

Taking part in the Conference are 198 official delegates from 17 countries who represent dioceses, monasteries, theological educational institutions and the Moscow Patriarchate's parishes abroad and 250 choir conductors and singers from Moscow and Moscow region as guests who participate in the discussions; some 500 people in total. It is for the first time since 1917 as the problems of preserving the centuries-old traditions of the Russian church singing as an integral part of Orthodox divine services are being discussed at such a representative assembly.

Hegumen Petr addressed the participants at the beginning of the session in which His Holiness the Patriarch took part.

The Primate of the Russian Church delivered his primatial speech and presented certificates to the participants who have devoted years of his life to preserving the traditions of church singing and its development.

Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk delivered report on 'Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky and the current problems of church singing.'

On behalf of the participants Hegumen Petr thanked His Holiness Patriarch Kirill for his presence and address which contained answers to certain issues discussed by the participants on the first day of the conference, for instance, the standards of education and musical education in Sunday schools and lyceums.

According to Hegumen Petr, Patriarch Kirill also touched upon issues due to be discussed today, such as the repertoire of contemporary choirs and modern compositions.

In conclusion of the meeting Hegumen Petr and participants in the conference congratulated His Holiness on his 70th birthday.

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