Abstract
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2. Title: The legal principles of the activity of religious associations on the example of modern Russia.
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5. Specialization: 48.03.01 – Theologie ("Orthodox Theologie")
6. Bachelor degree
7. Higher School of political management and innovation management
8. Chair of Language Arts and Pedagogic Technologies of Philological Education
9. Topicality of the research: Topicality of the research. The presented research work is devoted to the study of the legal principles of the activity of religious associations on the example of modern Russia. There arises a need for the solution of the task of building relations between the state and religious associations in the context of the legal sphere. These problems in modern Russia have a stable and dynamically developing character. This circumstance explains the topicality of this theme devoted to the study of the modern state of the legal status of religious associations in modern Russia and the possible ways of its development in the course of the realization of the constitutional law.

Objective of the research is to carry out an over-all analysis of the system of the legal norms and criteria of the relations between the state and religious associations on the territory of the Russian Federation, as well as the study of the structural elements of the legal mechanisms of the provision of the freedom of conscience and religion in modern Russia.

Tasks:
— to give the definition and carry out the legal analysis of the legal status, legal principles, and legal norms, establishing the legal basis of the mechanisms of the freedom of conscience and freedom of religious associations in the Russian Federation;
— to examine the qualitative features of religious associations with the subsequent clarification on the indicated basis of the notions “religious association”, “religious organization”;
— to study and analyze the history of the formation and development of religious associations in Russia;
— to explore the activity of religious associations as a significant institute of the political system of the society;
— to determine the legal principles of the interrelations between the state and religious associations in modern Russia;
— to render concrete as regards the legal status of religious associations the legal regulation of the activity of religious associations in the Russian Federation.

**Theoretical and practical significance** is that on the basis of the constitutional norms and modern norms of the other branches of the law we clarified the terminological apparatus related to the subject matter under study and formulated the theoretical theses and principles of the interrelations between the state and religious associations in the Russian Federation.

**Results of the research:** as the research work showed, today the problem consists in the determining of the status of religious associations in the context of the complexity and ambivalence of the process under way in the sphere of the interrelations between the state and religious associations. The existence and development of different approaches to the problems of law, religions, society, etc. has a dynamically developing character in the Russian Federation.

Having examined the problems and perspectives of the development of the relations between the state and religious associations and their impact on the political process in the society it is worth noting that the dynamics of the legal status of the religious associations in the RF on the basis of the federal law “on the freedom of conscience and religion” reflects the development of the status of the individual.

The scientific analysis of the domestic legislation regulating the legal status of religious associations gives sufficient ground for highlighting the essential elements of the status, particularly for the understanding of the fact that the legal standing of religious associations is based on the legally recognized ability of every individual to the freedom of conscience and freedom of religion, voluntariness of membership, the possibility of the
restriction of the right to the freedom of conscience and membership of religious associations in the cases stipulated by the law.

The development of the positive tendencies in the sphere of the relations between the state and religious associations is achievable through the improvement of control on behalf of the Ministry of Justice of the RF over the activity of religious associations, coordination of the control activity with the territorial bodies of the Ministry of Justice in the subjects of the Russian Federation, and also through the improvement of the forms, methods and principles of the state control over the activity of religious associations in the conditions of the growing extremist orientation.

**Recommendations.** The materials of the research may be used to prepare information materials on the legal principles of the activity of religious associations on the example of modern Russia, also to elaborate the corresponding course of lectures within the framework of law and history disciplines, and it can also be used at the lessons in Sunday schools. The concrete results obtained in the course of the research can be used in the theological researches. The main theoretical theses and conclusions can also be used in the academic process when delivering specialized courses in the legal principles of the activity of religious associations in the Russian Federation as the methodological material for teaching religious studies and legal disciplines.