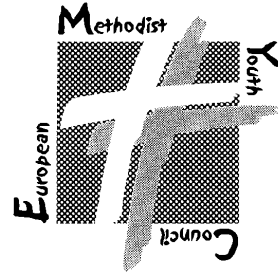


**36<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
European Methodist Youth Council  
Dobogókő/Hungary  
25<sup>th</sup> September - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2003  
Minutes of the plenary (Translation)**



1. plenary session on Friday, the 26.09.2003; start: 11:30 a.m.

**1. Welcome**

The president of the council, bishop Dr. Ruediger Minor, warmly welcomed the members of EMYC to its 36<sup>th</sup> meeting. He expressed the thanks to our Hungarian hosts, particularly to Judit Lakatos, who even provided good weather.

The president asked the heads of the delegations to briefly present the new delegates from their delegations. The new delegates were welcomed with applause and the president also gave them a special welcome.

**2. Delegation composition/presence**

The secretary pointed out that in the delegation from Northern Europe, that there were four delegates from Finland although according to the constitution Finland should only send two delegates. Before the next plenary the secretary and the head of the delegation from Northern Europe will clarify the circumstances.

**3. Program of the EMYC 2003**

The third version of the conference programme for the council meeting 2003 is the official version.

**4. Preparing elections**

**4.1 Election of the president**

**4.2 Election of the secretary**

For the pending elections information is available in the first minutes of the steering group.

**5. Announcements**

**5.1 Presentations**

On Monday morning each commission will get up to one half hour, in order to present one or two requests from their minutes from their perspective.

**5.2 Pigeonholes**

The pigeonholes are created in the plenary room on the window boards.

**5.3 Country reports**

On this evening three country reports will be presented in the plenary: Reports from Russia, Portugal and Ireland. All other country reports will be copied but not translated in the office.

## 5.4 Translation

The secretary pointed out that for the closing plenary session a translation system will be available. All those, whose native language is not English, can understand English better, if simple sentences are used and the words not spoken so fast.

## 5.5 Departure

Although only just arrived, planning begins for the departure. The secretary referred to a list with the departure details. The council members have to correct their details on it.

Afterwards the business part of the first plenary session was closed.

On Monday morning 29<sup>th</sup> September 2003 the commissions presented important parts from their minutes.

## 6. Presentations

- Commission 1 presented a puppet show to illustrate the children's programme during the European Methodist Festival in Potsdam. The idea for material for all children's groups in Methodist churches in Europe titled "Footprints" was presented.
- Commission 2 presented the ideas around the International-Mission-Team.
- Commission 3 presented a prayer quiz, the peace prayer and a suggestion for the theme EMYC 2004: Be the visible Church.
- Commission 4 presented pictures from CINA-Project 2003 in Potsdam and dreams about youth exchanges. They suggest a new Fund for Youth exchange projects.
- Commission 5 presented the invitation for the youth conference in Ireland in July 2004 and a proposal for the theme EMYC 2004: Young faces in old places.

2<sup>nd</sup> plenary session, started on Monday afternoon 29<sup>th</sup> September 2003.

The President outlined the purpose of the plenary. The Secretary explained the voting rights for this session and each delegation indicated how many voting members there were in their delegation. For this session the number of all voting members was 55.

## 7. Minutes 2002

The minutes were amended to show correctly that

- it was Commission 3 not Commission 5 which proposed the Iraq resolution;
- Raymond Ruttle was from the Republic of Ireland, not Northern Ireland;
- other amendments to be made according to the minutes of Commission 5.

With these amendments, the minutes were agreed.

## 8. Minutes of the Steering Group

The minutes of the steering Group were agreed.

## **9. Elections**

The President explained the procedure for the elections and suggested that voting for Secretary and President be taken by secret ballot. The Secretary gave out prepared ballot papers.

### **9.1 Election of Secretary**

The result of the ballot was

32 votes for Chris Jones (United Kingdom)

23 votes for Maire Ivanova (Estonia)

Therefore Chris Jones was elected as Secretary from 2004 and he accepted with honour. The President wished him well in this new post. The former Secretary passed on the EMYC banner and wished him God's blessing on his future role.

### **9.2 Election of President**

The result of the ballot was

50 votes for Bishop Sifredo Teixeira (Portugal)

5 votes for David Gamble (United Kingdom)

Therefore Bishop Sifredo Teixeira was elected as incoming President. The Portuguese delegation informed the Council that he accepted the election.

### **9.3 Election of EMC delegate**

The Council accepted the proposal from the Youth Executive that Harriet Brown be the representative to EMC

## **10. The Report from EMC**

Markus Detjen reported on the 2003 EMC, which took place immediately before the European Festival, in Potsdam. He was grateful for the opportunity. The Council thanked him for his report. The Secretary reminded the Council how important this link is between EMYC and EMC.

## **11. Email List**

The Secretary requested that each member check's their email addresses on the list to ensure that the list was completely correct.

## **12. Youth Delegate Meeting**

The minutes of the Youth Delegate Meeting were accepted with the correction of name of Ando Aasa.

## **13. Commission Minutes**

### **13.1 Commission 1 - Children Work**

The commission had a good time working together. Apart from the points presented in the session this morning, the following points were raised in the Commission: the European Methodist Festival in Potsdam, country reports, SWOPSHOP 2005, new footsteps project. The council accepted the minutes with thanks.

### **13.2 Commission 2 - Evangelism**

The invitation to the JAT weeks in Germany was highlighted and Markus Jung offered further details.

The International Mission Team is an exciting proposal but more practical details need to be worked out next year. The Council was encouraged to email the working group with ideas for the IMT groups. It is hoped that the first Team will take place in 2005.

Chris Jones requested that the 2005 Team be a pilot project so that it can then be properly evaluated for future years.

Commission 4 supports the IMT idea, but would like to stress that it is only one of a variety of options available and that there could be two kinds of CINA projects, one focussing on social action and one on mission so that they are not seen as separate but two parts of the whole.

The Irish delegation offered to share their experience of mission teams.

There was considerable debate whether participants should be members of the Methodist church or whether they should be able to sign up to a statement of beliefs. Markus Detjen suggested that participants should be members of the Methodist Church. Markus Jung replied that this would limit those available to take place. Eva Walker reported that a mission statement would be produced for the mission teams so that participation could be open to anyone who could sign up to this. Lukas Fankhauser suggested that if being a member was a requirement, it might encourage young people to become members. Lutz Rochlitzer suggested it was enough if they were accepted by their delegation. Bishop Minor pointed out, that having a dogmatic statement which participants must sign up to, goes against our open Methodist tradition. Harriet Brown suggested that European funding may be negatively affected by having a statement.

At that point, the discussion was interrupted by the president and given to the working group for their work to develop guidelines for the IMT.

The council accepted the minutes with thanks with 3 votes against.

### **13.3 Commission 3 - Church and Society**

The Commission was happy that they had new members from new countries which meant that they had interesting conversations. Stefan Weller highlighted last year's resolution on Iraq, and suggested that it is even more important to pray for peace. There were positive outcomes to making such a statement in wider society. The Peace Prayer was brought to the Council's attention, and it was noted that it will be important for every group to use the material in the most appropriate way for them. It was requested that the quiz used in the morning session be made available on the website. The German translation of the peace prayer should be amended.

The council accepted the minutes with thanks.

### **13.4 Commission 4 - Youth Exchanges**

The Council approved unanimously the two CINA projects, in Germany and Britain.

The Commission proposed that a technical supervisor of the web be an official member of EMYC. There was discussion as to whether the website should be professionally maintained, with financial implications or whether it could be maintained by EMYC itself.

There was discussion about the constitutional implications of the word official. It was agreed to amend the proposal so that the technical supervisor is

a member of EMYC. It was agreed that Jonas Erikson be elected to the position of technical supervisor.

The Secretary suggested that David Nausner works out how the constitution can be amended so that the position of technical supervisor is not dependent upon being a member of a delegation.

There was general discussion concerning the suggestion that every country have an email address linked to the website, because each country and member already has their own email address.

The council accepted the minutes with thanks.

### **13.5 Commission 5 - Council, Conferences & Training**

It was agreed that Mike Seaton and Chris Jones investigate what European funding may be available.

It was agreed that all travel costs be covered for those staying at least three nights. For those staying a shorter time, only half their travel costs will be covered.

It was agreed that if there are doubts or concerns regarding travel, please contact the Secretary.

The council accepted the minutes with thanks.

## **14. Finances**

### **14.1 Financial Report 2002/2003**

The treasurer presented the financial report and took the council through the report, explaining the figures.

It was agreed to increase the contribution to the hosting of the Council Meeting from 3.500,000 to 4.500,00.

The report was accepted.

### **14.2 Auditors' Report**

The auditors, David Rock and Markus Detjen presented their report.

The Council thanked the treasurer and the auditors.

### **14.3 EMYC Budget**

The treasurer presented the budget which the Council agreed.

### **14.4 Special Fund Budget**

The Special Fund budget was presented. The treasurer took us through the budget. The report was accepted.

### **14.5 Election of new auditors**

Bruno Guntelach and Steve Pearce were nominated as auditors. This was agreed.

## **15. Theme for the next EMYC**

It was agreed that the theme for 2004 be New Faces in Old Places.

EMYC 2004 will meet in London (UK), from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2004.

## 16. Thanks and Adjournment

On behalf of the Council the President Bishop Dr. Ruediger Minor thanked the Vice president Dr. Judit Lakatos and the Hungarian Team for all their hard work in preparing a successful Council.

The President also warmly thanked the Secretary Juergen Blum for all his work over the last four years and for all he has brought to the role.

The Secretary expressed his thanks to the President for the way in which he has been our President and wished him God's blessing for the future.

Judit thanked everyone for attending the Council, especially the translators of this plenary session.

The President closed the meeting with prayer.

Dobogókő, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2003

signed: *Bishop Dr. Rüdiger Minor*  
EMYC President

signed: *Jürgen Blum*  
EMYC Secretary

### Attachment:

The Report from EMC

### Special Thanks

*Finishing as EMYC-secretary I gave my thanks to the heads of the preparation-teams for EMYC 2000 in Velletri/Italy Beatrice Passerini, for EMYC 2001 in Hirschluch/Ger-many Thorsten Kinnius, for EMYC 2002 in Pärnu/Estonia Rein Laaneser and for EMYC 2003 in Dobogókő/Hungary Judit Lakatos.*

*Thanks for assistance from all commission secretaries working out their minutes. Thank to Harriet Brown for the basic version of the plenary minutes 2002. At last but not at least, my special thank to Leslie Noon, without her basic notes for the plenary minutes 2000, 2001 and 2003 and her correction of my poor translations of the English versions it would be impossible for me to do my work as secretary.*

*Jürgen Blum*

## Attachment

### Report about the EMC meeting in Potsdam

The EMC met prior to the European Methodist Festival at the end of July on a peninsula called Hermannswerder near the City of Potsdam. This year's meeting was shorter than usual - just one day - which makes it even harder to give an interesting report, but easier to keep it short.

Thirty-three members were present, co-chaired by Nigel Collinson (British Methodist Church) and Heinrich Bolleter (Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe).

#### Main Issues:

- EMC mainly deals with the Reports from the various countries and bodies represented (one of them is the EMYC). That took about 2/3 of the time of the meeting.
- As this year's meeting was just one day before the EMF began, we also had a longer discussion about the state of the preparation. All the members expressed their Thanks to all the people that had been involved in planning and organising.
- Another important issue stressed was the actual development of the European Constitution. It does not yet mention the Christian heritage of Europe. The Conference of European Churches (CEC, in which the Methodist Church is a member) had invited responses about the preamble by September. Hence, there was a discussion whether it is important and necessary to mention the Christian heritage of Europe and what kind of legal status should be set up for the Churches in the European Union.
- In addition, we talked about the situation of the Methodist Churches that are minorities especially in eastern Europe and how their status will be effected by the European Union's policy. Also, we discussed effects of the EU anti-discrimination laws for the Church as an employer.
- Fund Mission in Europe
- How Charta Oecumenica was received around the continent. Paper was presented about "Church and Israel".
- During the afternoon, we were joined by a delegate from The Church of the Nazarene, which is a Church that has deep Wesleyan Roots. The Church of the Nazarene at the moment thinks about becoming a member of EMC. Thomas Vollenweider, a Superintendent from Berlin gave some information about his church to help us understanding their history and theology.

If you would like to have a comprehensive overview, take a look at the edition of the "Methodist Recorder" I have with me. It contains a broad coverage about both the EMC meeting and the festival.

Next year's meeting will take place in Portugal on September 5-7. Since I won't be the delegate I would like to thank you for trusting me and wish my predecessor all the best.

*Markus Detjen*