

Conference on Theological Education in ELCROS



March 8th-10th, twelve representatives from various regions of our Church came together for a conference in order to think together about the goals and concepts of theological education in ELCROS. The conference was opened by the introductory paper written and read by E.A. Luedemann, the former director of the missionary seminary in Hermannsburg; in it, he shared the experiences of other Churches of ecumenical cooperation and gave an impulse toward overcoming the current problems in ELCROS. Afterwards there were reports about the development of educational programs in the regional Churches. Kyrgyzia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine shared their experience and attempts at elementary education of people for church service.

Participants of the conference expect the Theological Seminary in Novosaratovka to provide a higher level of education which would allow seminary graduates to communicate in urban congregations with those people who have a higher education, and to lead spiritual discussions on topics of Christian faith and the Lutheran church. The necessity of closer cooperation between all the educational institutions within our church also became clear. In order for this to happen it will be necessary to have further consultations, the theme of which will be the necessity to have qualified theologians and a clear professional future for graduates. This conference was an important step because here for the first time there was an exchange of experience and options among representatives of the various educational institutions of our Church.

Godeke von Bremen (President of the Theological Seminary)