



### CCME holds its written assembly, 16 October 2020

The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME) on 16<sup>th</sup> October held its written general assembly. Due to the COVID pandemic the assembly was held in a written format, with CCME member having cast their votes in advance.

The Christian Council of Norway and the Armenian Roundtable Foundation were accepted into the membership of CCME. The assembly also approved the budget for 2021 and prolonged the existing CCME work programme 2017-20 until 2021. It is the intention to meet face to face in 2021 to decide on a multi-annual work programme and new statutes/constitution – both debates which are better held interactively.

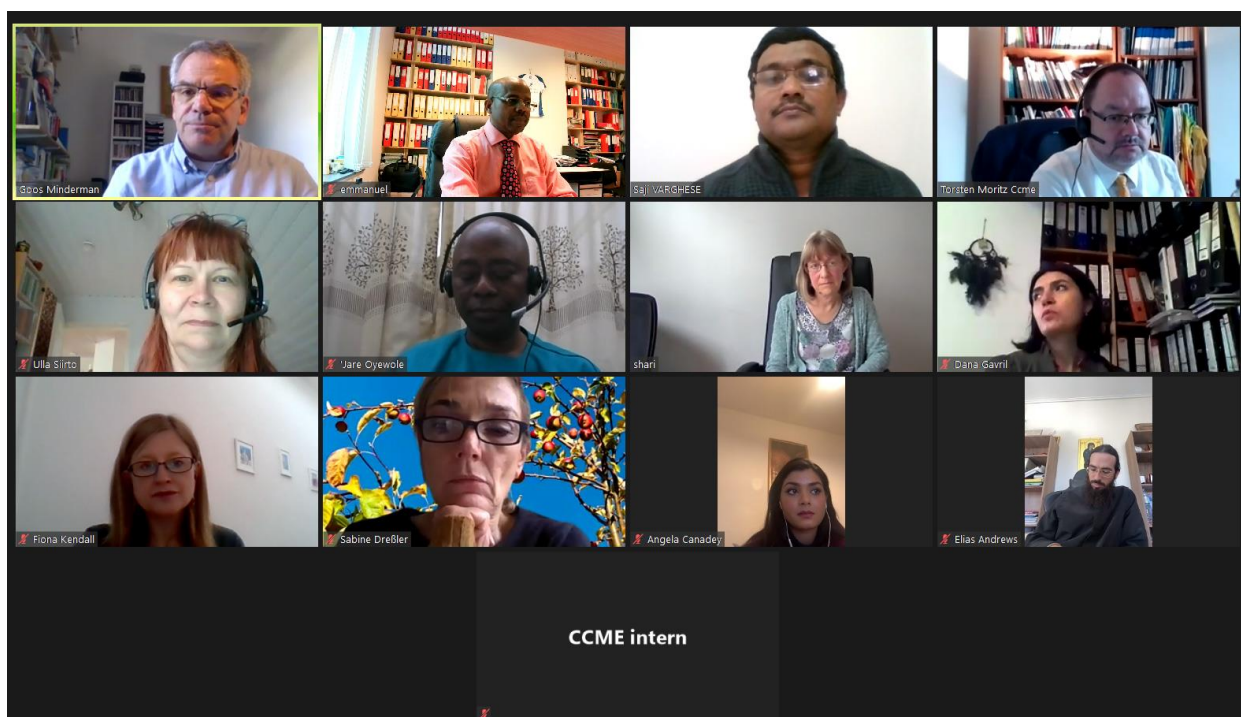
Having discharged the old ExCom (board) and adopted its report on activities and finances since 2017, the assembly also elected a new ExCom for the period 2020-23. Prof. Dr. Goos Minderman, nominated by the Dutch Council of Churches was elected Moderator (chairperson) The Most Senior Apostle Adejare Oyewole, Unification Council of Cherubim and Seraphim Churches and supported by the CCME in the UK was elected as Treasurer. The assembly elected the Very Reverend Archimandrite Fr. Iakovos Andriopoulos (Church of Greece), OKRin Sabine Dreßler (EKD Germany), Ms Dana Gavril (AIDRom – Ecumenical association of churches in Romania), Ms Fiona Kendall (Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy) and Deacon Ulla Siirto (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, supported by the Nordic CCME members) as ExCom members. Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani

and Rev Dr Seforosa will continue to represent respectively CEC and WCC on the ExCom.

Ms Angela Canadey (Reformed Church in Hungary) and Mr Saji Varghese ( Indian – Malankara – Orthodox Church in Ireland) were elected as substitute members.

At the first virtual meeting of the new ExCom, Ms Dana Gavril and Ms Fiona Kendall were appointed as Vice-Moderators of the ExCom.

Commenting on his election the new CCME moderator Goos Minderman said: “I am really honoured to be elected as the new moderator of CCME, the Churches Commission for Migrants in Europe. Strengthening the voice of so many churches on migrants, refugees and anti-racism is a huge responsibility for which I will give all the time I can during the coming years. I am looking forward to work with the new Executive Committee, the office in Brussels, CEC, WCC and the many people in the churches that take care of migrants every day. We will focus on safe passage, family rights, changing the narrative of migration, the daily battle against racism and many other issues. I feel very blessed to be elected to contribute in this role”.



*First meeting of the new CCME Executive Committee & staff, 16 October 2020*