



Saksbehandler: Stephanie Dietrich

Saksdokumenter

**CPCE (Leuenberg):**

Notater fra samtale om Leuenbergavtalen 22.11.05 og 13.01.06 med vedlagt høringsvar [redacted]

Nyhetsbrev [redacted]

Invitasjonsbrev til CPCEs Generalforsamling 12.-18.09.06 i Budapest, Ungarn [redacted]

## Oppfølging av saker i de økumeniske organisasjoner

### CPCE (Leuenberg)

#### Sammendrag

Teologiske dokumenter fra CPCE har vært til drøfting i Teologisk nemnd under fjorårets møter. Sakene skal drøftes på CPCEs generalforsamling i Budapest september 2006, der Olav Fykse Tveit deltar som medlem av eksekutivkomiteen, samt biskop Ernst Baasland og rådgiver Stephanie Dietrich som delegater fra Den norske kirke.

Dokumentet om "Shape and Shaping" (jfr. TNs høringuttalelse) drøfter kirkefellesskapets selvforståelse og fremtidsperspektiver. Teologisk nemnd uttalte seg i sin høringssuttalelse kritisk til flere aspekter ved dette dokumentet, under henvisning til Kirkemøtets vedtak ved undertegnelsen av Leuenbergkonkordien i 1999 (signaturforklaringen).

Et annet dokument som er til høring i medlemskirkene, er teksten om "evangelisering". Teologisk nemnd drøftet saken sammen med Kirkemøtedokumentet om misjon.

Det tredje dokumentet som ble drøftet, er samtaledokumentet mellom CPCE og EBF (baptistkirkene i Europa).

Sistnevnte dokument fikk en grundig behandling i TN gjentatte ganger, og høringsuttalelsen følger vedlagt sakspapirene til Mellomkirkelig råd.

Denne europeiske dialogen mellom medlemskirkene i CPCE og baptistkirkene har også betydning for den lokaløkumeniske situasjonen i Norge:

Både Den norske kirken og Metodistkirken i Norge er medlemmer i CPCE. Samtidig har Metodistkirken i Norge ført samtaler med Baptistkirken i Norge, og skal legge frem et forslag til lokal samarbeidsavtale på årskonferansen i år.

På bakgrunn av vår egen avtale med Metodistkirken, "Nådens Fellesskap", har det vært gjensidig konsultasjon mellom kirkesamfunnene i forhold til både CPCE-dialogen og dens anbefalinger og den lokale bilaterale dialogen mellom metodistene og baptistene i Norge. I denne sammenheng har det vært viktig å se de nasjonale og de europeiske dialogene i nær sammenheng, og å ta hensyn til de gjensidige forpliktelsene som allerede finnes, og åpenheten rundt prosessene som pågår.

Spørsmålene omkring forståelsen av dåpen er fortsatt langt fra løst. Samtidig ønsker man å komme et stykke videre gjennom det at baptistmenigheter oppfordres til å vurdere hvorvidt de under visse omstendigheter kan anerkjenne barnedåp som gyldig grunnlag for medlemskap i sin menighet.

Konklusjonene mellom forslaget til avtale mellom på den ene siden Baptistkirken i Norge og Metodistkirken i Norge, og på den andre siden CPCE (der både Dnk og Metodistkirken er medlem) og Baptistene i Europa (der Baptistkirken i Norge er medlem), er langt på vei sammenfallende: Dåpsforståelsen er fortsatt såpass divergerende, at man ikke kan anbefale kirkefellesskap på linje med det som praktiseres mellom CPCE-kirkene, som alter- og prekestolfellesskap.

I denne sammenhengen har det i norsk sammenheng også vært avholdt møter der vi har drøftet våre kirkers respektive forslag til høringssvar til GEKE-dokumentet.

For både Metodistkirken i Norge og Den norske kirke vil det i fremtiden være naturlig å koordinere, samarbeide og utveksle erfaringer om viktige prosesser som pågår i CPCE-sammenheng.

Det vil også være naturlig at vi samarbeider noe tettere omkring engasjementet i KEK.

Ved noen slike drøftinger kan det også være aktuelt at Baptistkirken kan delta som observatør ved saker som er av felles interesse.

Denne saken viser først og fremst sammenhengen mellom det internasjonale og det nasjonale økumeniske engasjementet, behovet for kompatibilitet i vårt engasjement, våre teologiske vurderinger og våre avtaler.

Dessuten synliggjør den også at Nådens Fellesskap - snart 10 år etter at avtalen ble vedtatt - har betydning på nasjonalt plan, gjennom det at gjensidig konsultasjon og samarbeid er resultat av den forpliktende avtalen vi har inngått.

Her ligger det også et potensial i forhold til lokaløkumenisk arbeid generelt i Norge.

Videre er det gjennom samtalene blitt synlig at vi trenger et lokaløkumenisk arbeid omkring dåpsforståelsen i rammen av NKR. Forslaget følges opp gjennom NTSF under NKR. Det er foreslått at det i løpet av 2006 skal gjennomføres en seminardag omkring dåpsforståelsen som lokaløkumenisk utfordring i Norge.

## **Forslag til vedtak**

1. Mellomkirkelig råd ser positivt på det nasjonale økumeniske arbeidet som oppstår i kjølvannet av vårt medlemskap i CPCE, og at dette kan kobles til utviklingen av vårt fellesskap med Metodistkirken i Norge gjennom avtalen "Nådens Fellesskap".
2. Mellomkirkelig råd anbefaler at arbeidet med dåpssteologien skjer i rammen av det lokaløkumeniske fellesskapet i Norge, og at temaet settes på agendaen til Norsk Teologisk Samtaleforum under Norges kristne råd.
3. Mellomkirkelig råd støtter Teologisk Nærings vurdering av dokumentet "Shape and Shaping" når det gjelder refleksjonen rundt en "europeisk protestantisk synode" under henvisning til Kirkemøtevedtaket fra 1999.

MKR 02/06  
(CPC E/Leuenberg)

Metodistkirken i Norge  
Tilsynsmann Vidar Sten Bjerkseth

NOTAT FRA SAMTALE	
<b>Tema:</b>	Leuenberg-avtalen
<b>Til stede:</b>	Fra Det norske Baptistsamfunn: Billy Taranger, Magnar Mæland Fra Den norske kirke: Olav Fykse Tveit, Stephanie Dietrich Fra Metodistkirken: Roar Fotland, Knut Refsdal, Lars Erik Nordby og Vidar Sten Bjerkseth
<b>Dato:</b>	22.11.2005 på Metodistkirkens Hovedkontor

**Orientering fra det enkelte kirkesamfunn:**

*Baptistsamfunnet:*

Europeisk: Kunne ikke undertegne pga for stort sprik i eget kirkesamfunn. Baptistene er dessuten så løst organisert at de kan ikke binde hverandre med en forpliktende underskrift. Selv ordet økumenikk er vanskelig for enkelte konservative miljøer. Anerkjenner og synes det er bra at man har hatt samtalen. Oppmuntrer til å følge opp intensjonen i dokumentet på det lokale/nasjonale plan.

Medlemskap grunnlagt på tro i stedet for dåp praktiseres i Norge i dag:

En Tamilsk menighet i Norge godtar i dag mennesker som medlemmer uten å være døpt voksen. (Landsmøtet godkjente dette 2004 mot 2-3 stemmer) Dette gir et klart signal om endring i holdning. I dag er dette derfor ikke eksklusjonsgrunn i Norge.

Norske baptister har pr i dag ingen planer for oppfølging/behandling av dokumentet. Vil bli fulgt opp med bakgrunn i denne samtalen.

*De lutherske kirkene:*

Kom med i Leuenberg-fellesskapet 1999.

Dokumentet har vært drøftet i teologisk nemnd. Har deretter gitt uttalelse (se eget avsnitt).

*Metodistkirken:*

Kom med i Leuenberg-fellesskapet i 1997. Vedtatt på Sentralkonferansen i Pärnu.

Italia: Metodister, waldisere og baptister i union.

*Fra samtalen:*

Ønskelig at baptistene blir en del av Leuenberg-fellesskapet av protestantiske kirker.

Ønskelig at dokumentet kan danne grunnlag for lokale/nasjonale samtaler.

Teksten fra samtaler luth/bapt (1991) i Norge om "ecclesia" tatt inn nesten ordrett i dokumentet.

Noe av motivet i Europa er som protestantiske kirker å danne en motpol til den katolske kirke.

I Norge er dette ikke aktuelt, siden vi samarbeider med den katolske kirke.

Målsettingen må være å ikke skape en anti-katolsk allianse. Her kan kirkene i Norden være med og skape balanse.

Hvordan kan et avtaledokument behandles hos baptistene? Kan anbefales fra sentralt hold, men det er den enkelte menighet som må gjøre selvstendige vedtak.

Leuenberg-dokumentet behandles på Leuenberg-fellesskapets generalforsamling høsten 2006. Dnk sender delegasjon. Ønsker at også MK Norden/Balticum er representert.

***Uttalelse fra Teologisk nemnd (Under Mellomkirkelig Råd):***

- Fornøyd med "summary and questions". Generelt syn at bakgrunnsdokumentet ikke var grundig nok på bl.a. dåp.
- Dokumentet sier for lite om dåpsteologien og hva troen innebærer. Hopper over noe sentralt som er problematisk mellom kirkene.
- IV pkt.7 Utviklingen i dåpspraksisen (fra barn til unge/voksne dvs konfirmanter) har ikke forandret dåpsteologien.
- For individualisk dåpsteologi. Lite tydelighet om at man blir medlem av en kirke/menighet
- Positivt at også baptistene går langt i å anerkjenne dåpen som et sakrament
- II pkt.9: Glad for konklusjonen at så lenge det praktiseres gjendåp, er det ikke mulig å ha et fullstendig alter- og prekestolfellesskap. Positivt at man finner en praktisk vei til samarbeid på tross av dette.
- Stiller spørsmål ved om det er mulig å inngå forpliktende samarbeid med kirker med et så annerledes kirkesyn/ecclesialogi?
- Fornøyd med konklusjonene.
- Anbefaling: Dokumentet bør danne grunnlag for en ny dialogrunde mellom baptister og lutheranere/metodister i Norge.

***Forslag til oppfølging:***

1. Utfordre våre kirker til å etablere et Leuenberg-forum (samtalemøter) i Norge på bakgrunn av uttalelser, dagens samtale, og utfordringene fra dokumentet
2. Som en forberedelse til Leuenberg generalforsamlingen: En felles gjennomgang av dåpssyn (seminar?) hvor også Den ev lutherske frikirke ble invitert til å delta. Invitere som en åpen samling som bl.a. studenter, representanter fra andre kirkesamfunn med mer ble invitert
3. Utfordre til lokale samtaler om dåp ettersom dette er de lokale utfordringer. Skje med bakgrunn i dokumentene.
4. Ønskelig med en felles uttalelse til Leuenberg-generalforsamlingen (BT)
5. Hva innebærer disse dokumentene for Dnk i forhold til frikirkene i Norge? (Seminar i regi av Norges Kristne Råd?)

***Konklusjon:***

1. Metodistkirken utarbeider sitt hørings svar. Diskuteres mellom BT, SD, LEN og VSB i midten av januar.
2. Seminar arrangeres av Norsk Teologisk Samtaleforum om dåpssynet våren 2006.

11.01.2006  
Vidar Sten Bjerckseth

REFERAT FRA SAMTALE	
<b>Tema:</b>	Leuenberg-dokumentet
<b>Til stede:</b>	Fra Det norske Baptistsamfunn: Billy Taranger (på tlf deler av møtet) Fra Den norske kirke: Stephanie Dietrich Fra Metodistkirken: Lars Erik Nordby og Vidar Sten Bjerkseth
<b>Dato:</b>	13.01.2006 på Metodistkirkens Hovedkontor

**1. Høringsuttalelsen fra Metodistkirken i Norge**

Metodistkirkens representanter framla og gjennomgikk sin høringsuttalelse om Leuenberg-dokumentet. Uttalelsen vil danne grunnlaget for høringssvaret fra Biskopskontoret for Metodistkirken i Norden og Baltikum.

Uttalelsen inneholder en kommentar til Leuenberg-dokumentet, og viser dessuten til de bilaterale samtalene som er gjennomført mellom Det norske Baptistsamfunn og Metodistkirken i Norge. Samtaledokumentet og forslaget til samarbeidsavtale oversendes sammen med uttalelsen til orientering.

Det ble framholdt at dette samtaledokumentet har en enda grundigere drøfting av synet på nattverden, og derfor bør kunne være et viktig innspill i høringsrunden.

**2. Seminar om dåpssyn**

Forslaget fra samtalen i november om å arrangere et seminar om dåpssyn i regi av Norsk Teologisk Samtaleforum, ble fulgt opp. Det vil bli tatt initiativ overfor ledelsen i NTS for å få seminaret gjennomført denne våren.

**3. Leuenberg-forum i Norge**

Gruppen vil ta initiativ til en samling hvor behovet og muligheten for å etablere et Leuenberg-forum i Norge, kan drøftes. Representanter for Det norske Baptistsamfunn, Den Evangelisk Lutherske Frikirke, Den norske kirke og Metodistkirken i Norge inviteres. Det ble foreslått å gjennomføre samlingen i regi av samtalegruppen som er etablert i forlengelsen av avtalen "Nådens Fellesskap".

**4. Annet**

Referatene fra samtalene om Leuenberg-dokumentet oversendes Norges Kristne Råd til orientering.

13.01.2006  
Vidar Sten Bjerkseth



**METODISTKIRKEN I NORGE**  
Østre distrikt

The United Methodist Church  
Nordic and Baltic Episcopal Area  
Oslo

Oslo, January 13, 2006

## **Response to the Dialogue between the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) and The European Baptist Federation on the Doctrine and Practice of Baptism**

In reply to the request for a response to the Leuenberg Documents Vol 9 about the Dialogue between the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) and The European Baptist Federation on the Doctrine and Practice of Baptism (EBF), we would like to share recent Norwegian developments.

### **The CPCE-EBF dialogue**

With background in the Leuenberg dialogue document and the request from the Episcopal Office, there have been two meetings with representatives from Church of Norway and the Norwegian Baptist Union. The United Methodist Church was represented by Dean Dr. Roar Fotland, Director Lars-Erik Nordby, Bishop's Assistant Knut Refsdal and chaired by District Superintendent Vidar Sten Bjerkseth.

In the meetings the Document was examined and discussed with special emphasis on the conclusions. Following up of the Document was also considered, how this document could form the basis for further conversations between our Churches. As a result of the work it was decided to ask the Norwegian Faith and Order group in the Christian Council of Norway to arrange a seminar to discuss recent ecumenical development in the understanding of baptism. It was also agreed to take initiative to establish a Leuenberg discussion forum for Church of Norway and our Church, who are already members of CPCE, and to invite the Baptist Union in Norway and the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Norway to participate.

We understand there has been a solid, clarifying and important work of the CPCE – EBF dialogue group. We regret that it has not been possible to reach a closer understanding in the questions of baptism and church fellowship.

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METODISTKIRKEN I NORGE  
Østre distrikt

### **Norwegian Baptist – United Methodist dialogue**

The Norwegian Baptist Union and the United Methodist Church in Norway met during 1999-2004 in bilateral conversations. The dialogue resulted in a document that led to a suggestion for cooperation between our two churches. The foreword to the document states that

Baptists and Methodists have worked side by side for several centuries in other countries, and from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century also in Norway. In many places our two churches have co-operated well in spite of what seem like decisive differences in theology and practice. In ecumenical fora in Norway we have agreed that we want barriers between the churches to be broken down. We feel that we must stand together and work for the unity that Jesus spoke of. We are one in Christ, and as a consequence we must try to express in words the unity we seek.

The conversations covered the normativeness of the Bible, the understanding of humankind, salvation by grace through faith, Christian Baptism, the Eucharist and the nature and mission of the church. In many ways this process has paralleled the process of the European dialogue, and come close to many of the conclusions. But we like to think that especially the discussions about the Eucharist may have brought some new insights of interest also for a European audience.

On the basis of the dialogue a proposal is now forwarded to the Main Board of the Baptist Union and the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church about an agreement with both a mutual recognition and an acknowledgment of differences. The acknowledgment states that our history, traditions, theological characteristics and church orders differ, but this does not hinder mutual commitment to co-operate. Disagreement in the administration of baptism is still so great that we cannot advise full communion. But in spite of that the churches are asked to acknowledge each other's ministry as it is exercised in our churches, the ordination of each others pastors, to affirm an open communion, and recommend our congregations to hold joint celebrations of the Eucharist, and to let our ministers celebrate the Eucharist in one another's churches.

The main problem is still the questions on baptism:

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**METODISTKIRKEN I NORGE**  
Østre distrikt

We affirm that our views on the content of baptism converge in many ways. We acknowledge that a fundamental disagreement remains on the question of whether the baptism of persons unable to answer for themselves is a genuine baptism.

We commit ourselves to mutual respect in our comments on and our attitudes towards our churches' differing baptismal theology and praxis, and we will give further consideration to this question that hinders the closer unity of our churches.

In spite of that, the congregations are encouraged to co-operate in joint worship, mission and diaconal service, and where appropriate, to establish co-operating congregations or co-operative ventures.

The Documents are enclosed.

Yours in Christ

Vidar Sten Bjerkseth  
District Superintendent, Eastern District  
The United Methodist Church in Norway

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Communion d'Eglises protestantes en Europe  
(CEPE) – Communion ecclésiale de Leuenberg –

Gemeinschaft Evangelischer Kirchen in Europa  
– Leuenberger Kirchengemeinschaft – (GEKE)

**Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE)**

– Leuenberg Church Fellowship –

CPCE Circular, 15 December 2005, 369/05-01



**Thoughts on the Watch Word for 2006**

*The beginning of the book of Joshua marks a turning point: The people of Israel start their journey across the Jordan into the promised land which still lies hidden. God gives His people something new with the accompanying words of comfort and confidence. Pain and sorrow of the past are not denied or wiped out, but merge in the security of his promise:*

**God said: "I will be with you.  
I will not leave you." (Jos. 1:5b)**

*At the end of this year 2005 which is again signalled by great natural catastrophes and human miseries, upheavals and reshuffles, we may rest assured: God's creature lies secure in His hands – in eternity and for all eternity.*

Dear friends, dear brothers and sisters,

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) we have pleasure in sending you some information and materials from the work of the CPCE for your information and your own ecumenical work. In order to strengthen and deepen the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe, we would like to ask you to forward them to your local churches and communities and interested parties, thus contributing to the strengthening of the voice of Protestantism in Europe and helping to consolidate our church fellowship which will reach an important landmark next year with its 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

**1. 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe,  
12 – 18 September 2006 in Ráday-Kolleg**

We informed you on various occasions that the 6<sup>th</sup> CPCE General Assembly would take place from **12 to 18 September 2006** at the Károli Gáspár Reformed University (Ráday-Kolleg) in Budapest (cf. CPCE Circular of December 2004, various press releases, in particular our letter of information of 23 March 2005 which we are enclosing once again). We are happy to let you know that the EKD Council President Bishop Dr Wolfgang Huber has agreed to give the theological keynote speech on the **Assembly theme: "Strengthening the Community: the Protestant Profile in Europe"**. Our Hungarian hosts have proposed the President of the Republic Dr László Sólyom for the socio-political keynote speech on the situation of the integrating Europe from the perspective of an EU accession country. The **enclosed programme** will give you an overview of the contents and workflow of the Assembly. For detailed information you may visit the **Assembly page on our website [www.leuenberg.net](http://www.leuenberg.net)** which will invite you to browse through many pages of interesting information and links. The page is regularly updated.

We would like to remind you of the registration of **your church's delegates** by **1 February 2006** using the enclosed **registration form**. According to a resolution of the 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Vienna 1994), each member church is to send "one or two authorised representatives". It has been our common practice that bigger churches send two delegates and smaller churches one. For further details in this regard and also on the **financing of the General Assembly**, please see the enclosed letter of 23 March 2005.

As we have already informed you, the 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly will, according to a resolution of the Executive Committee and following the example of our previous assemblies, have to be financed by a **special contribution (amounting to an annual contribution) in addition to the annual contribution 2006**. We would thank you for transferring the Assembly contribution to the following bank account:

Bank: KD-Bank eG  
 BIC: GENODED1DKD  
 Account holder: UEK-Kirchenkasse  
 International Account Number (IBAN): DE81 350 601 90 1511 111 010  
 Details of payment: LK 1740-4 + name of your church

As we will have to pay for hotel reservation and translation of conference texts etc. already early next year, we would be very grateful for sending us your contribution at your earliest convenience.

## 2. CPCE Project Studies

Both the project studies "**Evangelising – Protestant perspectives for the Churches in Europe**" and "**The Shape and Organisation of Protestant Churches in a Changing Europe**" were sent to the churches on 7 June 2005 with the request for their reaction. We would like to remind you of the deadline for sending your comments, **1 February 2006**. A timely delivery of your comments is very important as the study groups will begin their work at the revised versions in March 2006 in order to submit the versions taking account of the suggestions and objections of the churches for the discussion at the General Assembly.

## 3. Dialogues with Other Confessional Families

### a) Second Consultation between Anglican and Protestant Churches in Europe

In our circular of December 2004 we reported on the consultation with the Anglican churches in Europe in **Liebfrauenberg** 22-24 October 2004. The dialogue continued in a smaller circle at **Château Klingenthal** (Alsace) in October 2005. Gratitude is due to the Institute of Ecumenical Research of the Lutheran World Federation in Strasbourg for the invitation to this consultation. All the representatives of the CPCE and the British Anglican churches present were of the opinion that it would be worthwhile to intensify the dialogue about the ecclesiological problems and their significance for the question of church fellowship. It was therefore agreed that another consultation should be held in 2007 in the same circle.

### b) Consultation between the CEC (Orthodox churches) and the CPCE:

Following the two fruitful consultations between CEC and CPCE on ecclesiology (**December 2002** in Crete and **June 2004** in Wittenberg), the CPCE Executive Committee decided to continue the dialogue with the representatives of the Orthodox churches within the CEC. The dialogue, evaluated as "promising and confidence-building" by the CPCE President Prof. Parmentier, will be continued in a third consultation to be held in **Constantinople from 27 to 30 April 2006**. Besides the **questions focussing on ecclesiology** which still constitute the focal point, the **mutual acknowledgement of baptism** will also be discussed.

#### 4. CPCE Work in Brussels

In late September, the **CPCE Expert Group on Social and Ethical Issues** met in Brussels in order to deliberate on the focal points of its work. At the heart of the discussions was the question as to how the Protestant churches should position themselves in this theme area in the future. In the background is, inter alia, the discussion about a "Catholic-Orthodox Alliance" on social and ethical issues advocated by various representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Vatican in the past weeks. The discussion centred first and foremost around the relationship to the secular world. The expert group intends to develop a **White Paper on the social and ethical work of the Protestant churches in Europe** which will be submitted to the CPCE Executive Committee in April 2006. Furthermore, the expert group is working on a **manual for the churches and communities on the theme "peace-keeping with military means"** which is expected to be concluded also in April.

The Revd Dr Dieter Heidtmann, CPCE representative at the Church and Society Commission of the CEC Brussels Office, has accompanied in the past months inter alia the **compilation of the comments by churches on the EU Green Book on the demographic development** which was submitted jointly with the diaconal organisations, migration and youth organisations. Furthermore he was responsible for the implementation of a **conference on the future of the European social model** in Brussels: "Our common future for a social Europe". Finally, he continued to work on the EU Service Directive which was adopted by the Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament on 22 November 2005. You can read detailed reports in the **CPCE Europe Info 4/2005** available shortly at [www.leuenberg.net](http://www.leuenberg.net).

#### 5. Project "Healing of Memories"

The joint project of CPCE and CEC on the dealing with the past among the Christian churches in Romania has been running since the end of 2004. A first highlight was the **Symposium in Cluj in May 2005** attended by all the churches involved (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic, Reformed, Lutheran and Unitarian). Each church expressed its expectations towards the project. In the first session, the attending academics discussed their approaches to the common history of confessions. The papers presented have been published as **epd-dokumentation No. 40/2005**. Meanwhile interdisciplinary and interdenominational working groups have been launched in Cluj, Bucharest and Iasi. They are working on a synopsis of church history in their regions.

The first phase, which deals first and foremost with the academic appraisal of mutual injuries in the past and present, will continue till Spring 2007. The CPCE (with Revd Dieter Brandes as the project manager) is responsible for the project till the end of 2006. From 2007 onwards the CEC will have the lead management. The focal point of the second phase will be then the implementation of the results in inter-church reconciliation projects.

#### 6. CPCE at the 30<sup>th</sup> German Kirchentag in Hanover 25-29 May 2005

Beginning with a panel discussion on the motto "Church in Europe", the CPCE was present at the 30<sup>th</sup> German Protestant Kirchentag in Hanover sharing the stand for the first time with the CEC at the Market of Opportunities. Occasioned by the then current issue, the question of the European Union and its Constitution was at the heart of the discussion. Many visitors from all over Europe, who were first attracted to the refreshing 'ecumenical vitamin bar', showed keen interest for the CPCE model of church fellowship and its contribution to a broader ecumenism. Such talks should be continued as the next Kirchentag to be held in Cologne in 2007 will be an appropriate forum for Europe-related themes due to its vicinity to the borders. The Brussels-based organisations have therefore offered to organise a European forum in Cologne. The CPCE is also expected to participate in it and present its work in Cologne.

### **7. Internet and communication work of the CPCE: [www.leuenberg.net](http://www.leuenberg.net)**

The CPCE Website [www.leuenberg.net](http://www.leuenberg.net) has grown by three additional areas over the last months: 1) “**Network**” serves as a communication forum for our 104 member churches. News, documents, reports and comments of the churches can be posted and are available according to countries or themes. Many cooperative relations with other European organisations have been established. 2) The area “**Europe**” demonstrates the interrelatedness between a reconciled diversity of the European churches and the idea of Europe in the consequences of its political, cultural, religious and social diversity. A compilation of various documents of renowned authors from theology, church and society offers a comprehensive overview of the theme area. 3) The “**General Assembly**” page offers a wide range of documentation and information relating to the CPCE General Assembly 2006 in Budapest. It also contains practical information about the country, city and church as well as regularly updated information about the stand of preparation. Moreover, all the important documents for the Assembly are available for downloading there.

The CPCE Website has hence become an important voice of the European Protestantism – the increasing number of visitors is a clear sign of the necessity of such a platform.

### **8. CPCE publication**

As a sequel to the publication “En route towards Europe” which was presented to the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly 2001 in Belfast, a new CPCE book on the Assembly theme “Strengthening Community: the Profile of Protestantism in Europe” will be presented to the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. This book entitled “**Theology for Europe – Perspectives of Protestant Churches**” will meet a claim of being an academically solid theological contribution.

Another book project as a contribution to the main theme “Protestant Profile in Europe” is the **CPCE song book project** which reflects the growth of the church fellowship under the spiritual and liturgical aspect. If we can secure the financing of such a song book transcending geographical, linguistic and confessional barriers and publish it in time for the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, it will be a visible sign of strengthened joint efforts in the face of the derogating religious traditions, and an audible contribution towards the deepened spiritual integration of the Protestant churches in Europe.

### **9. Bible Weeks of the Union of Evangelical Churches in the EKD (UEK)**

Every year you have received an invitation to the Bible Week for the participants from East and West Europe which takes place annually with the aim of familiarizing particularly the **lay members of the CPCE churches** with the work of our Europe-wide church fellowship in connection with topical Europe-related themes of ecclesiastical and theological character.

Between 1990 and 2005, 15 such bible weeks took place with some 30–40 participants. The thematic spectrum was wide: – What does it mean to be a community in the European secular societies? – Music in the Protestant churches in Europe – The Enlargement of the EU: Opportunity for the Protestant minority churches in Europe? – What is Europe worth for us: questions of values in the united Europe – European churches and their church buildings between reconstruction, conversion and abandonment. Such were the themes which was discussed intensively in a Europe-wise colourful setting.

In 2006, we won't be able to carry out the Bible Week because of the preparation and running of the General Assembly in Budapest. As you know, we have only limited personal resources in our small Secretariat in Berlin. It is yet to be discussed whether and how we may carry on the CPCE Bible Week from 2007 onwards. – For the year 2006 we would like to draw your attention to the following youth conference with our warm recommendation.

## 10. International Protestant Youth Days 2006

The Protestant youth from Belgium, France, Germany and Italy are organising the **third European meeting for young people of 18 to 30 year** belonging to the churches of the Reformation. To this meeting of altogether about 200 participants, coordinated by the "Service protestant de la jeunesse" (S.P.J.) under the joint responsibility of the Federation of the Protestant Youth in the Federal Republic of Germany (aej), groups of young people from Scotland, Scandinavia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Austria and Switzerland are also expected to come. From 30 June to 2 July 2006 in Ghlin (Belgium), they will shape together a multifaceted program between spirituality and politics in the light of the Protestant tradition. For further information please visit: [www.3jjj.org](http://www.3jjj.org) (3 journées international de la jeunesse).

## 11. Financing of the CPCE work in 2005

We would like to thank most sincerely all the financially participating churches for their **support for 2005** (cf. enc.). Some churches have sent us increased amounts. We are very grateful for this sign of solidarity for our work. Your contributions are indispensable for our Europe-wide work of bringing forward the concerns of many small minority Protestant churches among the over 100 signatory churches of the Leuenberg Agreement. The churches which have not yet transferred their contributions for 2005 are kindly reminded or asked to let us know possible errors of record.

Under the first point of this letter we have informed you about the **financing of the CPCE 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**. We would be very grateful if you would transfer the Assembly contribution (of the same amount as the annual contribution) to the bank account indicated. When sending your usual annual contribution, please note the different budget item:

Bank: KD-Bank eG  
 BIC: GENODED1DKD  
 Account holder: UEK-Kirchenkasse  
 International Account Number (IBAN): DE81 350 601 90 1511 111 010  
 Details of payment: LK 1740-2 + name of your church

We are well aware of the fact that these contributions are heavy burdens for many churches at these times of diminishing financial means. We appreciate your support all the more for that. On the other hand, we earnestly urge the churches concerned to examine seriously the possibility of financial participation or increasing the amount as far as allowed by the financial situation.

We are addressing this request against the background of the current situation of the German churches which carry at present almost 90% of the costs, with the personnel costs considered. (Over the last years the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches has gradually increased its contribution to a considerable amount, for which we take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks.) As the work of the Head Office of the UEK will come to an end on 31.12.2006, it will be no longer possible for the Secretariat to stay in Berlin, and the financing of the future work is uncertain. At this juncture, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the UEK (formally EKU) churches which have hosted the CPCE Secretariat since 1987 hence assuming the 'lion's share' of the financing.

## 12. The future of the CPCE Secretariat after 1.10.2006 or 31.12.2006

In our letter of 23 March 2005 we informed you that the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will have to deliberate not only on the work of the CPCE Secretariat after 2006, but also on the election of a new CPCE Secretary as I will retire at the end of August 2006 on grounds of age and give up my Secretary's post after the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

At its last meeting in Dragør/Copenhagen 28–30 October, the CPCE Executive Committee reached the agreement, having examined various possibilities, to recommend to the General Assembly to accept the **offer of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession and Helvetic Confession in Austria** to host the CPCE Secretariat after the General Assembly. As Prof. Elisabeth Parmentier said in the press release, “the CPCE wishes to be present more strongly in Central Europe, where Protestant churches are in the minority and a majority of CPCE members are located, by moving its Secretariat to Vienna. Furthermore there is a member church in Austria which is exemplary in the Lutheran-Reformed cooperation.”

By moving to Vienna, the CPCE Secretariat will set a conscious sign of its European mobility. Following Geneva, Strasbourg and Berlin where it has been based for 19 years, it will move to Vienna, the place where in 1994 at the 4<sup>th</sup> CPCE General Assembly a unanimously approved Protestant ecclesiology was presented for the first time after 450 years of separation in the form of the Leuenberg ecclesiological study “The Church of Jesus Christ”!

For the further work of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe, this is, so I believe, a hopeful sign, and we thank the Evangelical Church AC and HC in Austria for this invitation to host the CPCE Secretariat in Vienna from 2007 onwards.

With warm season’s greetings and wishes for blessed Christmas and new year, also on behalf of the Presidium and the Executive Committee,

Yours in Christ



### Enclosures

- Letter of invitation to the General Assembly and Registration form
- Programme of the 6<sup>th</sup> CPCE General Assembly
- List of membership contribution 2005

<p><i>Presidium:</i> Prof. Elisabeth Parmentier, Strasbourg; Prof. Michael Beintker, Munster; Council president Rev. Thomas Wipf, Bern  <i>Director of the Secretariat:</i> Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Hüffmeier • <i>Press Spokesperson:</i> OKR Udo Hahn, hahn@velkd.de          Jebensstr. 3, D - 10623 Berlin; T: + 49-30-31001-317 • F: -200 • E: sekretariat@leuenberg.net • WEB: www.leuenberg.net          KD-Bank e G (BIC: GENODED1DKD), UEK-Kirchenkasse (IBAN: DE81 350 601 90 1511 1110 10), Reference: CPCE</p>
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Communion d'Eglises Protestantes en Europe  
(CEPE) – Communion ecclésiale de Leuenberg –

Gemeinschaft Evangelischer Kirchen in Europa  
– Leuenberger Kirchengemeinschaft – (GEKE)

**Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE)**

– Leuenberg Church Fellowship –



Gemeinschaft ev. Kirchen in Europa: Jebensstr. 3, D-10623 Berlin

To the  
CPCE Member Churches  
and Participating Churches

SECRETARIAT  
Jebensstr. 3, 10623 Berlin  
Tel.: ++49-30-310 01 317  
Fax: ++49-30-310 01 200  
sekretariat@leuenberg.net  
www.leuenberg.net

Berlin, 23 March 2005

Our ref.: 88/05-06

Please quote in reply

Dear friends, dear brothers and sisters,

As we have already informed, the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) will take place in Budapest at the invitation of the Reformed Church and the Lutheran Church in Hungary:

**Date: 12 to 18 September 2006**

**Venue: Károli Gáspár Reformed University (Ráday-Kolleg),  
Ráday utca 28, H-1092 Budapest; <http://www.kgre.hu>**

**Theme: Strengthening Community: The Profile of Protestantism in Europe**  
de: Gemeinschaft gestalten: Evangelisches Profil in Europa  
fr: Approfondir la communion: Le profil protestant en Europe

We are very happy to invite the CPCE churches (members and "participating" churches) to this General Assembly on behalf of the Executive Committee which set the theme and other details regarding the Assembly at its last meeting.

We have asked Bishop Dr Wolfgang Huber, Chair of the EKD Council, to take over the theological keynote speech. By way of "setting the scene", a socio-political keynote speech is expected to shed light on the situation in Europe after the EU enlargement and explore the chances for the peoples coalescing and drawing together. We have asked György Konrad, the renowned Hungarian writer and laureate of the Karlspreis (Charlemagne Prize) for his contribution towards the mutual understanding in Europe, to take over this "setting the scene".

#### **THEME AND AGENDA**

The theme "Strengthening Community: The Profile of Protestantism in Europe" reflects the fact that the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe is approaching a decisive signpost with its 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

On the one hand, it takes account of the final report of the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Belfast 2001) setting the main target of the work for the coming years: "The aim is ... to bring Protestant voices together on fundamental questions, and to allow them to speak and be heard in the European public arena." On the other hand, it takes consideration of the work of the two CPCE study groups which will present the results of their work on the subjects: "**The Protestant Profile in the Missionary Task of the Churches in Europe**" and "**The Shape and Organisation of Protestant Churches in a Changing Europe**" respectively. Soon we will send you the texts with the request of making your **comments by 1/2/2006**. The Executive Committee has decided to call the papers "**project studies**" instead of "findings of doctrinal discussions". This will facilitate the feedback process as the texts do not touch any doctrinal questions.

**Presidium:**  
Prof. Elisabeth Parmentier (Strasbourg)  
Prof. Michael Beintker (Münster)  
Council Pres. Rev. Thomas Wipf (Bern)

**Secretariat:**  
Dr. Wilhelm Hüffmeier  
Director of the Secretariat  
direct line: +49-30-310 01 210

**Bank:**  
KD-Bank eG (BIC: GENODE33) (DKD)  
UEK-Kirchenkasse (IBAN: DE81 35060190 1 511111010)  
Details of payment: Leuenberg + re.

High on the agenda will also be the results of the **talks with other confessional families**: talks between the Anglican and Protestant churches in Europe, between the CPCE and the Orthodox representatives of the CEC, along with the paper "The Beginning of the Christian Life and the Nature of the Church", results of the dialogue between CPCE and the European Baptist Federation (EBF).

The General Assembly will also deal with the **project "Healing of Memories"**, CPCE-CEC joint project of reconciliation among Christian churches in Romania. This project will link the work of our Assembly with the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Romania in 2007.

Furthermore, a **new Executive Committee** will be elected, and the main points and subjects of the work in the years to come will be laid out. The study group "Shape and Organisation" has prepared some proposals for **restructuring the CPCE**. The Executive Committee will work out concrete proposals based on them, which will be made known to you in due time next year.

#### **DELEGATION**

According to the resolution made at the 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Vienna 1994), each church (member or "involved" church) is to send one or two delegates. It is our common practice that **a larger church sends two, and a smaller church one**. If a church intends to send more than two delegates on account of its special regional or confessional configuration (e.g. in Switzerland or the Netherlands), it is asked to inform the Executive Committee of it in time. Please send the nomination **your delegates and deputies** to the Secretariat **by 1/2/2006**.

#### **FINANCING**

According to the resolution of the Executive Committee, the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly should be also financed by means of a **special contribution** in addition to the usual annual contribution. The financially participating churches have been asked to send us an additional contribution for the General Assembly **in the same amount of their annual contribution**. We would be grateful to receive the **special contribution together with the annual contribution 2006**. The costs of travel and accommodation will have to be carried by the dispatching churches. In case of difficulties (mainly of central, eastern and southern European churches), please contact the Secretariat in time. We will try to procure the financing from other sources. The South American churches are asked to delegate those who will be staying in Europe anyway during the period of the Assembly.

Further details regarding our General Assembly will be known to you after the next Executive Committee meeting (28-30/10/2005 in Copenhagen).

#### **CPCE SECRETARIAT**

The integration of the UEK Head Office, currently hosting the Secretariat, into the EKD Head Office by 31/12/2006 makes it necessary to reflect on the **future works of the Secretariat after 2006**. Another reason for the reflection is my retirement for reasons of age in August 2006 and the ensuing retirement from the post of Secretary after the 6<sup>th</sup> Assembly. It has been offered by EKD, UEK and VELKD that the CPCE work may continue in the Joint Head Office in Hanover provided it is wished by the CPCE churches, but it is only an offer which should be examined, no automatism. Offers of non-German churches to take over the CPCE Secretariat are welcome and should be communicated to the Executive Committee as soon as possible. This is of vital importance for further negotiations.

Please find enclosed a copy of our **new trilingual info-folder** which gives basic information about the CPCE in a completely revised version. More copies can be ordered free of charge with the Secretariat.

With kind regards and sincere wishes for a Happy Easter, also on behalf of the Presidium and Executive Committee,

*Wilhelm Hüffmeier*

Enc.



**PROGRAMME of the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe – Leuenberg Church Fellowship –  
Dates: 12-18.9.2006; Venue: Ráday-Kolleg, Budapest; Theme: Strengthening Community – The Profile of Protestantism in Europe**

TUESDAY, 12.9.2006	WEDNESDAY, 13.9.2006	THURSDAY, 14.9.2006	FRIDAY, 15.9.2006	SATURDAY, 16.9.2006	SUNDAY, 17.9.2006	MONDAY, 18.9.2006
<p>Arrival</p> <p>15<sup>00</sup>-16<sup>00</sup> Registration</p> <p>16<sup>00</sup>-18<sup>00</sup> Opening Ceremony Ráday-Kolleg</p> <p>• 1<sup>st</sup> Keynote Speech President of the Republic Prof. László Sólyom (requested)</p> <p>• Report of the CPCE Presidents</p>	<p>7<sup>15</sup>-8<sup>15</sup> Breakfast</p> <p>8<sup>30</sup> Morning Devotion</p> <p>9<sup>00</sup> PLENARY SESSION • Briefing: conference structure • Votes: - Steering Committee - Nomination Committee - Final Message Committee</p> <p>10<sup>00</sup>-10<sup>30</sup>: Coffee/Tea</p> <p>PLENARY SESSION</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> keynote speech followed by questions Bishop Dr. Wolfgang Huber (Council Chair of the EKD)</p> <p>12<sup>30</sup> – 14<sup>00</sup>30 Lunch</p> <p>15<sup>00</sup> PLENARY SESSION</p> <p>Report of the director of the CPCE Secretariat (followed by discussion) President Dr. Wilhelm Hüfmeier Perspectives of the CPCE work</p> <p>16<sup>00</sup>-16<sup>30</sup> Coffee/Tea</p> <p>Introduction of the Project Study Findings • Group on Mission • Group on Structure</p> <p>18<sup>00</sup>-19<sup>30</sup> Dinner</p> <p>19<sup>30</sup> PLENARY SESSION • Findings of the Southeast Europe Regional Group • Questions about the findings of project studies</p> <p>21<sup>30</sup> Evening Devotion</p>	<p>7<sup>15</sup>-8<sup>15</sup> Breakfast</p> <p>8<sup>30</sup> Morning Devotion</p> <p>9<sup>00</sup> PLENARY SESSION Being Protestant in Europe CPCE work: present and future (Presentation in the Plenum, Further work in workshops)</p> <p>10<sup>00</sup>-11<sup>00</sup>: Coffee/Tea</p> <p>• Protestant Witness in Europe • Politics and Protestant churches • Prot. Theology and Education in Europe • CPCE Work at Regional Level • Interdenominational Reconciliation in Europe • Community of Service in Europe</p> <p>12<sup>30</sup> – 14<sup>00</sup>30 Lunch</p> <p>15<sup>00</sup></p> <p>Being Protestant in Europe CPCE work: present and future Further work in Workshops</p> <p>16<sup>30</sup>-17<sup>00</sup> Coffee/Tea</p> <p>PLENARY SESSION • Reports from the workshops • Impetus &amp; Input for the CPCE future work</p> <p>19<sup>30</sup></p> <p>HUNGARIAN EVENING (with reception) by the host church</p> <p>21<sup>30</sup> Evening Devotion</p>	<p>7<sup>15</sup>-8<sup>15</sup> Breakfast</p> <p>8<sup>30</sup> Morning Devotion</p> <p>9<sup>00</sup> PLENARY SESSION • EBF-CPCE: Baptist text Presentation and discussion • Prot. Liturgy in Europe Presentation and discussion</p> <p>10<sup>00</sup>-10<sup>30</sup>: Coffee/Tea</p> <p>Setting up working groups and work in the working groups on the project study results: - Evangelising - Shape and Shaping and - South Europe Group text - CPCE-Baptist text</p> <p>Reception at the Hungarian Parliament (requested)</p> <p>Faith in Context Close-up View of Budapest Protestant, Catholic and Jewish projects and thematic offers (tours and walks)</p> <p>17<sup>30</sup>-18<sup>30</sup> Dinner 19<sup>00</sup></p> <p>CULTURAL EVENING (Opera/Concert etc.)</p>	<p>7<sup>15</sup>-8<sup>15</sup> Breakfast</p> <p>8<sup>30</sup> Morning Devotion</p> <p>9<sup>00</sup> PLENARY SESSION Current affairs, e.g. • report of the Norm. Com. • Reports of the working groups on the project studies</p> <p>10<sup>00</sup>-10<sup>30</sup>: Coffee/Tea</p> <p>Work in the working groups on the project study results: - Evangelising - Shape and Shaping and - South Europe Group text - CPCE-Baptist text</p> <p>12<sup>30</sup> – 14<sup>00</sup>30 Lunch</p> <p>15<sup>00</sup></p> <p>Work in the working groups on the results of the project studies</p> <p>16<sup>00</sup>-16<sup>30</sup> Coffee/Tea</p> <p>PLENARY SESSION Future work of the CPCE • contents of future works • new study themes • future structure</p> <p>18<sup>30</sup>-21<sup>30</sup> Dinner</p> <p>PLENARY SESSION • CPCE future work • Elections of the new Executive Committee</p> <p>21<sup>30</sup> Evening Devotion</p>	<p>8<sup>00</sup>-9<sup>30</sup> Breakfast</p> <p>Sunday service and visits in the Reformed, Lutheran and Methodist congregations in Budapest and surroundings</p> <p>16<sup>30</sup>-17<sup>00</sup> Coffee/Tea</p> <p>17<sup>00</sup> PLENARY SESSION Discussion about the conference results and the final message</p> <p>18<sup>00</sup>-19<sup>30</sup> Dinner</p> <p>19<sup>30</sup> PLENARY SESSION Assessment and Perspective Farewell of the director of the CPCE Secretariat</p> <p>21<sup>30</sup> Evening Devotion</p>	<p>7<sup>15</sup>-8<sup>15</sup> Breakfast</p> <p>9<sup>00</sup></p> <p>PLENARY SESSION • Adoption of the conference results and final message • Fixing the new themes of CPCE work • Presentation of the new CPCE Presidium C. 11<sup>00</sup> EUCCHARISTIC WORSHIP SERVICE • Inauguration of the new CPCE Gen. Sec. (Reformed Church at Calvin Tér)</p> <p>12<sup>30</sup> Lunch</p> <p>Departure</p>

