



Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity



Gemeinschaft Evangelischer Kirchen in Europa (GEKE)
Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE)
Communión d'Eglises Protestantes en Europe (CEPE)

Declaration of Intent to Commence Joint Dialogue

Basle is a place where people have historically met to shape the future and to wrestle with the mission and essence of the Church, such as at the Council of Basle almost six hundred years ago or the First European Ecumenical Assembly in 1989.

The 8th General Assembly of the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE) is currently taking place in Basle Cathedral. The CPCE exists as a church communion between the different confessions of the Protestant Churches based on church unity in reconciled diversity. It considers itself a communion in terms of worship, faith, doctrine, growing shape and form, and witness and service. The CPCE thus perceives the churches linked together under its name as constituting Church together.

On behalf of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Church Unity and the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe, a discussion group led by Bishop Dr Karl-Heinz Wiesemann and Church President Christian Schad explored the scope for fruitful dialogue on issues regarding the Church and church communion between the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Churches united in the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe.

The "Report on the Church and Church Communion" presented by the discussion group encourages the parties to commence dialogue.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe herewith declare their intention to commence formal dialogue on their understanding of Church and church communion.

Basle, 16 September 2018

Kurt Cardinal Koch

Pontifical Council
for Promoting Christian Unity

Gottfried Locher

Community of
Protestant Churches in Europe