

## Young Theologians Programme Overview – Information for Member Churches and Applicants

### Reason for Programme

The Young Theologians Programme provides immense benefit to both the working life of the CPCE and also to the member churches, participants in the programme, and the CPCE Head Office.

The main aim of the programme is to engage young Protestants in the work of CPCE and bring young perspectives into the working processes and discussions that the CPCE conducts. The programme also provides potential for long-term involvement of the Young Theologians following their involvement in the programme, providing CPCE with a strong base of knowledgeable individuals for involvement in future working groups, Assemblies, and consultations.

Member churches profit from the development of ecumenically-minded and internationally experienced individuals within the ranks of their church. They also gain a liaison between the Young Theologians programme and their church that can report on the work of the CPCE in detail.

Participants gain international experience, ecumenical experience, a deep understanding of the CPCE, opportunities to take part in CPCE work processes, access to CPCE staff, and cost-free trips to various European cities for conferences.

### History of Programme

At the **9th General Assembly of the CPCE in Sibiu in 2024**, the Assembly encouraged the Council “to continue work with young Christians and the programme ‘Young Theologians in Communion’”. (Final Report 3.3)

This decision by the General Assembly stemmed in large part from the successful implementation of the reference group ‘Young Theologians in Communion’. This group worked continuously for from 2020 to 2024 and finally 8 of it participants took part in the 9th General Assembly as delegates or experts of their respective churches.

### Nomination Requirements

To be eligible for the CPCE Young Theologians programme, nominees must be

- Senior undergraduate or graduate theology students, pastors in training, or pastors of a CPCE member church or participating church
- No older than 30 years old at the beginning of the programme

Further requirements include

- An interest in learning about the work of CPCE
- Full support of a CPCE member church
- Ability and desire to participate in the group over a period of five years (2025-2030)
- A sound knowledge of English
- further languages (especially German) are desirable, but not required.
- Active participation in discussion and working processes
- Adequate preparation for all conferences

A maximum of 25 nominees will be chosen to take part in the programme (maximum 2 per member church).

### Application/Nomination Process

The Young Theologians programme is open to all eligible individuals belonging to a CPCE Member Church. The nomination process is a joint effort between the CPCE head office and each member church. The member churches can nominate up to 2 (two) young theologians who are interested and willing to participate in the group for the entirety of the working period 2024-2030.

Access to this application form will be provided to the member churches in March 2025.

Nomination materials must be submitted to the CPCE Head Office via online form by April 30, 2025.

Successful nomination includes:

- Submission of Microsoft Form by member church including
  - Nominee biographical information (Name, age, position)
  - Nominee involvement in/relation to member church
  - Confirmation that nominee will be allowed to attend all programme-related activities (especially important in case of nominees currently engaged in Vicariat)
  - Confirmation of financial support of nominee (or request for financial aid)
  - Video provided by nominee (see below)
  - Contact information of nominee (email)
  
- Submission of video (3 minutes or less) by each nominee
  - Nominee biographical information (name, age, position)
  - Nominee church membership
  - Experience with international organizations/events
  - Motivation for applying to programme
  - Theological topics of interest

### **Required work by Head Office**

Preparation and organization of in-person and video conferences. Point of contact for member churches regarding YT programme. Final decision on applicant/nominee involvement in YT programme. Distribution of information related to programme and application process. All financial costs related to in-person conferences (excluding travel costs).

### **Required work by Member Churches**

Point of contact for nominees/applicants during application process and submit application form and video on behalf of the nominee. Must be willing to support nominees financially for the duration of the working period 2024-2030 or ask CPCE directly for financial assistance. These financial costs include travel costs only. CPCE will cover all other programme costs. Must be willing to allow nominees to take time off from normal work/study duties to take part in the YT programme (especially important for pastors and pastors-in-training).

### **Required work by accepted applicants**

Active communication with member churches regarding finances, time off, support. Active communication with CPCE head office regarding participation in study conferences and work processes. Adherence to requirements laid out in "Nomination Requirements" (see above) for the duration of the working period 2024-2030. Faithful completion of any assigned work related to the Young Theologians programme.

## **Programme**

The members will take part in an annual study conference in various European cities and participate in online video conferences. The first study conference is to be held at Prague, Czech Republic from **25 to 28 September, 2025**. The task of this first study conference will be to analyse the CPCE's previous study processes in order to ascertain their relevance in the various member churches and different contexts. In the further course of the period, the group is expected to reference running study processes and will be asked to take part in various CPCE working processes and report to the group on the developments therein. There will also be a chance for members of the group to explore their ongoing theological work with one another.