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The Condition of Theological Education in Ukraine

Stan edukacji teologicznej na Ukrainie

SUMMARY:

The article describes the main stages of development of theological education in Ukraine. Author describes the context of political and legislative actions of the authorities in the matter of awarding scientific degrees of the bachelor, master (magister) and doctor in the field of theological studies.

The article presents the process and legal regulations related to theological education at all universities of Ukraine. The author points to numerous problems related to the development of theological education in Ukraine. The first is the separation of religious and secular institutions and the search for models of cooperation and interaction with theological education. It is important that the confessional and secular theological programs do not duplicate each other. The second problem is the need to compensate for the loss due to the absence of theological education that took place during the communist past of Ukraine. The author indicates the need for active theological research in the Ukrainian language and the preparation and publication of textbooks in basic theological disciplines. Also, the need to amplify works on the translation of classical theology and leading contemporary theological research into Ukrainian as well as address problems related to scientific journals in the field of theology (the number at the present time is insufficient).

STRESZCZENIE:

Artykuł opisuje główne etapy rozwoju edukacji teologicznej na Ukrainie. Autor opisuje na początku kontekst polityczno-religijny na Ukrainie oraz legislacyjne działania władz w kwestiach nadawania stopni naukowych licencjata, magistra oraz doktora w dziedzinie nauk teologicznych. Artykuł przedstawia proces oraz prawne regulacje związane z edukacją teologiczną na wszystkich uczelniach Ukrainy. Autor dalej wskazuje na liczne problemy związane z rozwojem edukacji teologicznej. Pierwszym jest odseparowanie instytucji wyznaniowych od świeckich oraz poszukiwanie modeli współpracy i interakcji w obszarze wychowania teologicznego. Ważne jest, aby konfesyjne i świeckie programy teologiczne nie powielają się nawzajem. Drugi problem polega na potrzebie zrekompensowania braku edukacji teologicznej, która miała miejsce w komunistycznym okresie Ukrainy. Autor wskazuje na potrzebę aktywnych i oryginalnych badań teologicznych w języku ukraińskim oraz przygotowania i publikacji podręczników w podstawowych dyscyplinach teologicznych. Również wskazuje na potrzebę wzmocnienia prac nad tłumaczeniem klasycznych dzieł z teologii i publikacji współczesnych badań teologicznych w języku ukraińskim; podnosi także problemy związane z ograniczoną liczbą czasopism naukowych w dziedzinie teologii.

In the conclusions, the author states the need to integrate Ukrainian theological education with theological education in Europe and worldwide since its current level is insufficient; for this purpose, more active participation in international educational projects in the field of theology is needed, along with publications in leading foreign theological books, magazines and periodicals.

KEYWORDS:

education, theology, education in post-USSR, atheism, religion, science

We wnioskach autor konstatuje potrzebę integracji ukraińskiej edukacji teologicznej z edukacją teologiczną w Europie i na świecie; w tym celu potrzebne jest bardziej aktywne uczestnictwo w międzynarodowych projektach edukacyjnych z dziedziny teologii, a także publikacja ukraińskich teologów w wiodących zagranicznych publikacjach teologicznych.

SŁOWA KLUCZOWE:

edukacja, teologia, edukacyjna w post-ZSSR, ateizm, religia, nauka

The contemporary condition of religious life in Ukraine (the last forty years) can be divided into three periods. The first period is connected with religious life on Ukrainian territory while it was part of the USSR during the last years of its existence under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev (March 1985–August 1991). The second period extends from 24 August 1991, the time independence was declared, until 2000. The third period spans from 2000 to the present day. The first period may be characterized by control of religious life and the dynamic of the development of religious organizations on the part of the state. The situation changes with the liberalization of relationships between the state and religious organizations beginning in 1988, which was related to the millennial celebration of the Christianization of Kievan Rus', and in 1989 the adoption of the Soviet law "On freedom of conscience and religious organizations."¹ During the second period, after Ukraine declared its independence, the number of congregations of existing denominations grew rapidly in addition to the growth in denominations that were new to Ukraine. The third period is characterized by insignificant growth of religious organizations. Thus, according to the statistics of the State Committee on Nationalities and Religions of Ukraine of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, as

¹ "On freedom of conscience and religious organizations: USSR Law of 1 October 1990, № 1689-1." Legislation on freedom of conscience. Accessed 16 February 2017. <http://www.r-komitet.ru/vera/26.htm>.

of 1 January 2016 there were 35,709 religious organizations in Ukraine.² Compared with the previous year, there had been a slight net growth of 392 units, which amounted to 1.0 percent. For example, the growth observed during the past five years has been as follows: 2014 -0.9 percent; 2013 -0.6 percent; 2012 -1.4 percent; 2011 -1.4 percent; 2010 -1.9 percent; while during the whole period of Ukrainian independence (twenty-five years) overall growth has been at the rate of 2.9 percent.³ According to the data for 1 January 2016, there were 98 religious organizations named, of which 97 percent were Christian: 55.4 percent Orthodox; 14.7 percent Catholic; 29.9 percent Protestant. There were 1.6 percent ethno-confessional religious organizations (Islam, Judaism, Karaite, Armenian); 0.2 percent Buddhist; and 1.7 percent new religious organizations. "In 2016, there were 198 theological educational establishments in Ukraine, including 129 higher institutions and 69 mid-level institutions. For example, from 2000 to 2005 they grew at the rate of 38.9 percent; from 2005 to 2010 -14.3 percent; and from 2010 to 2015 -11.6 percent. We observe that for the last ten years there has been a slow-down in the incremental growth, but an increase in number. It should be noted that during 2016 there was a steady downturn in the number of students in theological educational institutions (by 8,038 individuals). We note that the decrease in the number of students in theological educational institutions has been observed since 2005 in virtually all religious organizations with the exception of the Islamic and Jewish institutions."⁴ There are 129 theological educational institutions which, according to the content of their instruction and orientation, are considered higher theological institutions founded by religious organizations. There are also five departments and faculties in secular educational institutions. The opening of theological educational institutions and departments and faculties at secular institutions of higher learning was called for by the rapid growth of religious organizations and interest in religion when freedom of conscience

² "Religious organizations in Ukraine (as of 1 January 2016)." Religious Information Service of Ukraine. Accessed 3 February 2017. <http://risu.org.ua/ua/index/resourses/statistics/ukr2016/63055/>.

³ "Religious network of Ukraine: Analysis of dynamics as of the beginning of 2016." Religious Information service of Ukraine. Accessed February 2017. http://risu.org.ua/page.php?_lang=ua&path=expert_thought/&name=analytic&id=63066&alias=&#_edn1.

⁴ "Religious network of Ukraine: Analysis of the dynamics as of the beginning of 2016." Religious Information Service of Ukraine. Accessed 3 February 2017. http://risu.org.ua/page.php?_lang=ua&path=expert_thought/&name=analytic&id=63066&alias=&#_edn1.

and religion were declared, which was limited during Soviet times; however, in the 2000s there was a noticeable decrease in interest in theological education. On the one hand, this occurred because religious congregations had already been supplied with the clergy/preachers with theological education and also because in religious organizations graduates with theological diplomas were not able to advance in other areas. Therefore, there was a tendency among believers to prefer a secular education to a theological one. The possibility to change the situation came only with the introduction of a new education law in 2014 that affected theological education.

In Ukraine, theological education is regulated by two laws: 1. Law of Ukraine "On freedom of conscience and religious organizations" (Record of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR, 1991, No. 25, Article 283),⁵ which was adopted while Ukraine was still part of the USSR and is still in force at the present time with certain amendments; 2. Law of Ukraine "On higher education" (Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament, 2014, No. 37–38, Article 2004)⁶ and other sub-legislative acts adopted for the fulfillment of the law. In fact, we have two parallel systems of higher theological education which are regulated by two laws. Article 11. of "On freedom of conscience and religious organizations"⁷ (Law of Ukraine) provides for the establishment by religious centers (administrations) of higher and mid-level theological educational institutions in order to meet the need for qualified personnel to carry out religious activities. Although the law does not use the phrase "higher theological education" or "theological institution of higher education," the content of the education is theological, attested to by the analysis of curricula and the names of certain higher institutions of theological learning, for example, Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy, Ukrainian Theological Seminary, St. John Chrysostom Theological University of Ivano-Frankivsk, and others. It is important to add that according to the law, higher theological educational institu-

⁵ "On freedom of conscience and religious organizations: Law of Ukraine. Record of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, 1991 № 25, art. 283. 8 September 2016." Accessed 19 February 2017. <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/987-12>.

⁶ "Law of Ukraine. On higher education. Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament (NUP), 2014, № 37–38, art. 2004. 8 September 2016." Accessed 19 February 2017. <http://zakon0.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1556-18>.

⁷ "On freedom of conscience and religious organizations: Law of Ukraine. Record of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR (NUP), 1991, № 25, art. 283. 8 September 2016." Accessed 19 February 2017. <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/987-12>.

tions are a type of religious organization and can only be founded by another type of religious organization/religious center (administration). Since this is a religious educational institution, in accordance with the law its activity has been regarded not as educational, but as religious, and therefore the education process in these institutions is not specifically regulated. In consequence, the documents of higher education, scholarly degrees, and certificates of study that such institutions issue were not recognized by the state. Higher theological educational institutions held the monopoly on theological education for six years. However, the wish was expressed that provision be made for them to grant diplomas of higher education, award scholarly degrees, and confer academic titles that are recognized by the state. In 1997, this resulted in a resolution, of the Cabinet of Ministers, "On the list of subjects and specializations according to which specialists may be prepared in higher educational institutions corresponding to educational-qualifying levels" of 24 May 1997 No. 507,⁸ within the framework of the subject area "Philosophy" (subject code 0301), that a specialization titled "Theology" was enumerated on three educational-qualification levels: Bachelor (6.030100), Specialist (7.02030103), and Master (8.02030103). Since 2006 theology has disappeared at the Bachelor's level. This occurred when a new resolution was adopted that replaced the resolution of 1997 concerning the preparation of specialists at the Bachelor's level and proposed a new structure of categories. In accordance with the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers, "On the list of subjects according to which specialists are prepared in higher educational institutions according to the educational-qualification level of Bachelor" dated 13 December 2006 No. 1719⁹ the level of "Bachelor" was replaced by the category of "Specialty," and a broader category called "Branches of knowledge" was introduced that included "Subjects," and thus the subject "Philosophy"¹⁰ (6.020301) was included in field of knowledge 0203 "Humanities." In this way, the specialization "Theology" was preserved

⁸ "Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Resolution of 24 May 1997 No. 507 Kyiv." 13 September 2010. Accessed 21 February 2017. <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/507-97-%D0%BF>.

⁹ "Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Resolution of 13 December 2006, No. 1719" 1 September 2015. Accessed 16 February 2017. <http://zakon2.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1719-2006-%D0%BF>.

¹⁰ The asterisk indicates that this pedagogical specialization may be taught at a pedagogical university with the conferment of the qualification of schoolteacher or instructor at a higher institution of learning.

only at the education and qualification levels (EQL) of “Specialist” and “Master.” In 2010, there was a new resolution, “On the adoption of the list of specializations for the preparation of specialists in institutions of higher learning according to the educational-qualification levels of Specialist and Master,” dated 27 August 2010 No. 787. In the resolution the subjects (Bachelor preparatory) and specializations (preparation on the level of Specialist and Master) were put together in one list,¹¹ but by means of the resolution “On the introduction of changes in the list confirmed by resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 13 December 2006 No. 1719, 27 August 2010 No. 787, and 17 March 2011 No. 267,”¹² the subject “Theology” (Bachelor’s level) was included and a phrase was added requiring that denomination be indicated with licensing in theology. Thus, the subject and the specialization received the title “Theology (theology with indication of denomination): EQL “Bachelor” (6.020304), EQL “Specialist” (7.02030103), EQL “Master” (8.02030103). It should be noted that these lists of subject areas and specializations did not extend to specializations that required a dissertation defense, in pursuit of a Ph.D. or a Doctor of Sciences.¹³ The situation changed in 2010. In accordance with an order by the Higher Attestation Commission of Ukraine¹⁴ “On the confirmation of changes in the list of specializations according to which dissertations may be defended in pursuit of the academic degrees Candidate and Doctor of Sciences, the awarding of academic degrees and the conferring of academic titles” of 29.04.2010 N 273, the list was supplemented with the specialties

¹¹ “Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Resolution of 27 August 2010, No. 787. On the confirmation of the list of specializations according to which specialists may be prepared in higher educational institutions at the educational-qualification levels of Specialist and Master.” 1 September 2015. Accessed 16 February 2017. <http://zakon3.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/787-2010-%D0%BF>.

¹² “Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Resolution of 17 March 2011, No. 267.” 1 September 2015. Accessed 11 February 2017. <http://zakon3.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/267-2011-%D0%BF>.

¹³ A Candidate of Sciences in the European system corresponds to the academic level of a Doctor of Philosophy (Philosophiae doctor, Ph.D.), while a Doctor of Sciences is recognized in several countries (Austria, Poland, Czech Republic, Germany, France, and others) as the second academic degree of Doctor Habilitas (doctor habilitatus, Dr. habil.).

¹⁴ By 2011 the Higher Attestation Commission was the central organ that carried out state policy in the awarding of the academic degrees of Candidate and Doctor of Sciences, and also the conferring of the academic title “Senior Research Fellow.” Since 2011 these functions have been given to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

“Philosophical sciences” and specialization 09.00.14 – Theology. In 2015, the list was confirmed that is in effect to the present time, in accordance with the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers “On the confirmation of the list of branches of knowledge and specializations according to which specialists may be prepared in correspondence with educational-professional, educational-scientific, and scientific programs at five levels of higher education, providing for the awarding of corresponding degrees of higher education: beginning level (short cycle) of higher education –Junior Bachelor, first (Bachelor) level –Bachelor, second (Master) level –Master, Third (educational-research) level –Doctor of Philosophy, research level –Doctor of Sciences.¹⁵ These changes are connected with the adoption of the new 2014 Law of Ukraine “On higher education” (Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament (NUP), 2014, No. 37–38, Article 2004).¹⁶ In section XV the Concluding and transitional provisions state: “7. To the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine: 1) within three months from the day of adoption of the present Law to provide for the confirmation by the central organ of executive power charged with formulating government policy in the area of education a single list of branches of knowledge which must unify the current lists of branches of education and science, distinguishing “Theology” as a separate branch of knowledge.”¹⁷ That regulation was carried out in the current provision, in which the separate branch of knowledge 04 Theology and the specialization 041 are designated.¹⁸ These educational innovations separated theology from philosophy and also led to a situation in which theology has ceased to be regarded as a strictly humanities discipline; now it is

¹⁵ “Law of Ukraine. On higher education. Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament (NUP), 2014, № 37–38, art. 2004.” 5 January 2017. Accessed 22 February 2017. <http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1556-18>.

¹⁶ “Law of Ukraine. On higher education.” Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament (NUP), 2014, № 37–38, art. 2004». 5 January 2017. Accessed 22 February 2017. <http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1556-18/page>.

¹⁷ “Law of Ukraine. On higher education. Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament (NUP), 2014, № 37–38, art. 2004». 5 January 2017. Accessed 12 February 2017. <http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1556-18/page6>.

¹⁸ “Text of the document: On the confirmation of the list of branches of knowledge and specializations according to which preparation is given to those seeking higher education,” № 266 –edition date 29.04.2015.” Government portal. Accessed 15 February 2017. <http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/uk/cardnpd?docid=248149695>. At the present time, area of knowledge 04 Theology is only one specialization 041 Theology; however, if necessary, the list of specializations may be broadened.

a separate branch of learning with its own list of specializations. Representatives of religious organizations and representatives of secular higher education institutions who are developing theological education and science regard that fact as the restitution of historical justice. Besides, the new law provided for an array of innovations that must significantly enliven the development of theological education and study. It is supposed that higher theological educational institutions established in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On freedom of conscience and religious organizations" (the details of its creation and activities were explained above), may receive state recognition of educational and academic activity. Section XV. Concluding and transitional provisions, point 18, sub-section 2 states: "2. Establish that: 18) During the time a higher theological educational institution goes through the process of licensing and accrediting a program in the specialty "Theology" in the order established by law, and the creation and activity of graduate studies, doctoral studies, and dissertation commission of this higher theological educational institution in the branch of knowledge "Theology," the documents of higher education, academic degrees, and academic titles (of teaching and research-teaching faculty) and members of the dissertation commission awarded by higher theological educational institutions are to be regarded as the equivalent of corresponding documents awarded in the established legal order."¹⁹ Religious organizations have not been able to take advantage of the opportunity for government recognition of educational and scholarly activity, because for licensing and accreditation, the opening of graduate studies, doctoral programs, the establishment of specialized academic councils for defending dissertations, and inclusion in the list of professional publications of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the scholarly publications of higher theological educational institutions must be able to demonstrate that the teaching and research-teaching faculty of theological institutions of higher education have state-type documents of higher education, academic degrees and academic titles in the specialization of "Theology" or related fields. Not one higher theological educational institution has a faculty that meets this requirement. In general, the faculty has documents attesting to education, academic degrees, and academic titles conferred by higher theologi-

¹⁹ "The Law of Ukraine: On higher education. Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament (NUP), 2014, № 37–38, art. 2004" 5 January 2017. Accessed 12 February 2017. <http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1556-18/page5>.

cal educational institutions and religious centers (administrations); that is, they are not state-type documents. Therefore,

there are two possibilities or some variation of them: dismiss all instructors with non-government documents and accept in their place instructors with state-type diplomas or force instructors to obtain an education, academic degrees, and academic titles with state-type documents.

The first alternative leads to the loss of the religious character of education and science as well as the loss of faculty potential, while the second alternative represents a great waste of time and finances and often the administration complains of faculty resistance to repeat studies beginning with the first course at the Bachelor's level. Now that it is a standard procedure to recognize equivalent diplomas presented by Higher Theological Educational Institutions of Ukraine (HTEIU) with state recognition of educational and science activity, this problem has been removed. In practice, it works as follows when an HTEIU presents a licensing or accreditation application to the Ministry of Education and Science to open a Bachelor's, Master's, or post-graduate studies, or an application to open doctoral studies and a doctoral commission for dissertation defense: information presented concerning personnel support by instructors who have HTEIU documents is recognized as being equivalent to state-type documents. Requirements are eased only in terms of the make-up of personnel and only for state recognition of educational and scholarly activity in the area of knowledge of 04 Theology. For that matter, an HTEIU can also open educational, educational-research, and research programs in non-theological specialties, but in that case all requirements must be met concerning personnel support, that is, faculty who facilitate the educational and research process must have state-type documents on education, academic degrees, and academic titles in accordance with their

specialization. For the last ten years, the pursuit of opportunities for state recognition of the results of educational and research activity of an HTEIU has been actively discussed, which is related to the fact that an individual who has completed an HTEIU may be employed within the structures of the religious organization that founded a particular HTEIU, and if that has not happened for whatever reason, that person is, in the eyes of the state, a person without higher education. Since there are increasing numbers of HTEIU graduates who have not been able to build careers within religious structures, there has been more discussion about the obstruction of constitutional rights of individuals who have graduated from an HTEIU. Therefore, the search was begun for a model that would allow for recognition on the part of employers and the situation of documents presented by the HTEIU for education, academic degrees, and academic titles. The new law provides the opportunity for the HTEIU to go through the process of licensing and accreditation. Point 12, Article 24, Licensing of educational activity, states: "12. Higher theological educational institutions that are prepared to introduce information about the higher education diplomas they grant into the Unified Government Electronic Data Base on issues of education must complete the process of licensing educational activity. Higher theological educational institutions that wish to grant state-type diplomas must complete the process for accrediting educational programs."²⁰ The phrase "that wish to" indicates that the HTEIU are not required to complete either licensing or accreditation. The law grants that right. The HTEIU may act without licensing as well as with it; having received licensing, the HTEIU may receive accreditation, and having achieved licensing or accreditation may also reject it. Licensing permits information about the diplomas of the educational institution to be granted to the Data Base. For employment in areas that are not financed by the government budget, the diploma of the HTEIU is sufficient; for continued studies in foreign institutions the diploma of a licensed program may be sufficient.

The diploma of a licensed program, the diploma itself, and information about the length of a course of study and other information entered in the Unified Government Electronic Data Base on issues of education indicates that a person who has, indeed, studied in a licensed program has received a diploma, which is

²⁰ <http://www.khromets.in.ua/blog/hromca/zapilicenzuvannataakreditaciavisogoduhovnogonavcalnogozakladuvdnzsbezzagolovka>.

important for verifying the authenticity of an educational document by an employer or the administrator of an educational institution where someone plans to continue studies. Accreditation gives the right to award state-type diplomas and permits to the individuals who possess such diplomas to take on all posts that are financed from the government budget (teacher, instructor, civil servant, etc.). Besides this, an accredited program can compete for the distribution of state funds earmarked by the government for the preparation of certain specialists. That is, if an HTEIU is accredited in the specialization "Theology," and the government sets aside a specific number of government grants for education, and if someone wins the right and presents documents at a specific HTEIU, then the financing of that individual's education will be on the government's budget. Accredited programs compete in the government's marketplace of educational services and compete for funds provided by the government for the preparation of specialists in a particular area. Going through licensing and accreditation demands the fulfillment of requirements in material-technical matters (provision of auditoriums, dormitories, dining rooms, etc.), the area of curriculum (study and work programs, textbooks, and materials according to study disciplines), faculty (persons with appropriate education), and so on.

The law is also concerned with the preparation of academic personnel and the assessment of teaching and research-teaching faculty of an HTEIU. In the Concluding provisions of the new law of the Cabinet of Ministers, 4th paragraph, point 6, within a six-month period since the date of activation of the present law: "with the participation of representatives of religious organizations, to accept new normative-legal acts or introduce changes in existing [acts] with the goal of legal and institutional provision for the establishment and activity of graduate studies, doctoral programs, and specialized academic commissions of higher theological educational institutions and the additional state recognition of the academic degrees they award in academic specialties in the field of 'Theology,' and also the procedure for the granting of academic titles to the research-teaching staff of higher theological educational institutions."²¹ In this way, the new law makes it possible

²¹ "Law of Ukraine. On higher education. Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament (NUP), 2014, № 37-38, art. 2004." 5 January 2017. Accessed 12 February 2017. <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/ru/1556-18/page5>.

to establish programs on the educational, educational-research, and research level in the HTEIU.

Representatives of theological education from religious organizations have expressed concern over the possibility of losing the religious character of the HTEIU. After going through licensing, the HTEIU must accept requirements that are accepted by secular institutions. Therefore, in Article 3, State policy in the area of higher education, point 3 in the list in sub-section 2. State policy in the area of higher education is based on the following principles: "3) Higher education shall be free from the influence of political parties and religious organizations (except for higher theological education institutions)."²² This principle extends to the HTEIU, since all the HTEIU are established in accordance with Article 11 of the Law of Ukraine "On freedom of conscience and religious organizations" by religious centers (administrations) for the satisfaction of needs in the preparation of qualified personnel for their own religious structures, and therefore the requirement that religious organizations should not influence them would contradict the basic law according to which the HTEIU are established and exist. The same logic holds in Article 32, Principles of activity, basic rights, and obligations of the higher educational institution in item 4 in the list of principles in sub-section 1. The activity of a higher educational institution is carried out according to the following principles: "4) independence from political parties, social and religious organizations (except for higher theological educational institutions)"²³; and also in Article 40, Student self-government in the third sub-section: "3. Organs of student self-government operate according to the principles of voluntarism, collegiality, transparency, electivity, and accountability of organs of student self-government; the equal rights of students (trainees) to participate in student self-government; independence from the influence of political parties and religious organizations (except for higher theological education institutions)."²⁴ The autonomy of the

²² Law of Ukraine. On higher education. Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament (NUP), 2014, № 37–38, art. 2004." 5 January 2017. Accessed 12 February 2017. <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/ru/1556-18/page>.

²³ Law of Ukraine. On higher education. Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament (NUP), 2014, № 37–38, art. 2004." 5 January 2017. Accessed 12 February 2017. <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/ru/1556-18/page3>.

²⁴ "Law of Ukraine. On higher education. Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament (NUP), 2014, № 37–38, art. 2004." 5 January 2017. Accessed 12 February 2017. <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/ru/1556-18/page3>.

HTEIU is also strengthened in Article 42, Selection, hiring, and release from responsibility of the administrator of a higher theological educational institution in point 5: "5. The hiring of administrators of higher theological educational institutions is regulated by their charters (regulations), as registered in the established legal order."²⁵

This article indicates that higher theological educational institutions in the process of hiring administrators are not guided by the Law of Ukraine "On higher education," but rather by the procedure outlined in their own charter (regulations). That is, this article completely excludes the influence of the state on the hiring of HTEIU administrators. Besides this, every HTEIU maintains its own tradition of establishing administrative organs and hiring administrators. Article 44, Conditions of admission for study in institutions of higher learning, in section 5 outlines the specifics of the HTEIU in establishing the conditions of admission: "5. The specifics of acceptance to study in higher theological educational institutions is regulated by their own charters (regulations), registered in the proper legal order."²⁶ This article permits the HTEIU to establish limits on the acceptance of applicants with consideration for the requirements established by the religious center (administration) that founded the HTEIU. This may be a limitation based on confessional membership, sex, or other more specific requirements.

The norms of the Ukrainian educational law mentioned above have, in fact, unblocked the possibility of state recognition of the educational activity of higher theological educational institutions,

²⁵ "Law of Ukraine. On higher education. Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament (NUP), 2014, № 37–38, art. 2004." 5 January 2017. Accessed 12 February 2017. <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/ru/1556-18/page4>.

²⁶ "Law of Ukraine. On higher education. Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament (NUP), 2014, № 37–38, art. 2004." 5 January 2017. Accessed 12 February 2017. <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/ru/1556-18/page4>.

and beginning from 6 September 2014 when the Ukrainian law “On higher education” was put in force, every HTEIU of Ukraine could make use of the provisions, new education laws, and rights. The norms of educational law enumerated above are directed at present and future HTEIU of Ukraine. But educational law also takes into consideration past HTEIU. Thus, in the concluding provisions of the new law of the Cabinet of Ministers in the third paragraph, point 6, during the six-month time period since the present law was put into force: “To develop a system for state recognition of documents on higher theological education, academic degrees, and academic titles of persons who will, from the time the present law is adopted would receive education, defend dissertations in pursuit of academic degrees and receive academic titles in higher theological educational institutions, the charters (regulations) of which will be registered in the established legal order.”²⁷ In fulfillment of the demands of the law a provision was accepted by the Cabinet of Ministers, “On state recognition of the documents of higher theological education, academic degrees, and academic titles granted by higher theological educational institutions” dated 19 August 2015 № 652.²⁸ This provision defined the procedure for recognition. The result of recognition must be a certificate of government recognition of a document of higher education, a state-type diploma of a Candidate (Ph.D.) or Doctor of Science upon recognition of an academic degree, and a state-type attestation of a docent or professor upon recognition of an academic title. Provision is also made (point 4) for acceptance for study by the decision of the Academic commission of the educational institution to which the student has applied (without the decision on recognition by the Ministry of Education and Science). As of 5 May 2016, Order № 678/28808 was put into effect: “Several issues concerning state recognition of documents of higher theological education, academic degrees, and academic titles”²⁹ and “The position of

²⁷ “Law of Ukraine. On higher education. Newsletter of the Ukrainian Parliament (NUP), 2014, № 37–38, art. 2004.” 5 January 2017. Accessed 12 February 2017. <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/ru/1556-18/page5>.

²⁸ “Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Decree of 19 August 2015 № 652. Concerning state recognition of documents of higher theological education, academic degrees, and academic titles presented by higher theological educational institutions.” Accessed 20 February 2017. <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/ru/652-2015-%D0%BF/paran11#n11>.

²⁹ “Decree of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. Several issues concerning state recognition of documents of higher theological education, academic degrees, and academic titles.” Accessed 22 February 2017. <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0678-16>.

the Commission on government recognition of documents of academic degrees and academic titles.”³⁰ In the decree, the activity of the Commission is detailed and examples are given of the documents that will be presented upon recognition. By means of the Decree of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine № 836, dated 15 July 2016, the composition of two commissions on the recognition of documents of higher education was confirmed, and also (separately) concerning the recognition of academic degrees and titles. Thus, since 15 July 2016, the process of government recognition has begun. The first session of the two commissions took place on 8 September 2016.³¹

New legislation in the area of theological education in higher theological educational institutions has resolved an array of problems and set the course of development for the immediate future:

- The law maintains autonomy from the Ministry of Education and Science;
- The law gives the right to, but does not require accomplishing the process of licensing and accreditation. However, upon completing accreditation, an HTEIU can grant a state-type diploma;
- The law allows a religious organization to directly influence the process of determining educational policy, principles, and the activities of student government;
- The state does not determine the process of selection and does not influence the designation of leadership of an HTEIU;
- Upon licensing and accreditation, significant concessions are provided for by the law for the opening of graduate and doctoral programs, and dissertation commissions in the specialization “Theology,” as all the documents of the faculty of an HTEIU are acknowledged as the equivalent of state documents. This significantly simplifies the procedure of the state legalization of educational and research programs of an HTEIU;
- The legislation corrects the historic injustice of depriving the rights of persons who have received documents of education, scholarly degrees,

³⁰ “Decree of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine 08.04.2016 № 381. Position of the Commission on state recognition of documents of academic degrees and academic titles.” Accessed 16 February 2017. <http://zakon3.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0679-16>.

³¹ “MESU commissions on the recognition of diplomas and academic titles in theology.” IRS. 12 September 2016. Accessed 19 February 2017. http://www.irs.in.ua/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1727%3A1&catid=34%3Aua&Itemid=61&lang=uk.

and scholarly titles in an HTEIU, and their documents, if they were granted prior to 6 September 2014, may be recognized according to a corresponding procedure to government documents. This allows such persons to work in state institutions: clerks, instructors, teachers, as well as to enroll in Master's, postgraduate, and doctoral programs of state and foreign HTEIU.

The most recent history of theological education on Ukrainian territory may be divided into three periods: first, 1922–1987 –the development of education on the Ukrainian territory when it was part of the USSR; second, 1988–2013 –liberalization of the attitude to theological education in the USSR and during the period of Ukrainian independence; third, 2014 to the present –the change in status of theological education in the context of new legislation on education.

During the first period (1922–1987) the development of theological education on Ukrainian territory when it was part of the USSR was characterized by a hostile relationship to religion in general and to theological education in particular. Theological education in Ukraine before the beginning of the Second World War (1931–1941) was completely liquidated; in 1987 there was one theological educational institution in Ukraine: Odessa theological seminary.³² During the second period –1988–2013 –that of the liberalization of the attitude to theological education in the USSR and Ukrainian independence, it was permitted for religious organizations to establish theological educational institutions. The beginning of the liberalizing attitude was connected to the celebration of 1000 years since the Christianization of Kievan Rus'³³ and with the introduction on 1 October 1990 of the Law of the USSR "On freedom of conscience and religious organizations."³⁴ An analogous law dated 24 April 1991 was put into effect in Ukraine³⁵ (which at that time was part of the USSR) and that law, with a few alterations, has remained in force to the present time. According to this law it is forbidden to finance

³² This was an Orthodox intermediate-specialist educational institution that prepared candidates for ordination to the priesthood.

³³ The contemporary territory of Ukraine was part of Kievan Rus' (ninth to eleventh centuries).

³⁴ "The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Law on freedom of conscience and religious organizations." Accessed 10 February 2017. <http://www.r-komitet.ru/vera/26.htm>.

³⁵ "On freedom of conscience and religious organizations. Record of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR (NUP), 1991, № 25, art. 283». 8 September 2016. Accessed 20 February 2017. <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/987-12>.

anti-religious propaganda; free registration of religious organizations is permitted, including the founding of mid- and higher-level theological educational institutions. The state does not interfere in the formation of theological educational institutions founded by religious organizations. The need for material-technical, personnel, and instruction-methodological support is determined by the religious centers (administrations) that founded them, and often by the administration of the theological educational institution itself. In 1988 the work of Kyiv Theological Academy and Seminary (Orthodox) was renewed. Simultaneously, in 1990, the Ivano-Frankivsk Theological Academy of the Ivano-Frankivsk eparchy of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and the Lviv Theological Seminary of the Major Archeparchy of Kyiv-Galicia of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church began their activities. In 1991 the Higher Seminary of the Diocese of Kamyanets-Podilskyi of the Roman Catholic Church was started. In 1988, the first students of Rivne Theological Seminary of Christians of Evangelical Faith (Pentecostal) began their studies; in 1989, Odessa Theological Seminary was founded by the Evangelical Christian-Baptists. As of 1 January 2016 Ukraine officially counted 129 higher theological educational institutions.³⁶

Beginning in 1997, it became possible to open theological programs in secular educational institutions. Since that year "Theology" has figured in the list of subjects and specializations according to which one can prepare for the educational-qualification level of Bachelor, Specialist or Master. In 1999 this law was made use of by National University "Ostroh Academy" in receiving state licensing and later accreditation to prepare first Bachelors, and later Masters with the specialization "Theology." Representatives of religious organizations and theological educational institutions began to express the wish to receive state licensing and accreditation, but there were two significant barriers. The first was the lack of faculty in theological institutions who had state diplomas of higher education (Bachelor, Master) or academic degrees (Candidate of Science, Doctor of Science), and this was one of the requirements for completing the process of licensing and accreditation. The second barrier was the necessity of registering a new juridical

³⁶ "Religious organizations in Ukraine (as of 1 January 2016)". RISU. 11 April 2016. Accessed 10 February 2017. <http://risu.org.ua/ua/index/resources/statistics/ukr2016/63055/>. The official statistics need to be made more exact because besides functioning institutions, those that have ceased to exist but have not yet been removed from the state registration list are still counted.

entity of an educational enterprise with the status of a private educational institution, because only such a juridical entity had the right to undertake licensing and accreditation. In fact, this had to be two juridical entities united in a single academic process. Besides this, some theological institutions were cooperating with secular institutions. Thus, Lviv Theological Seminary of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church affiliated its program with that of the Theology program of Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU). Students at the seminary did parallel studies at UCU and upon completion received a seminary diploma (which was not recognized by the government) and a state-type diploma as a Bachelor or Master of Theology from UCU. In 2006, because of the desire to enlarge Bachelor's level preparation, theology disappeared from the Bachelor's level, while preparation on the level of Specialist and Master remained; meanwhile those levels could only be entered by those holding a Bachelor of Philosophy diploma. This led to certain difficulties and it was necessary to create a specialization in Theology as part of the Bachelor of Philosophy, and to fill out other philosophical disciplines with theological content. Theology returned on the Bachelor's level in 2011, but with significant innovations; upon accomplishing licensing and accreditation it was necessary to indicate the confession of the theology being licensed. According to this innovation in 2012 Classical Private University (Zaporizhia) received state licensing and later accreditation. For the second period of development of theological education it is typical for patterns to exist in parallel: those of theological educational institutions established by religious centers (administrations) and secular educational institutions established in accordance with the law on higher education. During this period there were attempts to make government recognition of educational activity possible (of already existing educational programs) as well as the results of educational activity (documents of higher education, academic degrees, and academic titles).

During the third period, since 2014 until the present, the change in the status of theological education has been within the context of the new educational legislation. The Law of Ukraine "On higher education," which was put into effect on 6 September 2014, provided a number of innovations. First, Theology became a separate branch of learning with its own list of specialties. Second, upon accomplishing licensing and accreditation as a higher theological educational institution, instructors' documents of higher education, academic degrees, and academic titles presented by the HTEIU are recognized as corresponding to state-type

documents. That is, this has removed the obstacle to the HTEIU having the right to present state-type documents. Third, the law preserves the religious character of the education given while permitting state licensing and accreditation. Fourth, the law provides for the development of procedures for government recognition of documents attesting to higher education, academic degrees, and academic titles granted before this law was in effect (prior to 6 September 2014). As of the end of 2016 only one higher theological educational institution has made use of the opportunities presented by the new legislation: Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church –Kyiv Patriarchate, which in 2015 received government licensing and later accreditation of its Bachelor’s and Master’s programs, opened a state graduate program (preparation for Doctor of Philosophy), and a doctoral program (preparation for Doctor of Science); they opened a specialized academic commission for the defense of dissertations for the Doctor of Philosophy degree, and also a scholarly publication “Works of the Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy,” which was included by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in its list of professional publications with the specialization “Theology.”³⁷ During the third period both theological and secular institutions have received identical rights to the development of theological education and graduates of theological institutions now have the right of recognition of documents issued by the HTEIU. During the third period the government has taken a political step which has abolished discrimination against the educational rights of persons who have studied at higher theological educational institutions.

In the territory of contemporary Ukraine, systematic theological education has not been part of larger educational programs; the preparation of theologians has been accomplished in theological educational institutions, overseen by religious leaders, and has been oriented first of all toward meeting the needs of religious organizations. An exception is the Yuri Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, where, on 4 October 1875, a Greek-Orthodox theological faculty was established.³⁸ “The Soviet domination of Bukovina interrupted the history of the

³⁷ In Ukraine, to defend a dissertation leading to the academic degree of Candidate of Science (Doctor of Philosophy), one must have four articles in professional publications, while sixteen articles must be published in pursuit of the degree of Doctor of Science. Therefore, the inclusion of a journal in the list of professional publications raises its prestige.

³⁸ “The history of theological separation.” Ukrainian Orthodox Church–Kyiv Patriarchate. 19 July 2012. Accessed 21 February 2017. <http://www.bogoslov.cv.ua/index.php?id=192&>

theological faculty and it was only in December 1993 that the historical justice was reestablished.”³⁹ Strictly speaking, in 1993 the philosophy-theology faculty was reestablished⁴⁰ with a separate theological department⁴¹ and during the academic year 1994–1995 students began to be prepared in theological programs. Thus, Chernivtsy National University has become the first secular university to offer theological studies. Preparation is accomplished at the first (Bachelor’s) and second (Master’s) educational levels, but the educational programs do not have government licensing and accreditation; graduates receive a church diploma which is recognized by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church –Kyiv Patriarchate (UOC KP). A male student may be ordained as a priest in the UOC KP. Most students receive a parallel secular degree, studying by extension in specializations such as Religious Studies, History, Philology, Economics, and so on. The theology department is oriented strictly toward meeting the requirements of the UOC KP, and the fact that the specialization has no government licensing and accreditation does not affect employability within church structures. The theological department is more like a church structure with a high degree of autonomy within the faculty and the university; on the website the department is titled, “Department of Theology of the Philosophy and Theology Faculty of Yuri Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University.”⁴² As of 2016, there is a total of 62 students in all programs at all levels.

At National University “Ostroh Academy” (OA)⁴³ the educational program at the second (Master’s) level was licensed in 2006 and accredited in 2007. The theological program at OA is oriented toward Christian theology, attempting to maintain parity between the three branches of Christianity, thus this orientation

action=art.

³⁹ “The history of theological separation.” Ukrainian Orthodox Church–Kyiv Patriarchate. 19 July 2012. Accessed 21 February 2017. <http://www.bogoslov.cv.ua/index.php?id=192&action=art>.

⁴⁰ “Our faculty.” Yuri Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University. Accessed 10 February 2017. <http://ftf.chnu.edu.ua/index.php?page=ua/02about>.

⁴¹ “Worship during Cheesefare week, on the Last Judgment.” Ukrainian Orthodox Church–Kyiv Patriarchate. 19 July 2012. Accessed 21 February 2017. <http://www.bogoslov.cv.ua/index.php?category=1>.

⁴² The situation may change in the near future since the department is beginning the state licensing process to be followed by the accreditation of its educational programs.

⁴³ “Ostroh Academy.” Accessed 20 February 2017. <http://www.oe.edu.ua/>.

toward an area of study gives the basis for the theological teachings of Christianity in general. In addition, this program was conceived and developed for the preparation of teachers of theological-moral education at the middle-school level (teachers of religious subjects). At OA there is also a theological program at the second (Master's) level of education. The Theology Department coordinated the work of educational programs in theology, which was later joined to the Department of Religious Studies.⁴⁴ In 2016, no students have applied to the theology program.

At Ukrainian Catholic University⁴⁵, preparation in theological study programs has been carried out since its founding in 2002, but since 2006 state accreditation in the specialization of Theology was granted for the first (Bachelor's) level, in 2007 for the second (Master's) level, and in 2013 for the third (teaching-research) level. UCU holds the status of a Higher Private Educational Institution and is part of the system of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, but is closely related to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. This allowed it to receive full Vatican accreditation for its theological programs at all levels in 2015. In its theological educational programs it presents Greek Catholic theology. In addition, students from Lviv Theological Academy of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church study in its theological programs; in seminary they receive additional pastoral disciplines and worship practices. Upon completion, students receive a state-type diploma from UCU and a church diploma from the seminary. In the structure of UCU there is a philosophy-theology faculty with six departments: Theology, Pastoral Theology, Philosophy, Church History, Biblical Studies, and Liturgy.⁴⁶

Ostroh Academy and Ukrainian Catholic University actually began the processes for state licensing and accreditation at the same time; in the same year, they received state accreditation at the second (Master's) level, while UCU managed to receive accreditation for its Bachelor's program before that level of theological study was discontinued. At UCU there are 53 students in the Bachelor's program; no students have applied for the Master's program.

⁴⁴ http://www.oa.edu.ua/ua/departments/humanities/human_religion/.

⁴⁵ <http://ucu.edu.ua/>.

⁴⁶ "Departments." Philosophy-theology faculty. Accessed 15 February 2017. <http://theological.ucu.edu.ua/kafedry/>.

In 2008, Carpathian University named after Augustin Voloshyn (CUAV) received state accreditation for the second (Master's) level education with a specialization in Theology.⁴⁷ Similar to UCU, CUAV established a partnership with Uzhgorod Ukrainian Theological Academy (UUTA) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC). Cooperation between the two institutions was formulated as cooperation: "The theological-educational-academic complex Saints Cyril and Methodius Uzhgorod Ukrainian Theological Academy (a higher theological educational institution of the UOC) –Carpathian University named after Augustin Voloshyn (a private higher educational institution of the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science)."⁴⁸ Because in December 2006 the specialty of Theology was withdrawn from the Bachelor's level, the study program of CUAV in the area of Philosophy was adapted to the theological program of UUTA.⁴⁹ The educational program of CUAV is oriented to Orthodox theology. The theology and philosophy faculty is part of CUAV's structure.⁵⁰

Volodymyr Dahl East Ukrainian National University opened a theological specialization; since 2008 the work of the educational program has been carried out by the Department of Practical Philosophy and Theology. Orthodox theology predominates.⁵¹

Beginning in 2011 as noted above, in accordance with legislation on education, upon accomplishing licensing and accreditation in the specialization "Theology" an educational institution was obliged to indicate the confession of the theology that would be taught. During this period, four institutions accomplished licensing and accreditation. In 2016, no students applied to the educational programs.

⁴⁷ Carpathian University. <http://www.kau.com.ua/>.

⁴⁸ "A brief history of the founding." Ukrainian Theological Academy of Carpathian University. 07 February 2013. Accessed 21 February 2017 <http://uuba.org.ua/pro-akademiyu/istoriya-stvorenniya>.

⁴⁹ Ukrainian Catholic University did this as well.

⁵⁰ "The dean of Ukrainian Theological Academy (Theology-Philosophy Faculty)." Carpathian University. Accessed 19 February 2017. <http://www.kau.com.ua/zagalna-informatsiya/struktura-universitetu/dekani/499-dekan-ukrajinskoji-bogoslovskoji-akademij-bogoslovsko-filosofskij-fakultet.html>.

⁵¹ Educational programs in Theology have ceased due to military action in the Donbass region.

In 2011, King Daniel of Galicia Ivano-Frankivsk University of Law received state accreditation of the first level (Bachelor's) and in 2012 of the second level (Master's)⁵² with the Greek Catholic designation of confession.⁵³ In the description of the theology programs the university stated, "Theology can be valuable not only from the practical point of view as 'training' for future priests, catechesis for adults, or a means of growing in theological life, but also as a full-fledged scholarly discipline. By its own existence and activity, this specialization is called to more clearly emphasize that there can be no contradiction between service to God and the love of wisdom."⁵⁴ In 2014, 28 students entered the Bachelor's program; as yet there are no students in the Master's program.

Classical Private University (CPU, Zaporizhia) received state licensing in 2012 and in 2016 accreditation for preparation of the first (Bachelor's) level of education as well as licensing for the second (Master's) level of education in the specialization "Theology." CPU received licensing in the specialization "Theology (Orthodoxy)." It should be noted that CPU coordinates its activity with Metropolitan of Zaporizhia and Melitopol Luka (Kovalenko) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Besides this, the Department of Theology and Humanities of CPU⁵⁵ coordinates its activities with the Education Committee of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.⁵⁶ The basic contingent of students is made up of priests of the Zaporizhia and Melitopol Eparchy of the UOC. The curriculum for the Bachelor's program has almost the same disciplines as the UOC seminary. In 2016, no students applied to the theology program.

⁵² In the nomenclature of the old education legislation, accreditation was granted for the education-qualification level of "Specialist," which is the equivalent of the second (Master's) level of education according to the new education legislation.

⁵³ "News of the university." King Daniel of Galicia Law University of Ivano-Frankivsk. Accessed 13 February 2017. <http://iful.edu.ua/>.

⁵⁴ "Law." King Daniel of Galicia Law University of Ivano-Frankivsk. Accessed 13 February 2017 <http://iful.edu.ua/specializations/>.

⁵⁵ "The department of theology and humanities." Classical Private University. Accessed 10 February 2017. http://virtuni.education.zp.ua/info_cpu/node/4420.

⁵⁶ "The department of theology of the Classical Private University, City of Zaporizhia." Educational committee of the Most Holy Synod of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Accessed 20 February 2017. <http://uchkom.church.ua/kafedra-bogoslovya-klasichnogo-privatnogo-universitetu-m-zaporizhzhya/>.

In 2013, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University and South Ukrainian National Pedagogical University named after K. D. Ushynsky were licensed for the first (Bachelor's) level of education. In the first instance Metropolitan Onufriy of Kharkiv and Bogodukhov of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and in the second Metropolitan Agafangel of Odessa and Izmail of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church were participants and initiators in the establishment of theological programs. It is interesting that the requirement of legislation on education in force at the time to indicate confession as part of licensing in the specialization of "Theology" was ignored by Ushynsky University, while Karazin University interpreted the idea of "denomination" quite broadly, meaning "Christian tradition." There have been no applicants to these theological programs at either institution for four years.

Beginning in 2014, as we have already noted, new legislation on education was introduced that allows state licensing and accreditation for higher theological education institutions. One institution has taken advantage of this law, namely Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy (KOTA) of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate. In 2015, KOTA received state licensing and in 2016 received state accreditation of the first (Bachelor's) and second (Master's) levels. A graduate studies program was also opened –preparation for the third (teaching-research) level (Doctor of Philosophy) and a doctoral program (preparation on the research level, or Doctor of Science) in specialization 041 Theology. KOTA has also opened a special academic commission for dissertation defenses, and a scholarly journal, *Works of KOTA*, has been added to the list of the Ministry of Education and Science as a special publication in the area of theology. In 2016, there were 62 students in the Bachelor's program and 18 in the Master's program.

Thus, we see that there are full cohorts of students in the theological programs of Yuri Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University," Ukrainian Catholic University, King Daniel of Galicia Ivano-Frankivsk University of Law, and Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy. These educational institutions coordinate their activity with their corresponding churches, which assures them of a steady flow of applicants. However, in the example of Classical Private University we see cooperation with the Ukrainian Orthodox Church where, in 2016, the institution lost its first level students. This is connected with the fact that CPU's activity was limited for the most part to the Zaporizhia and Melitopol Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and most of its students were priests in that bishopric, which meant that

its potential was exhausted within four years. This situation pertains also to Carpathian University named after Augustin Voloshyn, whose work was coordinated through the Uzhgorod Ukrainian Theological Academy which was the theological higher learning institution of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. However, when Viktor Bed, its rector went over to another Orthodox jurisdiction, the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, it lost all its theological applicants. Educational institutions that do not directly coordinate their activity with the corresponding religious organizations – National University “Ostroh Academy,” Volodymyr Dahl East Ukrainian National University, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, South Ukrainian National Pedagogical University named after K. D. Ushynsky – have either lost applicants, as did Ostroh Academy and Dahl University, or in the course of four years are unable to attract more students, as in the case of Karazin University and Ushynsky University. Therefore, it should be recognized that a crisis does exist in Ukrainian higher learning institutions; the only successful theological programs are those that work with specific churches and both at the local and national level. In the near future, there will be a serious challenge for theological programs in secular institutions due to the increasing number of higher theological educational institutions that are receiving state licensing and accreditation. Therefore, in the next five years, there will be a significant transformation of secular higher learning institutions. If they want to be players in the field of theological education, they will need to look for new forms of cooperation with religious organizations or seek new forms of theological programs that would be significantly different from theological education offered by theological educational institutions.

The preparation of specialists in the area of Theology at the educational-qualifying level of “Bachelor” has taken place since 2006. The preparation of specialists in the area of Theology at the educational-qualifying level of “Master” and “Specialist” has taken place since 2007.

In 2013, a Master's program and Doctoral program in specialty 09.00.14 – Theology – was opened at the National Pedagogical Dragomanov University.

In Ukraine, the Euro-Asian Accrediting Association functions in the area of theological education. The mission or main purpose of the E-AAA is “to assist educational institutions in the countries of Eurasia to reach international standards and strengthen their academic and theological level corresponding to accreditation.” No less important for the Association is to unite specialists in the field of theological education and help the young schools of Euro-Asia with programs, books, and other professional support.

The E-AAA is part of a family of regional accreditation agents that includes evangelical educational institutions around the world. All of them are part of ICE-TE (International Committee on Evangelical Theological Education).

The Euro-Asian Accrediting Association is the youngest of the associations that are part of the family of evangelical agencies involved with accreditation of Christian educational institutions. Work on its founding began in 1993 but it was officially established in 1997.⁵⁷

In secular institutions the Christian theology of only two confessions is presented –Orthodoxy and Greek Catholicism. However, as we have already noted, theological education is developed in institutions founded by religious organizations. If we analyze the network of such institutions, most represent Christian confessions –189; but there are also theological institutions of other religions: Jewish –7; Islamic –3; Neo-paganism –3; Hare Krishna –3.⁵⁸

Instructors of theological programs of higher theological education programs in Ukraine have diplomas of higher theological education and diplomas of academic degrees which were received within the system of theological educational institutions. In addition, certain individuals are drawn to teach in the higher theological educational institutions of Ukraine with state-granted diplomas in various specializations, such as Comparative Religion, or History.

Instructors in theological programs of secular educational institutions usually have their education and academic degrees in related fields, since during the Soviet period and until 2002 there was no such thing as a specialization in

⁵⁷ <http://e-aaa.info/2010-11-28-21-56-06/eaaa.html>.

⁵⁸ “Religious organizations in Ukraine (as of 1 January 2016). RISO. Accessed 17 February 2017. <http://risu.org.ua/ua/index/resourses/statistics/ukr2016/63055/>.

Theology. It is important to note that at National University “Ostroh Academy”⁵⁹ the educational program at the second (Master’s) level was licensed in 2006, accredited in 2007, and in 2008 the first state diplomas of Master of Theology were granted. At Ukrainian Catholic University⁶⁰ preparation for theological educational programs commenced from the moment of its founding in 2002, but in 2006 the first level (Bachelor) and in 2007 the second level (Master) of state accreditation were received, while in 2009 graduates received the first Master of Theology diplomas of a state-accredited type.

Unfortunately, during this period not one academic degree in Theology with a state-accredited diploma has been received. The first defense of a Doctor of Philosophy degree in specialization 09.00.14 –Theology –will take place on 28 April 2017. The candidate for the degree is Roman Soloviy, Research Fellow of the Center of the Study of Religion of National Pedagogical Dragomanov University and Director of the Slavic Research and Resource Center of the Euro-Asian Accrediting Association.^{61 62}

In order to teach theology an instructor must have no less than a Master’s level diploma. For teaching at the Bachelor’s level a Doctor of Philosophy (Candidate of Science) degree is desirable and at the Master’s level it is required, while teaching at a post-graduate level is only for Doctors of Philosophy with at least ten years’ teaching experience, or persons who have a Doctor of Science diploma. Confessional institutions are oriented to the secular system, but often the requirements are not observed to the letter because the requirements in confessional institutions are in no way controlled by the state; therefore, everything depends on the administration of the institution or the administration of the religious organization that founded the institution. But this situation will gradually change as confessional institutions move toward state licensing and accreditation.

We suppose that at the present moment of the development of theological education in Ukraine there is a number of problems that must be surmounted.

⁵⁹ “Ostroh Academy.” Accessed 20 February 2017. <http://www.oa.edu.ua/>.

⁶⁰ <http://ucu.edu.ua/>.

⁶¹ <http://reformation500.e-aaa.info/index.php/speakers/item/300-roman-soloviy>.

⁶² https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%A1%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B2%D1%96%D0%B9_%D0%A0%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%B0%D0%BD_%D0%9F%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B8%D1%87.

The first is the estrangement of religious institutions from secular ones and the search for models of cooperation and interaction with theological education.

It is important that religious and secular theological programs do not duplicate each other.

Secondly, we must compensate for the loss of theological education that took place during the period of Ukraine's atheistic past.

This means the activation of original theological research in the Ukrainian language, and the preparation and publication of textbooks in basic theological disciplines. Third, it is necessary to strengthen work on the translation of theological classics and leading contemporary theological research in Ukrainian. Fourth, Ukrainian scholarly journals are needed in the field of theology; the number at the present time is inadequate.

Fifth, the integration of the Ukrainian theological education with theological education in Europe and worldwide is insufficient; for this, more active participation is needed in international educational projects in the field of theology as well as publications in leading foreign theological books, magazines and periodicals.

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Biogram

Vitaliy Khromets –docent w katedrze Kulturoznawstwa Narodowego Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego im. Mychajła Drahomanowa. Tytuł magistra (2004) oraz doktora (2007) uzyskał na Wydziale Filozofii Kijowskiego Uniwersytetu Narodowego Tarasa Szewczenki (Katedra Religioznawstwa). Od 2013 habilituje się w katedrze Kulturoznawstwa Narodowego Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego im. Mychajła Drahomanowa, od 2011 jest wykładowcą Wydziału Teologii Kijowskiej Akademii Teologicznej i Seminarium Duchownego. Jest członkiem grupy roboczej Ministerstwa Edukacji i Nauki Ukrainy w zakresie opracowywania aktów podrzędnych w sprawie procedury uznawania dokumentów dotyczących

szkolnictwa wyższego, tytułów naukowych i tytułów naukowych wydawanych przez uczelnie wyższe oraz szefem grupy do spraw teologicznych, naukowych i metodologicznych komisji szkolnictwa wyższego Rady Naukowo-Metodycznej Ministerstwa Edukacji i Nauki Ukrainy. Jest autorem ponad 40 artykułów naukowych i opracowań metodologicznych. Adres e-mail: v.l.khromets@gmail.com