



E A S T E R N E U R O P E A N LEADERSHIP FORUM

REVEALING THE POTENTIAL OF THE CHURCH TO SOCIETY

FORUM 2018



About 400 people from Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Montenegro, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Moldova, Holland and the United States of America gathered at the eighth annual Eastern European Leadership Forum, which took place Nov 7–10, 2018 in Kyiv. As in previous years, the Forum was hosted by Philadelphia Church and Evangel Theological Seminary.

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 THE EELF

The purpose of the EELF is to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church today, facilitate networking between ministers and equip the Church with effective tools for the evangelization of Eastern European nations.

This year, the golden thread permeating all Forum activities was the theme of thinking globally and searching for Biblical answers to modern challenges.

“Last year we learned the word ‘Reformation’, and were looking for our identity in Protestant history. Now it is time to study a new term - ‘postmodernism’ - and how to distinguish the spirits of our days,” said Jaroslaw Lukasik, the director of the Forum, in his welcoming remarks. “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalms 11:3) Postmodernism seeks to destroy the foundation of Western civilization, that is, the system of absolute values formed by Christian influence. The modernists accepted rationality, but rejected God. Now postmodernism destroys rationality. And today it is important for us to decide on what foundation we should build the future of our countries. To do this, you need to think globally, see the big picture and at the same time take your place in it. That territory of responsibility, the sphere of influence, into which you will bring God's light.”





More than 90 experienced speakers from different countries and ministries delivered their unique and timely messages to the participants of the Forum.

During these 4 days, they presented about a hundred topics that were actively discussed by the audience in order to find answers to current issues.

The atmosphere of the Forum also contributed to the establishment of new contacts and ideas for joint projects.

THE EELF FORMAT

The EELF format includes morning and evening plenary sessions — time for worship of God, prayers, motivational Biblical messages, as well as creative performances and various ministries' presentations.

This year, sermons in the plenary sessions were delivered by Anatoly Kozachok, Assistant Bishop of the Pentecostal Union in Ukraine and Pastor of Philadelphia Church; Mykola Kuleba, Commissioner of the President of Ukraine for Children's Rights; Pavlo Unguryan, People's Deputy of Ukraine, Head of the Reformation Movement; Valery Antonyuk, Head of the Baptist Union in Ukraine; Leonid Mikhovich, Head of the Baptist Union in Belarus; Daryl McCarthy, Vice President of Academic Programs and Strategy with the Forum of Christian Leaders (FOCL).



Daryl McCarthy

VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND STRATEGY
WITH THE FORUM OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS (FOCL)

THE NETWORKS

The Forum has 12 Networks: “Apologetics”, “Business”, “Evangelization”, “Arts”, “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 topics were addressed. A special feature this year were joint discussions for the participants of different Networks. For example, the participants of Media and Arts Networks discussed ideology in the movies, while participants of the Church Planting and Church and Social Work Networks discussed the social mission of the Church.





The Networks were held not only in the form of lectures, but also as round tables and discussions, so that the participants could share their thoughts and issues they face within their own ministries.

After lunch, everyone could attend workshops to discuss topics on various areas of ministry. Some workshops were grouped into thematic blocks, such as Leadership, Bible Study, Education, and the Reformation Movement.

A vocal master class was given by Alexander Vislavsky, ex-vocalist, keyboard player and composer of the Pesnyary band, and leader of the Christian Group StudioNeman. There was also a master class on creating a documentary film with the director of Pravda PRO studio Sergiy Sharayevsky.



TALK SHOWS

Talk shows have become traditional sessions at the Eastern European Leadership Forum, which always bring up hot topics related to various areas of ministry. The Forum organizers invited experienced leaders to take part in 10 talk shows: “Emigration or startups”, “Church and modern media”, “European values. Substitution of concepts”, “The balance between apolitical and politicized attitudes among evangelical believers”, “The place of intellectual arguments in evangelism”, “How to win culture back from the leftists?”, “Outlines of the future. Global challenges of the 21st Century”, “Protecting family values in Ukraine”, “How to pass on our values to our children”, “Missions through social work”.



On the opening night of the Forum, a wonderful choir from the region of Kyiv led worship. In the remaining plenary sessions, Forum participants praised God along with the “New City” band from Ternopil.

Together with a creative team from Belarus, the EELF participants travelled back to 16th century Geneva to listen to two reformers, William Farel and John Calvin, dialogue about calling. Alexander and Elena Vislavsky delighted everyone with fantastic music and vocals.





Proper functioning of all the locations of the Forum was coordinated by about 60 Ukrainian and Belarusian volunteers. It was a wonderful team of people with big hearts.



Forum organizers hope that the EELF will continue to be a platform for the development of evangelical churches in Eastern Europe, effectively helping the Church to put into practice its God-given potential to influence this world.

“...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 1:6

See you at the next Eastern European Leadership Forum,
NOVEMBER 6-9, 2019!