

**World Council of Churches
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Etchmiadzin, Armenia
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For Action

BY-LAWS – COMMISSION ON EDUCATION AND ECUMENICAL FORMATION

1. Purpose

The Commission on Education and Ecumenical Formation (the Commission) is advisory to the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches through the Programme Committee.

2. Aims and Functions

- 2.1 Education and Ecumenical Formation represents a significant historical strand of the ecumenical movement. It remains at the heart of the concerns of churches, congregations, councils, ecumenical organizations, movements and individuals and enables them to participate in the ecumenical vocation and imperative. Through education, people and churches learn to be and to act.
- 2.2 The Commission shall, therefore, in collaboration with churches and networks:
 - 2.2.1 foster the understanding and practice of ecumenical learning;
 - 2.2.2 support the churches' educational ministry within the Christian community and the world, including that of equipping people in the practice of personal discipleship and mission, developing lay leadership, the theological education of all in the local congregation and promoting human resource development;
 - 2.2.3 through its projects promote ecumenical theological education and ministerial formation;
 - 2.2.4 educate and form ecumenical leaders, both clergy and lay, for service in parishes, classrooms and ecumenical centres around the world through the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey;
 - 2.2.5 create activities to help families, congregations and church related institutions to be inclusive learning communities;
 - 2.2.6 reflect on and respond to emerging educational needs and developments.
- 2.3 The Commission shall monitor and support the work of staff associated with the Ecumenical Formation programme.

- 2.4 Within the framework of the policies set by the Central Committee and with its approval, the Commission shall help initiate and carry out appropriate activities for the furtherance of these aims.

3. Membership, Officers and Staff of the Commission

- 3.1 The Commission shall be composed of no more than 30 members appointed by the Central Committee. They shall be appointed after each Assembly and shall hold office until the following Assembly.
- 3.2 The Officers of the Commission shall be the Moderator, who shall be elected by Central Committee, a Vice-Moderator who shall be elected by the Commission and, ex-officio, the Director of the Programme on Education and Ecumenical Formation.
- 3.3 As well as being broadly representative of the membership of the Council in respect of region, culture and confession, members should be appointed for their relevant experience and knowledge of education and ecumenical formation. At least 10 members should be representative of networks associated with education and ecumenical formation, specifically including ecumenical theological education and OIKOSNET (the world network of laity centres) or any successor bodies.
- 3.4 The Roman Catholic Church, and any other body determined by the Commission, shall be invited to send consultants to the meetings of the Commission. Such consultants shall be entitled to full participation in the work of the Commission except that they shall not be entitled to participate in decision-making as defined in the Rules of the World Council of Churches.
- 3.5 The Commission shall normally meet every 18 months.
- 3.6 The staff of the Commission shall be the members of the Programme on Education and Ecumenical Formation as assigned by the General Secretary. Staff shall report to the Commission but are accountable to the General Secretary on behalf of the Executive and Central Committees.

4. Working Groups

The Commission shall appoint an Executive of six people – three officers plus three commissioners – to meet as and when required, such meetings to take place in Geneva with advisers/partners present as required by the agenda. The Executive shall deal only with matters which cannot be left until the full Commission meeting.

5. Finance

- 5.1 The budget for the activities of the Commission and its Executive shall be included in the programme as part of the unified budget of the Council.
- 5.2 Within the overall budget and policies agreed by the Central Committee, the Commission will support the staff in developing and monitoring the funding and costs of activities and projects.
- 5.3 The Commission shall assist in developing financial resources for the work of education and ecumenical formation.

6. Meetings

- 6.1 The time and location of the meeting shall be determined by the Officers and shall normally be set not less than twelve months before the meeting.
- 6.2 If a member gives sufficient notice of being unable to attend a meeting of the Commission, the Officers may invite a substitute who shall have the right to speak and participate in decision-making.
- 6.3 If a member of the Executive gives sufficient notice of being unable to attend a meeting, the Officers may invite another commissioner as a substitute.
- 6.4 Persons having special competence on major matters under discussion may be invited by the Officers to attend a meeting of the Commission in the role of consultant or adviser, having the right to speak but not to participate in decision-making as defined in the Rules of the World Council of Churches.
- 6.5 The quorum for a meeting of the Commission shall be one third of the members.

7. Amendments to the By-Laws

These by-laws may be amended by the Central Committee in consultation with or on the recommendation of the Commission.