

St. Andrew's in 2015

St. Andrew's is 25. We received many congratulations from friends, universities, partner organizations and church leaders worldwide (see at www.standrews/eng) – thank you all! When we were thinking about the anniversary event, we decided to hold a conference *Theology of Perplexity: Ways of Academic Theology in the Post-Soviet Space*. We thought that it reflected our past and present situation very well. And of course the year was full with many academic and publishing projects. In May we published *The Contemporary Russian Version of the Bible* which was prepared by an interconfessional team of the Institute for Bible Translation in Zaoksky, Russia.

Summer Theological Institutes and Public Conferences

We continued our highly successful Summer Theological Institutes (STI), organizing two sessions in Moscow: the 14th STI and the 11th *Summer Institute on Theology and Science* from 29 June to 11 July. These were vibrant meetings with very intensive studies and active communication between students and teachers. Ca 40 students came from all over Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Poland and represented all major confessions. Many of them were established specialists and university professors. Teachers were St. Andrew's best professors.



6th Symposium *A Guest at the Feast: Feast and Hospitality Images in Theology, Philosophy and Culture* in memory of Natalia Trauberg; conferences *Cosmology and Faith: A Key to Interconfessional Dialogue* and *The Problem of Life in the Universe: Scientific and Theological Approaches* – both together with St. Thomas College in Moscow; the mentioned *Theology of Perplexity*; and the 20th *St. Andrew's Readings on Contemporary Theological Issues* were open to a wide audience and gathered many friends of our Institute.

Interconfessional and International Cooperation

A number of important international conferences were organized in 2015, often jointly with other academic centers: *The Concepts of Human Being in the 20th Century: Religious Reflection*, Moscow, 20 May; *Political Orthodoxy and Totalitarianism in a Post-Communist Era*, Helsinki, 28-31 May; *Biblical Scholarship and Bible Translation in the Post-Soviet Space*, Moscow, 24-27 September – a conference dedicated to publication of the new translation of the Bible and 25th anniversary of St. Andrew's; *History and Theology: Historical Consciousness as a Way to Church*

Unity, Bose, Italy, 21-24 October; *Political Theology: Theological Reflection on Contemporary Politics*, Belgrade, 4-7 November combined with the 6th Consultation of an Orthodox-Protestant-Catholic network “Development of Ecumenical Leadership in Mission”; and *Religion, Media and Civil Society*, Moscow, 10-13 December.

St. Andrew’s rector and other faculty members participated in many international events including *Visions for the Future* conference on the role of religion for cultural identity, democracy and peace (Sigtuna, Sweden), the annual conference of *Journées d’Arras* dedicated to Christian-Muslim dialogue (Salzburg), *Evangelical Conference for Middle and Eastern Europe* (Hannover), a meeting of the *European Network on Science & Christian Tradition* (Rome), 19th *Renovabis Congress* (Freising), the annual conference of *Oikosnet Europe* (Corrymeela, Northern Ireland), a conference *Models of Christian Unity* (Bose, Italy), an international twin consultation on *Reformation, Education and Transformation* (São Leopoldo, Brazil), and many others. St. Andrew’s rector is actively involved in the work of the Steering and Academic committees to prepare GETI’17 (Global Ecumenical Theological Institute in connection with the Reformation Jubilee in 2017).

Publishing Program

St. Andrew’s is a recognized leader in academic theological publishing in Russian and our books are in demand at Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant seminaries, university theology departments and, most important, in the secular market. In 2015 we published 20 volumes including:

- *The Contemporary Russian Version of the Bible*
- *Things Hidden Since the Foundation of the World* by René Girard
- *Jesus and Judaism* by Martin Hengel and Anna Maria Schwemer
- *I Saw a New Heaven and a New Earth. Commentary on the Book of Revelation* by January Ivliev
- *The Surprise of Pope Francis* by Andrea Riccardi
- *The Ways of Orthodox Theology in the West* by Ivana Noble, Katerina Bauerova, Tim Noble, and Parush Parushev
- *Theology in an Off Moment* by Alexei Bodrov and Irina Yazykova, eds.
- *Tolstoy’s Religion. Spiritual Biography* by Martin Tamcke
- *Biblical and Patristic Sources of Dostoevsky’s Novels* by Simonetta Salvestroni

Our participation in international book exhibitions in Frankfurt and Moscow helps us to develop cooperation with leading publishers and book distributors worldwide. And we maintain our special book distribution projects to theological, university and regional libraries and to theological graduates – though at a reduced scale this year.