

Second meeting of the International Lutheran-Pentecostal Dialogue

24-30 September 2017, Wittenberg, Germany

Communiqué

Representatives of various classical Pentecostal churches and The Lutheran World Federation member churches recently began a five-year dialogue in 2016. The second meeting took place 24-30 September 2017 at Colleg Wittenberg, Germany. Through annual meetings, the partners seek to understand each other better, at both international and local levels, in order to appreciate each other's theological and spiritual traditions and to find ways for common witness.

Each day began and ended with devotions led by the various members of the dialogue, several of them held next to the St. Mary's (City) Church of Wittenberg, at the equally historic All Saints Chapel.

The theme of the dialogue is our "Christian Identity" in light of Luke 4:18-19. The theme of this second meeting was "God has anointed me to proclaim" and it focused on our understanding and practices of mission. Rev. Johannes Zeiler presented a paper on "Lutheran Perspectives on Mission" and Rev. Tham Wan Yee presented a paper "... he has anointed me to proclaim..." (Luke 4:18). A Pentecostal Reading from the Global South". The members of the dialogue heard also Dr. Andreas Fincke's presentation on religious landscape in secular Eastern Germany. Participants discussed the papers both in small groups and in plenary, raising questions to each other on commonalities and differences in the understanding and practice of mission.

On Wednesday 27 September, the dialogue participants had the opportunity to visit the Castle Church and the City Church in Wittenberg, as well as the exhibition "95 Treasures – 95 People" under the guidance of Ms. Katja Köhler, explaining the history and the impact of the Reformation. On Thursday morning they attended the planting service of a tree from the Lutheran diocese of Linköping, Sweden, in Luther Garden. This garden is a symbol of Christian hope and the strengthening relations of Christian churches worldwide.

The delegations express their gratitude for Colleg Wittenberg for their hospitality, and particularly to Rev. Hans Kasch of LWF-Wittenberg for his tireless commitment to providing a genuine welcome.

Members of the Pentecostal team are: Dr. Jean-Daniel Plüss, co-chair (Swiss Pentecostal Mission, Switzerland), Rev. Dr. Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen (Pentecostal theological consultant, Finland/USA), Rev. Dr. Cecil M Robeck, Jr. (Assemblies of God, USA), Rev. Gani Wiyono (Assemblies of God, Indonesia), Rev. Tham Wan Yee (Assemblies of God, Malaysia) and Dr. Olga Zaprometova (Church of God, Russia). Members of the Lutheran team are: Rev. Dr. Walter Altmann, co-chair, (Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil), Rev. Tamás Gáncs (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary), Rev. Dr. Wilfred J. Samuel (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Malaysia), Rev. Dr. Cheryl Peterson (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), Rev. Johannes Zeiler (Church of Sweden), Rev. Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson (Consultant on behalf of the Institute for Ecumenical Research, Strasbourg, France/USA) and

Rev. Dr. Kaisamari Hintikka (Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Relations with Lutheran World Federation, Switzerland/Finland) and Rev. Anne Burghardt (Secretary for Ecumenical Relations, Switzerland/Estonia). Rev. Dr. Amos Buntausa (Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria) was unable to attend.

The dialogue met for the first time in September 2016 in Baguio, the Philippines and discussed the issue of Christian identity. The next annual meeting is scheduled to be held in 2018 in Latin America. The theme will be “...good news to the poor...” (Luke 4:18) and will focus on diakonia and issues relating to the notion of “prosperity gospel”. The meeting in 2019 is planned to take place in Africa on the theme, “freedom, recovery and release...”. In 2020 the dialogue will meet in North America and release a common document based upon the work they have completed in light of Luke 4:18-19.

Lutherstadt Wittenberg, Germany

29 September 2017