

Statute

of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE)

– Leuenberg Church Fellowship –

§1

The Community of Protestant Churches in Europe

- (I) The Reformation churches in Europe which assent to the Agreement of Reformation Churches in Europe declare and realize church fellowship between one another. These churches form the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe – Leuenberg Church Fellowship – (CPCE). The CPCE serves to bring about the church fellowship which is described in Section IV.2 of the Agreement of Reformation Churches in Europe, especially by the common realization of witness and service and further theological work.
- (II) Further churches can enter this church fellowship by special arrangement on the basis of the Agreement of Reformation Churches in Europe

§2

The legal status of the CPCE

- (I) The Community of Protestant Churches in Europe is a corporation in church law.
- (II) According to secular law the CPCE can organize itself in accordance with the legal precepts of the state as a person in law in whom the organs of this community have their seat.
- (III) The CPCE as a rule makes use of the official assistance of one of its signatory churches in the state in which the Community has its seat.

§3

Organs

- (I) Organs of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe are the General Assembly, the Council and the Presidium.
- (II) As a rule the General Assembly of the CPCE meets every six years. Up to two delegates of each signatory church belong to it. The General Assembly determines the guidelines for the work of the CPCE, especially for that of the Council. The General Assembly gives itself rules of procedure.
- (III) The Council is elected by the General Assembly. It has 13 members and a corresponding number of representative members. Appropriate note is to be taken of the confessional and regional division of the CPCE in the election of the Council. Members who leave are replaced by co-opted members. The Council has the special task of promoting church fellowship on the basis of the Agreement of Reformation

Churches in Europe and the resolutions of the General Assemblies and preparing new resolutions. The Council gives itself rules of procedure.

- (IV) The Council is constituted during the General Assembly and chooses from its midst a Presidium which consists of three Presidents, one of whom is an executive member. The Presidents represent the CPCE to the outside world. They are responsible to the Council. The Council's period of office ends when the Council elected by the next General Assembly has constituted itself.

§4

Office, General Secretary

- (I) The work of the General Assembly and the Council is supported by an office. The office works on the instructions of the General Assembly and the Council.
- (II) The office is under the direction of the General Secretary. He or she is accountable to the General Assembly and the Council. The Council issues rules of procedure for the office. The office can make use of the official help of one of its signatory churches.

§5

Budget

The budget of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe is financed by contributions from all the signatory churches and by donations. The budget is as a rule made for a financial year and its income and expenditure must balance. The budget is decided by the Council. The CPCE makes use of the official help of one of its signatory churches for auditing.

§6

Final regulation

In so far as no competences of the General Assembly are affected, the Council can issue guidelines and individual instructions for the work of the CPCE.

Budapest, 18-09-2006