



Saksbehandler: Sven Oppegaard

Saksdokumenter

Brev fra Kirkenes Verdensråd av april 2007 om neste generalforsamling i KV (*vedlagt*)
Vedtak fra KVs generalforsamling 2006 (*vedlagt*)

Kirkenes Verdensråd (KV)

Fremtidige økumeniske generalforsamlinger

Sammendrag

Brev er mottatt fra KVs generalsekretær Sam Kobia vedrørende "The next WCC Assembly". Den norske kirke har gjennom flere år vært en pådriver i diskusjonen om mønsteret i de økumeniske generalforsamlingene. Dagens mønster er altfor ressurskrevende og reflekterer vel så mye atskillelse som kirkelig enhet. Det er også en viktig side ved denne saken at Dnk utøver mye av sitt økumeniske engasjement gjennom LVF, og at en sterkere samordning med KV (bl.a. gjennom generalforsamlingene) vil være av stor viktighet i årene fremover.

Denne saken ble reist overfor Sam Kobia da han besøkte Norge etter at han var valgt til generalsekretær i 2004. Dnk engasjerte seg også sterkt i saken på LVFs rådsmøte i Betlehem i 2005 og på KVs generalforsamling i Porto Alegre i 2006, hvor ønskeligheten av en bedre integrasjon av de konfesjonelle verdensfamiliene i fremtidens generalforsamlinger var sterkt fremme. Anbefalingen fra Policy Reference Committee som ble vedtatt av generalforsamlingen, foreskriver (jfr. punkt d) at KV skal undersøke "the feasibility of a structure for WCC assemblies that would provide expanded space for Christian World Communions and confessional families to meet, for the purpose of deliberation and/or overall agendas", og ber sentralkomiteen følge opp dette. Det ble gjort i september 2006.

I februar 2007 har KVs eksekutivkomité videreført saken, men har endret sakens profil ved at det nå ikke primært er de konfesjonelle verdensfamiliene som skal ha en plass innenfor en ny struktur for generalforsamlingene, men alle KVs forskjellige partnere - uten differensiering. Brevet fra Sam Kobia reflekterer den reviderte linjen trukket opp av eksekutivkomiteen.

Forslag til vedtak

Formuleres i Genève i lys av samtaler med KV.



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Re: The next WCC assembly

Geneva, April 2007

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

Among the recommendations of the Porto Alegre assembly was to pursue an "ecumenical assembly that would assemble all churches to celebrate their fellowship in Jesus Christ and to address common challenges facing the church and humanity" (Report of the Policy Reference Committee, paragraph 5).

This recommendation was supported by the assembly principally as a witness "toward visible unity and a shared Eucharist", but also as a practical challenge to "explore the feasibility of a structure for WCC assemblies that would provide expanded space for Christian World Communions and confessional families to meet, for the purpose of deliberation and/or overall agenda" (Report of the Policy Reference Committee, paragraph 25d).

The Assembly requested that this be further deliberated early in the term of the Central Committee.

The feasibility of a WCC assembly gathering all churches and offering expanded space for Christian World Communions was initially discussed by the Central Committee in September 2006. The matter was referred to the Executive Committee for further discussion with the expectation that an initial recommendation come to the Central Committee meeting in 2008 for consideration.

In February this year the Executive Committee elaborated the discussion and requested that advice be sought from the fellowship of WCC member churches, regional and associate councils, specialized ministries and international ecumenical organisations. The concerns addressed by the Executive Committee, and on which feedback is now requested, include:

A common vision

From the initial discussions, there is an apparent interest in pursuing a **WCC assembly that would gather all churches and offer expanded space to partner ecumenical organisations**. This is the vision of a broad-based WCC assembly that would invite not only Christian World Communions, but other churches and ecumenical partners to gather in support of the one ecumenical movement.

1. *Does this language adequately describe the vision of a gathering that brings together the widest platform of Christian churches and organizations in an expression of visible unity? Does this vision resonate with your church's or organisation's ecumenical calling?*
2. *Is an assembly of the WCC the best environment in which to manifest commitment to both the fellowship of member churches and the one ecumenical movement?*
3. *How would such an intentionally broadened WCC assembly strengthen the fellowship of member churches in their search for visible unity?*

Stewardship and commitment

It has been reported that the plethora of ecumenical and confessional assemblies has become not only a financial burden for many churches and ecumenical partners, but a burden on the human resources of the churches. Additionally the lack of coherence around themes, agendas, resources and worship material has been critiqued by some.

1. *Is the current cycle of ecumenical and confessional assemblies a burden on your church or organisation, and if so, why?*
2. *Is your church or organisation committed to sharing your resources and to collaborate on study processes and the preparation of resources that are necessary to sustain a WCC assembly that offers expanded space to all churches and other partners?*
3. *Is your church or organisation committed to the idea of pursuing a WCC assembly that would gather all churches and offer expanded space to partner ecumenical organisations?*

The ecumenical landscape has changed significantly in recent years and will continue to change as new forms and models of ecclesial unity emerge, as bi-lateral dialogues mature and as the mechanisms for ecumenical engagement in Diakonia and development are transformed. An assembly of the World Council of Churches is among the largest and most representative gatherings of churches committed to the search for visible unity. Assemblies, as per the WCC Rules, give priority to the fellowship of member churches to review and set future directions. And yet the World Council of Churches is not the only institutional context in which the wider fellowship of churches expresses its commitment to visible unity.

The Porto Alegre assembly, in articulating the vision of an 'ecumenical assembly', has led us to re-consider the nature of WCC assemblies as the most significant global platform; not only for gathering the fellowship of member churches, but also for fostering the coherence of the one ecumenical movement by involving more intentionally councils of churches, confessional bodies, diaconal ministries and other international ecumenical initiatives.

Your response to these issues will help to inform the subsequent reflection of the Executive Committee and thereby strengthen the Central Committee discussion in February 2008. We look forward to receiving your feedback on this matter before 1 August 2007 if possible.

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia
General Secretary

Cc: Members of Central Committee

Adopted

Report of the Policy Reference Committee

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Relationships with Ecumenical Partners

Christian World Communions

23. The WCC is strengthened by interaction with the Christian World Communions. Its spirituality, witness, and work are enhanced by cooperative efforts with Christian World Communions towards building Christian unity. Multi-lateral and bi-lateral dialogues have contributed to a number of unity agreements and have enhanced understanding and cooperation among churches. Cooperative efforts in areas of witness, mission, diakonia and ecumenical formation are integral to the life of the WCC. The importance of strengthening this relationship is articulated in the Common Understanding and Vision document and affirmed by the Harare Assembly.

24. The PRC notes that the various structures and self-understanding of the Christian World Communions and of the member churches of the WCC results in a variety of ways of relating to the WCC, and welcomes the ongoing relationship with the Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions, whilst recognizing that not all member churches find themselves represented in this body. Some Christian World Communions and the General Secretary have called for new ways of relating CWCS to the WCC, including new possibilities related to future WCC Assemblies, expanded space in the structure of WCC Assemblies for confessional meetings, and the vision ultimately of a broadly inclusive ecumenical assembly.

Resolution:

25. The Ninth Assembly:

a) affirms the important specific role and place of the Christian World Communions in the ecumenical movement and as partners of the WCC, and particularly acknowledges the importance of the role of Christian World Communions in both multi-lateral and bilateral dialogues and reconfiguration of the ecumenical movement;

b) directs that the WCC jointly consult with the Christian World Communions to explore the significance and implications of overlap of membership, coordination of programmes, and other common efforts between the WCC and the Christian World Communions;

c) directs that the WCC initiate, within the next year and in consultation with the Christian World Communions, a joint consultative commission to discuss and recommend ways to further strengthen the participation of Christian World Communions in the WCC;

d) directs that the WCC explore the feasibility of a structure for WCC assemblies that would provide expanded space for Christian World Communions and confessional families to meet, for the purpose of deliberation and/or overall agendas. Early in the term of this next Central Committee, a decision would be expected as to whether the next WCC Assembly should be so structured;

e) directs that United and Uniting churches be included in this process.

DENNE SIDEN ER HENTET FRA:

<http://www.wcc-assembly.info/en/theme-issues/assembly-documents/1-statements-documents-adopted/institutional-issues/report-of-the-policy-reference-committee/report-as-adopted.html>

