



## **The Women`s Ministry in ESTONIA**

Estonian Women's Ministry started again in November 6, 1993.

Exchange of information and the main organisational issues have been dealt with through e-mails or by phone.

The main activities of the Women's Ministry take place in the local congregations, and in addition to this we also organize events to women from all over Estonia. We have the women fellowship groups, Bible and prayer groups; women are engaged in the social services both in the congregations as well as outside.

### **Main activities**

\* The Women's Day of Prayer (WDP) was celebrated all over Estonia, ecumenical services were held in different towns in Estonia, message from local pastor, the ecumenical women's choir sang. The readers of the prayer texts were women from different churches and denominations.

\* 2016 Graduation of the Theological Seminary of the UMC in Estonia. Pille Mägila was one of the graduates. The theme of her final thesis was very interesting providing discovery about the activities of women in the UMC in Estonia in 1920-1940. It is worth to mention that educated Christian women were able to accomplish very much in those years both in church as well as outside church. It occurred that already then the church was able to effectively support inclusion of women into different areas of church ministry. The legacy left us in the form of the journals is worth reading, showing us the active way of life, willingness, and prayer attitude of men and women of those times as well as fight with difficulties and quick growth of the church - befitting the time also today.

2016 European Ecumenical Christian Women's Forum co-ordinators' seminar in Larnakas, Cyprus. Estonia was represented by Pille Mägila and Lii Lilleoja.

2016 the leaders of the women ministries of four churches organised an Ecumenical Women's Conference "Is forgiving always a must?" in EKNK (Estonian Christian Pentecostal Church) Tallinn congregation. A book with the same title was published in Estonian, its author ia Finnish writer Anna-Liisa Valtavaara, who visited Estonia already for the 3rd time. During the conference she carried out 3 seminars: "Main enemies of freedom - bitterness, guilt and shame"; "Choosing freedom through forgiving"; "Forgive yourself!" The day was educative and blessed by God.

The ministry of methodist`s in the russian speaking churches has been active. Russian Women's Minstry team has organized fellowship groups for presentations, group work and prayers.

2017 Methodist's Women`s Conference. The Theme of the Day: **An Influential Woman.** We did learn about different situations and opportunities that bring about a change both in ourselves and in the lives of others. If we want to change the world, we must start from ourselves:

- \*The spiritual message about **a woman, who brings about a change**
- \* Presentation about Susanna Wesley – **a woman who brought about change.**
- \* Group work "**A woman who has influenced my life**".

We are grateful to God for the present time, when our women are by Gods grace active in many areas of our church in Estonia.



### **Main goals**

- Encouraging women in different ministries of the church by fellowship and training
- Reflecting the activities of the Women's Ministry in the methodist journal „Koduteel“
- Co-ordinating organisation of events involving women from all over Estonia both in the UMC in Estonia as well as on the ecumenical level
- Look for the opportunities and ways to value and encourage the Women's Ministry in the local congregations
- Keeping the contacts outside Estonia. We have good friends in Norway, Sweden, Great Britain, USA etc
- We continue active ecumenical co-operation with other churches and denominations
- We consider the co-operation with European Ecumenical Christian Women's Forum important
- Continuing co-operation with the Women's Ministry team of the Estonian Evangelical Alliance.

It is always important to give credit to people around us, who have been sent to us by Gods grace. If we love God and neighbors then we fulfil the the most important commandment and keep our life in balance.

Pille Mägila, Unit President