



And now what are you waiting for?
CEC and its Mission in a Changing Europe
Budapest, Hungary, 3–8 July 2013

CEC ASSEMBLY NEWSLETTER

#4 Monday



Four General Secretaries of CEC meeting in Budapest. From left: Mr Jean Fischer, Rev. Dr Keith Clements, Rev Prof. Dr Viorel Ionita, Rev. Dr Guy Liagre (present General Secretary).

CEC to move its Secretariat from Geneva to Brussels

The Conference of European Churches has approved a new constitution that makes provision for CEC to move its Secretariat from Geneva to Brussels.

In the preamble to a newly adopted constitution, the Conference of European Churches (CEC) commits itself anew "to help the European Churches to share their spiritual life, to strengthen their common witness and service, and to promote the unity of the Church and peace in the world."

The 14th Assembly of CEC in Budapest, Hungary replaced a previous CEC legal basis drafted in 1992 and last amended in 2009.

The new constitution was adopted by a vote of 160 to seven, with seven abstentions (160/7/7), on the evening of 7 July (7/7).

Assembly delegates are representatives from the nearly 120 CEC member churches and federations of churches.

Tuesday 9 July 2013 marks the effective date of the streamlined constitution meant to guide the Conference of European Churches (CEC) into a future of more closely consolidated operations.

The original offices that have been in Geneva, Switzerland since CEC's founding in 1959 will be merged "as soon as possible" into the Conference's location in Brussels, Belgium, home of the European Union and related institutions.

The legal steps necessary under Swiss and Belgian law may delay the final move for two to three years; however, this is a rough estimate.

It is proposed that an existing office in Strasbourg, France will continue CEC's relations with the Council of Europe and other agencies, subject to legal and financial contingencies.

Read the whole story on the blog: blogg.svenskkyrkan.se/cecfuturewall

Behind the Faces – Clarissa

David Bradwell, Co-opted Staff, Church of Scotland

You may not have seen much of Clarissa Balan at the Assembly. But she is always there behind the scenes. Clarissa is the Assembly Coordinator and in many ways she has more responsibility for the smooth running of the Assembly than the Moderators, Presidents or the General Secretary.

The challenges of putting on such a big event cannot be understated. Finance, accommodation, conference venue, translation, interpretation, communication, timetable, travel, participant registration, printing and documentation...it's all been taken care of by Clarissa and her wonderful team.



Friendly, modest and always helpful, she is the behind-the-scenes key to the practical success of the Assembly. She's inspired loyalty and respect amongst the CEC staff team since she joined the Secretariat in January.

Clarissa paid tribute to all the work of her colleagues, including the volunteers, stewards and co-opted staff who have been in Budapest serving the Assembly; when I asked her about what she thought her greatest achievement was, and she replied "For me I see myself as part of a team, and that we have achieved so much together."

Read the whole story on the blog: blogg.svenskakyrkan.se/cecfuturewall

Singing with Methodists

David Bradwell, Co-opted Staff, Church of Scotland

Budakeszi United Methodist Church won't have a problem for animal extras if it ever wanted to put on a Nativity Play or Palm Sunday procession.

A donkey, a handful of sheep and several chickens all live in the large garden surrounding the church.

Churches all over Budapest welcomed CEC Assembly participants on Sunday morning, each to a church of their own denominational family.

Nine participants were welcomed at Budakeszi UMC.

Budakeszi is a small community set in a picturesque forest on the western outskirts of Budapest.



On a glorious summer day the buzzing of insects (and the occasional baa of one of the sheep) were the only sounds to disrupt the peace and tranquillity of the quiet valley. The noise of the city centre (and the stress of the CEC Assembly) seemed a whole world away.

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