



EFECW

ECUMENICAL FORUM OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN

**“Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” Rom. 12,2**

Message of EFECW Coordinating Committee, April 2023

The Coordinating Committee (CC) of the Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women (EFECW) met in Oradea, Romania, 20-23 April 2023.

We were welcomed to Oradea, by CC member Pastor Judit Vincze and stayed within the Roman Catholic Bishop's Episcopal Palace. We enjoyed the experience of a city like Oradea, where different traditions and expressions of faith come together and live in harmony.

We were very pleased to be able to meet with, Böcskei László, Roman Catholic Bishop, Virgil Bercea, Greek Catholic Bishop, Mátyás Attila, representative of the Lutheran Bishop, and Pálffy Annamária, Unitarian Pastor, representative of the Unitarian Bishop. We joined with members of “Care for Soul”, Ecumenical Women's Prayer Chain. This is organised under the Romanian EFECW umbrella in partnership with Roman Catholic Diocese. We were invited to celebrate morning prayer in the Bishop's Chapel. Bishop Virgil Bercea invited us to an evening concert at the Greek Catholic Cathedral followed by dinner.

We continue to meet within the context of challenging times. We are mindful of our sisters in Ukraine suffering over one year of war. We are mindful of the mistrust and unrest throughout Europe, the ever-present climate crisis and further environmental degradation.

A key text for our meeting was Luke 10:38-42. Especially the words of Jesus to Martha, “*you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one*”. The EFECW is a place where women come together to share our common concerns. Our work in the CC is to enable our Forum sisterhood to grow stronger in witnessing Christ's love, peace and justice within our churches and the world.

EFECW Coordinating Committee

Oradea, 20-23 April 2023

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