

Sámi Church Days 2021 Program Committee meeting 6.-7.6.2019

Location: Helsinki, Scandic Hotel Airport

Attendance:

Lisbeth Hotti

Bierna Leine Bientie

Per Oskar Kjølaas

Mariann Lörstrand-Blind

Valjakka Mari

Huusko Tuomo

Pesonen Niilo

Jaakko Vainio

Opening and Prayer:

Vicar Tuomo Huusko opened the meeting with a prayer

Agenda

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted by the group.

2. Election of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman

Tuomo Huusko was elected to chair this meeting.

Mariann Lörstrand was elected as a Vice-Chair.

Mari Valjakka is elected as a secretary of this meeting.

3. History

a. The Inari Agreement

The Inari Agreement was reviewed and the need for an update of the agreement was discussed: the Inari Agreement will be updated when the Sámi Councils meet, possibly as early as autumn 2019.

b. Final Report Arvidsjaur 2017

We went through the final reports and feedback on the Arvidsjaur Church Days (including the report of the Diocese of Oulu; Evaluering från Arvidsjaur, the final report by Marianne and the Uppsala report from the church days closing meeting.)

Considerations:

The report of the Diocese of Oulu highlighted the challenges related to language and the feedback asked for more Sámi-language servants for worship services.

In general, the feedback stated that the sámiculture was well represented in the worship services, although there was even more wish for the Sámi liturgy.

In Arvidsjaur, people are not used to volunteering in the church, so it was difficult to get volunteers to serve as Sami-speaking servants, for example at worship services. Arvidsjaur is mainly Swedish speaking area.

The program in Arvidsjaur was plentiful and good, but on the other hand, the feedback pointed out that the program had many overlaps and made it difficult to select where to participate.

The integration of the Russian Sami into the program also came to the fore. The Program Committee would like Russia to be represented on the Program Committee.

The presence of the Skolt language and culture in the communication and program of the coming Church Days, would integrate the Orthodox Church into Church Days even better. Jaakko Vainio sees that the role of the Orthodox Church would be to strengthen the position of the Skolt Sámi people on Church days.

About translating

The prerequisite for good simultaneous translating is that the translators receive the material in advance and thus be better prepared.

Phrases that are too long and too fast to speak should be avoided and it is good practice to instruct speakers in advance. Dealing with more than one language naturally takes more time even when translating simultaneously so that is also good to take into account when planning a program.

It is hoped that the Sámi languages should not be heard only from the headset, but that translations should be from the Sámi languages to the main languages and not the other way around.

The photographer was not in the Arvidsjaur Church Days all the time. Taking pictures and updating social media is also essential during Church days.

It would have been good to have someone from the local church attend the program committee.

Suggestions for the upcoming:

- Involvement of a local congregation representative on the program committee whenever needed and when schedules allow.
- In Inari, could the person who is in charge of the maintenance of the local church property/ verger take over the main responsibility for church days infrastructure.
- We don't have many Sámi-speaking employees in the Church, so it is necessary to share tasks locally.

4. Planning of the Sámi Church Day

a. Budget

- Budget Requests: The host country should send letters to the churches in Norway and Sweden about Inari Church Days so that they can also add Church Days to their budget in good time. The same practice has happened before.
- Search for various cultural grants and other possible grants.
- Last time the entrance fee was SEK 500 and was considered good.
- Asked Niilo Pesonen to find out who will cover the cost if the budget is exceeded.

b. place

Inari

c. time

18.6 to 20.6

d. Theme

Holy Fire - Holy People, Bassi Dolla - Bassi Albmot, Aejlies Dálle - Aejlies Åålmege, Helig eld - Helig folk.

e. Worship, Youth and Children Working Groups

Working group of Worship services

Names of the confirmed members will be sent to Mari and a Skype meeting will be held in the fall of 2019.

Finland:

Mari Valjakka and Erva Niittyvuopio

Norway:

Anna-Marlene Jåanson

Johan Mahtte Skum

Anne Skoglund:

Alternate from Norway: Karl Yngre Bergkåsa

Sweden:

Jönsson Anna

Heli Pruikkonen

From the Orthodox Church: Jaakko Vainio

Youth and children working group

Finland:

Viivi Törmänen

Ville Orjala from Finland

Norway:

Are Markku Tjihkkon

Sweden :?

In addition:

- Ask if anyone from Enontekiö could be involved in this so that the young people in their area could be involved even better as well.
- We will find out if Sweden could have young Sámi people from their last year's confirmation camps and get them involved.
- Could the local confirmation camp in Inari collaborate with young Sámi people from Finland, Norway and Sweden.

- 5-6 people with language skills are needed to take care of the children's- and youth program.

f. exhibitions

It was considered what would be a suitable space for the exhibition and what kind of arrangements would be required for the construction of the exhibition space and for its safety.

It was suggested that the exhibition could include, for example, a presentation of the work of the students of the Sámi Area Education Center.

g. ecumenical event

There was also a wish for orthodox tradition to be seen even more during the church days.

-Friday: Ecumenical Opening Worship service

-Saturday: Orthodox service in the morning, but not too early, it's also important to be close, preferably in the main Lavu.

-Youth worship service in the evening, could it also be ecumenical? Would orthodox Sámi youths be included.

- Sunday: Closing Mass.

Inari had a VIP dinner, important people were taken out to eat elsewhere, this was considered difficult for the program planning.

The Orthodox Church suggests that they could organize a small sightseeing on Sunday and arrange a visit to Sevettijärvi Church and St. George's Chapel in Neiden.

h. visibility of indigenous peoples

- For example, a photo exhibition gathered by young Sámi people about their excursion to the Tanzania to visit Masai tribe.

- Mari can invite person who works with indigenous issues in from World Council of Churches

- Also, others can be invited, but the invited ones will pay for their participation and accommodation themselves.

i. information

- Developing an information plan: Could Harriet Urponen help with the strategy?

- It would be a good idea to give our plan to Yle Sapmi and other local medias well in advance.

- Project worker.
- Facebook pages and other channels in social media should be created by January 2020 and web pages by June 2020.
- Who does the website, in Arvidsjaur the church took care of it and paid the cost of the pages, but the content was produced by, for example, Mariann and they used translators to translate pages into different languages.
- Already at this stage, we can update the dates, time, place and basic information about the Sámi Church days on the website and slowly update the program once it is confirmed.
- The websites mainly gather basic information about the event and accommodation, etc. Other current updates are done on social media e.g. Facebook and Instagram.
- We use mainly North Sámi, Inari Sámi Skolt Sámi, Finnish and English in our communications. In addition, basic information about Church Days, is already translated for the previous Church Days into South and Luleå Sámi, Swedish and Norwegian, we can also use these to provide basic information about Church Days on our website.
- Once the theme has been completed, the Sami artist can design a logo that we will begin to use on websites and social media. It would be a good idea to find the designer of the logo in the fall of 2019.
- Vidar? Contact person from Norway for information.
- Mariann Lörstrand Liaison Officer for Sweden
- From Finland Erva Niittyvuopio and Mari Valjakka

j. seminars

Planning seminar themes and keynote speakers

- The tradition of blessing among the Sami, for example, by Lovisa Mienna Sjöberg, who has studied the subject
- Tore Johnsen, promised to speak.
- Lavu discussions: topics such as truth and reconciliation processes.
- Traditional way of singing hymns and passing on traditions to the next generation. Let's explore, for example, whether Anna Näkkäljärvi-Länsmän could have a workshop for the elderly and young people to gather together and sing hymns in the traditional Sámi way.
- Identity and youth / faith and identity. Speakers e.g. Tove Lill Labahå, Margrera Nils Johan Labbas from Kiruna, Margrethe Kristin Leine Bientie.

k. concerts

- Anna Näkkäljärvi-Länsman
- Locals
- Young performers
- Inari Sámi and Skolt Sámi's

5. Collaborators

a. Church of Norway and Sweden

b. local actors

c. other Sami collaborators

- Sami soster
- The Sámi Parliament
- Sogg Sakk
- Sami duodji
- Yle Sápmi

(On Monday, June 10, 2009, Mari will send a little press release to Yle and tell about the time, place and theme of the upcoming Sámi Church Days.)

- Siida
- organizations
- The Sami Scouts

d. The Sami people of Russia / SKKB

SKKB: How to get the Russian Sami people to church days and how to get them to be involved in the planning process. The last time they send Sámi people from the Kola Peninsula. At Arvidsjaur, they had a presentation on Bible translation, dance performances and crafts for sale.

Invitation to Church Days for the Russian Metropolitan. Could Bishop Keskitalo and Metropolitan Elia write to Russian Metropolitan.

SKKB is trying to find a person who could be a contact person on the Russian side and who could gather a group to participate the Church Day.

e. Deaconia and Volunteer workers

-Utilizing local volunteer workers in various tasks during the Sámi church days, including running a cafe.

In addition, we should explore whether, for example, scouts could take responsibility of selling some snacks, sausages etc.

6. Practical matters

a. Collaboration with the local church

b. Hotels

-asking for deals from local hotels. Sufficient accommodation capacity should be available in Inari

c. Lavu

- offer will be requested from the same place as last time and the Lavu will be booked as soon as possible. Mariann Lörstrand has promised to provide more information.

d. Following meetings

-there will be two meetings in the autumn and two meetings in the spring, two of those will be video conferences via Skype.

Meetings: time and places

1.10.2019 at 10 am (Norwegian time) Skype meeting

14.-15.11.2019 face to face meeting in Helsinki

4.2.2020 at 10 am (Norwegian time) Skype meeting.

27-28.5.2019 in Inari, face to face meeting and getting to know the place of upcoming Sámi Church Days.

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