NEW LEADERS FOR CHRIST'S GREAT COMMISSION

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

F O R U M 2 0 1 9



About 450 leaders gathered in Kiev November 6-9, 2019 for the 9th Eastern European Leadership Forum (EELF). This unique platform allows ministers of various evangelical denominations of Eastern Europe, as well as guests from Western Europe and the United States, to search for solutions to the most relevant issues of both church and social life. This was the fifth year that the Forum has taken place on the territory of Philadelphia Church and Evangel Theological Seminary.

The EELF shares the values and vision of the European Leadership Forum, which has been inspiring and bringing together leaders from all over Europe to renew the Evangelical Church since 2003.

OUR GOAL:

The Eastern European Leadership Forum aims to build bridges between ministries, facilitate networking among ministers, and equip the Church with practical tools for the evangelization of Eastern European peoples.

The leitmotif of the 2019 Forum was orienting the Church towards accomplishing two significant tasks:

- remaining faithful to biblical truth;
- conveying it in a language that is understandable to modern people.

All people need is Truth and Love. Therefore, the Church should focus on loyalty to truth and love for people. Faithfulness to the Truth should help us accomplish the first task. Loving others will assist us in completing the second one.

This is precisely the reason the Eastern European Leadership Forum exists. The selection of the topics, the Forum structure, and each element is designed to help fulfill these two main tasks of the Church: to remain faithful to the Truth and to convey this Truth to the modern world with love.





DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF THE EELF

One of the distinctive features of the EELF is that a large number of topics are addressed in a relatively short period. More than 80 speakers from different countries and ministries led about 100 sessions, in which they presented unique and relevant messages to the Forum participants. For three days, all of these were actively discussed by those present, in order to find answers to the pressing challenges of our time. The atmosphere of the Forum also contributed to the establishment of contacts and the birth of new projects.

FORUM FORMAT

The format of the Forum includes morning and evening plenary sessions. These are times for worship, prayer and a motivating Bible message, as well as for the presentation of creative projects and various ministries. This year's plenary speakers were Denis Podorozhny (pastor, preacher, and religious scholar), Daryl McCarthy (Vice President of Academic Programs and Strategy for the Forum of Christian Leaders), Leo Frank (Bible teacher, Ph.D. in theology), and Hwang Seong Ju (minister, medical doctor, and businessman from South Korea).

At one of these general meetings, prayer for the nations was led by Anatoly Kozachok (First Deputy Bishop of the Ukrainian Pentecostal Church); Anthony Bokun (pastor from Minsk, Belarus), and Mateusz Wichary (president of the Baptist Union in Poland).





NETWORKS

At the Forum, there were 12 Networks on different topics: "Apologetics", "Business", "Counseling and Social Work", "Evangelization", "Arts", "Media", "Church Planting", "Youth Ministry", "Family Ministry", "University", "Church Leadership", "Church and Civil Society".

Lectures, seminars, talk-shows, and "round tables" were designed to cover essential topics for Christians of the 21st century. Therefore, in the "University," "Arts," "Media," "Church and Civil Society," and "Business" Networks, speakers strategically analyzed significant spheres of social life such as: the importance of art for Christians; the transformation of work ethic through the influence of Christian culture on society; the role of the church in the context of the future economy; the inferiority of a materialistic worldview; media manipulation; the process of creating Christian media; patterns in the spread of ideas and how they influence the course of history; Christian thinking; political theology and the relationship between the church and society.

The organizers and speakers of the Forum tried to plan the Networks so that they included not only lectures, but also interactive activities: discussions, round tables, and the opportunity to pose questions to the speaker. After lunch, everyone had a choice of workshops to keep up-to-date with various ministries and topics. Some workshops were grouped into thematic blocks, such as Leadership, Bible Study, Education, History, Apologetics, etc. This year, for the first time, there was a workshop focused on women in ministry, called "The Godly Woman standing behind the Pastor".

Also, creative people could attend two workshops led by one of the best composers of Belarus, Alexander Vislavsky.



TALK-SHOWS

EELF talk-shows are a great way to cover sensitive topics. In a professional studio setting, experts discussed these and other topics: "Capitalism and socialism: In search of a biblical model of the economy," "The place of psychology in counseling," "What is the future of a nation-state," "The concept of human rights: from inalienable rights to blurred permissiveness," "A shift from rationalism to sensuality in modern culture," "Challenges of the Digital Age in sharing the Gospel," "Anti-Semitism in Ukraine: Facts and Myths," "Why does the Traditional Family upset the Cultural and Political Mainstream," "Generational Conflict in the Evangelical Church."





An essential part of the Forum is corporate worship. During the opening of the Forum on Wednesday night, the choir of one of the oldest Pentecostal churches in Kyiv led the worship. On Saturday morning, Forum participants praised God with the assistance of the Siloam church worship team (Kyiv). The rest of the time, participants were led in worship by a joint team from Belarus and Ukraine, who sang in two languages, thereby creating an atmosphere of diversity and unity.

Also, some creative theatrical skits introduced attendees to the history of Christianity in Eastern Europe, for example, the life of Francysk Skoryna and the first Baptists in these lands.



VOLUNTEERS

The Eastern European Leadership Forum would not have been possible without the well-organized work and sacrificial ministry of more than 90 volunteers from Ukraine and Belarus. Great help for the normal functioning of the Forum was provided by a beautiful team of volunteers who earnestly prayed for various needs, starting with the preparation period of the EELF and during the whole event.

Each year the large number of people ready to open their hearts to serve God and His Church brings inspiration to our hearts.

The Forum organizers hope that it will continue to be a place for building up the Evangelical Churches of Eastern Europe, to help them successfully realize the potential God has given them to influence this world.

Several teams from various cities of Ukraine announced their desire to host a Regional Leadership Forum next year.

This suggests that the vision of the EELF is spreading more and more.

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

2 TIMOTHY 2:2 (NIV)



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