



## **Synodal Biblical and Theological Commission in its new composition holds plenary session**



On 20 January 2015, a plenary session of the Synodal Biblical and Theological Commission in its new composition, approved by the Holy Synod at its meeting on 25-26 December 2013 (Minutes #159), took place at the Department for External Church Relations under the chairmanship of Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk.

Taking part in the session were Metropolitan Avgustin of Belaya Tserkov and Boguslav, chairman of the Theological and Canonical Commission of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church; Archbishop Yevgeny of Vereya, chairman of the Education Committee of the Russian Orthodox Church, rector of the Moscow Theological Academy; Bishop Amvrosy of Petergof, rector of the St. Petersburg Theological Academy; Bishop Kliment of Irpen, chairman of the Education Committee of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church; archpriest Nikolai Balashov, DECR vice-chairman; archpriest Vladimir Vorobyov, rector of St Tikhon's Orthodox University; archpriest Boris Danilenko, director of the Synodal Library named after Patriarch

Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia; archpriest Maksim Kozlov, Professor of the Moscow Theological Academy, first deputy chairman of the Education Committee of the Russian Orthodox Church; archpriest Andrei Novikov, secretary of the Odessa diocese; archpriest Dimitry Kiryanov, head of the Chair of Theology of the Tobolsk Theological Seminary; archpriest Vladimir Shmaly, pro-rector of St Cyril and Methodius Theological Institute for Post-Graduate and Doctoral Studies, secretary of the Synodal Biblical and Theological Commission; Hieromonk Ioann (Kopeykin), pro-rector for education of St Cyril and Methodius Theological Institute for Post-Graduate and Doctoral Studies; and others.

The Commission members discussed the preparation of a catechesis of the Russian Orthodox Church, in particular, its third part, devoted to the Orthodox Divine Services and church order. The first draft of the catechesis is due to be completed by the end of the year.

The participants in the session summarized the work of the Coordination Centre for Developing Theological Studies in the Russian Orthodox Church, established under the Synodal Biblical and Theological Commission in compliance with the decision of the Holy Synod taken in 2014 (Minutes #156).

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