

The Reformation Continues



EASTERN EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

FORUM 2017



More than 500 participants from Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Lithuania, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States of America gathered at the seventh annual Eastern European Leadership Forum, which took place on Nov 29 – Dec 2, 2017 in Kyiv. This year, the focus of the "Reformation continues" event was to inspire the evangelical leaders not to stop their good work so far, but to integrate the projects of the Year of Reformation as a part of systemic work of the evangelical Church in society.

The Eastern European Leadership Forum (EELF) is a subsidiary of the European Leadership Forum, which has been inspiring and uniting leaders from all over Europe since 2003.



THE PURPOSE OF EELF

Is to create bridges between ministries, assist in the successful interaction between ministers and equip the Church with the effective tools for evangelization of Eastern European nations.



For this purpose, about 100 experienced speakers representing different countries and ministries shared their message and experience with the participants. Within 4 days of the Forum, the participants and speakers devoted themselves to the joint search for answers to the challenges of present time, discussion of current and future projects, as well as establishing the contacts.



THE EELF FORMAT

Provides morning and evening plenary sessions – a time for praise and worship, prayers, motivational biblical messages, and presentation of creative projects. This year, the plenary teachings were presented by Victor Pavlovskiy, bishop of the Christians of Evangelical Faith Union in Moldova; Mykhailo Panochko, senior bishop of the Ukrainian Church of Christians of Evangelical Faith in Ukraine; Leonid Biriuk, deputy bishop of the United Church of Christians of Evangelical Faith in Belarus; Mykola Savchuk, pastor of the “Salvation Church”, Ukraine; Jaroslaw Lukasik, Director of EELF; Olexandr Ozeruga, pastor of the “Church of the Living God”, Ukraine.

To watch the records of plenary sessions, please go to EELF Youtube channel



Victor Pavlovskiy

bishop of the Christians of Evangelical
Faith Union in Moldova



THE EELF NETWORKS

Another component of the Forum is 12 networks:

Apologetics, Business, Evangelism, Art and Culture, Media, Church Planting, Youth Ministry, Family Ministry, University, Church Leadership, Church and Civil Society, Church and Social Work.

Within each network, a wide range of issues have been raised.

At the same time, the organizers of the Forum set the goal to have the leaders discussing both aspects: where the Church is successful already and where evangelical Christians have not yet made a significant influence but they definitely should.



The idea of the importance of Christian influence on society was present in the discussions at the Forum. Today, the Church does a lot of social work, helps the needy, but has not been yet taught enough to work with the intellectual elite of society, opinion leaders (politicians, scientists, artists). However, it is worth noting that the Year of Reformation has created the conditions for progress in these areas.

Speaking about the relevant challenges for Christian leaders we can name:

- Working with students as the future elite;
- Formation and defending of the Christian worldview in educational (both higher and secondary) and scientific sphere;
- The use of art as an instrument of influence;
- Interaction with the media and building a dialogue with the authorities through them;
- Effective evangelism and successful missionary work in modern conditions.



ОЛИСЬ,
МІНЮЙСЯ,
ІЙ...



Antoni Bokun

pastor, author of the book
«Golden Age of Belarus»

The networks were held not only in the form of lectures, but also as round tables and discussions, where participants could share their thoughts and challenges of their own ministries. In addition to those, after lunch, participants could attend workshops on the topics that go beyond the network they have chosen. Some workshops were combined into thematic blocks, such as "Leadership", "Bible Study", "Education" and "R500 Projects".

TALK SHOWS

For the second year in a row, we've been using the format of talk shows to raise different issues concerning various spheres of ministry. To conduct 10 talk shows, the Forum organizers invited many experts with the relevant experience and deep knowledge in the following topics:

- «How should the local church fit in the intelligence, civil sector and socially active people»,
- «How to make Christian media more influential», «How to confront the gender ideology and LGBT lobby»,
- «Outcomes of the Year of Reformation in Ukraine», «Biblical portrait of a statesman»,
- «Formation of the Media Image of Protestantism», «The Future of Protestantism in Ukraine»,
- «Is it possible to combine the role of a pastor and a public activist?», «Mission on the front line»,
- «How to preach the Gospel using language understandable to modern culture».



PERFORMANCE

As already mentioned above, during plenary sessions there was time for creative performance. This year the team from Belarus prepared several theatrical miniatures with bright costumes that demonstrated to us the times of Luther and the Reformation, and also the team performed the ancient Christian hymn in musical accompaniment of the “duda” – the Belarusian traditional instrument. In addition to humorous dialogues, these mini-presentations had something to think about.





A proper functioning of all Forum events was provided by a team of 70 volunteers, which consisted of representatives from different churches of Ukraine and Belarus. It did not stop them from working as one friendly team where everyone had his own function.

The organizers of the Forum hope that this event will continue to be a good platform for the development of Evangelical churches in Eastern Europe and the Church will increasingly perform its potential given by God to influence this world.

*«Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven»*

(Matthew 5:16)

SEE YOU AGAIN IN FALL 2018!

