

**World Council of Churches
Commission on Ecumenical
Education and Formation**

As amended by the Executive Committee in June 2015

**By-Laws
Commission on Education and Ecumenical Formation**

1. Purpose

The Commission on Ecumenical Education and Formation (the Commission) is advisory to the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches through the Programme Committee

2. Aims and Functions

2.1 Ecumenical Education and Formation represents a significant historical strand of the ecumenical movement. Article III of the WCC constitution states as task of the WCC: "In seeking koinonia in faith and life, witness and service, the churches through the Council will nurture the growth of an ecumenical consciousness through processes of education and a vision of life in community rooted in each particular cultural context". Ecumenical education and formation are at the heart of the concerns of churches, congregations, councils, ecumenical organizations, movements and individuals and enable them to participate in the ecumenical vocation and imperative.

2.2 The Commission shall, therefore, in collaboration with member churches, other churches, ecumenical partners, academic institutions, and networks

2.2.1 foster the understanding and practice of ecumenical learning;

2.2.2 support the churches' ministry of ecumenical education and formation within the Christian community and the world;

2.2.3 promote ecumenical theological education and ministerial formation, helping churches and their congregations to be inclusive learning communities;

2.2.4 form ecumenical leaders, both clergy and lay, for service in parishes, classrooms and ecumenical centres around the world through the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey;

2.2.6 reflect on and respond to emerging educational needs and developments.

2.3 The Commission shall accompany and support the work of staff associated with the Ecumenical Education and Formation programme.

2.4 Within the framework of the policies set by the Central Committee and with its approval, the Commission shall help initiate and carry out appropriate activities for the furtherance of these aims.

3. Membership, Leadership and Staff of the Commission

3.1 The Commission shall be composed of no more than 30 members appointed by the Central Committee. They shall be elected after each Assembly and shall hold office until the following Assembly.

- 3.2 The Leadership of the Commission shall be the Moderator and a Vice-Moderator, who shall be elected by the Central Committee.
- 3.3 As well as being broadly representative of the membership of the Council in respect of region, culture and confession, members should be appointed for their relevant experience and knowledge of ecumenical education and formation.
- 3.4 The Roman Catholic Church and representatives of ecumenical partners and networks associated with ecumenical education and formation shall be invited to send advisors to the meetings of the Commission. Such advisors shall be entitled to full participation in the work of the Commission except that they shall not be entitled to participate in decision-making as defined in the Rules of the World Council of Churches.
- 3.5 The Commission shall normally meet every two years.
- 3.6 The staff of the Commission shall be the members of the Programme on Ecumenical Education and Formation as assigned by the General Secretary. Staff shall report to the Commission but are accountable to the General Secretary on behalf of the Executive and Central Committees.

4. Finance

- 4.1 The budget for the activities of the Commission shall be included in the programme as part of the unified budget of the Council.
- 4.2 Within the overall budget and policies agreed by the Central Committee or the Executive Committee, the Commission will support the staff in developing and monitoring the funding and costs of activities and projects.
- 4.3 The Commission shall assist in developing financial resources for the work of ecumenical education and ecumenical formation.

5. Meetings

- 5.1 The time and location of the meeting shall be determined by the Leadership and shall normally be set not less than twelve months before the meeting.
- 5.2.1 In consultation with his or her nominating body a member of the commission may name a person to represent him or her at any meeting at which the member is unable to be present.
- 5.3 Persons having special competence on major matters under discussion may be invited by the Leadership to attend a meeting of the Commission in the role of adviser, having the right to speak but not to participate in decision-making as defined in the Rules of the World Council of Churches.
- 5.4 A quorum for the conduct of any business by the commission shall be one-half of its membership.

6. Amendments to the By-Laws

These by-laws may be amended by the Central Committee in consultation with or on the recommendation of the Commission.