

WCC general secretary congratulates newly-elected Church of Norway leaders



From left: Bishop Helga Haugland Byfuglien, Rev. Kristine Sandmæl, Sara Eira, Kristin Raaum Gunleiksrud. © Vårt Land/Erlend Berge

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Kristin Gunleiksrud Raaum, Sara Eira and Rev. Kristine Sandmael have been elected as moderator of the Church of Norway National Council, moderator of the Sami Church Council, and moderator of the Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations, respectively.

World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit sent his congratulations to the newly-elected leaders. “Your elections come in a crucial time, when the Church of Norway is getting full responsibility for its own decisions, priorities and strategies versus the state,” he wrote.

In 2012, due to a constitutional change approved by the Storting, or parliamentary body, the Church of Norway separated from the state, ending a 198-year relationship between the government and the church.

The roles of the churches the European countries are challenged and changed in many ways, Tveit noted. “This is a moment to see your calling and commitment to the mission of God in new roles. It is time to search the guidance and strength from the God of life, for your personal responsibilities, as well as for the fellowship in the Church of Norway and among the churches.”

The WCC Central Committee, hosted by the Church of Norway, will meet in June in Trondheim.

[WCC congratulation letter to the newly-elected leaders](#)

[More information on WCC member churches in Norway](#)