



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Minutes of
Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference

Fredrikstad, Norway
October 19- 23, 2016

The 2016 – Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference met from October 19th – 23rd in Fredrikstad, Norway. The United Methodist Church in Norway hosted the conference. The Opening worship service was held in PetriKirken, Kjølberg. The Sunday worship service was held at The Cathedral of Fredrikstad (Domkirken) The conference sessions took place at Scandic City Hotel.

The conference began on Wednesday, October 19 with an opening worship service at PetriKirken. Bishop Eduard Khegay gave the sermon with the theme, “In God we live, move and exist – proclaiming good news”. The scripture was from Luke 4: 14 -30. Worship leaders were Rev. Øyvind Helliessen and Rev. Svein Veland. Offering for the local churches.

At the morning worship with communion on October 20 Bishop Rosemarie Wenner (Germany) preached the sermon with the theme “In God we live, move and exist – in the midst of fear and hostility”. The scripture was Luke 6: 27-38. Worship leader was Rev. Gunta Grina-Sologuba, (Latvia). Offering for seminar for migrant church leaders.

Delegates were invited to an event with a local touch at the United Methodist Church, Fredrikstad in the evening of October 19.

At the morning service with communion on Friday, October 21, Bishop John Yambasu delivered the sermon with the theme, “In God we live, move and exist – among the marginalized”. Worship leader was Rev. Hilde Marie Øgreid Movafagh (Norway). The scripture was Lukas 7: 36 -50. The offering for Sierra Leone was 1412 Euro.

At the morning worship with communion on Saturday, October 22, Bishop Patrick Streiff (South and Central Europe) delivered the sermon with the theme, «In God we live, move and exist offering healing and hope”. The worship leader was Rev. Yulia Starodubets (Russia)-. The scriptures were from 2 Corinthians 8-11 and Luke 8: 40-56. The offering for Ukraine was 827 Euro.

The morning worship on Sunday, October 23, Bishop Christian Alsted (Nordic and Baltic area) held the sermon with the theme, “In God we live, move and exist – moving into the future”. The scripture was Luke 13: 6-17. The service was held at the Cathedral of Fredrikstad. The offering was for Funds for Mission in Europe.

The Northern Europe and Eurasia central conference was concluded with lunch at the Cathedral of Fredrikstad.

MINUTES

On October 20, 2016

The 2016 Session of The Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference gathered at the Scandic City hotel, Fredrikstad, Norway with the following agenda:

Agenda

1.1 Central Conference Members and Guests

1.2 Plan of organization and Rules of Order

1.3 Focus groups

1.4 Christian Conferencing

1.5 Agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved.

1. Opening

- a. Rollcall
- b. Quorum and setting the bar of the conference
- c. Chairs: Bishop Eduard, Khegay, bishop Christian Alsted, bishop John Yambasu and Bishop Patrick Streiff
- d. Election of other officers:
 - i. Secretary: Ole Birch
 - ii. Assistant secretary: Johanna Lundereng
- e. Elections
 - i. Committee to approve the minutes: Hilde Marie Øgreid Movafagh, Jørgen Thaarup, Meeli Tankler and Bishop Alsted.
 - ii. Tellers: Elena Chudinova, William Lovelace, Gita Medne
- f. Presentation of guests- greetings given throughout conference
- g. Plan of organization and Rules of order
- h. Approval of agenda
- i. Election of officers of the Focus groups
 - i. Focus Group
 1. Chair: Thomas Risager
 2. Secretary: Sarah Tiainen
 - ii. Focus Group
 1. Chair: Ullas Tankler
 2. Secretary: Sergei Nikolaev
 - iii. Focus Group
 1. Chair: Monica Lundgren
 2. Secretary: Mark Nelson
 - iv. Focus Group
 1. Chair: Audun Westad
 2. Secretary: Anne-Karin Rolfsen

2 Addresses

- a. The Laity Address- Vaselyna Babych and Audun Westad
- b. The Episcopal Address – bishop Eduard Khegay and bishop Christian Alsted
- c. New Book in the series “Nordic perspectives on Methodism” was presented by Hilde Marie Øgreid Movafagh. Social aspects and diaconia are the focus in this book.

3 Episcopal Election

- a. Presentation for the Episcopacy
- b. Closing of the nomination process
- c. Episcopal election

4 Christian Conferencing in Focus Groups

5 Reporting from the Focus Groups

- a. The Episcopal Address – debate based on reports from the Focus Groups
- b. The Laity Address – debate based on reports from the Focus Groups
- c. Report Focus Group A

Addresses:

1. The Episcopal Address (primary focus)
2. The laity Address (secondary focus)

Reports:

3. 3.2 Personal Report Bishop Christian Alsted
4. 3.5 N&B Committee on Episcopacy
5. 3.12 Episcopal Fund Nordic and Baltic
6. 3.14 Nordic and Baltic Area Fund
7. 3.17 N Means Wesleyan Theology
8. 3.18 Auditing reports N&B

Resolutions:

9. 4.2.2.4 Resolution on Migration
10. 4.2.2.5 Resolution on Abuse

- d. Report Focus Group B

Addresses:

1. The Episcopal Address (Primary focus)
2. The Laity Address (Secondary focus)

Reports:

3. 3.1 Personal report Bishop Eduard Khegay
4. 3.4 Eur. Committee on Episcopacy
5. 3.9 European Methodist Council

6. 3.13. Episcopal Fund Eurasia
7. 3.15 Area fund Eurasia
8. 3.19 Auditing Report Eurasia Petition
Non-disciplinary petition
9. 4.2.1.3. EMC Community Agreement
Resolution
10. 4.2.2.3 Resolution on Climate

e. Report Focus group C

Addresses:

1. The Laity address (primary focus)
2. The Episcopal address (secondary focus)

Reports:

3. 3.3 Report CC Council
4. 3.6 Reports from the Annual Conferences
5. 3.7 Statistical reports
6. 3.8 EBDAC
7. 3.10 EMC e-academy
8. 3.11 Report General Conference
9. 3.16 NE & Eurasia Central Conference Fund
10. 3.20 Budget Plan Central Conference Fund

Non-disciplinary petitions

11. 4.2.1.1 up-to-date records of membership
12. 4.2.1.2 For Denmark Annual Conference to continue as an annual conference

f. Report Focus Group D

Addresses:

1. The Laity address (primary focus)
2. The Episcopal address (secondary focus)

Reports:

3. 4.1.1. § Membership of the Northern Europe and Eurasia Conference Council
4. 4.1.2 Introduction
5. 4.1.3 § 405 Election and Consecration of bishops
6. 4.1.4 § 418 Limitation on years of service
7. 4.1.5 § Composition
8. 4.1.6 § 547 Conference agencies
9. 4.1.7 § 549NE & Eurasia CCC
10. 4.1.8 § Church property
11. 4.1.9 § 551 Other central conference work
12. 4.1.10 § 552 Apportionments to the Episcopal Fund and the General

Administration Fund

13. 4.1.11§635 Conference board of ordained ministry

14. 4.1.12 Educational standards

15. 4.1.13 §267 Certified lay speaker

16. 4.1.14 Addition to the historical statement

Resolutions:

17. 4.2.2.1 Resolution: Greeting to the Council of Bishops

18. 4.2.2.2 Resolution: Resolution to express an opinion on an episcopal election in the Western Jurisdiction

6 Elections

7 The site for 2021 Central Conference Tallinn, Estonia

8 Other matters

Thursday, October 20, 2016

10.00 a.m.

RE. 1. Opening

Bishop Eduard Khegay opened the conference and welcomed delegates and guests from around the world.

Agenda Item 1.a – Roll Call

The assistant to Bishop Christian Alsted, Kirsten Hastrup, took the roll call. (See copy of the roll call agenda 1.1) It was determined that the Central Conference was duly called in accordance to § 542, 2 in NEEBod, and had a quorum. The bar of the conference was set to be chairs at round tables. All guests were seated in the back. Bishop Alsted and Khegay chaired the conference; they expressed appreciation at having Bishop Yambasu and Bishop Streiff chairing parts of the conference.

The Central Conference elected Ole Birch from Denmark as secretary and Johanna Lundereng from Norway as assistant to the secretary.

Committee to approve the minutes: Hilde Marie Øgreid Movafagh, Jørgen Thaarup, Meeli Tankler, and Bishop Alsted.

Members of the Central Conference Council (CCC) that are not delegates were elected as tellers: Elena Chudinova, William Lovelace, and Gita Medne.

Agenda item 1.f – presentation of guests

Bishop Alsted introduced our guests. The dean of the Fredrikstad Cathedral Jon Albert Ihlebæk greeted the Central Conference.

Greetings from official guests took place throughout the conference. Among the guests were; Rev. Terje Ådne, the general secretary of the Baptist Union and President of the Council of Churches in Norway, Bishop J. Yambasu from Sierra Leone, Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, Germany and Bishop Patrick Streiff, Central and Southern Europe, bishop emer. Hans Växby, vice-president elect Mrs. Jill Baker, United Kingdom, rev. Olle Alkholm and rev. Charlotte Thaarup, the Uniting Church in Sweden. Bishop Øystein Olsen was unable to join us at the Central Conference because of illness and the conference was united in prayer for his well-being.

Agenda Item 1.g – Plan of organization and rules of order

Bishop Christian Alsted presented the plan of Organization and rules of Order. This is document 1.2 of the conference documents. Ole Birch presented two amendments from the CCC.

- Proposal to delete option i under point 7b, “Business procedure”. “To dismiss the motion” because it has the same effect as option iv “to reject a motion”.
- Second amendment on point 9b – “The conclusion of the debate”. “Before the conclusion of a debate the presiding officer shall restate the motion and opportunity for amendments must be given” The sentence fragment after the word “motion” is suggested deleted.

Both amendments were approved.

The rules of order were unanimously approved, as amended.

Agenda Item 1.i – Focus Groups

Bishop Christian Alsted explained the principles and roots of Christian Conferencing as taught by John Wesley.

Bishop Khegay asked for approval of the four proposed Focus Groups.

Sergei Kim wanted to nominate another person to chair focus group D, but he was unable to bring another name.

As chairs and secretaries, the following were elected: Focus Group A: Thomas Risager, Chair, Sarah Tiainen, Secretary. Focus Group B: Ullas Tankler, Chair, Sergei Nikolaev, Secretary. Focus Group C: Monica Lundgren, Chair, Mark Nelson, Secretary. Focus Group D: Audun Westad, Chair, Anne-Karin Rolfsen, Secretary.

Re. 2 – Addresses.

Bishop Khegay chaired this session.

Agenda item 2.a- The Laity Address

Vaselyna Babych and Audun Westad presented the laity address. The address was assigned as primary focus for groups C and D and secondary focus for groups A and B.

Hilde Marie Øgreid Movafagh presented the second book in the series, “Nordic perspectives on Methodism – Social holiness, Diaconia & present Challenges in our World Today”. The authors that were present gave a short summary of their articles. The book was available for purchase at the conference.

Thursday, October 20, 2016

1.00 p.m.

Bishop John Yambasu chaired this session.

Agenda item 2.b -The Episcopal Address

Bishop Eduard Khegay and Bishop Christian Alsted presented the Episcopal address. The address was assigned as primary focus to groups A and B, secondary focus for groups C and D.

Bishop John Yambasu led the conference in prayer for the bishops.

A video from Denmark’s annual conference was shown.

Bishop Rosemarie Wenner officially greeted the Central Conference on behalf of the German Central Conference. She invited everyone to the European Methodist Festival, which will be held May 10 – 13, 2018 at Cuxhaven in Bremen, Germany.

Ole Birch presented the concept of “Speed Debating” as a method for discussing the addresses. Ten topics hosted at 10 different tables. The session allowed for visiting five tables and guests were welcome to participate. Migration, the financial situation of the CC, LGBTQ people in the UMC, missional church/church development, Methodist

Identity, ministry with children and young people, ethics in ministry, climate change, connectionalism and church unity, and the post-Christian society were the topics to discuss.

No reports were written, as the purpose was to raise our level of understanding in preparation for the focus groups.

Thursday, October 20, 4:45 p.m.

Bishop Khegay presented a brochure about early Methodists in Eurasia chronicling the lives of Ivan Vasilievich Vuksta, Anna Eklund and Yonghuk. It is available for a cost of 2 euros. In addition, a free pamphlet about the vision of the UMC in Eurasia for 2016-2022 was available at the back of the conference room.

Re. 3 – Episcopal Election Bishop Khegay welcomed Bishop Patrick Streiff.

Bishop Patrick Streiff of central and southern Europe Central Conference presided over the next part of the session. He started by leading the conference in prayer. Chair of the episcopacy committee, Berit Westad was called forward to present the nominees. Then Leif Jacobsen and Elena Kitaeva prayed for leadership and blessings over the election process. Berit Westad informed about the nomination process. Bishop Christian Alsted was the only nominee for the election and he has accepted the nomination. The election took place on Saturday morning. Bishop Streiff asked if there were any other nominations in this plenary. There were none.

Agenda Item 3.a – Presentation of candidates for the Episcopacy

Bishop Alsted presented himself and his vision for the Nordic and Baltic episcopal area. Bishop Streiff opened for questions or remarks at the conclusion of Bishop Alsted's presentation. There was none.

Bishop Khegay resumed leadership of the session. Information about the evening program was given.

The Uniting Church in Sweden, represented by Olle Alkholm, greeted the Central Conference. He invited everyone to the next World Methodist Conference to be held in Gothenburg in 2021.

Jill Baker, representing the British Methodist conference and our 'mother church', greeted the Central Conference.

Friday, October 21, 2016

10.00 a.m.

Agenda Item 3.b – Closing of the nomination process

Bishop Streiff presided at the session. He asked again if there were any other nominations.

There was none. The nomination was closed and the election was opened.

Agenda Item 3.c – Episcopal election

Instructions on the voting procedure were given. There were 64 delegates, and thus it would take 42 votes to elect a new bishop. In the first ballot, there were 62 ballots for Christian Alsted, one invalid and one blank. Bishop Streiff announced the election of Christian Alsted.

The episcopal committee prayed individually for Bishop Christian Alsted and his family. Bishop Streiff congratulated Bishop Alsted and thanked his wife especially for all her support. Bishop Alsted thanked the Central Conference and asked for prayer, for discernment, grace and courage as we move forward.

A video from the Central Russian annual conference was shown.

President of the Council of Churches in Norway and the general secretary for the Baptist Union, Terje Ådne, greeted the Conference.

Bishop Yambasu, who has led inter-faith communities in the fight against Ebola in Sierra Leone, gave us insight into the struggle they experienced. An offering was given for the continued work in Sierra Leone. The offering came to a total of 1412 Euros.

A video from the Division of Ministry for Young People was shown. Representing our Central Conference in the ministry are Maria Thaarup Antorini, Andreas Fjodorov and Yulia Starodubets.

It was announced that a book about contemplative prayer written by Hilde Sanden-Bjønness would be published the following week.

Jørgen Thaarup presented his new book on the theology of John Wesley and the Danish, Lutheran theologian, Grundtvig. The book was available for purchase at the conference.

Room assignments for the focus groups were announced. The focus groups commenced directly after lunch from 1.00 p.m. until 5.15 p.m.

There was a short break from 5.15 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Re 5 – Reporting from the Focus Groups

Bishop Khegay presided over the session. From 5.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

A video from the Finland (S) annual conference was shown.

5.a Report from focus groups on the episcopal address

Motion to receive with the following recommendation was adopted.

1. To receive the address with the recommendation to send the part on Methodist Identity to all the local churches in the episcopal area, as well as points of characteristics from page 18, for discussion. We also want to ask the bishop if he thinks that it would be a

good idea to add something specifically about music and the different musical profiles in relation to worship (point e on page 18).

2. The episcopal address was received and referred to the Central Conference Council.

A video from the South Russia annual conference was shown.

Bishop Hans Vaxby led us in prayer as we concluded the session for the evening.

Saturday, October 22, 2016

10.00 a.m.

Bishop Alsted presided over the session.

Jon Løvland opened by leading us in song, "Open Hearts, Open minds, Open Doors".

5.b. The Laity address

On recommendation from the focus groups, the laity address was received with the following recommendations.

- That the address be sent to the annual conferences for study with the following recommended highlights:

Vaselyna's train image as an excellent reminder that we have to remain connected with God on a personal level as the foundation for all that we do.

The challenge of our conferences to recognize the differences that exist between us while still respecting each other and working together in such a way that we can move forward in our mission.

To encourage teaching in all our congregations that the essence of Christianity is God's love that inevitably must lead us in the process of sanctification which is the key to solutions of equality and the unity of the church.

- That the annual conferences seek ways to be relevant and active in their communities and speak up against injustice.
- That the annual conferences focus on gender issues and woman leadership in the church.

RESULT: The Central Conference voted in to receive the laity address. The recommendations were voted en block and added to the report.

The conference decided that the CC secretary could make editorial changes in the recommendations to make them more easily understood.

Bishop Khegay took over chair of the session.

5.c Report from focus group A

Petition 3.2 Personal Report Bishop **Christian Alsted**. Motion to receive. Received.

Petition 3.5 N & B Committee on Episcopacy Motion to receive. Received.

Petition 3.12 Episcopal Fund Nordic & Baltic Motion to approve. Approved.

Petition 3.14 Nordic & Baltic Area Fund Motion to approve. Approved.

Petition 3.17 Nordic Means Wesleyan Theology Motion to approve. Approved.

Report 3.18 Auditing Reports N & B Resolution Motion to receive the report and add to the minutes. Approved and added to the minutes.

Petition 4.2.2.5 Resolution on Abuse. Motion to adopt. Adopted.

Petition 4.2.2.5 – Migration Resolution. Motion to adopt. Adopted.

5.d Report from focus groups B

3.1 Personal report Eduard Khegay. Motion to receive. Received.

3.4 Eurasia Committee on Episcopacy. Motion to receive. Received.

3.9 European Methodist Council. Motion to receive. Received.

3.13 Episcopal Fund, Eurasia. Motion to refer to CCC Referred. 3.15 Auditing report Eurasia. Motion to refer to CCC. Referred.

As all necessary documentation wasn't available the Central Conference Council was given the authority to review the financial report and auditing report of the Eurasia Episcopal Fund and to make a final approval. 4.2.1.3 Motion to adopt the agreement of The Community of Methodist and Wesleyan Churches in Europe. Adopted. (By accident, two groups prepared this motion and came to the same conclusion.)

4.2.2.3 Resolution on Climate Change. Motion to adopt. Adopted.

- ▶ Recommendation: To adopt the resolution and refer it to annual conferences for further contextualization and implementation.

4.2.2.4 Motion to adopt resolution with recommendation. Adopted.

- ▶ "To speak against the hostile policy of ~~inhuman restrictions of~~ with regard to refugees and migration in our countries"

A video from the Finnish Annual Conference was shown.

Bishop Khegay took over as chair.

5.e Report from focus group C

4.2.1.1. Records of membership. Motion to reject the petition. Petition rejected.

4.2.1.2 Continuation of the Danish annual conference. Motion to adopt the petition. Adopted.

3.10 E-academy. Motion to receive the report with recommendations. Received.

- ▶ Recommendation: that future reports have more details about participants from our central conference, both teachers and students.

3.8 European Board of Alcohol and drug concerns. Motion to receive with recommendation. Received.

- ▶ Recommendation: that the report together with additional material be sent to the Central Conference Council with the hope that they will find the means for EBDAC to continue their work.
- ▶ The additional materials will be uploaded, but not included in the minutes.

Bishop Alsted took over as chair on this matter – 3.3.

3.3 Central Conference Council Report.

Questions were raised with regard to the transfer of local churches from one annual conference to another.

Motion to refer the question to the Central Conference Council for discussion and treatment later in the day. Referred.

The conference broke early for lunch. The Central Conference Council met to discuss questions raised in the plenary on calendar item 3.3 regarding the transfer of local churches from the Ukraine Modova Provisional Annual Conference to the South Russia Provisional Annual Conference.

Saturday, October 22, 2016

1.00 p.m.

Bishop Alsted presiding.

Church advisor from Norway, Jon Løvland, made an inspirational presentation about passing on church leadership to the next generation.

Focus Group C (continued)

3.3 Central Conference Council Report (continued).

Motion from CCC on transferring local churches between annual conferences:

For the next quadrennium the CC authorizes bishop Eduard Khegay with the consent of the Ukraine and Moldova provisional annual conference and the South Russia provisional annual conference and with the consent of the Central Conference Council to transfer local churches between the Ukraine and Moldova provisional annual conference and the South Russia provisional annual conference. Such changes must be reported to the Central Conference and they are interim until approved by the CC. Transfers made in 2012-2016 quadrennium are considered as interim.

Motion adopted.

Motion to receive the report. Received.

Bishop Khegay presiding.

3.6 Reports: Annual/provisional/district conferences. Motion to receive the annual conference reports with recommendation en block. Received.

- ▶ Recommendation: to use a few photos and videos at the next central conference.

3.7 Statistical reports. Motion to receive the report. Received.

3.14 Nordic and Baltic Area Fund. Motion to approve. Approved.

3.20 Central Conference Fund. Motion to approve the budget with recommendations. Approved.

- ▶ That if future budgets have a deficit, an explanation from where those funds will be taken.
- ▶ That future budgets show totals also in Euros based on a projected exchange rate.

Bishop Alsted presiding.

Patrick Streiff delivered his greeting from the Central and Southern Europe Central Conference.

5.f Report from focus group D

Bishop Alsted presiding.

4.2.2.1 To the Council of Bishops Resolution. Resolution adopted as amended by the plenary. Amendment to the seventh paragraph to the original resolution.

- ▶ *And that steps that further the divisions in our church have been taken at several ~~jurisdictional Conferences in the United States~~ levels of our church.*

4.2.2.2 Resolution to express an opinion on an episcopal election in the Western Jurisdiction. Motion to reject. Rejected.

4.1.1 § 612 2 Membership annual conference council. Motion to adopt as amended. Adopted.

- ▶ Amendments: Diversity is important for the annual conference council and its members should mirror the annual and district conference in regards to age , gender, geography and congregational affiliation
- ▶ The conference council ~~shall~~ should have equal numbers of clergy and lay members

4.1.2 Introduction to the NEECC BoD supplement. Motion to adopt. Adopted.

4.1.3 § 405 Election and Consecration of Bishops. Motion to adopt with amendments. Adopted.

- ▶ *Consecration* - of bishops takes place at the session of the conference at which election occurs or at a place and time designated by the conference. The consecration service may include bishops from other jurisdictional and central conferences. At least one elder and one lay shall participate in the consecration. It is strongly urged that the consecration service also include representatives from other Christian communions, particularly those with whom we have a formal agreement, that includes the mutual recognition of ministry and ordination. At least one representative from the laity must participate in the consecration. (~~see ¶¶ 124, 427.2, 1901 6, 105, 127, 131~~).

4.1.4

§ 418 Limitations on Years of Service. Motion to adopt the following amendment from the focus group. Adopted.

- ▶ Annual Conferences can decide which of the following two rules concerning limits of years of service they want to follow
- ▶ 1. *This is the current wording*
- ▶ The normal term for a district superintendent shall be up to six years, but this may be extended to no more than up to eight years at the discretion of the bishop, in consultation with the cabinet and the district committee on superintendency.

- ▶ No superintendent shall serve for more than eight years in any consecutive eleven years. No elder shall serve as district superintendent more than fourteen years. In addition, consideration shall be given to the nature of superintendency as described in ¶ 401.
- ▶ 2.
- ▶ The normal term for a district superintendent shall be up to six years, but this may be extended to no more than up to ten years at the discretion of the bishop, in consultation with the cabinet and the district committee on superintendency.
- ▶ No superintendent shall serve for more than ten years in any consecutive thirteen years. No elder shall serve as district superintendent more than eighteen years. In addition, consideration shall be given to the nature of superintendency as described in ¶ 401.

4.1.5 § 541 Composition. Motion to adopt. Adopted.

4.1.6 § 547 Conference Agencies. Motion to refer to the Central Conference Council, and ask the council to consult with the Children and Youth organizations and bring a new petition in 2021. Referred.

4.1.7 § 549 Northern Europe & Eurasia Central Conference Council. Motion to adopt. Adopted.

4.1.8 Church Property (All Titles- In Trust)

§ 2501 Requirement of the Trust Clause for All Property. Motion to refer to Central Conference Council to ensure that all former names of the the annual conferences are correct and then include in the supplement to the 2016 Book of Discipline.. Referred.

4.1.9 § 551 Other Central Conference Work. Motion to refer to Central Conference, with the same rationale as 4.1.6. Referred.

4.1.10

§ 552 Apportionment into the Episcopal Fund and General Administration Fund. Motion to adopt. Adopted.

4.1.11

§ 635 General board of Ordained Ministry. Motion to adopt with following amendment. Adopted.

- ▶ (Starting at line 7.)
- ▶ The board membership shall ~~when possible~~ include both men and women and if possible ethnic persons minorities, attention should be paid to the demographic constituents of the conference, when possible at least one ordained clergyperson in the retired relationship, at least one ordained clergyperson in extension ministry, and when possible at least one young adult clergyperson in full connection age 35 or younger, and a district superintendent named by the bishop to represent the cabinet.

~~Two thirds of the members who are elders shall be graduates of seminaries listed by the University Senate.~~

4.1.12 Educational Standards Motion to adopt. Adopted.

Motion concerning 4.1.13

§ 267 Certified Lay Speaker. Motion to adopt. Adopted.

4.1.14

Addition to the Historical Statement. Motion to refer to Central Conference to ensure that all historical data and informtions are correct and then to include in the 2016 supplement of the Book of Discipline. Referred.

Bishop Khegay presiding.

6. Other elections. Kirsten Hastrup presented the nominations.

6.1 Central Conference Council 1.2

Central Russia: Sergei Pugachev (lay)

Denmark: Clergy: Ole Birch Lay: Maria Thaarup Antorini Substitutes: , Jørgen Thaarup (1), Bettina Pedersen (2)

East Russia & Central Asia: Yulia Starodubets (cl) Estonia: Meeli Tankler (lay) & Taavi Hollmann (cl) Finland-F: Pasi Runonen (cl, sick leave) Jori Brander (cl) Finland-S: Leif-Göte Björklund (cl).

Latvia: Edgars Sneiders (cl) Gunta Grina-Sologuba (cl, substitute)

Lithuania: William H. Lovelace (cl) North-West Russia: Elena Kitaeva (lay)

Norway: Clergy: Steinar Hjerpseth & Hilde Marie Ø Movafagh Lay: Per-Endre Bjørnevik, Johanna Lundereng Substitutes: Ingerid Hoggen (1), Svein Veland (2), Aart Huurnink (3), Stephanie Buadu (4) South Russia: Elena Melnikova (cl)

Ukraine & Moldova: Vasylyna Babych (lay)

Council elected.

6.2 The NEECC Youth Council from AC, See petitions 4.1.6 and 4.1.8

Estonia: Grete Lepa

Finland-F: Säde Loponen (lay)

Finland-S: Jennie McCrea, Hanna Wiik (substitute)

Latvia: Anna Dobele Lithuania: Andrew Erbele (cl), Laurijana Zimacké (substitute)

Norway: Kristin Tvedt

South Russia: Natalia Smirnova (cl)

Council elected.

6.3 Representatives to the European Methodist Council

Natalia Prokhorova (Eurasia)

Meeli Tankler (Estonia)

Jørgen Thaarup (Denmark)

Øyvind Helliesen (Norway)

Substitute: Marketta Jussila (Finland- F)

Council members elected.

6.4 Funds for mission in Europe

Øyvind Aske elected.

6.5 NEECC Judicial Court

Denmark: Ove Sørensen (cl,)

Finland-F: Jan-Markus Jeromaa (cl) Finland-S: Leif-Göte Björklund (cl)

Lithuania: Remigijus Matulaitis (cl), Jolita Pieciaitė-Erbele (substitute)

Norway: Steinar Hjerpseth (cl), (substitute: Ivar Granum)

Northwest Russia: Andrei Khen Su Kim (cl).

6.6 NEECC Committee on Investigation

Central Russia: Sergei Kim (lay)

Denmark: Ove Sørensen (cl)

Finland-F: Jori Brander (cl)

Norway: Jon-Erik Bråthen (cl)

Committee elected.

6.7 European Board on Alcohol and Drug Concerns

Ole Martin Andreassen was elected. Referred to CCC to determine an additional representative.

6.8 European Lay Seminar

Vigdis Merete Rønning was elected.

6.9 World Methodist Council

Bishop Christian Alsted (funded by the Central Conference Council)

Jørgen Thaarup (Denmark)

Bishop Eduard Kheday (Russia)

Øyvind Helliesen (Norway)

Council member elected

6.10 Conference on European Churches

Bishop Christian Alsted elected.

6.11 Already elected to GBGM Øyvind Aske

Ole Birch already elected to the Connectional Table.

7.0 The 2021 NEECC Site

February or March 2021 in Tallinn, Estonia. Approved.

Bishop Khegay expressed appreciation to the secretaries Ole Birch and Johanna Lundereng, and to Kirsten Hastrup for their work in preparation and during the conference.

Bishop Eduard Khegay closed the central conference in prayer.

Bishop Khegay declared that the 2016 Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference was closed.

Approved 28th November 2016

Hilde Marie Øgred Movafagh

Meeli Tankler

Jørgen Thaarup

Christian Alsted.