



THE METHODIST VOICE FROM CROATIA

SUMMER / FALL 2024



TOGETHER IN UNITY

*"Behold, how good and pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell together in unity!"*

PSALM 133

The Psalmist was delighted with the sight he saw as he joined a gathering of like-minded people, who together worshiped the one True God of Israel.

ADRIA CONNECTION GATHERING

Similar to that happening in biblical history, this April a group of like-minded conservative Methodist believers from Europe came together

with partners from the GMC in America. We worshiped, discussed together in brotherly union, and prayed for the future vision of the churches in Europe. This was the second gathering under the name "Adria Connection", and the main topic of this gathering was: "How can we organize a solid theological education in Europe?" Representatives from our partner institutions Asbury Seminary and United Theological Seminary provided many helpful ideas in that regard. Encouraged by this event, we are already making plans to organize a similar gathering next Fall in one of the other European Methodist churches.

NEW CHURCH FACILITY IN ZAGREB DEDICATED

I am pleased to report that our church in Zagreb is now able to hold worship in our new facility – that we now fully own! This is huge progress for us, since we no longer have a mortgage to pay on any more. We are thankful for all our supporters who, by their gifts, helped us to build this new GMC headquarters for the church and mission in Croatia.

The opening Dedication Ceremony was held on May 12th. It was a festive event that was well attended. A small choir blessed us by singing old church hymns and we had a joyful fellowship





together. This new facility represents a good restart of the Methodist presence in the city of Zagreb. It is larger, so we are now able to accommodate more people at our services. There

is still some construction work to be done, such as the kitchen and on the exterior of the building. So please pray that we are able to finish this work soon.

UPDATES ON CHRISTIAN ADVOCACY

In the Spring and Summer, representatives of the Church were invited as guests in the Parliament of Croatia. In May, Pastor Vatroslav met with the parliament representative Marijana Petir. She is known as someone who cares for the protection of Christian values and stands for the rights of persecuted Christians around the world. In July, our lay leader Martina Lukić was invited to talk about the religious rights of Christians today. In a secularistic Europe there are more and more obstacles for churches and believers to overcome. Mrs. Lukić has openly presented the view that the Church supports public prayer and that Judeo-Christian values must be protected and promoted if we are to have a stable, righteous and healthy society.

Because of our openly pro-Israel stance during the difficult time in Israel, Pastor Vatroslav was invited to the Embassy of the State of Israel. Israeli

Ambassador Koren recognized and thanked him for his stand and for the articles he published on public media. "There are not many friends of our State today, but you are one for sure," remarked the Ambassador.



SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS HELD

Our church children participated in a youth camp in Zagreb, as well as a retreat in the Croatian Hill area. The camps are held in partnership with another institution. We are very thankful for this opportunity, because it allows our youth to have a blessed time with teenagers from other churches, including youth refugees from Ukraine.

LOOKING AHEAD, we are praying often for the upcoming GMC General Conference in Costa Rica. Pastor Vatroslav will be attending this event. In the Fall, we plan to improve our presence on social media and leverage other platforms as evangelistic tools. We will also be planning some new events for the coming Advent season.

We are so very thankful for all of your prayers and support.

In His love,
Pastor Vatroslav

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