



Saksbehandler: Stephanie Dietrich

Saksdokumenter:  
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## Saker fra de økumeniske organisasjonene

### **Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE)/ Leuenberg**

CPCE fortsetter sitt arbeid i tråd med vedtakene som ble fattet på generalforsamlingen september 2006. Sekretariatet har flyttet til Wien, og Michael Bünker er ny generalsekretær i GEKE. Flyttingen har også medført en viss reduksjon i bemanningen, samt at generalsekretæren nå er utnevnt som ny biskop for den lutherske kirken i Østerrike. På tross av den lave bemanningen er det forholdsvis stor aktivitet: Læresamtalen om "Skrift, bekjennelse og kirke" og om "Embete, ordinasjon og episkopé" er satt i gang. Dialogene med de ortodokse og anglikanerne skal videreføres. Presseavdelingen er svært aktiv på nettet, sender pressemeldinger fra presidiet i forhold til aktuelle temaer og hendelser (jfr. vedlagte pressemelding om reaksjon på Vatikanets seneste utsagn om kirkeforståelse), samt lager regelmessig informasjonsmeldinger om nyheter i medlemskirkene. ([http://lkg.jalb.de/lkg/jsp/index.jsp?lang=en&side\\_id=1](http://lkg.jalb.de/lkg/jsp/index.jsp?lang=en&side_id=1) (engelsk) eller [http://www.leuenberg.net/side\\_start.php?news\\_id=1&navi=1&part2\\_id=55&part\\_id=56](http://www.leuenberg.net/side_start.php?news_id=1&navi=1&part2_id=55&part_id=56) (tysk). Der er det også mulig å abonnere på et svært informativ Internet-newsletter. Sekretariatets representant i Brussel som har sosialetiske spørsmål som hovedfokus, samarbeider godt med KEK-staben i Brussel og danner på den måten en god og nødvendig link til KEKs Europaarbeid, for eksempel når det gjelder prosjektet om "Healing of Memories" i Romania.

Rådet skal møtes igjen i september 2007 og utarbeider føringer for det videre arbeidet i denne 6-årsperioden. Det er også til utredning hvorvidt det skal etableres en nordeuropeisk regionalgruppe i CPCE.

CPCE er et stort fellesskap av kirker i Europa, (103 kirker), og det ligger et potensiale, også for Den norske kirke, i dette fellesskapet når det gjelder muligheter for bredt samarbeid på et europeisk plan, ikke minst når det gjelder felleseuropeiske sosialetiske spørsmål, men også når det gjelder kirkelig samarbeid og teologisk studiearbeid.

### **Forslag til vedtak**

Sakene tas til orientering.



## **Press Release 22/2007: 'The wrong signals'**

**The CPCE is alienated by, but relaxed about, the document "Responses to some questions regarding certain aspects of the doctrine on the church" published by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.**

Vienna – "Alienated, but not disturbed". These words describe how the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) is taking note of a document published today by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In five paragraphs the document "Responses to some questions regarding certain aspects of the doctrine on the church", approved by Pope Benedict XVI, describes the self-understanding of the Roman Catholic Church as the only true church and denies that the churches of the Reformation are churches. Both the argument and the brevity of the Congregation's document are irritating.

"Such far-reaching ecumenical statements need a stronger basis in argument," stressed the CPCE President, Thomas Wipf, today. Moreover it was impossible to agree with the self-understanding of the Roman Catholic Church in the light of the Protestant understanding. The Reformation directs attention to the original marks of the churches. These are the pure preaching of the gospel and the right administration of the sacraments. As Wipf points out: "That - and no more - is needed to be able to be seen as an authentic expression of the one church of Christ." The identification of the constitution of one church with the church of Jesus Christ in which Christians believe is unthinkable from a Protestant perspective. "All that is external is fallible, and that includes the Protestant and the Roman Catholic Church," Wipf continues.

However, the Presidium of the CPCE, of which Thomas Wipf is the head, welcomes the fact that the paper grants that the main statements are made "according to Catholic doctrine". This allows the churches of the Reformation to argue in accordance with Protestant doctrine. Of course the churches of the Reformation have no central magisterium, but have engaged in discussion again and again. Through this constant self-examination it was also possible with in 1973 with the Leuenberg Agreement to work out a strong and viable ecumenical model. "The Agreement refers to the Reformation recognition that word and sacrament are decisive. The gospel, and not the apostolic succession in the sacrament of ordination, constitutes the church. That takes the churches of the Reformation a step further. "We recognize the Roman Catholic Church as a church. It is and remains regrettable that this is not made possible the other way round," Wipf remarks.

Thomas Wipf summed up by noting that alongside the theological problems there is another question. "Such a paper sends out the wrong signals. The challenges of this world formally cry out for the churches to work together. Fellowship is not a lofty goal but our task. Doctrinal views are eminently important – but for us they do not split the church."

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At present 105 Protestant churches in Europe (including five South-American churches originating from Europe ) belong to the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE). Lutheran, Reformed, United and Methodist along with pre-Reformation churches such as Hussites and Czech Brethren grant each other pulpit and table fellowship on the basis of the Leuenberg Agreement of 1973. A 13-member Council carries out ongoing business between two general assemblies, headed by a 3-member Presidium: Revd Thomas Wipf (President), Council President of the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches in Bern , Prof. Michael Beintker (Co-President), Director of the Seminary for Reformed Theology at the University in Munster , and Revd Dr. Stephanie Dietrich (Co-President), Church of Norway . The Secretariat, which operates under the direction of the Council, is housed in the Severin-Schreiber-Gasse 3, A-1180 Vienna, office@leuenberg.eu, tel. +43.1.4791523.900, fax .580. Its director is OKR Prof. Dr. Michael Bünker. The CPCE press officer is Dipl.theol. Thomas Flügge (Bern), tel. +41.31.3702502, t.fluegge@leuenberg.eu.