

## PAPERS

Those who wish to present a paper should send a summary (500 words at most) by e-mail to St. Andrew's Institute by 1 September 2015. The Organizing Committee selects papers for the Conference and sends invitations to the speakers. The full text of all selected papers will have to be submitted by 1 November 2015. The working language of the conference will be English.

Upon arrival at the conference every participant will receive summaries of all the papers and the conference programme. Papers are scheduled for 20 minutes each. Registration forms can be found on St. Andrew's website [www.standrews.ru](http://www.standrews.ru). Registrations, summaries and papers should be sent to:

Mikhail Tolstoluzhenko  
St. Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute  
Jerusalem St. 3, Moscow, 109316, Russia  
Tel/Fax: +7 495 6702200; +7 495 6707644  
Email: [standrews@yandex.ru](mailto:standrews@yandex.ru), [info@standrews.ru](mailto:info@standrews.ru)

## ORGANIZATION AND ACCOMMODATION

The conference will assemble on 4 November 2015 for a reception and opening ceremony in the evening. Participants will depart after breakfast on 7 November. Accommodation and meals will be provided by the organizers. Travel expenses (within Europe only) can be reimbursed.

## REGISTRATION

Numbers are limited and early registration is strongly advised. Registration forms can be found on St. Andrew's website [www.standrews.ru](http://www.standrews.ru) and must be sent to the above address.



ST. ANDREW'S  
BIBLICAL THEOLOGICAL  
INSTITUTE  
(Moscow, Russia)



ECUMENICAL  
HUMANITARIAN  
ORGANISATION  
(Novi Sad, Serbia)

DELM – DEVELOPMENT OF ECUMENICAL LEADERSHIP IN MISSION NETWORK  
NELCEE – NETWORK FOR ECUMENICAL LEARNING IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

with the support of  
ICCO - KERK IN ACTIE (UTRECHT, NETHERLANDS)

Invitation and Call for Papers

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

POLITICAL THEOLOGY:

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION  
ON CONTEMPORARY POLITICS

4–7 November 2015

Belgrade, Serbia

## **THEME OF THE CONFERENCE**

In contemporary Western and Eastern European societies (including post-soviet countries such as Russia, Ukraine and Belarus) church and state are separated from each other, which implies that religion should not enter the domain of politics and ought to confine itself to the sphere of private life or, at most, to inculcate certain moral values in society. This, however, does not mean that religion is not involved in the process of taking political decisions and does not affect socio-political realities.

People engaged in political activities, including leading politicians, may belong to certain churches and hold their own religious views which can have a significant impact on their political thinking and actions. Moreover, in order to achieve their purposes, politicians can use (or misuse) religion to affect the masses. Religious rhetoric, often mixed with nationalistic, is actively employed in political propaganda and the church is expected to react to this, approvingly or disapprovingly.

Even if the church is not directly involved in politics, it cannot keep silence on political situations and political processes in society. However, very often the church is unable to give a clear answer to what is going on in the sphere of politics because it does not have a well-developed position. Critical theological reflection on politics is necessary here, and this is what political theology is about. Such a theology should especially be

directed at denouncing any kind of injustice, both in the structures of a stable society and in situations of socio-political crisis (revolutions, wars and other kinds of conflicts).

The aim of the forthcoming conference is to discuss political theology (its scope, purposes, approaches, language, etc.) in different traditions and to see how it can contribute to building civil society in Eastern European countries.

In the course of the conference, it is intended to address the following questions:

- traditional church doctrines in the face of contemporary politics;
- churches in the context of contemporary socio-political conflicts;
- separation of church and state in East and West: the contemporary situation;
- theological criticism of socio-political injustice;
- religious ideology and rhetoric in contemporary politics.

This list does not exhaust all aspects of the topic announced in the title of the conference but provides a focus for expected discussion.