

Press Release

Recommendation of the Presidium of the General Convent of the Hungarian Reformed Church to Withdraw the Delegation to the 9th General Assembly of the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe

The Presidium of the General Convent of the Hungarian Reformed Church (HRC), at its meeting on 17 July 2024, discussed the issue related to the participation of its member churches in the 9th General Assembly of the Communion of Protestant Churches in Europe (CPCE).

The Presidium of the General Convent of the HRC unanimously recommended that the delegates of the part (i.e. member) churches of the HRC should not participate in the forthcoming General Assembly of the CPCE, to be held in Sibiu (Nagyszeben) from 27 August to 2 September 2024, nor in its accompanying events.

The study text on *Gender - Sexuality - Marriage - Family* is part of the agenda of the General Assembly, finalised in May. Several requests have been made to the leadership of CPCE by the co-hosting Transylvanian Reformed Church District and the Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District Transylvanian Reformed Church District and the Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District to discuss this paper at another General Assembly, rather than in Sibiu (Nagyszeben).

All churches recognized by the Romanian state share the biblical, confessional position of the Hungarian-speaking Reformed churches. We note with regret that this request has not been granted.

Since 2004, the General Convent has been working in fraternal love and joint commitment in Christ on the unity of the relevant church bodies in the Carpathian Basin, in supporting each other and in nurturing solidarity with each other. For this reason, we have discussed the issue of participation in the General Assembly at length and on several occasions. In conclusion, the leadership of the Transylvanian Reformed Church District and Királyhágómellék Reformed Church District, also members of the Presidium General Convent, regret that the CPCE leadership did not understand their request as co-hosting church districts. Therefore, as adopted in the resolutions of their respective Assemblies, they will not be able to participate in the General Assembly. To express our solidarity with them, we ask the Hungarian Reformed delegates from our churches in the Carpathian Basin not to participate in this event.

The Leuenberg Fellowship and cooperation is important for the member churches of the Hungarian Reformed Church, and our ecumenical commitment has not changed.

Our absence concerns the 9th CPCE General Assembly only, and we remain committed to participating constructively in the cooperation and the working groups of CPCE. Thus, the Transylvanian Reformed Church District will make the necessary infrastructure available to CPCE on the basis of prior arrangements.

Presidium of the General Convent

Budapest, 17 July 2024.

The Presidium of the General Convent consists of the leadership [bishops and lay presidents] of the Hungarian-speaking Reformed churches/church districts in Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Ukraine.