

Wiedenest Declaration

Brethren in Europe Conference 2005

Our Vision for Our Work in Europe

“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which
God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”
Phil. 3.14

Through God’s love and power we will do our utmost in our own individual countries, in Europe and worldwide

- **To lead people to Christ**
- **To help local churches to grow spiritually and numerically**
- **To plant new churches**

In doing so, we want to make creative use of the values of the worldwide Brethren Movement, and more and more to look beyond our national borders.

We want...

everyone to have a chance to become a believer in Christ

Every Christian and every local church is commissioned by God to evangelize at home and cross-culturally with enthusiasm and clear goals. Special challenges today:

- Ø Using creative approaches and methods in ongoing evangelism, e. g. through personal relationships especially with young people
- Ø Lovingly to integrate seekers and new disciples into our fellowships
- Ø Effective discipling of new Christians
- Ø Sharing the unchanging Gospel in culturally-relevant ways
- Ø Outreach to immigrants in our home countries
- Ø Holistic service in our communities as an essential aspect of our testimony
- Ø Encouraging Christians to give sacrificially

the local church to grow spiritually and numerically

The local church is a body of those working with God, who minister according to their individual spiritual gifts, with the intention that the church should grow spiritually as well as in number.

Special challenges today:

- Ø Sound, practically-orientated teaching of basic Scriptural doctrine and wise handling of different opinions and practices on matters which are not central to the faith
- Ø Developing people, especially those in leadership positions, through courses, bible schools, seminars, workshops and mentoring
- Ø Developing helpful structures, to suit the mission and tasks of the church
- Ø Furthering growth through integrating full-time and part-time workers into the structure and tasks of the local church
- Ø Good spiritual cooperation in necessary change in the church
- Ø Dealing in a loving way with differences and conflicts
- Ø Holding on to the ethical teaching of God’s word

To plant new local churches

We are convinced that planting new local churches is a very effective way of long-term evangelism.

- Ø We commit ourselves to planting churches in our region and worldwide in a strategic way
- Ø We want to encourage cooperation between local churches in their areas.