

**Conference of European Churches
Assembly Planning Committee
St Thomas Becket Church, Hamburg - Germany
1-2 December 2016**

Draft Minutes

1) Personal Introductions

2) Roll call: (see appendix 1)

Rev Rebekka Hojmark-Svenningsen will be on parental leave for most of 2017. Another representative of ELCD has to be found.

Youth representative not yet appointed (EYCE - Org in partnership?)

To do:

Appoint youth representative to APC, evaluate replacement of Rev Rebekka Hojmark-Svenningsen

3) Report on Novi Sad visit:

Fr Heikki (HH), Rev Dr Peter Pavlovic (PP) & Dr Elizabeta Kitanovic (EK) visited Novi Sad and reported to the Presidency of their findings, recommended to select Novi Sad as General Assembly location. CEC Presidency & Governing Board (GB) approved this location.

a) Practical information about Novi Sad:

Master congress centre: conference venue is booked

Hotel Park: booked, 1 more hotel needed

Cathedral suggested for ecumenical opening worship, other possibility in congress centre

Four CEC Member churches are represented in Novi Sad

Proposal of a pilgrimage on the Danube (HH)

4) Approval of meeting agenda

5) Dates of the General Assembly: 31st May – 6 June 2017

15 th CEC General Assembly 2018						
31 May	1 June	2 June	3 June	4 June	5 June	6 June
Arrivals & Registration	Working Day	Working Day	Sunday	Working Day	Working Day	Departures

Number of MC delegates: approval by GB

Different categories of participants:

Organisation in Partnership (OP)
National Councils of Churches (NCC)

Size of MC delegations

up to but not exceeding 100,000	=	1 delegate
Up to but not exceeding 500,000	=	2 delegates
Up to but not exceeding 3 million	=	3 delegates
Up to but not exceeding 10 million	=	4 delegates
Over 10 million	=	5 delegates

Diaspora counted only within Europe

Recommendation:

GB members will be invited (GB in office until the end of the GA) :

They will attend as delegate by appointment of the Member Church. The Governing Board is requested to define a category for Board members who may not be delegated to the GA by their church.

6) Fundraising

Assembly finances: 400 participants roughly, 960 000 euros. Reserved until now 640 000 euros.

No pre-Assembly costs included as yet. Fundraising e.g. for Pre-Assembly.

Funding expectations towards Serbia?

Extra funding requests to MC needed in January 2017. Concretise needs, such as meals/day.

Compare Charlotte's figures with offer.

7) Timeline

See Appendix 2

To do :

Announce date and place of General Assembly to Member Churches, as required by the constitution.

8) Assembly Worship Committee (AWC)

The discussion focuses on two aspects, the opening worship and prayers/worship during the GA:

- Orthodox, local touch, give local representative the opportunity to discover different tradition
- confessional and inter-confessional ecumenical worship
- contacts with respective own traditions
- keep in mind both common worship of the city and connection with local parishes (Sunday plus encounter over lunch) encourage to go to others than their own.

- Opening worship a massive event, as well as closing worship: express Christian solidarity. Suggestion to organise planting of trees, organise procession from venue to Cathedral
- confessional worships every morning well prepared for duration of assembly, 1 hour
- question of common prayer, esp. for Orthodox
- mobilise local youth speaking EN for worship in local parishes

Assembly Worship Committee members

(5 persons)

highlighted to be asked to take lead role

Sabine Udodesku	Luth.
Luca Negro	Ref.
Karin Wiborn	Bapt.
Constantin Miron	Orth.
Nikos Kosmidis	Orth.
Annie Bartoň	Angl.
Marianna Apresyan	Arm. Apostolic
Jooa Sotejeff-Wilson	Orth
Youth representative?	

And local coordinator or other representative

To do:

by next meeting leader and suggestions of other members - **ask responses by 20 Dec**

9) Fundraising

Define how much still is needed, efforts must be made to contact our churches and approach European companies? The media visibility should attracts donors, possibility to plan events for sponsors.

Define participant fees (500-580 euros for board and lodging), how many to be subsidised? (in Budapest 350 euros), Participants extra fee 150 euros. Income all together 35 000 euros.

Today 700 000 euros are available but 200 000 euros remain to be fundraised

Pre-conferences **not included** in budget plans

Contact government, local government, municipality (do they benefit for the General Assembly)?

Subsidies: will non-paying churches be eligible? Policy on this from previous Assembly?

Membership paid for which year? A small committee to decide (**Budget Committee?**). Are there any guidelines available for subsidies from previous CEC GA?

Discussion re the salary of the Assembly Coordinator (AC), even salaries in general.

Request from CEC Treasurer

When writing to MC about 2017 membership fee indicate that if not paid, no possibility to claim financial support for 2018 GA

10) Assembly Theme

Link theme to Pentecost as taking place just after
3 June: Sunday of All Saints

troubled Europe? Troubled Christianity in Europe? Relating to Islam?
Christian action/struggle/engagement in a troubled Europe.
Christianity and Europe in a troubled world.

Proposed title:

Acts 1:7-8.

You shall be my witnesses.

Christian responsibility for a just and hospitable Europe.

Communicate to GB, decision by Presidency

a) Sub themes discussed:

- i) Ecclesiology & CEC's mission
- ii) Modern Slavery & Human trafficking
- iii) Migration & refugee crisis
- iv) Persecution of Christians & religious minorities (Human Rights)
- v) Economic & Ecological Justice – new perspectives
- vi) Responding to conflict on the path of peace & reconciliation
- vii) Identity & Security (fear)

Define topics tackled in hearings, and topics tackled in Plenary

Idea of the pilgrimage: developed feasibility as a feature of the GA. With local partner.
Document ready by February APC meeting?

Recommendation:

CEC Collegium to work out subthemes and make proposal to APC, sub-themes relating to the work of CEC TRGs

Convening of General Assembly 18 months or 12 months before? > motions to amend the Constitution also 12 months before? Presidents' meeting in February.

Standing Orders of the Assembly proposed by GB and sent to churches 12 months before.
Standing Orders are presented for approval of the General Assembly.

To do:

Send GA Standing Orders 2013 and Andreas Aarflots' timeline to APC (see appendix 2)
Invite Patrick Schnabel & Andreas Aarflot as legal advisers to next APC meeting.

11) APC Mandate

The role & presence of APC members during GA was discussed. The Assembly Steering Committee in charge of daily management of GA; A discussion followed as to extend APC mandate until end of GA

What will be the APC role & presence at GA? What are the tasks of Presidents, Assembly Steering Committee in relation to the APC?

Proposal for APC members to attend GA as advisors.

Recommendation:

No change in APC mandate (ToR).

Every member of APC shall participate in GA in some capacity.

12) Keynote speaker(s)

Theme: witness..., attention by CEC membership and beyond.

resonance of the speaker: e.g. Archbishop of Canterbury, Patriarch Aphrem II.

HAH Bartholomew on climate change

Keynote speaker for each day?

Sub themes for each day? CEC staff to work on a theme for each day. Also relating TRGs & Migration.

Archbishop Yeznik: Patriarch Aphrem II in any case. Archbishop of Canterbury. Pope Francis?

Goal > CEC programme for the next 5 years: policy paper.

1 from a Church background, 1 from a political background

Female keynote speaker

1 from within Europe, 1 from outside Europe

To do:

Letter to MC regarding church membership figures > number of delegates to the GA, to be sent out before Christmas. Reply from churches by end of January.

To do:

Official convening of the Assembly end of February, after Presidency meeting, including:

Date

Place

Duration

Presidency's decision regarding membership figure applied for number of GA delegates

Wording of letters to be checked with Leslie Nathaniel, Michael Bubik, Patrick Schnabel.

To do:

GA Agenda with brief explanation of the matters 6 months prior to GA, after Governing Board meeting November 2017.

Final documents ready for the GA later, GB meeting early 2018.

To do:

A timeline of action points will be elaborated for the next APC meeting.

Assembly outcome:

- Priorities for the next 5 years
- Election of new GB & Presidents
- Financing of CEC

13) Items for next APC meeting, 6-8 February 2017

- Participants compilation
- Youth pre-Assembly and during GA
- Women's pre-Assembly
- ECEN Assembly

Dates APC meetings 2017

- 6-8 February lunchtime to lunchtime, Novi Sad – Serbia**
- 21-23 May arrivals 21 start 9 AM on 22, Brussels – Belgium**
- 2-4 October lunchtime to lunchtime, Volos – Greece**
- 4-6 December lunchtime to lunchtime, Stuttgart - Germany**

Roll Call

Assembly Planning Committee:

Ms Nan **Braunschweiger**, Church of Scotland

Rev Michael **Bubik**, Evangelical Church A.C. in Austria

Revd Canon Dr Leslie **Nathaniel**, Church of England

OKR Klaus **Rieth**, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg

Very Rev Archimandrite Ignatios **Sotiriadis**, Orthodox Church of Greece

Ms Catherine **Tsavidaridou**, Ecumenical Patriarchate

H.E. Archbishop Dr **Yeznik** Petrosyan, Armenian Apostolic Church

Apologies:

*Rev Rebekka Højmark **Svenningsen**, Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Denmark*

*Ms Elena **Timofticiuc**, Romanian Orthodox Church*

Staff:

Ms Véronique **Engels**, Assistant to the General Secretary

Very Reverend Protopresbyter Heikki Theodoros **Huttunen**, General Secretary

Dr Elizabeta **Kitanovic**, Executive Secretary

Guest:

Mr Szabolcs **Lörincz**, Assembly Coordinator designate

Timeline until the General Assembly in 2018

[Items in brackets follow from the Standing Orders of the last General Assembly, but is not necessarily binding for the 15th General Assembly]

June 2016: The Governing Board shall appoint, at the latest 24 months before an ordinary General Assembly, a General Assembly Planning Committee and establish terms of reference for the General Assembly Planning Committee.

November 2016: The Governing Board shall appoint, at the latest 18 months before an ordinary General Assembly, a General Assembly Nominations Panel, which shall have the following functions:

- Make proposals to the General Assembly, via the Governing Board, for the Moderator, Vice Moderators and General Assembly Nominations Committee.
- Make proposals to the General Assembly Nominations Committee, via the Governing Board, for other General Assembly Committees.
- Make proposals to the General Assembly Nominations Committee for the President, Vice Presidents, Members and proxies of the Governing Board.

November 2016: [Governing Board shall convene the Assembly no later than eighteen months before the date fixed. The invitation shall specify the date, place and expected duration of the meeting, as well as the quotas laid down by the Central Committee for delegates from member churches. The invitation shall also contain recommendations for the composition of each delegation].

May 2017: The Governing Board shall announce the dates and place of the General Assembly at least 12 months in advance. SO 5 (3).

May 2017: Motions from member churches to amend the Constitution, cf. Constitution Article 15.2, must reach the General Secretary no later than twelve months before the General Assembly.

May/June 2017: The proposed Standing Orders [of the General Assembly] shall be sent to the member churches 12 months in advance of the General Assembly.

October 2017: The Members shall notify the General Secretary of the names of their elected delegates no later than 7 months before each General Assembly

- November 2017:** Proposals to amend the Standing Orders [of the General Assembly] must reach the General Secretary at least 6 months prior to the General Assembly in order to be tabled for discussion at the General Assembly.
- November 2017:** The Governing Board shall examine (...) motions [to amend the Constitution] at its normal meeting and then transmit them with its comments to all member churches no later than six months before the General Assembly. The above provision applies equally to motions submitted by the Governing Board itself.
- November 2017:** [The Governing Board shall draft the agenda for ordinary meetings of the Assembly. It shall be sent to the member churches of the Conference no later than six months before the beginning of the Assembly and shall as far as possible contain a brief explanation of the individual items to be discussed.]
- March 2018:** The Governing Board will send its recommendations relating to the Standing Orders amendments to the delegates at least 2 months before the General Assembly.
- 14 April 2018:** The member churches shall notify the General Secretary of the names of the Alternates [in the case that the original delegate to the General Assembly cannot attend] no later than 6 weeks before the General Assembly in writing
- 30 April 2018:** [Delegates may submit supplementary proposals and amendments to the General Secretary in writing until four weeks before the beginning of the session at the latest.]
- 31 May–6 June 2018** General Assembly
- New members since last Assembly shall be received at a prayer service during the Assembly.