



## Conference of European Churches

### Governing Board

Strasbourg, 15 – 18 May 2019

## Recommendations of the Budget Committee

In its meeting of 8 March the Budget Committee decided to recommend to the Governing Board that:

- 1) the decisions the Governing Board made in November be carried out in spite of the deficit in the 2018 accounts; the Assembly Fund will be used as much as is reasonable, and should then be replenished to a total amount of €80,000
- 2) in 2019 we should make up for this by establishing a working budget that is in balance when taking into account the deficit of 2018
- 3) the way to achieve that is by reducing the governing and administration costs in a way that does not affect activities and makes the organization suffer as little as possible, in particular by using the sick leave and maternity leave of staff members as opportunities for saving money
- 4) the 2018 accounts should be sent to our member churches after approval with the remark that the deficit will be made up in 2019; the revised budget (see attachment) will not be published, but will function as an internal guideline for CEC.

Remark Sommerfeld: I have consulted with Andreas and he says the Belgian law is clear, also the annual budget has to be approved by the General Assembly. I still maintain that this leads to an unreasonable practice, but we must of course apply.

In our situation it is not only negative. The GA gets then the budget 2019 which shows that we balance out the deficit 2018.

My remarks: This means that a budget must be distributed despite the recommendation to the opposite.

Of the recommendations of the meeting of 29/1 some remain in force:

- 3) Therefore, CEC should be extremely careful in its spending in 2019, making sure that no activities are organised unless a complete external funding is provided.
- 4) A solid fundraising strategy is to be put in place, whenever possible in close cooperation with CCME in order to avoid frustration both within our own organisations as with the donor churches/organisations.
- 5) A hiring stop must be maintained until further notice.

Apart from this, we suggest that the GB should start a fundamental discussion about

- prioritizations in the Strategic Plan,
- the minimum staffing needed to carry out the Strategic Plan, taking into consideration that certain tasks could be carried out by project managers, and that certain could be outsourced to member churches.

With regard to the membership fees for 2018, a reminder should be sent as soon as possible to the Methodist Church of Great Britain, Salvation Army/Ireland, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, UCS and the Salvation Army HQ.

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Treasurer