

**MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL (ILC) AND
THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION (LWF)
WITTENBERG, GERMANY, 12 – 13 NOVEMBER 2013**

COMMUNIQUÉ

LWF PARTICIPANTS:

Rev. Martin Junge, the General Secretary of LWF
Rev. Dr. Nicholas Tai, Dean of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong
OKR Norbert Denecke, LWF German National Committee
Rev. Dr. Kaisamari Hintikka, LWF Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Relations
Rev. Dr. Carlos Bock, the Director of LWF Department for Mission and Development

ILC PARTICIPANTS:

Bishop Hans-Jörg Voigt, ILC Chairman
Rev. Dr. Albert Collver, ILC Executive Secretary
President Rev. James Cerdeñola
President Rev. Gijsbertus van Hattem

Both the LWF and ILC are honoring the commitment they made for the executive committees of each organization to meet with one another as agreed in the memorandum of understanding from 3 March 2005.

Propst Dr. Johann Schneider, the Wittenberg-Regional-Bishop (EKMD), welcomed and hosted the ILC and the LWF for the opening dinner on 12 November 2013.

Philippines Update

Both LWF and ILC were deeply touched by the disaster in the Philippines. Both organizations encouraged their constituents to contribute to the relief efforts and prayer for the victims of the typhoon.

Both LWF and ILC rejoice in the reunification of the two Lutheran groups within the Lutheran Church in the Philippines. Both the LWF and ILC continue to encourage and to pray for the Lutheran Church in the Philippines as it continues to strengthen and to grow in its unity.

Agenda

1. Developments and current challenges from the LWF perspective.
2. Developments and current challenges from the ILC perspective.
3. Discussion and questions.
4. ILC Wittenberg Project (Old Latin School) update.
5. Preparations for 2017 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.
6. ILC and the LWF invitation to Mennonite Action.
7. Reflections about the meeting and discussion regarding the Communiqué.
8. Conclusion.

Agenda Items 1 – 3

Both LWF and ILC declare an intention to maintain coherence and provide for an exchange of information regarding discussions both dialogue partners may share.

The LWF and ILC discussed the situation of the 11 churches, which hold dual membership in both organizations in a spirit of clarification and understanding. Both the LWF and ILC encouraged these churches to see themselves as a bridge of understanding between these organizations. Future meetings will continue to reflect on dual membership.

The LWF debriefed the ILC on the ongoing Emmaus Conversation. The LWF shared with the ILC the document, "Claiming the Gift of Communion in a Fragmented World," and referred to the LWF council discussions in June 2013 dealing with issues of communion relations, in particular where they are strained due to different theological interpretations.

The LWF and ILC explained to each other the processes, contexts, and background regarding situations where there is no current agreement.

The LWF and ILC discussed areas where conflict emerged and how future conflict might be addressed in a way that is mutually respectful.

In the meeting, the LWF and ILC engaged in theological discussions regarding their respective positions and agreed that future theological discussion could be beneficial.

Agenda Item 4

Rev. David Mahsman, Executive Director of the International Lutheran Society of Wittenberg (ILSW), a non-profit corporation established by the LCMS, SELK, and Concordia Publishing House, gave a Power Point Presentation on the status of the Wittenberg Project and the renovation of the Old Latin School.

Agenda Item 5

The LWF and ILC agreed to continue to share plans for 2017 Reformation Commemoration, and to consider the possibility of some joint action.

Agenda Item 6

The ILC responded with a letter to the LWF invitation to participate in the Mennonite Action.

Agenda Item 7

Both the LWF and ILC thanked one another and appreciated the frank conversation and transparency shown in the discussion. Both agreed that the conversation was valuable and look forward to the next opportunity to gather. A desire was expressed to meet annually. The LWF will host the next meeting in Geneva on January 14, 2015.

Agenda Item 8

The meeting concluded with Rev. Hans Kasch's and Rev. David Mahsman's presentations on "My experience in Wittenberg from the LWF / the ILC perspective."

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

Wittenberg, Germany
13 November 2013