



Inter-Council Presence's commission for relations with non-Orthodoxy and other religions holds its first meeting

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The Inter-Council Presence's commission on relations with non-Orthodoxy and other religions held its first meeting on 4 March 2010 at the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate. It was led by the DECR chairman, Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk.

The commission membership also includes Metropolitan Vladimir of Kishinev and All Moldova, Metropolitan Chrysostom of Vilnius and Lithuania, Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York, Metropolitan Alexander of Riga and All Latvia, Archbishop Feofan of Berlin and Germany, Archbishop Innokenty of Korsun, Archbishop Augustine of Lvov and Galicia, Bishop Alexander of Baku and the Caspian, Archimandrite Kirill Govorun, Archpriests Vsevolod Chaplin, Vladimir Silovyev, Maxim Kozlov, Hegumen Philip Riabykh, Archpriests Alexander Abramov and Andrey Novikov, Rev. George Roschin, Deacon Maxim Plyakin, Mrs. A. Averyanov, V. Burega, Yu. Maximov, A. Maler, and Ms. M. Neliubova.

Opening the meeting, Metropolitan Hilarion said that the basic task of the commission was to work on areas suggested by the Inter-Council Presence's presidium. The commission is to assess the present state of inter-Christian dialogue and to consider such issues as the practice of accepting non-Orthodox believers in the Church, the Moscow Patriarchate's dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church, non-Chalcedonian Churches and Protestant denominations. It is also to deal with such questions as the participation of the Russian Orthodox Church in interreligious and inter-Christian organizations, the ROC's attitude to mixed marriages and other issues.

The participants exchanged opinions on how the discussion should be organized and recommendations made to the plenary Inter-Council Presence.

It was agreed that the commission would work in three working groups on inter-Christian relations, practical problems involved in relations with the non-Orthodox and on interreligious dialogue.

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