

European regional meeting of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference held at hotel Lions in Pilsen, the Czech Republic, 1-3 June 2018.

Minutes June 1st 2018.

Morning session

09:00 Morning devotion by Petr Krakora on 2 Tim 3:15-17.

09:30 We read the list of participants and adopted the agenda for the meeting with one change, lunch will be 12:30 Friday and Saturday. Practical information regarding payment and lunch/dinner given by the hosts Petr and Martin.

09:50 1st essay by pastor Stefan Sjöqvist, Sweden. Theme: What does the Scripture say about itself and its inerrancy?

10:50 We took our coffee break

11:10 The conference resumed and sang the hymn "Lord, open now my heart to hear." Response to the first essay by pastor Agron Mece (Albania). Thankfulness expressed to the essayist for his thorough Biblical introduction to the topic of Inerrancy.

12:00 We broke for lunch which was served at 12:30.

Afternoon session

14:00 We resumed after lunch and sang the hymn "The church's one foundation." Pastor Adriansson from Sweden said farewell to the conference, he was to return to Sweden in the afternoon.

14:10 2nd essay by pastor Serhiy Romaniuk, Ukraine. Theme: Critics against the inerrancy of Scripture from Early Church until the Reformation.

14:50 Response to the 2nd essay by pastor Artur Villares (Portugal).

15:00 We took the 2nd coffee break for the day.

15:30 We resumed after coffee and sang the hymn "Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word". Continued with the response by pastor Villares. Thankfulness expressed to the essayist for his fine historic overview. Discussion on differences in church history and tradition between churches and countries.

16:20 10 minute break.

16:30 We resumed and sang the hymn "In you is gladness". We started with presentations of the national churches. Albania, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany and Latvia. Also Prof Brad Wordell gave a short presentation of the WELS Pastoral studies institute. Before we went for evening meal at 18:00 and evening devotion at 19:30 the Minutes of the morning and afternoon sessions were read and accepted by the conference without changes. Closed the afternoon session by singing the hymn "Beautiful Savior".

18:00 Evening meal in the hotel restaurant.

19:30 Evening devotion by Petr Krakora on 2 Cor 5:17.

Minutes June 2nd 2018.

Morning session

09:10 Morning devotion by Petr Krakora on Mark 8:34.

09:30 Chairman welcomed the conference to a new day. He gave some information on the coming elections that would take place later in the day. Elections would include a new chairman, a new secretary, location for the meeting in 2019, time and date of next meeting and theme of next meeting from the list of doctrinal topics agreed on at the Vasa 2016 conference.

09:40 3rd essay by pastor Ilars Plume (Latvia). Theme: The criticism of the inerrancy of Scripture from after the Reformation until present.

10:32 We took a 3 minute break

10:40 We resumed and pastor Plume read the last part of his essay.

11:05 We took our coffee break

11:25 We resumed and sang the hymn "Now I have the firm foundation". Response to the 3rd essay by pastor Øyvind Edvardsen (Finland). Thankfulness expressed to the essayist for his fine work and important treatment of this topic. Discussion and comments on the topic of truth and certainty.

12:00 Elections.

New chairman: Holger Weiss, Germany (reelected for his 2nd term)

New secretary: Serhiy Romaniuk, Ukraine (elected for his 1st term)

Location for the conference in 2019: Albania

Time and date of the next conference: May 24th - 26th 2019

Theme: The role of man and women.

Possible topics for the essays. 1 on the Biblical principle, 3 on application (in family, in church, in society).

Russia remains the only European country which has not yet hosted the European conference. It should therefore be considered first in line for the next regional meeting in 2021.

12:20 The conference broke for lunch. End of morning session.

Afternoon session

14:00 We started our afternoon session by singing the hymn "O blessed, holy trinity". Petr Krakora shared practical information regarding Sunday.

14:25 4th essay by pastor Manuel Drechsler (Germany). Theme: Why is it important to retain the teaching of the inerrancy of Scripture among us Confessional Lutherans in the CELC, and how is this teaching unique for our church fellowship?

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 We continued by singing the hymn "We have a sure prophetic word". The response to the 4th essay written by the Russian pastors Alexei Feringer and Arkady Sedelnikov was read by pastor Luke Wolfgramm. Thankfulness expressed to the essayist for presenting the doctrine of inerrancy with the Gospel, not the Law. Discussion on the matter of inerrancy.

16:30 We sang the hymn "O God, our Lord, your holy Word". Presentations of the national churches: Norway, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Ukraine.

18:00 We went to have our evening meal.

19:30 Presentations of the WELS and our Czech hosts. Thankfulness expressed to the conference organist Jeanine Heller and our hosts Petr Krakora and Martin Vrsecky and the whole Czech Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Minutes of the morning and afternoon sessions were read and accepted with one addition: The group picture was taken at the hotel terrace after evening meal. Petr Krakora expressed his thankfulness on behalf of the conference to the hotel staff.

Evening devotion by Petr Krakora on Matt 13:44.

End of meeting.

The participants celebrated Worship service together Sunday morning with the local congregation where pastors Petr and Martin served.

Minutes written by Øyvind Edvardsen.

Soli Deo Gloria