

## Ele Paju: National in Mission Appointment Estonia

The leader of the Estonian United Methodist Church Youth Board is Ele Paju a [National in Mission Appointment](#) supported by the [World Mission Fund](#). Despite the restrictions during 2020 and 2021 she has overseen the development of a well-functioning Estonian Methodist Youth Team. With the devoted and wholehearted input of the youth team members they have started teenage youth



ministry and a camp for teenagers. There has been increased cooperation between Russian and Estonian speaking youth. Ele has also overseen the training of youth leaders with a group of young people entering the school of mission on their own initiative.

One of the young people she works with, Elisabet Toodo, has shared her story, and this is reproduced with her permission:

“I have been a Christian my whole life, gone to church, but I didn’t know God and I had no special contact with God. I believed in God, but I hadn’t experienced him. I started to study the Word of God few years ago. I went to the Bible reading camp and there were fun-games, swimming, workshops and worship. Once during the worship time I felt how Holy Spirit took the worries I had and filled me with joy and peace.

I have been to different camps after this and eventually I went to Methodist youth autumn camp for the first time. It is a bit funny as I had attended Methodist Church my whole life, but I hadn’t been in any Methodist youth camps. Many had invited me, but I was either afraid or had no desire to go.

But this camp was very cool. There were great people, good worship, outdoor and indoor sport games and there I met God- it was a really cool camp. Since that camp, I have started to attend all the camps of Methodist church. The best camp was our winter camp in 2019. So I started to engage more with the church. In summer 2020 I was in the team of teenage camp and teaching others. In autumn, our youth leader asked me about the worship in our youth meetings and then I was able to tell him that I go to music school and can play different instruments. My friend Maarja has a great voice and so we started to practice. Today we help and serve in our youth meetings with different things.



In the autumn I went to a Christian event as well, called The Bible Days Festival and it was an inspiring



event. After the Festival we attended the School of Missions in order to get to know God more and understand His Word. It has been a great time. I am thankful to my family, who has pushed me further, to my friends, church community and first of all to God.”

Please continue to pray for Ele and the young people in Estonia. To support this and other similar work please give to the [World Mission Fund](#).