



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NORTHERN EUROPE AND EURASIA CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference Council, Copenhagen October 11th and 12th.

Present:

Hilde Marie Ørgried Movafagh (NO) Per-Endre Bjørnevik (NO) Svein Veland (NO) Ole Birch (DK) Edgars Snieders (LV) Meeli Tankler (EE), Mark Nilson (EE) Ingull Grefslie (NO). Bettina Pedersen (DK)

Christian Alsted, Kirsten Hastrup.

Joining via internet: Sarah Tiainen (FS) Jori Brander (FF)

Absent: Vasylyna Kohutka (EA) Dimitry Lysin (EA) Elena Kitaeva (EA) Sergei Pugachev (EA) Svetlana Tsoy (EA) Edward Khegay. Remigijus Matulaitis (LT).

Minutes by Ole Birch.

Item	Minutes
1	<p>Devotion</p> <p>We sang verses 1 and 2 of "This is my song". Christian Alsted shared from The European Methodist Councils meeting in Hamburg. They had a visit to St. Nicolai Church ruin (bombed during WW II) and the Cross of Nails, a symbol of reconciliation. This is again something we must seek in Europe. We shared the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation and read 2. Cor. 5: 16-21 as well as Bishop Rubens Saenz's Prayer for Peace in Ukraine.</p> <p>Presentation</p> <p>We presented us to each other.</p>
2	<p>Approval of the agenda & minutes</p> <p>The agenda was approved.</p> <p>The minutes from March 2002 were approved.</p> <p>Bishop Edward Khegay has written to the CCC that he and the other Eurasia representatives will not be participating in the meetings of the Central Conference Council. (Se attachment).</p> <p>The office has sent all materials and links for online participation for this meeting to all representatives including the Eurasia delegation.</p> <p>Christian Alsted answered questions concerning communication with bishop Eduard Khegay since our last meeting. Eduard Khegay has not wanted to talk to bishop Christian Alsted except through e-mail. Most e-mails has gone unanswered.</p> <p>We had a conversation about how to react to this.</p> <p>We note;</p> <p>That bishop Eduard Khegay and the four delegates are not here and have said</p>



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	<p>they will only communicate via e-mail.</p> <p>We must start work on the 2025 CC which also have consequences for Eurasia. It is therefore regrettable that the Eurasia delegation is not here.</p> <p>We will write a report to document what has happened in the relationship between the two episcopal areas. Bishop Christian Alsted will take on this task. We will look at a final text at our spring meeting.</p>
3	<p>Calling an extra session of the Central Conference March 15 – 19, 2023; Tallinn or online with the proposed agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="363 772 1412 1097">1. Proposal for adaptation to the NEEBoD from Central Conference Council Se attachment named: ¶554 The future of the United Methodist Church in the Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference The Judicial Council has ruled that § 2548.2 of the Book of Discipline cannot be used as a way for an Annual Conference to leave the UMC. We therefore now have a new proposal developed by Bishop Alsted in consultation with bishop Streiff and bishop Rückert for a path based on § 2547 and 2548.1. We want to call a special session of the Central Conference to act on this proposal.<li data-bbox="363 1108 1412 1321">2. Decision on Annual Conferences desiring to leave the UMC based on BoD § 572 (please see attached document) If one or more of the Eurasia Annual Conferences wishes to leave the Central Conference to become part of the Global Methodist Church or go another way utilising § 572 we will include such motions in the call for a special session of the Central Conference in March 2023.<li data-bbox="363 1332 1412 1590">3. Discussion on the 2025 Central Conference Agenda: Episcopal Elections in both areas. The representatives of Latvia, Finland, Denmark and Norway will ask their Annual Conference Councils if they will host. Dates: Between Marts 5th and April 6th, 2025. Duration: Thursday to Sunday.<li data-bbox="363 1601 1412 1814">4. The future of the Central Conference and of United Methodism in Europe After a long conversation on the possibilities of a new ordering of the European UMC and given that the two other European Central Conferences are not ready to have a conversation on UMC in Europe yet, we focused on our possibility to elect a new bishop in 2025 and on a conversation about our future as a Central Conference. <p>We decided to write a letter to bishop Edward Khegay to ask him to support the calling of a special session of the CC. We will ask the Estonia AC to also write a letter to bishop Khegay explaining why this is important to them.</p>



Item	Minutes
	<p>¶554 The future of the United Methodist Church in the Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference</p> <p>Christian Alsted explained the meaning of this proposal and summarised the main points:</p> <p>This is a comprehensive motion that aims to care for the needs of all the annual conferences in the Nordic and Baltic Area. The motion makes it possible for local churches to leave the denomination, and for districts in the Estonia annual conference to leave the denomination. It renames the Estonia Annual Conference to the Baltic Annual Conference. Furthermore, it enables all annual conferences to set clear boundaries and policies when it comes to marriage and ordination and enables them to communicate this in their national context, which is essential to the annual conferences and to the unity of the church.</p> <p>We expressed desire to have the language clearly reflect the Estonian wish to become an independent Methodist church.</p> <p>We want to add language to make it possible for a local church to call a second church conferences if a quorum of 30% of the confessing members was not achieved in a first attempted to vote on leaving the UMC.</p> <p>We want to add language to say that provisions of care for members that wants to stay UMC Methodists shall be made, and that this remains the responsibility of the episcopal ministry.</p> <p>Mark Nilson said that leaders in Estonia were unhappy with having to vote for parts 5 and 6 of the proposal. He made a proposal to separate parts 5 and 6 from the tekst.</p> <p>Proposal: To separate p. 5 and 6 as a separate proposal.</p> <p>The proposal failed.</p> <p>The text will be put forward as one proposal.</p> <p>Proposals and decisions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To call a special session of the Central Conference. The conference, if it is called, will be on Saturday March the 18th 2023 and it will have to be online to make it possible for the Eurasia delegates to participate. The proposal was unanimously approved2. That we will elect a bishop for the Nordic and Baltic Area for 8 years at the 2025 Central Conference. The proposal was approved.3. We will hold a meeting of those Annual Conferences who wants to remain in the UMC to talk about our common future in our area and in Europe. The proposal was approved. <p>Hilde Marie Øgried Movafag proposed a working group to prepare this. This proposal was approved, and a working group was created with Sarah Tiainen, Svein Veland, Bettina Pedersen and Meeli</p>



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	<p>Tankler.</p> <p>4. That we will extend an invitation to the German and the South and Central Europe Central Conferences to join us in a conversation about our common European future.</p> <p>The proposal was approved.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Budget of The Central Conference Fund 2023</p> <p>The budget had been sent out.</p> <p>The budget for 2023 was approved.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Report World Council of Churches general assembly</p> <p>Christian Alsted shared his impressions from the assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany. Main items for him were the networking with other church leaders, the policy statements on the war in Ukraine, and the policy statement on climate and the document on unity. Two Methodists were elected to the Central Committee, one of them on the Executive.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Report European Methodist Council</p> <p>The EMC passed a brief statement on the war in Ukraine, it has been sent to the relevant church media.</p> <p>Much talk about the church's crises after Covid.</p> <p>The EMC recommends that all European Methodist Churches contribute to the Fund for Mission in Europe</p> <p>Conversation on the meeting of the Conference of European Churches. The CCC will discuss our membership of CEC after their next General Assembly in June 2023.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference Youth Council</p> <p>No activity. There is work going on to restart the European Methodist Youth Council and we hope that will mean that the central conference youth council can meet again.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Dinner</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Evening prayer and adjournment</p> <p>Sarah Tiainen led us in an evening devotion on the importance of rest.</p>