



DECR Chairman meets with hierarchs of Orthodox Church of Antioch



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On 24th July 2026, at the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate, Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, DECR Chairman, met with a delegation of the Orthodox Church of Antioch.

The delegation included Metropolitan Silouan of Byblos, Botrys and Dependencies (Mount Lebanon); Metropolitan Antonios of Zahleh, Baalbek and Dependencies; and Archimandrite Jeremiah (Azzam), cleric of the Archdiocese of Zahleh and Baalbek.

The DECR Chairman warmly greeted the guests, having expressed his joy at their visit to the Russian capital. During the meeting, Metropolitan Anthony shared with the delegation members his recollections of his trips to Lebanon and his participation in the **consecration of the Church of the “Unexpected**

Joy” Icon of the Mother of God in the city of Zahlé in May 2025.

The participants in the meeting, held in fraternal atmosphere of mutual understanding, discussed various joint humanitarian projects carried out by the Russian and the Antiochian Churches, as well as topical issues of inter-Orthodox relations.

Taking part in the meeting was also Metropolitan Niphon of Philippopolis, Representative of the Patriarch of Antioch and All the East to the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus’.

Present at the meeting were Archimandrite Philip (Vasiltsev), Representative of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus’ to the Patriarch of the Great Antioch and All the East; Archpriest Igor Yakimchuk, DECR Deputy Chairman; and Deacon Sergy Monakhov of the DECR Secretariat for Inter-Orthodox Relations.

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