

News Bulletin about "A Joint Future"

December 2009

Time for the second News Bulletin about "A Joint Future" ("Gemensam Framtid").

The News Bulletin will be spread via the website www.gemensamframtid.se and will be sent to congregation boards, office staff, sister organizations, sister churches, etc. If you would like to receive current information about the ongoing work with the shaping of a new joint Church – please visit our website. There you will find the latest news and also an open blog where you can state your opinion, you can take part and influence the process.

1. The Working Parties

The five working parties are in the midst of their short but intensive assignment. (The assignment of each of the five working parties is described in New Bulletin number 1. See website!)

On January 15th, the reports of the working parties will be handed in to the Steering Committee of the project. These reports will make up the basis for the document which will be sent out for consideration to all congregations after the respective Conferences in Örebro, May 13th-16th.

Parallel to the working parties, the Theological Workshop (RUT) is working on issues of theology and renewal for the new Church.

2. Days for Dialogue

In February and March 2010, Days for Dialogue will be organized at nine places all over the country. It is important to create a spirit of participation on our way to a new joint Church, and again all those interested are invited to talk about the ongoing process by introducing new ideas and opinions.

The reports of the working parties will form the basis of these days for dialogue which will be held in the following places:

February 16th

Elimkyrkan, Sundsvall, at 18-21 (Note the time!)

February 20th:

Andreaskyrkan, Stockholm

Gruvrisekyrkan, Falun

Immanuelskyrkan, Gävle

Baptistkyrkan, Karlstad

February 27th:

Missionskyrkan, Skellefteå

Missionskyrkan, Värnamo

March 6th:

Fiskebäcks missionskyrka, Västra Frölunda

Missionskyrkan, Hässleholm

Baptistkyrkan, Norrköping

Time for all these meetings: 10-15

3. A Joint Future – YOUNG

It is very important to listen to the voices of young people in the shaping of this new joint Church. In order to strengthen this part of the process the Steering Committee and the Project Steering Group are actively engaged in setting up a young version of the Theology group (RUT). This group which will be made up of young adults aged 20 to 30 from the three denominations and ecumenia will be given the task to challenge, influence and reinforce the work which is already going on within "RUT". The group will be active up to the founding of the new Church and will have four meetings per year. In between, the work will go on via mail and telephone contacts.

Furthermore we will be listening to young peoples' opinions expressed at the New Year's camps organized by the districts. At these camps hundreds of somewhat younger people are gathered and they will be asked three questions of interest concerning "A Joint Future". They will give their answers on "scribble boards" which will afterwards be exploited within the process.

4. Timetable and strategic choice of roads

The three denominations are today preparing themselves for a new joint Church in 2012. In order to make this possible, the process must take clear steps in a strategic order. The questions which are currently being treated are the following ones:

What steps must be taken in order to make possible a decision about the founding of the new Church at the yearly conferences held by the denominations in 2011?

Are there decisions that have to be taken already in 2010?

When will it be necessary to have a Board?

These are important issues and for the moment we have no concrete answer to give. You will however hear more about all this in the next News Bulletin.

5. The organization of the Methodist Church

The Methodist Church has let us know that because of their membership within the United Methodist Church, they will probably not have time to finish their process in time for January 1st, 2012. The Methodist Church will join the new Church during the latter part of 2012.

Essentially this changes nothing. The Methodist Church stands by the Declaration of Intention and will continue to take part in the joint work, i.e. in the Steering Committee, in the Theology workshop, in working parties and in the project direction.

The Next News Bulletin will be sent out in January. At that time the working parties will have handed in their reports and "A Joint Future" will find itself in a new phase – parts of a new joint Church will start to take form.

Let us pray for all this work!

**Greetings from the
Project Steering Group**