

Press Release
HUNGARIAN DIASPORA STRATEGY OUTLINED AT CONVENTION IN PRAGUE
Annual Convention 2011
the Hungarian Reformed Pastoral Service in Western Europe

The annual theological conference and regular business meeting of the *Hungarian Reformed Pastoral Service in Western Europe* was held July 14th - 17th in Prague. It was hosted by the Hungarian Reformed Missionary Congregation in the capital of the Czech Republic, attended by nearly 40 delegates from almost all counties of the continent.

'Reformed Tasks in the Hungarian Spiritual Homeland' was the topic discussed presented by invited speakers: **Victor Segesváry** PhD, Hungarian theologian and philosopher from Switzerland; **Zoltán Balog**, minister of State for social inclusion of the Hungarian Government and Reverend **András Bereczki**, pastor of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Romania.

This Western European convention with its 67 yrs' past expressed its regret over the leadership of the Reformed Church of Hungary. Being ignored with intentional avoiding of any contact is a remarkable behaviour since the *Hungarian Reformed Pastoral Service in Western Europe* is the only legitimate, officially appointed and registered international Hungarian reformed church organization in Western Europe.

Solidarity was repeatedly expressed with the *Consulting Synod (Convent) of Hungarian Reformed Churches*, representing the only legitimate world-wide church organization for Hungarian reformed people. Nationalistic problems recently occurring in the Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia in consequence of their joining this so called '*Hungarian Reformed Church*' - were unfortunately anticipated already 2 decades ago when statute was prepared and the name of *Consulting Synod (Convent)* implemented in order to prevent kind of nationalistic disputes. Thanks to such a wise policy no problems did arise in the Consulting Synod. The so called '*Hungarian Reformed Church*' (with its so called '*General Convent*') organized by the present leadership of the Reformed Church of Hungary and intruded against the *Consulting Synod*, pretends to represent all Hungarian reformed people and churches within and outside the political borders of Hungary. With lack of legal ground this so called '*Hungarian Reformed Church*' however does even not legally exist and has no justification. The necessary legal national registration has three times

been refused by the Court of Justice in Hungary, while the *Consulting Synod (Convent)* is regularly legally registered. The so called '*Hungarian Reformed Church*' as well as its so called '*General Convent*' must unfortunately be considered as post-communistic political organization, a kind of fifth column.

Divine service in the vicinity of the capital - in Libiš - was attended by all participants of the convention together with the members of Prague' Hungarian Reformed Congregation. This 200 yrs old church of the Bohemian Brethren was the home congregation of the late Jan Palach. Following the Soviet invasion in 1968 he became national martyr on January 16th 1969 as the first student to set himself on fire in Wenceslas Square in Prague. In addition, the sacred churchyard in Libiš became in 2 000 place for re-burial of three late Hungarian reformed pastors (János Vég with his wife, Mózes Tardy and Eduard Molnár) thanks to the initiative of Mr György István Palágyi, elder of the Hungarian congregation in Prague. These preachers did help Bohemians following the Edict of Tolerance in 1781 issued by the emperor Joseph II of Habsburg, to rebuild their protestant church life.

Pastors passing away since last annual meeting Rev. **István Tüski**, Utrecht, The Netherlands and Rev. **Sándor Varga**, London, UK, former chairmen of the Pastoral Service, were commemorated during the convention. Their long lasting and decades' long very important contribution to the Western European Diaspora were remembered.

The importance for keeping Hungarian identity, the High School in Burg Kastl, Germany was remembered on the occasion of celebration held on October 22nd 2010 in Budapest in the House of Parliament. The Rev. Ms Enikő-Dalma Lázár-Zahn, president of the Pastoral Service made a public contribution.

Ms Anne-Marie Heddad-Nagy, vice-chairman of the church council of the Hungarian Protestant (Reformed) Church in Paris, France has been elected as new vice-president of the Pastoral Service.

###

Attested

Albert N Békássy, MD, MSc, MRSMed, president
albert@newlights.info