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Saksdokument:

Invitasjon til Porvoo Theological Conference 21.-25.1.2008

## Saker fra de økumeniske organisasjonene

### **Porvoo**

Porvoofellesskapet har, fra kontaktgruppens side, hatt et noe lavere aktivitetsnivå denne våren fordi det ikke har vært spesielle saker til uttalelse. De lokaløkumeniske kontaktene og samarbeidet mellom bispedømmene er i stadig utvikling, og det er en rekke henvendelser om mindre og større kontakter til andre kirker i Porvoofellesskapet, spesielt interesse fra Den norske kirke om kontakt med Church of England.

I høst møtes de ledende biskoper (Primates Meeting) og Porvoo-kontaktgruppen i Dublin. I desember arrangeres den andre runden i samtalen om kirkeforståelsen mellom Porvoofellesskapet og de ortodokse kirkene i KEK. Ikke minst fra KEKs side har man understreket at dette samtaleforumet er svært viktig for de ortodokse kirkene i Europa fordi de ortodokse kirkene føler stor nærhet til mye av teologien i Porvooavtalen.

Samtidig arbeides det i Porvoo-kontaktgruppen med planleggingen av Porvoo Theological Conference som finner sted i London 22.-25. januar 2008, og har som tema 'Ethics and Communion: Living together with difference'. Programmet for konferansen er vedlagt. Temaet berører teologiske spørsmål som er av stor relevans både innad i våre medlemskirker, i Porvoofellesskapet, i The Anglican Communion og i LVF-sammenheng. Det berører også forholdet mellom de nordiske og de baltiske lutherske kirkene. Fra Den norske kirkes side skal Olav Fykse Tveit delta ved konferansen og gi et bidrag til temaet "Mutual Accountability".

Ellers er det under planlegging en gjensitt fra Den norske kirke til Church of England våren 2008, der bl.a. preses Olav Skjevesland kommer til å delta.

### **Forslag til vedtak**

Sakene tas til orientering.



# **'ETHICS AND COMMUNION: LIVING TOGETHER AS CHURCHES WITH ETHICAL DIFFERENCES'**

**THE THIRD THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE OF THE PORVOO COMMUNION**

**THE ROYAL FOUNDATION OF ST KATHARINE, LONDON**

**TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> – FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2008**

**Invitation to the Member and Observer Churches of the Porvoo Communion, from the Co-Chairmen of the Porvoo Contact Group**

**January 2007**

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 the ethical dimension of being churches in communion. Ecclesial communion can be called into question when churches diverge significantly on ethical teaching, policy and practice. The Anglican Communion and the Communion of Porvoo Churches are having to face this challenge for the first time. The Conference will not debate these ethical differences as such - it will presuppose and build on the Porvoo Consultation on same-sex relationships, hosted by the Church of Sweden at Sigtuna in December 2006 - but it will examine the nature of communion (koinonia), the relationship between doctrine and ethics and between the Church's mission and the surrounding culture, and look at the question of the impairment of communion and our responsibility to maintain it.

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 also hope to 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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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