



# World Council of Churches

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Bishop Atle Sommerfeldt  
Acting Presiding Bishop  
Church of Norway

Geneva, 10 May 2020

## **Consecration Greetings to Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit and the Church of Norway**

Dear brothers and sisters of the Church of Norway,

*“God has given us a new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)*

We rejoice with you, Olav, and with the whole Church of Norway, on this day of your consecration as bishop and the beginning of your service as Preses of the national church. With the whole fellowship of churches that make up the World Council of Churches, we say, “Hallelujah!”

Like your compatriots, we know you well. We in the WCC continue to benefit from your hard work, your collaborative and judicious decision-making, and your careful nurturance of the ecumenical fellowship. We also are inspired by your theological insights and convictions about what these times and our faith are demanding of us now. Thank you!

By the same token, we are convinced that, as they have in the past, your commitment and gifts, and most especially your deep faith, will serve the Church of Norway well. And we pray that every day will witness fresh initiatives to nourish and flower the faith and commitment of the whole church.

Indeed, we know well the church you serve, since the Church of Norway is a key partner in the ecumenical quest for unity, witness, and service. Long may it continue!

Now we are entering a new and in some ways unprecedented era for the church, here and around the world. The global health crisis has revealed and even exacerbated vast inequities and injustices, and we are forced to engage creatively in new ways and expressions of being church.

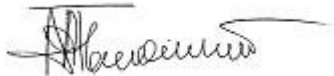
Yet this crisis has also revealed and reminded all of us of what really matters in life, how deeply bound we are to one another as one human family, and how precious is the community we share. Responding to the widespread suffering and death, the shared grief, also raises the prospects for a new consensus and resolve for addressing the crisis of meaning and of means that surrounds us.

So we earnestly pray that, with your leadership, the Church of Norway will seize this time to strengthen faith, encourage participation, cultivate community, and foster dedication to the care of the people of Norway and the service of the whole human family.

As you have often taught us, we are the pilgrim people of God, one in the Spirit, one in faith, and one in our love for each other. We cherish that solidarity and community in these times. And we look to a new birth of the church through the continued presence of the Risen Lord among us. May the Church of Norway be and become, as you have phrased it, “a fellowship of hope,” a haven always safe yet never comfortable, a herald and true beacon of hope for all humanity.

Let the people say, “Amen!”

Yours in Christ,



Dr Agnes Abuom  
Moderator of the Central Committee



Rev. Prof. Dr Ion Sauca  
Acting General Secretary

cc. Berit Hagen Agøy, General Secretary, Council on Ecumenical and International Relations, Church of Norway