



Cevaa Executive Council

Video meeting – October 17-21, 2022

Final Communiqué

Video meeting

That's it, the Cevaa Executive Council met for the first time (excluding covid) online! This follows the decision to hold the Spring Council in person and the Autumn Council in video meeting. As a result, Cevaa saves money and contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (by limiting air travel). Nevertheless, the Council Bureau was mainly present at the Secretariat's premises in Montpellier to surround the new General Secretary. Other members of the Council were able to connect via internet. Rev. Michel Lobo, President of the Community, opened the session by quoting Moses who, tired but well supported, wins (Exodus 17: 8-15). Likewise, the Cevaa Member Churches are invited to support each other without giving up, so that the Gospel may shine in their respective contexts.

The new General Secretary has arrived!

This was the first Council for Rev. Claudia Schulz in her new position as Cevaa General Secretary. The Council was able to observe the installation of the new General Secretary in Montpellier and the efficiency of the handover period. With the support of the Secretariat, the transition between the two General Secretaries was of high quality and Rev. Claudia Schulz began her ministry at the Cevaa Secretariat with enthusiasm, motivation, and commitment, while being fully aware of the many challenges to face.

The reports on Cevaa's various activities were well received and read with interest and gratitude by the Council's members. The Community lives on, rich in relations, numerous projects and privileged exchanges.

Much work achieved, but also reflections initiated!

The Cevaa Community conducts fundamental, theological, structural, and programmatic reflections, in order to better adapt its mission to the service of its Member Churches and to the community life. But the Cevaa cannot lose sight of financial issues. The Cevaa must simultaneously be able to count on more commitment from its Member Churches and to find possible economic avenues.

The Council conducted a reflection on the periodicity and framework for future sessions of the General Assembly, considering the new conditions given by the developments of technology and computer science. The Council is preparing proposals that will be submitted to the 2023 General Assembly for possible implementation in 2025.

At the same time, a reflection is being conducted on the exchange of persons. The Council has taken note of the initial findings; the reflection continues. Community membership to the Cevaa mission is sometimes weak. The Council's reflections focus on how to create a new breath of life into the Community and, with the Holy Spirit, how to revive what constitutes the essence of the Cevaa.

And concretely?

Thirteen (13) students from eight (8) Member Churches are currently receiving a Cevaa scholarship. The Executive Secretary in charge of the Activities and Youth Pole maintains regular contacts with the beneficiaries. He presented to the Council the activities that young people have been able to experience thanks to the Cevaa: theological empowerment seminars, youth exchanges, regional youth meetings. The Cevaa website and Facebook page show all these activities, in the form of articles, interviews, videos...

The future is to be designed again. The last (as of now?) AEBA training session took place. A new Shared Action, related to the theme of Ecology, is being prepared for adoption by the General Assembly to be held in October 2023 in Ivory Coast.

The Executive Secretary in charge of the Projects and Exchange of persons Pole presented to the Council the 40 projects in progress, which she is monitoring. As part of the long-term exchanges, she also accompanies two envoys on mission for the Cevaa.

The Cevaa Health Mission Leader, Dr. Mathilde Guidimti, presented the last projects connected to phase 2 of the Health-Solidarity Project, as well as the beginning of phase 3. Many projects emerged and progress has been noted in the hospitals involved. But it is necessary to strengthen the hospital network as well as interaction between all actors.

Daily spiritual nourishment

During this five-day Council, prayer and meditation around a biblical text inspired the work.

Mrs. Magda Curpanen of Mauritius recalled the evangelical demands of a servant of Christ (Luke 17; John 13; Galatians 6; Philippians 2).

The General Secretary noted, based on Acts 11: 27 – 12: 5, the adversities of this time, famine, prison, political adversity, and stressed the present challenges, such as ecology, governance in the Churches, precariousness. But the Bible opens up avenues, such as prayer, solidarity, good governance.

Rev. Adama Faye of Senegal talked about finances. Indeed, sharing and proper management of financial resources are not absent from Jesus' teaching (Luke 16: 1-8). He asked the Council: "Does the way we manage money brings us closer to the Kingdom of God?"

Finally, Rev. Basile Zouma, Défap General Secretary, recalled the importance of a good articulation between the old and the new. God makes new without forgetting the past (Revelation 21: 1-6).

Telling the Cevaa in the digital age

During the session, the Council received the report on communication and discussed ways of improving communication for the Cevaa. It was proven necessary to redefine the general objectives of the Cevaa communication and to clarify the recipients or targets of this communication.

The Communication Leader, Mrs Cécile Richter, regularly feeds the Cevaa website and Facebook page with news from the Churches and partners, as well as with the activities of the Secretariat.

For written communication, the Council decided to adopt inclusive language in all Cevaa publications and official texts.

Let's talk about money!

An entire session was devoted to finance, with the adoption of the 2023 draft budget. During the session, research and analysis of ways to increase the Community's revenues were also discussed. The working groups reported on their reflections and presented their proposals for the future. The debates during the Council session were challenging and creative. In-depth work continues and will undoubtedly remain a key point during the next General Assembly.

To conclude with the Council week

The Council heard the Défap General Secretary share news from his Department. Finally, the Council scheduled the future sessions of the official bodies and started the preparation of the 2023 General Assembly.

With its 23 decisions taken with conviction, seriousness and responsibility for the future of the Cevaa Community, the Council sang a final hymn: "You are at the heart of our lives", before making an appointment for the next Council in April 2023.