

**Bassi boaššu**  
**Pyhä – Helig – Holy**

## **Invitation**

A warm welcome to Helsinki, 18-19 August 2010, to a Nordic conference to share our common experiences on Open and Roadside Churches (Tiekirkot, Vägkyrkor, Veikirker, Vejkirker).

We have sent this invitation especially to those who are actively involved in the open church activities, are directing this work or are managing the resources for this work. According to the previous planning the aim is to have from each country at least five participants: one working on the national level, two on the Diocesan level and two working on the local level. Also those involved in the pilgrimages are welcome.

At the conference we will study the objectives of the open church work. Is it our aim to preserve the cultural heritage, or to do missionary work, or just to serve the tourists? We will share our views and experiences of meeting people in church buildings and also on the theological aspects of church architecture and on information and communication about the open churches.

### **1. The theme for the conference is Holy.**

How the notion of holy is understood today is at the moment one of the central themes in the Finnish Lutheran Church. We would be interested to share ideas of how we can best support tourists in their experiences of all that can be seen as holy.

### **2. The conference language is English.**

### **3. On the second day of the conference we will share our common experiences.**

Therefore, we would like to hear the participants' short presentations of their own open church activities. Brochures (about 20 copies) of the local or national open church work would be helpful. In addition we would like to receive from the participants a short report (not more than two pages) of their present open church activities.

### **4. We hope to receive the registration form by e-mail to**

**terttu.etelamaki@kolumbus.fi by 31 May 2010 at the latest.** The registration form is attached and can also be found on the home page of [www.nordkirker.net](http://www.nordkirker.net)

**5. The conference will be held in Helsinki** at the Lutheran Church Council building, and in its conference room, address: Satamakatu 11, Helsinki, 7th floor. Accommodation is reserved at Hotel Scandic Grand Marina (five minutes' walk from the Church Council) at Katajanokanlaituri 7, 00160 Helsinki.

**6. The conference fee** is 420 € which includes the whole programme and excursions, the meals (two lunches and dinner) and the hotel accommodation for two nights OR 220 € without accommodation. The participants will cover their own travel expenses.

**7. The Conference is organised by** The Diocese of Oulu (Finland), Veikirker på Nordkalotten ([www.nordkirker.net](http://www.nordkirker.net)), The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and The Finnish Church Resources Agency.

It would be our great joy to share with you common experiences and challenges of the open and roadside church activities.

Please return the registrations promptly and by 31 May at the latest.

We look very much forward to seeing you in Helsinki in August,

Best wishes,



Rev. Pekka Huokuna  
Executive Director  
Office of the Church Council  
Department for Parish Services

Attachments: Programme and the Registration form.