

Necessary Clarifications

The Unitive Ecclesiological Statement:

The Original Text, Translations, and Misinterpretations

Since it has come to our attention that there is much talk on various websites (mainly those in languages other than Greek) concerning the correct meaning of certain paragraphs in the **Unitive Ecclesiological Statement**, “The True Orthodox Church in Opposition to the Heresy of Ecumenism: Dogmatic and Canonical Issues,” signed jointly by the True Orthodox Christians of Greece, Romania, and Russia on Friday, March 8/21, 2014, in Megara, Attica (Athens), Greece, the Holy Synod of the Church of the True Orthodox Christians of Greece provides the following clarifications:

(a) Only the original Greek text, which was exclusively and solely signed, is considered the authentic **text**.

(b) The foreign-language translations of this **text** that are in circulation are subject to due emendations by the Chancery of our Holy Synod, whenever any divergence from the meaning of the Greek original is noted.

(c) Even the Greek original, given that it was written in simple *katharevousa* [puristic Greek], as befits an official ecclesiastical document, is not easily accessible to the wider public, and is itself thus susceptible to misunderstandings and misinterpretations.

• For this reason, already in a meeting of the Holy Synod on February 21/March 6, 2014, “the necessity of producing a paraphrase of this text in simpler language in the near future was noted.”

- Such a paraphrase will not be a mere rendition into Modern Greek, but will at the same time include hermeneutical clarifications, wherever and whenever this is deemed necessary.

(d) Finally, we would observe that the **text** in question is certainly not invested with the authority of a dogmatic decree of a Pan-Orthodox Synod, and is thus patient of improvements.

- Wide-ranging and dutiful theological discussion of this **text** will be of the greatest help in a better and more precise formulation of the Decree (Ἔσχος) and Canons of a Major Synod of the True Orthodox Church, when this, by the Grace of God, is convened.

From the Chancery of the Holy Synod

Wednesday, March 13/26, 2014