



His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia chairs regular session of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church

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On October 5, 2011, the first winter session meeting of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church began at the patriarchal working residence in Chisty Pereulok. The session will last two days, from 5th to 6th October.

His Beatitude Metropolitan Vladimir of Kiev and All Ukraine; Metropolitan Vladimir of St. Petersburg and Ladoga; Metropolitan Philaret of Minsk and Slutsk, Patriarchal Exarch of All Belarus; Metropolitan Juvenaly of Krutitsy and Kolomna; Metropolitan Vladimir of Kishinev and All Moldova; Metropolitan Varsonofiy of Saransk and Mordovia, chancellor of the Moscow Patriarchate; Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, – are *the permanent members of the Holy Synod.*

Metropolitan Onufriy of Chernovtsy and Bukovina, Elevferiy of Chimkent and Akmolinsk, Archbishop Panteleimon of Orlov and Livny, Archbishop Ignatiy of Khabarovsk and the Amur, Bishop Feofilakt of Pyatigorsk and Cherkessk have been invited to take part in the winter session (September 2011 – February 2012).

Before the session, His Holiness Patriarch Kirill addressed the members of the Synod and the mass media with a short welcoming speech:

"I am greeting all the permanent and temporary members of the Holy Synod at its first winter session. Due to the broad agenda the meeting will last two days. We are to take very important decisions on diocesan life and on new bishops. We will hear reports on external church relations and adopt a number of documents to guide the Church in the near future, including those on the parish and diocesan life."

