



16 June 2016

Dear Bishop Munib, officers and members of the Lutheran World Federation Council, and dear Martin, my esteemed new colleague,

The Churches of the Anglican Communion send you greetings and prayers at the beginning of this meeting of the Lutheran World Federation Council. Our thoughts and prayers are particularly with you this year, as you begin the commemoration of 500th anniversary of the Reformation initiated by Martin Luther.

The recent meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in Lusaka, Zambia, gratefully received the greetings of the LWF, graciously conveyed by Bishop Matti Repo.

At that meeting of the ACC, Anglicans were able to say important things about this anniversary year. On the Five-Hundredth Anniversary of the Reformation (Resolution 16.16),

The Anglican Consultative Council

1. *recognizes the significance of the five-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation, which will be marked in 2017; and*
2. *encourages Anglicans across the Communion to be a part of the commemorations by joining in shared services, undertaking study with Lutherans and other ecumenical partners, and engaging with them in mission activities; and*
3. *recommends that Anglicans engage with the Lutheran World Federation's focus: Liberated by God's Grace.*

After many years of reflection on Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification between the Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church (Resolution 16.17),

The Anglican Consultative Council

1. *welcomes and affirms the substance of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ), signed by Lutherans and Roman Catholics in 1999; and*
2. *recognizes that Anglicans have explored the doctrine of justification with both Lutherans and Roman Catholics; and*
3. *recognizes that Anglicans and Lutherans share a common understanding of God's justifying grace, as the Helsinki Report stated that we are accounted righteous and are made righteous before God only by grace through faith because of the merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and not on account of our works or merits; and*

4. *recognizes that in 1986 the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) produced a statement Salvation and the Church, which observed that our two Communion are agreed on the essential aspects of the doctrine of salvation and on the Church's role within it.*

These resolutions, many years in the making, mean that we join with you in this significant commemoration. We look forward to the publication of a volume of reflections by Anglicans and Lutherans from around the world on the theme of "Liberated by God's Grace", prepared by our joint coordinating committee (ALICC).

And in this year, the Anglican Communion formally welcomes and affirms the substance of the JDDJ, this magisterial achievement in your dialogue with Roman Catholics. The passing of a resolution is only the first step. We look forward to a public event when we can convey this resolution to representatives of the LWF and the Catholic Church.

With you, we look forward in hope to a renewal of the unity and mission of the Church through common reflection on our reformation and catholic heritage. We join in the theme, "Liberated by God's Grace", which resonates with our deepest experience of our freedom in the Triune God, through the paschal mystery of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and also speaks hope to the many places in our world that long for liberation by God's grace

Yours in the Risen Christ,



The Most Revd Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon
Secretary General of the Anglican Communion