

CEUC annual report 2018

The report covers the period 1/6 2017 – 30/5 2018

The Board

The Board has consisted of the following members:

Anette Brandt, Sweden – Chair

David Hutchison, the UK – Vice Chair

Janning Hoenen, Germany – Secretary

Risto Korhonen, Finland – Treasurer

Günther Sturms, the Netherlands – Member

Inge Hoyland, Norway – Member

Beata Gombkoto, Hungary – Member

Board meetings and work

The Board has had 7 Skype meetings and met in person in Dublin for 2 days. For each Skype meeting between 1 – 1.5 hour has been set aside. For some of the meetings Scott Evans, Dublin, has joined us in the beginning to give updates and discuss the 2018 CEUC conference.

22-24 November the Board met in Dublin, Ireland, where the 2018 CEUC conference is to be held. The meeting was hosted by Scott Evans. We were shown the main locations where the conference will take place, University College of Dublin (UCD), Glendalough with its pilgrimage center and the Monastic city, where one day of the conference will be spent and also Trinity College, where we took part in the evensong. The Board was also invited to an evening event with students at the UCD.

During the days in Dublin we had several separate meetings with the CEUC Board alone. Since January we've been working in small teams on different subjects, preparing discussion papers and suggestions for the rest of the Board:

- **Economy:** See separate headline below
- **Interfaith:** The short consultative workshop we held at the General Assembly in Aberdeen resulted in many thoughts and ideas on the question whether CEUC should become an interfaith organization. All the post-it notes were collected and gathered in a document. They showed a wide variety of opinions and raised many questions but also hesitations. The Board has had many discussions and has come to the conclusion that more work needs to be done before deciding if we should go forward with a suggestion to make this change. One suggestion is to assign a special group to

investigate the actual situations and needs in our different chaplaincies and denominations, but also to look at interfaith and chaplaincy theologically. The Board strongly underlines that, although we are a Christian organization, more changes should be made to further welcome colleagues of other faiths and make it possible for chaplains of all faiths to participate in our conferences. Those changes could include prayer facilities, interfaith worship services and workshops that would also attract non-Christian chaplains.

- **Constitution:** The input from the General Assembly concerning the constitution was very clear: it is in urgent need of changes. The current system with Europe divided into regions needs to be abolished. We have worked according to the suggestions and will present several amendments to the assembly in Dublin.
- **GDPR:** The new General Data Protection Regulation that became legislative law 25/5 2018 has required some work. The law requires from all organizations that collect and keep data from EU-citizens to produce a GDPR policy and get consent from each person. The CEUC secretary has sent out a GDPR notice with information to all CEUC members and every person that's on the email-list, asking for an active response. People that don't answer the email will be deleted from our data system.

CEUC conference in Aberdeen, Scotland 5-9 June, 2017

Rock and Oil, the CEUC conference hosted by Aberdeen University and its chaplaincy team attracted 70 delegates, mainly from Europe but also from overseas. The Granite City did perhaps not glitter in the sunshine this particular week, but nevertheless offered a sparkling conference from beginning to end. Dr. Kristine Aune, speaking specifically about the challenges of campus ministry with findings from recent studies, Dr. Liam Waldron on loneliness on campus and Adrian & Bridget Plass sharing personal life and faith experiences were among the keynote speakers. We visited Robert Gordon University, shared thoughts within smaller reflection groups and took part in thought-provoking workshops. The conference dinner was held at the Town House where we all learned the skills of Ceilidh dancing!

Economy

Since November 2014 CEUC uses the account of the National Association of University Chaplains in Finland (FNAC), where we have a separate account, controlled by their treasurer Salla Havukainen, whom the Board has appointed to assist the CEUC treasurer. Salla Havukainen and Risto Korhonen work closely together. The CEUC branch is fully controlled by our treasurer. It's turned out more complicated than we first believed to open an account of our own in Finland. To do this our organization needs to be Finnish and all documents must be translated into Finnish by an authorized translator. The Board's suggestion is therefore to keep the current solution, but formalize it with a written agreement between FNAC and CEUC.

Facebook

The CEUC Facebook group has 240 members (30 May 2018). It's a place for sharing information about our conferences but also about events and concerns at our local chaplaincies. The Facebook group is an easy way for its members to keep in touch in between the conferences, but could still be used more frequently by its members.

IACHE

IACHE - or in full, the 'International Association for Chaplains in Higher Education' - has been working hard in their monthly meetings to facilitate the IACHE 2020 conference. A local planning group together with a pan-European strategy group are in full swing to organise the conference at Sheffield in June 2020. Sheffield University is on board. They have accommodation available and rooms. A website will come online in July 2018. The pan-European strategy group is multi-faith (Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Bahai). Representation in the IACHE board is ensured from all constituent bodies. Günther Sturms, Cassandra Howes and Christine Schardt represent CEUC in the IACHE executive committee. Skype meetings are held regularly throughout the year.

To be continued

Writing this annual report we're only a few days away from the conference in Dublin where many of us will meet as colleagues, some for the first time and others for who knows what time! Networking will be done. We will share experiences, ideas, joys and worries. Pray together. Discuss and learn new things. Friend requests will be sent on Facebook. In a few years' time we might have forgotten who this person is I befriended, because I've never seen them again! But others we will remember and keep in touch with, perhaps for a lifetime.

The Board suggests that we abandon the system of the regions in our constitution. There's also something very symbolic in abandoning structures that divide us, to tear down walls that separate one from another. As chaplains we often walk ahead of our denominations, outside the square structures that sometimes are anxious and want to hold us back. Instead, the skills of chaplaincy should be seen as gift also to our churches and other faith denominations. Chaplaincy is about walking into unknown territories, finding paths through the wilderness and share in people's lives, where they are lived. Universities are places where young people go to change, first themselves and then the world. To be a part of that is pure grace!

Uppsala 31 May 2018, on behalf of the CEUC Board

Anette Brandt, Chair