



NORDIC AND BALTIC EPISCOPAL AREA

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BISHOP CHRISTIAN ALSTED

Denmark
Estonia
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Norway
Sweden

A Roundtable Process for the Nordic and Baltic Episcopal Area Leading towards the Central Conference 2021

The Nordic and Baltic episcopal area is diverse in a number of different ways including our understanding of human sexuality and of how to be in ministry with all people. In spite of our diversities and differences, we have managed to be in a committed relationship in one church for more than 100 years. We have built relationships and friendships, we have shared and exchanged ministries, we have supported each other, and we have worshipped and prayed together.

The unity of the United Methodist Church has been under a great deal of stress for some time. The recent called session of the General Conference decided to support the so-called “traditional plan”; however, the conference was not able to come to a broad based decision, which would be a challenge no matter what the outcome would have been. While many had hoped that the called session of General Conference would give us a stronger sense of unity, the reality after the conference is that we are even more divided and polarized.

The many reactions to the decisions of General Conference across the world indicate that it will be very difficult for us to remain together as one church in the future. Several responses and statements in the Nordic and Baltic countries point to a similar division, and there is little doubt that our future as a denomination will be significantly different from what we know today.

In light of the current situation and as we quickly approach the General Conference 2020 and 2021 Central Conference, we find it responsible and prudent to reflect and plan proactively for the future.

Therefore, we have decided to form a roundtable to bring together key influencers and leaders from each annual conference in the episcopal area, with the purpose of seeking a foundation for the future of the Nordic and Baltic episcopal area that includes as much unity and as much missional strength as possible.



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Recognizing that there are different processes in annual conferences and in the global church, we wish to setup a roundtable. The roundtable is intended to bring together influencers and leaders from each annual conference in the episcopal area, with the purpose of seeking a foundation for the future of the Nordic and Baltic episcopal area that includes as much unity and as much missional strength as possible.

Desired outcome: A consensus on one proposal for the future of the Nordic and Baltic area to be brought to the Nordic and Baltic area group early in the fall of 2020, to enable the area group to recommend this proposal to the 2021 Central Conference.

Composition: Each conference will have half of the number of delegates they are entitled to send to the Central Conference. (DK 3, EE 3, SF 2-3, FF 2-3, Lat 1, Lit 1, N 8-9). Bishop Christian Alsted will facilitate the process.

It is the responsibility of each annual conference council to ensure that their group of participants represents the theological positions in the annual conference, and furthermore that their group of participants is diverse.

Meetings: Three face to face meetings (fall 2019, spring 2020 and fall 2020) and 3-4 online meetings.

Funding: Each conference will pay the accommodation costs. The area fund will pay for meals and travels.

Unanimous decision on 29 March 2019 in Copenhagen by the Nordic and Baltic Area Group of the Council of the Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference