

REVIVAL OF THE UKRAINIAN AUTOCEPHALOUS ORTHODOX CHURCH IN 1989–1990: FROM «INFORMAL ORGANIZATION» TO THE NATIONALLY ORIENTED DENOMINATION

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Abstract. *The paper is focused on «the third revival» of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church at the peak of Perestroika transformations in the USSR in 1989–1990. The purpose of this paper is to show the transformational process of the UAOC revival from «informal organization» to the Orthodox national-democratically oriented denomination which became one of the elements of the struggle for independence of Ukraine and its separation from the religious influence of Moscow.*

The key role in the latest formation of the UAOC was played by the Ukrainian intellectuals, who sought the revival of autocephaly as a display of the national-cultural, political and religious awakening of the Ukrainian nation. The public's struggle for legalization and establishing of UAOC communities in the field, and the resistance to this process on the part of the KGB, the party nomenklatura, local authorities, and the Russian Orthodox Church are described.

The authors are convinced that the relocation of the UAOC revival to the Western Ukrainian lands was situational and connected not so much with the national raising in the clergy environment, but with its desire to preserve the parishes, and the whole movement for autocephaly was coming from below, that is, from national and religious mobilization of the communities. The authors also argue that on the tide of the movement for the sovereignty of the Ukrainian SSR, the autocephaly of Orthodox Church in 1990 was actively supported by leading political groups and people's deputies who sought to use the religious factor in the struggle for independence.

Keywords: *informal organizations, autocephaly, UAOC, perestroika, Mstyslav (Skrypnyk), independence, interdenominational relations*

Full version of this paper is available in Ukrainian.

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