

Conference of European Churches

Thematic Work Groups

2019-2023

as approved by the Governing Board in its May 2019 meeting

Ecclesiology and mission

- CEC will enhance theological exchange between its Member Churches and facilitate theological dialogue with non-Member Churches;
- It will explore how ecclesial, political and cultural belonging intersect, and provide resources to overcome divisions with regard to the relationship of church and nation/state;
- In doing so, CEC will contribute a uniquely informed European perspective on ecclesiology and mission.

Diversity, pluralism and education for democracy

- CEC will accompany member churches in their work on diversity and pluralism, and strengthen the possibility of discussing those concepts;
- CEC will enable Member Churches to become bridge builders, as well as to enter into interreligious dialogue. CEC wants to play an active part in the Council of Europe (CoE) program on Education and Democracy;
- With active participation as an observer in the Steering Committee for Education policy and practice of the CoE CEC would contribute to develop education programs when it comes to intercultural and interreligious education policies and practices.

Economic and ecological justice and a sustainable future

- CEC will share and enhance expertise assembled in CEC Member Churches in addressing concerns related to climate change, ecological and economic justice and sustainable development;
- CEC will prepare and facilitate a dialogue with the EU on these and related themes and using opportunities for such a dialogue with EU;
- CEC will strengthen theological and ethical arguments related churches' concerns on climate change, ecological and economic justice and sustainable future; contribute to CEC becoming an actor shaping public theology and churches' contribution to a public space.

Science, bioethics and technology

- CEC will monitor and reflecting theologically on science, bioethics and technology;
- CEC will follow-up and communication to our Member Churches on the current development in science and technology and human rights. CEC should bring different ethical and theological approaches into the discussion to enable member Churches to develop a theological and critical understanding;
- CEC will analyse the current understanding of Christian faith and scientific progress. Analysis and formulation of the upcoming ethical questions and problems in regarding the different theological and ethical approach.

Human rights education and advocacy

- CEC will share the developments in the area of international human rights law with the emphasis on freedom of religion or belief and to be aware of human rights issues in their respective member church and region;
- CEC will assist working on the legal cases coming out as a request from the CEC member churches and its partners;
- CEC will participate in editing process of CEC publications, statements on Human Rights;
- CEC will organise Summer School on Human Rights (2019-2023), Seminars at the EU institutions, Council of Europe, OSCE and UN.

Social justice.

- CEC will address issues on social and employment, the developments and the corresponding policies on the European level;
- CEC will facilitate theological and social-ethical exchange and cooperation of CEC Member churches;
- CEC will facilitate the CALL (Church Action on Labour and Life) network, which networks in economic and employment issues in Europe, and organizes campaigns on them;
- CEC will continue its close cooperation with Eurodiaconia.