



Conference of European Churches
Conférence des Églises européennes
Konferenz Europäischer Kirchen
Конференция Европейских Церквей

First Meeting of Ecumenical Officers and Secretaries for Theology

As part of its efforts to foster theological reflection ecumenically, the CEC is organising a meeting of Ecumenical Officers and Secretaries for Theology from **24-26 September 2019 at Kaunisniemi, Finland**. The meeting is primarily intended to bring together all those who have responsibility for ecumenical dialogue among our Member Churches, together with the offices of the World Christian Communions that are located in Europe for a time of exchange, mutual learning, and strengthening of partnerships. It is hosted by the Orthodox Church of Finland and organised with the generous support of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland.

The aim of the meeting is to establish regular exchange with CEC Member Churches, encourage networking and plan new ways of organising our theological work in collaboration with the World Christian Communions. In accordance with its new Strategy Plan, CEC will, in the next few years, work on strengthening ecumenical fellowship and promoting the mission of the Church. The meeting will enable CEC to launch its programme on ecclesiology and mission, whose focus is the dialogue with the so-called 'migrant' and 'minority ethnic' churches in Europe.

The primary objectives of this meeting are as follows:

- 1. To listen to priorities and key questions in the areas of ecclesiology and mission.** This part of the meeting will lay the foundations for establishing theological exchange among CEC Member Churches. Each participant will be asked to prepare and share in advance a two-page paper on the current burning questions faced by their Church/Communion. This exercise will be a concrete step towards mapping theological dialogues that are taking place between and among Member Churches, as participants will identify priorities and questions of common concern. It will enable CEC to pursue its theological work on the basis of the current needs of its Member Churches. The meeting will take stock of agreements and developments within and between Churches and reflect on how CEC could promote their reception regionally and locally.
- 2. To initiate the Programme on Ecclesiology and Mission.** The second part of the programme will focus on enhancing ecumenical cooperation and fellowship with 'migrant' and 'minority ethnic' churches. This part of the meeting will enable CEC to identify the situation on the ground with regard to the realities of 'migrant' churches. It will identify partners and set the stage for CEC to reflect on the ecclesiologies of churches with historical longevity in Europe in

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dialogue with the ecclesiologies of 'migrant' churches, and also to consider the impact of the changing religious landscape on the self-understanding of churches.

Through this meeting, CEC hopes to strengthen fellowship, deepen ecumenical engagement and widen learning concerning 'migrant' and 'minority ethnic' churches.

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