

# Authority in the Church

Catholic, Lutheran and Orthodox perspectives



Pictures: Wikipedia

## Summary discussion

EVANGELICAL  
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ELCF national Church council, Office for Theology  
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# ἵνα πάντες ἐν ᾧσιν - Ut unum sint - May they all be one

As the starting point for the series of the three seminars in spring 2015 was the Faith and Order convergence document **The Church: Towards a Common Vision**. The document raises up the ecclesiological relevant convergence, which has already been achieved in various multilateral and bilateral theological dialogues. One of the still remaining questions, which still needs further elaboration is the question of “Authority” in the Church, which has close links with the questions regarding normative teaching, oversight and the universal ministry of unity. Through the series of reflective encounters we aim to give space for open discussion in order to give impulses for the official ecumenical work between the churches and the inner discussions within the churches. A final discussion will summarize the three earlier discussions.

## ***Authority in the Church and its exercise***

*Significant steps towards convergence on authority and its exercise have been recorded in various bilateral dialogues. Differences continue to exist between churches, however, as to the relative weight to be accorded to the different sources of authority, as to how far and in what ways the Church has the means to arrive at a normative expression of its faith, and as to the role of ordained ministers in providing an authoritative interpretation of revelation. Yet all churches share the urgent concern that the Gospel be preached, interpreted and lived out in the world humbly, but with compelling authority. May not the seeking of ecumenical convergence on the way in which authority is recognized and exercised play a creative role in this missionary endeavour of the churches?*

**The Church**, para. 48-51

**Tuesday 24th November 14-16, Studium Catholicum,  
Ritarikatu 3, Helsinki**

The discussion: Bishop *Matti Repo*, Lutheran & Prof. Fr. *Antoine Levy*, Bishop *Teemu Sippo* and PhD student *Heidi Zitting*.

**You are warmly welcome!**