

Authority in the Church

Catholic, Lutheran and Orthodox perspectives



Pictures: Wikipedia

**Catholic-Lutheran, Catholic-Orthodox and Lutheran-Orthodox
theological Tuesday encounters in the Spring 2015**

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ἵνα πάντες ἐν ὧσιν - Ut unum sint - Että he olisivat yhtä

As the starting point for this series of three seminars serves the Faith and Order convergence document **The Church: Towards a Common Vision**. The document raises up the ecclesio-logically relevant convergence, which has already been achieved in various multilateral and bilateral theological dialogues. One of the still remaining questions, which still needs further elaboration is the question of "Authority" in the Church, which has close links with the questions regarding normative teaching, oversight and the universal ministry of unity. Through this series of reflective encounters we aim to give space for open discussion in order to give impulses for the official ecumenical work between the churches and the inner discussions within the churches.

Authority in the Church and its exercise

Significant steps towards convergence on authority and its exercise have been recorded in various bilateral dialogues. Differences continue to exist between churches, however, as to the relative weight to be accorded to the different sources of authority, as to how far and in what ways the Church has the means to arrive at a normative expression of its faith, and as to the role of ordained ministers in providing an authoritative interpretation of revelation. Yet all churches share the urgent concern that the Gospel be preached, interpreted and lived out in the world humbly, but with compelling authority. May not the seeking of ecumenical convergence on the way in which authority is recognized and exercised play a creative role in this missionary endeavour of the churches?

The Church, para. 48–51

Tuesday 20th January 14–16, the German congregation in Helsinki, Bernhardinkatu 4, the parish hall

Bishop Matti Repo, Lutheran & Prof. Fr. Antoine Levy, OP, Catholic

The ultimate source of authority in the Church - can we agree on a binding Christian teaching?
(Protopresbyter Heikki Huttunen, Orthodox moderator)

Tuesday 3rd March 14–16, ELCF Church Council, Eteläranta 8, meeting room Mikael

Professor Pekka Metso, Orthodox & Rev. Dr Tomi Karttunen, Lutheran

Primacy of honor and concrete service of Authority
(Gabriel Salmela, OP Catholic moderator):

Tuesday 5th May 14–16, ELCF Church Council, Eteläranta 8, meeting room Mikael

Bishop Teemu Sippo, Catholic & Protopresbyter Heikki Huttunen, Orthodox

The role of the universal communion among bishops (Pentarchy) in the service of Authority
(Lutheran moderator)