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Title: Ewangelickie Prawo Kościelne 1918-2018. Zbiór tekstów prawnych kościołów ewangelickich w Polsce - recenzja

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*Ewangelickie Prawo Kościelne 1918—2018
Zbiór tekstów prawnnych kościołów ewangelickich w Polsce
(Evangelical Canon Law 1918—2018. Collection of Legal
Texts of the Evangelical Churches in Poland),
eds. Marcin Hintz, Michał Hucał. Warszawa:
Wydawnictwo Naukowe ChAT, 2018*

The publication *Evangelical Canon Law 1918—2018. Collection of Legal Texts of the Evangelical Churches in Poland* is the outcome of the project “Multi-dimensionality of Evangelical Canon Law. Comparative, Theological and Legal Analysis together with the Edition of Legal Texts of the Polish Evangelical Churches” carried out as a part of the programme of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education entitled National Programme of the Development of Humanities in the years 2016—2018.

Evangelical Canon Law 1918—2018 contains legal rules specifying the system, representation and inner affairs of the Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession, Evangelical Reformed and Evangelical Methodist Churches, which are members of the Polish Ecumenical Council. The first volume included the collection of legal documents introduced by the government or Church authorities based on the then enforceable law, namely from November 11, 1918 on, after Poland regained its independence.

The publication was edited by excellent theologians-ecumenists and experts in canon law — Bishop Professor Marcin Hintz and Doctor Michał Hucał. It consists of two parts: “Regulations coming into effect on January 1, 2018” and “Old regulations introduced after November 11, 1918.” Both parts deal with separate rules for each of the three Churches. At the end of each part the readers will find “Documents/regulations common

for Evangelical Churches.” The publication concludes with “Biographical notes of academic editors” and “Index of abbreviations.”

Volume I, as we read in the “Introduction”, “refers to the tradition started by two Lutheran collections (*Collection of Legal Rules of the Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession in the Polish People’s Republic*, Zwiastun publishing house, Warszawa 1972; *Collection of Legal Rules of the Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession*, Augustana publishing house, Bielsko-Biała 1999), published by the Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession authorities, and ‘ecumenical’ legal collections of many religious communities but limited to their internal basic legislation.” It is worth mentioning that some of these legal acts are being published for the first time.

The book is a valuable work that can be used by lawyers, theologians, ecumenists, theology and law students, and those who are interested in problems of canon law. Moreover, the authors prove not only their knowledge of the issues in question, but also particular ecclesiastical and legal sensitivity necessary in such a study. The work has also become part of the 70th Anniversary of the World Church Council and 45th Anniversary of *Leuenberg Concord* that were celebrated in 2018.

The conclusion of the ecclesiastical community is not complete and Churches have to face an increasing number of new tasks. Moreover, both *Leuenberg Concord* and *Evangelical Canon Law* call us to deepen the achieved bond, to test it in the face of theological-legal agreements and to do everything to make it fruitful in the service of the Church of Christ. The publication provides us with priceless material for further research.

Józef Budniak