

Meeting between Representatives of the International Lutheran Council (ILC) and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

Geneva, Switzerland, 14 January 2015

Communiqué

LWF – Participants

- Rev. Martin Junge, General Secretary
- Rev. Dr. Kaisamari Hintikka, Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Relations/ Director for the Department for Theology and Public Witness
- Dr. Carlos Gilberto Bock, Director for the Department for Mission and Development
- Rev. Dr. Elieshi Mungure, Area Secretary for Africa

ILC – Participants

- Bishop Hans-Joerg Voigt, ILC Chairman
- Rev. Dr. Albert Collver, ILC Executive Secretary
- Archbishop Christian Ekong, Lutheran Church of Nigeria, member of the ILC Executive Board
- Pastor Gijsbertus van Hattem, President, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belgium, member of the ILC Executive Board

Both the LWF and the ILC are honouring the commitment they made to meet with one another as agreed in the memorandum of understanding from March 2005.

Agenda

1. Highlights from the International Lutheran Council (ILC)
2. Highlights from the Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
3. Reformation anniversary 2017 – plans, exploration of possible cooperation
4. Conflict situation and difficulties
5. Agreement on the continuation of LWF – ILC meetings, dates and venue.

Major items to be noted

1. Participants noted with appreciation that the present is the fourth consecutive meeting since the year 2011. The regularity of the meetings has provided a space where deeper discussions on theological matters and more open exchange on detected difficulties in the relationships on local and regional levels have become possible. On the basis of this assessment, and in the expectation of rich fruits to be enjoyed through further direct interaction between ILC and LWF, both sides agreed to continue holding annual meetings in the future.
2. Reviewing specific cases where conflicts have emerged, clarification was provided and follow up processes were agreed upon. In more general terms, the discussions

revealed the necessity to engage in deeper discussions regarding:

- a. The theology of mission as it prevails in both ILC and LWF contexts;
 - b. The concept of unity of the church as understood both in ILC and LWF.
 - c. The expectations between ILC and LWF for further developing their mutual engagement. It was proposed in this context to reflect on protocols between ILC and LWF, at this time on the global level, which ILC and LWF would want to agree upon.
3. The Reformation anniversary 2017 was discussed throughout the meeting. ILC and LWF are at different stages in their preparation processes and the specific programs designed for this important event. ILC expressed appreciation for the document *From Conflict to Communion*. The LWF welcomed the proposal of ILC to engage in a deeper study of the document.
 4. In the context of the discussions about the document *From Conflict to Communion*, ILC indicated initial discussions regarding a new approach to study the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of the Justification (JDDJ)*, signed between the Vatican and the LWF in 1999.

25-26 February 2016 were fixed as the dates for the next meeting, which would be hosted by the ILC.

This communiqué shall serve as the official record for the meeting.

Geneva, Switzerland
January 14, 2015