

Get your facts straight: Russian church advises Poroshenko to switch history consultants



Ukrainian President Pyotr Poroshenko needs professional consultants in order to correct the information on Orthodox Christianity and the status of Local Churches, which he has, Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Synodal Department for Relations between the Church and Society Vladimir Legoida told TASS on Tuesday.

During his trip to Vinnitsa, a city in the western part of central Ukraine, Poroshenko earlier called on the Russian Orthodox Church "to show the Tomos (a church decree on establishing an independent church – TASS)" to prove its canonicity.

"I believe that Pyotr Alexeyevich needs to change his consultants who formulate reference material on church history for him. Maybe ask our brothers in the Kiev Theological Academy to provide a highly-qualified person for the president who has no time to do that," Legoida suggested, commenting on Poroshenko's remarks.

He recommended that Poroshenko visit the St. Daniel Monastery in Moscow, where

a copy of the 1590 official document signed by all patriarchs of the Local Orthodox Churches, testifying to the recognition of the Moscow Patriarchate's status is kept. The Russian Orthodox Church has had a de-facto autocephalous status since 1448, Legoida noted.

"Such a document exists. There are a lot more signatures on that one than on the current Tomos, so, it is necessary to work with some consultants," he said.

Negotiations on establishing an independent patriarchate in Russia began in the summer of 1588. Patriarch Jeremias of Constantinople who arrived in Moscow was solemnly received in the Kremlin, but the whole process took about six months.

On January 29, 1589, Metropolitan Job of Moscow was elected the first Russian patriarch, and the Patriarch of Constantinople personally consecrated him as the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. In May 1590, the heads of other Local Churches confirmed the decision to establish the Moscow Patriarchate at a meeting in Constantinople.

The document to this effect was signed by Patriarch Jeremias of Constantinople, Patriarch Joachim of Antioch, Patriarch Sophronius of Jerusalem, 42 metropolitans, 19 archbishops and 26 bishops with seals affixed to it.

(Source: TASS)