



## РУССКАЯ ИСТИННО-ПРАВОСЛАВНАЯ ЦЕРКОВЬ АРХИЕРЕЙСКИЙ СИНОД

---

---

Украина, 67668, Одесская обл., Беляевский р-н, п. Великий Дальник, ул. Калинина, 77,  
Синодальное подворье Архиерейского Синода Русской Истинно-Православной Церкви  
тел: +7-495-374-9701, e-mail: mail@ripс-synod.ru

### **+TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN ORIGINAL+**

January 21 / February 3, 2018  
St. Maximus the Confessor

To: the Bishops of the Serbian  
True Orthodox Church  
Bishops Akakije and Nektari

### **AN APPEAL**

Analyzing your behavior over the recent years, we are compelled to express our regret to note your departure from the straight ecclesiastical path, which has been demonstrated through a number of your un-canonical actions towards the RTOC, your brother Local Church.

Over the course of almost 1-1/2 years, the bishops of the RTOC Synod have been patiently waiting for you to realize the canonical error you committed on November 9, 2016 (i.e., receiving the Lesna Holy Theotokos Monastery under your omophorion, which had no canonical grounds for seceding from its lawful jurisdiction of the Russian True Orthodox Church), and for your repentance to us for this act.

On your part, there was neither a phone call, nor a written appeal to us, giving an explanation for your decision to receive the monastery, which might have mitigated the acuteness of this extraordinary situation (i.e., your uncanonical actions towards your brother Russian Church). To the contrary, we were surprised to learn of your "Decision" regarding this issue, posted on the website of the Lesna Monastery, where you absolutely without a reason accuse the RTOC of "changing its course," and say, "you do not recognize it." Thereby, you have become accomplices in the lies and slander spread by the heretical schismatics. Do you understand how deeply you fell in the eyes of all faithful children of the TOC?

You, as bishops, are required to know the Rules and Canons of the Universal Church, which state that such accusations must be confirmed by concrete facts. Otherwise, they are not accepted for evidence, appear unfounded, and they expose the prosecutor to the punishment that the prosecutor requires for the accused (6th canon of the 2nd Ecumenical Council).

We hereby testify that taking such a frivolous attitude toward the important canonical norms regarding the relationship between two Local Churches is not acceptable.

On January 23, 2018, we became aware of the "ordination of a hieromonk for the parishes in Ukraine, which severed relations with the Synod of the RTOC." This was published in various media sources:

"The Serbian True Orthodox Church, which is governed by its Bishops' Conference, composed of two bishops - Akakije and Nektari, ordained the monk Nikon (Yevseyev) to the rank of hieromonk

for the care of the parishes of the TOC in Ukraine, which separated in 2015-2016 from the Synod of the RTOC." The Serbian bishops did not forget to first request the consent of Bishop Stefan, who is suspended from serving by the Synod of the RTOC for creating a schism.

This act can not be called anything, but a blatant violation of canonical norms through gross interference in the affairs of a brother Local Church. According to the canons of the Orthodox Church the intervention of one Local Church in the internal affairs of another Local Church is strictly prohibited - II EC.2, III EC.8, Antioch. 13, and others. Therefore, the ordination of Nikon (Yevseyev) to hieromonk is not valid.

Without expressing your decision to sever ties in words, through your lawless actions, you, the bishops of the STOC, have in fact severed prayerful and Eucharistic communion with the RTOC. In this manner, you have contributed and strengthened the previous schism created by the former clergy and laity of the RTOC, who left their legitimate hierarchy.

You have not taken into account the reaction of many True Orthodox Christians throughout the world. This reaction is unambiguously expressed through one understanding - this act of the Serbian bishops is a betrayal and a disgrace which falls upon the entire Serbian True Orthodox Church.

Because of your actions noted above, we are hereby compelled to declare that we sever prayerful and Eucharistic communion with you.

May the Lord instruct you to realize your lawless actions and bring you to repentance!

**+ Archbishop Tikhon**

of Omsk and Siberia

President of the Synod of Bishops

Russian True Orthodox Church

**+ Archbishop Benjamin**

Chernomorsk and Kuban

Vice President of the Synod of Bishops

Russian True Orthodox Church

**+ Bishop Germogen**

of Gomel and Briansk

**+ Bishop Savvati**

of Vinitsa and Hmel'nitsa

**Protopresbyter Victor Melehov**

Secretary of the Synod of Bishops

Russian True Orthodox Church