

Report on supervision in ECCB, 2013

Developed by Lydia Mamulova, coordinator of supervision

Now, after two years since the supervisors gained their exams and commission for supervision in the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB) it has become apparent that there has not been such an interest for a service of supervisors in the church as we had imagined before. But we still work on deepening of our skills. The bigger interest for supervision is among the younger generation. Some of supervisors do not ask for a financial reward. It is a way of introducing supervision to colleagues, for they would not be shy to accept this service as a part of preacher's work.

Since the beginning till the end of the year 2013 **supervisors did altogether 170 hours** of supervision, 15 of them individual hours paid and 93 unpaid. In the vicariate they worked altogether 43 hours of training supervision and 17 hours in Balint groups (some of them paid).

The first meeting of supervisors was in Prague April 29, 2013. Its meaning was finding out ways how to continue in our work on the field of education and possibilities of supervisor's supervision. Another issue was the method and promoting system of supervision in the church. The supervisory work was led by three supervisors from the Czech Institute of Supervision (CIS). Firstly with a theory of leading groups with Balint features and an interview. *The group with Balint features provides* an encounter of people engaged in helping professions (e.g. pastors), a possibility to present situations from his or her practise, a possibility to get view of one's blind spots as well as a support for further work.

In the second part of the programme a sample of a Balint group on a theme picked up among present pastors took place. Work in a group used to be creative and views of individuals contributed to better depiction of given pastor's situation. At the end of the group work the overall reflection went off.

The third part was determined by issues about *possibilities of presentation the supervisory work* on pastoral conferences of particular seniorats. An interesting dialogue on pastor's weak points arose. How to convince them to be glad for the supervision. One of the issues was the *possibility of supervision* – except work with ECCB pastors – also *with preachers of other ecumenical churches* and even from other institutions, e.g. Diaconia of ECCB, hospitals or other helping professions.

The CIS supervisors emphasized, that *the ECCB supervisors are trained primarily for a supervision of its pastors*, and for a supervision of other professions would be good to attend a standard supervision course, although they believe that nowadays the ECCB supervisors could be able to do a very good supervision even for other professions. The supervision within the ecumenical churches is possible to solve by contracts between the ECCB and a concerned churches.

On the contrary they endorsed the proposal of *establishing groups in particular seniorats*, because the work in groups with Balint features enables participants to join the supervisory work and at the same time to remain to some extent an observer, who needs not to go out on a limb. This experience might help to overcome shyness of a supervisor as an inspection as well as getting view of the sense of supervision, gaining a detached view and the joy of work which the supervision brings. In every of our 13 seniorats could be one functional group with Balint features led by two or three local supervisors.

During the 3rd session of the 33rd General Assembly of ECCB Jun 30, 2013 in Prague were at the end of the opening service *introduced by the coordinator L. Mamulová twelve from sixteen supervisors to its members.*

After the service there was an appointment with discussion on the way of further meeting, where nine of supervisors took part. There emerged from the discussion, that supervisors are interested in both in order to *further education as well as personal meeting* and cultivating a group work. The result of the discussion was a decision to meet twice a year: in January during the pastor's course in Prague and for three days in our course centre in Běleč in the Autumn.

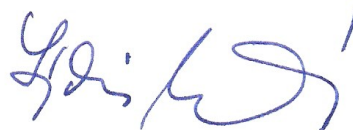
The November meeting was attended by ten supervisors with two teachers. The theme was *death*. Lecturers projected a documentary film about people on chemotherapy, continued with an interview with a psychotherapist and supervisor about her experience with work with dying people and people suffering from the death of loved ones, especially the death of a child. Later took place mutual supervisions with feedbacks of individuals and groups. The meeting was evaluated by all participants very positively as professionally educating and empowering.

Several tasks for the coordinator came of the final evaluation, among others, a proposal on a way of cooperation with other churches from the Ecumenical Council of Churches (ECC) or displaying medallions of individual supervisors on the supervision website (<http://supervize.evangel.cz>).

At the end of the year supervisors have to submit further report about their supervisions and receivers of supervision can claim back 75 percent of their expenses from the supervision account.

As a coordinator I am ready to organize one-day meeting for supervisors in January before the pastor's seminary in Prague and then again two-days meeting in Běleč in autumn 2014. Visiting all seniorats of ECCB and supporting the development of seniorat groups with Balint features seems to be a long term matter.

The coordinator is encouraging moderators and pastors to use supervision for their preaching and pastoral ministry as a well -functioning and very useful tool for solving various pastoral and administrative situation in the church. The coordinator is also recommending supervision to pastors for personal growth and support.



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