



Meeting of experts in “Ancient Oriental Churches” study course



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On April 17, the Assyrian Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Mat Maryam) in Moscow hosted a meeting of experts in the “Ancient Oriental Churches” study course, which is being given by the Moscow Patriarchate’s Department for External Church Relations and the Ss Cyril and Methodius Theological Institute of Postgraduate Studies.

The meeting was chaired by Chorebishop Samano Odisho, representative of the Assyrian Church of the East in Russia. Mr. Sergei G. Alferov, a DECR staff member and the “Ancient Oriental Churches” course lecturer, served as moderator. Attending the meeting were also Rev. Arseny Israelian, head of

the Youth Department of the Diocese of Russia and New Nakhichevan of the Armenian Apostolic Church; subdeacon Vartan Poghosian, an expert in ethnic and religious relations of the Armenian Diocese of Russia and New Nakhichevan; reader Gevorg Sghomonyan, a junior cleric of the Armenian Holy Transfiguration Cathedral; Mr. David R. Bagdasarian, Director of the “Tapan” Museum of Armenian Church Art, Mr. A.G. Mezhdo, head of the Mat Maryam parish youth association; and Ms. Marina V. Urjanova, artistic director and chief choirmaster of the Assyrian church choir of Moscow.

The participants discussed plans for implementing a number of projects in the scientific, educational, cultural and youth spheres on the basis of the study course. The first joint actions are planned to be held in rotation at the Mat Maryam church, the “Tapan” Museum and the Chernigov Patriarchal Metochion in June 2024.

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