



## DECR Chairman meets with the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Russia



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On February 16, Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations (DECR), met with H.E. Dauren Abayev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation. The meeting took place at the premises of the Embassy.

Ambassador Abayev presented Metropolitan Anthony with a badge and a certificate of a Goodwill Ambassador of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions. Goodwill Ambassadors are appointed by the decision of the Congress's governing bodies from among respected religious and public leaders. Their mission is to promote the ideas of peacemaking dialogue among traditional religions and the development of good interreligious relations on the international stage.

The DECR chairman thanked the head of the Kazakhstan's diplomatic mission for assigning him the

status of the Goodwill Ambassador. The parties discussed the activities of this respected international dialogue platform, as well as the state of interreligious relations in the world, in Russia, and in Kazakhstan. They noted the high level of cooperation between the government of Kazakhstan and the Metropolitan District of the Russian Orthodox Church in the country. The participants agreed to continue constructive cooperation for the betterment of good relations between the peoples of the two countries.

Attending the meeting were Priest Ilya Kashitsyn, DECR secretary for Interreligious Relations, and Mr. Dastan B. Kurmanov, Counsellor of the Embassy.

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