



Serbian Church proposes that the holding of the Pan-Orthodox Council be postponed

Local Orthodox Churches continue discussing the possibility for holding the Pan-Orthodox Council at the stated date.

On June 8, 2016, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia received a letter from His Holiness Patriarch Irenaeos of Serbia. The Primate of the Serbian Orthodox Church, pointing to the problems still unresolved in the pre-Council process and taking into account the recent decisions made with regard to the forthcoming Council by the Holy Synod of the Church of Antioch and the Holy Synod of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, proposes that the holding of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church 'be put off for some time' while continuing its common Orthodox preparation.

Among the reasons for this decision, the letter indicates the fact that none of the proposals made by the Serbian Church concerning the Council's agenda and topics have been taken into account in the pre-Council process.

The delicate situation, which has recently developed in the course of preparations for the Pan-Orthodox Council, was considered earlier by the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church at its session on June 3, 2016.