

**ECPCC
CONSTITUTION**

**European Council for
Pastoral Care and Counselling
ECPCC**

FINAL DRAFT

The draft text of the Constitution was prepared by Helmut Weiss (Germany) and Tor Johan Grevbo (Norway) and presented to a meeting of the Steering Committee at Prague in 1998 and subsequently to the General Assembly at Janské Lázně (Czech Republic) in 2001.

That text was examined by the Steering Committee at Uppsala, Sweden in 2002. It was revised and amended by Pádraig Coleman at the request of the Steering Committee. A full and extended discussion of the revised text took place at a meeting of the Council in Uppsala in May 2003 and in the light of that discussion the text was clarified and necessary amendments made..

At a meeting of the Steering Committee in Uppsala in May 2004 the amended text was discussed and some minor corrections made.

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June 2005

European Council for Pastoral Care and Counselling

CONSTITUTION

Name

Article 1 The European Council for Pastoral Care and Counselling.

Aim

Article 2 The purpose of the Council is to further learning and dialogue in the field of pastoral care and counselling in Europe.

Identity

Article 3 By pastoral care and counselling is meant care which is rooted in the Christian and Jewish traditions and their faith communities and is inspired and informed by the critical dialogue with the human and social sciences.

Article 4 The Council encourages the free exchange of views and beliefs by all its members and intends not to discriminate against any person because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

Functions of the Council

Article 5 (i) The Council shall facilitate a network in Europe by providing information and exchange in the field of pastoral care and counselling.

(ii) The Council shall organise a Conference every four years to which Organisations and individuals who have an active involvement in the practice, teaching or supervising of pastoral care and counselling are invited.

The Council: Members and Executive Committee

Article 6 Representatives of national organisations (one per country) or individuals representing countries in Europe where national organisations of pastoral care and counselling do not exist, constitute the Council and are named members of the Council.

Article 7 (i) The Council shall have an Executive Committee composed of a President, Vice President and Secretary. It shall have responsibility for implementing the functions of the Council cf. Articles 5 (i) (ii).

(ii) Nominees for these offices shall have had experience of previous Conferences of ECPCC.

Article 8 The members shall agree upon the permanent address of the Council to which information is sent and from where it is disseminated and where the archives are to be kept.

Article 9 The Council can decide to hold other meetings either for the whole Council or for part of it.

Article 10 The Council can decide to establish sub-committees to deal with specific issues.

Meetings of the Council

Article 11 Three meetings of the Council shall be held during the quadrennium.

- (i) The first meeting of the Council shall take place prior to or during the Conference. cf. Article 13.
- (ii) The second meeting of the Council shall take place at the end of the Conference. cf. Article 14.
- (iii) The third meeting of the Council shall take place two years before the Conference. cf. Article 19.

Article 12 Meetings of the Council shall be chaired by the President or in her/his absence by the Vice President.

First Meeting of the Council

Article 13 The meeting shall

- (i) receive a Report from the President on the activities of the Council
- (ii) be given a statement of the accounts of the Council and of the Conference
- (iii) discuss the current situation on pastoral care and counselling in Europe
- (iv) discuss and decide upon matters relating to the Council and its activities
- (v) discuss and decide upon other relevant matters proposed by members of the Council
- (vi) discuss and decide upon amendments to the Constitution

Second Meeting of the Council

Article 14 The Second Meeting of the Council shall be convened by the outgoing President and shall be attended by the Steering Committee and the newly nominated members of the Council.

Article 15 The Council shall agree upon the location of the next Conference.

Article 16 the President shall

- (i) welcome the new national representatives who shall have been nominated prior to the meeting by their national organisations where they exist and
- (ii) preside over the nomination and election of the President, Vice President and Secretary.

Article 17 When the election process has been completed the members of the old Council retire from the meeting unless they have been nominated as national representatives. The incoming President chairs the meeting of the new Council.

Article 18 The new Council shall appoint the Steering Committee for the next Conference bearing in mind the diversity of geographical, cultural and religious backgrounds and gender. cf. Articles 20–24, 26.

Third Meeting of the Council

Article 19 The Third Meeting of the Council shall be held two years before the Conference is to take place

- (i) to decide on the theme of the Conference, structure and goal, the main lectures, workshops and worship services and all that pertains to the organisation of the Conference.
- (ii) to attend to other matters relevant to ECPCC.

The Steering Committee

Article 20 (i) The Steering Committee shall include the President, Vice President and Secretary (normally from the country where the Conference is to be held) and at least three other members.

(ii) The Steering Committee may co-opt two other members if it is deemed necessary

(iii) to ensure continuity and because of their knowledge of the organisation and procedure of the Conference, at least two members of the outgoing Steering Committee shall be re-appointed to the new Committee.

Article 21 The members of the Steering Committee serve for a term of four years but may be re-appointed for another term.

Article 22 The President calls and chairs the meetings of the Committee.

Article 23 The Steering Committee shall meet once a year or whenever it is deemed necessary for the proper functioning of preparations for the Conference and for other matters entrusted to it.

- Article 24 The Steering Committee shall
- (i) review its progress in promoting contacts and exchange with national and international organisations.
 - (ii) endeavour to raise funds to further the aims of the ECPCC.
 - (iii) support projects according to guidelines agreed by the Council.

Organisation of the Conference

- Article 25 The Secretary of the Steering Committee shall set up a Local Working Group to manage the organisation of the Conference.
- Article 26 The Steering Committee liaises with the Local Working Group in the organisation of the Conference.
- Article 27 Keeping in mind the ecumenical nature of the European Council for Pastoral Care and Counselling, the Steering Committee, together with the Local Working Group shall endeavour to involve representatives from the different Churches and where possible from the Jewish faith, in the activities of the Conference.
- Article 28 Participants in the Conference shall be invited from the following categories: hospital chaplains, family counsellors, psychotherapists, CPE Supervisors, professors of pastoral care, parish pastors and those involved in crisis line ministries etc.
- Article 29 The official language of the Conference is English; a second language may be elected according to the location of the Conference.
- Article 30 The Steering Committee shall be responsible for the funds allocated by the Council for the Conference.
- Article 31 A special fund shall be set aside to aid with expenses incurred by the members of the Steering Committee.
- Article 32 A General Assembly shall be held during the Conference to which all participants are invited.

The purpose of this Assembly is to inform the participants of the identity of the European Council for Pastoral Care and Counselling and to invite them to contribute to its future.

Amendments to the Constitution

Article 33 Any article of the Constitution may be changed having been proposed and seconded by a member of the Council with the agreement of a two-third majority of those present at the meeting.

Article 34 New articles and amendments may be added to the Constitution if not already covered by previous articles with the proviso that they be submitted in writing at least one month prior to the meeting of the Council cf. Article 13, vi. The proposed article requires the agreement of a two-third majority of members present. In the event of a tie, the President shall have a casting vote.

Adapted in Sigtuna, Sweden, August 19, 2005