

Response to the Attack on the Dormition (Assumption) Cathedral of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra



Caption: Ukrainian Catholic Leaders in Canada, Ukrainian Orthodox leaders in Canada, and Governing Board members in the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral in Winnipeg on May 21, 2026.

On June 15, 2026, the Russian Federation damaged the Dormition (Assumption) Cathedral of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra during a night of missile and drone attacks across Ukraine. The cathedral is a UNESCO World Heritage site and historic Christian site dating from the 11th century.

Today we are dismayed and disheartened that the invaluable heritage of our friends has been so egregiously damaged, and that so many are losing their lives during this senseless war. Because of the close ties of affection with Ukrainian Canadian Christian leaders, this news hits us hard and personally.

Just last month the Governing Board of The Canadian Council of Churches attended evening prayers at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of Saints Volodymyr and Olha and morning prayers at the Holy Trinity Ukrainian Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral in Winnipeg. We received expert presentation and updates of the situation of Ukraine, Canada, and the Church and what it will take to achieve a just peace in Ukraine. We are grateful for the leadership and actions taken by the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Canada, and other churches who have responded to the



crisis in Ukraine with compassion and care here in Canada. You can find a summary below of prayers and actions we have taken together since February 24, 2022.

Colleagues at the [Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations](#) said in a statement that the Russian attack on the Lavra (a type of monastery) constitutes yet another crime against humanity, against Christianity, and against Ukraine's spiritual, historical, and cultural heritage. They remind us that since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion, nearly 800 religious buildings belonging to Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities in Ukraine have been fully or partially destroyed or damaged by Russian attacks. The Oleksandr Dovzhenko National Film Studio and the Mystetskyi Arsenal National Cultural, Artistic, and Museum Complex were also damaged; a large postal terminal was destroyed; multi storey residential buildings and private homes were hit; and strikes were carried out against the city's power supply and water supply systems.

Together with Ukrainians in Canada and the [Ukrainian Council of Churches and Religious Organizations](#) we mourn those who were killed, pray for the swift recovery of all who were wounded, and also call on churches, religious communities, and all people of goodwill to unite in prayer and continue praying for an end to Russian aggression and for the establishment of a just peace for Ukraine.

A Summary of Canadian Christian Leaders Calls for Peace, a Pastoral Letter, and Calls to Action

On February 28, 2022, just days after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, The Canadian Council of Churches issued a [call for peace](#) in Ukraine, expressing sorrow, shock, anger, and disbelief, and encouraging all people of good will to pray for the restoration of peace, dialogue, and human fraternity.

On February 24, 2024 Canadian Christian leaders released a [pastoral letter](#) on Ukraine, Canada, and the Church, calling on us all to pray, support Ukrainian refugees, urge diplomatic steps toward a just and sustainable peace in Ukraine, seek cooperative relationships of humanitarian support, remember the anniversary of the full-scale invasion into Ukraine, and to hope for reconciliation.

On February 24, 2026 Canadian Christian leaders reaffirmed these [calls to action](#): commit to praying regularly for Ukraine that names real and ongoing suffering; move to sustained accompaniment of Ukrainians living in Canadian communities; engage governments on specific, clearly defined issues; build intentional, cooperative relationships with Ukrainian and Slavic Christian congregations; and commit to ongoing learning and truthful teaching about the causes and history of the war.

May a just peace come quickly.

Holy, Holy, Holy God of life, justice, and love, You who hear the cries of the suffering and remain faithful, we come before You in prayer, united with our brothers and sisters in Christ—those near to us and those across Canada.

Today we lift before You, with particular urgency, the people of Ukraine: women, men, elders, and children created in Your image and likeness, now enduring the suffering of war, trauma, and grief.

We lift before You the children who have been forcibly taken from their families. Protect them, preserve their identity, and bring them home.



We remember also prisoners of war, held in captivity and far from comfort and care. Be near to them, strengthen them, and guard their lives.

We remember Your Church—its clergy and faithful, worshipping under threat. Sustain them in courage, witness, and hope.

We commend to Your compassionate mercy the land of Ukraine itself—its cities, villages, and homes, its rivers, fields, mountains and seas—part of your beautiful world now scarred by violence, destruction, and loss.

God of justice and truth, we pray for a just and sustainable peace and for righteousness and justice to prevail over evil and hatred.

Bring an end to this war, bring peace, justice and healing to Ukraine. And turn the hearts of those who perpetrate this war toward repentance and restoration.

In these days of lament, O Lord, we live in hope that you will strengthen Your Church with your holy faithfulness and creativity to act with compassion, courage, and generosity as instruments of your active healing. Grant that we might participate, with all that we are, in the beating of swords into ploughshares so that for all people and creation, justice will roll down like water and righteousness as an ever-flowing stream.

This we pray in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Rev. Dr. Amanda Currie
President

Pastor Peter Noteboom
General Secretary