



**Arkivsak:** 17/02418-6

**Saksdokumenter:**

Porvoo Communion Consultation Communiqué

## **Nytt fra den verdensvide kirke – Porvoo**

### **Sammendrag**

**Porvookonsultasjon:**

11.-14. oktober 2018 ble en Porvookonsultasjon avholdt i Tallinn, Estland, med tema: «Minorities and Majorities – A Challenge for Church and Society». Temaspekteret var bredt, men konsultasjonen var planlagt på en måte som i stor grad forholdt seg til Porvookirkenes regionale og lokale virkelighet. Bidragene fra Estland var gode, ikke minst et økumenisk sammensatt panel, som ga et godt bilde av et nesten overraskende velfungerende økumenisk råd i et av verdens mest sekulære samfunn. Det var også interessant å legge merke til den lutherske kirkens selvforståelse som en slags folkekirke, selv om den er en livssynsminoritet i Estland. Det er også verdt å merke seg at den estiske kirken har en tydeligere mer økumenisk åpen holdning enn sine søsterkirker i Latvia og til dels Litauen.

Fra Den norske kirke deltok April Maja Almaas (også representant for Diocese in Europe), Steinar Ims og Beate Fagerli. April Almaas deltok med en sterk innledning om det å være minoritet i minoriteten, hvor hun tematiserte bl.a. rasisme. Steinar Ims deltok i en panelsamtale om minoriteter i kirkene, og hvordan vi som (minoritets- eller majoritets-) kirker forholder oss til minoritetene. Innledningene og et gjestfritt vertskap bidrog til gode samtaler blant deltakerne.

Denne konsultasjonen føyer seg inn i en rekke tematiske Porvookonsultasjoner de siste årene, som i tillegg til leder- og biskopsmøter har vært en av Porvoo-fellesskapets viktigste måter å jobbe på. Selve Porvoo-avtalen har som mål at kirkene nettopp skal konsultere hverandre om viktige spørsmål, og dette er en måte å gjøre det på. En kan likevel spørre seg mer generelt om hvor en vil med denne arbeidsformen, om det ikke er nok aktører som arrangerer tematiske konsultasjoner, og om de eventuelt bidrar til et tettere kirkefellesskap.

### **Porvoo kontaktgruppe**

Kontaktgruppen i Porvoo møttes umiddelbart etter konsultasjonen og jobbet bl.a. med planer for det videre samarbeidet. Dnk tok der opp spørsmålet om arbeidsform, og om intensjonen om kirkefellesskap og synlig enhet ivaretas på en god måte. Forslaget om å ta opp igjen hele Porvoo-avtalen til diskusjon og samtale ble godt mottatt, og det jobbes nå med planer for en konsultasjon i 2020 med arbeidstittel «Re-visiting the Porvoo Common Statement». Ønsket er at også kirkeledere involveres i denne prosessen, bl.a. fordi avstanden fra Porvoo-avtalens tilblivelse til i dag oppleves som stor, og at eierskapet til visjonen om enhet ikke er like sterkt lenger.

Biskop Peter Skov-Jakobsen har i noen år vært kontaktgruppas lutherske «co-chair». Han går nå av og erstattes av biskop Matti Repo fra Finland. Han har tidligere vært «co-secretary» og kjenner kirkefellesskapet og tilblivelseshistorien godt.

Luthersk «co-secretary» har vært lagt til Svenska kyrkan, men med nylige utskiftninger av stab er det foreløpig uklart. Arbeidet ivaretas likevel greit gjennom kontaktgruppa.

## **Forslag til vedtak**

Mellomkirkelig råd tar saken til orientering.

**Porvoo Communion Consultation and Meeting of the Porvoo Contact Group**  
**Minorities and Majorities: A Challenge for Church and Society**  
**Tallinn, Estonia**  
**11-14 October 2018**

## **Communiqué**

Representatives of the Churches of the Porvoo Communion gathered in Tallinn, Estonia between 11 and 14 October 2018 for a consultation entitled 'Minorities and Majorities: A Challenge for Church and Society'. The consultation took place at the Theological Institute of the Estonian Lutheran Church where we were made welcome by the Dean, the Reverend Professor Dr Randar Tasmuth. The relationship of communion between our churches was grounded and made visible in our gathering together for prayer and our celebration together of the sacrament of the Eucharist. In study of the scriptures we sought together the word of God for each of us and our communities.

Our churches and people exist in and serve complex societies. Within our societies and churches there are minorities and there are majorities. Sometimes an individual can be part of a majority group and a minority group at the same time. In some of our societies our churches form a majority, in others a tiny minority. In all our churches we seek to be open to all: recognising the sins of prejudice that cause people to fear or reject those who are different from them.

During the consultation we heard and reflected on stories of the personal experience and the reality of the lives of minorities;

We heard some of the history of those minorities which were created by war or shifting national boundaries and we reflected on the deep memories of enmity and prejudice that linger as a result of this history;

We learned about the growth of minority communities brought about by immigration; their positive and negative experiences; and those of the majority communities alongside which they live;

We heard about communities that had been in a majority but which, in the modern age, are coming to terms with now being effectively a minority.

In all these examples there is a question for the churches to which we belong as to whether they support the status quo or seek to be counter-cultural in their context.

All of our learning was grounded in the reality of Estonia with its modern history of external influence, occupation and independence. We were privileged to hear from local Church leaders about the life and growth of the churches in Estonia. We were inspired by the example of creative co-operation between the Church leaders. The solidarity that grew among the churches in Soviet times is being sustained in the present day and is bearing fruit.

Representatives from the churches of the Porvoo Communion, spread across the Nordic and Baltic States, the British Isles, the Iberian Peninsula and beyond learned from one another. At the heart of our learning was the deepening conviction that God who made humankind in his image loves each person he has made and calls us as individuals, as churches, and as societies to reflect that love and to see the person of Christ in our neighbour.

The consultation concluded in the celebration of the Eucharist at Tallinn Cathedral where the president was the Archbishop of Estonia, the Most Reverend Urmas Viilma, and the preacher was the Bishop of Tonbridge, the Right Reverend Simon Burton-Jones. At this service we commemorated the eightieth anniversary of the agreements of intercommunion between the Church of England and the Evangelical-Lutheran Churches of Estonia and Latvia. These agreements form part of the tapestry of agreements between our churches that predated and prefigured the Porvoo Agreement.

The Porvoo Contact Group expresses its gratitude to the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, to Archbishop Viilma and to the Reverend Tauno Teder and Ms Kadri Pöder for making members so welcome in their beautiful city. This meeting was also the last meeting for the Lutheran Co-Chair, Bishop Peter Skov-Jakobsen, who completes his term of office with the gratitude of all who have worked with him. The Group looks towards its next conference, in 2019 in Portugal at the invitation of the Lusitanian Church, where the topic will be the voice of the Church in the public square.

## **Participants**

### *Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark*

The Revd Christa Hansen

The Revd Dr Thorsten Rørbæk

The Rt Revd Peter Skov-Jakobsen, Lutheran Co-Chair

### *Church of England*

The Revd Dr William Adam, Anglican Co-Secretary

The Revd April Almaas

The Rt Revd Simon Burton-Jones

The Ven Karen Lund

### *Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church*

Ms Kadri Eliisabet Pöder

The Revd Tauno Teder

*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland*

The Revd Dr Tomi Karttunen

The Revd Dr Niilo Pesonen

The Revd Dr Hannele Päiviö

*The Lutheran Church of Great Britain*

The Rt Revd Dr Martin Lind

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland*

The Revd Dr Sigurður Arni Þórðarson

*Church of Ireland*

The Revd Suzanne Cousins

The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Anglican Co-Chair

*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia*

The Very Revd Elijs Godiņš

*Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad*

The Very Revd Dr Andris Abakuks

The Most Revd Lauma Zušēvica

The Very Revd Kārlis Žols

*Church of Norway*

Ms Beate Fagerli

The Revd Steinar Ims

*Lusitanian Catholic Apostolic Evangelical Church – Anglican Communion*

The Rt Revd Dr Jorge Pina Cabral

Mr José Serafim Filipe Sequeira

*Scottish Episcopal Church*

The Revd Dr Hamilton Inbadas

Ms Miriam Weibye

*Spanish Episcopal Reformed Church*

Mr Ruben Baidez

The Rt Revd Carlos López Lozano

*Church of Sweden*

The Revd Andreas Holmberg

*Church in Wales*

The Revd Dr Ainsley Griffiths