



Saksbehandler: Stephanie Dietrich

Saksdokumenter

Porvoo Contact Group Minutes 2006 (*vedlagt*)

Porvoo Theological Conference 2008; Letter of Invitation (*vedlagt*)

Oppfølging av saker i de økumeniske organisasjoner

Porvoo

Sammendrag

Den norske kirke er en aktiv medspiller i samarbeidet mellom Porvoo-kirkene og i fellesskapet. Porvoofellesskapets kontaktgruppe møtes en gang i året for å drøfte arbeidet innenfor fellesskapet, informere hverandre om viktige aktiviteter og vedtak i medlemskirkene, og planlegge arrangementer i regi av fellesskapet. Den vedlagte rapporten fra møtet i kontaktgruppen i Portugal gir en oversikt over aktivitetsnivået i fellesskapet, og aktuelle problemstillinger. I 2007 arrangeres det møtet for de ledende biskoper ("Primates Meeting") i Dublin oktober 2007, samtidig med kontaktgruppemøtet, samt en mindre konsultasjon for spesialister om voksenopplæring i våre kirker. Videre planlegger man en teologisk konferanse om "Etikk og kirkefellesskap" januar 2008.

Forslag til vedtak

Tas til orientering.

MINUTES

The twelfth meeting of the Porvoo Agreement Contact Group
October 2nd to 6th 2006, Vila Nova de Gaia, Portugal

Present:

The Rt Revd Ragnar Persenius	(Co-Chairman)
The Rt Revd Martin Wharton	(Co-Chairman)
Ms Steinunn Arnþrúður Björnsdóttir	(Iceland)
The Revd Dr Johan Dalman	(Sweden)
Ms Elspeth Davey	(Scotland)
The Revd Dr Stephanie Dietrich	(Norway)
The Very Revd Canon Desmond Harman	(Ireland)
The Rt Revd Carlos Lopez Lozano	(Spain)
The Revd Rupert Moreton	(Diocese of Europe)
The Revd Richard Spencer	(Wales)
The Revd Dr Darius Petkunas	(Lithuania)
The Rt Revd Fernando Soares	(Portugal)
The Revd Veiko Vihuri	(Estonia)
The Revd Canon Dr Charles Hill	(Co-Secretary, England)
The Revd Dr Matti Repo	(Co-Secretary, Finland)
Mr Jan Nilsson	(Observer, Denmark)
Dr Sandra Gintere	(Observer, Latvia)

Apologies:

The Revd Mrs Mari Price	(Wales)
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1. Welcome of New Member, Introductions

Rt Revd Martin Wharton thanked Bishop Fernando for the opportunity to visit the Lusitanian Church. Two new members were wished welcome:

Wales – The Revd Richard Spencer (substituting for the Revd Mrs Mari Price)

Latvia – The Revd Dr Sandra Gintere

All Contact Group members presented themselves.

2. Country Reports

Country Reports were circulated and presented at various suitable times during the meeting (cf. attachments).

Denmark

Among others, the crisis originating from the Mohammed Cartoons has helped society to focus open discussion on topics such as freedom of speech and respect for other person's religious faith. On the other hand, a hard debate on the character of the secular state has emerged. – A Danish Porvoo network has started to gather Lutherans and Anglicans to meet and pray together. No other similar networks exist in Denmark, and this one brings only Porvoo people together.

Diocese in Europe

Attached to the printed report from the Diocese in Europe, an open letter to the Archbishop of Latvia from the Ven. Mark Oakley, Archdeacon of Germany and Northern Europe, was circulated. The letter expresses concern on the security of Revd Juris Calitis as well as that of the gay and lesbian community in Riga. – A Lutheran young man has been ordained an Anglican deacon in Helsinki. He will continue his theological studies and be subsequently ordained priest in the Lutheran Church. It has been made clear that his ordination into diaconhood does not imply that a Lutheran pastor would be a true priest only if he/she were ordained to priesthood after a period in diaconal ministry.

In the discussion following the report, several issues were raised in connection with the letter to the Archbishop of Latvia. Among others, it was underlined by the Latvian representative that the incident in Riga had nothing to do with the Evangelical Lutheran Church. In 2005, the Lutheran Church had called for an ecumenical service in the Cathedral, while the gay community had its service in the Anglican Church. The municipal authorities had denied any right to organize a Gay Pride parade. The Church has had nothing to do with an anti-demonstration, nor with threatening the security of Revd Juris Calitis. The Church does not call for violence. The Archbishop condemns the violence but his voice is not easily made heard by the mass media.

The Contact Group supposed that it might be most useful if the Archbishop of Latvia would invite the Bishop of Gibraltar or the Suffragan Bishop or the Archdeacon to a meeting. Discussing the topic in newspapers might be less helpful.

It was noted that the issues embedded in this theme will be taken further on several levels: a possible meeting between the relevant bishops; a meeting between Archbishop Vanags and Revd Calitis; the consultation in Sweden; and the Theological Conference in London early 2008.

England

The Church of England has initiated an environmental campaign "Shrinking the Footprint". – Another project, named "Faithful Cities", has been opened to overcome problems created by the widening gap between the rich and the poor in urban areas. In the project the question is asked, what makes a good city. – The Churches are ecumenically opposed to "Assisted Dying", a bill in the House of Lords that aims to help terminally ill people to take their own lives.

Estonia

Discussions with the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church abroad have not resulted in a clarified relationship. Moreover, there is some doubt on whether the congregations of the exile church in Europe can be considered to have existing agreements with the Church of England. – A new President of Estonia has been elected; Toomas Hendrik Ilves, who is also a member of the Lutheran Church, although he possibly understands religious freedom and church-state relations in an American way. – The Orthodox Metropolitan has not spoken against the Russian nationalists who organized demonstrations at a Soviet-time Red Army monument. – A Gay Pride march in Tallinn gave rise to a heated debate in society. – The 10th Anniversary of Porvoo was celebrated in Tallinn on September 8th.

It was decided that all contact persons send information on their 10th-anniversary-celebrations to the co-secretaries.

Finland

In the recent years, the Church membership has decreased drastically, but the ELCF still remains the majority Church with ca. 83 % of the population in the country. Young adults leaving the Church only few years after their confirmation has alarmed the Church to develop ways to reach them in their crucial years. – Several smaller parishes need to merge with their neighboring parish, thus posing a challenge to the local worshipping community as well as to the parochial structuring of the Church. – The 10th anniversary of Porvoo has not been celebrated on a national level, for several reasons, but primarily due to the fire that devastated the Cathedral of Porvoo.

Iceland

An interfaith forum is being established in Iceland. – A plan for strengthening Christian education in the Church has been prepared, since the religious education at public schools seems threatened. – The Church has permitted the blessing of same sex couples since 1997 as a part of pastoral care. No formal liturgy has yet been produced, but a committee working on the topic has called for one.

Ireland

The Primate is retiring later this year. – The statistics show an ongoing change in the population of Ireland: tens of thousands of immigrants particularly from Eastern European countries are moving in. – A project on “Hard Gospel” aims at combating the growing racism towards immigrants in Ireland. – A collection of essays on “The Authority of Scripture” has been published by the Church of Ireland Bishops’ Advisory Commission on Doctrine (a copy will be mailed to all CG members). – The Church has developed a code called “Safeguarding Trust” to secure child protection in its parishes.

Latvia

Parliamentary elections will take place in Latvia very soon. People are tired of being poor; 80 % of the population live under the poverty line. Several pastors and other Christians are candidating. – An extra Synod meeting on October 14th will be held. It is expected that the Synod will make three big changes: accept a new Constitution, establish two new dioceses and approve the three-fold ministry. One consequence of the last mentioned decision will be that the diaconate might also be opened to women, – If there were two more bishops in the Church besides the Archbishop, would either one of them ordain women?

Lithuania

The “Labour Party”, the biggest political party in Lithuania, is presently collapsing; it was established only a short time ago by a Russian-born person. Unfortunately, the leader maintained a double bookkeeping on the finances of the party. – One priest from the Roman Catholic Church is in the process of becoming a Lutheran priest and being re-ordained. – A new hymnal is being produced. – The Bishop has attempted to make a concordat between the Church and the State, but problems between two Reformed Churches in Lithuania have caused problems also to the Lutheran Church. – After joining the EU, Lithuania has started losing its youth to other countries (particularly Ireland and the UK; there are Lithuanian congregations already in Dublin and London). The Church has less and less opportunities to conduct baptisms and marriage services.

The Contact Group shared information on their respective policies in relation to receiving a priest from the Catholic Church:

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| England | – would not re-ordain |
| Wales | – no exact information available, would need to check |
| Scotland | – no information, would need to check, too |
| Sweden | – previously, an oath would have been enough, but according to the present Church Order, the question of Church fellowship is bound with the recognition of orders. At the moment, it is questionable if the church should re-ordain or not. |
| Finland | – according to the Church Order, a priest from another than an Evangelical Lutheran or from a Church with which there is an ecumenical agreement (like Porvoo), would be re-ordained. However, the argumentation applied in the present dialogue with the Catholic Church does not indicate that the Lutherans would deny the validity of their orders; it seems to be the other way around. |
| Denmark | – the bishops have not given unilateral information |
| Norway | – have not done it since the question has not been an acute one |
| Lusitania | – would not re-ordain |
| Iceland | – the question has not come up |
| Estonia | – has not happened, but the Archbishop would decide. Two Orthodox priests have become Lutheran ministers; the other has worked as a lay preacher |
| Ireland | – no re-ordination |
| Latvia | – no information available |

Norway

Church-State -relations will come up in the Synod in November. – A report on the biblical argumentation in relation to homosexuality has been published at the same time as the Church-State -report. It does not attempt to make any recommendations to the Church in its policy (an English summary was circulated). – Development in the Barents region puts new stress on the ecumenical relations of Church, especially in its relation to the Russian Orthodox Church. – A dialogue with the Lutheran Free Church has resulted in a proposal for an agreement. The agreement would involve mutual recognition of ordained ministries but not the “ordained elders” of the Free Church. – Anti-Semitism is an increasing problem in Norway. The Jewish community is very small, but the leaders of the Church and the Synagogue meet annually. – The tenth anniversary of Porvoo was celebrated in Nidaros.

Portugal

The economy of Portugal is increasing slowly. – Homosexual relationships and abortion will probably be acknowledged by the state. The Church has started discussing the topic of same-sex relations in its Synod, too. – A young man from the Catholic Church has been ordained deacon in the Lusitanian Church; the Bishop was assisted by two Roman clergy members. – The Church’s occasional services (marriages) will be recognized by the state.

Scotland

The new Primus in the SEC is the Most Revd Dr Idris Jones, Bishop of the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. – Relations with the Reformed Church and the Methodist Church will be enhanced; a working party has started to identify the hindrances for Church fellowship. – A part-time Lay Learning Co-ordinator has been hired. – A new Porvoo link has been opened. An active youth exchange between the diocese of Glasgow and Galloway and the diocese of Gothenburg has already started.

Spain

Political changes have consequences for Church life: divorce has been made easier, and same sex marriages have been made possible. – A peace process with the Basque country has been initiated according to a pattern adopted from Northern Ireland. – The Government is challenged to fight illegal immigration from Africa and Latin America. – The financial support granted by the state to the Roman Catholic Church for clergy stipends will be discontinued from 2007 onwards. – An Anglican Ecumenical Centre has been opened in Salamanca. – A program to integrate the immigrants into the life of the Episcopal Church has been launched. – A new ministry has been started to welcome pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela. – The Spanish Episcopal Church supports the chaplaincies of the Scandinavian Churches in Spain.

Sweden

The new Archbishop of Uppsala, Anders Wejryd, has been installed. – A new Hymnbook has been introduced. – The blessing of same-sex couples has not

proceeded as fast as predicted. – New financial policy for the Church has been agreed on. – The General Synod celebrated the tenth anniversary of signing the Porvoo Declaration. – An agreement with the Mission Covenant Church will be signed; lots of the feedback from other Porvoo Churches has been integrated into the present version.

Wales

The Church in Wales is ecumenically active through “Cytun” which provides eucharistic fellowship with most of the denominations (with the exclusion of only the Baptists and the Roman Catholic Church).

3. Review of the Porvoo Church Leaders’ Meeting, Cardiff March 2006

Charles Hill presented a report of the evaluation meeting from May 2006 in London. A vivid discussion emerged on the nature of the Church Leaders’ Meeting in its relation to the Primates’ Meeting. During the discussion it was asked, whether the Primates should decide on the common agenda for the Porvoo Churches, or whether their meeting should remain a forum for free discussion. What is the role of the Contact Group in “nurturing and co-ordinating” the growth of our communion (§ 58 b x)? The Contact Group felt it should perhaps produce some guidelines to assist the Churches in implementing the Agreement according to the agenda set by the Church Leaders.

The next Church Leaders’ Meeting should take place in 2010. Three meetings have taken place so far; Turku, Tallinn and Cardiff. It was suggested to go to Sweden, perhaps to Lund or some other place in the southern part of the country.

A planning group was established: Johan Dalman, Elspeth Davey, and the Co-Secretaries will meet next year. Canon Robert Paterson will also be invited.

Issues to be prioritised in the future agenda:

European legislation – CEC will organize a consultation for Church Leaders in Brussels, December 2006. *Bishop Carlos will attend the meeting.*

Youth – Was discussed separately in the PCG meeting, cf. para 4.

Living in Communion – Will be taken up in the Theological Conference; the topic concerns the Porvoo Communion as well as the Anglican Communion. Bishop Ragnar reminded that the consultation in Sigtuna this December will focus on the specific topic of blessing same-sex relations, not on living in communion.

The Contact Group reflected on the Church Leaders’ Meeting, including the 10th Anniversary Service and the DVDs, which were found to be very positive.

Dr Sandra Gintere shared her impressions on the Communications Officers' Conference. The suggestions from the conference were finalized too late to be integrated into the final document of the Church Leaders' Meeting; they needed to be separately attached to it. The two meetings had not been in a fruitful exchange with each another. Joint meetings in spite of parallel meetings should be arranged in the future.

Elsbeth Davey suggested that the actions decided by the CG should be highlighted in the minutes.

4. Porvoo Youth Officers' Meeting and related initiatives

A report by Elspeth Davey was circulated. The aims of the meeting were to get people together, sitting at the same table and telling about the youth work in their churches, as well as reflecting on a possible closer co-operation. Recommendations from the consultation include establishing a youth network, organising regular Porvoo Youth events, opening national youth events to other Porvoo Churches, setting up Youth Leaders' and Youth Workers' Networks, encouraging young people to discuss what Porvoo could mean for them, linking Church websites, creating a Youth page on the Porvoo website, and appointing financial resources for joint Porvoo youth work. – The PCG discussed whom the recommendations should be addressed to. In preference to PCG members, the participants in the youth consultation might be able to take the recommendations further and gather funding from their churches. It will be important to have the Baltic churches involved, too.

To build up a network, it was decided that each of us who has a youth coordinator in their church will meet him/her in the next 6 months and e-mail the outcome of the discussion with information on possible further persons to Adda, who will then establish an e-mail correspondence with them and report back to the PCG in Dublin 2007.

Richard will alert Sion in Cardiff on a possible Porvoo Youth website. Also, national youth websites should be linked with each other.

The PCG expressed its gratitude to Elspeth Davey for organizing the Youth Leaders' consultation; as well as for Sion Brynach and Matt Knight for their work in producing the Porvoo DVD for Cardiff.

5. Consecrations

The present Bishop of Porvoo, Rt Revd Dr Erik Vikström is retiring by the end of November. The new Bishop, Revd Dr Gustav Björskstrand was elected during the PCG meeting. Björkstrand will be consecrated in Pernaja Church on December 3rd.

The new Bishop of Växjö, Revd Sven Thidevall will be consecrated on November 19th.

The Contact Group discussed, how the invitations for partaking in consecrations could be addressed to the correct persons, taking the possible links between dioceses into account. – The Church of Sweden invites the visiting person one extra day earlier to acquaint him/her with the diocese.

6. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark and Porvoo

Jan Nilsson told that the discussion on the possible approval of Porvoo has continued in Denmark. Bishop Drejergaard, who previously opposed the signing of Porvoo, has changed his mind after the Church Leaders' Meeting in Cardiff and speaks now in favour of it.

7. Relations with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia and Other States (ELCROS), and with the Ingrian and Polish Lutheran Churches.

Matti Repo reported to the Contact Group on the interest of the ELCROS to adopt the Porvoo Declaration. As his predecessor Georg Kretschmar, Archbishop Edmund Ratz is keen on adopting the agreement. The Primate of the Ingrian Church, Bishop Aarre Kuukauppi, sent a letter to the Porvoo Primates in 2005, stating that his Church is small and has too limited resources to foster ecumenical relations.

However, it is not fully clear, in what sense the Porvoo Common Statement could be adopted by any other than those Churches involved in the original dialogue. On the one hand, the Churches in the Porvoo Communion possess a certain common history, on the other hand, it has been possible for the Spanish and Lusitanian Churches to become part of the communion. Matti Repo asked, whether the Declaration with its acknowledgments and commitments could be signed on the basis of the theology outlined in the Statement, despite of those parts in the Statement which make explicit reference to a common history.

Meanwhile, two other Lutheran Churches have been established in Russia, the one supported by the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church and the other one emerging from both the ELCROS and the Ingrian Church, both of which, however, do not find its establishing appropriate. This new church seems to be closely related to the US-based radio broadcasting association Lutheran Hour, which is linked with the Missouri Synod.

The Contact Group decided to wait until next spring and take the coming development into account in the preparations for the Primates Meeting in Dublin 2007.

8. Relations with the Conference of European Churches

**a. Report from Porvoo / CEC Orthodox Consultation, Järvenpää, Finland
1st-4th December 2005**

Matti Repo circulated another copy of the report which had been published in the magazine RESEPTIO 1/2006 and sent to the Contact Group members earlier in the summer. The next meeting in this series is due to 1st-3rd June 2007, hosted by a European Orthodox Church. The venue will be announced by Revd. Prof. Viorel Ionita (CEC).

The Porvoo Churches in England, Denmark, Norway, Estonia, Latvia, Ireland, Sweden and Finland would like to participate whereas those in Iceland, Scotland, Lusitania and Lithuania are interested in following what will come out of these consultations.

PCG members will consult their churches and announce the names of their representatives to the relevant co-secretaries by the end of October.

NB. After the Contact Group meeting, further negotiations between the co-secretaries and Prof. Ionita have resulted in postponing this consultation to November or December 2007.

b. Report from CPCE (Leuenberg Church Fellowship) / CEC Orthodox Consultation, Phanar, Istanbul 2006

Matti Repo circulated the Communique from Istanbul. The PCG compared this consultation and its results with the Porvoo-Orthodox consultation and discussed the mutual recognition of baptism between Lutheran / Anglican Churches and the Orthodox Churches.

c. Preparations for the Third European Ecumenical Assembly, Sibiu, September 2007

Charles Hill reported on the present status of preparations in the Church of England. The CofE will send 12 representatives. The Church is looking to cascade the Sibiu themes into a church-wide preparation. The Scottish Episcopal Church will send two delegates. The Church of Sweden will send 18 delegates; a joint preparation meeting with the ELCF is due to take place. A common Scandinavian/Nordic preparation meeting has been planned, but might not come true. The Church of Norway had 15 places, but three of them will be given to other churches in Norway. Iceland has 5 places, Lusitania is sending 2 and is willing to get the Roman Catholics into a common preparation. An ecumenical youth forum will be organized on the Assembly theme. Finland will send 15, preparations will take place in connection with the Finnish Ecumenical Council. Denmark 15, Spain 2 + bishop. Lithuania has 2 places, Latvia 7 but will send 2 representatives.

Details of the delegations will be mailed to the relevant co-secretaries and a list of Porvoo-representatives will be produced and circulated. Perhaps the young people will be interested in organising their own preparatory meeting or a sub-meeting during the Assembly.

9. WCC General Assembly, Porto Alegre 2006

Carlos, Elspeth and Adda reported from the Assembly which was, they felt, more friendly and positive than the previous Assembly in Harare. It was greeted with joy that the WCC will “do less but better” and work with a clearer focus. The Orthodox will be more included than before – in the light of the DVD produced from the Assembly, it looks like their presence had been overwhelming.

Charles Hill reported on the WCC Global Christian Forum’s Europe Meeting, held in Warburg, June 2006. About 50 people had been present, half of which from WCC member churches, one quarter from the Catholic Church and another quarter from the Pentecostal movement. The meeting had shared several “personal testimonies” of the participants and discussed several topics of wider ecumenical interest, like inter-faith dialogue. The final and genuine “global” forum will gather next year, probably in South America.

10. Review of Porvoo links

- Church of England Delegation Visit to the Church of Norway, Oslo, April 2006 (the CofE is happy to receive visits from other churches)
- Växjö and Oxford
- Gothenburg and Glasgow / Galloway covenant has been signed
- Tampere and Manchester; the bishop of Manchester will pay a visit to Tampere later this month.

11. Publications and Internet

Matti Repo was thanked for producing RESEPTIO and publishing the papers from the two theological consultations. It was hoped that such an inexpensive publication on papers from Porvoo Consultations could be used on other occasions, too. In addition, the papers from both consultations should be posted on the Porvoo Churches website.

The Contact Group discussed the future policy of Porvoo Cycle of Prayer. A hard copy will still be needed, and translations into other languages should be produced (presently, it is translated into Swedish and Estonian). The Church in Wales, it is hoped, will continue to compile the material from the Churches. Richard Spencer will discuss the issue.

Concerning the Porvoo Website it was asked, whether the Church in Wales (Matt Knight, Siôn Brynach) will continue posting papers on the Internet? The Church of England is paying for the site domain. All CG members need to send their material fresh whenever it should be put on the ‘net. – The country reports could be posted in. Not all translations of the Common Statement itself appear on the website. The website could be “energized”, its overall appearance enhanced and a new youth section produced.

12. Developments in Ministry

a. Porvoo Diaconate Consultation, London 25th –27th January 2006

Stephanie Dietrich reported on the Diaconate Consultation. Papers have been published on the Internet and in RESEPTIO volume 1/2006. The recommendations from the consultation were discussed in the Church Leaders' Meeting, which engaged considerably with the topic. The steering group will continue to prepare for a next possible consultation.

Discussion at the Church Leaders' Meeting had raised several issues, among others the low number of persons in actual diaconal ministry attending the consultation, and the experimental exchange of Lutheran and Anglican ministers in Helsinki.

The CG also expressed its interest in the latest developments with the ANDREP research. There seems to be some uncertainty as to whether the third volume of "The Ministry of the Deacon" will appear at all or not.

b. Interchangeability of Ministers: 'Permission to Officiate' for Lutheran Clergy in the Diocese in Europe

The CG discussed the developments in Iceland and Finland. A dual Icelandic/Anglican Ordination has taken place in London. A new Anglican congregation has been established in Tampere (ref. to Country Reports from Finland and Diocese in Europe)

c. Women in the Episcopate in the Anglican Churches

The CofE General Synod in York in July 2006 made provision for further study throughout the church of the theological issues involved, and requested that a special group study the legal and other provisions which might be made for those who oppose the ordination of women to the episcopate.

d. Other current discussions on ministry

Despite the decision on the Diaconate by the General Synod in Norway a year ago, no preparations on how to work out the practical consequences of the decision have been initiated so far.

Matti Repo gathered information from the CG on who is allowed to preach and who to participate in the holy Eucharist in the respective Churches.

e. Confirmation and Ordination

Documents have been collected from the Churches. A new gender-free ordinal has been published in Scotland.

13. Pastoral needs arising from the movement of migrants

The CG discussed the points made by ++John Neill at the Primates' Meeting in Nidaros in 2005. Local congregations need to be encouraged to receive the people

among them. On the other hand, many of the new immigrants coming from the Baltic area to Ireland only stay for a while, whereas the Nordic countries receive increasingly people from Eastern European, African and Asian countries, who wish to stay permanently.

14. Sharing of Literature

Matti Repo introduced three books on Churches and Europe: "Theology for Europe: Perspectives of Protestant Churches", "Nordic Folk Churches: A Contemporary Church History", "North European Churches from the Cold War to Globalisation". Elspeth Davey introduced "Grosvenor Essay No. 3: The inter-faith encounter". Desmond Harman introduced "The Authority of Scripture" (cf. Country Report from Ireland).

15. Terminology

Charles Hill gave a report on the survey of terminology. Progress with the basic list is going on and the members were encouraged to send in their contributions.

16. Theological issues

a. ALIC – Global Anglican/Lutheran Relations

Matti Repo reported that the LWF has started gathering information on the regulations in the Lutheran Churches regarding Anglican clergy coming to serve in a Lutheran setting.

b. Porvoo Theological Network

Johan Dalman reported on the first meeting of the Network, held in London in January 2006. There are plans to organize a meeting of young scholars. Johan will continue keeping contact with the Network.

c. Meissen Commission

Charles Hill asked, whether the Meissen Library at Durham Cathedral could have a Porvoo remit. However, no mechanisms to create such a remit were established.

The last Meissen Theological Conference concentrated on Confirmation, the next will be on Biblical Hermeneutics and the one after that on Ecclesiology.

The Meissen Commission had paid attention to the fact that the image of Germany in British consciousness is centred on the National Socialist period. Attempts to assist the schools in giving more up-to-date information belong to the interests of the Meissen Commission.

The CG discussed the possibility of a joint theological conference. A theme on Ethics – like Human Sexuality – could be a common area of interest for Churches of both Meissen and Porvoo Agreements.

d. Relations with the Old Catholic Churches

This year has seen the 75th Anniversary of the Bonn Agreement, signed 1931 by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of Utrecht.

Some Nordic and Baltic Countries do not have Old Catholic Churches. However, in Sweden, discussions with the Old Catholics have been initiated. Also, the Old Catholics have an agreement with the Church of Philippines, as the Anglicans and the CofS do.

e. Relations with CPCE (Leuenberg Church Fellowship)

Stephanie Dietrich, Jan Nilsson, Johan Dalman and Matti Repo reported on the CPCE General Assembly, held in Budapest, 12-18 of September 2006. Stephanie Dietrich was congratulated for being elected co-president of the CPCE and Jan Nilsson for being nominated a deputy member of its Council.

Certain topics in the Assembly were of particular interest for the Porvoo Churches. Two theological working groups were established in Budapest: Ordination, Ministry and Episcopal Oversight; Scripture and Tradition in the Church. A number of statements by the CPCE personnel in relation to the Anglican Churches were published shortly before the Budapest Assembly.

f. The Inter-Faith Agenda

The Church Leaders' Meeting had discussed Inter-Faith issues in Cardiff and decided to send a letter to the CEC.

In Scotland, a paper on an Inter-Faith Council has been published (Grosvenor Essay 3). In Iceland, a council is under formation.

g. Anglo-Nordic-Baltic Theological Conferences 2007ff.

The next ANBTC will be held in Uppsala, Sweden, 9-13 August 2007, on the theme of the Holy Spirit..

17. Human Sexuality

The CG discussed the developments in the Porvoo Churches. Also, reflections on the current situation in the Anglican Communion and the Lutheran World Federation were shared.

It was suggested that the proposed Anglican Covenant seems problematic, since some dioceses would like to be in communion with Canterbury whereas others perhaps not.

On the other hand, it was highlighted that the communion the Anglican Churches share is substantially spiritual, not doctrinal – the liturgy etc. is the same.

The LWF Task Force on Family, Marriage and Human Sexuality will report to the Council of the LWF soon. Its task has been to gather material from the member churches and to present its outcome to the Council, thus assisting the Council in producing guidelines for further discussion.

Another Task Force on the future of the LWF will be established soon, to prepare for the challenges resulting from the financial strains facing the LWF.

18. Future Initiatives

a. Porvoo Mission-Shaped Church Consultation, Canterbury, 16th –19th October 2006

Charles Hill gave an update on the aims and programme of the consultation.

b. Further Celebrations of the 10th Anniversary of the Porvoo Signing

England – Southwark Cathedral, Saturday 25th November 2006. Sermon will be given by the Dean of Nidaros.

c. Consultation on Human Sexuality, Sweden, December 2006

Johan Dalman informed on the consultation which will take place in Uppsala from Monday 18 to Wednesday 20 December. The Churches are expected to send 1-3 representatives. The Contact Group members will not necessarily be involved, unless in the capacity of delegates from their respective churches.

d. Primates and Presiding Bishops' Meeting, Ireland, 9th October 2007

Desmond Harman will start to prepare for the meeting, together with the Co-Chairmen and the Co-Secretaries.

e. Secretary Generals' Meeting?

The Contact Group asked, whether such a meeting would be appropriate, since not all Porvoo Churches have General Secretaries apart from their ecumenical officers, who will regularly meet at other occasions.

f. Anglo-Nordic-Baltic Pastoral Conference

The CG was reminded that the invitations to these conferences are based on “friendship” and not on any official Porvoo program. Thus, those Churches not sending delegates should not be blamed for not attending, since their financial situation might prevent them from taking part in this. However, the PCG members might be able to find delegates to be sent by their Church.

19. Contact Group Meetings and other Dates

The next PCG Meeting will take place from Monday 8th (lunchtime) to Friday 12th (after lunch) October 2007 in Dublin, Ireland, and the Porvoo Primates/Presiding Bishops will have their meeting at the same place on Tuesday 9th (full working day).

The Contact Group will meet from 6th-10th October 2008 in Riga in one of the Baltic countries, perhaps in Riga. A final decision will be made in 2007..

The next Porvoo Theological Conference will be held from Tuesday 22nd to Friday 25th January 2008 at St Katharine's, Foundation, London. The proposed theme is "Ethics and Communion"; another proposal "Living in Communion with Differences"

The next Church Leaders' Meetings will probably be 2010 in Sigtuna, Sweden; in 2014 in the Baltic area.

Revd Canon Dr Charles Hill

Revd Dr Matti Repo

Co-Secretaries, November 2006



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ARCHBISHOPS'
COUNCIL

To the Members and
Observers, Porvoo Contact
Group

Council for Christian Unity
Revd Canon Dr Charles Hill
European Secretary

15 January 2007

FROM: THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE PORVOO CONTACT GROUP

**TO: THE SIGNATORY CHURCHES OF THE PORVOO AGREEMENT AND
THE OBSERVER MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP**

**‘ETHICS AND COMMUNION:
LIVING TOGETHER WITH DIFFERENCE’**

**THE THIRD THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE OF THE PORVOO COMMUNION
THE ROYAL FOUNDATION OF ST KATHARINE, LONDON
TUESDAY 22ND – FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY 2008**

The Porvoo Common Statement commits the signatory Churches to “establish appropriate forms of collegial and conciliar consultation on significant matters of faith and order, life and work”, and to “encourage consultations of representatives of our churches, and to facilitate learning and exchange of ideas and information in theological and pastoral matters”. (para. 58b (viii and ix))

The first Porvoo Theological Conference, *Diversity in Communion*, was held in Durham in 2000. The second conference, on the theme *The vocation and mission of the whole people of God: our common challenge*, took place in Iceland in 2004.

The third conference, to be held next January, focuses on a theme of major importance in our individual churches, in the world communions of which we are members, and across the communion of Porvoo churches.

The aim of the forthcoming Theological Conference is to explore what it means to live in ecclesial communion when churches come to different theological understandings,

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policies and practices. This is a question facing the Anglican Communion and the Porvoo Communion of Churches.

The Conference will not debate ethical questions as such, but it will examine

- the nature of communion (koinonia),
- the relationship between doctrine and ethics
- the relationship between the Church's mission and engagement with the culture in which we are set
- how our communion can be maintained and deepened whilst acknowledging our differences.

It is important to note that the Conference will not be debating the merits of particular ethical positions, but exploring the implications of divergence for maintaining canonical communion.

Member churches and observer churches of the Porvoo Agreement are invited to designate suitable scholars and theologians to represent them. As a general guidance, the size of delegations from the earlier conferences is set out below, but churches who would like to send additional delegates who have appropriate expertise are very welcome to do so:

Signatory churches:

Iceland:	1
Estonia:	1
Lithuania:	1
Ireland:	1
Wales:	1
Scotland:	2
Finland:	2
Norway:	2
Sweden:	2
England:	3

Observers:

Denmark:	1
Latvia:	1

Number of delegates: 18+

The Contact Group will be represented by the Co-Chairmen and Co-Secretaries.

We may also invite some ecumenical participants from outside the Porvoo churches.

The cost of the conference is expected to be approximately GBP 260 (about €350) per person, not including travel. Delegates may wish to arrive earlier or depart later, for an additional cost. The conference will be held at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine, in the Docklands area of London, a comfortable and well-equipped venue which we used in 2006 for the Porvoo consultation on the diaconate. It is easily reachable by public transport from all the London airports and train stations.

We now kindly ask your church to appoint your representative(s) and to submit their names and details to the Porvoo Co-Secretary, Canon Dr Charles Hill, (Council for Christian Unity, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ) **before 1st June**, so that the conference planning group can finalise the programme and invite delegates to provide papers.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely

Martin Wharton
Bishop of Newcastle
Anglican Co-Chairman

Ragnar Persenius
Bishop of Uppsala
Lutheran Co-Chairman

Issued on behalf of the Co-Chairmen by the Anglican Co-Secretary of the Porvoo Contact Group,

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