



CHURCH, STATE, AND RUSSIA'S WAR ON UKRAINE

Witness Biographies

Metropolitan Epiphaniy - virtual, pre-recorded statement Metropolitan of Kyiv and all Ukraine

Metropolitan Epiphaniy, secular name Serhii Petrovych Dumenko, was elected Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine, the first primate of the autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine on December 15, 2018, at the unification council held in the Cathedral of St. Sophia. Before then he served as the Metropolitan bishop of Pereyaslav and Bila Tserkva, in the former original Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Kyiv Patriarchate) (UOC-KP) from 2013 to 2018. On December 21, 2007, with the blessing of Patriarch Filaret, Archbishop Dimitriy of Pereiaslav-Khmelnytsky made Epiphanius a monk at St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery. On October 21, 2009, at the Holy Synod of the UOC-KP he was elected Bishop of Vyshhorod, vicar of the Kyiv diocese. On November 15, 2009, he was ordained a bishop.

Metropolitan Epiphaniy notably accepted the tomos of autocephaly of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine from Patriarch Bartholomew on January 5, 2019, in St. George's Cathedral in Istanbul; it was signed that day. The signing of the tomos officially established the autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine.

Metropolitan Yevstratiy (Zoria)- virtual Metropolitan of Bila Tserkva

Metropolitan Yevstratiy, secular name Ivan Zoria, has represented the Kyiv Patriarchate and the Orthodox Church of Ukraine at the Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations since 2005. He serves as the spokesman for the Kyiv Metropolitanate and the Deputy Head of the Department for External Church Relations of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Previously, he served as the press secretary and representative to the European Institutions for the Kyiv Patriarchate.

He trained at the Kyiv Theological Academy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Kyiv Patriarchate, and earned a Candidate of Theology degree. He has been a professor at the Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy since 2018.

Metropolitan Yevstratiy has been awarded by the President of Ukraine with the Order for Merit of the Third Degree (2007) and the Order for Merit of the Second Degree (2008).

Rev. Dr. Igor Bandura
Vice President of International Affairs for the Baptist Union of Ukraine

Rev. Dr. Igor Bandura is the Vice President of International Affairs for the Baptist Union of Ukraine. He graduated from the Odesa Theological Seminary and was immediately ordained as a pastor at the “Grace” Baptist Church in Odesa. He has been part of the leadership team of the Baptist Union since 2010. In addition to being a pastor, he is a missiologist, an expert in the field of global partnerships of church and missions, and a leading voice on the issues of Russian aggression against Ukraine and the role of the church in the time of war.