

What does equal Communion in Mission mean ?

My contribution comes from the perspective of an evangelical ecumenically engaged minority church in Central Europe. These four dimensions mix constantly and sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between them.

The challenge is to treat the minority church as an equal church. This has not only theological aspects. It is a constant debate about how far other churches are churches. And it is not only about the relationship with the Roman Catholic or Orthodox Church, but also about the relationship with Protestant churches, which are especially focused mission in Poland.

In addition to the theological aspect, however, there is also a practical existential aspect: it is about access to resources. The disparity in the size of churches affects the importance of single churches in society. The larger one is sometimes privileged and has easier access to the media and financial resources, for example. Often laws that facilitate the activities of churches are introduced from the perspective of a "bigger, stronger church."

Equal fellowship in mission means that the larger church supports the smaller. Perhaps you realize this. Perhaps I should apologize for the cliché.

Although there is no longer an Iron Curtain between Eastern and Western Europe, there is still a gap or rather differences in understanding the world. These can be small things, but also things of great importance. I think that such a matter is the difference in the consideration of anthropology. This discrepancy is also related to the understanding of mission. Maybe not theoretically but practically. I have made the observation that for a significant number of Central European churches, mission serves primarily to increase the number of church members.

Equal fellowship in mission means changed thinking about mission. Perhaps it is clear to you.

This discrepancy, which remained after the Iron Curtain, is also evident in ecumenical activity. On the one hand, the churches, regardless of their size, can cooperate, for example, in diaconal ministry or take a common stance towards the government on matters important to the churches' existence. For many years, the Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox churches have conducted joint campaigns. I know that for many listeners, diaconal activities are an essential part of mission.

Equal fellowship in mission means an ecumenical attitude. Perhaps it is clear to you.

In 2008, Protestant churches together with the Roman Catholic Church organized an evangelization meeting in Katowice. Talks with representatives of the churches lasted a long time. But the result was an eight-day lasting evangelization campaign in the largest sports hall in Katowice, which was broadcasted to 103 Protestant and Roman Catholic churches in Poland. In conclusion, one of the important clergymen of the Roman Catholic Church said that he now saw that it was possible to preach the Gospel together after all, namely during a joint evangelistic campaign.

Mission is a difficult issue in practice because it requires giving up separate interests. Equality requires that anyone who thinks he is higher descends lower. The problem might be whether the lower person understands that it's about meeting, because sometimes I think the lower person just wants to switch places with the higher person. Maybe it is clear to you ... or maybe not.