



EASTERN EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

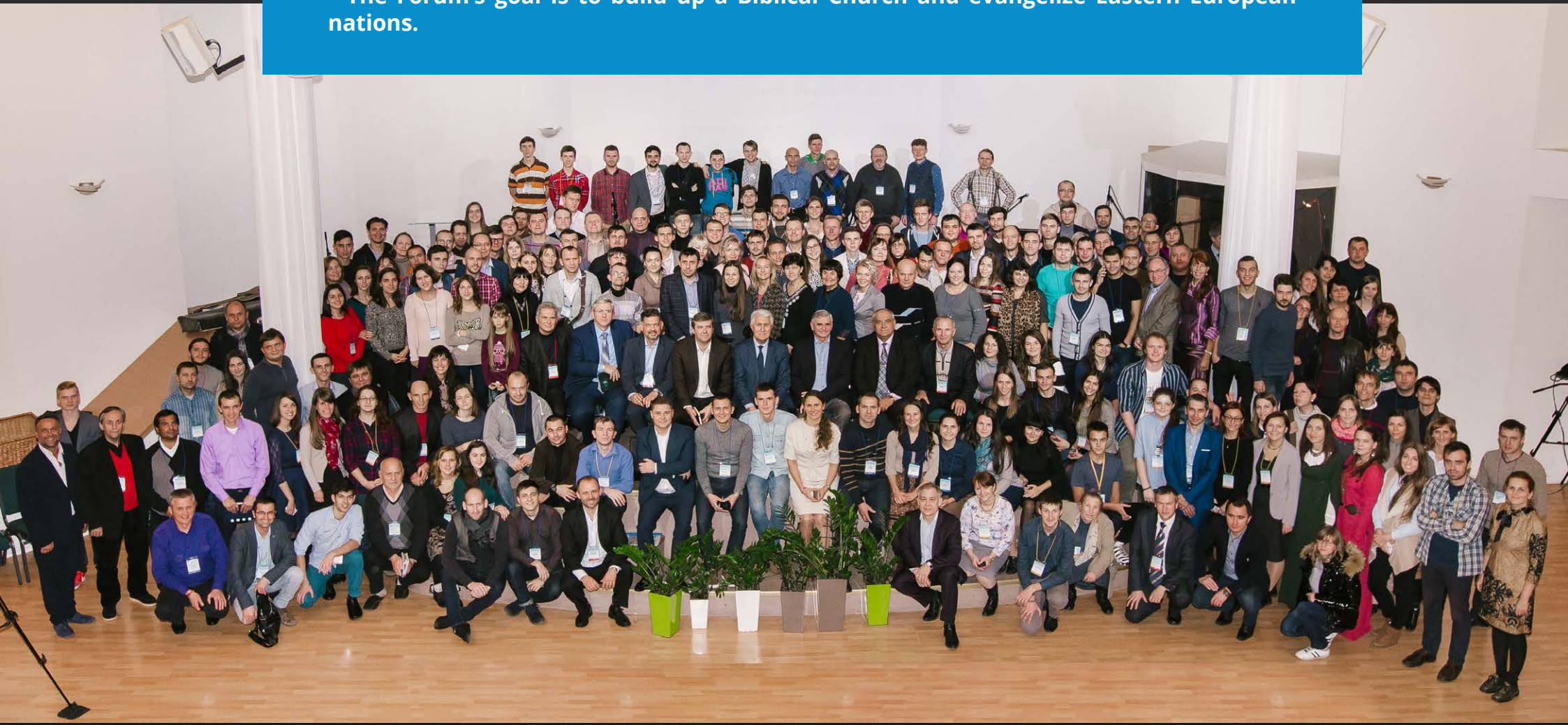
Leaders together for a new evangelization

The 2016 Eastern European Leadership Forum (EELF) took place November 9 – 12, gathering over 650 participants from Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, France, Poland and the United States of America. The Forum was focused on preparing evangelical churches in Eastern Europe to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.




The Eastern European Leadership Forum is a subsidiary event of the European Leadership Forum, which has a tradition of influence among Western European Christians.

The Forum's goal is to build up a Biblical Church and evangelize Eastern European nations.



Evangelical leaders gathered in the Ukrainian capital for this 6th annual Eastern European Leadership Forum. More than 100 speakers were given the opportunities to share their messages. The aim of the Forum is to create a platform where Christians can discuss strategies to strengthen existing ministries, combine forces, or create new projects.



A man with glasses, wearing a blue checkered blazer over a white and blue checkered shirt, is speaking at a glass-topped podium. He is holding a microphone in his right hand and gesturing with his left hand. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

The EELF offered morning and evening plenary sessions, which voiced the main messages of the Forum. The speakers were: Dr. Daryl McCarthy, Vice-President of Academic Programming and Strategies of the European Leadership Forum; Stefan Gustavsson, General Secretary of the Swedish Evangelical Alliance; Pavel Unguryan, Head of the National Committee for the Celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and National Deputy; Antony Bokun, pastor of "John the Baptist" Church, and author of "The Golden Age of Belarus"; Academic Network Director, Cambridge Scholars Network; Bruce Anderson, pastor, missionary, and Doctor of Theology at Oxford University;

Stefan Gustavsson

General Secretary of the Swedish Evangelical Alliance.



Dr. Daryl McCarthy
Vice President for Academic Programs
and Strategy at European Leadership Forum

All the speakers of the plenary sessions discussed the essence of the Reformation, analyzing and considering it as a spiritual phenomenon, which called for a return to the original plan of God for the individual, the Church and society.


All morning and evening plenary sessions were broadcast live. They are now available on the EELF Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/EELF2011>

The Forum was organized according to 12 Networks: "Missions and Church Planting", "Evangelization", "Art and Culture", "Media", "Business", "Church Leadership", "University", "Apologetics", "Family Ministry", "Youth Ministry", "Church and Social Services", "Church and Civil Society".

In creating the networks, the Forum organizers attempted to cover both the already existing areas of activity of the Church, and those areas in which the Church manifests inaction.





In considering the results of the Forum, it can be stated that the Church is still strong in what it was always doing well - in social work, through which the lives of people are transformed. Evangelical churches on the front lines are growing. People who come to these churches are finding Christ as Savior from everyday chaos, violence and death.

On the other hand, there are "blind spots" in the ministry of the Church. One such sphere of the life of society, which has dropped out of sight of evangelical Christians, is the sphere of higher education. Originally at Harvard University (founded in 1636), it was written that the primary goal for every student was "to know God and Jesus Christ... and to lay Christ as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and learning." Today, education mainly excludes faith, and often even opposes it.

The network format allows us to not only listen to the message of the speakers, but also to ask questions. There were 36 topics discussed in the various networks during the afternoon seminars, round tables and talk shows.



This year 10 TV programs were recorded in talk show format: "Reformation today. Is it Possible?", "Has the Era of Mass Evangelization Ended?", "Leadership System: Pastor Rambo or Special Forces?", "Extending the borders of Christianity or the Annexation of Unbiblical Territory", "Contemporary Challenges for the Ukrainian Family", "Contemporary Media: Ethics vs Efficiency", "The Church and the National Question", "The Role of the Church in Times of Social Upheaval", "How to Give a Public Dimension to Christian Social Work", "Is it Possible to Reconquer a Position in the Field of Culture in the 21st century?"





Experienced ministers were invited as experts on the talk shows. The participants noted that the talk shows were an interesting option of EELF2016, with "hot" topics, discussions, renowned speakers, and professional resourcing.



Pavel Unguryan

Head of the National Committee for the
Celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation

During the Forum, representatives of the national organizing committee for the celebration of the anniversary of the Reformation presented a strategy and plan of activities.

A catalog of ideas, a magazine, brochures, presentations and other materials concerning R500 are available for free distribution and use. The speakers of the seminars mentioned the Reformation Year media plan – these are newscasts, topical radio and television programs, a recent documentary film shot in historic places, and so on. More information about the celebration of the Reformation Year can be found at

www.R500.ua

A panel discussion about the values of the Reformation was held at the Forum, with the participation of bishops of various Protestant denominations in Ukraine: Viktor Borishkevich, Nikolai Sinuk, Yuri Veremiy and Michael Andrashko. After the discussion senior EFCC Bishop Michael Panochko addressed the audience, commenting that "Reformation begins with unity among evangelical Christians. Unity is not created by a leader, but by faith in God's Word. I believe that Ukraine is standing on the threshold of great revival."



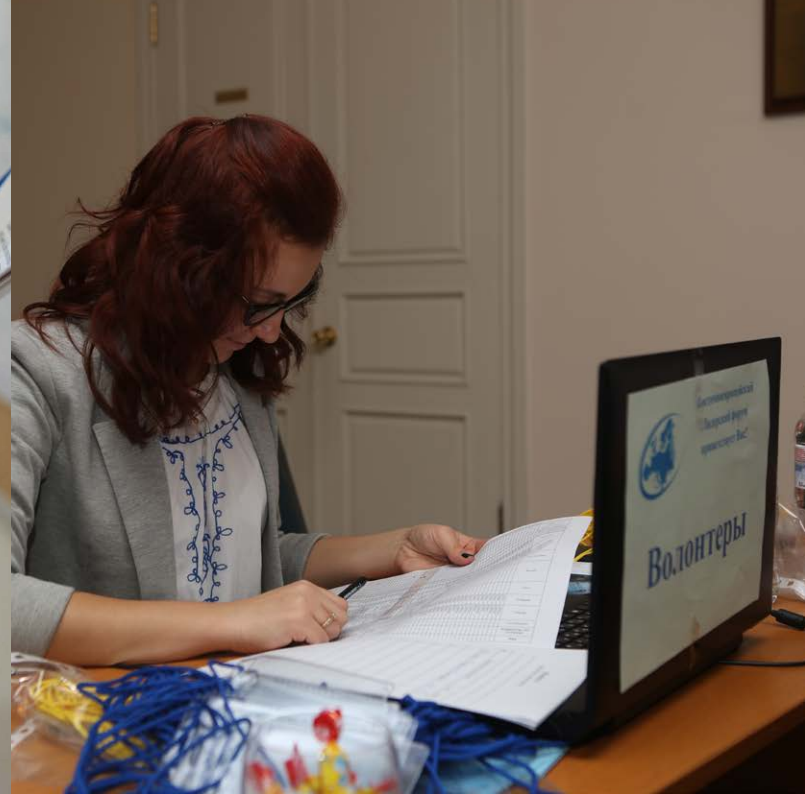


Lviv Christian Theater specially prepared the play "Luther" for the Forum, and premiered it at this event.

Besides the theater group from Belarus performed their historical miniatures at the Forum.

Belarus Theater Group
Historical miniature, scene

Seventy volunteers from different churches in Ukraine and Belarus worked together to create a pleasant atmosphere at the Forum.





Throughout 2016 and 2017, speakers of the European Leadership Forum will offer open lectures in Ukrainian public universities, as well as participate in Christian conferences in different regions of Ukraine and Belarus.

We sincerely hope that the Forum will remain an effective platform to unite ministers, and to provide equipment and resources for evangelical leaders.

EELF 2017 will be held in Kiev November 8-11

May God bless you and multiply the fruit of Your ministry.



**EASTERN EUROPEAN
LEADERSHIP
FORUM**

Sincerely,

Jaroslav Lukasik

Director, Eastern European Leadership Forum