



The Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference

Bishop Eduard Khegay and Bishop Christian Alsted

Moscow and Copenhagen, Easter 2014

Pastoral letter to

The Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Phil.1:2)

In a time of turmoil and unrest in Ukraine and other European countries we write to You, the people called Methodists in the Nordic & Baltic and the Eurasia area to encourage You to continually devote yourselves to Christ in prayer for peace and understanding among the peoples of this world.

Many things divide the earth's population - nationality, culture, language, economy, ethnicity, gender and age, however the kingdom of God has always been a realm that despite of all gathers people together in mutual love in Christian community.

While the political winds are shifting, the church is called to be a fellowship not of this world and yet sent into this world to reflect the self-sacrificing life of Christ. (John 17: 16, 18) This is by no means an easy task, and we continue to be challenged by the ever changing circumstances under which we live, as we seek to interpret and live out what the church should be, a redeemed and redeeming community.

As United Methodists in the Northern Europe and Eurasia Central Conference we are bound together in a covenant to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Our mission is along with other Christians to be part of Christ's redeeming and transforming work in people's lives, in the society and in world, rather than only to be successful and recognized. To "spread scriptural holiness" is to grow together and as Christ followers intentionally influence the society "to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God". (Micah 6:8)

Jesus said to his followers: "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives." (John 14:27) Trusting in this promise we ask our churches to unite in prayer...

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is error, truth;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.*





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*O Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek
To be comforted as to comfort;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in forgiving that we are forgiven;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

May we as the United Methodist Church be such an instrument of peace always reflecting the love of Christ.

Christ is risen; He is risen indeed.

Eduard Khegay

Bishop of the Eurasia area

Christian Alsted

Bishop of the Nordic and Baltic area

