

Moldovan Unificationists Have Dialogue with Christian Orthodox Church

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To commemorate World Interfaith Harmony Week, the Unification Church of Moldova held a dialogue with the Christian Orthodox Church on January 31.

The Christian Orthodox Church proposed the topic: “The Messiah and the Completeness of Salvation.” In total, 27 persons participated—seven members of the Unification Church and 20 representatives of the Christian Orthodox Church (four priests who are professors at the theological academy and 16 students who are future priests).

The main religion in the Republic of Moldova is the Christian Orthodox Church, with 90 percent of the population. In 2017 a group of priests and students at the theological academy started organizing interfaith meetings, visiting minority religious groups. On March 7, 2017, the Unification Church of Moldova hosted the first official interfaith meeting with the Christian Orthodox Church. Regular meetings with Orthodox priests have taken place since then.



World Interfaith Harmony Week, which was created by the United Nations in 2010, is commemorated in nations around the world every year in the first week of February.

For the January 13 event, the president of the Unification Church of Moldova insisted that the meeting be called a dialogue rather than a debate, so that the representatives of the two faiths would get to know each other better without trying to show who is right and who is wrong.

The meeting started with a presentation of Chapter 4 of Divine Principle (“The Messiah: His Advent and the Purpose of His Second Coming”), given by the president of the Unification Church of Moldova. This was followed by questions from representatives of the Christian Orthodox Church. Afterward a priest and professor at the theological academy presented the theology of the Orthodox Church on this topic, followed by questions from Unification Church members.

Both sides had difficulty in comprehending some points, but they tried to understand each other and to maintain a peaceful atmosphere and mutual respect. The most difficult part for the Orthodox believers was the concept about spiritual and physical salvation in the Unification Church. The hardest point for the Unificationists to understand logically was the concept that Jesus is God Himself.

Both sides expressed that this style of meeting—a dialogue rather than a debate—creates a peaceful environment and is very constructive. They agreed on the need to continue this kind of meeting on other topics.

As a result of this meeting, the Orthodox representatives agreed to participate in a conference to be held in honor of World Interfaith Harmony Week on February 7, 2019, organized by the Universal Peace Federation.

At the end all the participants agreed that this was a real interfaith dialogue that is very important for creating a culture of peace in Moldova.

