



The United Methodist Church  
Northern Europe & Eurasia Central Conference

Kaunas, Lithuania - October 17-21

The 2012-Northern Europe & Eurasia Central Conference met in October 17 – 21 in Kaunas, Lithuania. The United Methodist Church in Lithuania hosted the conference. Worship Services were held in the Šanciai United Methodist Church, whose church building were given back to the United Methodist Church in 1996, when the United Methodist Church reestablished its work in Lithuania. The conference sessions took place at Park Inn Hotel & Conference Center, where all delegates, guests and other participants stayed.

The Conference began on October 17 with an opening Worship Service where Bishop Christian Alsted preached, the message was entitled "Embrace the future or repeat the past". The scripture was Isaiah 43:18-19 and John 14:5-14. Worship leader was Rev. Remigijus Matulaitis.

At the morning worship with communion on October 18 Rev. Hilde Marie Øgreid Movafagh delivered the message entitled "Look, I am doing a new thing, now it sprouts up, don't you recognize it", the scripture was Psalms 139:1-8. Rev. Ekatarina Zubkova led the worship service. In the evening of October 18 the Šanciai Congregation invited the conference to a Lithuanian cultural evening with music, dance and singing. The evening ended with a devotional by rev. Andrus Kask.

At the morning worship with communion on October 19 bishop Charles Crutchfield delivered the message entitled "A word from the Dungeon", the scripture was Jeremiah 32:2-3; 6-8 and 33:10-11. Rev. Lasse Svensson led the worship service. In the evening the conference celebrated the ministry of the United Methodist Church in Sweden with historical glimpses at people and incidents of importance to the United Methodist Church in Sweden and in Scandinavia.

At the morning worship with communion on October 20 Rev. Camilla Klockars delivered the message entitled "Preparing a place for home-coming sons and daughters", the scripture was Joh. 4:34-35. Rev. Frøydis Grinna led the worship service. The ministry of Bishop Hans Växby was celebrated in the evening in the Šanciai United Methodist Church, the evening was led by the Eurasia Committee on Episcopacy.

At the closing worship service on October 21 Bishop Eduard Khegay was consecrated. Bishop Hans Växby preached a sermon, entitled "The Orbit". The scripture was Isaiah 6:8 and 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. Worship leader was Rev. William Lovelace.

The Northern Europe & Eurasia Central Conference ended with a special lunch reception for Bishop Eduard Khegay at Park Inn.

## Minutes

On October 18, 2012

the 2012 Session of  
The Northern Europe & Eurasia Central Conference

gathered at Park Inn Hotel & Conference Center, Donelaicio g. 27, LT-44240 Kaunas, Lithuania with the following:

### Agenda:

1. Opening
  - a. Roll Call (Ag It I.2)
  - b. Quorum and setting the bar of the conference
  - c. Election of officers
    - i. Presiding Officers (ex officio): Bishop Charles Crutchfield, Bishop Hans Växby, Bishop Christian Alsted
    - ii. Secretary: Assistant to the secretary:
    - iii. Persons to check the minutes

- d. Tellers
  - i. Team 1
  - ii. Team 2
- e. Approval of Plan of Organization and Rules of Order (Ag It I.3)
- f. Election of officers of Focus Groups nominated by the Presidium of the Central Conference Council (Ag It 1.4)
- g. Approval of the agenda
- h. Presentation of guests
- i. Greetings
- j. Other opening matters
- 2. Laity Address (Ag It II.2)
- 3. Episcopal Address (Ag It II.1)
- 4. Presentation of candidates for the episcopacy (Ag V.1)
- 5. Election: Bishop for Eurasia Episcopal Area (Ag V.1)
- 6. Laity Address and Episcopal Address
  - a. Reports from Focus Groups 1-4
  - b. Debate
- 7. Focus Group 1
  - a. Personal Report: Bishop Hans Växby (Ag It II.3)
  - b. Report: Eurasia Committee on Episcopacy (Ag It II.6)
  - c. European Methodist Council (Ag It II.11)
  - d. Episcopal Fund, Eurasia (Ag It III.2)
  - e. Eurasia Area Fund (Ag It III.4)
  - f. Petition: Judicial Court ¶ 547.3 a) (Ag It IV.9)
  - g. Petition: Adaptation of ¶665 and 635 (Ag It IV.10)
  - h. Petition: CC-council change ¶549 and delete ¶551 (Ag It IV.11)
- 8. Focus Group 2
  - a. Report: Central Conference Council (Ag It II.5)
  - b. Central Conference Fund (Ag It III.5)
  - c. 2013-Budget Plan, Central Conference Fund (Ag It III.9)
  - d. Petition: Delegates to Central Conference ¶ 541.1b (Ag It IV.7)
  - e. Petition: Delegates to Central Conference ¶ 541.1b (Ag It IV.8)
  - f. Petition: European Methodist Council ¶552 (Ag It IV.12)
- 9. Focus Group 3
  - a. Personal Report: Bishop Christian Alsted (Ag It II.4)
  - b. Report: Nordic & Baltic Committee on Episcopacy (Ag It II.7)
  - c. Episcopal Fund, Nordic & Baltic Area (Ag It III.1)
  - d. Nordic & Baltic Area Fund (Ag It III.3)
  - e. The Nordic Means for Wesleyan Theology (Ag It III.6)
  - f. Motion: Dissolution of the AC in Sweden (Ag It IV.3)
  - g. Motion: UMC in Sweden – Date of Dissolution (Ag It IV.4)
  - h. Motion: Change of boundaries of AC (Ag It IV.5)
- 10. Focus Group 4
  - a. Reports: Annual/Prov. Annual/District Conferences (Ag It II.8)
  - b. Statistical reports (Ag It II.9)
  - c. European Board of Drug & Alcohol Concerns (Ag It II.10)
  - d. European Methodist Council – e-Academy (Ag It II.12)
  - e. Auditing reports (Ag It III.7)
  - f. Items referred from 2009-CC to the CC Council (Ag It IV.1)
  - g. Motion: The Northern Europe & Eurasia Book of Discipline (Ag It IV.6)
  - h. Motion: Future editions of NEEBoD (Ag It IV.13)
  - i. Motion: Minutes and report from 2012-CC (Ag It IV.14)
- 11. Elections (Ag It V.2)
- 12. Closing Matters:
  - a. Resolutions
  - b. Next Central Conference – Time and place

c. Other Matters

**Re. 1 Opening**

Bishop Christian Alsted opened the conference, gave practical information and stressed that as Methodists in conference we are always gathered in Holy Conferencing. He emphasized that the purpose of our conference is together to discern God's will for his church, which implies respectfully listening to each other and expressing our thoughts. He said that there will be times during the conference, when the conference will be in prayer before a certain debate or before a decision is made.

**Agenda Item I.2 – Roll Call**

Lilli Uth and Tarmo Lilleoja made the roll call. It was determined that the Central Conference was duly called in accordance to ¶542,2 in NEEBoD, had a quorum, and thus was able to conduct its business in accordance to the agenda. The bar of the conference was set to be seats at tables. The first row on the right hand side was reserved for official guests.

The Central Conference elected Lilli Uth as secretary and Tarmo Lilleoja as assistant to the secretary. To check the minutes: Monica Lundgren and Jørgen Thaarup were elected. As tellers William Lovelace, Tove Odland, Fredrik Wegelius (group 1) and Gita Medne, Henning Bjerno, Camilla Klockars (group 2) were elected.

**Agenda Item I.3 – Plan of Organization & Rule of Orders**

Bishop Christian Alsted presented the draft Ag It I.3 Plan of Organization and Rules of Order, which was approved. With this approval of the Plan of Organization & Rules of Orders also Ag It IV.2, Petition: Election of Bishop ¶¶404 and 405 was adopted.

Bishop Christian Alsted emphasized that a member of the conference who wishes to speak must raise the numbered voting card. The member will then in due order be recognized and asked to go to the microphone. First the member must state name, conference, lay/clergy – then the member can continue.

Bishop Christian Alsted pointed to the nomination and elections procedures for the episcopacy and underlined, that further nominations could be made up until the first ballot. He stressed that it would help the process if possible further nominations were made as soon as possible.

**Agenda Item I.4 – Focus Groups**

Bishop Christian Alsted introduced the procedures of the Focus Groups. The proposed four Focus Groups were approved. As chairs and secretaries were elected: Focus Group 1: Andrei Khen Su Kim, chair; Vidar Bjerkseth, secretary. Focus Group 2: Audun Westad, chair; Thomas Risager, secretary. Focus Group 3: Andreas Elfving, chair; Meeli Tankler, secretary. Focus Group 4: Jørgen Thaarup, chair; Monica Lundgren, secretary.

Agenda Ag It III.7 was moved to Focus Group 2. Ag It IV.2 was included in Plan of Organization, and Ag It II.13 added to Focus Group 2. The proposed assignments of addresses, reports, financial statements, petitions and motions were approved.

**Presentation and greetings of guests**

Bishop Hans Växby presented and welcomed the official guests.

Bishop Patrick Streiff greeted the conference and stressed the close connection between the European Central Conferences. Bishop Streiff informed about the development in the Central and Southern Europe Central Conference, and told that the next Central Conference will include two new countries, Belgium and Romania.

Bishop Rüdiger Minor expressed his great joy for being together with the Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference again and gave an especial greeting to the Eurasian delegation.

Nicola Vidamour brought greetings from the Methodist Church in Britain, especially from reverend Roy Crowder who was unable to attend the conference. Bishop Christian

Alsted expressed our appreciation of the close connection to the British Methodist Church, and sent a greeting to Roy Crowder.

Bishop Rosemarie Wenner and Lasse Svensson joined the conference October 18 in the afternoon and were welcomed by Bishop Hans Växby.

On October 19, Vladimir Samoylov, general secretary of the Russian Protestant Association, was welcomed by Elena Chudinova. Vladimir Samoylov greeted the Central Conference and was present during the election of the new bishop for Eurasia.

Bishop Christian Alsted presented Bishop Charles Crutchfield, the Council of Bishops' representative; Bishop Charles Crutchfield will be in the chair of this 2012-Central Conference. Also Rev. Camilla Klockars from the Finland Swedish Provisional Annual Conference was presented. Camilla Klockars is the Nordic & Baltic Area-coordinator of the Church Planting project.

Bishop Christian Alsted read a greeting from the United Methodist Publishing House, The Publishing House gave all conference-participants a highly appreciated gift of books. The Central Conference sent its greetings and thoughts of gratitude to The United Methodist Publishing House.

### **Bishop Charles Crutchfield chaired the session.**

#### **Re. 2 - Agenda Item II.2 – Laity Address**

Rebekka Steinvig, Denmark Annual Conference, presented the Laity Address. The address was assigned to the four Focus Groups.

#### **Re. 3 - Agenda Item II.1 – Episcopal Address**

Bishop Hans Växby and Bishop Christian Alsted presented the Episcopal Address. The address was assigned to the four Focus Groups.

#### **Re 4 - Agenda Item V.1 – Presentation of candidates for the episcopacy**

Candidates for the Episcopacy in Eurasia Area, Lydia Istomina, Eduard Khegay and Sergei Nikolaev made a verbal presentation of themselves to the Central Conference. The presentations were distributed in written form after the presentation.

The chairs of the Committees on Episcopacy Yelena Chudinova and Elisabeth Englund asked the candidates one by one to answer the following questions prepared by Northern Europe & Eurasia Central Conference's two Committees on Episcopacy: What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the church in Eurasia in the next five years, and how would you help the church to face them? What particular gifts of yours will you bring to the Episcopal Ministry? What would be the balance of humbleness and power & authority in Episcopal Ministry? What are your strongest and weakest sides both in leadership and in life? What is the most cherished moment of your life?

The 3 nominees took turns meeting with large groups of delegates in two separate rooms, where the delegates had the opportunity to ask further questions.

#### **Re 5 - Agenda Item V.1 – Election of Bishop for Eurasia Episcopal Area**

Bishop Crutchfield gave instructions of the voting procedures, there were 64 delegates, and thus it would take 43 votes to elect a new bishop. He then closed the nomination and opened the election.

62 votes were casted in the first ballot as follows: 1 blank vote, Lydia Istomina 0 votes, Sergei Nikolaev 18 votes and Eduard Khegay 43 votes.

Eduard Khegay was elected bishop and greeted by the bishops present, guests and the Central Conference.

**Bishop Charles Crutchfield chaired the session.**

**Re. 6 - Agenda Item II.1 and II.2 the Episcopal and Laity Addresses**

**Focus Group 1 reported:**

The committee wants to express its appreciations for the two addresses, for the questions and challenges they bring to the CC. They are showing us a way forward, and challenging us to further reflections on the different issues that they raise.

Suggestions:

We receive the report with the following recommendations:

1. We ask that the addresses will be translated, and distributed to the local churches for further discussion.
2. We commit ourselves to focus on growth by renewing our commitment of creating new faith communities with new people. focusing on disciple making as a way of equipping God's people to do risk-taking mission for the transformation of the world strengthening our ministry among and together with children and youth, to help them having a life-changing experience with Jesus Christ, in a supporting way welcoming their capacity to transform the church and the world.

**Focus Group 2 reported:**

Laity Address:

Suggestion: To receive the report and add it to the minutes.

The group had a conversation following the address. Among other things we touched:

- Dualism between everyday life and church life.
- Cultural influence on church life.
- The family dynamics of today is a challenge that the church need to address in a serious manner.
- The group was impressed with the laity address.

Episcopal Address:

Suggestion: To receive the report and add it to the minutes.

The group had a conversation following the address. Among other things we touched:

- We are proud of our bishops that they point to the difficult issues for the church since we are church in a new time.
- Renovation and not redecoration.
- Importance of the ministry of the laity.
- Importance of receiving new people (and people of other cultures) in new ways.

**Focus Group 3 reported:**

Discussion about the Laity address

There are several links between the two addresses; we would highlight the emphasis on not being a church as an *institution* but a church as a *movement*; and a strong challenge to go outside the church in order to connect with people. It would not just mean to "go out" physically but also to go out of our usual ways (in Episcopal address: to experiment in finding ways for ministry).

It is easier to list the challenges and problems than to come up with solutions. We need to focus on possibilities, gifts, and new avenues – but all this needs to be done in our local context. We can only learn by doing – not by copying others.

The emphasis on laity mobilization is also linked with Episcopal address – the importance of laity will grow in coming years, and we shall need more laity who would be able to lead and serve and preach and witness. How can local churches motivate and facilitate this process?

*We recommend the Laity address as a discussion group guide in each of our local context. In order to do this, it needs to be translated into local languages.*

Discussion about the Episcopal address

A strong challenge to go through the renovation, not just redecoration.

Another challenge was to emphasize the accountability in a positive way in the midst of a culture where no-one would like to be accountable.

A remark was made that we should not describe non-Christian life only in negative terms. We need to be careful how we describe "the world" – if the world does not

recognize itself, no possibility for the mutual communication will arise. In the process of looking for answers to the questions: Why do people need Christ? Why do people need church – and our particular church? we should take into account both actual and perceived needs.

We are highlighting the concept of lay and clergy working in teams. However, we wonder what would it mean to “release the laity”? What are the areas (or are there any areas) where laity is not released to do ministry today? There could be also more guidelines for developing the actual teamwork, and using the “must”- language does not create a good ground for it. We also should keep in mind that the concept of leadership means different things in different context.

We are also highlighting the importance of studying our culture and experiment in finding ways to minister in this particular culture. At the same time, we should also study the Word of God and pray that the Holy Spirit would open our hearts and minds to understand and communicate it in a relevant way.

*We recommend especially the list of challenges in the end of the Episcopal address as a guideline for discussion about ministry in the local context, taking into consideration the comments above.*

#### **Focus Group 4 reported:**

The Episcopal Address:

Following headlines were addressed in the group:

The importance of Laity leadership was stressed:

- Use the laity for leadership on all levels of the church and for charge of new groups
- Give the laity the right to share the Communion
- The necessity of having the laity planning and participating in the School of Congregational Development

The church as a movement rather than an institution

- We need to go out and make new disciples
- We need discipleship programs more than good worship services
- We must be able to answer the questions: Why do people need Christ? Why do people need the church? Why do people need my church?

The development of pictures of healthy churches

- We need to lift up the good pictures we already have of healthy churches in the Central Conference and communicate it for inspiration.

*We move to receive The Episcopal Address with the following recommendations:*

*The challenges listed in the end of the Address should be taken to the Annual Conferences, especially to the Laity sessions and to the Annual Conference church councils for study.*

*The focus on ‘Empowering the laity’ shall have top priority for the next quadrennium.*

The Laity Address:

We appreciate the Laity Address for not being a report, but a description of the real life dealing with personal relations and difficult, stressful issues that we do not speak about in the church. It tells us what is happening in the society. It is a prophetic voice. We need to translate the gospel in an understandable way. Maybe we cannot give all the answers, but we shall ask the right questions. People need Christ, but they are not aware of him. We need to rethink church and ask: what is it to be a church in the future?

*We move to receive the Laity Address with the recommendations:*

- *that the Annual Conferences shall translate and distribute it for study in the local churches*
- *that the Address shall be sent to the Annual Conferences and youth organizations for inspiration*

#### **Discussion in Plenum:**

Ole Birch moved that a summary of the recommendation from the Focus Groups concerning the Laity address and the Episcopal address was elaborated. The addresses are to be sent to all Annual, Provisional Annual and District Conferences in the Central Conference to be considered for translation, and used throughout the church as the boards of these conferences find helpful. - The motion was seconded and adopted.

Vidar Bjerkseth Focus Group 1 stressed its recommendations regarding the group's decision 2. Bimbi Ollberg stressed Group 4's recommendation that in the next four years great importance should be devoted to the development of the ministry of the laity.

The reports and the recommendations from the four Focus Groups were received and added to the Minutes.

It was agreed that we in the next four years will commit ourselves to focus on growth by:

- 1 renewing our commitment of creating new faith communities with new people.
- 2 focusing on disciple making as a way of equipping God's people to do risk-taking mission for the transformation of the world
- 3 strengthening our ministry among and together with children and youth, to help them having a life-changing experience with Jesus Christ, in a supporting way welcoming their capacity to transform the church and the world.
- 4 focusing on 'Empowering the laity' shall have top priority for the next quadrennium.

Øyvind Helliesen moved that all before us is to be send not only to our conferences but also to the Central Conference Council for discussion and further work. The motion was seconded. Andreas Elfving amended that the Episcopal leaders of the CC shall have the right to lift up what they find most important. Øyvind Helliesen accepted this as a friendly amendment. The motion was adopted as amended.

#### **Responds from the addressors:**

Bishop Växby: What is the function of the addresses – they are meant for reflection and reflections are hard to guide. Neither the Laity nor the Episcopal addresses are programs we can agree on how to follow up. Sometimes reflections in conference result in a single sentence, however this year's addresses require another reaction. Hans Växby expressed his satisfaction with the four Focus Groups' reports.

Bishop Alsted expressed his satisfaction with the Focus Groups' reports and said that it was a challenge to write the address – it describes what the bishops have seen and experienced in the two areas. In the address the bishops try to give focus and directions. The Focus Groups' reports affirm this. There might be differences in how we express ourselves, but the Focus Groups and the bishops noticed the same direction. We want to go forward with making Disciples of Jesus Christ and to stress the importance of ministry of the laity. Christian Alsted expressed his firm belief that we in 4 years can see that what we decided at this Central Conference changed the life of The United Methodist Church in the Northern Europe & Eurasia Central Conference.

Rebekka Steinvig said that many laypeople have contributed to the Laity Address, and this really makes it the Laity Address for the two Episcopal Areas. Rebekka Steinvig expected the conference to talk about the content of the report, and not only about how to receive and distribute it or whether to recommend translation or not. It is of great importance how we will work with the Laity Address in our local church. Let us talk about how we do that.

#### **Bishop Christian Alsted chaired the session.**

#### **Re. 7 - Focus Group 1's Report:**

Ag It II.3, Personal Report: Bishop Hans Växby

Comment: We want to give our appreciation for the ministry of bishop Hans Växby, and thank him for his faithful and inspiring service. We will highlight the Eurasian Road Map as a strategy that has helped the churches in the area to focus its work. The map is available on the website of the UMC Eurasia.

*Motion:* We receive the report as information and add it to the minutes. – The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It II.6, Eurasia Committee on Episcopacy

*Motion:* We receive the report and add it to the minutes. The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It II.11, European Methodist Council

Comment: We regret that the planned European Methodist Festival had to be cancelled. We believe there is still a need for a conference like this, and will urge the EMC to work for a new one. Many Methodist members are not familiar with the work of the European Council. Information from the EMC to the congregations is missing.

*Motion:* We receive the report with the following recommendation: We ask the CC Council to clarify the role of the EMC, and urge the members of the council to give direct feedback/information to the Annual Conferences. - The report and the comment was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It III.2, Episcopal Fund, Eurasia

*Motion:* We receive the report and add it to the minutes. - The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It III.4, Eurasia Area Fund

*Motion:* We receive the report and add it to the minutes. - The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It IV.9, Petition: Judicial Court ¶547.3 a)

*Motion:* Adopted. - The petition was adopted

Ag It IV.10, Petition: Adaptation of ¶666 and 635

*Motion:* Adopted with the amendment to renumber 665 to ¶666 and add the new text for ¶666. There may be a district committee on ordained ministry. The amended petition was adopted.

Ag It IV.11, Petition: CC-council change ¶549 and delete ¶551

*Motion:* Adoption with the following amendments: In §549 a.2. to changes the text "under the age of thirty" to "under the age of thirty five" to be consistent with the wording in the BoD. In §549 h.2.d.5 to add the word "for" in the passage "To elect treasurer for each." The petition was adopted as amended.

Ole Birch moved to reconsider the decision. The motion was passed.

Ole Birch moved to keep ¶551 and list The Northern Europe and Eurasia Youth Council. On Bimbi Ollberg's question concerning how the Baltic and Eurasian participation will be financed, Audun Westad answered that Norway Youth Ministry up to now has financed NEEYC's activities and will continue to do so in the next quadrennium. - The motion was adopted.

### **Bishop Hans Växby chaired the session.**

#### **Re. 8 - Focus Group 2's Report:**

Ag It II.5, Central Conference Council:

*Motion:* To receive the report with recommendations. Recommendation: We recommend that the plenary session get more information about the Joint Future and the UMC in Sweden. Rationale: We want to make sure that plenary is informed. The report and the recommendation was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It II.13, The UMC 2012-General Conference:

*Motion:* To receive the report with recommendations. Recommendation: Take the questions from the report to the plenary session to make feedback to send them to the General Conference Committee.

- How can we better make use of the global connections we have?
- What role do the General Agencies of our Church have in our context?
- Can we make use of the resources the General Agencies provide to further the mission our local churches? Rationale: We are concerned about the ability of the general church to make decisions on structure.

Jørgen Thaarup moved to add this information to the report: "The GC 2012 approved that Central Russia Annual Conference, East Russia & Central Asia Provisional Conference, Northern Russia Provisional Conference, Southern Russia Provisional Conference, Ukraine & Moldova Provisional Conference shall be considered as formally established by action of General Conference in compliance with the BoD ¶581." - The amendment was adopted.

Andreas Elfving stressed the importance of participating in the process of changing the denomination in accordance to how the church develops globally.

The amended report with recommendations was received.

Ag It III.5, Central Conference Fund

Motion: To receive the report and add it to the minutes. The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It III.9, 2013-Budget Plan, Central Conference Fund

Motion: To receive the report and add it to the minutes. The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It IV.7, Petition: Delegates to Central Conference ¶ 541.1b)

*Motion:* To dismiss the motion. Rationale: We want to work with Ag it IV, 8 in the further work. The motion was adopted and the petition dismissed.

Ag It IV.8, Petition: Delegates to Central Conference ¶ 541.1b)

*Motion:* To adopt the motion amended by the focus group. Amendment: We move to change the number of Clergy to 1 delegate for each 75 clergy and to maintain number of Confession members on 1 delegate for every 700. Rationale: We do not want the conference to grow much bigger. The petition was adopted as amended.

Ag It IV.12, Petition: European Methodist Council ¶552

*Motion:* To adopt the motion. – The petition was adopted

### **Bishop Hans Växby chaired the session.**

#### **Re. 9 - Focus Group 3's Report:**

Ag It II.4, Personal Report: Bishop Christian Alsted

We want to emphasize that our Bishop has done a great job as a Bishop. The focus group moved that the report will be received and added to the minutes – The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It II.7, Nordic & Baltic Committee on Episcopacy

The focus group moved that the report will be received and added to the minutes – The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It III.1, Episcopal Fund, Nordic & Baltic Area

We want to point out the decrease of expenses as a sign of responsible housekeeping; however, there is a certain minimum level of expenses needed for proper functioning from where it will not be possible to go any lower. The focus group moved that the report will be received and added to the minutes. – The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It III.3, Nordic & Baltic Area Fund

The Focus Group moves that the report will be received and added to the minutes – The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It III.6, The Nordic Means for Wesleyan Theology

The Focus Group moves that the report will be received and added to the minutes – The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It IV.3, Motion: Dissolution of the AC in Sweden

The focus group recommended adopting the motion to dissolve the present relationship between The United Methodist Church and The Annual Conference in Sweden. The motion was adopted.

We also point out that the answers to the questions from CC 2011 in Malmö are added for informational purposes, and do not represent a final agreement but rather reflect the process that is still continuing. We also recognize that the Central Conference Council continues the negotiations with Gemensam Framtid with the goal to achieve an agreement that finalizes the relationship between our churches.

The CC Council finds that the CC-2010 requirements are met in a satisfactory manner and that the financial agreement will be finalized at the end of this year. Bishop Alsted informed that the Central Conference Council has formed a group which the council will ask the Council of Bishops to assign to be in dialogue with the Gemensam Framtid to

form a plan for the future relationship between the two denominations in Northern Europe. The group consists of council-member Øyvind Helliesen, a member from the Finland Swedish Provisional Annual Conference and Bishop Christian Alsted. The motion was adopted.

Ag It IV.4, Motion: UMC in Sweden – Date of Dissolution

The focus group recommended adopting the motion. – The motion was adopted.

Ag It IV.5, Motion: Change of boundaries of AC

The focus group recommended adopting the motion. – The motion was adopted.

### **Bishop Christian Alsted chaired the session.**

#### **Re. 10 - Focus Group 4's Report:**

Ag It II.8, Annual/Prov.Annual/District Conferences

The report tells about meaningful work in the Annual Conferences. The questions are comparable, but it would be nice with more information that could inspire us and give us opportunities to learn from one another. The church plants are a very positive thing and we hope to have many more new churches in the years to come. The report challenges us with high expectations to carry on a good work.

*We move that the report is received and added to the minutes* – The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It II.9, Statistical reports

*We move that the report is received and added to the minutes.* The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It II.10, European Board of Drug & Alcohol Concerns

In connection with this report we want to mention that important work with drug and alcohol concerns also has been made locally with local money.

*We move that the report is received and added to the minutes, and underline the goals in the report.*

Håkan Englund moved to repeat 4.b in the Episcopal Address from 2009 as a challenge for the next quadrennium. The motion was adopted; the report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It II.12, European Methodist Council – e-Academy.

This is the first time we receive a report from the e-Academy. Teaching through the internet is a new way of teaching. The Methodist theological teaching institutions decrease in number and the Methodist e-Academy is important.

*We move that the report is received with appreciation and added to the minutes.* Meeli Tankler moved to amend the Focus Group's comment and add the word "Methodist" before "theological teaching" and "e-Academy". The amendment was adopted and the report received with appreciation and added to the minutes.

Bishop Patrick Streiff, who is one of the initiators of the E-academy, gave an orientation about the development.

Ag It IV.1, Items referred from 2009-CC to the CC Council.

The Central Conference Council asked the Judicial Council for a declaratory decision. The decision states that only the General Conference has the right to establish a Provisional Annual Conference. Thus the question has been removed from the Central Conference. We move to receive the report for information. The report was received and added to the minutes.

Ag It IV.6 Motion: The Northern Europe & Eurasia Book of Discipline and Ag It IV.13, *We move to adopt the motions with the following amendments:*

1. To change the wording "Reading Guide" to "Introduction". The amendment was approved.
2. To amend the first paragraph of the Introduction with reference to the legislation in §543.7 & 16 & 17. The amendment was approved.
3. To amend the final paragraph of the Introduction with reference to §547.3 for stating that the responsibility of the CC Judicial Court to "hear and determine any legality of any action under the adopted portion of the Book of Discipline" also include

the interpretation of the Discipline after the directions given in the Introduction. The amendment was approved.

4. To refer the Historical Statement to the committee on the discipline to make the necessary corrections and editorial changes and final approval. The Historical Statement was referred to the Northern Europe & Eurasia Committee on the Book of Discipline for corrections, editorial changes and final approval.

*We move to adopt*

1. The adoption of the revised Historical Statement of the Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference
2. The adoption of the Introduction
3. The reaffirmation of previously made adaptations to the Book of Discipline with the deletion of "Sweden" §547.3; "in Sweden Kyrkostyrelsen" in §611 and "Metodistkyrkan i Sverige" §2501.3h and the renumbering of the following subparagraphs of §2501.3, and the addition of "the Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference" in §2501.3
4. The printing of a supplement to the Book of Discipline composed of the following:
  - a. The Historical Statement
  - b. The Introduction
  - c. Adapted Paragraphs to the Book of Discipline
  - d. The Episcopal Address
  - e. The Laity Address
  - f. The Report of the Central Conference Council
  - g. The Minutes of the 2012 Central Conference
  - h. A Directory

The motion as amended by the Focus Group was adopted.

Ag It IV.14, Motion: Minutes and report from 2012-CC.

*We move to reject this motion.* The motion was rejected.

### **Bishop Christian Alsted chaired the session.**

### **Re 11 - Agenda Item V.2 Elections**

The following elections were presented:

#### **Central Conference Council:**

| <u>council-member</u>   | <u>substitute</u>    |        | <u>conference</u>   |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------|---------------------|
| Sergei Pugachev         | Natalya Prokhorova   | lay    | Central Russia      |
| Ole Birch               | Jørgen Thaarup       | clergy | Denmark             |
| Finn Bræstrup Karlsen   | Rebekka Steinvig     | lay    | Denmark             |
| Yelena Chudinova        | Valentina Sorokina   | clergy | E. Russia & C. Asia |
| Meeli Tankler           | Thea Kant            | lay    | Estonia             |
| Taavi Hollman           | Üllas Tankler        | clergy | Estonia             |
| Gita Medne              | Kristine Rozefelde   | clergy | Latvia              |
| William Lovelace        | Remigijus Matulaitis | clergy | Lithuania           |
| Pasi Runonen            | Jori Brander         | clergy | Finland-F           |
| Harry Ollila            | Monica Lundgren      | lay    | Finland-S           |
| Yelena Kitaeva          | Fyodor Kim           | lay    | NW Russia & Belarus |
| Berit Westad            | Jan-Erik Hansen      | lay    | Norway              |
| Øyvind Helliesen        | Steinar Hjerpseth    | clergy | Norway              |
| Hilde Marie Ø. Movafagh | Torill Langbråthen   | clergy | Norway              |
| Per-Endre Bjørnevik     | Audun Westad         | lay    | Norway              |
| Alexander Kozorezov     | Valentina Stavrova   | clergy | South Russia        |
| Vasylina Babych         | Vladimir Khabriko    | lay    | Ukraine & Moldova   |

The following nominees were elected:

#### **NEECC Youth Council:**

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Audun Westad  | Norway    |
| Jennie Mörk   | Finland-S |
| Marjana Luist | Estonia   |

Gunta Grina-Sologuba  
Anton Mingus

Latvia  
Eurasia

**European Methodist Council:**

Øyvind Helliesen, Jørgen Thaarup, Meeli Tankler, Valentina Stavrova + the two bishops.

**Fund for Mission in Europe:**

The General Secretary of the AC Board of Global Ministries in Norway, Øyvind Aske

**NEECC Judicial Court:**

Ove Sørensen  
Priit Tamm  
Leif-Göte Björklund  
Steinar Hjerpseth  
Oleg Starodubets

Ivar Granum

Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland-F/Finland-S  
Norway  
Russia C/NW/E/S

**NEECC Committee on Investigation:**

Ove Sørensen  
Jon-Erik Bråthen  
Leif-Göte Björklund  
Aleksandr Pererva

Denmark  
Norway  
Finland  
Eurasia

**European Board of Alcohol and Drug Concerns:**

Karen Brogaard  
Ole Martin Andreassen  
Stanislav Prokhorov  
Vladimir Ditmar

Denmark (Nordic & Baltic)  
Norway (Nordic & Baltic)  
(Eurasia)  
(Eurasia)

**European Lay Seminar:** Vigdis-Merete Rønning, Norway

**World Methodist Council:** Bishop Christian Alsted and Jørgen Thaarup (funded by Denmark AC)

**The Conference of European Churches:** Bishop Christian Alsted

**Nominated to be elected by the Council of Bishops:**

**General Board of Global Ministry:** Tove Odland. **Connectional Table:** Ole Birch.

**Re. 6 - Agenda Item II.1 and II.2 the Episcopal and Laity Addresses**

It was agreed to continue the holy conferencing on the Episcopal and Laity addresses. The conference divided itself into small groups where there was continued conversation and prayer. The groups were asked to bring further emphasis and recommendations, to add to or to sharpen the sentences the conference had previously decided on. In the plenary several insights were shared. There were some suggestions to sharpen the wording in the sentences previously decided on. Furthermore there was conversation on whether to have a slogan to express a main focus deriving from the addresses and the discussion, and a few suggestions for slogans were discussed. However none of the suggestions received sufficient support to have consensus in the conference, and finally the conference decided not to add or change anything in its decisions concerning the Episcopal and Laity addresses, but to confirm its earlier decisions. (See above Re.6, "Discussion in Plenum").

**Bishop Hans Växby chaired the session.**

**Re 12 - Closing Matters:**

Berit Westad informed of the work of the General Commission of the Status and Role of Women.

Next Central Conference, Berit Westad invited to the next Central Conference in Norway.

The resigning council members: Elisabeth Englund, Håkan Englund, Bimbi Ollberg, Fredrik Wegelius, Tarmo Lilleoja, Henning Bjerno were greeted by bishop Christian

Alsted and received a small gift in acknowledgement of their work in the Central Conference Council. The conference expressed its appreciation by applause. Bishop Christian Alsted gave words of appreciation and gifts to the local planning committee and the Šanciai United Methodist Church. The conference expressed its appreciation by applause.

Helen Lovelace expressed the Local Committees satisfaction with the conference and gave information about the lunch reception for Bishop Eduard Khegay.

Bishop Charles Crutchfield and Mrs. Karen Crutchfield were greeted by Bishop Christian Alsted with words of appreciation and they received flowers and a gift from Lithuania. The conference expressed its appreciation by applause.

Bishop Christian Alsted expressed great appreciation for the ministry of his assistant Lilli Uth, who has done a significant part of the preparation of the Central Conference and been in charge of the administration of the Central Conference in the past quadrennium. The conference expressed its appreciation by applause.

Bishop Patrick Streiff found the Episcopal and Laity Addresses to be very significant, he said, he would be looking forward to see how these reports will affect the work in the conferences. The results from last Central Conference about creating new faith communities were remarkable.

Bishop Växby expressed his satisfaction with the conference, and the conference expressed their appreciation of the Episcopal leadership of this Central Conference.

Secretary Lilli Uth informed the conference that electronic evaluation will come from the Episcopal Office in Copenhagen via email.

The session was closed in prayer.

Secretaries:

Lilli Uth

Tarmo Lilleoja

Persons to check the minutes:

Jørgen Thaarup

Monica Lundgren

Presiding bishops:

Christian Alsted

Hans Växby