



## Conference on development of cooperation between theological schools of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Coptic Church



On August 28, 2021, during the visit of a delegation of abbots and monks of Egyptian monasteries to the Novodevichy Convent of the Resurrection in Voskresensk, a conference took place on the development of cooperation between Russian and the Coptic theological schools as part of the work of the Commission for Dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Coptic Church.

From the Moscow Patriarchate there were Bishop Siluan of Petergof, rector of St. Petersburg Theological Academy and Seminary, and Hieromonk Stephen (Igumnov), DECR secretary for inter-Christian relations. The Coptic Church was represented by Bishop Michael, rector of the Coptic Theological Academy and Seminary in Cairo, Hieromonk Daud el-Anthony, representative of the Coptic

Church in Russia, and Dr Anton Milad, special representative of the Coptic Patriarchate.

The sides discussed topical plans for cooperation in the academic sphere as a follow-up of the agreements reached in 2019 during cross-visits to Egypt and Russia made by delegations of leadership of Russian and Coptic theological schools. The short-range plans include the continuation of exchange of delegations, students and faculty exchange, joint participation in academic conferences, contacts on the level of libraries, schools for precentors and icon-painters.

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Among the priority areas in the work of the Commission for Dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Coptic Church is the development of cooperation in the academic sphere. In May 2015, the Ss Cyril and Methodius Institute of Post-Graduate Studies hosted a meeting of the special working group for developing cooperation between Russian and Coptic theological school, which initiated several joint projects including students exchanges and joint participation in academic conferences.

From May 6 to 13, 2019, a delegation of the Moscow Theological Academy came to Egypt to visit leading general education institutions of the Coptic Church, including the Coptic Academy and Seminary and the Coptic Research Institute. From November 7 to 14, of the same year, a return visit was made by a delegation of Coptic theological schools. Roundtable conferences on special issues were held in the Moscow Theological Academy, Sretensky Seminary, Ss Cyril and Methodius Institute of Post-Graduate Studies, St. Tikhon Orthodox University of the Humanities and St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox University.

*DECR Communication Service*