



Gemeinschaft Evangelischer Kirchen in Europa (GEKE)  
Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE)  
Communion d'Eglises Protestantes en Europe (CEPE)

**First Conference Meeting of the Protestant Synods in Europe  
20th to 22nd January 2012  
Protestant Academy Bad Boll, Germany**

**Appendix to the Closing Statement:  
Specific Recommendations**

At the conference a whole series of ideas and suggestions for co-operation between the protestant churches in Europe was developed. These are to be recorded as follows as suggestions for deepening the co-operation between the protestant churches in Europe.

**Strengthening co-operation means knowing more about each other**

- Extending mutual invitations of synod presidents to synods
- A CPCE study of “honorary” posts (e.g. comparison of the legal conditions as well as the value and effective potential of honorary offices)
- A CPCE study of the need for (theological) clarification in relation to the role and function, significance and tasks of so-called “lay” (non-ordained) people
- Using new media:
  - “Information sharing”: setting up a European protestant information portal
  - Setting up a protestant European “ideas exchange”, e.g. for activities in the framework of preparation of the Reformation Jubilee (a forum of exchange for “best practices”)
  - Setting up a shared posts market for the use of honorary staff

**Celebrating worship together**

- Joint celebration of a “Leuenberg Sunday” in the church year. Each year the liturgical material for this should be prepared jointly by the CPCE churches in a different land (on the model of the World Day of Prayer)
- Extending the Protestant European Hymnbook “Colours of Grace”, e.g. with guitar chords, a liturgical section and Psalms in various languages.
- A European exchange programme for church musicians, preachers and liturgical leaders
- Development of musical partnerships, e.g. between choirs or bands

- European further education for church music

### **Advancing theological co-operation**

- E.g. by developing a study of “diaspora theology”

### **Church and Youth**

- Stronger linking together of the youth work of the member churches of CPCE
- Building up partnerships and youth meetings
- Building up opportunities for young people to share responsibility in the protestant churches
- Increased involvement of young people in the work of synods, e.g. as youth delegates; timely handing on of responsibility to the next generation

### **Diakonia – Protestant presence in society**

- Extending personal exchanges between the diaconal institutions in the protestant churches
- Closer networking of social initiatives
- Joint diaconal projects across boundaries, e.g. for social minimum standards in the caring services
- Co-operation of the synods on medical-ethical questions, e.g. organ transplantation, pre-implantation diagnosis...

### **Advancing justice**

- Further development of the theological basis for shared social, political and economic statements
- Strengthening of the shared European engagement for justice and against poverty

### **Joint support for human rights**

- Continuing the dialogue with other churches on human rights
- Starting shared initiatives on maintaining the (human) right to asylum as well as the provisions of human rights against the unjustified deportation of aliens (engagement for the rights of asylum and aliens)
- Conducting the dialogue with other religions on human rights
- Joining in support of religious freedom in Europe and the world
- Joint initiatives for the protection of people from persecution on religious grounds

### **Migration**

- In the protestant churches in Europe there is considerable expertise in this area on the basis of the churches’ own experience of migration. We should make this experience fruitful.

- Theological work on themes such as identity, home, being strangers
- Exchange about examples of the successful integration of protestants from other countries into our own congregations
- Using congregations as platforms for meeting
- Legal assistance for refugees and asylum seekers

### **Dialog with Islam**

- Organise a CPCE consultation on the experience of churches in dialogue with Islam
- Establish a means of exchange to make available to others special competence and resources in individual CPCE churches