



## **Patriarch Kirill chairs a session of the Holy Synod**



On December 27, 2016, the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church held its last session this year, at the patriarchal and synodal residence in the St. Daniel Monastery in Moscow. The session was chaired by His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia.

Before the session Patriarch Kirill and the Holy Synod members prayed for the victims of the Russian Defense Ministry's TU-154 plane crash.

After the prayer for the dead, the Primate of the Russian Orthodox Church presented the agenda of the session.

The permanent members of the Holy Synod are: Metropolitan Onufry of Kiev and All Ukraine; Metropolitan Juvenaly of Krutitsy and Kolomna; Metropolitan Vladimir of Kishinev and All Moldova; Metropolitan Alexander of Astana and Kazakhstan, head of the Metropolitanate in the Republic of Kazakhstan; Metropolitan Vikenty of Tashkent and Uzbekistan, head of the Metropolitanate of Central

Asia; Metropolitan Varsonofy of St. Petersburg and Ladoga, chancellor of the Moscow Patriarchate; Metropolitan Pavel of Minsk and Zaslavsk, Patriarchal Exarch for All Belarus; Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of the Department for External Church Relations.

The following bishops were summoned for the winter session: Metropolitan Melety of Chernovtsy and Bukovina; Metropolitan Seraphim of Penza and Nizhny Lomov; Archbishop Yelisey of Sourozh; Archbishop Nikolay of Salekhard and Novo-Urengoy; Bishop Pitirim of Dushanbe and Tajikistan.

*Patriarchal Press Service*

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