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Positive reactions in wake of Ecumenical Patriarchate’s decision to bestow canonical status to Church of Ohrid



The political leadership in the Republic of North Macedonia, which lies due north of the Greek province of Macedonia, welcomed a landmark decision by the Sacred and Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople to recognize, as canonical, the Orthodox Church in the land-locked country. The latter was recognized as the Church of Ohrid, a reference to the medieval Archbishopric of Ohrid.

The decision was announced on Monday afternoon, with an Ecumenical Patriarchate communique citing the establishment of canonical and liturgical unity with the specific Church and flock, whereby “healing the wound of the schism.”

The historic decision by the Mother Church underlined that the Church of Ohrid may not use the name “Macedonia” or any of its derivatives, while reminding that, in harmony with the Serbian Orthodox Church, administrative issues remain to be settled.