

# St. Andrew's in 2020

2020 was a very difficult year for everyone, everywhere, and we were no exception. There was no government support during the pandemic, and between March and August with a series of lockdowns, bookstore closures and other anti-corona measures, we could only work on new books and conduct some distance learning courses. However, despite the pandemic, we held a number of important events with an emphasis on ecumenical dialogue and civil society, published new books and organized two sessions of our Summer Institutes. And this year we celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Summer Theological Institutes

We continued our highly successful Summer Theological Institute (STI), organizing two sessions of the 19<sup>th</sup> STI in Moscow from 24 August to 5 September (one group included those who had theological education and another included students of secular universities). Due to the pandemic limitations we had twice less students than usual but these were vibrant meetings with very intensive studies and active communication between students and teachers. 20 students came from all over Russia and represented all major confessions. Many of them were established specialists, university professors or priests. Teachers were St. Andrew's best professors. As a continuation of the STI we organized a series of seminars in Christianity in the modern world.



## Interconfessional and International Cooperation

We held two important international conferences in Moscow: *Theology of Openness: Religion, Society and Culture* on 6 November (in connection with our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary) and *Person in a Post-Religious Society* on 11-12 December (jointly with CEC, VU Amsterdam and Pokrovskie Vorota

Cultural Centre in Moscow). It was a combination of physical presence, Zoom and FB streaming – it worked very well!

St. Andrew's rector and other faculty members participated in several international events in the beginning of the year including a Board meeting of *The European Christian Convention* (Zurich) and a visit to our partners in Grodno (Belarus). Later in the year most of the meetings were organised via Zoom including regular meetings of the Project Commission for *The 3rd Ecumenical Kirchentag 2021* and a *CEC Thematic Group on Science, Technologies and Christian Ethics*.

## **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 2020 we published 10 volumes including:

- *A Theater of Envy: William Shakespeare* by René Girard
- *The Glory of the Lord. A Theological Aesthetics, v. II/1: Clerical Styles* by Hans Urs von Balthasar
- *Theology of Freedom. Religious and Anthropological Foundations of Freedom in a Global Context* by Irina Yazykova, Ed.
- *Religion and Nationalism* by Alexei Bodrov and Mikhail Tolstoluzhenko, Eds.
- *Gospel of Matthew, 2 vols. Theological Exegetical Commentary* by Iannuary Ivliev
- *God's World, God's Word: Introducing the Theology of Dumitru Staniloae* by Charles Miller

And we also reprinted quite a number of our older titles, many of which became classics. We maintain our special book distribution projects to theological, university and regional libraries and to theological graduates – though at a reduced scale this year.