

Resolution regarding application for membership in the Conference of European Churches

CC2017 – Resolution xx

Resolved: That this Convention of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe affirms the application for membership by the Convocation in Conference of European Churches, and be it further

Resolved: That this Convention affirms its agreement with the basis of the Conference of European Churches which states as follows (in the CEC Constitution Preamble):

The Conference of European Churches (hereafter referred to as the ‘Conference’) is an ecumenical fellowship of Churches in Europe which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and therefore seek to fulfil their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Member Churches of the Conference (hereafter referred to as the ‘Members’) seek, by the grace of the Triune God, to pursue together the path of growing conciliar understanding on which they have set out. In faithfulness to the Gospel, as witnessed in the Holy Scripture and transmitted in and through the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit, they seek to continue to grow in a fellowship of faith, hope and love. Faithful to this Gospel, they also seek to make a common contribution to the mission of the Church, to the safeguarding of life and the well-being of all humankind.

and be it further

Resolved: That this Convention authorizes the Bishop and the Bishop’s staff to proceed with said application for membership, in consultation with the Council of Advice.

Explanation:

The Conference of European Churches (CEC) is the largest Europe-wide ecumenical body, embracing most Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, and Free Churches in Europe. It is based in Brussels and has an office in Strasbourg. It is the European equivalent to the National Council of Churches in the United States, and the World Council of Churches.

The Convocation, as the European presence of the Episcopal Church, is part of several national councils of churches in various countries of Europe, most notably the ACK (*Arbeitskreis Christlicher Kirchen*) in Germany. Bishop Whalon is also a signatory of the *Charta Oecumenica*, a foundational document of the CEC.

Membership in CEC will give the Episcopal Church a place at the table and a stronger in ecumenical affairs in Europe, as well as working with other churches for the spread of the Gospel in Europe.