



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NORTHERN EUROPE AND EURASIA CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Nordic & Baltic Area Group Meeting, March 24th

Present: Hilde Marie Ørgried Movafagh (NO), Per-Endre Bjørnevik (NO), Ole Birch (DK) Edgars Snieders (LV), Jori Brander (FF), Meeli Tankler (EE), Robert Tserenkov (EE) Remigijus Matulaitis (LT),

Christian Alsted, Kirsten Hastrup.

Present online: Ingull Grefslie (NO), Bettina Pedersen (DK) Sarah Tiainen (FS).

Absent:

Minutes by Ole Birch.

Minutes

Item	Agenda
1	Opening and approval of the agenda
2	Work in subcommittees: a. Agenda – Continued Education Applications - There are no application this time. - At the next meeting in the area group, we suggest to have the theological fund on the agenda to discuss again how to interpret the criteria and how to spend the money. When applications are not coming, we must look at ways of initiating projects that benefits theology, education and the church. Kirsten and Hilde Marie will prepare this point of the agenda. The book project - The UM Publishing house has agreed to cooperate with us on the book project. - The committee asked the seminaries in Oslo and Tallinn to alternate on working on the book. Oslo has agreed, Tallinn is more hesitant. Oslo will take the first two books. The committee is still in charge of the project and can at any time choose to organize it differently. Events of continued education - The committee asked the seminaries to alternate on hosting a seminar for continued education. The first will be held in the spring 2023. It is the suggestion of the committee that participation is not mandatory. An idea for this seminar is peace-building, peace-building as the work of the church, etc. Costs will be covered from the theological fund except for a symbolic fee. b. Agenda – Development of the connection in the Episcopal Area Nothing to report c. Agenda – International and Ecumenical Representation Nothing to report.
3	Reporting from Subcommittees No action items.



Item	Agenda
4	<p>Approval of Financial reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Episcopal Fund (document 4.a) The report was approved.b. Area Fund (document 4.b) The report was approved.c. Nordic Theological Means (document 4c) The report was approved.d. Unrestricted Liquid Cash Fund (document 4 d) The report was approved.
5	<p>Committee on Episcopacy (Per-Endre/Ole Birch) (documents 5 a & b)</p> <p>As decided at our last meeting we will look at the revised study report from 1999 concerning “The Minister as Bishop and Leader”. Please be prepared to share our observations. The smaller report in Danish is a Q and A about the time limits and retirement of bishops.</p> <p>Concerning the report on episcopacy: We will send the report to the relevant historical institutions. We will remember to come back to the question on the nature of the episcopacy in the future process Concerning bishops in Europe.</p> <p>Concerning the report on the rules concerning retirement of bishop. Christian Alsted will work with Jørgen Thaarup on the 2nd report on retirement of bishops. If we are to take advantage of this report it needs to be translated.</p>
6	<p>Christian Alsted requests to participate in the World Council of Churches’ General Assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany in September 2022.</p> <p>The request was approved.</p>
7	<p>Other Matters</p>