



Building flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ.

To your Holiness Patriarch Kirill,

My name is Rev. Dr. Dana Allin and I serve as the Synod Executive of ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. We are a denomination based in the United States with over 400 churches representing 140,000 members. We are a member of the World Reformed Alliance and the World Communion of Reformed Churches. We praise our God that in His divine providence and sovereignty He has seen fit to set you in position to speak God's Word to so many. We are grateful to you as you serve God's people not only in Russia but even in the United States where the Russian Orthodox Church is a valued member of our broader ecclesial community.

We write to your Holiness in a difficult and challenging time. We are not so bold as to write as prophets, for our own sin goes before us and as the Apostle Paul reminds us, all have fallen short of God's glory. Still, God's truth compels us to petition as one voice among the many in Christ's Holy and Apostolic Church seeking to give voice to all those who are suffering in this time. God has planted your Holiness among the great Fathers of His church and as Esther was so are you place for a time such as this. Only you know the burden of your office in this time and we can neither comprehend nor appreciate all that you must consider.

Christ's commands compel us to come alongside all who suffer from violence. God's true people are called to be about peace, as Christ Himself said, "blessed are the peacemakers." With all of Christ's Church we seek to serve those who suffer from violence as one people renewed in our minds and transformed in our bodies by Christ Jesus. Our petition arises both out of our unity with and obedience to God's Word. For the heart, minds, spirits, and bodies of Christ's Church are united with all people of Ukraine who this very moment are suffering from the violence of war.

The State will do what it will, but the Church must do what Christ commands her to do. We petition your Holiness to act in the following ways. We implore that you lead the Metropolitans of the Russian Orthodox Church to stand firmly with the vulnerable and innocent ones of Russia and Ukraine in their present suffering. We petition you neither to bless nor to sanction violence. We petition you to be as bold and courageous as Joshua was before God's people, not to be silent because children are crying and all sides must convert to Christ. We petition the office you, Patriarch Kirill hold, that with the rest of Christ's Church on earth to exhibit God's love and speak His truth even when it is done at great personal risk.

We close by speaking the Aaronic blessing from God's Holy Word upon your Holiness. The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen and Amen. Glory be to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Dana S. Allin

Synod Executive