

# **The United Methodist Church**

Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe

83rd Meeting of the Executive Committee  $83^{rd}$  Meeting of the Executive Committee March 13 + 15, 2025, Winterthur (Switzerland)March 13 + 15, 2025, Winterthur (Switzerland)

Unauthorized translation - Original in German

# Minutes of the Executive Committee of Thursday, March 13, 2025

Thursday, March 13, 2025, 9.00 a.m.

United Methodist Church Winterthur, Trollstrasse 10

Bishop Stefan welcomes all those present and wishes them a good meeting

*Erika Stalcup* invites us to a time of reflection. We will sing the songs "Peace like a river", "For One Great Peace" and "What Does the Lord Require of You". There will also be readings from 2 Corinthians 13:11 - 13 and 1 Corinthians 14:33. The reflection can be found in the appendix to the minutes.

The following persons are present:

# as members with voting rights:

| Bishop                          |           |                       |         |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------|
| Chairman Bishop                 | Bishop    | Stefan Zürcher        | present |
| Office                          |           |                       |         |
| Vice-Chairman                   |           | vacant                |         |
| Secretary                       | Pastor    | Markus Bach           | present |
| Treasurer                       | Pastor    | Iris Bullinger        | present |
| Executive Committee             | 5         |                       |         |
| Serbia-North Macedonia-Albania  | Sup.      | Daniel Sjanta         | excused |
| $\sim$                          | Layperson | Emil Zaev             | present |
| Austria                         | Sup.      | Stefan Schröckenfuchs | present |
| À .                             | Layperson | Ben Nausner           | present |
| Poland                          | Sup.      | Andrzej Malicki       | present |
| 10                              | Layperson | Bozena Daszuta        | present |
| Switzerland-France-North Africa | Sup.      | Serge Frutiger        | present |
|                                 | Layperson | Lea Hafner            | present |
| Czech Republic                  | Sup.      | Ivana Procházková     | present |
|                                 | Layperson | Martina Chlupáčková   | present |
| Hungary                         | Sup.      | László Khaled         | present |
|                                 | Layperson | Dávid Csernák         | present |
| Chair WG Episcopacy             | Pastor    | Jörg Niederer         | present |
| as advisory members:            |           |                       |         |
| Retired bishop                  | Bishop    | Patrick Streiff       | present |
|                                 | Bishop    | Heinrich Bolleter     | excused |
| Additional superintendents      |           |                       |         |
| France and Belgium              | Sup.      | Grégoire Chahinian    | excused |
| Romania                         | Sup.      | Rares Calugar         | excused |
| Algeria and Tunisia             | Pastor    | Freddy Nzambe         | excused |
|                                 |           |                       |         |

|           | Urs Schweizer                              | present   |
|-----------|--|---|
| Layperson | Barbara Bünger                             | present   |
| Pastor    | Monika Zuber                               | present   |
| Pastor    | Marietjie Odendaal                         | present   |
| Layperson | Ivana Pastor                               | excused   |
| Sup.      | Wilfried Nausner                           | present   |
| Pastor    | Erika Stalcup                              | present   |
| Pastor    | Zoltán Kovács                              | present   |
|           |  |   |
| Sup.      | Marjan Dimov                               | present   |
|           | Pastor Pastor Sup. Layperson Pastor Pastor | Pastor Zoltán Kovács Pastor Erika Stalcup Sup. Wilfried Nausner Layperson Ivana Pastor Pastor Marietjie Odendaal Pastor Monika Zuber Layperson Barbara Bünger |

# **Report of the Office (selection)**

represented by Bishop Stefan

Bishop Stefan: The report of the office has been uploaded to the dropbox of the Central Conference. We do not discuss everything here, but only what is intended for the Executive Committee.

# Re 2. planning for the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Central Conference

Bishop Stefan: There have been some changes to the people responsible for church services:

| Thu. March 13, 2025 | 09.00 | Morning prayer / Bible study (new: Erika Stalcup)                  |
|---------------------|-------|--|
|                     | 14.15 | Communion service  |
|                     |       | (new: liturgy: Erika Stalcup / new: sermon: Bishop Harald Rückert) |
|                     | 20.45 | Evening prayer (new: Esther Handschin)                             |
| Fri. March 14, 2025 | 08.30 | Bible study (new: Üllas Tankler)                                   |
|                     | 12.10 | Midday prayer (new: Jana Křížova)                                  |
|                     | 21.15 | Evening prayer (Erika Stalcup)                                     |
| Sat. March 15, 2025 | 08.30 | Bible study (new: Monika Zuber)                                    |
|                     | 09.00 | Memorial service (Esther Handschin)                                |
|                     | 12.10 | Midday prayer (new: Jana Křížova)                                  |

Bishop Stefan warmly thanks all those involved for their service.

# Re 2.3 Assignments for the Executive Committee and the Central Conference

*Markus Bach* points out an error in section 2.3: The correct wording should be that Lea Hafner has reviewed the minutes of the Executive Committee and the Central Conference since 2014. There were 19 minutes in total.

# Re 3.3 Elections for the term of office 2025 - 2029

# The Executive Committee unanimously approves the following nominations for the attention of the Central Conference:

- As members of the Judicial Court: István Csernák (HU), Philipp Hadorn (CH), Bernhard Pöll (AT), Martin Streit (CH), Christa Tobler (CH)
- As substitute members of the Judicial Court: Daniel Bator (PL), Regula Dannecker (CH), Wojciech Ostrowski (PL), Milen Stefanov (MK)

### The Executive Committee unanimously elects the following persons:

- Andrzej Malicki (PL) as Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee
- Stefan Hafner (CH) as Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration until 2026
- Harald Bolleter (CH) as a member of the Council on Finance and Administration and from 2026 as its Chair
- Jonathan Letsch (CH) as a member of the Council on Finance and Administration
- Stefan Hafner (CH)as auditor of the treasury of the Central Conference CSE
- Stefan Hafner (CH) as a member of the Pension Board
- Harald Bolleter (CH) as a member of the Pension Board
- Jonathan Letsch (CH) as a member of the Pension Board
- Vladimir Fazekas (RS) as a member of the European Methodist Council
- Adrian Myslinski (PL) as a member of the European Methodist Council
- Anna Shammas (CH) as a member of the European Methodist Council
- Maria Sonnleithner (AT) as a member of the European Methodist Council
- Daniel Hänni (CH) as a member of the European Commission on Mission
- Ulrich Bachmann (CH) as a member of the European Commission on Mission
- Christa Wichers (CH) as a member of the European Lay Seminar
- Retired Bishop Patrick Streiff as a member of the Board of the Methodist e-Academy
- Zoltán Kovács (HU) as a member of the Board of the Methodist e-Academy
- Christoph Schluep (CH) as a member of the Board of the Methodist e-Academy
- Wilfried Nausner (AT/AL) to the CPCE Regional group South-East Europe
- Sławomir Rodaszyński (PL) to the CPCE Regional group South-East Europe

Markus Bach expresses his delight that we finally have a Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee again: Andrzej Malicki. However, this will be on the understanding that the changes to our regulations are adopted by the Central Conference and that the Vice-Chair is not automatically a member of the Executive Committee.

### The Executive Committee unanimously confirms the following appointments:

- Andrzej Malicki (PL) to the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters
- Thomas Fux (AT) to the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters
- Stefan Schröckenfuchs (AT) to the Connectional Table
- Dániel Vadászi (HU) to the Connectional Table
- Jean-Paul Dietrich (CH) as a member of the General Board of Global Ministries
- Ueli Frei as a member of the United Methodist Publishing House
- Judit Lakatos (HU) as a member of the World Methodist Historical Society- Europe
- Lilla Kardosné Lakatos (HU) as a member of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

### Re 4. financial matters and statistics

# Annual financial statements 2024:

Markus Bach points out that the four-year financial statement closes with a high deficit due to the high costs of the extraordinary Central Conference in Basel. These were around twice as high as previous Central Conferences due to additional expenses caused by the technology (livestream) and the bishop's election. In the end, however, the deficit was "only" CHF 12,000 higher than budgeted.

The Executive Committee unanimously approves the 2024 accounts on the basis of the auditors' report, grants discharge to the treasurer and expresses its sincere thanks to her for her services.

### Budget 2025-2028:

*Markus Bach:* Only the Annual Conferences are now listed under income, with the exception of Switzerland and France. We leave the allocation of contributions to the respective district conferences to the annual conferences

Andrzej Malicki: We have a four-year bill ahead of us. Don't we expect prices to rise and therefore have to keep increasing the amounts?

Markus Bach: We have not increased the contributions to the annual conferences, as there are still reserves in the expenditure. We have only reduced the contributions from France, as France now only has half of the municipalities. For the meetings of the Executive Committee, we have included an amount for two meetings of at least two days, in the hope that we can stay within the budget. We have also decided that we want to meet at different locations, which is why we cannot simply choose the cheapest locations. However, we are trying to stay within the budget. If we don't succeed, the Central Conference treasury still has reserves in its equity that we can use.

Bishop Stefan: I know that we have to look at finances everywhere. We are therefore not expecting any increases.

Ben Nausner: The expenditure for the working groups varies greatly. Where does that come from?

*Markus Bach:* The children and youth working group has the largest amount because we want them to hold youth meetings. They can use this amount for this.

*Urs Schweizer:* The difference lies in the fact that it is important to the CC Office that those responsible for working with children and young people can meet in person; other working groups can also do their work more easily by using electronic communication

Barbara Bünger: The costs of the Women's Service Working Group are borne by the Women's Network of Switzerland. This includes not only the costs of the working group, but also contributions to consultations or language courses for women. Please let us know if there are any women in your area who would like to benefit from such a language course.

Bishop Stefan: Are you ready to forward the 2025-2028 budget to the Central Conference for approval?

The Executive Committee approves the budget for the 2025-2028 financial year of the Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe and forwards it to the Central Conference for approval.

Bishop Stefan: Are there any questions about another part of the office report?

There are no queries.

Bishop Stefan warmly thanks Lea Hafner and Jörg Niederer for their helpful and good work on the Executive Committee. They will be officially thanked at the Central Conference. However, their thanks should also be mentioned here, as this is their last meeting on this committee.

Lea Hafner: I was elected to the Executive Committee in 2013 - in the same place where we are now, in Winterthur. It wasn't easy to find my way into this role. But I was able to familiarize myself and learn a lot over the years. I've also made friends. Do you know what the highlight of my time was? It was when we decided to stay together, even though we have different opinions on content. I will miss you. I wish you God's blessing.

Jörg Niederer: I feel the same way as Lea Hafner. I have enjoyed working on this international committee for a long time. It's nice to see that we are not just Swiss. It was also always a special task to review the minutes. Perhaps we were the only ones to read the minutes in full?

Bishop Stefan: Thank you both once again. I would also like to thank those who have made themselves available as successors. Christine Schneider-Oesch will represent the Annual Conference Switzerland-France-North Africa as a lay person. She has extensive experience at international conferences of our church. Serge Frutiger has agreed to chair the Bishop's Office working group. Thank you very much!

Bishop Stefan: I would like to thank not only those who are leaving the Executive Committee, but all of you who will continue to work on this committee. I very much enjoy working with you. Thank you very much.

*Urs Schweizer:* You will find the conference proceedings from all the sessions last year in the room where we are eating. Please take your copies with you. There are other books that you can take with you. I will also put out communion utensils, so you can help yourselves to those too.

Ben Nausner: There will be a public evening on Friday evening. A small group has prepared it. We need your support. We don't want it to be a top-heavy evening. We want to hear from each other how migration is perceived in different countries. There will be various opportunities for participation. International guests, who will give us a welcome address on Friday, will also do so as an introduction to the topic of the evening. There will be table groups of ten people. I would ask that there be a member of the Executive Committee at each table. Please listen carefully to what is being said! At the end we will ask what our task as a church is now. I then ask you to write down all the answers in the table group on the paper that will be available. But you don't have to present it. The papers will be compiled and made available in writing.

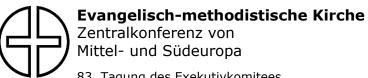
Bishop Stefan: We will meet again on Saturday afternoon for our next meeting as the newly elected Executive Committee. Please note that you will not be able to participate in the election program in Winterthur.

Bishop Stefan closes with a prayer.

For the record: Markus Bach, Secretary CC CSE

The present minutes of the 83<sup>rd</sup> session of the Executive Committee of the Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe held on March 13, 2025 in Winterthur (Switzerland) were examined and declared correct.

The examiners of the minutes: Lea Hafner and Jörg Niederer



# The United Methodist Church Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe

83<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Executive Committee

83. Tagung des Exekutivkomitees 13. + 15. März 2025, Winterthur (Schweiz)

March 13 + 15, 2025, Winterthur (Switzerland)

Unauthorized translation - Original in German

# Minutes of the Executive Committee of Saturday, March 15, 2025

Saturday, March 15, 2025, 2 p.m.

United Methodist Church Winterthur, Trollstrasse 10

Bishop Stefan warmly welcomes all those present to the new composition, even though not much has changed. In particular, he warmly welcomes the new member of the Executive Committee, Christine Schneider. He also welcomes Olav Schmidt, the head of EmK World Mission in Germany, as a guest among us.

Bishop Stefan says a prayer.

We do a short round of introductions.

The following persons are present:

# as members with voting rights:

| Bishop                          |           |                       |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Chairman Bishop                 | Bishop    | Stefan Zürcher        | present   |
| Office                          |           |                       |           |
| Secretary                       | Pastor    | Markus Bach           | present   |
| Treasurer                       | Pastor    | Iris Bullinger        | present   |
| Executive Committee             |           |                       |           |
| Serbia-North Macedonia-Albania  | Sup.      | Daniel Sjanta         | excused   |
|                                 | Layperson | Emil Zaev             | present   |
| Austria                         | Sup.      | Stefan Schröckenfuchs | present   |
| *//                             | Layperson | Ben Nausner           | present   |
| Poland                          | Sup.      | Andrzej Malicki       | present   |
|                                 | Layperson | Bożena Daszuta        | present   |
| Switzerland-France-North Africa | Sup.      | Serge Frutiger        | present   |
| <i>\(\)</i> .                   | Layperson | Christine Schneider   | present   |
| Czech Republic                  | Sup.      | Ivana Procházková     | present   |
|                                 | Layperson | Martina Chlupáčková   | present   |
| Hungary-Romania                 | Sup.      | László Khaled         | present   |
|                                 | Layperson | Dávid Csernák         | present   |
| Chair WG Episcopacy             | Sup.      | Serge Frutiger        | (present) |
| as advisory members:            |           |                       |           |
| Retired bishops                 | Bishop    | Patrick Streiff       | excused   |
|                                 | Bishop    | Heinrich Bolleter     | excused   |

### Additional superintendents

| France and Belgium  | Sup.   | Grégoire Chahinian | excused |
|---------------------|--------|--------------------|---------|
| Romania             | Sup.   | Rares Calugar      | present |
| Algeria and Tunisia | Pastor | Freddy Nzambe      | present |
| North Macedonia     | Sup.   | Marjan Dimov       | present |

# Chairperson of the Working Groups

| WG Theology and Ord. Ministries | Pastor    | Zoltán Kovács      | present |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------|
| WG Liturgy                      | Pastor    | Erika Stalcup      | present |
| WG Discipline and Legal Affairs | Sup.      | Wilfried Nausner   | present |
| WG Children and Youth           | Layperson | Ivana Pastor       | excused |
| WG Church and Society           | Pastor    | Marietjie Odendaal | present |
| WG Women's Work                 | Pastor    | Monika Zuber       | present |
| Coordinator                     | Layperson | Barbara Bünger     | present |

Assistant to the Bishop Urs Schweizer present

Guest from the EmK-Weltmission Olav Schmidt partly present

Total attendance: 25

Bishop Stefan: The Mission Secretary of the EmK-Weltmission in Germany, Pastor Olav Schmidt, would like to clarify two questions with us. May I ask you to inform us accordingly?

Olav Schmidt: I would like to discuss two things with you. Firstly, as EmK-Weltmission, in cooperation with Tent Mission, we will be holding our annual mission retreat in Braunfels from October 14 to 19, 2025. We would like to invite a guest from each of the two other European Central Conferences to join us for this conference. Of course, other people can also take part in the mission retreat, but they would then have to do so at their own expense.

On the other hand, we would like to further develop the tent mission, sell the tents and instead carry out very different mission outreaches in other European countries. We would like to start in the Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe in 2026. The central principle of these mission outreaches is that only our partners define the nature of these mission outreaches. We would therefore like to discuss with you what such a missionary assignment could and should look like. Are building missions needed, social missions or classic evangelism in the marketplace? Or are there other possibilities? You could also tell us where we should prioritize.

*Bishop Stefan:* Urs and I have already discussed how we want to take up these questions. We would now have the opportunity to send a person to the missionary retreat. In addition, we can also talk about where the aforementioned mission assignments would be possible in our Central Conference.

Bożena Daszuta: I think that's a good idea, we're happy to think about it.

*Marietjie Odendaal:* I haven't really understood that yet. The tents are sold, but are mission trips planned?

László Khaled: Did I understand correctly that the Tent Mission will sell the tents?

*Olav Schmidt:* Yes. The tent mission sells the tents. If we need tents elsewhere, we will have to get them locally.

Stefan Schröckenfuchs: I have a hard time with such old images of groups approaching people on the street and singing evangelization songs. Isn't that a thing of the past? Aren't there more contemporary ideas of mission? You said that you are open to models that are in demand and applicable. How should I imagine that? I can no longer do anything with the old images of an evangelization and would therefore be happy if I could get new, helpful images of an evangelization.

Olav Schmidt: That depends very much on where we are. That will make a difference in terms of what evangelization will look like in that place. But perhaps a completely different kind of missionary work is also required.

Rares Calugar: If you come and help me realize my project, I will gladly welcome you. But if I have to take care of your project, this offer won't help me.

*Urs Schweizer*: Do you first decide which country you want to go to and which project you want to realize, and then put together your mission team based on these needs? Or do you have a team and you need a project that suits this team?

Bishop Stefan: There is certainly interest in such missions in Poland or Romania.

Olav Schmidt: Then it is helpful to find a date for talks - the earlier the better. However, I can't guarantee that we will actually find the people we need for your project.

Bishop Stefan: If you want to get in touch with Emk World Mission as a conference, get in touch with Urs.

Urs Schweizer: We can also plan over a number of years.

Bishop Stefan: It would be helpful if we could find a person for the missionary retreat who knows our countries well. They should be able to say something about the Central Conference. Are there any of you who are interested? Or do you know someone we can ask?

Olav Schmidt: The retreat will take place in Braunfels from October 14 to 19, 2025.

Bożena Daszuta: We should be able to talk about this at our own annual conference.

Bishop Stefan: I will ask again at the end, and otherwise I will send you the job description and you can work with it.

Bishop Stefan: Thank you very much, Olav, for sharing your concerns with us.

Olav Schmidt: I would also like to thank you very much for having me here.

# Continuing work on the topic of migration

*Bishop Stefan:* We now want to return to the topic of "Migration in our Central Conference". How do we continue to work? The original idea was for us to draw up a set of arguments. We put together a lot of thoughts and considerations yesterday. What happens now?

Ben Nausner: I would like to ask what impression you had at the tables. Was there unity, or did you have the impression that there was still a need for clarification? For the most part, I heard that you had good discussions.

Andrzej Malicki: We had different people around the table. We also talked about the problems where migration leads to people leaving and about the fact that people come to other countries as migrants and are sometimes not welcome.

*Erika Stalcup:* I struggle with the use of language when different people are referred to with a single term "migrants".

Rares Calugar: The question is what we actually want. As a church, we can do something. Many projects in society have been stopped because people no longer want to give their support. We have a richness in our Central Conference that we are connected to other places that support us in this mission

*Marietjie Odendaal:* We also talked about the challenge that short-term help is quite possible, but long-term help is not.

Stefan Schröckenfuchs: We had a good discussion. It was a good experience of listening and speaking. We had a good mix. Migration has different aspects in different places. In one place, young people are leaving, and in other places there are challenges because these people are coming. Last night was helpful. But I don't know whether it can be used to create a set of arguments. I think we need more input or a document that we can talk about.

Dávid Csernák: We had people from Switzerland and Hungary at our table. We talked about the political dimension and also about the positive and negative aspects of migration. Language and the different cultures are also a challenge.

Serge Frutiger: We were also a diverse group. We talked about different categories of migrants. How do we perceive them - as individuals, as a group or as a problem? As a church, we can implement projects for migrants, such as for people from Ukraine, but then they are not in our neighborhood.

Dávid Csernák: We also talked about the fact that our churches are not always open to other people.

*Ivana Procházková*: We also talked about the different contexts and came up with the topic of racism. We differentiated between the society of a country and the people of our church - and we discussed how we can help.

*Bishop Stefan:* I had the impression that we are happy to help in special situations. But there is also the question of how we can live together with migrants over a longer period of time, how they can become part of our church. Is the work with migrants a social project or community development?

Bishop Stefan: The question now is whether we want to continue working on this topic. We can't do this as an executive committee; we need a group to guide us.

*Monika Zuber:* We have to think carefully about who we are doing something for. We have very different situations: people leave one country and come to another.

Markus Bach: I wonder whether the Central Conference level is a helpful level, or whether this should not be dealt with in the Annual Conferences, precisely because the experiences of migration are so different.

Ben Nausner: We can continue to talk to each other, precisely because we have different experiences with migration. But there is no compelling reason to continue working here. We had a valuable exchange yesterday. That has already helped us move forward. We also got to know this method, which could perhaps also help us with other topics.

*Christine Schneider:* We don't need another comprehensive document. Is there somewhere where we can discuss such issues?

*Emil Zaev:* When we were in Budapest, we decided to talk about such issues. There were two people with opposing views at our table yesterday. We needed a lot of time to work on this topic. It would be a shame if we simply moved on to another topic.

Bishop Stefan: We also said in Budapest that it is not the paper that is important, but the conversation about it.

Ben Nausner: We still need to think about what we can give to the outside world from this work on migration. It could be an example, a prayer or something else. We could pass this on to the Church and Society working group.

Marietjie Odendaal: I have two people from Switzerland, Ernst Hug and Stefan Moll, with whom I might be able to work on this issue. So I could imagine continuing to work on it and letting you know again.

### The Executive Committee agrees with this.

*Bishop Stefan:* Thank you very much. I suggest that we now take a 15-minute break and then meet upstairs in the church hall to talk about the reactions to the Bishop's word.

We take a break.

Saturday, March 15, 2025, 3:45 p.m.

United Methodist Church Winterthur, Trollstrasse 10

### Concerns in connection with the bishop's word

We look at the collected results on the Bishop's Word (see minutes of the Central Conference MSE of Friday, March 14, 2025) and consider what assignments we want to formulate in this regard.

### **Resolution 1:**

We are setting up a project group to think about how the Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe can present itself in the electronic media and thus become more visible. Members of the project group are: Ben Nausner (Convener), Erika Stalcup, Rares Calugar, Urs Schweizer

*Bishop Stefan:* At the Central Conference meeting, Donát Gyurkó suggested setting up a working group on the topic of discipleship/discipleship. What do we do with this suggestion?

Ben Nausner: I asked Donát what he meant exactly. He thinks that we should pay more attention to the discipleship process and provide tools for it.

Wilfried Nausner: Discipleship also has something to do with commitment. That is an important question. We live in a world with many opportunities and everyone (especially young people) can choose.

László Khaled: Donát strongly associates discipleship with church membership. I would rather see it in the same way as Wilfried says

*Markus Bach:* I have to ask again whether the central conference level is actually helpful for this. We have very different contexts and languages, and I can hardly imagine that there is ultimately anything at Central Conference level that is helpful for all settings in our Central Conference. Shouldn't we be much more concerned that the countries can each give helpful impulses to their churches for their situation?

Bishop Stefan: If discipleship also means belonging to the church, then we can also ask the Theology and Ordained Ministries working group to include this topic in their deliberations.

Christine Schneider: Discipleship is an important topic in our church. There should already be a lot of material on this topic. We just need to share all the material that exists.

Rares Calugar: I have also looked for helpful materials for our work on the internet. I haven't found much from our church. But there is other good material from other churches. I need what is helpful and leave out the rest.

Christine Schneider: If I enter UMC and Discipleship on the Internet, I get a wealth of material (see: www.umcdiscipleship.org). It is certainly contextualized in the US, but we can adapt it for ourselves.

Stefan Schröckenfuchs: I have two thoughts on this: 1. this also has to do with our question of which pastors we need. And secondly, I wonder whether we should discuss this in Warsaw in November.

Zoltán Kovács: In our working group, we work academically and theoretically. However, I believe that this topic should be looked at from a more practical perspective.

Bishop Stefan: Of course, this applies to all our working groups, that they should have a practical relevance.

Stefan Schröckenfuchs: Didn't Wilfried Nausner pass on a hint as to what else should be researched or found out in this context?

Wilfried Nausner: I wanted to find out why so few people want to study theology or become ordained pastors. However, such an investigation would have to be carried out externally.

*Marietjie Odendaal:* Bettina Weller also pointed out at the central conference that we need to work more towards offering an attractive profession. However, we need to think carefully about how we want to do this.

Bishop Stefan: I am already in talks with my fellow bishops in Europe about this - we are also looking for a good way forward here.

### **Elections**

Bishop Stefan Zürcher

Bishop Stefan: We now have to choose a few more people for a task:

2 persons for the preparation of the European Executive Committee meeting in Reutlingen (DE)

The Executive Committee elects László Khaled (HU) and Erika Stalcup (CH) to the preparatory group for the European Executive Committee meeting in Reutlingen (DE) in March 2026.

3 people for the Leadership Gathering 2026

Bishop Stefan: I spoke to Stefan Schröckenfuchs (as a member of the Connectional Table) and Andrzej Malicki (as a member of the Standing Committee for Central Conference Affairs) about this and asked them to take part in the Leadership Gathering 2026. They would both be willing to do so.

Stefan Schröckenfuchs: We have to think carefully about why we delegate someone there. Either because they are already on the relevant committees and are familiar with the General Conference level

(like Andrzej and I). Or because of the intention and opportunity to develop someone for the General Conference level. There should also not be two from the same Annual Conference.

Bishop Stefan: Please let me know your suggestions so that I can make the requests.

The Executive Committee elects Stefan Schröckenfuchs and Andrzej Malicki to participate in the Leadership Gathering 2026. A third person is still open (ideally a younger person and a woman). The Bishop is given the authority to appoint this third person.

### **Miscellaneous**

Bishop Stefan Zürcher

Information: Interview with Thomas Kemper (pension fund)

We will be holding an online meeting with Thomas Kemper on the pension fund. Those who are affected will receive the information and an invitation to the meeting.

# Next meetings / schedule

November 21 - 23, 2025 Executive Committee of the CC CSE in Warsaw (PL)

March 11 - 14, 2026 European meeting of the CC Executive Committees in Reutlingen (DE)

Stefan Schröckenfuchs: Is registration already open for the YouMe in Cluj?

*Urs Schweizer:* This is being handled by Simon Zürcher. There is still the question of what excess the young people have to pay. However, this should be clarified in the next few weeks.

Stefan Schröckenfuchs: I can't invite you without more detailed information.

*Urs Schweizer:* I will bring this to the attention of the co-chairs of the Working Group Children and Youth, Simon Zürcher and Ivana Pastor, after the Central Conference.

Bishop Stefan: We will close the session here, and I ask Andrzej Malicki to lead us in prayer.

For the record:

Markus Bach, Secretary CC CSE

The present minutes of the 83<sup>rd</sup> session of the Executive Committee of the Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe held on March 15, 2025 in Winterthur (Switzerland) were examined and declared correct.

The examiners of the minutes: Christine Schneider and Serge Frutiger