



Saksbehandler: Beate Fagerli

Saksdokumenter:

Rapport fra Nordisk-baltiske møter under generalforsamlingen i Firenze, 20.–26. september 2012

Saker i de økumeniske organisasjonene

Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE)

Sammendrag

CPCEs generalforsamling fant sted i Firenze, Italia, 20.–26. september 2012. På generalforsamlingen ble nytt råd valgt, og alle generalforsamlingens vedtak og anbefalinger er videresendt rådet. Informasjon om videre prioriteringer i arbeidet vil foreligge når det nye rådet har hatt sitt første møte. Rapport fra møter i de nordiske og baltiske delegasjonene ligger vedlagt.

Det forventes at CPCEs nye råd tar initiativ til en ny læresamtale om tolkningen og betydningen av kirkefelleskap. Forslag til en slik læresamtale ble vedtatt av generalforsamlingen som en oppfølging av forrige periodes arbeid med dokumentene «Skrift, bekjennelse, kirke» og «Ministry - Ordination - Episkopé» (Tjeneste, ordinasjon og tilsyn). Teologisk nemnd har arbeidet med begge dokumentene, og Mellomkirkelig råd avga høringssvar på disse. Imidlertid reiser dokumentet «Ministry - Ordination - Episkopé» en del uløste økumeniske spørsmål, særlig hva gjelder ordinasjon og tilsyn. Teologisk nemnd ber derfor om at dette dokumentet oversettes til norsk for videre studiearbeid.

CPCE inviterte til dialog med Den romersk-katolske kirke i forrige periode. Stephanie Dietrich fra Norge ble invitert til å delta i denne dialogen. Åpningsmøtet mellom en delegasjon fra CPCE og det pavelige råd for kristen enhet fant sted 8.–9. februar i Wien, Østerrike. Dialogen fokuserte først og fremst på kirkeforståelse og vil ha betydning for CPCEs videre arbeid med forståelsen av kirkefelleskap. Åpningsmøtet foregikk i en åpen og ærlig tone, og ble sett på som en positiv begynnelse av den videre dialogen.

Forslag til vedtak:

1. MKR tar Rapport fra Nordisk-baltiske møter under generalforsamlingen i Firenze, 20.-26. september 2012 til orientering
2. MKR ber sekretariatet om å sørge for oversettelse av dokumentet «Ministry - Ordination - Episkopé»



Folkekirkens mellemkirkelige Råd

Council on International Relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Copenhagen 09.01.2013

RHS

j.nr.47

To the Council of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe

Dear friends,

During the Assembly in Florence, some of the Member Churches and Participating Churches from the Northern European region took the opportunity of being together and arranged meetings in order to share common interests. At the latter of these meetings the participants shared points of evaluation of the General Assembly which they wish to share with the Council, trusting that it will take them into account.

Churches represented at this meeting were: *ELC Denmark, ELC Finland, ELC Estonia, Church of Norway, Church of Sweden, United Methodist Church, The Reformed Synod in Denmark and The Methodist Church in Great Britain.*

The points of evaluation were the following:

a. CPCE for dummies

It would be useful, as long as the GA is only every 6 years, if a more thorough introduction to the procedures of the Assembly would be carried through. Delegates cannot be expected to understand the nature of the GA when they attend for the first time, which many do.

b. Language

More resources have to be put into interpretation and translation of documents. It is unacceptable that the documents finally voted on have not been introduced in all three languages in print before decisions are made. The language barrier is greater than the organisers of the GA seem to have appreciated.

Interpreters were good. However, short messages in the plenary were often given in only one language which was confusing.

The Northern European churches support the idea of a dictionary that explains the language of the GA, i.e. what is expected when the assembly adopts a document etc.

c. Assembly working method

Many from the Northern European region found it odd that changes could be made by the Assembly to documents, which have been worked on by experts for many years and been through hearings in the Member Churches. The mandate to alter the documents at this stage is not clear. Rather the working groups should be only for discussion about the documents in order for the delegates to develop their interchurch perspective on the issues and also in order for them to decide on which level they will be able to accept the document.

www.interchurch.dk · E-mail: interchurch@interchurch.dk

Peter Bangs Vej 1 D, DK-2000 Frederiksberg · Tel. +45 33 11 44 88 · Fax +45 33 11 95 88

Formand: Hanna Broadbridge · *Sekretariatschef:* Jørgen Skov Sørensen

- d. **The footnote (declaration)** for the decision on "Ministry – Ordination – Episkopé" given by the delegation of the Church of Norway and the discussion about the level on which the document should be approved by the GA led to a change in the final proposal. This meant that the footnote was no longer relevant in the final report. The reasoning behind the change should be kept in mind. Therefore many of the Northern European delegates wishes to repeat the declaration here for the Council to consider in their future work:

The Church of Norway's delegates appreciate the valuable and constructive insights of the document *Ministry – Ordination – Episkopé*, and we will recommend it as a reference document in our further work in the Church of Norway.

The importance of the understanding of diaconia within the ministry of the church, the role of the diaconical institutions, the understanding of the ministry of the church, the deacon, as well as lay ministers, are all important issues under thorough consideration within the Church of Norway's preparation for a new church order.

Due to this we are not comfortable to 'adopt the statement' and 'invite our church to adopt it' at this assembly. However, we strongly support the recommendations of the document to further explore these issues.

Finally, it is our view, in light of the discussion in the Assembly, that it might be wise to explicitly express what is implied by the Assembly's adoption of a document, and its consequences for the churches and its delegates.

- e. **The role of the General Assembly**

There was some confusion between the delegates as to what the role and mandate of the GA is in relation to Member Churches on one side and the Council of CPCE on the other. What does it mean when the GA adopts documents, resolutions, declarations? It was said that it cannot be binding for the MC's but who then is it binding for? It was also noticed that the GA was not presented with the finances of the CPCE.

May God bless your work in the new Council,
Best wishes,

Rebekka Højmark Svenningsen

Consultant on European Affairs

Council on International Relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark