

# Welcome to Evangeliska Frikyrkans congress at Ryttargårdskyrkan!

In a time marked by anxiety, war, economic uncertainty and mental ill-health, we, as a movement, gather to seek ways forward for the gospel. Let us lift our eyes together, so that the power of the message of Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection may continue to transform and restore.

This year, we are meeting at Ryttargårdskyrkan – a local congregation during a rebuilding process, which has chosen to lift its gaze and look to the future. Based on what has been seen, the congregation is now building further on the foundation already laid, so that in the years to come it will be able to meet the city with the good news of Jesus Christ.

As a mission and church movement, we wish to do the same. Together, we are called to lift our eyes and look ahead, to engage in good and important discussions and make wise decisions, so that we, guided by the Spirit, may be a movement for our country and our world.

The whole gospel, for the whole person, across the whole world.

During this year's congress, we will hear about the important and interesting work that has been undertaken following previous congress decisions to delve deeper into several pressing topics: the climate crisis, national service and the use of weapons, peace, as well as marriage and views on sexuality.

For this year's congress, three motions have been submitted regarding:

- Motion on representation and the number of delegates at the congress, as well as commitments for cooperating congregations
- Motion concerning our view on marriage
- Motion to develop our faith and self-understanding

All motions call us to reflect on how we wish the Evangelical Free Church to be shaped in the future. What do we mean by cooperation – and who is included in this cooperation?

The congress will also include a farewell to our current directors, Ingemar Forss and Linalie Newman, who have led the Evangelical Free Church for eight years. We are now facing the election of a new director. The board proposes Linnea Åberg, who has extensive experience in international work and has previously served as regional director for our work in Asia. Provided Linnea is elected, the board also intends to appoint two deputy directors: Markus Sand, current leader of the Sweden Programme, and Magnus Alphonse, currently leading Ljus i Öster and with many years of international work within the Evangelical Free Church behind him.

Through this, we wish to further emphasise our sending and missional mandate.

Our time is now!

Welcome to the Evangeliska Frikyrkan Congress 2026!

/ Erik Bryshe, Chair of the board

# Program

Please note that some times are approximate.

## Friday 15 May

- 12:00 Registration opens
- 14:20 Opening gathering
- 14:20 Proceedings open – Agenda items 1–13
- 15:40 Refreshments
- 16:20 Agenda items 14–16
- 17:45 Dinner
- 19:00 Worship service
- 20:30 Refreshments, live music & quiz

## Saturday 16 May

- 9:00 Morning prayer
- 9:15 Proceedings resume – Agenda item 17
- 10:15 Refreshments
- 10:55 Agenda items 18–25
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:45 Continuation of agenda item 25
- 15:15 Refreshments
- 15:55 Continuation of agenda item 25
- 16:25 Agenda items 26–27
- 16:30 Sending service
  
- 18:00 Finish at the latest

# Proposed agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of congress officials
3. Confirmation of proper convening
4. Approval of the agenda
5. Information from the nominations committee
6. Greetings
7. Annual report
8. Presentation/recognition of new missionaries
9. Presentation/recognition of new congregations
10. Thanks to retired colleagues
11. Financial report and audit statement
12. Adoption of profit and balance sheet
  - 12.1. Evangelical Free Church
  - 12.2. Örebro Mission
  - 12.3. Holiness Union/Free Baptist Union
  - 12.4. Holiness Union Foundation
  - 12.5. Legal entity Free Baptist Union
  - 12.6. EFK YOUTH
13. Question of discharge from liability
14. Memorial service
15. Reports
16. Board's account of assignments based on motions at the 2024 Congress
17. Election of director
18. Election of chairperson of the board
19. Decision regarding number of board members
20. Election of the board for the Evangelical Free Church
21. Election/recognition of the board for the Evangelical Free Church Pension Fund
22. Election of auditors for the Evangelical Free Church, the Evangelical Free Church Pension Fund and the Evangelical Free Church Welfare Fund
23. Election of nominations committee
24. Amendments to statutes
25. Motions
  - 25.1. Motion 1
  - 25.2. Motion 2
  - 25.3. Motion 3
26. Report on the number of participants
27. Conclusion and invitation to the Representatives Meeting 2027

# Nominations committee's Proposals 2026

## Congress Officials:

Chair: Richard Hultmar, Uppsala  
First Vice Chair: Gudrun Boström, Umeå  
Second Vice Chair: Peter Björk, Hallsberg  
Minute Secretary: Helena Sydvar, Ljungsbro  
Minute Secretary: Josefine Andin, Ljungsbro  
Minute Verifier: Marit Tholvsen, Falun  
Minute Verifier: Göran Strömberg, Köping  
Election Officer: Lovisa Bernberg, Vaggeryd  
Election Officer: David Syrenqvist, Uppsala  
Election Officer: Marit Tholvsen, Falun  
Election Officer: Göran Strömberg, Köping

## Chair of the Board

Erik Bryskhe, Holmsund, is elected until Congress 2026.

### **The Nominations Committee proposes re-election of the following person for a term until 2028:**

Erik Bryskhe, Holmsund

## Evangelical Free Church Board

### **The following persons have been elected until Congress 2026:** (in addition to the Chair)

Erik Alnemo, Stora Mellösa  
Mine Lon, Nässjö  
Eva-Carin Banka Johnson, Åhus  
Irma Janzon, Stora Mellösa  
Per-Inge Andersson, Malmö

### **The following have declined re-election:**

Erik Alnemo, Stora Mellösa  
Eva-Carin Banka Johnson, Åhus  
Irma Janzon, Stora Mellösa  
Per-Inge Andersson, Malmö

### **The following persons are elected until Congress 2028:**

Stefan Östman, Mariestad  
Leif Ekström, Fjugesta  
Hanna Roberthson, Linköping  
Peter Nordlander, Linköping  
David Axelsson, Kumla  
Josefin Fällsten, Örebro  
Elisabet Svahn, Rimforsa

### **The Nominations Committee proposes re-election of the following person for a term until 2028:**

Mine Lon, Nässjö

### **The Nominations Committee proposes the following persons for new election for a term until 2030:**

Elisabet Mörnerud, Malmö  
Henrik Forzelius, Stockholm  
Robin Minshull, Jönköping

The Missions Director is a member of the board according to the statutes. If more than one Missions Director has been elected, these shall be included on the board but together have only one vote.

## Board for the Pension Foundation

The Congress is to appoint an employer representative to the Pension Foundation's board.

### Current employer representatives:

Ingemar Hansson, Billdal (regular 2023-2026)  
Bengt Elmvret, Huskvarna (regular 2024-2027)  
Ingvar Andersson, Gothenburg (regular 2025-2028)  
Lars-Erik Stendahl, Gånghester (substitute 2024-2027)

**The Nominations Committee proposes re-election of the following person for a term until 2027** (usually elected for three years) :

Ingemar Hansson, Billdal (regular 2026-2027)

### Current employee representatives:

Anders Kammensjö, Hisings Backa (regular 2023-2026)  
Jörgen Lundberg, Örebro (regular 2024-2027)  
Torbjörn Alesand, Tystberga (regular 2025-2028)  
Ingrid Erenmalm, Örebro (substitute 2024-2027)

**For notation in the minutes, the following elections have been made on the employee side:**

**Re-election:** Anders Kammensjö, Hisings Backa (regular 2026-2029)

## Auditors for the Evangelical Free Church, Evangelical Free Church Pension Foundation and Evangelical Free Church Welfare Foundation

**The Nominations Committee proposes the following elections with term until 2027:**

Regular:

**Re-election of:** Anders Båsjö, Örebro (authorised)

**Re-election of:** Conny Harrysson, Örebro

**New election of :** Johanna Berbres, Falun

Substitutes:

**Re-election of :** Andreas Claesson, Örebro (authorised)

**New election of:** Claes Sunesson, Örebro (transfers from regular to substitute)

## Nominations Committee

**The following persons are elected for a term until Congress 2026:**

Cecilia Lindé, Falun  
Sven-Åke Collin, Örebro  
Emil Jonzon, Mariannelund

**The following persons are elected for a term until**

**Congress 2028:**

Joanna Simonsson, Borås

Samuel Åsberg, Örebro  
Rune Jonsson, Örebro

**The Nominations Committee proposes new election of the following persons until 2030:**

Petra Helleday, Umeå

Martin Tebus, Stockholm

Emil Jonzon, Mariannelund (1 år)

# Rules for dialogue and decision making during the EFK congress 2026

## Who is entitled to speak and participate in decisions?

All members collaborating within EFK are warmly welcomed to the congress! Here we gather to collectively shape our movement. Everyone is entitled to speak at the congress, regardless of whether they are a delegate or not. However, only the delegates are permitted to vote when decisions are made.

## Requesting the Floor

If you wish to speak during proceedings, you request the floor by approaching and sitting in the front bench, which serves as the speakers' list. You may request the floor to express an opinion, ask a question, contribute knowledge, give a reply, raise a point of order, or submit a proposal (motion). If you put forward a motion, you must submit it in writing to the presidium. Motion slips are included in your conference folder or plastic wallet.

## Speeches and Timing

When it is your turn to speak, begin by stating your name and the congregation to which you belong. Each speech may last a **maximum of three minutes**, unless the chair announces otherwise. This is to ensure that as many participants as possible have the opportunity to speak.

## How is a Vote Conducted?

When a debate or discussion concludes, there may be one or several proposals (motions) to consider. The presidium decides the order in which these are presented. Votes are, in most cases, determined by a simple majority. This means a proposal is adopted if more than half of the delegates voting are in favour.

Usually, votes are conducted openly. As a delegate, you respond 'yes' to the proposal you support. If you disagree, you remain silent, and instead respond 'yes' when the chair asks, "Anyone opposed?"

If the outcome of a vote is unclear, you may request a division (counted vote). It is important to do so before the chair brings down the gavel. During a division, the vote is repeated, and delegates indicate their support for a proposal by raising their green voting card.

In some cases, decisions are made through a secret ballot. For a secret ballot, you use your white voting card. There is one card for 'yes' and another for 'no'. You select the card that corresponds to your vote.

Should there be a situation where it is necessary to choose between several different options during a vote, we will use the digital tool Mentimeter.

You will need your own mobile phone, computer, or tablet to vote. Each delegate has a slip in their conference folder containing codes for Mentimeter. Further instructions will be provided at the time of voting.

You are warmly invited to participate in the proceedings!

# Election of Director 2026

*The Board submits the following documentation with proposed decisions.*

The EFK Board proposes that Linnea Åberg be appointed as the new Director. In addition, the Board intends to appoint two Deputy Directors: Markus Sand with particular responsibility for mission work in Sweden, and Magnus Alphonse with particular responsibility for the movement's international mission.

The Congress is now to consider the Board's proposal to elect Linnea Åberg as Director.

In connection with this decision, the Board has also prepared a program statement specifying the direction in which it intends to lead the movement together with the new leadership.

## Background

Over a year ago, work began to recruit a new Director(s) after Linalie Newman and Ingemar Forss announced that they would not be available for another term of office. During spring 2025, the Board consulted various parts of the movement regarding how EFK should best be led going forward. Throughout the recruitment process, the Board held ongoing discussions with pastors in the congregations, staff in the EFK organization, and several related organizations, such as the Academy for Leadership and Theology. The Board established the following competence profile for the post of Director:

- A calling to the role and love for Jesus and his church
- Proven ability as a manager to lead through other leaders
- A good understanding of EFK as an organization, church movement, and mission movement
- A good understanding of international mission and aid based on Christian values
- Extensive experience of working with leadership and theology in a congregational environment
- A perspective on theology and mission in accordance with EFKs foundational documents.
- Ability for strategic, visionary, courageous, sustainable, and unifying leadership
- Strong communication skills
- Good references

The Board also decided that it would be advantageous to have:

- Theological education
- Experience of international missionary service
- Experience of pastoral ministry
- Experience of financial management and follow-up
- Multilingual

In May, the Board invited congregations and individual members within the movement to nominate candidates. Erik Bryskhe (Chair), Erik Alnemo (Vice Chair), Peter Nordlander, Elisabeth Svahn and Josefin Fällsten were appointed as the recruitment group.

During the Torp Conference, it was possible to meet the recruitment group to discuss the Director election. The nomination period ended on 31 August 2025. In total, 33 individuals were nominated. Some congregations and church leadership teams submitted nominations, but most suggestions came from individual church members. In September, the recruitment group carried out selection and processing together with a reference group. The group reported back to the Board in September. After further discussion at the Board meeting on 10–11 October, seven of the nominated individuals were contacted, and initial interviews were held with the five who agreed to be considered. Following additional review and reference checks, the Board and recruitment group decided to proceed with in-

depth interviews with three candidates. These also completed a personality test as part of the recruitment process. At the Board meeting on 23–24 January, the Board made its decision regarding whom it wished to propose as the new Director.

## Board's Proposal

The Board proposes that the EFK Congress 2026 elect Linnea Åberg as Director.

### Linnea Åberg

Linnea Åberg is 45 years old and has been a missionary in Thailand for eleven years. Until recently, she served as Regional Leader for EFK's work in Asia. Before her family moved abroad, she was a Bible teacher at Liljeholmen Folk High School in Rimforsa. She has qualifications in theology and global studies, and a keen interest in the role of the church in society. Linnea has also lived in China for a couple of years, been involved in the management team of Frizon, and is part of the network for female theologians, the Nelly Network. She is married to Tobias and they have three children: Helmer, Erling, and Siri. Linnea is a member of the international congregation in Chiang Mai, Thailand (Chiang Mai Community Church, CMCC), where she also serves as a church leader. In Sweden, she is a member of the Ryttagårdskyrkan in Linköping.

Linnea Åberg says:

*"I long for EFK to become even more of a growing movement where Jesus is visible and where people are touched by God's love. I pray that those who see our network of churches will say 'oh, how they love one another, surely Jesus must be there.' I hope that we will baptise more people into the body of Christ, and that, in and through the Spirit, our fellowship will be shaped into His image. I yearn for us to reach beyond our own walls so that more people can hear about Jesus, see who He is, and that in God's love we also serve society and are a prophetic voice in our time and in our country. I hope that as a movement we will send more people but also live closely with our international partner churches by welcoming their missionaries and listening to God's voice through them."*

In addition, the Board intends to appoint two Deputy directors.

### Magnus Alphonse

Magnus has served as an EFK missionary for over 20 years and subsequently worked for ten years within the organisation, focusing on pioneering matters for both the Swedish and International programmes. For the past one and a half years, he has been Director of the mission organisation 'Ljus i Öster'. Magnus is married to Maria, has two sons, and lives in Linköping. He is a member of the Ryttagårdskyrkan in Linköping.

### Markus Sand

Markus grew up as a missionary child and has always held God's kingdom, the church, and mission close to his heart. He has been serving in congregations and the EFK organisation since 1997. He has been Pastor in Rinkeby International Church and Youth Pastor in Korskyrkan, Uppsala, but has led the Swedish programme in EFK for seven years. Markus is married to Ida-Kajsa and they have three daughters. He is a member of Immanuel Church in Örebro.

### The Board justifies its proposal as follows:

The Board believes that Linnea Åberg, Magnus Alphonse, and Markus Sand, through their experience and collective expertise, are well equipped to help our movement rediscover why we work together as a church and mission movement, and to remind us of the urgency of the mission task. By focusing on the missional mandate and striving for:

- Proximity and cooperation

- Strengthened entrepreneurial spirit
- Increased sending
- Renewed focus on children and young people
- A vibrant youth movement

As specified by the Board in the manifesto.

The work to define these roles, both in general and in detail, will commence as soon as possible, provided that Congress decides to elect Linnea.

The Board submits its proposal to Congress for discussion and decision.

**Congress is proposed to decide**

**to elect Linnea Åberg as Director for the term 2026–2030.**

*The planned start date for Linnea Åberg is 01/09/2026. During the period 01/06–31/08, Markus Sand will serve as Acting Director, as Linalie Newman and Ingemar Forss conclude their assignments on 31/05.*



*Linnea Åberg, Markus Sand and Magnus Alphonse.*

# Lift Your Eyes

## Manifesto for the Election of Director 2026

The Evangelical Free Church was established nearly thirty years ago, initially under the name “Nybygget – Christian Collaboration”. It was an initiative characterised by vitality, entrepreneurial spirit, and ingenuity which we, as a movement, must reclaim in our own era.

We have much to be thankful for, yet a number of issues challenge us and our cooperation within the church movement: polarisation, declining baptism numbers, fewer members and congregations, and shrinking resources for mission. At the same time, we observe signs of a growing interest in Christian faith, both in Sweden and in many other countries. We need to lift our eyes!

*Jesus said: “My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work. You say, ‘Four months more, and then comes harvest.’ But I tell you: lift your eyes and see how the fields are already white for harvest.” (John 4:34–35)*

We must rediscover the pioneering spirit that defined our movement in its early days. Not in nostalgia, but by once again understanding why we collaborate as a church and mission movement. We need to renew our commitment to the calling the Lord Jesus has given us – for this present time. We must remind ourselves of the urgency of the mission to win the world for Christ, keeping our vision firmly in view: “*Growing congregations convey the whole gospel to the whole person, throughout the whole world.*”

## Therefore, the Board of the Evangelical Free Church wishes to strengthen the following direction together with the new Director and Deputy directors:

Lift your eyes and focus on the missional task by striving for:

### **Closeness and Collaboration**

We wish to see the Evangelical Free Church’s organisation move closer to the church movement. We intend to take new steps in

### **Strengthened Entrepreneurial Spirit**

We want to encourage local missional initiatives in Sweden and abroad, fostering where there

### **Increased Sending**

We wish to see a simpler and more multifaceted missional sending, both nationally and

### **Renewed Focus on Children and Young People**

We want to take initiatives so that more children can grow up in safety and get to know Jesus, both

### **A Vibrant Youth Movement**

We wish to embrace the joy, passion, and zeal of young people in following Jesus, and provide them

# The Board proposes amendments to the statutes of the Evangelical Free Church

For the Evangelical Free Church Congress 2026.

Every organisation must ensure that its structures serve its purpose, not the other way round. It is therefore natural for a movement such as the Evangelical Free Church to regularly review the statutes governing its common meeting places and structures, and, when necessary, consider whether statutes and structures need to be adjusted.

After the Congress in Huskvarna 2024, the Board carried out its customary evaluation. During this process, questions arose regarding the phrasing of the EFK's statutes and whether they should be revised. Further questions had already existed within the Board and the wider organisation.

The Board then decided to appoint a working group to provide an initial report on eight issues relating to the statutes of the EFK.

The working group was formed and led by Erik Alnemo. Its other members were Charlotte Arenander, Filadelfiakyrkan Örebro; Lennart Edblom, Korskyrkan Umeå; and Öyvind Tholvsen, Lugnetkyrkan Falun.

The issues on which the working group provided its report were:

- Should members of the EFK Nominating Committee and Board be able to act as delegates for their respective congregations?
- Should the number of delegates per congregation to the Congress be changed?
- Who notifies whom regarding the delegates for each congregation?
- Should the rules regarding who may submit motions to the Congress be changed?
- How can it be avoided that too many Board members of the EFK step down at the same time?
- Should the Director(s) have voting rights on the EFK Board?
- Should the procedure for electing the Director be clarified?
- Should the Board's responsibility for staff appointments within the joint organisation be changed?

At the 2025 Representatives' Meeting it was announced that the Board had appointed a working group, who its members were, and which issues would be addressed.

In September 2025, the working group submitted its report to the Board for further processing. The group recommended amendment of the statutes in two areas: the number of delegates per congregation in the Congress and the election of the Director. Otherwise, it recommended that the current wording be retained.

In the Board's continued work, a further statutory amendment has been identified. This is due to new regulations from banks concerning associations and the documentation required when persons are appointed with authority at the bank. The statutes must now specify that the Congress and Representatives' Meeting can be held digitally, and that the agendas for these meetings include a point confirming the meeting's proper notification.

A motion has been submitted to the Congress regarding the number of delegates to the Congress. The Board's proposal to amend the number of delegates will be dealt with in relation to this motion.

The proposal presented by the Board to the Congress is therefore based on two separate issues:

- A. Clarification of the process for electing the Director(s)
- B. Clarification regarding the possibility of holding the Congress and Representatives' Meeting digitally.

## **Proposal A: Clarification of the Process for Electing the Director(s)**

The current statutes say virtually nothing about the procedure for electing the Director (MD), neither regarding the election itself nor the processes before and after.

The Board's proposal is therefore to clarify in the statutes who is responsible for preparing proposals for the election of the MD, how the process should be conducted, what applies to the election, and what happens if the proposal is not approved by the Congress.

The Board proposes inserting a new point 6.2 into Section 6, concerning the Director. It clarifies that the election of a new MD should be preceded by a nomination process, ensuring the movement has the opportunity to make suggestions and have its voice heard. In addition to these suggestions, the Board may also consider its own proposals.

The Board proposes to have the sole right to submit one or more proposals, justifying this by stating that the role of MD differs from other elections made by the Congress, since it usually concerns a paid, full-time position, and the Board is the employer of the MD. This would make a clear distinction from the election of Board members and similar roles.

The practice in the EFK has been for the Board to present a candidate to the Congress. Enshrining the possibility of submitting several proposals is a way to give the Board flexibility in the event that the nomination process results in several equally strong candidates.

The role of MD is an important leadership position, acting with the movement's trust and representing and leading much of the joint work as a church and mission movement. For this reason, the Board proposes that the election of the MD require a qualified majority (two-thirds of the delegates present). This would reinforce the signal of the movement's trust in the candidate.

Finally, it is proposed that, if the Board's proposal does not receive sufficient majority at the Congress, the matter should be referred back to the Board for a new process, and that the Board, if necessary, appoint an interim MD until the next Congress.

The Board proposes the following amendments, where changes are indicated in red text.

### **4.2 Duties of the Board**

*It is the Board's task to:*

1. *Implement the decisions of the Congress and Representatives' Meeting.*
2. *Be responsible for the organisation of the Evangelical Free Church's activities and the management of its funds.*
3. *Ensure that accounts are maintained in accordance with good accounting practice.*
4. *Propose persons for election as Director(s) in accordance with the provisions of § 6.2.*
5. *Appoint and dismiss persons with management responsibility who are not appointed by the Congress.*
6. *Decide on cooperation with individual congregations.*
7. *Prepare matters concerning amendments and additions to these statutes.*
8. *Appoint members to boards of organisations in which the Evangelical Free Church has a board position.*
9. *In applicable cases, decide on remuneration for board members in accordance with point 8.*

*The Chairman of the Board's task is to lead the Board's work.*

## **§6 Director**

### **6.1 Director's Position and Duties**

*The Director shall lead the activities of the Evangelical Free Church in accordance with the guidelines and instructions issued by the Board. The position of Director may be held by at least one and at most three individuals. If more than one person is appointed as Director, the Board shall define each director's area of responsibility in a written instruction. For actions or decisions affecting more than one director's area of responsibility, consultation shall take place and a joint decision shall be made.*

### **6.2 Election of Director(s)**

*The Director is elected for a term of four years. Re-election is possible.*

*The election of a new Director shall be preceded by a nomination procedure. In addition to proposals received, the Board has the right to consider its own suggestions.*

*The Board prepares the election of Director(s) and has sole authority to submit one or more proposals to the Congress.*

*Director(s) are elected by the Congress. The election shall require at least a two-thirds majority of the delegates present at the vote. If none of the Board's proposals receive sufficient majority, the matter shall be referred back to the Board for a new process.*

*If necessary, the Board shall appoint an acting Director(s) until the next Congress.*

## **Proposal B: Clarification on the Possibility of Holding Congress and Representatives' Meeting Digitally.**

Within the joint organisation EFK, individuals are appointed annually with the authority to act in banking matters. At the beginning of 2026, clarified regulations were introduced regarding the requirements for registering an authorised individual in the bank's system. To facilitate communication with the bank, the Board proposes minor amendments to the statutes, relating to congress and representatives' meetings. The aim is to clarify that these meetings may be held digitally, and to ensure that the agendas for these meetings include an item addressing the meeting's validity.

The Board proposes the following amendments, with changes highlighted in red text.

### **3.1. Congress**

The Congress is the highest decision-making body of the Evangelical Free Church. Congress shall be held once every two years.

The date and location of the Congress are determined by the Board and must be announced at least four months in advance. **Congress may be held digitally.**

The following matters shall be addressed at the Congress:

1. Election of Congress officials.
2. **Verification of the statutory announcement of the Congress**
- 3 Presentation of the activity report.
- 4 Presentation of the audit report.
- 5 Approval of the income statement and balance sheet.
- 6 Decision on discharge from liability for the Board.
- 7 Decision on overarching documents regarding operational strategy.
- 8 Theological review and reflection, as well as decisions on shared matters of values.
- 9 Election of Director, if applicable.
- 10 Election of the Chair of the Board.
- 11 Election of Board members, including decision on the number of members on the Board.
- 12 Election of at least two auditors and two deputy auditors. At least one auditor must be authorised.

- 13 Election of members to the Nomination Committee.
- 14 Consideration of motions.
- 15 Other matters.

All elections are valid until the Congress in the year the mandate period ends.

A cooperating congregation, or at least three members from cooperating congregations jointly, have the right to submit a motion to the Congress. Motions must be received by the Board no later than three months before the scheduled date of the Congress.

The Board prepares the matters to be addressed at the Congress. At least one month before the Congress, the Board must send information about the Congress's matters to the cooperating congregations via circular letter.

### **3.1.1. Extraordinary Congress**

The Board may convene an extraordinary congress. The date, location and matters to be addressed must be announced by the Board no later than three weeks before the congress. **An extraordinary congress may be held digitally.**

### **3.2. Representatives' Meeting**

The Representatives' Meeting is the decision-making body of the Evangelical Free Church for operational and financial evaluation in years when no Congress is held. The date and location of the Representatives' Meeting are determined by the Board and must be announced at least four months in advance. **The Representatives' Meeting may be held digitally.**

Matters at the Representatives' Meeting:

1. Election of Representatives' Meeting officials.
2. **Verification of the statutory announcement of the Representatives' Meeting**
- 3 Presentation of the activity report.
- 4 Presentation of the audit report.
- 5 Approval of the income statement and balance sheet.
- 6 Decision on discharge from liability for the Board.
- 7 Discussion on current operational matters.
- 8 Current elections.

#### **Congress is proposed to decide**

**to amend the statutes of the Evangelical Free Church in accordance with the Board's proposal**

## Motion 1

### Motion to the Congress of the Evangelical Free Church

# Proposal for revision of the statutes of the Evangelical Free Church regarding the number of voting delegates and commitments for partnering congregations.

## Introduction

This motion presents the following proposals for amendments to the statutes of the Evangelical Free Church:

1. Reduce the number of voting delegates that partnering congregations may send to the joint decision-making meetings of the Evangelical Free Church (Congress and extraordinary Congress; applies to §3 section 3.4.1).
2. Introduce clear conditions that a partnering congregation must fulfil in order to have the right to send voting delegates to the decision-making meetings of the Evangelical Free Church (Congress, extraordinary Congress and representatives' meetings; applies to §2 section 2.1 and §3 sections 3.4.1 and 3.4.2).

## Background

Most decisions affecting individual congregations cooperating within the Evangelical Free Church are taken locally. However, the Congress is the highest decision-making body of the Evangelical Free Church, where we, as a movement of cooperating congregations, collectively make crucial decisions for our joint work.

The statutes regulate how many delegates a congregation may send to Congress (§3 section 3.4.1):

- Up to 100 members: 1 delegate per commenced ten members.
- Over 100 members: 5 delegates per commenced hundred members.
- A congregation may appoint a maximum of 70 delegates.

As a movement, compared for example to Pingst ffs, we have a significantly higher number of delegates per congregation. Up until this year, Pingst member congregations were permitted to send delegates to the council as follows: up to and including 499 members: 2 delegates; 500–999 members: 3 delegates; 1,000–1,999 members: 4 delegates; 2,000 or more members: 5 delegates (§8 Voting).

The large number of delegates currently permitted within the Evangelical Free Church means, in practice, that the geographical distance of congregations from decision-making meetings and their financial circumstances (costs of travel and accommodation) have greater significance for the actual influence different congregations possess. We therefore contend that a reduction and adjustment in the number of delegates is necessary to achieve more balanced representation.

According to the statutes, our cooperation within the Evangelical Free Church is “based on the mutual obligations and the theological convictions described in the founding documents of the Evangelical Free Church” (§2 section 2.1). The only concrete way the statutes demonstrate how a partnering congregation should express this mutual

obligation is: “At the end of each year, the partnering congregation reports its membership numbers” (§2 section 2.1). However, there is no provision regarding what happens if a congregation fails to submit this data. We consider it reasonable that there should be some basic commitments clarifying what is expected from a partnering congregation, and that these should be linked to the right to send voting delegates to the joint decision-making meetings of the Evangelical Free Church (Congress, extraordinary Congress and representatives’ meetings). The aim of our proposal is not to exclude congregations from the fellowship, but to clarify the link between shared responsibility and a mandate to participate in decisions. All partnering congregations retain the right to propose motions and to speak.

## **Decision Proposal**

We propose that the Congress of the Evangelical Free Church resolve to amend the statutes as follows.

### **Amendment to Statutes §2 Section 2.1, Paragraph Two:**

A partnering congregation shall pay, annually and before 31 March, the basic fee per member as determined by Congress. Upon request/by 31 January, the partnering congregation shall report its membership numbers annually. For congregations that do not register personal membership, the number of people forming the congregation shall be reported according to the criteria set for membership in the Evangelical Free Church’s “Proposed Congregational Order”. This number gives such a congregation the rights and/or obligations in these statutes that are linked to the congregation’s membership numbers. The people forming the basis of this report shall have the same rights as members of other congregations.

A congregation that, despite reminders, does not fulfil both of the above obligations shall, during the current year, lack the right to send voting delegates to the joint decision-making meetings of the Evangelical Free Church, Congress and representatives’ meetings.

### **Amendment to Statutes §3 Section 3.4.1 Congress:**

#### **1. Introduction of conditions for voting rights for partnering congregations, paragraph one:**

A partnering congregation that fulfils the requirements in §2 section 2.1 of these statutes has the right to participate in the deliberations and decisions of Congress via delegates. The number of delegates is determined by the number of members in the partnering congregation as follows.

#### **2. Changes to number of delegates, paragraph two:**

A congregation with up to fifty (50) members has the right to appoint two (2) delegates. A congregation with up to one hundred (100) members has, in addition, the right to appoint one (1) further delegate. A congregation with more than one hundred (100) members has, in addition, the right to appoint one (1) further delegate for each commenced hundred members. The maximum number of delegates that may be appointed is ten (10).

#### **3. No change to paragraph three**

Each member of a partnering congregation has the right to attend Congress with the right to speak and propose motions. Employees within the Evangelical Free Church who are not members of a partnering congregation

### **Amendment to Statutes §3 Section 3.4.2 Representatives' Meeting:**

#### **Introduction of conditions for voting rights for partnering congregations, paragraph one:**

A partnering congregation that fulfils the requirements in §2 section 2.1 of these statutes has the right to participate via delegates in the deliberations and decisions of the representatives’ meeting. Each congregation has the right to appoint three delegates.

**We further propose that:**

The Board of the Evangelical Free Church be given the mandate, following application, to decide on temporary reductions of fees for congregations with particular financial difficulties, without affecting the congregation's right to representation.

Landskrona 10/02/2026

Christine Hagel, Leif Hagel, Håkan Kenne and Emanuel Nielsen, members of Livsglädje Landskrona.

# The board's response to the motion “Proposal for revision of the statutes of the Evangelical Free Church regarding the number of voting delegates and commitments for partnering congregations”

The motion highlights two areas within the EFK statutes where the proposers believe revision is required. This concerns both the number of voting delegates, and which congregations are eligible to send voting delegates. The first part of the motion aims to

*“Reduce the number of voting delegates that partnering congregations may send to the Evangelical Free Church's joint decision-making meetings.”*

EFK currently has the greatest possible difference in the number of delegates congregations can send to Congress, between the largest and smallest congregations, compared to other Free Church denominations in Sweden. We also have the highest maximum limit for how many delegates a congregation may send.

In practice, only a smaller proportion of the possible delegates are actually sent by congregations. At the 2024 Congress, to take the most recent occasion as an example, only 14 of the attending congregations used two-thirds or more of their available places. Together, these accounted for 25% of the total number of attending delegates.

The fact that so few places are utilised creates a risk whereby a small number of congregations may have a disproportionately large proportion of voting delegates at a Congress.

- This may occur based on geography, where congregations located close to the venue for Congress can more easily send many delegates.
- It may also occur with regard to a particular issue, where congregations with a special interest in a certain topic mobilise and send many delegates.

The fundamental issue is never an increased engagement from congregations to participate in EFK's joint arenas; however, as the reality is that only a small proportion take part, the Board sees a risk for disproportionate influence.

The Board shares the intention of the motion but instead proposes an alternative suggestion to Congress. Although the Board believes that the number of delegates can be significantly reduced, it is still important to maintain the tradition that has existed within EFK and our founding denominations. The delegates elected have generally not carried the congregation's voice, i.e., they have not been bound by a decision preceded by discussion within the congregation that sent them. Instead, the delegates have carried the congregation's trust to vote according to their own principles and judgement. It has also been essential for EFK's democratic order that more people have been able to attend and express their opinions. A too radical reduction in the number of delegates from congregations would result in a more complicated process, where each congregation would have to decide on individual matters and send delegates who represent the congregation's voice.

**The Board therefore proposes the following amendments, with changes from the current statutes marked in red, and previous text struck through.**

## 3.4.1. Congress

*A partnering congregation has the right to participate in the congress's deliberations and decisions through appointed delegates. The number of delegates is determined by the number of members in the partnering congregation as follows.*

*Each congregation has the right to appoint one (1) delegate. In addition, a congregation with up to one hundred (100) members has the right to appoint one (1) delegate for every commenced group of twenty ~~(group of ten)~~ members. A congregation with more than one hundred (100) members is further entitled to appoint three (3) ~~(five 5)~~ delegates for each additional commenced group of one hundred members. The maximum number of delegates that may be appointed is thirty-six (36) ~~(seventy)~~.*

*Each member of a partnering congregation has the right to attend the congress with the right to speak and propose motions. Employees of the Evangelical Free Church who are not members of a partnering congregation have the right to attend the congress with the right to speak only.*

The Board therefore proposes:

- To amend the number of delegates in accordance with the Board's proposal.

The second part of the motion concerns

*"The introduction of clear conditions that a partnering congregation must fulfil in order to have the right to send voting delegates to the Evangelical Free Church's decision-making meetings."*

The motion here raises the need to establish some form of condition for the ability to influence the denomination in decision-making meetings. The Board considers this interesting, but the proposal raises a number of questions that require further investigation. Examples of areas that need clarification if the EFK were to introduce requirements for sending voting delegates:

- Which conditions should be set? The motion proposes that the basic fee and the submission of congregation statistics to the EFK be the criteria. Some congregations may have a significant missionary commitment but do not pay the basic fee – how should this be viewed?
- What happens to congregations that do not meet the conditions, and what happens to us as a movement if we have different categories of congregations?
- How can it be ensured, administratively, that delegates from a congregation meet the requirements?

The Board therefore considers that at this stage we do not have sufficient grounds to make a decision on the matter, and therefore proposes to the congress:

- To instruct the Board to investigate, by the 2028 congress, whether conditions should be introduced that a partnering congregation must meet in order to send voting delegates to the Evangelical Free Church's decision-making meetings, as well as to investigate which condition(s) could be used.

#### **Congress is proposed to decide**

**to** amend the number of delegates in accordance with the Board's proposal,

**to** instruct the Board to investigate, by the 2028 congress, whether conditions should be introduced that a partnering congregation must meet in order to send voting delegates to the Evangelical Free Church's decision-making meetings, as well as to investigate which condition(s) could be used.

## Motion 2

# The Evangelical Free Church must remain steadfast in its view of marriage

The Evangelical Free Church is a young free church denomination, formed with the ambition to unite three denominations with partly similar foundations: a shared heritage from the Baptist tradition and openness to the Pentecostal movement, all built on an evangelical view of the Bible. Its inception under the name 'Nybygget' is less than three decades ago. Congregations from other denominations also sought membership in the EFK to escape the liberal theology they perceived as spreading in their previous contexts. The hope was that EFK would become a safe haven founded on a biblical evangelical base, free of divisive theological conflicts. Unfortunately, this has not been the case.

During its early years, Nybygget/EFK was characterised by consensus and boldness based on a clear, Bible-based foundation, and grew in spite of the general decline in free church attendance. Over time, however, the denomination began to drift in different directions, most notably expressed in repeated statements and concrete steps away from a firmly anchored biblical, evangelical view of sexuality and marriage. This issue has also been cited as an explicit reason why several congregations have left EFK in recent years.

We desire to see a movement of congregations, founded on biblical evangelical principles, boldly moving in the same direction. When internal tensions have arisen previously within Protestant Christianity, the conflict has usually been resolved through restructuring. When ÖM broke away from the Baptist Union in the 1930s, the relationship with the Pentecostal movement was the triggering factor. However, this also encompassed issues concerning ecumenism, mission, and above all: the Bible. The same applies today, and the increasingly intense internal struggle within EFK is damaging both fellowship and freedom in the movement. Therefore, EFK as a denomination needs to reach a decisive conclusion.

The Christian church has always attracted the most interest and respect when it has boldly preached the gospel as an alternative to contemporary culture, whereas groups that have tried to adapt to the spirit of the age have instead become irrelevant. Such considerations are especially urgent in our time, marked by renewed curiosity about the Christian faith. Unfortunately, the effectiveness of our movement has been hampered by congregations and members having to focus on recurring statements concerning relationships that lean more towards the secular society's perspective than an evangelical stance.

A movement succeeds if it manages to create a common identity and vision that propels it forward. The undisputed major issue in the 21st century between liberal and evangelical Christianity has become matters related to LGBTQ, sexuality, and marriage. Individual congregations and EFK centrally have taken steps that have made our identity as a movement unclear. This situation is damaging to all parties and, above all, impedes the ability to focus on the mission of proclaiming the gospel to a world in need of Jesus.

Churches and denominations have responded to the secular society's changing sexual morality in various ways. Some have adjusted their views to a rapidly shifting secular culture, while others have affirmed their biblical foundation. Such positioning has led to restructuring among a range of churches and denominations worldwide, as congregations and members have reorganised themselves to continue working according to either a liberal or evangelical foundational outlook.

EFK officially holds a biblical view of marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman. The previous congress also confirmed this foundational view by a large majority, declaring that it should serve as the norm in EFK's collective education and gatherings, and that supporting materials should be developed to clarify this foundational position. However, at the time of writing, no such supporting materials have been distributed by the denomination's leadership. Moreover, contrary to the congress decision, platforms have been given in joint arenas to voices advocating different views of marriage.

Furthermore, the Board has chosen not to take action against local initiatives that have actively taken a stance against the denomination's view of marriage. The leadership of EFK must therefore be regarded as having, in practice, approved a dual view of marriage. This conduct must be described as seriously damaging to trust and undermines the conditions for collaborative work founded on confidence.

Sweden enjoys religious freedom – denominations have every right to adopt a theology of relationships based either on the Bible or on secular values. However, problems and pain arise when a denomination tries to maintain two mutually incompatible positions at the same time, and when the leadership, contrary to congress decisions, deviates from an agreed foundational stance. The Evangelical Free Church must reach a definitive conclusion regarding its identity as a denomination. Every era has its theological dividing line; for our time, it concerns, to a certain extent, sexuality and marriage. This is therefore an issue that must be clarified so that congregations and members sharing the same foundational view can henceforth move together in the chosen direction.

We therefore propose

that congregations belonging to the Evangelical Free Church shall adopt the denomination's view of marriage, namely that marriage is entered into between one man and one woman, that the national Board and incoming denominational leaders be commissioned to communicate and implement this.

Charlotta Aginger, Pastor, New Life Stockholm  
Patricia Ask, Pastor within EFK, Leader of Hopp för Järva  
Fredrik Claesson, Pastor, Ramlös kyrkan  
Tomas Dahnsen, Director, Korskyrkan Älvsbyn  
Andreas Holm, Pastor, Motala Baptist Congregation  
Patrik Modén, Senior Pastor, Citykyrkan Västerås  
Mats Nordén, Regional Pastor, Citykyrkan Foundation  
Monica Nordén, Care Pastor, Citykyrkan Västerås  
Christer Roshamn, Pastor, Skogakyrkan Kungsängen  
Rui Sousa, Pastor, New Life Stockholm  
Stefan Swärd, Chair of the board, Folkungakyrkan Stockholm  
Bo Wettéus, Pastor Emeritus, Örebro  
Magnus Östberg, Pastor, Centrumkyrkan Sala  
Hernan Clavijo, Pastor, Iglesia Icthus  
Louis Vlas, Pastor, Iglesia Icthus  
Bo Ahlvin, Pastor, Iglesia Icthus  
Roxana Clavijo-Retamales, Iglesia Icthus

# The board's response to the motion "The Evangelical Free Church must remain steadfast in its view of marriage"

The people presenting the motion request clarification regarding the consequences when a congregation holds a different view on marriage than that which EFK has collectively agreed upon.

## EFK's View on Marriage

At the 2024 Congress, the following decisions were made:

- *The Congress confirms EFK's existing view on marriage as expressed in EFK's order of marriage, adopted by the EFK board on 19 March 2010.*
- *EFK's view on marriage shall continue to serve as the standard for teaching within EFK's collective work and meeting places.*
- 

The documents adopted by the board after the Congress have clearly been based on this view of marriage. This is evident, for example, in EFK's proposed order for congregations, which includes the following text:

*Marriage is founded and modelled upon creation, where God created human beings as man and woman. Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman who wish to make vows of lifelong faithfulness, mutual love and care for one another. God's self-giving love serves as a model for the relationship within marriage. It is within this relationship of faithfulness that sexual union belongs. A prerequisite is that the couple have first entered into marriage in the legal sense.*

The same view on marriage is set out in the supporting material on marriage prepared for the 2026 Congress. The board has therefore implemented the decision from the 2024 Congress that EFK's view on marriage should remain the standard in EFK's collective activities.

## The Challenge of Standing Together

The motion raises the issue of how the denomination should respond to congregations that do not adhere to EFK's view on marriage. The board is aware that the question of marriage has created tensions within the church movement. Standing together is challenging when there are differing perspectives on this and other matters. May a congregation remain within EFK if it practises a different view on marriage? The motioners answer 'no' to this question, as the proposals are:

- *that congregations belonging to Evangeliska Frikyrkan shall embrace the denomination's view that marriage is entered into between a man and a woman,*
- *that the denominational board and incoming denominational leaders are tasked with communicating and implementing this.*

Such a decision would mean a narrower criterion than currently exists for which congregations may be part of EFK. The board's and mission leadership's position has been, and remains, that if a congregation formulates and practises a different view on marriage than that held by EFK, discussions must be held with the leadership of EFK. A congregation may continue to be part of EFK if it acknowledges that it is making an exception and will not actively work against EFK's collective view on marriage, and if it supports EFK's Faith and Self-Understanding.

## EFK's Collective Mission

The board considers that the urgency of the mission, together with Jesus' prayer for unity as a sign to the world, outweighs the differences of opinion that exist in certain theological matters. The issue of the view on marriage is very important, but not paramount. We must lift our gaze and stand alongside one another in order to bring the gospel to the world.

According to the statutes, §1, the purpose of EFK is *“to conduct and coordinate mission work both in Sweden and abroad, and to offer resources that respond to the needs of cooperating congregations.”* Based on this purpose, the vision has been formed: *“Growing congregations convey the whole gospel to the whole person across the whole world.”*

## What Kind of Movement and Denomination is EFK?

The motion's proposals also prompt consideration of the nature of EFK as a movement and denomination. How much freedom does each individual congregation have to shape theology, life, and practice? What types of departures from collectively agreed foundational and other documents may be permitted? These questions are highly relevant.

EFK's identity as *“an association of independent Christian congregations”* is described in EFK's statutes and in the foundational document EFK's Faith and Self-Understanding: *“The wording of the statutes means that the local congregations are the fundamental entity. They remain free and independent, but have joined together to express their mutual dependency and commitment to one another”* (page 14). Only if a congregation *“conducts activities that do not align with the identity and purpose of Evangeliska Frikyrkan”* can the board, according to the statutes, decide to terminate cooperation.

EFK is, therefore, a Baptist congregational denomination that places the congregation at the heart of the collective mission and in shaping theology and practice. The board believes that accepting the motion's proposals would alter the nature of EFK as a denomination. Since EFK's foundation, there has been considerable variety in theological matters, such as membership, ministry/leadership, organisational structure, and more. This applies both to congregations cooperating solely within EFK and those affiliated with several denominations. The introduction of a narrower definition of who may be *“a congregation cooperating within EFK”* would constitute a reinterpretation of EFK's congregational identity and its basic stance on free and independent congregations.

## Practical Questions

Evangeliska Frikyrkan, based on our described identity above, does not have a teaching office responsible for reviewing matters of congregational theology and practice. The board's ability to take action regarding local congregations is, according to the statutes, limited and does not, for example, extend to the matter of views on marriage. Should the Congress wish to clarify how EFK should act when there are departures from collective documents and decisions, guiding documents must be reviewed and several questions addressed:

- Which theological or practical matters should this concern?
- What consequences should departures from EFK's collective position in various matters be able to lead to? What criteria should apply?
- Which body within EFK should prepare and decide on such cases?
- How are congregations affected that are affiliated to both EFK and denominations with a different theological basis, such as a different view on marriage?

## The Board's Conclusion

The board is of the opinion that EFK currently has a clearly defined, collective view on marriage. At the same time, EFK's identity means that congregations have significant freedom to shape their own theology and practice.

The board believes that the diversity which this entails fits within EFK, with the collective mission serving as a unifying force. This diversity is, at the same time, a challenge for us and raises issues that we need to continue to address.

Based on the above, the board proposes to the Congress:

**Congress is proposed to decide**

**that** the motion's proposals be rejected, and that the board be tasked, based on EFK's identity as a mission and congregational movement, with investigating how we as a movement should handle situations where congregations depart from key theological positions. The investigation shall be presented at the 2028 Congress.

## Motion 3

# Motion to the EFK Congress on developing our Faith and Self-Understanding

Evangeliska Frikyrkan was founded nearly 30 years ago as a visionary and bold initiative within a stagnating Swedish Free Church movement. The foundation at its inception consisted of 370 congregations. Ambitious goals were set regarding growth, church planting, and renewal. Charismatic openness was central, and the connection to evangelicalism and the Lausanne Declaration provided a clear and stable theological base. EFK was perceived as exciting and attractive, and several congregations joined over the following years.

We are now facing the appointment of a new Missions Director. At the time of writing, we do not know who will be chosen. The future direction of EFK at the denominational level is at least as important as the individuals selected. We, the proposers, believe that in the selection of the Director of Missions, it is essential to also discuss the direction and mission for new leadership.

The vision from 30 years ago needs to be renewed and revitalised. Today we are 280 congregations, considerably fewer than at the founding, and in recent years EFK has begun to decline in membership after a period of growth. This development is concerning. Revitalising the vision and convictions that guided us at the founding will help counter stagnation.

We believe that EFK continues to play a vital role in Swedish Christianity. There is much life and vitality in our congregations. We believe that the spiritual and theological convictions upon which EFK was built during its early period are correct and need to be clarified and, above all, applied once again. We do not believe that the way forward is to move away from the convictions and values that characterised EFK at its founding and during its first decade.

**Charismatic openness has been a guiding principle for Evangeliska Frikyrkan.** Our parent denominations have roots in the major outpouring of the Spirit that marked the last turn of the century. That heritage needs to be highlighted and clarified. EFK must continue, in the future, to be characterised in Swedish Christianity by emphasising the gifts of the Spirit, being filled with the Spirit, and charismatic congregational life. We need to once again revive our identity as a genuine revivalist movement.

**The second guiding principle for EFK has been evangelicalism, especially as reflected in the Lausanne movement and the Lausanne Declaration.** EFK and its parent denominations possess an evangelical heritage marked by a high view of the Bible, emphasising scripture as God's inspired word in all it teaches and asserts. Evangelicalism also means preserving the legacy of revivalist movements, stressing conversion, evangelism, and Jesus as the sole way to God. We believe this needs to be emphasised further; not least, the LGBTQ debate within EFK has been interpreted by many as undermining the evangelical heritage.

**A third guiding principle has been mission and being missional.** We believe this perspective also needs to be strengthened, both in Sweden and internationally. This includes being a church-planting movement both domestically and abroad. The pioneering perspective needs to be highlighted more clearly than it is today.

**A fourth guiding principle is being Baptist.** This emphasises personal faith, conversion, and baptism, in contrast to the tradition of the historical churches. A Baptist view of church also means a congregational life characterised by commitment to one another and collective decision-making within the local church community. Respect and the shared reading of God's word form the foundation for this communal decision-making. A Baptist view of church differs from the folk church's approach to church and ministry.

**We propose that the Congress decide:**

That the Board and Mission Leadership have an ongoing mandate to emphasise and highlight in our joint work the faith and self-understanding identified by being evangelical, charismatic, missional, and Baptist in the following ways:

- a) Emphasising charismatic Christianity characterised by openness to the gifts of the Spirit and the Spirit's supernatural work. This should be made concrete through regular initiatives such as conferences and collaborations.
- b) Emphasising that EFK is an evangelical movement rooted in the values of the Lausanne movement, characterised by biblical faith and conversion-centred Christianity. EFK should, for example, clearly orient itself according to the biblical perspective of Lausanne evangelicalism, which in practice only allows for a view of marriage consistent with the church's traditional biblical interpretation and practice, and that local congregations which in future choose to change this view of marriage thereby also choose to stand outside EFK's collective work and mission;
- c) Emphasising the pioneering and church-planting perspective in both domestic and international mission work, with concrete measures to promote church-planting in Sweden and abroad, and active networking with individuals and organisations working in this direction;
- d) Emphasising our Baptist heritage and focus leads to a radical view of conversion and church. Promoting a Baptist view of church that involves building congregations with active and committed followers of Jesus, rather than constructing open folk churches, should be the direction.

Marcus Ringbäck, Pastor, Kungssportskyrkan Huskvarna

Lars-Göran Sundberg, Pastor, Korskyrkan Stockholm

Stefan Swärd, Chair, Folkungakyrkan Stockholm

Martin Tebus, Senior pastor, Folkungakyrkan Stockholm

## The board's response to the motion "Motion to the EFK Congress on developing our Faith and Self-Understanding"

The motion highlights the need to renew EFK's vision and to be a pioneering and courageous movement. These are excellent starting points and fully in line with the Board's direction for the future. The motion emphasises EFK's four key words and urges EFK's leadership to give them more prominence and allow them to shape work at all levels. The Board agrees with the necessity of this, as it is something we continually strive towards. We also share the concern regarding the declining number of congregations and members within EFK.

The Faith and Self-Understanding Document describes EFK's theological profile using four fundamental terms: evangelical, Baptist, charismatic, and missional. It was most recently adopted at the Congress in 2020, following a thorough process of revision. The process was led by a working group appointed by the Board, and through ten forum assemblies in spring 2019, the movement was given ample opportunity to provide feedback on the document. The document, which was subsequently unanimously adopted by the Congress in 2020, is thus a theologically robust and carefully developed document that provides EFK with a stable foundation for our collaborative work.

In addition to EFK's Faith and Self-Understanding Document, there are also a number of previous decisions that provide the movement with both direction and a clear mandate. Some of these guiding documents are:

- EFK's Vision: *Growing congregations convey the whole gospel to the whole person across the entire world.*
- EFK's Mandate to the Organisation: *The Evangelical Free Church organisation works to foster a dynamic movement of missional congregations that advance God's kingdom by founding congregations, training leaders and serving in society.*
- EFK's International Foundational Document

The Board and Mission Leadership base their decisions on these guiding documents, which include, for example, job descriptions for the Director, operational plans and other strategic documents.

In the process of appointing new leadership from 2026, the Board has also developed a programme declaration for the new EFK leadership. This programme declaration aligns in many respects with what the motion points out. However, there is a clear exception, as the motion proposes:

*that local congregations which choose in future to change this view of marriage thereby also choose to stand outside EFK's collective work and mission;*

The relationship between EFK's view of marriage and the congregations' positions is addressed in the response to the motion "Evangelical Free Church needs to uphold its view of marriage", where the Board clarifies its position on the matter.

Based on this, it is proposed that the Congress decide:

**Congress is proposed to decide**

**that** the motion's proposal regarding the emphasis on EFK's Faith and Self-Understanding is considered answered through the programme declaration for the new EFK leadership adopted by the Board,

**that** the motion's proposal regarding the view of marriage is considered addressed through the processing of the motion concerning EFK's view of marriage.