



Saksbehandler: Sven Oppegaard

Saksdokumenter:

Brev fra KV av 12. juli 2007

Svarbrev fra generalsekretæren av 26.07.2007

## Saker fra de økumeniske organisasjonene

### **Kirkenes Verdensråd (KV)**

Olav Fykse Tveit er blitt invitert av KVs generalsekretær til å være en av ti medlemmer i en "Core Group" som skal lede det nyopprettede Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum.

MKR orienteres med dette om denne invitasjonen til vår generalsekretær, jfr. brev av 12. juli 2007, som han har besvart positivt.

### **Forslag til vedtak**

Saken tas til orientering.





World Council of Churches  
Conseil œcuménique des Églises  
Consejo Mundial de Iglesias  
Ökumenischer Rat der Kirchen  
General Secretariat

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Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit  
General Secretary  
Church of Norway  
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Geneva, 12 July 2007

Dear Olav,

Greetings from the WCC offices in Geneva. This letter comes to you in follow-up to the recent conference in Amman, Jordan, and the launch of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum. It is my great privilege to write you on behalf of the General Secretary and to convey his greetings.

In the days since the conference and the subsequent WCC delegation to Israel and Palestine, we have worked through a process for identifying candidates for the forum's core group. They will be people charged with providing leadership. The criteria for membership of the group are competency in advocacy work, a range of experience in the group to cover the two basic 'tracks', and a cross-section of the various stakeholders in the forum. Some of the breadth of the WCC constituency should also be reflected in the group.

On completion of a process with a wealth of possibilities, your name emerged. We would therefore like to extend an invitation to you to be one of the members of the core group of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum. On the one hand, it is a privilege to be able to ask persons who have contributed much to the work of the church and related ministries and of your professional caliber. On the other hand, the task in question will ask much of all of us.

As many of those in Amman will attest, the forum holds the promise of catalyzing and coordinating a more effective ecumenical contribution toward peace in Israel and Palestine. By the same token, providing guidance for the initiative is a very important assignment. You are one of ten people whom we are approaching to join the core group. Also joining will be two resource persons from the ranks of EAPPI and young members of the WCC governing bodies. We believe that the capacities and experience among the nominees is a clear sign of the potential within the ranks of this forum for peace.

Since the core group will have a largely professional role in the specific area of advocacy, we are also proposing that a small group of church leaders be named as 'trustees' of the forum in order to reflect and sustain the overall church ownership this initiative will require. We envisage that the trustees would meet in conjunction with the periodic assemblies of the forum.

The commitment that will be needed by members of the core group is as follows: Attend an estimated two core group meetings (2-days each) per year; take part in coordination and information exchanges by email and an occasional conference call; offer within the group the capacity and availability to convene participants in certain work areas of the forum (for example, in some of the working groups that may form within the two 'tracks' of peacemaking and peace-building).


There will normally also be participation at regular meetings of PIEF. In the proposed framework, this is foreseen as meetings with a theme or focus once or twice a year and a larger assembly perhaps every two years.

We are proposing an initial term of three years for core group members.

The plan outlined in Amman is for the core group to have its first, one-and-a-half day meeting in early September (17&18) in Geneva.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience given the prospect of vacations just ahead.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Georges Lemopoulos', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Georges Lemopoulos  
Deputy General Secretary

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**Fra:** Tveit, Olav Fykse  
**Sendt:** 26.07.2007  
**Til:** 'bc@wcc-coe.org'  
**Kopi:** Dehlin, Liv Janne;krarkiv;'Beatrice Merahi';'uz@wcc-coe.org'  
**Emne:** RE: WCC Invitation - PIEF Core Group

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Dear Georges Lemopoulos,

Please convey my thanks to the General Secretary for the invitation to participate in the PIEF Core Group. I am ready to do so, and see this as an honour and a challenge and a task I will take upon me.

Concerning the meeting in September, I would like to have some more information about the plans etc. We have already a planned, but not confirmed meeting between Church of Norway representatives and the Moscow Patriarchate - maybe the Patriarch - in Moscow at the 16th, the 17th or the 18th of September. The urgency of my personal presence there I have to explore further before I can confirm my participation in Geneva. Let me come back to that.

Please receive my warm greetings to you and your colleagues.  
Remaining yours sincerely,

Olav Fykse Tveit





Saksbehandler: Liv Janne Dehlin

Saksdokumenter:

E-post fra KV av 19. juni 2007 (*vedlagt*)

## Saker fra de økumeniske organisasjonene

### **Kirkenes Verdensråd (KV)**

#### **Sammendrag**

Den norske kirke er blitt invitert av KV ved Deenabandu Manchala til å oppnevne fortrinnsvis et samisk medlem i en "Core Group" for det nye programmet "Just and inclusive communities" (se vedlegg). I samråd med Samisk kirkeråds sekretariat foreslår MKRs sekretariat at rådgiver Line Skum i SKR oppnevnes til dette vervet. Hun har sagt seg villig til dette og har allerede deltatt på det første møtet i denne gruppen.

#### **Forslag til vedtak**

Mellomkirkelig råd oppnevner Line Skum som representant fra Den norske kirke til "Core Group" for programmet "Just and inclusive communities" i Kirkenes Verdensråd for perioden 2007-11.





## Saksorientering

Kirkenes Verdensråds sentralkomité besluttet i september 2006 å opprette et nytt program "Just and inclusive communities" som respons på utfordringer fra den 9. generalforsamlingen i Porto Alegre 2006. Generalforsamlingen ba om at erfaringer fra ekskluderte grupper i kirke og samfunn i større grad kan berike og utfordre den økumeniske bevegelse. Dette programmet sorterer under "Unity, Mission, Evangelism and Spirituality" i KV. I dette programmet inngår tema knyttet til rasisme samt EDAN (Ecumenical Disability Network), Urfolksprogrammet og Dalit Solidarity Program. I den forbindelse oppretter KV en "Core group" (2007-11) som skal delta i planlegging av programinnhold og følge med i utviklingen av arbeidet underveis fram mot 2011. I perioden 2007-11 er planen at gruppen skal møtes årlig. Gruppen er satt sammen av personer fra de 4 nettverkene, og KV har utfordret Dnk til å oppnevne et samisk medlem til denne gruppen.

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**Fra:** Skum, Line

**Sendt:** 01.08.2007

**Til:** krarkiv

**Kopi:**

**Emne:** FW: Invitation to nominate a person from SCC to WCC Core Group on Just and Inclusive Communities

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-----Original Message-----

From: Deenabandhu Manchala [mailto:dem@wcc-coe.org]

Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2007 9:47 AM

To: KR-Postmottak

Cc: Tveit, Olav Fykse; Mireille Gheryani

Subject: Invitation to nominate a person from SCC to WCC Core Group on Just and Inclusive Communities

Dear Friend

In response to the mandate of the 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Porto Alegre, Brazil in February 2006, to enrich and challenge the ecumenical movement with the experiences and insights of the people who are excluded by the structures and cultures of the society, and to ensure their participation in the life of the churches, a new programme called "Just and Inclusive Communities" has been launched by WCC's Central Committee at its meeting in Geneva in September 2006. This has been placed under the broad programme area - Unity, Mission, Evangelism and Spirituality.

This particular programme brings together lessons from WCC's decades-long engagement with people with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, Dalits and people who experience as well as resist racism. By initiating a world wide process of appropriating the learnings from this involvement, this activity aims to uphold the challenge to the churches to be just and inclusive communities.

A theological consultation was organised in La Paz as the first activity of this programme to develop a theological rationale and a vision for the programme. It brought together the four streams for a time of sharing their experiences of exclusion and to envision the common features of an inclusive society and church. It also unpacked a new range of questions and challenges to address. The meeting produced a 15 aide-mémoire which is being finalised for distribution and I shall share this with you as soon as possible. One of the recommendations of the La Paz meeting was to form a Core Group consisting of theologians, social scientists and activists, that would assist, accompany and monitor the development of the programme during the next three to four years. This group will meet once a year.

I am writing this to invite you to nominate a person, preferably a woman from Sami Council of Churches to join the group and to its first meeting in Geneva, Switzerland during 16 - 19, August 2007. I hope it is possible for you to help us find the person in spite of our request coming so late. Since it is only recently that we have been able to get started with our new programme responsibilities, we could not start this process earlier. I solicit your understanding.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Deenabandhu Manchala  
Just and Inclusive Communities  
Unity, Mission, Evangelism and Spirituality



Saksbehandler: Sven Oppegaard

Referanser:  
MKR 20/07 (KV)

**Saksdokumenter:**

Dok.dato	Tittel	Dok.ID
05.09.2007	The next WCC Assembly Brev til KV	18183
14.05.2007	The next WCC Assembly Brev fra KV	15495

## Saker fra de økumeniske organisasjonene Fremtidige økumeniske generalforsamlinger

### Sammendrag

Se sak MKR 20/07 (KV) i MKR-protokoll fra maimøtet. Vedlagte utkast til svarbrev til KV v/generalsekretær Sam Kobia er en oppfølging av vedtaket på dette møtet. Vedlagt følger også brevet fra KV.

### Forslag til vedtak

Saken tas til orientering.





**CHURCH OF NORWAY**  
**National Council, Council on Ecumenical and International  
Relations, Sami Church Council**

Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia  
World Council of Churches  
P.O.Box 2100 1211 Geneva 2  
SWITZERLAND

Date: 05.09.2007

Our ref: 07/139-3 SOP

Your ref:

### **The next WCC Assembly**

Dear Dr Kobia,

We greet you with our sincere prayers that God may continue to bless and inspire your ministry and the efforts of the WCC toward the unity of the church and of the human family.

Thank you very much for your letter dated April 2007 on the above-mentioned topic. We are very pleased that the major issue of future assemblies is now a matter on which the WCC is focusing clearly as visions and plans are laid out for the years to come.

We are also happy to know that the Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) of the WCC and the CWCs has been established and was able, in its first meeting last May, to initiate a process of deliberation with particular reference to the issue of future assemblies. We would be pleased if information about the work of this commission could be shared in substance with the member churches in the time ahead.

The Church of Norway has for many years regarded the discussion of future assemblies as a matter of high ecumenical significance. It is definitely a matter of stewardship of resources. But it is also a matter of taking a new leap forward in the ecumenical movement, by making growth in unity and cooperation among the churches visible in new and concrete forms.

Broader models of global assemblies can be a fresh and stimulating ecumenical symbol, as well as an important new instrument for real programmatic cooperation, related both to the preparation processes prior to such assemblies and to new patterns of follow-up of common decisions that are taken. We appreciate that the JCC is clearly intentional in this way.

It will be important in the time ahead to make clear that what is now envisaged is a new, cooperative form of assemblies, which is based on the assemblies of the WCC, but is at the same time a new joint ecumenical initiative at the global level. We have understood the establishment of the JCC in this commission in that perspective.

The issue of future cooperation between the WCC and CWCs, so strongly affirmed by the WCC Assemblies both in Harare 1998 and Porto Alegre 2006, is more than a matter of strengthening “the participation of CWCs in the life and work of the WCC”, as was stated in a press release in May. It is also a question of how the WCC actively recognizes, draws upon, and interacts with the CWCs in their work and ecumenical efforts. There is a strong potential in this, both for the dynamic of the ecumenical movement at large and for the standing of the WCC itself.

With these preliminary remarks, let us briefly respond to the two sets of questions in your letter.

### **A common vision**

1. The paragraph referred to does, in a general way, describe a vision for a new form of assemblies, which is currently called for by many, and has been a longstanding matter of commitment by the Church of Norway. We do find, however, that the language used is too wide and open, particularly in the bolded part of the first sentence. The action taken by the 2006 Assembly, and followed up in the Central Committee on this matter, focuses most specifically on the cooperation with the CWCs. It would be regrettable if a new form of assemblies, where space is given to the widest possible range of partner organizations and agencies, lead to assemblies that would essentially be like an ecumenical market place. The main thrust should be toward a broader assembly of *churches*, which through the CWCs would include many churches that are not presently members of the WCC. The agenda of such a broader assembly should be on deliberation in different configurations, with a main emphasis on plenary sessions and with the intention of reaching common decisions through consensus.
2. In the pluriform ecumenical movement it is difficult to nominate the best environment for the manifestation of fellowship and unity. We are, however, very clear in our conviction that a new, more comprehensive form of global assemblies is a much needed and very significant project in the current ecumenical movement, which deserves our common attention and efforts in the years to come.
3. An intentionally broadened form of assemblies would significantly strengthen the fellowship of the member churches if the confessional families to which they belong are also directly involved in all the processes related to such new assemblies. The hiatus that still exists in different ways, between confessional belonging and ecumenical participation, is highly detrimental to the ecumenical self-understanding and involvement of many member churches. Even if new, broadened assemblies would not, as such, claim to portray the visible unity of Christian churches, they would, if successful, represent a very important new stage in the search, within the global family of churches, for shared platforms, expressions and instruments of a common, God-given mission in the world.

### **Stewardship and commitment**

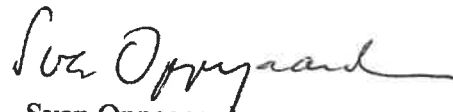
1. The current pattern of global and regional assemblies, where our membership calls for participation, is definitely a burden on the Church of Norway, both in terms of finances and human resources. A new, more cooperative assembly pattern would represent an important ground for synergy and better coordination of resources.

2. Yes, we will clearly affirm such a commitment, as our ecumenical history would also substantiate.
3. Such a commitment, which has been clearly stated by the Lutheran World Federation, has been a part of our ecumenical strategic outlook for many years. We can unequivocally affirm that this commitment is ours also today.

We thank you for the opportunity to be in direct communication on this important matter. We strongly hope that the present process, which directly involves the new JCC, will bring fruits over the next years, so that 2013 may in fact be the first assembly of a new type, where Christian unity can be expressed through a new complementarity of visions and ecclesial identities.

Sincerely yours,

Ingrid Vad Nilsen  
Moderator  
Church of Norway  
Council on Ecumenical  
and International Relations

  
Sven Oppegaard  
Acting General Secretary  
Church of Norway  
Council on Ecumenical  
and International Relations







World Council of Churches  
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To: WCC Member Churches,  
Regional and Associate Councils,  
Christian World Communions,  
Specialized Ministries and  
International Ecumenical  
Organisations

**Re: The next WCC assembly**

Direct dial: (+41-22) 791 6202  
Direct e-mail: Doug.Chial@wcc-coe.org  
Direct fax: (+41-22) 791 6406

Geneva, April 2007

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

Among the recommendations of the Porto Alegre assembly was to pursue an "ecumenical assembly that would assemble all churches to celebrate their fellowship in Jesus Christ and to address common challenges facing the church and humanity" (Report of the Policy Reference Committee, paragraph 5).

~~This recommendation was supported by the assembly principally as a witness "toward visible unity and a shared Eucharist", but also as a practical challenge to "explore the feasibility of a structure for WCC assemblies that would provide expanded space for Christian World Communions and confessional families to meet, for the purpose of deliberation and/or overall agenda" (Report of the Policy Reference Committee, paragraph 25d).~~

The Assembly requested that this be further deliberated early in the term of the Central Committee.

The feasibility of a WCC assembly gathering all churches and offering expanded space for Christian World Communions was initially discussed by the Central Committee in September 2006. The matter was referred to the Executive Committee for further discussion with the expectation that an initial recommendation come to the Central Committee meeting in 2008 for consideration.

In February this year the Executive Committee elaborated the discussion and requested that advice be sought from the fellowship of WCC member churches, regional and associate councils, specialized ministries and international ecumenical organisations. The concerns addressed by the Executive Committee, and on which feedback is now requested, include:

**A common vision**

From the initial discussions, there is an apparent interest in pursuing a **WCC assembly that would gather all churches and offer expanded space to partner ecumenical organisations**. This is the vision of a broad-based WCC assembly that would invite not only Christian World Communions, but other churches and ecumenical partners to gather in support of the one ecumenical movement.

1. *Does this language adequately describe the vision of a gathering that brings together the widest platform of Christian churches and organizations in an expression of visible unity? Does this vision resonate with your church's or organisation's ecumenical calling?*
2. *Is an assembly of the WCC the best environment in which to manifest commitment to both the fellowship of member churches and the one ecumenical movement?*
3. *How would such an intentionally broadened WCC assembly strengthen the fellowship of member churches in their search for visible unity?*

#### **Stewardship and commitment**

It has been reported that the plethora of ecumenical and confessional assemblies has become not only a financial burden for many churches and ecumenical partners, but a burden on the human resources of the churches. Additionally the lack of coherence around themes, agendas, resources and worship material has been critiqued by some.

1. *Is the current cycle of ecumenical and confessional assemblies a burden on your church or organisation, and if so, why?*
2. *Is your church or organisation committed to sharing your resources and to collaborate on study processes and the preparation of resources that are necessary to sustain a WCC assembly that offers expanded space to all churches and other partners?*
3. *Is your church or organisation committed to the idea of pursuing a WCC assembly that would gather all churches and offer expanded space to partner ecumenical organisations?*

The ecumenical landscape has changed significantly in recent years and will continue to change as new forms and models of ecclesial unity emerge, as bi-lateral dialogues mature and as the mechanisms for ecumenical engagement in Diakonia and development are transformed. An assembly of the World Council of Churches is among the largest and most representative gatherings of churches committed to the search for visible unity. Assemblies, as per the WCC Rules, give priority to the fellowship of member churches to review and set future directions. And yet the World Council of Churches is not the only institutional context in which the wider fellowship of churches expresses its commitment to visible unity.

The Porto Alegre assembly, in articulating the vision of an 'ecumenical assembly', has led us to re-consider the nature of WCC assemblies as the most significant global platform, not only for gathering the fellowship of member churches, but also for fostering the coherence of the one ecumenical movement by involving more intentionally councils of churches, confessional bodies, diaconal ministries and other international ecumenical initiatives.

Your response to these issues will help to inform the subsequent reflection of the Executive Committee and thereby strengthen the Central Committee discussion in February 2008. We look forward to receiving your feedback on this matter before 1 August 2007 if possible.

Sincerely yours,



Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia  
General Secretary

Cc: Members of Central Committee