

RESOLUTIONS OF THE VI SESSION OF THE PATRIARCHAL SOBOR

We, the delegates of the 6th Session of the Patriarchal Sobor of the UGCC, gathered in Ivano-Frankivsk in the region of Prykarpattya, on the 25th-27th of August 2015, under the leadership of the Father and Head of the UGCC, His Beatitude Sviatoslav, discussing the theme "The Vibrant Parish – A Place to Encounter the Living Christ," have developed specific directives for the life of our Church in Ukraine and elsewhere.

By His presence at the Sobor, we testify that it is precisely in the parish that the faithful most frequently encounter Christ through Christian instruction, community prayer and service to one's neighbour. Fostering and reviving parish life, we thus animate the entire Church. In view of this, we are presenting these proposals, which are divided into three levels: patriarchal, eparchial, and parochial.

LITURGY

Patriarchal Level:

1. To devote one of these next years (in a year or two) in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church to the liturgical life of the Church.

2. To commemorate annually the consecration of the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv:

To set the Feast Day of Consecration of the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv on August 5th (*Old Calendar: August 18th*).

To authorize the Patriarchal Liturgical Commission to compose and submit for approval a service for this feast day.

1. To develop suitable commentaries and explanations of the texts of divine services.

2. To complete the translation and publication of the liturgical books necessary to carry out the divine services (*Menaion, Triodion*).

3. To establish a centralized publication of liturgical texts and other materials, including their translation into other languages.

4. To compile the Book of Needs (*Trebnyk*), paying special attention to those rites that are relevant to modern pastoral situations.

5. To unify and arrange the texts of divine services for the clergy and the laity in different languages.

6. To develop and publish liturgical services for the Ukrainian saints of the twentieth century.

7. To encourage the clergy to celebrate the Mysteries of Christian Initiation during the Divine Liturgy.

8. To explore the proposal to restore the practice of pronouncing aloud the texts of silent prayers, as well as the kiss of peace, within the Divine Liturgy.

9. To stress the importance of adhering to the prescriptions of the liturgical books of the UGCC, in celebrating the Divine Liturgy and the other divine services, and to warn the clergy against making unauthorized changes. (The competency to make any changes lies exclusively with the father and head of the Church and with the consent of the Synod of Bishops of the UGCC).

10. To call the clergy to a diligent and attentive celebration of the divine services (to clearly pronounce the prayer, to follow the liturgical movements unhurried, to adopt a proper posture, to keep their priestly vestments clean, etc.).

11. To implement the participation of children in the Divine Liturgy and to work out recommendations in order that this might be fulfilled.
12. In seminary courses in liturgical theology, to pay attention to the importance of beauty in the church and to the aesthetics of divine services.
13. To pay attention to seminarians' formation in prayer and liturgy.
14. To see to the professional training and continual formation of cantors/readers and to create internet resources for distance formation of cantors.
15. We recommend the creation of a single database resource for the UGCC, which would contain all helpful reference materials for divine services, and to promote the texts of divine services through the official media resources of the UGCC.
16. To call the clergy to serve the Divine Liturgy every day (wherever possible).
17. To supplement the existing online platform *Dyvensvit*, with the texts of the divine services in different languages, taking into consideration the different church calendars.

Eparchial Level:

1. To issue rules, in the form of recommended guidelines, regarding the behavior of the faithful during the Divine Liturgy and other divine services, explaining to the faithful how to value piety in behavior, clothing, and posture in church.
2. To request of eparchial bishops that the cathedral church become the model for divine services and prayer life.
3. The request of eparchial bishops that they closely supervise the observance of architectural norms, interior decoration, and painting of churches, according to church norms and tradition, and to cooperate in this area more closely with the Eparchial Commission of Sacred Art and Architecture.

Parochial Level:

1. To implement liturgical catechesis and preaching in parishes. To prepare an educational strategy on explaining the divine services, choosing the appropriate time and method (before or after the Divine Liturgy, distributing printed comments, explanations, and involving educated laity).
2. To care for the beauty of liturgical singing, to pay attention to pronunciation, the expressive language of the cantor, the proper sound, and to encourage all the faithful to take part in singing the divine services.
3. To involve children in the liturgical life of the parish, giving them responsibility over different tasks.
4. To ensure the presence of liturgical books in the parish community and to provide the faithful with the texts of the divine services, which are carried out in the parish.

PRAYER

Patriarchal Level:

1. To encourage the faithful to witness to the importance of prayer in their lives.
2. To pay particular attention to imparting a love for prayer and the study of our liturgical and prayer heritage.
3. To encourage all the faithful to practice the Jesus Prayer, both personally and communally.

Eparchial Level:

1. To prepare the faithful for divine worship by explaining its importance and beauty.
2. To use social media in order to make prayer requests.
3. To revive the practice of ringing bells, in order to call for communal prayer at certain times.
4. To implement a systematic formation for active prayer communities.
5. To stress the importance of prayer and to organize a broadcast of the prayers of the Church via television and radio.
6. During his episcopal visitation, the eparchial bishop should pay greater attention to common prayer and to communication with the laity.

Parochial Level:

1. To summon the clergy to give a personal example of prayer to the parish community.
2. To encourage children and youth to take an active part in parish worship and to educate them accordingly.
3. To promote prayer and worship in parishes at a convenient time for the people, and also in the evening.
4. To organize brotherhoods for men and to promote their spiritual formation within parishes.