



International Conference

RELIGION AND WAR IN UKRAINE

The Political,
the Public, and
the Possible

March 14th-16th, 2024

Telus 134 - Telus International Centre
University of Alberta
11104 87 Ave NW - Edmonton

In person and online.
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Session: The Orthodox Impasse, Part II

11:00AM MST, March 15, 2024

Orthodoxy and the war in Ukraine: Obstacles to unity and opportunities for healing

Nicholas Denysenko, Emil and Elfriede Jochum Professor of Theology at Valparaiso University, USA

This presentation explores two dimensions of current fractures in the global Orthodox church. The first section reviews the issues leading to the separation of and enmity between the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (previously under Moscow) and the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. Analysis of the current inertia preventing the global Orthodox Church from contributing to a resolution of the problem follows. The assessment of the obstacles to unity leads to a frank presentation on existing sources for the healing of divisions. The presentation explores the fundamental sources of healing and restoration in the New Testament that are ritualized in Orthodox liturgy as the optimal catalysts for resolution of the problem and initiating the process of healing.

Nicholas Denysenko is the Emil and Elfriede Jochum University Professor and Chair and Professor of Theology at Valparaiso University, USA. He previously taught at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, where he served as director of the Huffington Ecumenical Institute. He is a specialist in global Orthodoxy with a particular understanding of the dynamics of how conflicts within Orthodoxy in Ukraine play out in North American Orthodox denominations and parishes. Denysenko is an ordained deacon of the Orthodox Church in America since 2003. Denysenko specializes in Orthodox liturgical theology, ritual studies, and writes for an ecumenical audience. He is the author of *The Church's Unholy War: Russia's Invasion of Ukraine and Orthodoxy*, which complements his award-winning book *The Orthodox Church in Ukraine: A Century of Separation*.