the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine.

MAKSYM VASIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE “INSTITUTE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM” NGO, KYIV (UKRAINE)



Has completed a degree in law at the Donetsk National University (2000) and has since acted as a lawyer, expert on church-state relations, and human rights activist.

The main goal of the IRF is to help protect freedom of conscience, religion, beliefs and other related human rights, also the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on the status of the law and religious life in Ukraine and foreign countries.

M. Vasin took part in preparing amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Freedom of Conscience and Religious organizations” as a member of several interdepartmental working groups of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine (2006), the State Committee of Ukraine on Nationalities and Religions (2009) and the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine (from March 2011 till now).

He is the author of many scholarly publications on the harmonization of church-state relations and legislative support of religious freedoms and regularly participates in both international and Ukrainian conferences related to these problems.

ANATOLY RAITCHINETS, FIRST DEPUTY OF GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE UKRAINIAN BIBLE SOCIETY



Was born in 1979 in the town of Polyana, Transcarpathian region into a large family of Christian clergymen. Both his father and his grandfather had been repressed by the communist regime for officiating in the Protestant Evangelical Church. Raichinets completed his degree in theology at the Norwegian Theology Seminary in Tonsberg. From 1999 to 2006 he served as a youth ministry leader of the Union of Free Christian Churches of Evangelical Faith of Ukraine. He was ordained preacher in 2008. He has since received his MA in American Studies and foreign languages translation and

graduated from the Transcarpathian State University. He speaks Norwegian, English, Ukrainian and Russian.

Since 2005 Anatoly Raichinets has headed the department of foreign relations of UBS across the country. Simultaneously, A.V. Raichinets is the authorized representative of the United Bible Societies in Central Asia. In 2008 Mr. Raichinets became deputy head of the UBS in 2008. He is the author of the book about the leaders of Protestant Evangelical Denominations “Vozdvignutiye Bogom” (“Raised by God ”).