**Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus**

**Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus**

**Belarusian Orthodox Church**

**Theological Institute of Belarusian State University**

**Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts**

**International Public Association "Saints Methodius and Cyril Christian Educational Center"**

**Minsk City Institute for the Development of Education**

**Sts. Cyril of Turov Minsk Theological Academy**

**Newsletter**

We are honored to announce XXIV International Cyril and Methodius Readings "Christianity as an integrating factor of the world culture" that will be held on 14 – 15 May, 2018 in Minsk (The Republic of Belarus).

 We invite representatives of the scientific and cultural communities, heads of scientific and educational institutions, teachers, postgraduates and students both of the State and Church institutions of education, members of the clergy to participate in the conference.

The conference will be held in the format of plenary sessions, the work of the sections and the round-table discussions. The end product would be a printed version of all materials.

**Problematic field covered in Readings’ sessions:**

1. **The Bible in the life of society**

* The role of the Bible in the history and culture of Belarus.
* Problems of Bible translation into national languages.
* Reception of biblical texts in works of world artists.
* The Bible is the primary source of inter-confessional and interreligious dialogue.
* Current problems of modern Biblical studies.

1. **Theology of culture**

* Theological dimension of culture.
* Inter-confessional dialogue: history and modernity.
* Interaction of Christian Churches in Belarus: problems and solutions.
* Contemporary problems of Orthodox theology.
* Traditional religious values and modern culture.

1. **The culture of ethnoconfessional good-neighborliness**

* Man in a pluralistic society.
* Terms for good-neighborly relations.
* Ethical virtue in the modern world.
* Principles of Tolerance
* At the crossroads of cultures: dialogue or monologue.
* Morality and anthropology (man at the turn of the 21st century: Encounter with God).
* Religion and the search for meaning of life (meaning of life and Christian faith).
* Good neighborliness in situations of conflict.

**The round-table discussion: Modern religiosity: the parallelism of integrating and disintegrating processes in society.**

1. **Actual historical issues of the Belarusian Orthodox Church**

* Orthodoxy in the history and culture of Belarus.
* Problems of inter-confessional relations in the history of Belarus.
* Bookishness and enlightenment in Western Rus in the Old Russian and Lithuanian periods.
* Church ethnography: Orthodox churches and shrines.
* The way of the Orthodox Church in Belarus in the 20th century.
* Historiography of the church history of Belarus: traditions and modernity.
* Saints of Belarus.
* The 220th anniversary of the birth and the 150th anniversary of the death of Metropolitan Joseph of Vilna (Semashko).
* 1030th anniversary of the Baptism of Rus.

**5. To the 5th anniversary of Russian Orthodox Church adopted official position on topical environmental issues (February 2013)**

* Modern cosmology: the creation and the beginning of the universe.
* Creation and / or evolution: toward the creation of the world and man.
* Religion and ecology: environmental problems through the prism of world religions.
* Moral dimension of environmental problems: to the possibility of Christian ecological ethics.
* Ecology and modern pagan cults.
* Opportunities and prospects of the Russian Orthodox Church to participate in ecclesi-ecological activities.

**6. Christian values and the formation of social market economy**

* History of the economy and Christian values.
* Christian principles of economic organization and social market economy.
* Christian social doctrine and concepts of corporate social responsibility.
* Christian values and the interrelation of order in the social market economy.
* Corporate culture and Christian values.
* Christian understanding of property issues and labor relations.
* History of the development of Christian socio-economic notion.
* Contemporary socio-economic problems in the light of Christian doctrine.

1. **Christian values in the education system**

* The secular nature of education and the prospects for religious enlightenment in a modern school.
* Methodological problems of religious education in a modern high school.
* Religious enlightenment and the problem of stability of a multi-confessional society.
* Orthodox values in the educational process in modern school.
* The place of theology in the secular educational system.

**8. Open St. Nicholas Spiritual and Educational Readings  
(within the framework of the XXIV International Cyril and Methodius Readings)**

* Revival of spiritual and moral values and traditions in the educational process;
* Traditions of Christian upbringing in the family;
* Interaction between the family, educational institutions and religious confessions in the issues of younger generation upbringing;
* History and development of religious confessions within the territory of the Republic of Belarus;
* Essays "100 words about faith ...".

**The round-table discussion: “Spirituality, morality, traditions. Christian values in the education system”**

**How to participate in the XXIII International Cyril and Methodius Readings:**For participating in the Readings you should send your report and application before May 1, 2018 to organizing Committee. Report should be up to 5 pages. Format – A4, font 14, Times New Roman, single spaced, indent – 1.25 cm. Margins: top, bottom – 2cm, left – 3 cm, right – 1 cm. Alphabetical list of references at the end of the page, references in the text in square brackets according to the numbering of the list. The organizing Committee is responsible for choosing a candidate.

**Application form**

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| --- | --- |
| Name /Surname |  |
| Degree |  |
| Place of work |  |
| Position |  |
| Title of presentation |  |
| Do you need multimedia projector? |  |
| Contact phone |  |
| E-mail |  |
| Dates of arrival/departure |  |
| Do you need a room in the hotel? |  |

Applications for the conference please send to [kirmef2018@mail.ru](mailto:kirmef2018@mail.ru).

Accommodation and meals for participants are provided by the inviting party.

Contact phone: + 375 (29) 568-17-14 Shatravsky Sergey

**Conference organizing Committee**