

Cevaa Executive Council by video meeting October 2020



Final Communiqué

For the second time in 2020, the Executive Council of Cevaa was held by videoconference, from 20 to 23 October 2020. The meeting, technically managed from the Secretariat in Montpellier, took place under the presidency of Mrs. Henriette Mbatchou, President of the Community. All the members of the Council were able to take part in this session from their respective countries of residence; however, some of them encountered occasional problems with internet connection.

Every morning before the beginning of the works, meditations gathered the participants around the texts: Jeremiah 18. 1-12; Jeremiah 19. 1-12; 2 Corinthians 4. 5-7; Matthew 6. 25-33; Philippians 4. 19; 1 John 4. 8; Matthew 7. 7-11; Jeremiah 20.9.

As usual, the Executive Council began its work by adopting the minutes of the previous Council session, held in June 2020 by video meeting, and by checking the implementation of the decisions of this previous session. The Council then considered all the topical issues on the agenda.

Fighting the pandemic: support to the Churches

Always attentive to the health situation related to the Covid-19 pandemic, and in solidarity with the Churches, the members of the Executive Council followed with interest the evolution of the situation within each member Church, regularly relayed on the Cevaa website. It should be noted that Church hospitals play an important role in raising awareness about Covid-19.

Projects, Envoys, Exchanges

The Executive Council considered the opening of a position at the EEAM, and the appeal of a position at the EPRE. The Council decided to open a pastor position in the parish of Casablanca of the Evangelical Church in Morocco - EEAM -, starting from 01/04/2021. He decided to fill the position of half-time pastor in the parish of Saint-Pierre of the Protestant Church of La Réunion - EPRE -, for a period of six months, from 01/01/2021 to 30/06/2021.

Activities and Youth, training and scholarships

With regard to the scholarships, the Executive Council reaffirmed the “5% Clause”, committing the Church to participate in the formation of its scholarship holder to the extent of 5% and included in the tripartite scholarship contracts (Cevaa-Church-scholarship holder). The Council asked for the strict application of this clause.

Perspectives: Colloquia, Seminars and celebrations

The Executive Council asked the Secretariat to go on working in order to present a “Project for a Symposium gathering partner training centres on the theme “Theological training and Covid-19: What Pastorate for the Life of the Churches?”, adapted to the urgency of the subject.

The Executive Council approved the holding in 2021 of a Seminary for Revitalization of Missionary Programs.

The Executive Council also decided that the Council Bureau and the Secretariat should work together on the program of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Cevaa, in order to submit a complete program to the 2021 General Assembly.

Communication

The Cevaa website, updated once or twice a week, works well and gives regular news of the member Churches. But an evolution must be considered in the coming years, to take into account the rapid changes in technology and the expectations of internet users. The Council discussed around the 50th anniversary of Cevaa, which is an opportunity to rethink communication as a whole. The Council approved the idea of merging the 2 Facebook pages Cevaa and Cevaa-Youth, for a simpler and more effective management of Cevaa communication via social networks.

Finances

The Executive Council adopted the balanced 2021 budget draft for the amount of 1,964,434 €. Besides, the Executive Council invited the members of the Finance working group and of the Secretariat to go on working together, with the possible help of resource-persons, in order to be able to submit to the 2021 General Assembly financial guidelines and concrete proposals for improving the Community's finances after 2021.

Admission of new Churches in the Community

After consideration of the report of the delegation who visited the Evangelical Lutheran Church of The Gambia – ELCTG, the Executive Council adopted a recommendation for the 2021 General Assembly. The Council decided to recommend to the 2021 General Assembly to welcome the ELCTG in the Cevaa Community as: Associate Member Church.

Specific arrangements related to the position of General Secretary

The Executive Council, in a closed session, unanimously decided to postpone by one year the procedure for the appointment of the Cevaa General Secretary, following the prior decision to postpone the General Assembly by one year, due to the Covid-19 health situation. This implies, on the one hand, that the election of the future General Secretary will take place during the General Assembly of October 2021, for an entry into office of the elected person on 01/09/2022, and, on the other hand, that the current General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Célestin Gb. Kiki, agreed, at the request of the Council, to extend his mandate exceptionally until 31/08/2022.

The Executive Council expressed its great gratitude to Rev. Kiki for accepting this extension by one year of his mandate.

Life of the General Secretariat in Montpellier

The Executive Council approved the possibility given to the Cevaa Secretariat to implement teleworking. Following the resignation for retirement of the Statutory Auditor, the Executive Council appointed a new Statutory Auditor, and his alternate.

Messages and acknowledgements

The Executive Council sent a message of support to the member Church in Ivory Coast, the EMU-CI, caught up in the Ivorian socio-political turmoil, as well as a message of comfort to Pastor Jean Raymond Stauffacher, President of UNEPREF, hospitalized in Montpellier during the Council session.

The President closed the session by thanking the Council members, as well as the invited guests, for their availability, and the Secretariat team for the organization, which allowed an effective Council session. She apologized for possible inconveniences caused by a remote meeting and by connection issues.

27/10/2020

The Secretariat