



**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
Department for External Church Relations

## Representatives of the Russian Church met with the leadership of the South African Council of Churches



**DECR Communication service, 30.03.2023.**

On the 27th of March 2023, a meeting was held in Pretoria, the capital city of South Africa, between the DECR Secretary for Inter-Christian Relations, Hieromonk Stefan (Igumnov), Archpriest Daniel Lugovoi, Rector of the St. Sergius of Radonezh Church in Johannesburg, and the leadership of the South African Council of Churches: Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana, Council Secretary General, Pastor Mzwandile Molose, Council Executive Committee member, Pastor Lungile Mpetsheni and Council Program Director, Pulane Baloyi.

From the Russian side, the meeting was also attended by the head of the department of external relations of the "Center for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Education of Russia" A. G. Averkova.

The parties discussed questions of cooperation between the Russian Orthodox Church and the South African Council of Churches, projects concerning development of Russian educational programs in

South Africa and other issues of mutual interest.

This meeting was part of a joint visit to South Africa by Hieromonk Stefan (Igumonov), DECR Secretary for Inter-Christian Relations, and a delegation of the Russian Ministry of Education, Russian colleges and the media. The trip was timed to coincide with a meeting of the Russia-South Africa intergovernmental commission held in Pretoria.

On March 26th members of the delegation celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Church of St. Sergius of Radonezh in Johannesburg. The rector of the church, Archpriest Daniel Lugovoi, spoke about the history of the Russian Orthodox presence in the Republic of South Africa and showed the guests the spiritual and educational center of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Sunday school, located in the church.

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Source: <https://mospat.ru/en/news/90195/>