



International Conference

RELIGION AND WAR IN UKRAINE

The Political, the Public, and the Possible

March 14th-16th, 2024

Telus 134 - Telus International Centre
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Session: Religious Organizations and Peacemaking, Part II

3:00PM MST, March 16, 2024

The World Council of Churches' peacemaking in Ukraine

Cyril Hovorun, Professor of Ecclesiology, International Relations and Ecumenism at the Stockholm School of Theology

The paper critically analyses the peacemaking initiatives of the World Council of Churches in Ukraine, from 2014 through our days. It argues that such initiatives are focused not so much on the results as the process of peacemaking. It criticises a tendency in the rhetoric of the WCC's leaders to put the victim and perpetrator of the war on the same footing, as well as the usage of the term "nationalism" in explaining the war. Finally, it addresses the most recent initiative of the WCC to bring to the same table the representatives of three churches: the autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine, the still dependent on Moscow Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and the Russian Orthodox Church.

Archimandrite Cyril Hovorun is a Professor of Ecclesiology, International Relations and Ecumenism at the Stockholm School of Theology. Fr. Hovorun was previously a member of the clergy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and has since become one of its foremost critics. He is the author of numerous publications on Orthodox political theology and church-state relations. He has taught theology at theological academies in Kyiv, Moscow, Minsk, the National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy," and Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. He was a research fellow at Yale and Columbia Universities, a visiting professor at the University of Münster and international fellow at Chester Ronning Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life at the University of Alberta in Canada.