

### **Report of the National Committee in the Netherlands for 2013**

The current Synod Commission of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, which has been in office since May 2013, is at the same time the National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation. Owing to problems in the synod and the Synod Commission during 2011/2012 this responsibility was unfortunately neglected. In 2012/13 an Interim Board had to prepare for a reconstitution of the synod.

The current synod and the Synod Commission were able to start their work well and to gain the trust of the congregations. Experience to date is positive. The congregations are happy and relieved to again have a church leadership available for contacts and consultation.

The Lutheran Synod reports to the General Synod of the Protestant Church of the Netherlands (PCN). The president, the vice-president and three other members of the Lutheran Synod are also members of the General Synod. The General Synod has 79 members and charts the course of the PNC.

The Lutheran Synod is responsible for the church life of the Lutheran congregations, for feeding Lutheran tradition into the whole church and for contacts with the LWF.

We are fortunate to have Ms Daan Leker as a member of the LWF Council and Ms Johanna van der Sluis–Reuvers as an advisor.

The PCN arose from a merger of various churches. There are currently about 10,000 Lutherans in this church of 2.1 million members. The PCN is also a member of the World Communion of Reformed Churches. As a small group we have to set priorities. Not everything is possible financially, either. We are very grateful to the LWF leadership for having been able to reach agreement with the PCN on the membership fee

In order to be able to responsibly play our part in the work of the LWF, we hope to publish a program with policy lines and priorities in autumn 2014.

W.T.V. Verhoeven

23 April 2014