

Doc 04

Update on the Assembly Discernment Process

The following update concerns the assembly discernment process, the nomination of Central Committee members to the Assembly Discernment Committee (ADC), invitations to ecumenical partners to nominate members to the ADC and the search for a venue to host the next assembly. Feedback for action is requested.

Accompanying the Process

It is proposed that the staff group on 'ecumenism in the 21st century' serve as an in-house reference group to accompany the overall discernment process as it develops.

Central Committee Members Nominated to the ADC

At the request of the General Secretary, contact was established with the Central Committee members nominated to the ADC. At the request of the Moderator, the relevant reports, including the report of the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration, were again sent to the members. After several attempts to find suitable dates with the fifteen members, the moderator now proposes 4 to 7 November (arrival 3 and departure 8). The proposed venue is Geneva.

Invitations to Ecumenical Partners

The General Secretary wrote to the CWCs, asking Robert Welsh as the current moderator of the Conference of Secretaries, to coordinate the nomination of two persons. The PCPCU also received an invitation from the GS to nominate two persons. The REO general secretaries were asked to consider the invitation at their meeting in Chiang Mai, hosted by CCA. A letter was sent to the Round Table Core Group, asking them to coordinate two nominations from Specialized Ministries.

Further consultation is needed with REOs and NCCs to determine how to invite two representatives from about 60 associate national councils. Further consultation is also needed to know how best to invite two Pentecostal church nominations. It is proposed to invite two representatives from youth-based IEOs, i.e. WYWCA, YMCA, WSCF, Syndesmos, Taizé, etc.

Venue Search

The General Secretary's post-Central Committee letter informed member churches and associate councils that letters of interest would be welcome and proposed a deadline of 1 August to receive them. To accompany the search for an assembly venue it is proposed to establish a mixed staff group under the leadership of the Deputy General. Once the August deadline has passed a process of evaluating up to three sites, through visits, will begin (between September and December 2008). A first report should be prepared for review by the Executive Committee in February 2009.