



The Ecumenical Patriarchate

Announcement

Presided over by His Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch, the Holy and Sacred Synod met in ordinary session from 9 to 11 October 2018, to examine and discuss the items on the agenda.

The Holy Synod discussed in particular and at length the ecclesiastical question of Ukraine, in the presence of His Excellency Archbishop Daniel of Pamphilon and His Excellency Bishop Hilarion of Edmonton, Patriarchal Exarchs of Ukraine, and following extensive deliberations it decreed:

- 1) Renew the decision already taken that the Ecumenical Patriarchate proceeds to grant autocephaly to the Ukrainian Church.
- 2) Re-establish, at this time, the Stavropegion of the Ecumenical Patriarch in Kiev, one of the many Stavropegia in Ukraine that has always existed there.
- 3) Accept and consider the appeal petitions of Filaret Denisenko, Makariy Maletych and their followers, who found themselves in schism not for dogmatic reasons, in accordance with the canonical prerogatives of the Patriarch of Constantinople to receive such petitions from hierarchs and other clergy of all the Autocephalous Churches. Therefore, the aforementioned are canonically reinstated to their hierarchical or priestly rank, and their faithful reinstated in communion with the Church.

All "sacraments" celebrated by the clergy of the Kiev Schismatic Patriarchate (KP) and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC) are recognized as valid by the Ecumenical Patriarchate,

confirming that all UOC-KP and UAOC clergy are now considered canonical clergy.

Because when it comes to the non-canonical nature of the holy sacraments celebrated by the clergy of these churches, the Holy Mother-Church responds that: these sacraments and clerical actions are canonical.

- 4) Revoke the legal value of the Synodal Letter of the year 1686, issued for the circumstances of that time, which granted the right by oikonomia to the Patriarch of Moscow to ordain the Metropolitan of Kiev, elected by the Clergy-Laity Assembly of his eparchy, who in every celebration remembered the Ecumenical Patriarch as First Hierarch, proclaiming and affirming his canonical dependence on the Mother Church of Constantinople.

- 5) Appeal to all parties involved to avoid the appropriation of Churches, Monasteries and other properties, as well as any other acts of violence and retaliation, so that the peace and love of Christ may prevail.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, 11 October 2018
Your fervent supplicant before God.

✠ **BARTHOLOMEW**

*Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch*