



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NORTHERN EUROPE AND EURASIA CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Nordic & Baltic Area Group Online Meeting, June 7th, 2023, 14 – 19 CET

Present online:

Present:

Hilde Marie Øgreid Movafagh (NO) Per-Endre Bjørnevik (NO) Svein Veland (NO) Ole Birch (DK) Edgars Sneiders (LV) Meeli Tankler (EE), Robert Tserenkov (EE) Ingull Grefslie (NO). Bettina Pedersen (DK) Sarah Tiainen (FS) Jori Brander (FF) Remigijus Matulaitis (LT).

Christian Alsted, Kirsten Hastrup.

Absent:

Yulia Starodubets

Minutes by Ole Birch.

Minutes

Item	
1	<p>Opening and approval of the agenda</p> <p>Christian Alsted let us in an opening midday prayer inspired by a prayer written by bishop Reuben Job.</p> <p>We shared expectations for the coming summer.</p> <p>Questions about the agenda.</p> <p>We added the approval of the minutes of the March 18. extra session of the Central Conference as a new item 2.</p> <p>We added a new item 3 about Andrei Kim and future Eurasian delegates who are members of a different church.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <p>The agenda was approved.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of the March 18. Extra session of the Central Conference.</p> <p>We changed a few minor errors.</p> <p>The Minutes was approved.</p> <p>Concerning the question of Andrei Kim who participated in the Central Conference and is on the board of The Global Methodist Church.</p> <p>We will decided that members of other denominations will not be allowed to serve on the next (2025) Central Conference.</p>



Item	
3	Subcommittee on Theological Education
3	<p>Approval of Financial reports and budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Episcopal Fund – The report was approved.b. Area Fund – The report was approved.c. Central Conference Fund – The report was approved, and the surplus added to the capital.d. Nordic Theological Means – The report was approved.e. Unrestricted Liquid Cash Fund – The report was approved.f. Budget 2024 – The budget was approved.
4	<p>Planning of weekend in Riga for leaders from Denmark, Finland, Norway, Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine in Riga, Marriott Hotel October 6 – 8, 2023 Working group: (The agenda had wrong information). The working group, as decided in the November 2022 meeting, consists of: Bettina Pedersen, Svein Veland, Sarah Tiainen, Christian Alsted, Hilde Marie Øgreid Movafagh, Remigijus Matulaitis, Yulia Starodubets. Unfortunately, the group had not done any work to prepare this agenda item.</p> <p>Christian Alsted presented his document “Background Paper for the planning of the Riga meeting 6-8 October 2023”.</p> <p>Hilde Marie pointed to two other themes for the meeting. 1. Finding together again and 2. Show support for Ukraine.</p> <p>Bishop Harald Rütger will not be participating. Bishop Stefan Zucker possible. Should we invite representatives from the Irish and British Methodist Churches? We decided not to invite any others.</p> <p>The matter was postponed to a new online meeting August 2. 2023 at 4 pm CET.</p>
5	<p>Report on the relationship between the two episcopal areas after the extra Central Conference 2022.</p> <p>Christian Alsted presented the report he had prepared on behalf of the Council. We had a conversation about the events and the conversations of the period. Christian Alsted said that he wanted the report to be confidential.</p>
6	<p>Central Conference spring 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Date and place: Both the Denmark and Norway Annual Conferences have agreed to host the Central conference as needed. <p>Decisions:</p>



Item	
	<p>Denmark will be the host for the CC 2023. The Episcopal office will work with the AC board to fix a place and dates.</p> <p>b. Episcopal election – timeline. Christian Alsted referred to his memo concerning episcopal elections. We affirmed the deadline as reported.</p>
7	<p>Transition of bishop</p> <p>a. Date and overlap. We talked about it and will come back to it in our fall meeting.</p> <p>b. Renewal leave. We support CA in finding an opportunity to take a renewal leave. He will come back with a proposal for our fall meeting.</p> <p>c. Moving of the episcopal office. Preparations are beginning to look at the archives and furniture.</p>
8	<p>Plan for coming meetings.</p> <p>a. 5-6. October (Thursday and Friday) 2023 in Riga, Latvia. Fall meeting – area group face to face - full council hybrid. A follow up meeting in the afternoon on Sunday 8. October.</p> <p>b. 6-8. October Meeting in Riga with representatives from the remaining UMC AC's.</p> <p>c. 7-8. March 2024 in Copenhagen (Thursday and Friday)</p> <p>d. 23. April – 3. May 2024 <i>General Conference, Charlotte North Carolina, USA</i></p> <p>e. 14-15. November 2024 in Copenhagen (Thursday and Friday)</p> <p>f. Meeting all day Wednesday before the CC and on Friday evening to organize the council and plan meetings.</p> <p>g. Additional online meetings are likely to be needed.</p>
9	<p>Other matters</p> <p>Christian Alsted thanked Robert Tserenkov, for whom this is his last meeting, for his contributions over the years, and ended the meeting with prayer and blessing.</p>