

EESTI EVANGEELSE LUTERLIKU KIRIKU PEAPIISKOP
Archiepiscopus Ecclesiae Evangelicae Lutheranae Estonicae



Chairman Rev. Yngve Kalin
Halsjövägen 32
S-511 68 Hyssa
SWEDEN

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Kyrkling Samling kring Bibeln och bekännelsen

Dear Rev. Yngve Kalin and rev. Dr. Bengt Holmberg,

First of all I would like to thank both you for your recent letter. It is heartwarming and good to know that there is still a substantial number of members and clergy in the Church of Sweden who have remained true to the common understanding of human sexuality and wedlock based on the teachings of Holy Scripture.

Of course, there is no comparison between the present situation of the Church of Sweden and the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Your ties with the General Assembly and your parliament are obviously very close and decision making and the legislative process are incomparable between the present situation of the General Synod of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church and the General Assembly of the Church of Sweden.

We all know that our Churches are more than their administrative structure. There should, therefore, be no impediments to continue fellowship between clergy whose values and understanding of the Holy Scripture and its teachings are similar to ours.

The Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church does express its deepest concern about modern tendencies that cause divisions in and among churches, but we also understand that every church is independent in its decisions, as is the Church of Sweden.

It is our wish to keep open the friendly connection and communication between our two countries and our churches, based on our centuries-long close church history and sister congregations where close friendships have developed over the years.

These ministers as mentioned earlier, with similar values to the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church are very welcome to preach the Word and celebrate the sacraments with our congregations.

We are sure that our understandings based upon the foundation of the Holy Scripture reflects timeless truths and values. In this time of perplexity we pray for you and hope that we grow more and more into the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessings in your mission and into your service of people and the Church!

Andres Pöder