

Nordic & Baltic Area Group Meeting, Copenhagen, October 12th, 2022

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

Christian Alsted, Kirsten Hastrup.

Present online: Jori Brander (FF) Sarah Tiainen (FS).

Absent: Remigijus Matulaitis (LT),

Minutes by Ole Birch.

Item	Minutes
1	<p>Opening and approval of the agenda Minutes of the August 2022 were approved.</p> <p>Note: At the August 2022 meeting we also approved the minutes of our meeting in March 2022.</p>
2	<p>Reports from work in subcommittees:</p> <p>a. Continued Education</p> <p>Nordic Theological Means General discussion: the funds are designed for Scandinavian countries but in some cases by area-wide events it has been possible to cover also costs of participants from Baltic countries.</p> <p>The fund is growing, and we need to discuss how to use these funds in a better way. One option is to directly contact those who deal with education in Norway, Denmark and Finland and inform them about this fund. Applications can be about sponsoring an event, research project (although it is not directly mentioned in guidelines), continuous education for missionaries etc.</p> <p>Decision: to interpret the guidelines more creatively, and to share information so it would be possible to use the money. Hilde Marie will write to DS-s and Chairs of BOM in Norway, Denmark, and Finland.</p> <p>Application: SEK 4500, - to cover the honorary of Helga West, keynote-speaker at the research-group Human Rights Network within IAMSCU (International Association of Methodist-related Schools, Colleges and Universities) in Stockholm in September hosted by IAMSCU, The University College Stockholm and The United Methodist Seminary, Oslo.</p> <p>Action item for CCC Area group: to approve the amount of 4500 SEK</p> <p>Decision of the CCC Area group: to approve the amount of 4500 SEK.</p>



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	<p>Continous education event for pastors</p> <p>Oslo Seminary is organizing it, and it has been postponed several times but there will be an event in fall 2023. The dates will be decided in the near future.</p> <p>The book Project</p> <p>The topic this time is pastoral care and counselling. Call for articles should have gone out some time ago but is ready now, with concrete guidelines and deadlines. We discuss the draft of the call, presented by Hilde Marie (will be attached). We need to put aside some additional funds for translating articles as needed (in case we have a good specialist on a given topic who is not ready to write in English) but the general invitation is to write in English.</p> <p>It will be published In collaboration with Abbingdon. The bishop advises to include writers from outside the episcopal area: Reutlingen seminary etc.</p> <p>Decision: Hilde Marie will send out the letter, but we all need to think about people who could contribute and engage them.</p> <p><i>Minutes taken by Meeli Tankler</i></p> <p>b. International and Ecumenical Representation</p> <p>2.b.1. Africa University, Jørgen Thaarup Received with thank you to Jørgen for his long and important service.</p> <p>2.b.2. GCFA, Per-Endre Bjørnevik Received, noticing the letter from the European bishops.</p> <p>2.b.3 GBCS, Kari S. Hay Received</p> <p>2.b.4. Commission on CC Theological Education Fund, Thomas Risager Received</p> <p>2.b.5. St.CCCM, Jørgen Thaarup Received</p> <p>2.b.6. UMCOM Karl Anders Ellingsen Received</p> <p>2.b.7. GBGM and ECOM, Rev. Øyvind Aske Received</p> <p>2.b.8. United Methodist Men, Tarmo Lilleoja Received</p> <p>2.b.9. Com. On the Status and Role of Women, Berit Westad Received</p> <p>2.b.10. Connectional Table, Ole Birch. Received.</p>



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	<p>c. Development of the Connection in the Episcopal Area</p> <p>The survey we made this fall of 2019 is of no use as it is today – it is unknown , only 11 responders. We need to find new ways of marketing it – directly to pastors -churches – social media. FB site, Send information in English about relevant gatherings to the bishops office For example: Sommercamp – sommerfest week 32, Ispiration North april 23, Novemberkonferansen 22, Summerfestival i Finland in southern Finland 2. week of June Share information on camps through bishop’s office – start with the youth camps. Encourage youth leader courses – common courses Encourage youth leaders in each country to send information to the bishop’s office for sending forward invitations to common courses SoCd restart – plan for a new one? Commen summer course/education week for pastors should in one way or other restart</p>
3	<p>Proposals from episcopal office:</p> <p>1. Central conference fund pays for hotel and travel for all council members for all council meetings. The proposal was approved.</p> <p>2. To Use Dropbox instead of Ezra as internet sharing service for council and area group documents. The proposal was approved.</p>
4	<p>Committee on Episcopacy (Per-Endre/Ole Birch)</p> <p>Christian Alsted shared his personal report. After a conversation, we ended this item in prayer for our bishop and the church in Ukraine. Conversation on the need for a document on the episcopal ministry and the future of our Central Conference. No decision on the study document on episcopacy was made.</p>
5	<p>Budget of Episcopal Fund for 2023 Previously approved. Any questions? No questions.</p>
6	<p>Other Matters Nothing to report.</p>

Kommenterede [BCA1]: Hele punkt 3 hører hjemme under centralkonferencens råd