# Metropolitan Hilarion presents V. Nikonov, State Duma Education Committee chairman, with Patriarchal award



On June 5, 2016, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, head of the Moscow Patriarchate department for external church relations (DECR), attended the reception given on the occasions of the 60th birthday of V. Nikonov, chairman of the State Duma Education Committee and head of the Russian World Foundation.

With the blessing of His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, the metropolitan presented Mr. Nikonov with a high church award – the Order of the Holy Prince Daniel of Moscow, Class II, in recognition of this zealous work for the good of the Church and on the occasion of this 60th birthday.

Addressing the hero of the anniversary, Metropolitan Hilarion noted his role in promoting the Russian language and culture, education standards and his personal devotion to the Church. He also pointed to the progress made in cooperation between the Russian World Foundation and the Russian Orthodox Church in implementing humanitarian projects related to the Russian spiritual and civilizational identity,

meanings and values.

Metropolitan Hilarion warmly congratulated Mr. Nikonov on his 60th birthday and wished him sound health and God's abundant help in his further work for the good of the Fatherland and all the multinational Russian world.

In his response, Mr. Nikonov, expressed sincere gratitude to His Holiness Patriarch Kirill and Metropolitan Hilarion for the high assessment of his work and assured them of his readiness to continue working as hard as he can for the benefit of Russia and the Russian Orthodox Church.

*DECR Communication Service*

*Photos by Alexander Buryy*

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