

The board's response to the motion "Proposal for structure and annual routine for the church sustainability work"

The board is thankful for the motion regarding how we as a congregation translate plans in the area of sustainability into action and concrete results. The movers propose that the annual meeting should decide that:

- Immanuel Church adopts the "annual routine" and structure to work for continuous improvements in sustainability work.
- The Sustainability Committee is tasked with running the annual routine, but that any measures laid in the action plans are the responsibility of the concerned ministry.
- The annual meeting invites all language groups of the congregation to participate with proposals for the sustainability work and with representatives from the committee.
- The annual meeting establishes the Sustainability Policy approved by the board and endorses the board's proposal for continued anchoring of the action plan for 2024.

The board shares the movers' view regarding the importance of incorporating the sustainability work into the church activities planning and that the goal should be to continuously improve this important area. However, this proposal means that a separate planning wheel should be created specifically for the area of sustainability in relation to any other activity planning, and that such a side structure in the ministry plan entails a risk that the sustainability work will not be properly resourced or prioritized. The board believes that a better way to bring the issue of sustainability forward is to weave it into the day-to-day activities planning and the annual ministry plan, which will also be submitted to the annual meeting and incorporated into the entire congregational annual routines. As a result, language groups and other stakeholders will also be involved in the planning work.

Regarding the movers' proposal for representatives in the sustainability committee, the board believes that this is within the election committee's mandate.

The movers also propose "that the annual meeting shall determine the Sustainability Policy approved by the board and shall endorse the board's proposal for continued anchoring of the action plan for 2024."

The board believes that it is within its role and mandate to implement such a policy, and therefore sees no reason why it should also be implemented by the annual meeting. The board also sees no reason why the annual meeting should approve the board's proposal for continued anchoring of the action plan for 2024. We believe it is sufficient that our council committee has been tasked together with the Sustainability Committee and the councils, as well as representatives from the staff, to talk about how the ideas in the proposed action plan could be implemented.

The board therefore considers the motion answered.



The Board, March 21, 2024