

# The 6th Nordic conference on Church organisation and leadership

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**Title:** Churches and civil society: new challenges for organization and leadership

**Venue:** Aarhus, Denmark

**Organisers:**

- Aarhus University (School of Culture and Society / Dept. of Theology),
- Centre for Pastoral Education and Research

**Time:** 28.-30.11.2018 (lunch Wednesday to lunch Friday)

**Prospective participants:** Researchers and scholars in the field of religious studies, theology, organisational studies, political science, sociology, and other relevant fields

**Call for papers:**

Our conference aims to present and discuss research on the questions of relations between churches and civil society. These relations are undergoing changes. First, changing relations between state and church have several consequences. Disconnecting or separating churches from state administration tend to “push” churches more into the realm of civil society. Churches need to adapt their organisational and leadership structures to those of civil society organization. Relying on those of bureaucratic state institutions is now in the past. But this also raises questions about how theologies and organizational values of churches might also change. Second, the role of the state in relation to local communities is changing. Increasing centralization and cut back on institutions, infrastructure and welfare services affect local communities. Consequently, civil society agents including churches play a larger role in local welfare provision. Often, voluntarism is an important ingredient of their activities and services. Thus, leadership of volunteers and groups and activities play an increasing role in church organization. How churches relate to other civil society agents become a pressing issue of church leadership and organization.

The conference will present and discuss research on questions in this field from several perspectives. We hope for organisational studies, sociology, theology, political science, anthropology and other relevant disciplines to be part of investigations on church and civil society organizations.

We welcome papers that address questions in this area, empirically and/or theoretically, including papers on:

- voluntarism and organization and leadership of volunteers
- local organization and leadership between civil society and a parochial structure
- organization and leadership of non-profit organizations in civil society
- democratic structures and legitimacy in churches as civil society organizations
- organizational values in churches as civil society organizations

- ecclesiologies in churches as civil society organizations

Deadline paper abstracts: 1. September 2018. However, in order to enable participants to apply for funding at their home institutions (or elsewhere) with earlier deadlines, we will receive and notify about acceptance continuously from July 1. Abstracts submitted by 1. Sept. will be notified regarding acceptance no later than 15. September.

**Paper abstracts to be sent to: [churchcivilsoc@cas.au.dk](mailto:churchcivilsoc@cas.au.dk)**