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Referanser:

Saksdokumenter:

Utdrag av rapportene fra Assembly Planning Committee til LVFs rådsmøter i 2007 og 2008

Forberedelse til generalforsamlingen i LVF 2010



LWF Eleventh Assembly
20 - 27 July 2010
Stuttgart, Germany

Fra LWI 9. juli 2008:

The logo's modest, simple design attempts to combine several elements in one graphic image. The cross in the center is curved, emphasizing that it is not an inert but rather a living entity. It is surrounded by a stylized bud, drawn by a single vivid green pen stroke, representing the life and growth which God gives to all creation. The artist explains the unfolding bud as representing "our daily bread," pointing out: "Every plant begins with a tiny seed, and only if this seed falls into the earth and dies can it become a great plant which will bear much fruit."

Sammendrag

Forberedelsene til LVFs generalforsamling er godt i gang gjennom Assembly Planning Committee (APC), hvor Berit Lånke er medlem.

Vedlagte utdrag av rapportene fra APC til LVFs råd gir en oversikt over de viktigste sidene ved forberedelsen. De ansvarlige fagpersonene (Assembly Staff Coordinators) er også godt i gang med sitt arbeid. I tillegg til dem som er oppført i dokumentet (se siste side), er Erwin Buck (professor i Det nye testamente ved Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, Canada) oppnevnt som Content Coordinator og Per Harling (svensk prest i Lausanne, Sveits) oppnevnt som Worship Coordinator.

Når det gjelder Pre-Assembly Regional Consultations, vil det ikke bli arrangert en egen nordisk konsultasjon forut for generalforsamlingen. Det vil imidlertid holdes en europeisk konsultasjon som vil finne sted i Bratislava, Slovakia, 14.-18. mars 2010. Her er det imidlertid ikke meningen at hele delegasjonen skal delta. Dette møtet faller også relativt nært generalforsamlingen i tid. Det er derfor viktig at det holdes et norsk delegasjonsmøte (eventuelt med noen nordiske gjester) til høsten, slik at forberedelsene kan komme godt i gang. Det foreslås at et slikt møte holdes i Oslo *torsdag 10. - fredag 11. september d.å.*, d.v.s. etter MKRs septembermøte. Et slikt arrangement er forberedt i budsjettet.

Forslag til vedtak

1. MKR tar orienteringen til etterretning. Rådet har følgende bemerkninger til planene:
[Tekst]
2. Det vedtas å holde et norsk delegasjonsmøte 10.-11. september 2009.

LVFs generalforsamling, Stuttgart, 20.-27. juli 2010

*Utdrag av rapportene
fra Assembly Planning Committee
til LVFs rådsmøter i 2007 og 2008*

I. REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Lund, Sweden, 20-27 March 2007

1. INTRODUCTION TO ASSEMBLY PREPARATION

(3) The general secretary provided a brief overview of history from the first evangelical Lutheran conference held in Hanover in July 1868 to the formation of the Lutheran World Convention in Eisenach in 1923 and the Lutheran World Federation in Lund in 1947. Assemblies have always served as a platform for reconciliation within Lutheran churches. The Eleventh Assembly in Stuttgart in 2010 will continue this tradition but, in view of the changing configuration of the ecumenical movement, will have a very strong ecumenical character. Information was provided about the Renewal Committee which would be starting its work the following week.

4. THE ASSEMBLY VENUE

(6) At its meeting in 2005, the Council voted to accept the invitation of the Evangelical Church in Württemberg to hold the Eleventh Assembly in Stuttgart, Germany. The church was founded in 1534. During the assembly there will be a celebration to mark the 475th anniversary of its founding. It has relationships with 45 churches around the world. Its headquarters are in Stuttgart, a city situated "between vineyards and forests", which has a majority Protestant population. It enjoys good relationships with Muslim organizations and with Orthodox communities which use Lutheran church buildings, and is engaged in Jewish-Christian dialogue. Assembly participants will experience Christianity in a highly industrialized society and examples of diaconal work to respond to the challenges of such a society.

(7) For the benefit of the participants who had not been present at the Council meeting, the videotape presentation which had been given to the Council was shown. The Liederhalle Congress Centre and adjoining Maritim Hotel are in the centre of the city within easy reach of the airport by public transport. Facilities are fully accessible to the disabled. A nearby church may be used for daily worship; it is envisaged to use the larger "Stiftskirche" for the opening and closing worship services. The committee will hold its next meeting in Stuttgart in order to visit the facilities and meet with the local committee.

6. NATURE, POWERS AND PURPOSE OF LWF ASSEMBLIES

(15) The committee reviewed Art. VII.1 of the Constitution which defines the nature, powers and purpose of LWF assemblies as follows:

The Assembly shall consist of representatives of the member churches of the Federation. As the principal authority of the Lutheran World Federation, the Assembly shall:

- be responsible for the Constitution;*
- give general direction to the work of the Federation;*
- elect the President and the members of the Council;*
- act on the reports of the President, the General Secretary and the Treasurer.*

(16) It also noted that the Constitution assigns to the Assembly responsibility for amending the Constitution (Art. XIV.1) and the right to receive churches into LWF membership, to suspend or terminate such membership, as well as to reinstate a suspended church (Art. V.1 and Bylaws Art. 2.3).

Additional Purposes

(17) The committee discussed the general purposes and specific additional purposes affirmed for the Tenth Assembly, noting that the latter reflected the context of the time. It is

(18) recommended: to approve the following general and specific additional purposes for the Eleventh Assembly:

General purposes:

- a) to witness to the faith and to worship together;**
- b) to confer with one another;**
- c) to speak together on fundamental concerns of the whole church;**
- d) to express their unity as part of the one, universal, new community in Christ; and**
- e) to reflect more deeply on the shift from federation to communio.**

Specific additional purposes:

- a) to explore ways to be God's instruments for healing, justice and reconciliation in the midst of brokenness in church and society;**
- b) to deepen the understanding and experience of the Lutheran communion by addressing differences and disparities, and by sharing gifts;**
- c) to commit to closer and deeper cooperation within the ecumenical movement and to life in communion as given in Christ by deepening a vision of communion of communions;**
- d) to discern the challenges posed to Lutheran churches in today's multicultural and multifaith contexts; and**
- e) to address spiritual, social and environmental challenges provoked especially by economic globalization, the struggle against poverty, HIV/AIDS, water and food security.**

7. DATE AND LENGTH OF THE ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

(19) The committee reviewed the duration of the preceding five assemblies which varied in length from fifteen days (Budapest) to nine days (Hong Kong). Based on its review of the Winnipeg assembly (11 days), it considered that the assembly purpose/program should be more focussed so as to make better use of the time available and have a greater impact.

(20) It noted that, following consultation with the host church, the Executive Committee at its meeting in March 2006 agreed to recommend to the Council a time frame between 20-30 July 2010.

(21) The committee was mindful of the problems lengthy absences can create for many participants. It also took into consideration the budget frame voted by the Council in 2004.

(22) The following framework is proposed:

Saturday 17 July	Arrival in Europe
Sunday 18 July	Worship with Lutherans in Germany/neighbouring countries
Monday 19 July	“Contextual education”
Tuesday 20 July	Arrival in Stuttgart 19.00 Opening worship
Wednesday 21 July	Business
Thursday 22 July	Business
Friday 23 July	Business
Saturday 24 July	Business Evening - celebration
Sunday 25 July	Morning - worship Afternoon - Stuttgart experience
Monday 26 July	Business
Tuesday 27 July	Business 16.00 Closing worship

It is

(23) recommended: that the Eleventh Assembly be held from 20-27 July 2010.

(24) Note: If these dates are approved, the outgoing Council would meet 18-20 July 2010, and the incoming Council would meet 28-29 July 2010.

11. THEME

(38) The committee had received a copy of the general secretary’s invitation to member churches and national committees inviting them to submit suggestions for the theme of the assembly. Responses had been received from ten member churches and one national committee.

(39) Note was taken of the themes of previous assemblies which all contained elements of inter-Lutheran and ecumenical relationships, connection with society, and the ability to be translated into other languages. Many had focussed on Christology.

(40) The committee discussed the various proposals at length over several days, bearing in mind the need for a concise formulation which could be explicated in the sub-themes. Some proposals were considered to be too inward-looking, others could not be easily translated. For communication purposes a short theme is preferred. Numerous other suggestions were made around the table and reflected on. The committee also took time to hear what each participant considered in less than twenty words to be the message (outcome) of the assembly. This was a helpful exercise.

(41) Finally a theme was identified that is short, conveys the notion of a journey or pilgrimage, has a spiritual dimension and already exists in many languages.

(42) “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread” is a quotation from the Lord’s prayer which the Christian Church has throughout the years maintained as it was formulated by Jesus at the request of the disciples.

(43) For many Christians, the words of the Lord’s Prayer may have little meaning when the daily necessities of life seem so abundant. The inability to comprehend this most basic plea only emphasizes the injustice of today’s world and the disparities which divide humanity. The terrible reality is that the majority of the earth’s people engage in a life-long struggle to maintain even the barest level of subsistence. For many this struggle ends with tragic swiftness. But Christians who feed on the Bread of Life cannot accept the persistence of affluent complacency, while the world faces the prospect of mass starvation and human misery of unparalleled proportions. For these reasons, it is

(44) recommended: to adopt “Give Us Today Our Daily Bread” as the theme of the Eleventh Assembly.

12. ISSUES

(45) During its discussion of a possible theme, the committee identified pertinent issues from the regions which might be considered as sub-themes.

(46) Africa: The rich getting richer, the poor getting poorer; food security; general environment of insecurity; conflicts around natural resources (e.g. water); those caught up in conflicts in which they have no part; human sexuality; spirituality; domestic violence.

(47) Asia: Multiculturalism; changing definition of poverty; the role of the church in societies which are both very rich and very poor; changing family values; food security.

(48) Europe: Secularization; peace and global security; demographic change; family values; climate change; the dividing line between countries in the EU and those outside; HIV/AIDS; need for dialogue with other faiths.

(49) Latin America: Diakonia in an urban context; food security and land reform; control of water resources;

(50) North America: Climate change; secularization.

15. WORSHIP

(60) Worship will be very central to the life of the assembly. It is the only possibility for many people to experience the catholicity of the church. It should be part of the whole day, not an optional extra.

(61) The committee was informed that the general secretary expected to shortly be able to identify a staff colleague who could serve as worship coordinator. Following this, a small international worship committee will be identified to work with the local worship committee.

(62) The committee suggests that a nearby church might be used for evening worship with morning worship taking place in dedicated space in the congress centre. Consideration should be given to daily celebration of the Eucharist. The local community should be invited to worship with assembly participants.

(63) The “Stiftskirche” will be used for the opening and closing worship services.

16. PRE-ASSEMBLY CONSULTATIONS

(64) The committee was informed that pre-assembly consultations are a tradition, not a constitutional requirement. In the past they have often served as training sessions. In the south, they have had an important role in empowering people for participation. It is estimated that two-thirds of delegates have not attended an assembly before.

(65) The timing of such consultations is crucial. It is preferred that they take place about ten months before the assembly but it is essential that the assembly materials be available.

(66) It is foreseen that there be regional consultations, as well as pre-assembly meetings for women and for youth. A concern was raised that holding the youth meeting immediately prior to the assembly meant a long absence for many young people.

(67) The local church has requested that the women and youth meetings not be held in Stuttgart.

(68) Details of pre-assembly consultations will be provided to the next meeting of the APC.

17. PRE-ASSEMBLY VISITATION PROGRAM

(69) Based on its review of the Winnipeg Assembly for which both pre- and post-assembly visitation programs were offered, the committee recommends that only pre-assembly visits be arranged so that the experiences gained can be fed into the assembly. Space should be provided for this in the assembly program. It further recommends that a way be found to enable the participation of all who so wish.

(70) In Germany this program should not be limited to “Luther shrines”. Visits to churches in neighbouring countries should also be offered.

(71) More information about the pre-assembly visitation program will be provided to the next meeting of the APC.

II. REPORT OF THE ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE **Arusha, Tanzania, 25-30 June 2008**

2. FUTURE ASSEMBLIES AND THE GLOBAL CHRISTIAN FORUM

(10) The committee heard from several persons who had been members of the LWF delegation to the Global Christian Forum meeting in Kenya, in November 2007. This meeting brought together a wider range of Christians than ever before. While some were disappointed at the lack of opportunity to visit any work done by the local churches and the few women delegates

(20 out of 245), the experience of praying together for perhaps the first time had been very enriching. The mainstream churches heard discomfoting things (for example, that the ecumenical movement is dead) and must struggle with the question of how the church is perceived in their situations. The meeting created a context in which LWF needs to shape its assembly and ask itself what is its relevance in the midst of the other assemblies?

(11) At its first meeting, the committee was introduced to the concept of “ecumenical assemblies”. It learned that this term had not found favour at the November 2007 meeting of Secretaries of the Christian World Communions since some confessional families do not hold assemblies. “Expanded space” is the term now being used. Some confessional families are open to moving ahead, others are more reluctant.

(12) The World Council of Churches has also been discussing the style of its future assemblies and has placed this subject on the agenda of the 2008 meeting of its Central Committee. It expects that a clear proposal on how to move forward will be submitted to Central Committee in 2009.

3. THE LOCAL CONTEXT

(13) The Evangelical Church of Württemberg is a Lutheran church with a strong pietistic tradition. It is not a member of the United Lutheran Church of Germany, but belongs to the German National Committee. There is a good relationship between the church and the State of Baden-Württemberg which finances certain activities and supports the holding of the LWF assembly in Stuttgart.

(14) The committee was informed about the ecumenical situation in Germany. In Baden-Württemberg the Roman Catholic Church and the Evangelical Church enjoy good relationships. In Germany as a whole, the Lutheran, Protestant and Uniting churches are moving closer together and in future members of one synod will also be members of the synod of the Evangelical Church in Germany. There are good relationships and cooperation with the smaller Christian churches (for example, Moravian, Methodist, Baptist). The Catholic Church has a high profile due to the higher percentage of Catholic journalists and majority of government members being Catholic. One of the biggest challenges is Islam since there is no direct counterpart [i.e. umbrella organization] at State or Federal levels.

(15) Work in the diaconal field has traditionally been divided between the Catholic Caritas and Protestant Diakonie institutions. On the Protestant side there are various associations, some of which accompany, for example, the “Vesperkirche”, while others are more institutional in nature. The large number of diaconal institutions goes back to the post-World War II situation when this role was given to the church.

(16) Some visibility should be given at the assembly to express both how the local church is living together with other faiths, as well as how this experience is shared in local situations (cf. additional purpose (d): “to discern the challenges posed to Lutheran churches in today’s multicultural and multifaith contexts”).

5. DEVELOPMENT OF THEME AND SUB-THEMES

(22) The committee took note of how the theme chosen (“Give Us Today Our Daily Bread”) will help the regions to lift up poverty as the crucial diaconal challenge in our time. It was also reminded of its earlier identification of issues from the regions which may be considered as sub-themes.

(23) The theme reflects the prophetic voice of the church and proclaims that it is part of our basic commitment to fair and dignified life. It must be action-oriented.

(24) The committee held group and plenary discussions on how to deal with the theme. It considered focussing on one word of the prayer each day during the assembly, but learned that the number of words and their order vary according to the language. It was reminded that bread as such is not used everywhere.

(25) Finally it came up with an *approach and basic structure* for the Bible studies and for discussion in Village Groups.

Village Groups

(33) **1. Good soil – Clean water**

Basis for farming, the ecological dimension, erosion, climate change

Theological theme: Creation (Gen 8:22)

(34) **2. Sowing**

Resources and their distribution; the dignity and the responsibility of the person who sows, empowerment, education, genetically-modified seed

Theological: talents and skills as God's gifts, education and proclamation (sowing the word – God who sows); hope

(35) **3. Growth – Harvest**

Work and labour, gender and youth participation, overcoming patterns of exclusion, economic and political models of growth and harvest, sustainability; subsidized agriculture; agro-business

Theological: justice, stewardship, transformation, thanksgiving, diaconal work

(36) **4. Processing what is harvested**

Flour and yeast, baking the bread; fair trade and decent work

Theological: advocacy as part of the church's mission

(37) **5. Breaking the bread – Sharing/solidarity**

Distribution of wealth and access to what is harvested; food security; the divided church in a divided world

Theological: the Eucharist – hospitality at the table; diakonia as the Eucharist after the Eucharist – “Visitation to the poor”

(38) **Cross-cutting**

- The contrast between the promise of daily bread and the experiences of a broken world;
- The vocation to be a partner in God's mission of providing bread to all creation;
- Jesus Christ as Bread of Life in the midst of poverty and hunger.

(39) The committee asks staff to provide the biblical texts.

(40) Concerning the message from the assembly, the committee expresses the hope that it will be of a more descriptive nature (perhaps something related to the theme, to our self-understanding, and to the central topics of the assembly) and with fewer commitments than in Winnipeg.

20. NEXT MEETING

(79) The APC will hold its next meeting 4-6 May 2009 in Geneva.

Submitted to the Council by

Assembly Planning Committee

Mrs Angelene Swart, Moravian Church in South Africa (chairperson)
 Rev. Caroline Bauberot, Evangelical Lutheran Church of France
 Rev. Paul Johnson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
 Rev. Rainer Kiefer, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover
 Rev. Berit Lånke, Church of Norway
 Rev. Ireneusz Lukas, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland
 Rev. Dr Thomas Nyiwe, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon
 Mr Markku Porvari, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
 Rev. Gloria Rojas, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile
 Rev. Silvio Schneider, Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil
 Rev. Josephine (Shui Wan) Tso, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong
 Mrs Klára Wagner-Balicza, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary
 Rev. Abigail Zang Hoffman, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Rev. Wayne Zweck, Lutheran Church of Australia

Consultants

Bishop Heinrich Bolleter, World Methodist Council
 Rev. Hartmut Lucke, World Alliance of Reformed Churches
 Rev. Dr Odair Pedroso Mateus, World Council of Churches
 Rev. Canon Robert Paterson, The Anglican Communion

German host church(es):

Mr Reinhard Gradmann, Assembly Logistics Coordinator
 Rev. Martin Penzoldt, Program Coordinator
 Rev. Klaus Rieth, Communications/media
 Mr Peter Stoll, Local Planning Committee

Assembly Staff Coordinators/Committee (LWF Geneva)

Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, Chair
 Ms Karin Achtelstetter, Communication Coordinator
 Dr Kathryn Johnson, Interim Ecumenical Affairs Officer (invited)
 Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, Coordinator for Council-related Matters (apology)
 Rev. Dr Kjell Nordstokke, Pre-Assembly Consultations Coordinator
 Mr Pauli Rantanen, Finance Coordinator

Utdrag v/Sven Oppegaard