

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY  
CHURCH HOUSE LONDON**

**EUROPEAN BULLETIN – No 39**

**16th April 2007**

**CONTENTS**

- 1. Introduction**
  - 2. LWF affirms historic statement on Episcopal Ministry**
  - 3. News about EEA3 – programme preview**
  - 4. CEC/Russian Orthodox consultation on Human Rights**
  - 5. CCME consultation in Slovakia**
  - 6. CEC List of Forthcoming Events**
  - 7. And finally....**
- 

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Dear Bulletin Readers

Easter Greetings from the CCU team at Church House!

The Lutheran World Federation met in Lund, Sweden, at the end of March. We draw attention below to a major statement on episcopacy. Many other themes which may be of interest to readers were covered at the meeting – full information is available on the ‘recent press releases’ pages of [www.lutheranworld.org](http://www.lutheranworld.org)

In 2008, a conference on Bishop George Bell will be held in Chichester on the theme *Art, Politics and Church: Celebrating George Bell*. It will take place from 23rd – 25th June 2008 at the University of Chichester, Bishop Otter Campus. The cost of conference including full board in an en suite room, will be about GBP 200. The conference is aimed at those with an academic interest in Bell and his ongoing legacy in the three areas of focus. For full details, please contact: Revd Dr Paul M. Collins, Reader in Theology, University of Chichester, Chichester PO19 6PE  
P.Collins@chi.ac.uk

The German Evangelical Kirchentag in Cologne draws near (6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> June) – full details of the event, including the programme booklet as a pdf file, are available at [www.kirchentag.net](http://www.kirchentag.net). For information on participation from Great Britain, go to [www.kirchentag.org.uk](http://www.kirchentag.org.uk)

Canon Charles Hill  
European Secretary CCU  
[charles.hill@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:charles.hill@c-of-e.org.uk)

Francis Bassett  
Assistant Secretary CCU  
[francis.bassett@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:francis.bassett@c-of-e.org.uk)

*The Bulletin is sent out on a mailing list: Please advise us if your email address changes, or if you do not wish to receive the Bulletin. CCU is not responsible for the content of external web sites mentioned in this Bulletin.*

---

## **2. LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION AFFIRMS HISTORIC STATEMENT ON EPISCOPAL MINISTRY**

The Lutheran World International (LWI) news service has reported on a major ecclesiological document presented at the recent LWF meeting in Sweden.

According to LWI, after eight years of preparation, the Council of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), meeting in Lund, Sweden, from 20 to 27 March, adopted a historic statement on the episcopal ministry.

The full title of the statement is *Episcopal Ministry within the Apostolicity of the Church – The Lund Statement by the Lutheran World Federation – A Communion of Churches*. It has been developed as a clarification of how the Lutheran churches understand the character and purpose of the ministry of oversight in the church, paying particular attention to how this ministry serves the church’s apostolicity—its continuity with Christ and the apostles.

The project mandated by the LWF Council in 1999 has been carried out in cooperation with the Department for Theology and Studies and the Institute for Ecumenical Research, Strasbourg. It builds on previous LWF studies on the topic, undertaken in 1983 and 1993, and on consultations held in 2001 and 2002.

The new text presented to the Council in Lund through the Program Committee for Ecumenical Affairs builds on the statement from the Malta consultation, and all input received from the regions and individual churches. Further discussion and amendments at the Council meeting included proposals received from an international Consultation of Lutheran Women Bishops, Presidents and Leaders in the Ministry of Oversight, also held in Lund. On 26 March, the Council affirmed the Lund Statement unanimously, thereby providing for the first time an official text that expresses the current Lutheran understanding of the ministry of oversight.

LWI states that according to the Lund Statement, episcopal ministers shall “provide forms of leadership that are truly shared, facilitating collaborative styles of ministry.” They are called to “demonstrate humility and simplicity of life. The profile of their ministry is not one of domination, but of service, showing clear awareness of those on the margins of society.” In the exercise of their ministry they “must set aside the

necessary time and space for their own prayer, study and recreation, thereby also setting a much needed example for all the ordained and lay persons as well.”

**The full text of the statement (17 pages in all) is available on the LWF Web site at:**

**[www.lutheranworld.org/LWF Documents/LWF The Lund Statement 2007.pdf](http://www.lutheranworld.org/LWF_Documents/LWF_The_Lund_Statement_2007.pdf)**

---

### **3. NEWS ABOUT THE THIRD EUROPEAN ECUMENICAL ASSEMBLY – PROGRAMME PREVIEW**



#### ***THIRD EUROPEAN ECUMENICAL ASSEMBLY (EEA3)***

**THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINES UPON ALL. HOPE FOR RENEWAL AND UNITY**

**IN EUROPE**

#### **TROISIEME RASSEMBLEMENT OECUMENIQUE EUROPEEN (ROE3)**

**LA LUMIERE DU CHRIST ILLUMINE TOUS LES HUMAINS. ESPOIR DE RENOUVEAU ET D'UNITE EN EUROPE**

**DRITTE EUROPÄISCHE ÖKUMENISCHE VERSAMMLUNG (EÖV3)  
DAS LICHT CHRISTI SCHEINT AUF ALLE. HOFFNUNG FÜR ERNEUERUNG UND EINHEIT  
IN EUROPA**

**Sibiu (Romania), 4 to 9 September**

#### *Programme*

##### *September 4*

The official programme starts at 19.00 hours in the Piata Mare, the main square of the old town in Sibiu, with the welcoming act and an Opening Celebration.

##### *September 5 - 7*

The next three days will focus on the assembly theme, “The light of Christ shines upon all. Hope for Renewal and Unity in Europe”. All days start with morning prayers with Biblical reflections, followed by one thematic plenary each day. The afternoons

are reserved for forums. The forums will offer several sub-themes and methodologies in which delegates can choose to participate, and offer an opportunity for discussion and sharing in groups and plenaries. There will be a common prayer every evening. In the evening of Friday, September 7, there will be a vesper service in the Orthodox Cathedral, following the Orthodox tradition, where all participants are welcome. At the end of each day a variety of cultural events will be offered. In addition, a variety of hearings will be offered outside of the plenary and forum programme, which give an opportunity to visit and share in the on-going work of churches and Christian communities in Europe, related to the theme and the sub-themes of the assembly. Thematic focus for each day are planned according to the following pattern:

#### *September 5: The Light of Christ and the Church*

**Unity:** The theme relates to the churches being called to unity in faith and deals with ecumenical dialogue itself.

**Spirituality:** The theme relates to Christian spirituality, Christian life and being a community of prayer.

**Witness:** The theme focuses on mission, and the churches' calling to proclamation of the Gospel.

#### **September 6: The Light of Christ and Europe**

**Europe:** The theme looks at the task of building Europe, and the churches' role in contributing to the future of Europe.

**Religions:** The theme focuses on developing relations with other faiths, seeing inter-faith dialogue in light of co-existence in Europe.

**Migration:** The theme looks at reconciliation of peoples and cultures in Europe at a time of increasing migration.

#### *September 7: The Light of Christ and the world*

**Creation:** The theme focuses on the environment and the churches' role in safeguarding of nature in relation to lifestyles

**Justice:** The theme deals with issues of poverty from the perspective of globalisation and with the Christian understanding of mercy and the churches' calling to justice

**Peace:** The theme deals with issues of peace, security and reconciliation, and relates to the churches' role in situations of conflict.

Introductions to each theme are made available on the EEA3 web-site. The national and regional meetings have been invited to contribute to the process of reflection and discussions, through meetings, studies, case studies, articles, reflections and other thematically related contributions. The Ecumenical Encounter in Wittenberg has also contributed to the thematic process, and the thematic introductions are being revised accordingly, as we approach the assembly.

#### **September 8**

Saturday, September 8 starts with the celebration of the Feast of the Birth of Virgin Mary, followed by reports in plenary from the previous days and a final plenary where the message of the assembly will be shared.

The afternoon gives participants a chance to take part in spiritual and cultural events offered by local and Christian communities, before the Celebration of Light in the evening.

### ***September 9***

Participants will be given the opportunity to participate in confessional Sunday worship services in local communities, before the whole assembly gathers for a final moment of prayer and sending, which is scheduled to end at 12.00 noon.

Latest news about EEA3 is available at [www.eea3.org](http://www.eea3.org)

---

## **4. CEC/RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CONSULTATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

The CEC News Service reports that from 20 to 21 March this year delegations of experts from the Russian Orthodox Church and from the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) met in Moscow to discuss about human rights.

The meeting was organised because the Russian Orthodox Church intends to adopt a basic document on human rights. Preparations for such a document began with the 2006 Declaration of the World Russian People's Council and subsequent statements from members of the Russian Orthodox Church on human rights. CEC reports that these gave rise to the concern as to whether there is still a common basis for human rights related issues among member churches of CEC.

The Joint Communiqué of the meeting reads: “The two delegations agreed, that the result of the present debate on human rights within the Russian Orthodox Church and among European churches will be to strengthen the churches commitment to human rights as laid down, for instance, in the United Nations’ Bill of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and the Council of Europe’s Social Charter as well as in documents of the Follow-Up Conferences of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.”

Under the sub-titles of the meeting on “Church State Relations”, “The Approach to Human Rights” and “Implementation of Religious Freedom for Churches and Religious Communities”, experts discussed, among other issues, the relation between human rights and Christian ethics, the relationship between majority and minority communities and the interrelatedness of ethical values such as freedom and solidarity, freedom and responsibility.

The Joint Communiqué of the meeting in English and German can be downloaded from the CEC website ([www.cec-kek.org](http://www.cec-kek.org))

---

## **5. CHURCHES' COMMISSION FOR MIGRANTS IN EUROPE (CCME) CONSULTATION IN SLOVAKIA**

CCME has issued a press statement on a meeting which took place in Bratislava/Slovakia on 23 March this year:

### **Churches' assistance vital for refugees – exchange with EU best practice models important**

During a visit to the churches' refugee programmes in Slovakia, the General Secretary of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe commended the churches in Slovakia for the support rendered to asylum seekers and refugees. "This support is vital for refugees, not only for their material well-being, but for building bridges into the Slovakian society and eventually the integration of refugees", Doris Peschke said in a meeting with the General Secretary of the Ecumenical Council of Churches.

Churches in Slovakia provide material and social support for asylum seekers and refugees who generally are housed in accommodation centres called camps after they leave the reception centre. Olga Auchenbach from the Ecumenical Council explained that many congregations were actively engaged in supporting refugees. However, as the accommodation centres are mainly in remote areas, meetings require a real organisational effort.

"As governments and non-governmental organisations in the EU will evaluate the transposition of asylum related directives this year, more exchange with European organisations will be of importance to learn from other models and to adjust and improve programmes", Doris Peschke said encouraging closer cooperation with the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe. For churches in Europe, the focus of refugee and migration related work is based on the dignity of the person which needs to be respected. The dignity is inherent to the person as God's creation and thus it cannot be "earned".

European and international organisations are concerned about the discrepancies in asylum decisions between EU member states which may jeopardize the legitimacy of other EU regulations.

The meetings with the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia were part of a visit by the CCME General Secretary on 22-23 March 2007. The EU funded research project looked at vicinally active immigrants in all EU member states.

The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) is the ecumenical agency on migration and integration, asylum and refugees, and against racism and discrimination in Europe. Members are Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant Churches and Councils of Churches as well as church-related agencies across Europe. CCME formally cooperates with the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches.

Also, in response to the EU's Green Paper on 'Modernising labour law to meet the challenges of the 21st century', the following document has been issued by the Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches (CSC of CEC) in cooperation with the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) and the European Contact Group (ECG):

<http://www.cec-kek.org/pdf/002507answertogreenpaperlabourlaw.pdf>

---

**6. CEC LIST OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS** – please follow the links for further details:

**MAY**

16 May 2007, Brussels: European Parliament. Conference "POLITIS: Building Europe with New Citizens? An inquiry into civic participation of naturalised citizens and foreign residents in 25 countries" organised by CCME. Info:

[alessia.passarelli@ccme.be](mailto:alessia.passarelli@ccme.be)

16-20 May, 2007, Kristiansand, Norway: 16th European Television Festival of Religious Programmes organised by the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) and the World Catholic Association for Communication (SIGNIS). Info: <http://waccsignis.mediehogskolen.no>

19-23 May, 2007, Athens: CEC Churches in Dialogue Commission. Info: [cec@cec-kek.org](mailto:cec@cec-kek.org)

23-28 May 2007, Rome, Italy: Conference "If I were a migrant... Youth perspectives on migration and integration of migrants in societies." Organised by CCME, WSCF-E and the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy. Info: [alessia.passarelli@ccme.be](mailto:alessia.passarelli@ccme.be)

**JUNE**

5-10 June 2007, Nairobi, Kenya: Global Ecumenical Network on Migration. Info: [info@ccme.be](mailto:info@ccme.be)

6-10 June, 2007, Köln, Germany: German Evangelical Kirchentag. Info: [www.kirchentag.de](http://www.kirchentag.de)

14-17 June, 2007, Corrymeela Community, Ballycastle, Northern Ireland, Church and Peace International Conference. Info: [IntlOffice@church-and-peace.org](mailto:IntlOffice@church-and-peace.org)

15-19 June, 2007, Armenia: CEC Church and Society Commission. Info: [cec@cec-kek.org](mailto:cec@cec-kek.org)

23 June - 7 July, 2007, Dunblane, Scotland: Scottish Churches House Theological Summer School in cooperation with the Institute for Global Church Studies. An opportunity to study the complex and varied social, religious and cultural life of Scotland. The fortnight is planned to explore some of the richness of past and present religious life as it faces globalisation. The historic impact of devolution, contemporary grappling with sectarianism, the new challenges of a multi-faith

society will be among many aspects of the Scottish scene to be picked up through a series of visits and encounters with key people. Info: [warden@scottishchurcheshouse.org](mailto:warden@scottishchurcheshouse.org)

#### SEPTEMBER

4-9 September, 2007, Sibiu, Romania: Final state of the 3rd European Ecumenical Assembly (EEA3). Info: [cec@cec-kek.org](mailto:cec@cec-kek.org) and [www.eea3.org](http://www.eea3.org)

#### NOVEMBER

14-17 November, 2007, Vienna, Austria: CEC Central Committee Meeting

---

### 7. ...AND FINALLY

As the first round of the **French Presidential Election** draws to a close, the following websites are worth consulting regularly for a religious view of the campaign and the issues:

<http://www.protestants.org/> - central website of the French Protestant Churches  
<http://www.cef.fr/> - the website of the national Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference  
<http://www.la-croix.com/> - La Croix, the daily newspaper with the most extensive religious coverage

A reminder also that KTO, the French Roman Catholic TV channel, has many reports and programmes available for download at <http://www.ktotv.com/>

*Material edited and distributed by the European Secretary, Council for Christian Unity, Church House, London Mail: [charles.hill@ccu.c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:charles.hill@ccu.c-of-e.org.uk)*  
Visit the CCU website at: [www.cofe.anglican.org/info/ccu](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/info/ccu)

---