



Resolution regarding ILC relations with the LWF
XXVI World Conference of the International Lutheran Council

- Whereas for several years, the ILC and LWF have engaged in fruitful conversation; and
- Whereas on 28 June 2018, Dr. Martin Junge, General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, announced in his report to the LWF Council that “The inability of the ILC to uphold a position that the LWF and the ILC publicly stated only a few years ago regarding churches with double membership (ILC-LWF) eventually led me, in consultation with the LWF President, to propose a temporary suspension of our annual meetings”; and
- Whereas the ILC regards itself as an association of church bodies and not as a church, communion, or fellowship, unlike the LWF, which does regard itself as a fellowship and communion; and
- Whereas the ILC, after several communications, informed the LWF that the ILC continues to accept dual membership in the ILC and LWF; and
- Whereas although ILC members accept the confessional basis of the bylaws of the ILC, the ILC exercises no control over and gives no directives to internal policies and practices of its member church bodies;
- therefore be it
- Resolved:** that we reaffirm the resolution adopted by the XXII (2007) World Conference of the ILC in Accra, Ghana, which states: “Some churches of the ILC while holding broadly to a common understanding of the basis for church fellowship, namely agreement in doctrine and practice, participate in the LWF for reasons that are unique to their situations and in such a way as not to deny the basis for confessional fellowship,” and that “respecting the autonomy of churches, the ILC holds it to be the responsibility of each member church to act in matters of Church Fellowship according to its conscience on the basis of the revealed Word of God, and our confessions”; and be it finally
- Resolved:** that the ILC Executive Committee remains open to conversation with the LWF Council to help clarify points of confusion and to facilitate an ongoing exchange of information.

*XXVI (2018) ILC World Conference
Antwerp, Belgium*