



THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH OF JORDAN AND THE  
HOLY LAND



DEN NORSKE KIRKE  
Church of Norway

# Communion in Faith, Life and Witness

## Agreement between the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land and Church of Norway

### 1. Preamble

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and Church of Norway (CoN) confess our common faith in the triune God, and believe that we through our common baptism belong to the one, holy, apostolic and catholic Church. We confess together that the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as found in the Holy Scripture and as interpreted and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions, is the power of God that creates, equips and sustains us for faithful participation in God's mission in the world.

As members of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), we are in communion (alter and pulpit fellowship), sharing Word and Sacraments and recognizing one another's ministries. As members of LWF and the World Council of Churches (WCC) we affirm our common calling and commitment to unity in faith, life and witness. In our communion we are bound together to explore, extend and deepen our communion in mutual accountability.

We acknowledge the relationship and cooperation already established between our churches, such as the agreement between the CoN diocese of Borg and the ELCJHL and cooperation between institutions and congregations of our churches, as well as partnership agreements and cooperation with partners such as Norwegian Church Aid and the Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land.

### 2. Terms of Agreement

As churches in communion in faith, life and witness for Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, we commit ourselves to deepen and develop our mutual relationship through common efforts, in order to:

- Exchange and share general information, experiences, spiritual gifts, intercessions and concerns of our churches
- Facilitate consultation between church leaders and official delegations through visits and meetings in conjunction with synods and ecumenical assemblies

- Facilitate exchange between representatives of our churches in different positions in order to share information, work and experiences in specific areas of common interest through exchange of information, visits and exchange programs
- Explore further possibilities for concrete cooperation and action
- Establish a concrete Common Plan of action for a limited period of time, for possible renewal
- Participate and share experiences in the annual COCOP meetings
- Pray for each other

### **3. Evaluation and reporting**

This agreement shall be in effect for a period of eight years, from the date of its signing and celebration. Each church will implement the agreement according to the regulations of the respective church. The agreement shall be evaluated at the end of the period and revised according to a common understanding between the two parties.

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This partnership agreement is signed at a time of conflict in the Holy Land and with much suffering among its people. We therefore conclude with the words of Psalm 72 as our prayer and our common witness to the risen Lord Jesus Christ:

*He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.  
 He will be like rain following on a mown field, like showers on the earth.  
 He will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no-one to help.  
 He will rescue them from oppression and violence.,  
 For precious is their blood in his sight.*

*May his Name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun.  
 All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.  
 Praise be to his glorious name for ever;  
 may the whole earth be filled with his glory.  
 (From Psalm 72)*

Oslo, 17 November 2014

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 Rt. Revd. Munib Younan  
 Presiding Bishop of ELCJHL

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 Presiding Bishop of CoN