

Orthodox Peace Ethics

in Eastern and Oriental Christianity



JUNE 29 - JULY 3, 2009

CONVENTUS HALL,
THE ROMANIAN PATRIARCHATE
BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

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Institute for Theology and Peace

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The Romanian Patriarchate, World Council of Churches (dov),
& The Institute for Peace Studies in Eastern Christianity

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The Boston Theological Institute

MAIN ORGANIZERS



PD Dr. Heinz- Gerhard Justenhoven

PD Dr Heinz- Gerhard Justenhoven is the Director of the Institute for Theology and Peace, Hambrug, Germany. 1979-84 Studies of theology and philosophy in Frankfurt/Main, Germany and at Marquette University, Milwaukee/WI. BA in philosophy, MA in theology. PhD in social ethics from Phil. Theol. Hochschule St. Georgen, Frankfurt/Main (Jesuit College of Philosophy and Theology) on: Francisco de Vitoria's Peace Ethics (1990). 2nd thesis (Habilitation) at the University of Freiburg/Germany (2006) on Ethics and International Arbitration. Since 1995 Director of Institute for Theology and Peace, Hamburg. Lectured Political Philosophy at the Helmut Schmidt University, Hamburg (1996-2008) and at the University of Freiburg (2009). Visiting Professor at Central Theological Union, Chicago in 2006 and 2008 and Hekima College, Nairobi/Kenya in 2007 and 2009. Member of the German Commission on Justice and Peace.

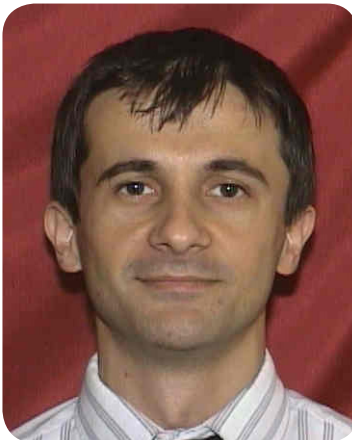
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Ms. Semegnish ASFAW, Esq.

Semegnish Asfaw works as a Research Associate within the Decade to Overcome Violence (DOV) programme of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and is in charge of monitoring the expert consultations that will feed the process leading to the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC). She studied law at Addis-Abeba University and then at Université Montesquieu Bordeaux-IV, and obtained her Masters Degree in Law (focusing in International Humanitarian Law). She also took Human Rights courses at the University of California in Berkeley (UCB). Prior to joining the WCC, she was involved with UNICEF and the International Catholic Migration Commission. In 2005, she coordinated an experts' conference on "The responsibility to protect: ethical and theological reflections". She is the co-editor of a book which compiled the outcomes of this consultation.

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Mr. Marian Simion, PhD (cand)

Marian Gh. Simion works as Assistant Director of the Boston Theological Institute, and teaches religion and conflict resolution at Boston College and interdisciplinary studies at Hellenic College, in Boston, U.S.A. He is the founding President of the Institute for Peace Studies in Eastern Christianity. Additionally, he is the founding editor of the "Bulletin of the Boston Theological Institute," and serves as Field Education Supervisor at Harvard Divinity School. His research focuses on the role of religion (and of Eastern Christianity), in international conflicts. His doctoral work in theology (at the London School of Theology) is in the area of Just War theory in Eastern Christianity, with a special focus on clashes between orthodoxy and heresy, Church and State, and between Christianity and Islam. He also studies towards his second PhD in Political Sciences (focusing on International Politics, Policy and Law) at Northeastern University under the academic supervision of former Massachusetts Governor, Michael S. Dukakis. Additionally, he is a member of the American Academy of Religion and serves in the executive board of the American Romanian Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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The Institute for
Theology and Peace



World Council
of Churches



The Romanian
Orthodox Patriarchate



The Institute for
Peace Studies in Eastern Christianity

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in Eastern and Oriental Christianity

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BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

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ABOUT THE CONSULTATION

ISSUE:

What is the core teaching of the Eastern Church on peace and peaceful coexistence? Does the Eastern Church endorse war? Is war holy? Is war a lesser evil or a lesser good?

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this pan-Orthodox consultation is to explore the ethics for peace as they emerged in the history of the Eastern Church. Recognizing the great historic, cultural and anthropologic variety of experiences undergone by each local Eastern Church - ranging from Arabic, Armenian, Coptic, Greek, Latin, Slavic and contemporary Orthodox Diaspora - Jesus' teachings on non-retaliation have occasionally been deformed and interpreted in line with the needs of the time. As no pan-orthodox synod endorsed a Just War theory, the agony of war often created sentiments of self-righteousness, while inflicting pain and suffering unto the enemies.

In order to reach a comprehensive understanding of the ethics for peace in Eastern Christianity, the participants are invited to reflect historically and theologically over the experience of their local Church with issues such as: blessing weapons in times of warfare, the role of canonical tradition, the relationship between Church and State, Nationalism, globalization, sentiments of victimization, traditional perceptions of Good and Evil, role of chaplaincy, etc.

ABOUT THE CONSULTATION

BLESSING WEAPONS

The Slavo-Byzantine rite includes prayers for blessing weapons and national symbols. If, for the sake of tradition, your local Church publishes such prayers in its service books, what use does it make of them during times of war? Or, does your local Church avoid such services on the account of Jesus' teachings on non-retaliation?

CANON LAW

What is the role of the canonical tradition of the Eastern Church in your local Church? Does your local Church identify more with the canonical tradition expressed by Saint Athanasius who stated that, "it is not right to kill, yet in war it is lawful and praiseworthy to destroy the enemy," or does it go in line with Saint Basil's opposition to war, as expressed in his advisory Canon 13?

CHURCH-STATE

In its history, how did your local Church conduct its relations with the State? Was it through submissiveness, complete separation, cooperation, or competition for power?

GOOD AND EVIL

During times of war, what does your local Church teach about Good and Evil, by analogy with the local traditions, culture and mentality?

VICTIMIZATION

Do you feel that your local Church has been a victim of aggression at the hand of other Christian Churches, religions, nations, and oppressive political regimes? If yes, how did your Church overcome its grievance of victimhood?

NATIONALISM

In the experience of your local Church, has Nationalism been primarily a source of conflict, or is ethnicity viewed as part of God's creation, in line with the event of the Pentecost?

GLOBALIZATION

Is globalization a new form of quasi-religious aggressiveness directed against the fundamental values of your local Church?

CHAPLAINCY

Does your local Church practice military chaplaincy? If yes, what is the role of the chaplain in the National Army?

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The Antiochian Orthodox Church
Prof. Dr. Nicolas Georges Abou Mrad

The Armenian Orthodox Church
Dr. Harutyun Harutyunyan

The Bulgarian Orthodox Church
Dr. Antonia Atanassova

The Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt
H.G. Bishop Angaelos

The Ecumenical Patriarchate
Prof. Dr. George Mantzaridis

The Ethiopian Tewahedo Orthodox Church
Rev. Zemba Merkeb Mekuria

The Greek Orthodox Church
Dr. Christos Tsironis &
Dr. Nikolaos Asproulis

The Indian Malankara Orthodox Church
Rev. Dr. Jacob Kurien Mannathipparackal

The Romanian Orthodox Church
H. E. Metropolitan Dr. Irineu Popa

The Russian Orthodox Church
Dr. Alexei Bodrov &
Rev. William Bush

The Serbian Orthodox Church
Prof. Dr. Bogoljub Šijaković

Orthodox Christian Diaspora
Rev. Dr. Philip LeMaster

**ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS:
SPEAKERS & MODERATORS**

His Beatitude
Dr. Daniel Ciobotea
Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church

PD Dr. Heinz-Gerhard Justenhoven
Institut für Theologie und Frieden

Ms Semegnish Asfaw Egualetsion, Esq.
Decade to Overcome Violence
World Council of Churches

Mr. Marian Gh. Simion, PhD (cand)
The Institute for Peace Studies in Eastern
Christianity & Boston Theological Institute

Mr. Michel Nseir
Decade to Overcome Violence
World Council of Churches

Rev. Dr. Daniel Buda
Church and Ecumenical Relations
World Council of Churches

Fr. Alexius Chehadeh, MA
Proto-Exarchos of the Antiochian Church
Institut für Theologie und Frieden

“Blessed
are the
peacemakers:
for they shall be
called the children
of God”

(Matthew 5:9)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Monday, June 29, 2009

16:30 - 18:30

OPENING SESSION

Note of welcome

*PD Dr. Heinz-Gerhard JUSTENHOVEN,
Ms Semegnish ASFAW & Mr. Marian Gh. SIMION*

**Brief Presentation on the International Ecumenical
Peace Convocation (IPEC)**

Ms Semegnish ASFAW

Round of Introductions

**Prolegomena to a Peace Studies Model
for Eastern Christianity**

Marian Gh. SIMION

19:00

Dinner

Tuesday, June 30, 2009

8:00-8:30

Breakfast

08:30 – 10:15

Theme: WAR AND PEACE:

Session I Moderated by Mr. Marian Gh. SIMION

SPECIAL ADDRESS

His Beatitude DANIEL

Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

*Session II Moderated by
Mr. Marian Gh. SIMION*

- 10:15-11:15** **Peace-War-Ecclesia in Modern Greece**
*Dr. Christos TSIRONIS - The Greek Orthodox Church
Discussion (30mn)*
- 11:15-12:00** **Nationalism and Orthodoxy in
Father Dumitru Stăniloae's Thinkiny**
*His Eminence, Metropolitan IRINEU
The Romanian Orthodox Church*
- 12:00-12:45** **The Armenian Church in Military Conflicts.
Holy Wars and Martyr-Fighters in Armenian History**
*Dr. Harutyun HARUTYUNYAN
The Armenian Orthodox Church
Discussion (30mn)*

*Session III Moderated by
Ms Semegnish ASFAW*

- 14:00 - 15:00** **Inter-Relations Between
The Russian Orthodox Church and the Military**
*Dr. Alexei BODROV - The Russian Orthodox Church
Discussion (30mn)*
- 15:00 - 16:00** **Just War or Peace Ethics? The Struggle of the
Orthodox Churches in the America & West Europe**
*Fr. Philip LeMASTERS
The Orthodox Christian Diaspora
Discussion (30mn)*

*Session IV Moderated by
Ms Semegnish ASFAW*

- 16:30 – 17:30** **Ethics for Armed Interventions for
Humanitarian Purposes**
Deacon William BUSH Discussion (30mn)
- 19:00** **Dinner**

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, July 1, 2009

8:00-8:30

Breakfast

08:45 – 9:00

**Theme: CHURCH & NATION
Biblical Reflection**

*Fr. Jacob KURIEN - The Indian
Malankara Orthodox Church*

*Session V Moderated by
PD Dr. Heinz-Gerhard JUSTENHOVEN*

09:00 – 10:00

**Greek Religious Nationalism Facing the Challenges of
Evangelization, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation**

*Nikolaos ASPROULIS (on behalf of Dr. Pantelis
KALAITZIDIS) - The Greek Orthodox Church
Discussion (30mn)*

10:15-11:15

**Review of Ethics of Peace
in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church**

*Deacon Merkeb Mekuria -
The Tewahido Ethiopian Orthodox Church
Discussion (30mn)*

11:15 - 12:15

**The Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt
on Peace Theology**

*His Grace Bishop ANGAELOS
Discussion (30mn)*

*Session VI Moderated by
Fr. Daniel BUDA*

14:00 – 15:00

**Reflections from History, Culture and Theology
in the Indian Malankara Orthodox Church**

*Fr. Jacob KURIEN - The Indian Malankara Church
Discussion (30mn)*

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

15:00 - 16:00 **The Church of Antioch and the Challenges of a Pluralistic History and Present**
Dr. Nicolas Abou MRAD
The Antiochian Orthodox Church

Session VII Moderated by
Fr. Daniel BUDA

16:30 - 17:30 **Church as Custodian of Ethnic Heritage in the Bulgarian Orthodoxy**
Dr. Antonia ATANASSOVA
The Bulgarian Orthodox Church
Discussion (30mn)

17:30-18:00 Group discussion

18:00 **Screening of “Prelude to Kosovo: War and Peace in Bosnia and Croatia**
Produced By: John J. Michalczyk (1999; 52 minutes)

19:00 **Dinner**

Thursday, July 2, 2009

8:00-8:30 **Breakfast**

08:45 – 9:00 **Theme: THEOLOGY & PEACE**
Biblical Reflection
The V. Rev. Proto-Exarchos Alexius CHEHADEH
The Antiochian Orthodox Church

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

*Session VIII Moderated by
Mr. Marian Gh. SIMION*

09:00 – 10:00

Orthodox Observations on Peace and War
Prof. Dr. Georgios MANTZARIDIS
The Ecumenical Patriarchate
Discussion (30mn)

*Session IX Moderated by
PD Dr. Heinz-Gerhard JUSTENHOVEN*

10:30-12:00

Group Discussion on follow-up.
Round-up of discussions

12:00-12:30

**Inauguration of the Institute for Peace Studies
in Eastern Christianity (IPSEC)**
Introduction: Marian Gh. Simion, IPSEC Founder

12:00-18:00

Visit to Țigănești Monastery
Participants are invited to visit the monastery
of Țigănești in the surroundings of Bucharest.
Lunch will be served at the Monastery.

19:00

Dinner

Friday, July 3, 2009

DEPARTURES - ALL DAY

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Institute for Theology and Peace

The Institute for Theology and Peace is a research institution of the Catholic Church established by the Catholic Military Chaplaincy. The emphasis of research and documentation is on the political and social debate on questions of peace from a theological-ethical point of view. More at: (www.ithpeace.de)



Romanian Patriarchate

The Romanian Orthodox Church is a Church of apostolic origins, born out of the mission of St Andrew the Apostle, who preached the Word of the Gospel also in the old Roman province of Scythia Minor, the territory between the Danube and the western part of the Black Sea, present Dobrogea (south east of Romania). On 25 April 1885, the Romanian Orthodox Church became autocephal (self-governing) and on 25 February 1925 she was elevated to the rank of Patriarchate, being in dogmatic, liturgical and canonical communion with the other Sister Orthodox Churches. More at: (www.patriarhia.ro)



World Council
of Churches

World Council of Churches (DOV)

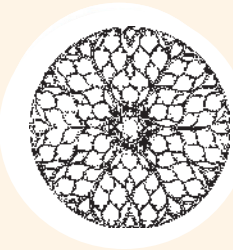
The Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace 2001 - 2010 (DOV) is an initiative of the World Council of Churches. It is a global movement that strives to strengthen and highlight existing efforts and networks for preventing and overcoming violence, as well as inspire the creation of new ones. The DOV will culminate in an [International Ecumenical Peace Convocation \(IEPC\)](#) that will be held in May 2011 in Kingston (Jamaica). It is within the framework of the consultative process leading to the IEPC that this consultation is taking place. (More at: (www.oikumene.org))

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Institute for Peace Studies in Eastern Christianity

The mission of the Institute for Peace Studies in Eastern Christianity is to conduct research, educate, and offer consultancy to educators, policymakers, and religious leaders in exploring and implementing methods of peacemaking emerging from the traditions of Eastern Christianity. More at: (www.orthodoxpeace.org)



Boston Theological Institute

Boston Theological Institute is a theological consortium of Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox schools in the Boston area. Its members include: Andover Newton Theological School, Boston College Department of Theology, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, Boston University School of Theology, Episcopal Divinity School, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Harvard Divinity School, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and Saint John's Seminary. According to its mission statement, "The Boston Theological Institute is a consortium of nine theological schools and seminaries in the Boston area. We exist to share our resources and enrich each school through this institutional expression of the transformative and hospitable faith that is our common heritage. We harness our collective resources to advance ecumenical relations, model good stewardship, strengthen our teaching and research, and more fully engage our community and the world. In all these we seek to advance our individual missions and better prepare a new generation of scholars and leaders for the Church and the world." More at: (www.bostontheological.org)

Information on Conference Participants



HIS BEATITUDE
DR. DANIEL CIOBOTEA
PATRIARCH OF THE
ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

His Beatitude Dr. Daniel Ciobotea is the Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church. After completing doctoral work in Bucharest, His Beatitude studied in Strasbourg and Freiburg. In 1979 His Beatitude received his first doctorate from the University of Strasbourg, with a thesis entitled “Réflexion et vie chrétiennes aujourd’hui. Essai sur le rapport entre la théologie et la spiritualité” under the guidance of Gerard Ziegwald and André Benoît, then, a year later, His Beatitude defended a second doctorate at the Theological Institute of Bucharest, under the guidance of his mentor, Fr. Dumitru Stăniloae, completing a thesis entitled, “Theology and Christian Spirituality: The connection between them and the present situation.” In 1987, His Beatitude entered the monastic life at the Sihăstria Monastery, Neamț, under the guidance of Pious Father Ilie Cleopa. His Beatitude taught as a *Lecturer* and served as Assistant Director of the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Geneva (Switzerland), teaching also as Associate Professor in Geneva and Fribourg (Switzerland). Currently, His Beatitude holds faculty appointments in the theological schools of the universities of Iași and București, and serves as the President of the Synod National Commission for Religious Education (Bucharest) and as President of the Theological and Liturgical Commission of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Romania. His Beatitude is also an Honorary member of the National Commission of Historical Monuments (Bucharest), a past Member of the Executive and Central Committee of the World Council of Churches (Geneva, 1991-1998), a past Member in the Presidium and in the Central Comity of the Conference of European Churches (from 1990), past Vice President of the II-nd General Assembly of the Conference of European Churches (Graz, 1997), and a Member of the International Academy of Religious Sciences (Bruxelles).

(More at: <http://www.patriarhia.ro/en/patriarch/biography.html>)

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Information on Conference Participants



HG Bishop Angaelos

HG Bishop Angaelos was born in Cairo, Egypt and emigrated to Australia during his childhood. After His Grace finished his postgraduate studies in law he returned to Egypt in 1990 to join the monastery of Saint Bishoy in Wadi-El-Natroun, was subsequently consecrated a monk by His Holiness Pope Shenouda III and served as Papal secretary until 1995, when he was delegated by His Holiness to serve as a parish priest in the United Kingdom. In 1999 His Grace was consecrated as a General Bishop whereupon he has continued to expand his ministry in and for the Coptic Church. His Grace is responsible for the Church's ecumenical and public relations in the United Kingdom and is a member of many official ecumenical organizations. He travels extensively around the world lecturing to Coptic youth at various youth conventions and conferences. HG Bishop Angaelos is the author of 'An Altar In the Midst of Egypt', and he has produced literature and various articles for his youth ministry. His Grace is:

- ⌘ Director of the Coptic Orthodox Church Centre, United Kingdom
- ⌘ Principal of *Saint Athanasius the Apostolic Coptic Theological College*, United Kingdom
- ⌘ President of the *Council of the Oriental Orthodox Churches in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland* (COOC)
- ⌘ Moderator of the *Churches' Inter-Religious Network* (CIRN) for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)
- ⌘ Co-founder and co-chair of the *Catholic-Oriental Orthodox Regional Forum* (COORF)
- ⌘ A member of the *Anglican-Oriental Orthodox Forum* (AOOF)
- ⌘ Scholar-consultant on the *Christian-Muslim Forum* (CMF)
- ⌘ A member of the *Anglican-Oriental Orthodox International Commission*
- ⌘ A member of the Coptic Delegation to the World Council of Churches (WCC)

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Information on Conference Participants



Mr. Nikolaos Asproulis

Mr. Nikolaos Asproulis was born in Athens and studied theology at the University of Athens. In his master thesis Mr. Asproulis focused on the “existential implications of the Trinitarian theology of John Zizioulas.” Currently, he is working on his doctoral dissertation at the Hellenic Open University, comparing G. Florovsky and J. Zizioulas. He is a member of the academic team of the Volos Academy for Theological studies. He is married and has two daughters.

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Dr. Antonia Atanassova

Dr. Antonia Atanassova received her B.A. from Wellesley College and M.T.S. from Harvard Divinity School. She is currently a lecturer at Boston College where she received a Ph.D. degree in Early Christian studies in 2004. Her interests relate to the formation of early Marian theology, Alexandrian christology, and the relationship between aesthetics and ideology in the patristic period. She is a member of the International Early Mariology Project which aims to publish a compendium of Marian references in pre-Ephesian sources. She is a native of Bulgaria and serves on the board of directors for the Bulgarian Theological Association “Saint Athanasius”.

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Dr. Alexei Bodrov

Dr. Alexei Bodrov is the founder and rector (president) of the St Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute in Moscow, Russia and editor-in-chief of St Andrew's Institute Press. He is editor of the quarterly "Pages: Theology, Culture, Education" and the almanac "The World of the Bible". St Andrew's Institute, a state accredited graduate institution develops academic and publishing programmes to promote theological education, science and religion dialogue, and interconfessional/interfaith dialogue in Russia and CIS countries. It is an independent institution, Orthodox in background and ecumenical in character. St Andrew's is a leader in academic theological publishing in Russia and one of its most popular series is "Contemporary Theology" which includes the best books by leading scholars from different Christian traditions. St Andrew's actively cooperates with many church and secular organisations worldwide in numerous educational, academic and publishing programmes. Dr. Bodrov was a chairperson of the public ceremony of the Templeton Prize at the Moscow Kremlin in 1999, a Board member of the the International Association for the Promotion of Christian Higher Education (2001-07) and an Executive Committee member of the Ecumenical Association of Academies and Laity Centres in Europe (2004-07). He is a European Advisor to the John Templeton Foundation (USA), a member of the Academic Committee of the project "Science, Theology and the Ontological Quest" (Rome), a member of the Animation Group of the project *Sources* – Orthodox-Catholic co-operation in education and culture (Arezzo), co-editor for the Russian translation of "History of Vatican II" (5 Vols.), and member of the Editorial Board of Bibliotheca Biblica series.

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Information on Conference Participants



Rev. William Bush

Rev. William Bush was born in 1969 in San Diego, California, USA. He studied theology at the Moscow Theological Seminary and Academy (1995-2002), and received his Master's degree in theology in 2002 (thesis in the area of Greek patristics). He was ordained to the diaconate of the Russian Orthodox Church in 2005, and activates as deacon at the St. Nicholas Cathedral (Moscow Patriarchate) in Vienna. Since December 2005, he researches for his dissertation on the theme "The Responsibility Protect: An Analysis of an Emerging Paradigm of Humanitarian Intervention." He is also a Research Assistant at the Institute of Social Ethics since October 2007, in the field of peace studies, ethics and international relations, Orthodox social ethics and theology.

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Dr. Harutyun Harutyunyan

Education and Training: 2004-2007: Westfälische Wilhelms-University of Münster, Germany PhD (Doctorate in Theology). 1999-2002: Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany. Licentiate (Candidate of Doctor in Theology). 1998-1999: Ecumenical Institute of Bossey for Postgraduate Studies, Switzerland. Certificate in Ecumenical Studies. 1990-1997: Gevorgian Theological Seminary-University of St. Etchmiadzin, Armenia. Diploma in Theology and Religious Studies. *Professional Experience* 2008-present: Research assistant at Westfälische Wilhelms-University of Münster, Cluster of Excellence "Religion and Politics" and department of Early Church History. 2004-2006: Ecumenical adviser, parish counselor and youth trainer at the diocese of Armenian orthodox church in Germany. 2003-2004: Headmaster of Vazgen Theological Seminary of Sevan and Theology Lecturer at Gevorgian Theological Seminary-University of St. Etchmiadzin, Armenia. 1999-2002: Parish counselor and youth trainer at the

Information on Conference Participants

diocese of Armenian orthodox church in Germany. 1997-1998: Personal assistant of H. H. Karekin I. Patriarch of All Armenians in Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin.

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Prof. Dr. Pantelis Kalaitzidis

Prof. Dr. Pantelis Kalaitzidis studied Theology at the University of Thessaloniki from where he holds a B.A. He continued postgraduate studies in Paris, in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy, and in Systematic Theology at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Institut Catholique de Paris and Université de Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV), where he obtained his M.A. in 1986. He has published over 40 papers in Greek, French, English, Serbian, on his initial field of specialization (Ancient Greek Ontology and theory of knowledge, the comparative study of Eastern Orthodox and Western tradition), and on his current area of interest which, among others, includes the eschatological dimension of Christianity, the dialogue between Orthodox Christianity and Modernity, theology and modern literature, religion and multiculturalism, religious nationalism and fundamentalism in Orthodox context. His doctoral thesis, defended at the School of Theology of the University of Thessaloniki, deals with the issue of Hellenicity and anti-westernism in the Greek ‘theology of the ’60s’ (Fr. John Romanides, Fr. Basil Gondikakis, N. Matsoukas, Chr. Yannaras, and Fr. Georges Florovsky’s theory on Christian Hellenism). He has been a visiting scholar at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Boston, doing research on the “Theological Approach on the issue of Otherness,” while for the fall semester of 2008-09 he was a visiting scholar at the Princeton Theological Seminary, with a research project on “Patristic theology and Contextual theologies.” For the last eight years, he has served as Director of the Volos Academy for Theological Studies in Volos, Greece, a Church-related institution which functions as an open forum of thought and dialogue between the Orthodox Church and the broader

Information on Conference Participants

scholarly community of intellectuals worldwide, organizing a series of international seminars, conferences, lectures, round tables and publications. His last book, titled *Orthodox Christianity and Modernity. Prolegomena* and published in Greek by Indiktos Publications, is currently being translated into English.

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Rev. Dr. Jacob Kurien

Born on 2nd May 1950 in Kerala, India, Rev. Dr. Jacob Kurien completed his first level academic education and entered The Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam, Kerala, in 1969 for Theological Degree Programme. He completed his Master level theological education in 1st class 1st rank with the distinguished Masters Prize from the Serampore Theological University, India. He stood first in the M.A. Degree Examination of the Banaras Hindu University in the field of Indian Philosophy and Religions and was awarded the University Gold Medal. His Doctoral Dissertation was on “Nature and destiny of Man and World in Origen: An appraisal from a Sankarite standpoint”. He was awarded *the Doctor of Theology Degree* in by the Senate of Serampore. He married Leela in 1978 and has two Children. He was, the Secretary for the Oriental Orthodox Curriculum Committee, the Secretary of the Inter-Church Relations, Malankara Orthodox Church, Convener, Dialogue Commission, Kerala Council of Churches, Chief Editor, *Malankara Sabha* (official organ of the Malankara Orthodox Church), Member, Standing Commission, Faith and Order, W.C.C. Geneva, and Member, Joint International Commission-Catholic Church and Malankara Orthodox Church. He attended several International Conferences and presented papers on Ecumenical Relations, Inter-Religious Relations and Peace & overcoming violence.

Information on Conference Participants

He was also a speaker at the W.C.C. Assembly (Plenary on Church Unity) Porto Alegre, Brazil, 2006. He continues to be a member of the D.O.V drafting group for the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation. He has been on the Faculty of the Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam, Kerala, since 1978 and is the Vice-Principal.

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Rev. Dr Philip LeMasters

The Rev. Dr. Philip LeMasters is a priest of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, serving in the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America at St. Luke Mission, Abilene, TX. He is Professor of Religion and Director of the Honors Program at McMurry University. He taught previously at Wake Forest University and Northeast Missouri State University. A graduate of Baylor University and Rice University, he received the Ph.D. in Christian Theology and Ethics from Duke University in 1990. He also earned the M.A. in Applied Orthodox Theology from Balamand University through the Antiochian House of Studies. A member of the Board of Trustees at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in New York, Fr. Philip is also a member of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Christian Ethics. A convert to Orthodoxy from a Protestant background, Fr. Philip's current research focuses on applied issues in moral theology in light of Orthodox liturgy, spiritual practices, and canon law. His publications have addressed Orthodox stances on marriage, sexuality, peace and war, environmental stewardship, and health care.

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Information on Conference Participants



Georgios I. Mantzarides

Dr. Georgios Mantzaridis is Emeritus Professor of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki School of Theology and Honorary Professor of the University of Bucharest, School of Theology. In 1969 he was appointed Professor of Ethics and Sociology of Christianity in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki School of Theology, then served as Dean of the School of Theology between 1976-1977. He taught as Guest Professor in Munich University and in the Institute of Orthodox Theology. Professor Mantzaridis is a Member in the Commission on Bioethics of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece. He authored numerous articles and books on Orthodox Theology, Sociology and Ethics of Christianity. Some of his work includes *The Deification of Man* (1984), *Orthodox Spiritual Life* (1994) *Grundlinien Christlicher Ethik* (1998); *Personhood and Institutions* (1997) [Greek]; *Sociology of Christianity* (1999) [Greek]; *Globalization and Globality* (2001) [Greek]; *Christian Ethics Vol. I & II* (2004) [Greek], etc.

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Rev. Merkeb Mekuria

Rev. Merkeb Mekuria was born in Ethiopia and serves as a deacon in the Ethiopian Tewahedo Orthodox Church. He teaches at the Holy Trinity Theological College and is a lecturer and researcher at the Addis Ababa University. Deacon Merkeb Mekuria has served as Head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church for the last two years. He was one of the organizers of the Summit of religious fathers held in September 2007 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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Information on Conference Participants



Dr. Nicolas Abou Mrad

Dr. Nicolas Abou Mrad is Assistant Professor of the Old Testament at the Saint John of Damascus Faculty of Theology, at the University of Balamand, in Lebanon. He holds a PhD in Biblical Studies from the University of Erlangen, Germany. He is the author of several studies and articles dealing with Biblical issues.

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HE Dr. Irineu Popa

His Eminence, Dr. Irineu Popa is the Archbishop of Craiova and Metropolitan of Oltenia (Southern Romania). His Eminence was born in Perișani, Vâlcea, and received theological training at the Theological Seminary of Craiova (1975-1989), at the Theological Institute of Bucharest (1981-1985), and at Saint Serge Theological Institute in Paris (1987-1990), where he received his first doctorate in theology in 1990 with Professor Boris Bobrinscoy. Between 1986-1987, His Eminence studied French language and literature at the University of Grenoble. His Eminence entered the monastic life in 1974 at Frăsinei Monastery (a.k.a. „the Romanian Athos”), and took the monastic vows eleven years later. In 1991, His Eminence was elected Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Râmnic, with the title „Slătineanul”. During the academic year of 1990-1991, His Eminence taught Church History and Byzantine History and Civilization at Saint Serge Theological Institute in Paris. In 1995 His Eminence was appointed a tenured professor of Ethics and Dogmatic Theology at the Theological School of the University of Craiova, then appointed Dean of the Theological School of Craiova in 2008. In 2005, His Eminence received his second doctorate in Civil Law from Nicolae Titulescu Law School, in Craiova, after successfully defending a PhD thesis entitled “The Relationship Between Christian Moral Precepts and Juridical Norms.” His Eminence published 17 books and over 70 scholarly articles of theological research, taking active part at national and international congresses and theological gatherings.

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Information on Conference Participants



Prof. Dr. Bogoljub Šijaković

Prof. Dr. Bogoljub Šijaković was born in Nikšić, Montenegro in 1955, where he finished primary school in 1970 and grammar school in 1974. He graduated in 1981 and obtained a master's degree in philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy at Belgrade University 1986. He received his PhD in philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo in 1989. He received advanced training in Germany and Greece and he works as a professor of philosophy at the Faculty of Nikšić, Montenegro. Since October 2000 he has become the Federal Minister of Religion. He is married and has two children.

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Dr. Christos Tsironis

Dr. Christos Tsironis was born in Thessaloniki, Greece. He followed graduate studies in Theology (dep. of Theology) and Philosophy (dep. Philosophy and education) in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. His master thesis was focused on the issue of poverty in EU and his doctorate on the ambivalence and the challenges of Late Modernity. He worked as social researcher in national and international research Programs and was elected lecturer in 2008, at the school of Theology (Contemporary Social Theory) in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He has published articles in the areas of theology, social theory, and sociology of religion, intercultural dialogue, and epistemology. He is Co-author of the Module on Intercultural Dialogue in Local Communities, Thessaloniki : Leonardo da Vinci –EU, 2008. His publications include *Social Exclusion and Education in Late Modernity*, Thessaloniki: Vanias, 2003 (Greek), and *Globalization and Local Communities. A contribution to Social Ethics and Community Work*, Thessaloniki: Vanias, 2007 (Greek)

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INTERNATIONAL ECUMENICAL PEACE CONVOCATION (IEPC)
OF THE DECADE TO OVERCOME VIOLENCE (DOV)
MAY 2011, KINGSTON, JAMAICA

The World Council of Churches' 9th Assembly (Porto Alegre, Brazil, February 2006) decided that "the conclusion of DOV be marked by an International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC)". The Assembly also called for "a process of wide consultation to be undertaken toward developing an ecumenical declaration on "just peace". This consultative process leading up to the IEPC allows for broad participation with many entry points, and covers a wide spectrum of thematic and methodological approaches. BTI schools have been involved in the process at a number of different levels.

Mission Statement

The IEPC aims at witnessing to the Peace of God as a gift and responsibility of the oikumene. It seeks to assess and strengthen the church's position on peace, provide opportunities for networking and deepen our common commitment to processes of reconciliation and peace.

Glory to God – and Peace on Earth.

This is the motto that has been chosen for the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation, to mark the culmination of the Decade to Overcome Violence in the year 2011. In the morning-prayer we have listened to the words from the gospel of Luke: Glory to God and peace on Earth is right at the centre of the Christmas Story. Our reflections this morning should provide some orientation on our common journey towards the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation.

Who can participate:

churches, individuals interested in becoming peacemakers NGOs, practitioners, activists, peace institutes, educational institutions (seminaries and other academic institutions), artists, interfaith groups....

Ways to get involved: Visit the DOV web site and sign up for e-news, familiarise yourself and reflect on the need for peace in your own community, incorporate peace as a theme in spiritual life and prayer, (the following are examples of resources from the 'DOV shared resources library'): Sermons, Prayers, Bible study, Interreligious reflection, Indepth study and theological reflection, collect and share stories and examples of peacemaking to encourage others, organize discussion groups, peace vigils and studies on related topics, arrange workshops, seminars, artistic & cultural events to promote peace with your church or network; Write a declaration on just peace and send it to peacedeclaration@wcc-coe.org

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