

Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

REVIEWED

by Prof. Lyudmil Martinov Malev, Ph.D
member of the scientific jury (ord. RD 38-50/27.01.2023)
under competition for PROFESSOR (SG No. 100 of 16.12.2022)
professional direction 2.4 Religion and theology
(Introduction to Church History with History of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church)
announced by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"
Faculty of Theology

Contest details

The first meeting of the scientific jury was held on 03/02/2023. At it, the candidacy of Associate Professor Pavel Nikolov Pavlov for associate professor was presented. He is the only participant in the competition. The scientific production presented by him, as well as his teaching employment, correspond to the requirements of the current regulations for holding the academic position of "professor". Based on this, as well as the remaining set of documents for participation in the competition, I find that the procedure has been followed.

Applicant data

Prof. Dr. Pavel Pavlov is a teacher at the Faculty of Theology of the University of St. Kliment Ohridski" by 1994 г. as part-time, and from 1998 г. as a regular assistant. He graduated from Theology in 1993 г. and through 1998 г. semester and history at the same university. In the period 1996- 1998 г. is majoring in

(History of the Balkan Churches) at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

He has a doctorate from the National Academy of Sciences, in the scientific specialty 05.01.17 "Theology" (Diploma from VAK with No. 30394/19.04.2006) His dissertation is on the topic: "Sofia - a religious center in the 16th century."

In 2013 г. after a successful competition, he was appointed as an "associate professor" at the Faculty of Theology at the SU.

At the beginning of his teaching work, he led exercises on History of the Orthodox Church, History of the BOC and General History of the Church. From 2000 г. takes the lecture courses on History of the Orthodox Church and History of the BOC. In 2005 г. became a lecturer on Introduction to Church History, and in 2008 г. - in History of Orthodox theology in the 20th century and in Hagiology. At the moment, he leads numerous lecture courses in the bachelor's and master's programs of the Faculty of Theology of the SU.

In addition to the academic community, Associate Professor Pavel Pavlov is also known among the clergy of the BOC, as well as outside its borders. His scientific creativity and participation in a number of inter-church forums, commissions and personal contacts contribute to this.

For the Bulgarian society, he is known for his numerous public events, frequent guest appearances in the electronic media, the significant number of printed publications, as well as his dedication to the pilgrimage work. This makes him a recognizable person with authority and high appreciation, which every holder of the academic title "professor" should undoubtedly possess.

Scientific production and scientific contributions

The candidate participates in the competition with the following scientific production: one monograph, three studies and 17 articles.

The monograph Pavlov, P., Gancho VeleV Ganchev (1921-1998) or about the craft of the theological historian in the twentieth century, Sofia, University Press, reviewed, 2022, 286 p., ISBN 978-954-07-5628-8) is the most - the major scientific work of associate professor P. Pavlov in his annexes List of publications submitted for participation in the competition. It is dedicated to the life, teaching activity and part of the documentary heritage of the prominent Orthodox teacher and theologian of the last century Gancho VeleV Ganchev, with whose lively speech and written work a number of generations of seminarians and students were trained, some of whom today are recognized scholars- theologians. The author has approached in a way too original to achieve the ultimate goal of this kind of research. As he himself points out, moving away in time allows us to see more clearly and come back to reality. "Of course, if we want and can see, and we are honest and fair enough to appreciate the reality of their feat of perseverance and self-denial, in the testimony of the truth... Persons who went against the current, and that means - against himself, against his worldly and material affirmation". The monograph is primarily based on the long and in-depth study of the teacher's life, work and works.

At the beginning, Assoc. Prof. Pavlov in a short but very meaningful text outlines the grievances and roots regarding the contemporary state of historical theology in our country (I. Against time: Towards the future through history). Then, with a smooth transition, he goes to the main content of the study, in the center of which is the person Gancho VeleV. II. The man Gancho VeleV - a biographical sketch. III . Charisma – The Teacher and his methods and personal charm among his students. It is pointed out that his teaching is not banal teaching, but Ministry; IV . Gancho VeleV and historical theology - a clear and categorical statement of indisputable merit for the level of this part of theological science in Bulgaria.

A non-standard but successful approach can be seen in relation to the Annexes placed after the Conclusion. They are numerous and contain more than 100

pages. At the same time, even from a strictly critical point of view, it is difficult to point out any of them that is not important, is not in its place and does not contribute to the overall positive result. Here we find a description of the archive, the bibliography of Gancho Velev, the short bibliographies of professors of historical theology, correspondence, spoken words, and also works having the character of scientific research.

To all the outstanding merits of this work I would add the author's undeniable ability to write in a distinctly scholarly style and language, and at the same time the narrative is easy to read and powerfully affecting. The latter is helped by Assoc. Prof. Pavlov's personal conviction in the high value of the work and legacy of these predecessors, and in particular Gancho Velev, and the appreciation and gratitude owed to them. The indicated Bibliography is exhaustive and includes only sources and titles directly related to the content, without pursuing a self-serving increase in their number.

The rest of the works submitted for participation in the competition (3 studies and 17 articles) were published in authoritative scientific collections and magazines, most of which were peer-reviewed. This proves their value, contribution nature and high evaluation in scientific circles. The wide field of his scientific interest is striking, which is why they could hardly be thematically grouped. Publications devoted to issues of Christianity in the Bulgarian lands and the life of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church predominate. But there are also those that are in the field of the General History of the Church. In terms of chronological scope, a wide range is also noticeable - from the dawn of Christianity to its present state. All this testifies to the preparation and skills of Prof. Pavlov. Undoubtedly, we are talking about an extremely erudite and well-prepared theologian and church historian, who feels equally comfortable in the problems of the early church, as well as in its medieval period, through the Renaissance to the present day. All this once again convinces that the candidate is fully ready and worthy to be titled with the title "professor".

In the tender documents, the candidate indicated participation in 13 research projects as a team member and as a leader. He took part in authoritative scientific conferences and seminars (most of them with international participation). On the face of it, editorial and translation work is significant in terms of volume and quality. To a large extent, this scientific activity of his is familiar to me and my attitude towards it is positive.

Another important point proving his level of maturity and the effectiveness of his work is the presence of an impressive number of master's and doctoral students who have successfully completed their training and defended their theses and dissertations under his scientific guidance.

At the end of this part of the review, I will point out the presence of dozens more scientific publications and activities listed in references, but not included (for obvious reasons – over-productivity) in the competition list.

The entire scientific output of Prof. Pavlov is known and appreciated in specialized circles, which is evident from the citation reference.

Contributions

In the report on contributions, Associate Professor P. Pavlov has formulated 5 groups of contributions, giving them general characteristics and specific dimensions. As a reviewer, I fully accept the reference and its content. First of all, I would point out that the impressive scientific output itself, the bachelors, masters and doctoral students trained, the important projects carried out, etc., together constitute the most significant contribution. Specifically, from the scientific publications presented for the competition, scientific contributions in the following thematic areas can be indicated: I. Theology, history, Christianity, Church. Assoc. Prof. Pavlov has been researching possibilities for a contemporary presentation of the topic of the relationship between Christianity and history in a more theological way for years. This goes through a search for the authentic roots in the new church historiography, since in the historical

rapids of the 20th century, part of this tradition has been lost and it is necessary to build by restoring a modern Christian vision of history.

II. Bulgaria and Christianity: history, sanctity, Church, culture An important contribution to the researches of Prof. Pavlov in recent years is his effort to discover the foundations of the Bulgarian, which is built on Christian statehood, the independent local church (with its own liturgical language) and culture, placed on evangelical values. In a time of synergy between the three, the examples of Bulgarian holiness and statehood were born. The Exarchy with its covenants (God and Bulgaria) is a natural restorer of this previously built model.

III. History of Orthodox theology in Bulgaria in the 20th century A distinctive feature of Prof. Pavlov's work is the emphasis on representatives and schools of Orthodox theology of the 20th century, especially those from Bulgaria or related to it. The core of their activity is in the Faculty of Theology and the Sofia Theological Seminary, to the illumination of whose stories the candidate contributes.

IV. Contemporary theological issues Assoc. Prof. Pavlov's efforts to participate in the contemporary discussion about the place of the Church and theology in building modern society on the basis of Christian values are also beneficial. Here, the criticism of the atheistic models inherited from the communist period is also emphasized. The opportunity for a modern interdisciplinary dialogue based on the patristic tradition has not been missed either.

V. Original scientific contributions of the habilitation work All previously mentioned contribution moments find their focus in the habilitation monograph. It is built mainly on unknown source material, which is now being published for the first time. An attempt has been made to show the image of the authentic Christian historian - the teacher Gancho VeleV and through him to throw a methodological bridge to the complex second half of the 20th century, which remains extremely difficult to research. The work is also not indifferent to the themes of memory, continuity, the future and their theological reading, especially from the point of view of the personal view applied in it. Pavlov, P.

The teacher Gancho Velev Ganchev (1921–1998) or about the craft of the theological historian in the twentieth century.

Teaching job

In the Faculty of Theology of the SU, the candidate teaches and is the author of lecture courses on a wide range of disciplines in the field of historical and practical theology.

The candidate participates in the development of curricula and syllabi. He was the scientific supervisor of graduates and doctoral students

It is evident from the attached reference that he has the required horarium.

Prof. Dr. Pavel Pavlov and I have no co-authored publications and we do not jointly participate in scientific projects.

Based on the above, I support the candidacy of Prof. Dr. Pavel Pavlov, I will vote YES and recommend to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Theology of SU "St. Kliment Ohridski" that he be elected as a PROFESSOR in professional direction 2.4. Religion and Theology (Introduction to Church History with History of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church).

Associate Professor Dr. Lyudmil Malev