

**MKR-SAK 29/99 A: RAPPORT FRA RÅDSMØTE I DET LUTHERSKE
VERDENSFORBUND, BRATISLAVA, 21.-29.JUNI 1999**

Saksbehandler: Ørnulf Steen

Sakspapirer:

- LWFs Rådsmøte juni 1999, rapport fra Sigrun Møgedal
- LWFs eksekutivkomitemøte juni 1999, rapport fra Sigrun Møgedal
- Vedlegg til rapport fra eksekutivkomitemøte:
 - Treasurers report
 - Initial elements of functional divisions of the LWF operation
 - Augusta Victoria Hospital i Jerusalem, referat fra Board of Trustees i brev fra LWFs generalsekretær av 15.07.99
 - Rådsmøtets vedtak når det gjelder undertegningen av Felleseklæringen i brev fra LWFs generalsekretær av juli 1999
- Rapport fra møte i Programkomiteen for Mission and Development, Kjell Nordstokke
- Rapport fra "Standing Committee for Ecumenical Affairs", Ørnulf Steen
- Referat fra nordisk møte under LWFs Rådsmøte, Stig Utnem
- Brev til medlemskirkene fra LWFs generalsekretær datert juli 1999 med informasjon om Rådsmøtet og vedtatte resolusjoner.

Norske deltakere

Sigrun Møgedal, Medlem av Rådet og Eksekutivkomiteen, LWFs Treasurer
Kjell Nordstokke, Rådgiver for programkomiteen for Department for Mission and Development
Stein Villumstad, Kirkens Nødhjelp
Stig Utnem, Nasjonalkomiteen, Dnk
Terje Solberg, Nasjonalkomiteen, Frikirken
Ørnulf Steen, Nasjonalkomiteen, Dnk
Tor B. Jørgensen, observatør fra NMS

Rådsmøtets form

Rådsmøtet samles en gang hvert år. Det er LWFs øverste styrende organ mellom generalforsamlingene. Møtet veksler mellom en innledende plenumsesjon som bl.a. behandler diverse rapporter, arbeid i komiteer der det avgis innstilling for rådet på de forskjellige arbeidsområder og en avsluttende plenumsesjon der rådet fatter sine vedtak.

Kommentarer

Med henvisning til Sigrun Møgedals rapport understrekes at diskusjonen om mål og prioriteringer for LWF er grunnleggende viktig. For å styrke og videreutvikle organisasjonen som et fellesskap av kirker er det nødvendig at muligheten til politisk styring av organisasjonen forbedres ved at styrende organer (Rådsmøte og Eksekutivkomite) får større mulighet til å gi overordnede signaler om LWFs retning.

I den ressursmessige situasjon som hele den økumeniske bevegelse befinner seg, er arbeidet for samordning både innefor den lutherske kirkefamilie og i det videre økumeniske fellesskapet av vital betydning.

I et fellesskap av LWFs størrelse og karakter vil det alltid være ulike agendaer og behov for å bygge allianser for å oppnå de ulike mål. Norden utgjør en stor og relativt tung region som i noen grad har sammenfallende interesser. Innenfor et kirkelig fellesskap som LWF er det

viktig at de store kirkene som har større mulighet til bygging av allianser er seg bevisst viktigheten av at de mindre kirkers anliggender må komme tydelig frem.

Det at Felleserklæringen om rettferdiggjørelseslæren nå er klar for undertegning er en viktig sak for LWF, men også for hele den økumeniske bevegelse. Dialogarbeidet som har ført frem til erklæringen, er blant kjerneoppgavene for et fellesskap som LWF. Man kan konstatere at nettopp i slutføringen av en slik kjerneaktivitet oppstår også diskusjonene som dypest sett bunner i medlemskirkenes forståelse av hva LWF er.

FORSLAG TIL VEDTAK:

MKR takker for rapportene fra LWFs Rådsmøte i Bratislava.

På grunnlag av rapportene og samtalene i MKR-møtet vil MKR vektlegge følgende saker:

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LWFs Rådsmøte Juni 1999

Rapport fra Sigrun Møgedal

1. Noen hovedtrekk

LWF er nå inne i den perioden mellom generalforsamlingene der arbeidsprogrammet skal virkeligjøres i praksis. Tolkningen av føringene fra Hong Kong er gjort, og de valgte strukturer begynner å gå seg til innenfor sine ansvarsområder. Det er i de kommende par år at det vil vise seg om LWF mestrer mandatet fra Hong Kong og evner å svare på de store økumeniske og sosialetiske utfordringene fellesskapet av lutherske kirker nå sammen med andre kirker løpende står overfor. Mye endrer seg i det økumeniske landskapet som LWF er en del av, med nye allianser og nye relasjoner.

En overskrift over utfordringene for Rådsmøtet denne gangen kan være **samspillsberedskap og identitet**. Både den pågående diskusjonen om LWFs mål og prioriteringer, og arbeidet med forberedelsen av et nytt økumenisk forum i tilslutning til KV der også konfensjonsfamiliene også forventes å delta aktivt, bidro til å skyve fram disse to hovedutfordringene.

Identitet fordi uten en tydelig kjerne vil LWF miste sin rolle og bidrag, både inn mot medlemskirkene og utover i et videre fellesskap. Samspill fordi LWF best kan løse mange av sine oppgaver sammen med andre. Dette innebærer også en utfordring innad i det lutherske fellesskapet for mer aktiv bruk av nettverket av medlemskirker til å løse felles utfordringer. Det er hverken ressurser for eller ønske om at LWF gjennom sitt hovedkvarter eller sitt nærvær gjennom LWS i ulike land skal gjøre alt som kaller på felles handling.

Den store saken på møtet var likevel også i år Felleserklæringen som nå har resultert i en avtale på et grunnlag som både LWF og Vatikanet ser seg tjent med. Dermed er det duket for den historiske undertegnings-seremonien som er besluttet lagt til Augsburg.

Alt i alt ble møtet avviklet på en god måte. Det bør likevel gjøres noe med forholdet mellom komite-tid og plenumstid, og muligheten for rådet til å komme i innspill med de større strategiske sakene gjennom plenumsforhandlinger. Slik det nå er brukes åpningsdagene til endeløse formelle rapporter og taler uten anledning til reell debatt, og etter komitemøtene er det knapt anledning til å trekke sammen til bredere tema, da alt foreligger i del-rapporter og det er bare deler av disse rapportene som har forslag til rådsvedtak det må taes stilling til. Dermed får rådet lite strategisk betydning for de større overgripende spørsmålene.

Møtestedet i Bratislava, Slovakia, var betydningsfullt. Det var første gang etter jernteppets fall at det var et møte av denne type i LWFs regi i et tidligere Øst-blokk land. Slovakia har stått midt i den sentral-europeiske arenaen for møter mellom øst og vest, kristendom og islam, reformasjon og motreformasjon, og har mange historiske milepeler knyttet til dette. Kirkens rolle i samfunnet, og da særlig den katolske og den lutherske kirke, ble markert på mange måter gjennom møter med president og statsminister, TV overføringer av gudstjenester etc. Vertskirken gjorde en god jobb med å legge alt til rette. Temaet "The Gospel transforming cultures" var også vel plassert i denne konteksten. I lys av tidligere konsultasjoner (Evangeliet og kulturprosessen i KV) kom det likevel ikke fram særlige nye momenter til dette temaet gjennom foredrag og gudstjenester.

2. Prosess og roller

Den nåværende arbeidsform er ikke god. Den valgte rådsstrukturen får i veldig liten grad inngrep i strategiske prosesser. Det bør arbeides videre med hva slags saker som settes på agendaen, og hvordan rådet kan bidra til agendasetting ut fra sine virkelighet i regionene. Forholdet mellom rapporter fra Generalsekretær, President og Treasurer er heller ikke godt bearbeidet. Det er et spørsmål om en ikke burde spille noe mer aktivt på de regionale visepresidentene mht å trekke opp strategiske utfordringer for LWF, og også lagt opp til en form for generaldebatt. I alle fall er den strategiske debatten som foregår svært fragmentert. Det er tilfeldig hvilke baller som tas opp i plenum, og fra komiteene er det lite som kommer tilbake til plenum i disse spørsmål, selv om rapportene i og for seg har presentert konkrete utfordringer. Finanskomiteen presenterte dette som et tema til plenum (se ref. under II. Strategy matters). Et nordisk møte (se eget referat) understreket at her har vi også et hjemmearbeid å gjøre oss imellom.

Uten å gå i detalj på personlige vurderinger, er det rimelig klart at det nå foregår en form for maktkamp mellom President og Generalsekretær. Presidenten har lange visiteringsrunder til medlemskirkene der han opptreter ganske høyprofilert. Også nå på rådsmøtet ble det en veldig ensidig profilering av Presidenten. Dette kan i det lange løp bidra til at Presidenten opptreter som Generalsekretær, og at rollene forkludres. Mens det er mulig for rådet å holde generalsekretæren ansvarlig gjennom rapportering og instruks, er dette et mye mer flytende felt i forhold til presidenten. Her er det grunn til årvåkenhet framover, først og fremst for å bidra til åpen kommunikasjon, men også for at det ikke foregår en forskyvning i roller uten at dette er tilstrekkelig klargjort for råd og eksekutivkomite.

Det kan synes som det også er en del politisk alliansebygging knyttet opp til dette. Ikke minst kom dette til syne under diskusjonen om hvem som skulle undertegne Felleserklæringen på vegne av LWF. Her var det til tider et aktivt spill for å sette Generalsekretæren på sidelinjen. Det kom så langt at en måtte ty til tolkning av konstitusjonen for å forstå nyansene i formell oppgavefordeling. Konstitusjonen opererer med begrepene "Officers", der President, Treasurer og Generalsekretær pålegges å konsultere med hverandre når det gjelder LWFs liv og arbeid. Både Generalsekretær og President er "public representatives and spokespersons". Men det er Generalsekretæren som står ansvarlig for arbeidet i forhold til Rådet og som "conduct the business" i organisasjonen. Det er mulig en burde gå inn for en klargjøring av hvordan dette skal forstås i situasjoner der begge opptreter sammen, eller Presidenten opptreter alene på vegne av LWF.

3. Integrasjon i organisasjonen. World Service

\Gjennom tidligere om-organiseringer i Geneve har en lagt vekt på å få til en bedre integrasjon mellom World Service og resten. Det gjelder personalpolitikk, økonomistyring og generell koordinering. Mission and Development får en stadig større rolle i videreføring av World Service engasjementer, der det finnes en egen medlemskirke.

Integrasjonsspørsmålet har mange sider. World Service må i særlig grad legge vekt på profesjonalisering, samspill med andre innen bistand og nødhjelp og aktiv deltakelse i kunnskaps og erfaringsutveksling med andre organisasjoner med tilsvarende mandat og oppgaver. Flere av de nordiske kirkebaserte nødhjelpsorganisasjonene har basert seg på en effektiv multilateral side, der LWF både ønskes og ønsker å bli brukt som partner.

Dette spørsmålet er tatt opp i møter mellom agencies og World Service, men settes ikke på agendaen til rådsmøte eller eksekutivkomite. Spørsmålet om integrasjon eller spesialisering er i høy grad et policy og strategi spørsmål og en må kunne forvente at dette tas opp i de valgte organer. Vanskeligheten er at det ikke er noen enkelt komite som arbeider med disse spørsmål, og at heller ikke eksekutivkomiteen i sitt arbeid som personalkomite får inntak til denne type problemstillinger. Det understreker betydningen av at agendapunkter kan

genereres også utenfor sekretariatet, og at det er viktig å få til en organisering av rådsmøtene på der slike spørsmål naturlig følges opp (se også ref fra nordisk møte).

4. Mål og prioriteringsdiskusjonen

Det ble orientert om den prosessen som nå er gjennomført i Geneve for å kartlegge arbeidsbelastning og gjennomgå aktiviteter i forhold til bestemte prioriteringskriterier. Arbeidet har vært preget av å være ledet av litt ulike konsulenter, og av å skulle svare på litt ulike behov.

Den informasjonen som nå finnes om hver enkelt aktivitet og hver arbeidsplass, er nyttig. Først og fremst for interne formål. Nytteverdien er imidlertid atskillig mindre når det gjelder bruk i forhold til strategiske og politiske prioriteringer på et mer overordnet plan. Dette har nok også sekretariatet nå til en viss grad erkjent.

Rådsmøtet mottok rapporten og satte slik sett en formell sluttstrek for det spesielle arbeidet som ble igangsatt før Hong Kong. Vedtaket i denne saken ble gjort før arbeidet i komiteene (jfr det som tidligere er nevnt under prosess i pkt.2 over), slik at rådet ikke gjorde annet enn å la seg informere.

Finans- og administrasjonskomiteen tok tak i behovet for å identifisere kjernefunksjoner og også se på konseptet "shared capacity" som ble introdusert i Treasurers report. Et foreløpig utkast til hvordan dette kunne se ut er vedlagt som tabell.

5. Kirkelederkonferanse

Det er foreslått en global kirkelederkonferanse midtveis i perioden mellom generalforsamlingene. Et ønske er å arrangere denne i forbindelse med rådsmøtet i 2001, som er foreløpig planlagt til Jerusalem (evt Betlehem). Det er imidlertid usikkert om det vil være økonomi til å holde både et fullt rådsmøte og et selvstendig kirkeledermøte. Tatt i betraktning at det er en god del av de samme menneskene som deltar, og at det vil kunne gå an å tilpasse rådsagendaen noe, er et forslag å se hva som kan gjøres ved å la disse møtene overlapse hverandre, og trimme ned rådsmøtet til det minimale. (Vedtak basert på forslag fra finans og admin komiteen).

6. Annet

Min tale, Treasurers Report, vedlegges i sin helhet. Den trekker opp en del utfordringer som ble diskutert og vakte interesse i alle komiteer.

Neste møte skal være i Turku, Finland 14-21 Juni 2000

LWFs Eksekutivkomitemøte Juni 1999

Rapport fra Sigrun Møgedal

Møtet ble holdt i forkant av og til dels integrert i rådsmøtet.

Hovedsaker i tillegg til prosess, protokoll og seremoni for Felleserklæringen var forberedelse til rådsmøtet, status for Augusta Victoria saken, noen stridsspørsmål og personalrelaterte spørsmål.

Denne gangen var møtet om Augusta Victoria ikke tilstrekkelig godt forberedt, så det ble en temmelig kompleks og mangslunget diskusjon i selve møtet, samt behov for to gangers behandling. Utfallet var imidlertid tilfredstillende, sett fra norsk side.

Vedtaket vedlegges i sin helhet, da det i så stor grad angår Norge.

Hele opplegget for undertegnelse av felleserklæringen er også verdt en studie. Slik det nå blir, med generalsekretæren og en president/visepresident fra alle regioner som skal skrive under fra luthersk side, får det viktige symbolfunksjoner. Selv om nok det var andre føringer som gjorde at utfallet ble slik (dvs mange underskrifter fra luthersk side), er det nå viktig å bruke anledningen til å legge positive tolkninger inn i dette og gjøre det til en viktig milepel.

Jeg ser fram til å delta som en av de 8 som skriver under, symbolsk på vegne av de nordiske lutherske kirker. Før det skjer, er det viktig å finne fram til en god måte å kommunisere den danske posisjon på. Selv om jeg vel neppe vil bli spurt direkte om dette av noen, ville det være godt å ha beredskap. Også fordi det kan bidra til folkeopplysning her hjemme hva som faktisk ligger i disse ulike syn.

Jeg regner med at MKR diskuterer hvordan denne begivenheten skal kommuniseres her hjemme innen kirken og i forhold til media.

Vedlegg:

Treasurers report

Initial elements of functional divisions of the LWF operation

Action on Augusta Victoria Hospital, Board of Trustees

Signing of the Joint Declaration (Vedtak i rådet og supplerende vedtak Ex.Com)

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Report of the Treasurer

The challenge of sustainability

1. Last year, my report to the Council focussed on instability and the need for LWF to find better and more deliberate strategies for coping with this instability and for strengthening the ability to adapt to a changing pattern of resources, partners and challenges. Let me say right away that we have taken some steps in this process, but still have a long way to go. I will come back to some of the concrete steps taken later in this report. As a framework for my presentation this year, I have chosen to set out some of the elements of sustainability and apply them to the challenge of resourcing LWF as a World Communion. It is appropriate because we in this meeting will discuss guiding principles for sustainable development. And also because the sustainability concept provides useful insight when we face the challenge of priority setting and managing change.
2. When adopted for common use after the UN Brundtland Commission's report on «Our Common Future» in 1987, sustainable development captured the complex relationship between man and environment in a unique way. The Commission pointed out the need to find roads to development that could «meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs». And it demonstrated that what may appear attractive short term, could have serious consequences when seen in a longer time perspective. Sustainability became a powerful concept because it underlined the need to deal with conflicting interests and make technical, economical and moral choices for survival of man and nature.
3. The call for sustainability was, however, quickly adapted and simplified by the jet set of international development assistance. A sustainable project came to be seen as a time limited effort that could become financially self-sufficient after an initial investment of foreign funds. Donors pre-occupation with what their money can do for development, quickly diverted the attention from the more complex questions of values and interests guiding development. Now the complexity in the development agenda is receiving renewed attention, following critical questions about the overall contribution and effectiveness of development assistance. It is too early to say whether this will mean a re-focussing of interests and commitments to sustainable development, or whether it will serve as an excuse for the international community to disengage from development co-operation.
4. For us as a church based fellowship engaged in development, disengagement is not an option. Our specific values and motivation for service represent a potentially powerful resource of energy, commitment and creativity for re-focussing efforts. We believe that sustainable development is possible and that the current pattern of poverty, injustice and environmental degradation is against the

will of God. In this perspective we must examine more broadly whether the valuable and unique resource that we as churches together represent is utilised to its full potential for meeting these challenges. It is not a challenge that is limited to LWF development projects and programmes.

5. Making our development-work sustainable has a lot to do with understanding the forces and interests at work, the options available and the long term consequences of choice. It has to do with who should be the primary actors and who should benefit. The challenge is to define our role and contribution in ways that empower and make available new options for those who are on the margins. This is more related to sustaining empowering processes and linkages than to maintaining certain activities, institutions and structures. One of our roles is definitely to help with resources and capacity that can generate such options and development opportunities long term. But sustainability and development is not primarily a discussion of financing development activities, but of choices for development and the values that guide these choices.
6. This is also applicable to LWF as an organisation and to our life together as *communio*. We may be able to talk about sustainable proclamation as much as sustainable development. And of sustainable identity as much as sustainable service. Understanding what this means for our fellowship may be critical to survival. It has to do with roles and relationships, and reveals our dependence on each other and on the wider ecumenical fellowship. It has to do with enabling and empowering each other, so that our common resource of spirituality, commitment, creativity and knowledge can be set free to contribute. More and more, the voices and participation of civil society is called for. Increasingly there is a need to interpret and speak out the Gospel values with a common voice in local situations. More and more we meet the challenge of identity and unity in diversity. To keep our *communio* alive we need the capacity to communicate, respond and relate, at each level of our fellowship and in interaction between the levels.

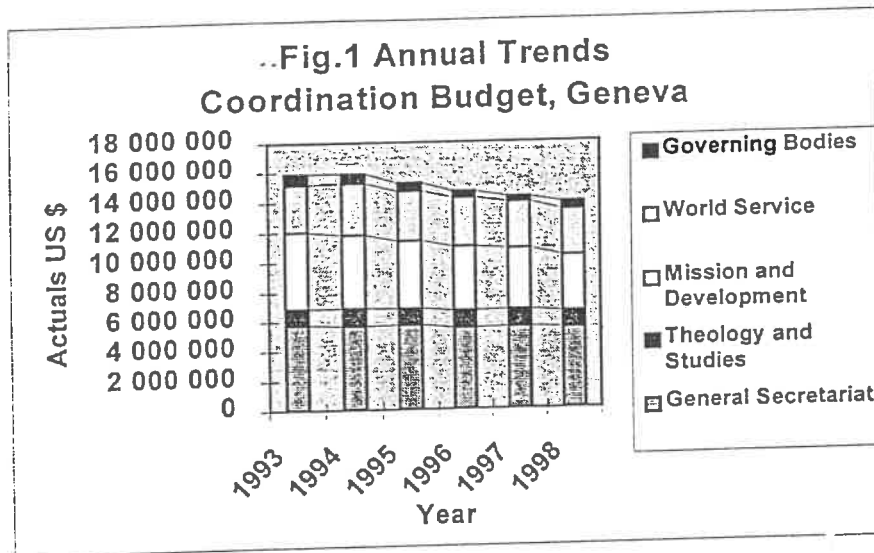
The capacity for sustainable action

7. In this perspective, the challenge of resourcing LWF as a World Communion is obviously not primarily one of financing projects and activities for each other, but of sustaining capacity to express our common identity and calling in a world of complexity, diversity and immeasurable possibilities and need. Capacity in this sense must be seen as the combined ability of the whole *communio* and the use of this ability for our common aims. Capacity has to do with a mix of skills, knowledge, finance and relationships, organised in such a way that it is available and used. To map where we have the capacity within our fellowship, and to find systems that empower members to contribute their capacity as part of our common resource is therefore critical, both to the sustainability of our fellowship and to our genuine participation in sustainable development and proclamation. In a sustainability perspective we need to be a lot more concerned with the character of our shared capacity and how it can be further developed and utilised to meet our common calling.

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8. My purpose of speaking about sustainability and capacity is not to avoid the critical question of finance, But to make the point that finance is but one of the resources that make up our ability to reflect, relate, proclaim and respond. And for our ability to become our capacity, it needs to be applied and used. The limit of our resources is made up of the limits in our common pool of skills, knowledge, finance and relationships. It is when the mix of these resources is used in an optimal way that we can call ourselves good stewards. We have a long way to go to identify all those resources available to us at the various levels of our fellowship. But we need to take deliberate steps in this direction to respond to the challenges of sustainability.
 9. You will have noted that the work load and priority setting project in its discussion of "Dimensions of a Priority" takes account of several aspects of capacity, the way I have used the term here. As we proceed, these dimensions- or the priorities arising from using them -need to be further examined against a sustainability framework which also brings in long term perspectives and the capacity within our fellowship at large. At the moment, the information and assessment from this project help us examine the current pattern of activities undertaken by LWF Geneva. Priority setting among current tasks will, however, continue to present our work as a set of defined and time limited, fundable projects, largely on demand - much in the same way as we know from traditional donor agencies. A valuable contribution of the project is the way it points out current imbalances among tasks and activities, such as the gaps in the area of communication and the need for better visibility of the theological work. In order to address these imbalances we need to look at both spending and fund raising. But we also need to find out what we can stop doing from Geneva and what can better be done through strengthening and better use of the capacity in the wider fellowship, short term and long term.

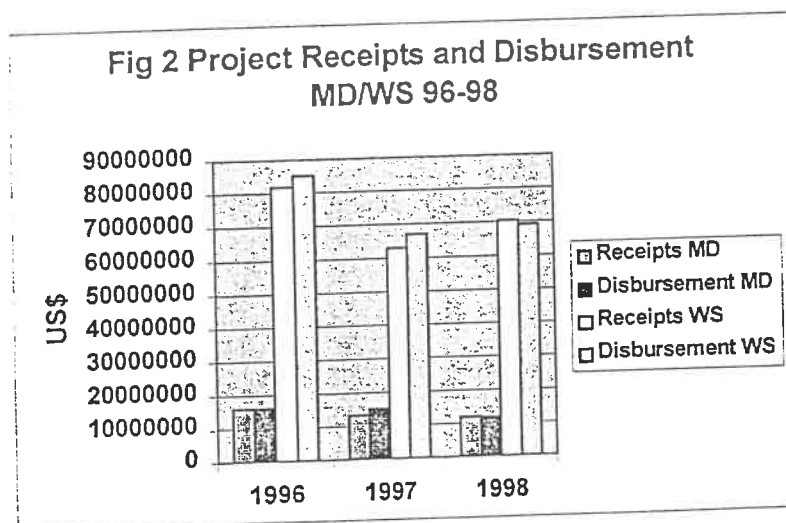
Financial capacity

10. Let us then move on to look at the financial situation. It is with great appreciation to the Secretariat and particularly the General Secretary and the Director of Finance and Administration that also this year it is possible to report to you that the LWF has managed to live within its means. As you have already heard from the report of the General Secretary, we were able to balance the Geneva Coordination Budget in 1998 with funds from member churches and agencies. It was also possible to increase slightly the General Reserves and the Exchange Equalization Fund. The WS Field Offices have had a better overview of the actual resources available, allowing the planning of their activities within the existing resources available. But balanced results have also this year only been possible through substantial savings within the approved budgets.
11. Last year, I pointed out the need to count on continued stagnation or further reduction in income from the traditional sources of funding. An overview of trends for the Geneva Coordination Budget shows a continued steady drop, of the same magnitude that has recurred since Curitiba (fig.1) .



In relative terms, the General Secretariat takes an increasing proportion of the overall expenditure on Geneva Coordination.

Looking at receipts and disbursement for projects (fig 2), the trend is however slightly reversed, with increased receipts and disbursement for World Service projects in 1998 compared to 1997. For Mission and Development the trend continues on a slight decline.



Looking at the trends for Geneva Coordination Budget and Project funds together, Mission and Development is the department that appears to be losing out in relative terms. The situation for the Department for Theology and Studies continues to be one of very limited space for taking new initiative, with consistently very small project funds and a rather slim structure in Geneva. This

means that the upward trend in receipts and disbursement for World Service Projects and the positive cash balance for 1998 should not be interpreted as a reversed trend for LWF as a whole. More specifically, it largely has to do with emergency projects. Rather, 1998 was on the whole a financially difficult year for the Federation, with decreases in contributions from member churches and agencies, some of which higher than expected. The message arising is clear; we need to adapt to a situation with a lower level of overall income for regular LWF activities. The big challenge is to maintain the current level of funding and avoid a further decline. The new accounting procedures for World Service help field offices to better control expenditure against available resources and Geneva to improve cash control. This is a big step forward and a strong contributing factor to the positive cash flow in 1998.

12. Following from this, also for this year the budget parameters established by the Council in 1998 for the Geneva Coordination budget 1999 had to be adjusted down by the Executive Committee. With the given data on currency developments and income projections, it may be possible to balance the Coordination budget as revised for this year. The estimated income for 2000 depends very much on the expected average exchange rates. From most of the member churches and agencies it is expected that the contributions will be at a similar level as for 1999, with the exception of some further substantial decreases from Germany. It is hoped that member churches living in better financial and economic environment than some years ago will show their commitment to compensate for the decrease of the German funding. The overall situation needs to be studied further by the Committee on Finance and Administration.

From priorities to essential functions

13. This situation again points out the urgency of taking our analysis of Geneva performed functions and activities further than what currently has been done in the workload and priorities project. I noted last year that we need to more accurately define the type and level of functions, administratively and programmatically, which can be understood as the critical minimum which needs to be maintained if LWF should be true to its basic mandate. It is sustainable capacity and finance for these functions that need to be protected, if we have to further trim down our budget projections. This is work that needs to be done in order to be adequately prepared for such a situation (should it arise), and must not be misunderstood as giving up what we presently see as desirable and possible. Such a minimum set of essential functions is not likely to coincide fully with the top priorities following the criteria listed under Dimensions of a Priority. Also here, therefore, we have additional work to do if we want to work strategically and not just opportunistically in a situation of shrinking general resources.

Membership fees and Endowment Fund

14. Two major steps have been taken in follow up to last year's Council meeting to safeguard income for the Coordination budget. These include the further work on

the membership fee mechanism and the promising start that has been made by the LWF Foundation and the Endowment Fund. A consultation on fair and effective

criteria for the calculation of membership and assembly fees was held in Geneva February 1999. The membership fees have regularly been raised with between 5-3% annually since 1990. Actual income from membership fees has not responded to these increases up to the level intended. It was therefore considered necessary to explore criteria which would legitimate the reasons for payment of contributions, find a model that would overcome the current imbalance and encourage churches to find ways for redistribution of financial commitments among each other. While noting the possibility of refining calculations based on some measurement of welfare in the countries, it was still seen important to consider the real financial situation of individual churches and their members. We will at this meeting of the Council be presented with adjusted calculations for membership fees and some projections for what this will mean in terms of contribution to the Coordination budget. Based on this it should be possible to arrive at a budget parameter for membership fees that will be reasonably predictable. The Committee on Finance and Administration will be asked to discuss this further and advice the Council on how to move forward.

15. The Council last year approved the Statutes and Bylaws for the LWF Foundation, which set in motion the process of establishing the Board and starting the registration procedures. Of particular encouragement has been the variety of ways that churches have responded to the Endowment Fund, in accordance with their own traditions and abilities. Both small and large churches have given positive signals of contributions. Experienced, senior resource persons have agreed to serve on the Board and have already proposed a number of strategies for fund raising. We are grateful to them and to each of those churches and individuals that have nurtured the idea and made it possible to go from dreams to the reality of having a fund established. Long term, the endowment fund may be the most promising instrument available to us to supplement membership fee income to cover the cost for essential functions of LWF Geneva towards sustainable identity, proclamation and service. But it will not replace membership fee contributions, and will likely need quite a number of years to build up sufficient capital to make a difference for stability on the income side.

Predictable partnering

16. Work continues on refining financial and administrative practice which is likely to benefit the organisation long term. Staffing levels, work load and vacancies still remain a cause for concern, even though the workload assessment so far indicates that on the whole the scope of the work of the Federation generally is within the capacity of the staff. The Programme Cooperation Frame Agreement model in support of DMD and DWS projects has demonstrated definite positive results. It now represents a tool for increased predictability and improved cost control, and it has established better links between project and programme funding and the required Coordination costs of the two departments. In addition it is providing an

improved mechanism for consultation among partners. In order to sustain these kinds of agreements, LWF needs to live up to expectations. This means that LWF will have to demonstrate its ability to take on its agreed role and do it well, both in terms of administrative systems and in terms of adequate staffing and overall capacity.

17. Getting an overview of the total financial flows in LWF and how these are translated into an overall profile of work is still quite complex. We now need to take the next steps to put things together in order to have a meaningful way of discussing overall resources and capacity. At this stage we have fairly predictable parameters for income from Membership fees and the Endowment fund, the Frame Agreements have improved predictability associated with project funding, and the Workload and Priority project has made some initial contributions to defining core functions of the organisation. An adequate platform is therefore now in place for a resource consultation, hopefully before the next meeting of the Council. It will be of vital importance that such a consultation address resources and capacity in a broader sense than finance, and in a perspective of sustainability – as discussed in the earlier part of my report.

Augusta Victoria Hospital

18. Also this year I have to come back to you with a report on the status of the Augusta Victoria Hospital. Last year I gave you an outline of the situation and the political, juridical and economical implications of our involvement on the Mount of Olives. We continue to hold the property in trust for the German Foundation, Kaiserin Auguste Victoria Stiftung and to operate the hospital within a constrained situation. The good news is that the Hospital management is able to control cost and avoid accumulating further deficits. They deserve our deepest recognition, appreciation and respect. The not so good news is that it has not been an adequate political response to the initiative from the Government of Norway for a rescue operation to protect the land. The Government of Germany is still committed to provide an extraordinary grant in support of further development of the hospital. The Government of Norway together with Sweden has committed themselves to contribute towards the accumulated deficit at a total level of approximately 3 mill US\$, on the condition that the land is safeguarded and appropriate measures are taken to provide for a continued international and Palestinian, Christian, ecumenical presence. There is still work ongoing to revise and update the relationship between LWF and the Stiftung, in light of this situation and the conditions being posed. Further, there is active work to proceed with land development initiatives in a professional way, which may contribute to a further coverage of accumulated deficits. While this is not relieving us of the burden of the past, the burden is lightened significantly and allows us to move on with confidence that it will be bearable and manageable for LWF.

Vulnerability and hope

19. In the middle of all this, we need to constantly be reminded of the need to go beyond ourselves to become partners with other churches in our ministry for

sustainable proclamation, service and development. Together with other churches we must represent a corrective force, firmly associated with options for and by the poor and for empowerment of the weakest to proclaim, relate, contribute and act.

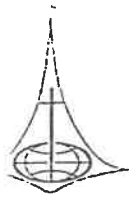
In our continued search for what we should do ourselves and what we best can do together we need to be willing to let traditional patterns be redefined, walls be taken apart and new approaches emerge. It will increasingly require energy, curiosity and creativity, and imply vulnerability and pain. But in it there is also new promise and new hope. That it what it takes to generate new resources and make the core functions of our World Communion sustainable. The call for sustainability inspires us to be good stewards and good partners, and to make the best possible effort to release the unique resource base of being churches together, within our fellowship and beyond it.

20. Let me close by restating my deep appreciation for the work undertaken by the Geneva leadership to control costs, live within our means and carefully monitor the situation. And for the generous contributions made to the LWF from member churches and agencies. It is a privilege to share in this work.

Initial elements of functional divisions of the LWF operation

SM at mtg of LWF Council June 1999

CORE OPERATION	MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT	WORLD SERVICE
<p>Nature/character of response: <i>Joint actions of the fellowship in order to better bridge between member churches, and between Lutherans and the rest of the ecumenical family - to pursue issues of identity and dialogue and those requiring common expressions or negotiations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on dialogue, consultation and negotiation among member churches • undertaken as a "global function" • current General Secretariat functions + DTS 	<p>Nature/character of response: <i>Empowering member churches to respond to our common calling in its own context</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need expressed through proposals from member churches • Response is based on the concept of solidarity among member churches, and an understanding of need for each other • Imply the challenge of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regionalisation/decentralisation • shared capacity • networking <p>• Thematic work closely related to core operation</p> <p>Comment: <i>May or may not be helpful to shift LWS over to DMD type operations</i></p>	<p>Nature/character of response: <i>Effective Lutheran participation in emergencies and rehabilitation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need unlimited • Arise from specific events and developments beyond member churches control and ability • Crowded with agencies and partners • Challenge of "ecumenical partnering" internationally and locally • Options to contract with international agencies (UN etc) • Require technical proficiency and professional staff • The operation require "market orientation" and "market type" management skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing need to be related to the size of the operation at any given time, ie flexibility both to expand and to trim down, adjust to new type of demands etc
<p>ASSOCIATED OPERATION Strasbourg Institute</p>		



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND - FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL - FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

Office of the General Secretary

Stiftelsen Oljeberget
Att: General Secretary Stig Utne
P.O. Box 5816 Majorstua
0308 OSLO
NORWAY

15 July 1999

Dear Stig,

It was a pleasure to have seen you at the Council meeting in Bratislava, Slovak Republic at the end of June 1999. Today I wish to share with you in writing the resolutions which the Board of Trustees of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) took at that meeting in regard to the Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH).

In complying with the first resolutions of the Board of Trustees I would kindly ask that you express the gratitude of the Board to the Norwegian and Swedish governments for their readiness to provide grants in the amount of US\$ 2 million and US\$ 1 million respectively and for the commitment of Norway to continue to play a central role in the rescue operation for the land. Allow me to add to this resolution my personal appreciation for the assistance which Mr Wegger Strømmen, the Norwegian Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has given us in this matter. I am grateful also for your own personal involvement and your availability to act on our behalf.

The second resolution taken by the Board confirms that the LWF is committed to secure the property on the Mount of Olives and to ensure that no land will be sold. This is a condition for the transfer of the grants and is thus being met. The Kaiserin Auguste Victoria-Stiftung (KAVSt) will meet this stipulation also and you will hear from them directly to this effect.

With the above assurance given, I trust that you will be able to initiate the transfer of US\$ 2 million as soon as possible. Kindly forward the amount to the following account: Banque Edouard Constant, Cours de Rive 11, 1211 Geneva 3, SWIFT: BECWCHGG, account number: 62 00 33.0.01.061.

In order for you to have the complete record of the discussion and the resolutions taken by the Board of Trustees, I share with you the following excerpt of the Minutes of the Board of Trustees from its meeting on 21 June 1999.

The Board of Trustees noted that

- While all of the deficits are not covered and therefore, the precondition for implementation of the Agreement of Intention is not met, important steps have been taken on a number of the essential elements in the Agreement, such as the Governance of the AVH and efforts to strengthen the presence on the land in ways that also will generate new resources through the work of the Land

Development Committee;

- With the funds now committed towards the rescue operation and the active work to proceed with land development initiatives in ways that are expected to contribute towards a further coverage of accumulated deficits, the immediate financial pressure on LWF is lightened significantly and the long term burden made more bearable and manageable;
- Though the Hospital now continues to demonstrate ability to operate within approved budgets and does not accumulate further deficits, the Hospital Board has advised that in order to sustain operation in the future, it is urgent to proceed with the next steps in further development of specialized services within the framework of committed funding;
- Work is ongoing to revise the 1964 agreement between the KAVSt and the LWF, taking into account the purpose and principles for the cooperation set out in the Agreement of intention and keeping open the option for LWF to become a member of the KAVSt.

It was resolved:

1. To authorize the General Secretary to express the gratitude of the Board of Trustees on behalf of the LWF member churches to the Norwegian and Swedish Government through the Norwegian Stiftelsen Oljeberget (Stift) for their preparedness to provide the specified grants and for the commitment of Norway to continue to play a central role in the rescue operation for the land;
2. To affirm the continued commitment of LWF to secure the property on the Mount of Olives for the purposes and principles set out in the Agreement of Intention, and in its current position of holding the property in trust to ensure that no land will be sold;
3. To authorize the LWF General Secretary to continue the negotiation with the KAVSt on the revision of the 1964 agreement, in line with the summary of objectives and basic principles set out in the Agreement of Intention, including also the possibility of LWF becoming a member of the KAVSt;
4. To communicate to KAVSt that a re-transfer of land held in trust by LWF back to the KAVSt is not seen to be politically advisable at the present time, even if it were legally possible. In order to arrive at a common understanding of issues pertaining to re-transfer, a procedure for a joint KAVSt/LWF assessment should be defined, including also necessary



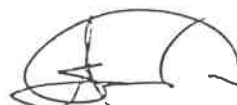
consultation with the LWF local member church and the partners in the rescue operation;

5. To request the General Secretary to clarify the legal consequences of becoming a member of the KAVSt while the property is registered in the name of LWF, including the implications for safeguarding the land so that there is no possibility that land may be sold;
6. To authorize the AVH Board to take a decision to establish a radiation oncology program on condition that this program is totally financed by grants from partner organizations and that it will contribute to the financial viability of the hospital.
7. To approve the amended Governance Document for the AVH.
8. To authorize the General Secretary to appoint new members to the AVH Board assuring that the Board members reflect professional competence, such as medical, financial, legal and management.
9. To approve the establishment of a panel of 3 to 4 experts for the land development on the Mount of Olives with the aim to obtain a comprehensive land utilization plan to be presented at the next Board of Trustees meeting in the fall of 1999 and to authorize the General Secretary to nominate one to two LWF members.

With regard to the last resolution, I wish to invite you to propose the name of an expert for the land development on the Mount of Olives who will serve on the panel together with two or three additional members. I am sure that you will be able to propose a person who has the necessary expertise and knows about the sensitive and sometimes complicated situation of Jerusalem.

Thank you for transmitting the gratitude of the Board of Trustees to the Norwegian and the Swedish governments. I shall be looking forward to hearing from you about the proposed name of a person to be included in the panel of experts.

Yours sincerely,



Ishmael Noko
General Secretary

cc: Dr Christa Gregel, KAVSt
President Christian Krause, LWF
Dr Sigrun Møgedal, LWF Treasurer



LWF FOUNDATION

STATUTES AND BYLAWS

(TRANSLATION)

STATUTES OF THE LWF-FOUNDATION

I. NAME, PLACE, PURPOSE AND ASSETS OF THE FOUNDATION

Article 1 *NAME AND PLACE*

- 1.1 There shall be a foundation governed by Articles 80ff of the Swiss Civil Code with the name "LWF Foundation", hereinafter called the "Foundation".
- 2.1 The seat of the Foundation is in Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland.

Article 2 *PURPOSE*

- 2.1 The purpose of the Foundation is to strengthen and supplement by means of its assets the financial support for the work of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).
- 2.2 The Foundation receives and administers gifts, legacies, donations and other contributions.
- 2.3 The beneficiaries of the Foundation will be determined by the needs of the Lutheran World Federation within the framework of its worldwide mission.

Article 3 *ASSETS*

- 3.1 At its establishment the Foundation shall have a capital of CHF 50'000.
- 3.2 The Foundation may, at the discretion of the Board, accept other additional assets and thereby increase the original capital.
- 3.3 The assets of the Foundation shall be invested in conformity with respective legal requirements.
- 3.4 The Board shall be in charge of the investments and the administration of the assets of the Foundation. It may delegate these powers.

II. ORGANISATION OF THE FOUNDATION

Article 4 AUTHORITIES OF THE FOUNDATION

Authorities of the Foundation:

- The Board of the Foundation
- The independent auditors

Article 5 BOARD AND COMPOSITION

- 5.1 The Foundation shall be administered and directed by a Board appointed by the LWF Board of Trustees in an honorary capacity.
- 5.2 The Board consists of at least three and up to eight voting members.
- 5.3 The Board may invite non-voting members. The General Secretary of the LWF and the Director for Finance and Administration of the LWF are members of the Board as non-voting members.
- 5.4 The Board elects from among its members a chairperson and a deputy chairperson.

Article 6 CONSTITUTION AND AMENDMENT

The Board constitutes itself. The members of the Board are appointed by the LWF-Board of Trustees. The primary qualifications for persons to be nominated and elected to the Board shall be financial and legal expertise, needed for meeting the responsibilities of the Foundation, and persons who have shown their commitment towards the purposes of the Foundation.

Article 7 DURATION

Each member of the Board shall be appointed for five years. Appointments should be undertaken in a staggered way. Exceptions pertain to those elected to fill a vacancy for the remainder of an unexpired term. Members may be re-elected once.

Article 8 *COMPETENCE*

- 8.1 The Board shall have full powers to administer and direct the Foundation within the framework of the Swiss law and the Statutes and Bylaws.
- 8.2 The Board shall designate persons authorized to represent the Foundation vis-à-vis third parties and shall determine the mode of signature on behalf of the Foundation.
- 8.3 The choice of the independent auditors.
- 8.4 The approval of the annual financial report
- 8.5 The Board shall be in charge of the investments and the administration of the assets of the Foundation. It may delegate these powers within the frame of regulations.
- 8.6 The Board shall meet as often as the activities of the Foundation require, but at least once a year within the six-month period after the closing of the books.

Article 9 *DECISION-MAKING*

- 9.1 The decisions of the Board shall be legally valid provided that the majority of voting members is present. Decisions are taken upon a majority of votes.
- 9.2 The decisions of the Board shall be recorded in minutes signed by the Chairperson and the Secretary.
- 9.3 Decisions by mail vote shall be unanimous.

Article 10 *RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE FOUNDATION*

The Responsibility of the Board and the auditors of the Foundation is carried within the framework of the Swiss law and the Statutes and the Bylaws.

Article 11 *BYLAWS*

- 11.1 The Foundation may promulgate Bylaws complementing the present Statutes if necessary.
- 11.2 Amendments to the Bylaws need the approval by the Swiss supervisory authority and the consent of the LWF Board of Trustees.

Article 12 *AUDITORS*

12.1 The accounts of the Foundation shall be audited by an independent auditor. The auditor shall submit a detailed written business report to the Board for approval. Furthermore, it has to supervise the observance of the Regulations (Statutes and Bylaws of the Foundation) and the purpose of the Foundation.

The independent auditor has to inform the Board on imperfections discovered during the execution of its mandate. If these imperfections are not eliminated within an appropriate period of time, the independent auditor has to inform the supervisory authority if necessary.

12.2 The accounts of the Foundation shall be closed each year on December 31. At the time of closing, a balance sheet, a loss and profit account as well as a business report shall be established. The first financial period will close on December 31, 1999.

III. AMENDMENT OF THE STATUTES AND DISSOLUTION OF THE FOUNDATION

Article 13 *AMENDMENT OF THE STATUTES*

The Board, upon the approval of the LWF Council, may submit proposals to the Swiss supervising authority to change the present statutes for approval (Art.85/86 Swiss Civil Code), provided such amendments change neither the essential nature nor the purposes of the Foundation.

Article 14 *DISSOLUTION*

14.1 The duration of the Foundation is undetermined.

14.2 In the case of dissolution, the existing available assets shall be made available entirely for the purposes stated in the Statutes

14.3 The Foundation can only be dissolved under the conditions stipulated in Article 88 of the Swiss Civil Code.

14.4 In no case may assets of the Foundation be returned to the founders or donors or be used in whole or part in any other manner for their benefit.

14.5 In the case of dissolution, no measure, in particular no liquidation measure, may be taken without explicit agreement of the Swiss supervising authority.

Grand-Saconnex, November 9, 1998

(translation from the German original text)

BYLAWS

Article 1 Definitions

- 1.1 The LWF Foundation (henceforth referred to as the Foundation) shall exercise responsibility for establishing an Endowment Fund according to the provisions in these Bylaws.
- 1.2 The principle of the Endowment Fund shall be held in perpetuity and annual distributions from investment returns allocated to the work of the LWF.

Article 2 Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of the Foundation is to strengthen and supplement by means of its assets the financial support for the work of the Lutheran World Federation.

Article 3 Structure

- 3.1 The Foundation shall have a Board of at least three and up to eight voting members, appointed by the LWF Board of Trustees in accordance with applicable provisions of these Bylaws.
- 3.2 The primary qualification for persons to be nominated and elected to the Board shall be financial and legal expertise, needed for meeting the responsibilities of the Foundation.
- 3.3 Each member of the Board shall be appointed for five years. Appointments should be undertaken in a staggered way. Exceptions pertain to those elected to fill a vacancy for the remainder of an unexpired term. Members may be re-elected once.
- 3.4 The LWF General Secretary and the LWF Director for Finance and Administration shall serve as non-voting members of the Board.
- 3.5 The Board elects from among its members a chairperson and a deputy chairperson. The LWF Director for Finance and Administration shall serve as the secretary of the Board and the LWF Office for Finance and Administration provide for the administration of the Foundation.

Article 4 Function

4.1 The Foundation

- 4.1.1 assists the LWF Office for Communication Services in disseminating information, publicity and educational materials about the Foundation and in obtaining donations to it, always seeking to adapt to the distinctive situation in each member church.
- 4.1.2 receives donations to the Foundation from member churches and their agencies, congregations and individuals, and other sources as it may decide.
- 4.1.3 exercises oversight of the investments and establish policies to govern the administration of the assets of the Foundation to assure their preservation and growth. It may delegate investment management to professional specialists.
- 4.1.4 establishes a full and complete account of the administration of the Fund, after the annual audit, together with the activity report to be forwarded to the LWF Council.
- 4.1.5 preserves in a reserve fund any income from investments which has not been distributed until final distribution by the Foundation.

Article 5 Amendments of the Bylaws

- 5.1 Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by the Board and approved by the LWF Board of Trustees, who shall notify the LWF Council of any changes.

Grand-Saconnex, November 9, 1998

(translation from the German original text)

STATUTEN DER LWB-STIFTUNG

I. *NAME, SITZ , ZWECK UND VERMÖGEN DER STIFTUNG*

Artikel 1 *NAME UND SITZ*

- 1.1 Es wird eine Stiftung gemäß Artikel 80ff des Schweizerischen Zivilgesetzbuches mit der Bezeichnung "LWB-Stiftung", nachstehend "die Stiftung" genannt, eingerichtet.
- 1.2 Der Sitz der Stiftung befindet sich in Grand-Saconnex, Schweiz.

Artikel 2 *ZWECK*

- 2.1 Zweck der Stiftung ist es, mittels ihrer Vermögenswerte die finanzielle Unterstützung der Arbeit des Lutherischen Weltbundes (LWB) zu stärken und zu ergänzen.
- 2.2 Die Stiftung nimmt Geschenke, Erbschaften, Spenden und sonstige Beiträge entgegen und verwaltet sie.
- 2.3 Die Begünstigten der Stiftung werden je nach den Bedürfnissen des Lutherischen Weltbundes im Rahmen seiner weltweiten Mission bestimmt.

Artikel 3 *VERMÖGEN*

- 3.1 Bei ihrer Gründung verfügt die Stiftung über Fr 50'000 in bar.
- 3.2 Die Stiftung kann nach Ermessen des Vorstands sonstige zusätzliche Vermögenswerte annehmen und dadurch das Anfangskapital erhöhen.
- 3.3 Das Stiftungsvermögen wird gemäss den jeweiligen gesetzlichen Erfordernissen investiert.
- 3.4 Der Stiftungsrat ist für Investitionen und die Verwaltung der Vermögenswerte der Stiftung verantwortlich. Er kann diese Befugnisse delegieren.

II. ORGANISATION DER STIFTUNG

Artikel 4 ORGANE DER STIFTUNG

Organe der Stiftung sind:

- der Stiftungsrat
- die Revisionsstelle

Artikel 5 STIFTUNGSRAT UND ZUSAMMENSETZUNG

- 5.1. Die Stiftung wird von einem Vorstand verwaltet und geleitet, der grundsätzlich ehrenamtlich tätig und vom LWB-Treuhandratsrat ernannt ist.
- 5.2. Der Vorstand setzt sich aus mindestens drei und bis zu acht stimmberechtigten Mitgliedern zusammen.
- 5.3. Der Vorstand kann nicht stimmberechtigte Mitglieder einladen. Der/die Generalsekretär/in des LWB und der/die Direktor/in des LWB für Finanzen und Verwaltung gehören dem Vorstand als nicht stimmberechtigte Mitglieder an.
- 5.4. Der Stiftungsrat wählt aus seiner Mitte eine/n Vorsitzende/n und einen stellvertretenden/n Vorsitzende/n.

Artikel 6 KONSTITUIERUNG UND ERGÄNZUNG

Der Stiftungsrat konstituiert sich selbst. Die Mitglieder des Stiftungsrats werden durch den LW-Treuhandratsrat bestimmt. Die vorrangigen Qualifikationen von Personen, die in den Vorstand ernannt und gewählt werden, sind finanzielle und juristische Fachkenntnisse, die für die Erfüllung der Aufgaben der Stiftung erforderlich sind, und durch ihre Einstellung und ihr bisheriges Engagement dem Stiftungszweck verbunden sind.

Artikel 7 AMTSDAUER

Jedes Mitglied des Vorstandes wird für fünf Jahre ernannt. Ernennungen sollten gestaffelt vorgenommen werden. Ausnahmen gelten für Personen, die zur Besetzung eines freien Postens für die noch verbleibende Zeit einer noch nicht abgelaufenen Amtszeit gewählt werden. Mitglieder können einmal wiedergewählt werden.

Artikel 8 *KOMPETENZEN*

- 8.1 Der Stiftungsrat hat Vollmacht, die Stiftung im Rahmen der Schweizer Gesetzgebung und der Statuten und Ausführungsbestimmungen zu verwalten und zu leiten.
- 8.2 Der Stiftungsrat bestimmt Personen, die befugt sind, die Stiftung gegenüber Dritten zu vertreten, und legt die Unterschriftsvollmachten fest.
- 8.3 Bestellung der Revisionsstelle
- 8.4 Genehmigung der Jahresrechnung
- 8.5 Der Stiftungsrat ist für die Investitionen und die Vermögenswerte der Stiftung verantwortlich. Er kann diese Befugnisse delegieren, dies im Rahmen eines Reglements.
- 8.6 Der Stiftungsrat tritt so häufig zusammen, wie es die Tätigkeit der Stiftung erfordert, doch mindestens einmal im Jahr innerhalb eines Zeitraums von sechs Monaten nach Abschluss der Bücher.

Artikel 9 *BESCHLUSSFASSUNG*

- 9.1 Die Beschlüsse des Vorstands sind rechtsgültig, solange die Mehrheit der stimmberechtigten Mitglieder anwesend ist. Beschlüsse werden durch Mehrheitsentscheidung gefasst.
- 9.2 Die Beschlüsse des Vorstands werden in einem Protokoll festgehalten, das vom Vorsitzenden und vom/von der Sekretär/in unterzeichnet wird.
- 9.3 Beschlüsse durch briefliche Abstimmung (Zirkulationsweg) können nur einstimmig gefasst werden.

Artikel 10 *VERANTWORTLICHKEIT DER STIFTUNGSORGANE*

Die Verantwortlichkeit der Stiftungsorgane bestimmt sich durch die Schweizer Gesetzgebung sowie der Statuten und Ausführungsbestimmungen.

Artikel 11 *REGLEMENTE*

- 11.1 Der Stiftungsrat kann ein Reglement (Ausführungsbestimmungen) erlassen, die die vorliegenden Statuten bei Bedarf ergänzen.
- 11.2 Änderungen der Ausführungsbestimmungen bedürfen der Genehmigung der Aufsichtsbehörde und der Billigung durch den LWB Treuhandschaftsrat.

Artikel 12 *REVISIONSSTELLE*

- 12.1 Das Rechnungswesen wird von einer unabhängigen Revisionsstelle jährlich geprüft. Die Revisionsstelle legt dem Stiftungsrat einen ausführlichen schriftlichen Prüfungsbericht zur Genehmigung vor. Sie hat ausserdem die Einhaltung der Bestimmungen der Statuten (Urkunde und Reglement/e der Stiftung) und des Stiftungszwecks zu überwachen.

Die Revisionsstelle hat bei Ausführung ihres Auftrages wahrgenommene Mängel dem Stiftungsrat mitzuteilen. Werden diese Mängel nicht innert nützlicher Zeit behoben, hat die Revisionsstelle nötigenfalls die Aufsichtsbehörde zu orientieren.

- 12.2 Die Geschäftsbücher der Stiftung werden jedes Jahr am 31. Dezember abgeschlossen. Bei Abschluss werden ein Jahresabschluss, eine Gewinn- und Verlustrechnung sowie ein Geschäftsbericht erstellt. Die erste Finanzperiode endet am 31. Dezember 1999.

III. ÄNDERUNG DER SATZUNG UND AUFHEBUNG DER STIFTUNG

Artikel 13 *ÄNDERUNG DER SATZUNG*

Der Stiftungsrat kann nach Zustimmung des LWB-Rates der Schweizer Aufsichtsbehörde Vorschläge zu Änderungen der gegenwertigen Statuten zur Beantragung vorlegen (i.S. Art.85/86 ZGB), solange solche Änderungen weder die wesentliche Natur noch die Zwecke der Stiftung verändern.

Artikel 14 AUFHEBUNG

14.1 Die Dauer der Stiftung ist unbegrenzt.

14.2 Im Falle der Auflösung werden die vorhandenen Vermögenswerte ausschliesslich für die in diesen Statuten angeführten Zwecke verwendet.

14.3 Die Stiftung kann nur gemäß den Bestimmungen von Artikel 88 des Schweizerischen Zivilgesetzbuches aufgelöst werden.

14.4 Vermögenswerte der Stiftung können auf keinen Fall den Stiftern oder Gebern zurückgegeben oder ganz oder teilweise oder auf andere Weise zu deren Nutzen verwendet werden.

14.5 Im Falle der Auflösung darf keine Maßnahme, insbesondere keine Liquidationsmaßnahme, ohne ausdrückliche Zustimmung der Schweizer Aufsichtsbehörden getroffen werden.

Grand-Sacconnex, 9. November 1998

(Originaltext)

ORGANISATIONSREGLEMENT

Präambel:

Artikel 1 **Begriffsbestimmungen**

- 1.1 Die LWB-Stiftung (nachstehend Stiftung genannt) übt Verantwortung für die Einrichtung eines Stiftungsfonds gemäß den Bestimmungen dieser Ausführungsbestimmungen aus.
- 1.2 Der Grundsatz des Stiftungsfonds hat dauerhafte Gültigkeit; die Renditen aus Investitionen werden alljährlich für die Arbeit des LWB verwendet.

Artikel 2 **Zweck**

- 2.1 Im Rahmen des Zweckes der Stiftung, nämlich die Arbeit des Lutherischen Weltbundes zu stärken, soll der Stiftungsfonds dazu beitragen, eine finanzielle Grundlage für die Aufrechterhaltung der Hauptfunktionen des LWB zu schaffen.

Artikel 3 **Struktur**

- 3.1 Die Stiftung hat einen Vorstand, der sich aus mindestens drei und bis zu acht stimmberechtigten Mitgliedern zusammensetzt, die vom LWB-Treuhandratsrat in Einklang mit den geltenden Bestimmungen dieser Ausführungsbestimmungen ernannt werden.
- 3.2 Die vorrangige Qualifikation von Personen, die in den Vorstand ernannt und gewählt werden, sind finanzielle und juristische Fachkenntnisse, die für die Erfüllung der Aufgaben der Stiftung erforderlich sind.
- 3.3 Jedes Mitglied des Vorstandes wird für fünf Jahre ernannt. Ernennungen sollten gestaffelt vorgenommen werden. Ausnahmen gelten für Personen, die zur Besetzung eines freien Postens für die verbleibende Zeit einer noch nicht abgelaufenen Amtszeit gewählt werden. Mitglieder können einmal wiedergewählt werden.
- 3.4 Der/die Generalsekretär/in des LWB und der/die Direktor/in des LWB für Finanzen und Verwaltung gehören dem Vorstand als nicht stimmberechtigte Mitglieder an.
- 3.5 Der Vorstand wählt aus seiner Mitte eine/n Vorsitzende/n und eine/n stellvertretende/n Vorsitzende/n. Der/die Direktor/in des LWB für Finanzen und Verwaltung fungiert als Sekretär/in des Vorstands, und das LWB-Büro für Finanzen und Verwaltung verwaltet die Stiftung.

Artikel 4 Aufgaben

4.1 Die Stiftung

- 4.1.1 unterstützt das Büro des LWB für Kommunikationsdienste bei der Verbreitung von Informationen, Publizitäts- und Bildungsmaterial über die Stiftung und der Sammlung von Spenden, wobei sie sich stets darum bemüht, sich der spezifischen Situation in jeder Mitgliedskirche anzupassen;
- 4.1.2 nimmt Spenden an die Stiftung von Mitgliedskirchen und ihren Organisationen, Gemeinden und Einzelpersonen und sonstigen Quellen entgegen;
- 4.1.3 übt die Aufsicht über die Investitionen aus und legt Verfahrensweisen für die Verwaltung der Vermögenswerte der Stiftung fest, um ihren Bestand und ihr Wachstum zu sichern. Sie kann die Vermögensverwaltung Fachleuten übertragen;
- 4.1.4 legt nach der jährlichen Rechnungsprüfung einen vollständigen Rechenschaftsbericht über die Verwaltung des Fonds gemeinsam mit dem Tätigkeitsbericht vor, der an den LWB-Rat weiterzuleiten ist;
- 4.1.5 behält in einem Reservefonds alle Einnahmen aus Investitionen, die nicht verteilt worden sind, bis zur endgültigen Verteilung durch die Stiftung.

Artikel 5 Änderungen der Ausführungsbestimmungen

- 5.1 Änderungen der Ausführungsbestimmungen können vom Vorstand vorgeschlagen und vom LWB-Treuhandschaftsrat, der den LWB-Rat über alle Änderungen informiert, gebilligt werden.

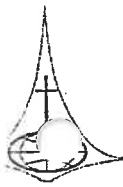
Grand-Saconnex, den 9. November 1998

(Originaltext)

MKR-sak 29/99 a)

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND - FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL - FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE



The General Secretary

J: SU
kopi SDI/OST

To the LWF Member Churches
and National Committees

KIRKERÅDET MELLOMKIRKELIG RÅD KIRKERAD	
JUL AUG 1999	
TH	SU
Dec	197/80-44
July 1999	511, 212.3

The Signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification

Dear friends,

As a special item after this year's Council meeting in Bratislava, I am pleased to share with you the decision of the Council regarding the signing of the Joint Declaration.

You will recall from my letter to you in June that I described the steps which have led us to the point where we could agree on an action of joint confirmation with the Roman Catholic Church. The Executive Committee, in its meeting immediately prior to the Council, confirmed its earlier mail vote regarding the date and place of the signing and approved the texts of the "Official Common Statement" with its "Annex".

The Executive Committee also affirmed that, in agreement with the Roman Catholic Church, the signing ceremony will take place in Augsburg, Germany, on 31 October 1999. For your ready reference, please find below the text of the Council resolution:

The Signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification

THE COUNCIL VOTED:

- to support the decisions of the Executive Committee to approve
 - the process carried out by the General Secretary, in fulfillment of the Council resolution of 16 June 1998, to determine, in consultation with the President and the Executive Committee and in coordination with the Roman Catholic Church, how the Joint Declaration might most appropriately be jointly confirmed, and,
 - the signing of the Official Common Statement with the Annex and by this the signing of the Joint Declaration planned to take place in Augsburg on 31 October 1999;
- to ask the Executive Committee to appoint the persons to sign on behalf of the LWF with due consideration of the role of laity - women and men of different regions - in the Lutheran churches,
- to understand this signature on behalf of the LWF as implementation of the action of the Council of 16 June 1998, based on the positive responses to the Joint Declaration by the vast majority of the LWF member churches. The Lutheran affirmation is the result of a process involving both the action of the affirming churches and the action of the LWF Council;
- to express appreciation that the Official Common Statement, with its references to JD 40 and 41, and the Annex have been developed as instruments to fulfill the specified intention of the Council stated in its action of 16 June 1998 concerning the Joint Declaration,

- to endorse the plans made for a signing celebration in Augsburg, Germany, on 31 October 1999, emphasizing the value of invitations being extended to representatives of other communions, and,
- to receive the message from the General Secretary that a plan of action concerning the follow-up of the Joint Declaration be presented to the Council in 2000.

As a follow-up of the decision by the Council, the Executive Committee decided that the Joint Declaration be signed on the Lutheran side by the President, the General Secretary and the Vice Presidents of the LWF.

A planning process for the signing celebration is now underway. On *Saturday 30 October*, there will be a festive event in the City Hall of Augsburg, hosted by the Lord Mayor, and an ecumenical vesper service in the Basilica of St. Ulrich and Afra (Roman Catholic). On *Sunday 31 October*, after worship in local churches, there will be a brief liturgical service in the Cathedral of Augsburg (Roman Catholic) followed by a procession through the streets of Augsburg to the Church of Anna (Lutheran) where the signing will take place in the framework of worship.

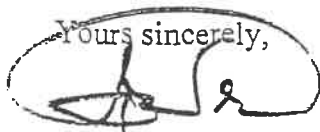
Local celebrations

The signing of the Joint Declaration will only take place once, in Augsburg. I encourage you to explore what possibilities there may be to have local celebrations of the Joint Declaration in your own context either on 31 October itself or on any other day which seems appropriate to you. It is strongly recommended that such celebrations be *arranged ecumenically*. In particular, the involvement of both Lutheran and Roman Catholic participants is recommended. On the Roman Catholic side the necessary information will be communicated to the relevant bishops' conferences through their own channels. Other churches may be invited to take part wherever that seems natural.

The main focus which presents itself for such a celebration is *our common faith in God's justifying grace*. The Joint Declaration itself provides a strong biblical and doctrinal basis for the development of orders of worship. Unfortunately, because of time constraints, it will not be possible to send you, prior to 31 October, the orders of worship to be used in Augsburg. However it is desirable that any celebration be prepared and conducted in keeping with your local setting and church traditions.

The signing of the Joint Declaration is an event of truly historical dimensions. Let us make use of the opportunity it gives for the forwarding of the ecumenical movement in each place and for the edification of our churches as we draw from the true treasure of the church which is God's righteousness granted to us freely in Jesus Christ.

Yours sincerely,



Ishmael Noko
General Secretary

Rapport nr. 29/99

KIRKERÅDET MELLOMKIRKELIG RÅD SAMISK KIRKERÅD	
14 JUL 1999	
Til	OST
J.nr.	97/407 -1
Arkiv nr.	77.2

Rapport fra møte i programkomiteen for Mission and Development

Juni 1999 - Bratislava

Innledning

Dette var andre gang komiteen møttes, og dette gav noe bedre rutine til de fleste deltakerne. Det er et konstruktivt og tillitsfullt forhold mellom stab og komite, direktørens skapet trygghet ved sin brede oversikt og gode kjennskap til de sakene som tas opp.

Det er uheldig at sakspapirene kommer sent og at mange dokumenter først deles ut på møtet. Saksframstillingene gjør det heller ikke alltid klart hva komiteen ønskes å gjøre, det kan noen ganger oppfattes som dens rolle er å strå sand på beslutninger som allerede er tatt, ikke fordi dette er sekretariatets intensjon, men fordi prosedyrene blir lagt opp slik det gjøres.

Arbeidet i komiteen

Disse sakene fikk særlig oppmerksomhet i komiteen:

1. Rapporten fra misjonskonferansen i Nairobi 1998. Rapporten ble positivt tatt i mot, og det ble besluttet å legge den fram på regionale konsultasjoner. Det ble også vedtatt at å revidere LWFs misjonsdokument. I dette ligger et klart ønske om å fastholde hovedanliggender i det gamle misjonsdokumentet, men aktualisere det i samsvar med ny innsikt og nye utfordringer. DMD har satt av penger i denne prosessen. Det er naturlig at dette arbeidet nå bringes inn i vår hjemlig kontekst, kanskje særlig til NØM og SMM.
2. Statement of needs. Komiteen godkjente det som ble lagt fram av sekretariatet. Det er egentlig få muligheter til å gripe inn i forhold til det som er foreslått. Derimot er det rom for mer generelle påpekninger som kan bli førende for det videre programarbeidet i DMD. I listen over tiltak er det mange som det ville være naturlig å legge fram for norske misjonsorganisasjoner, slik at ikke bare Kirkens Nødhjelp blir norsk aktør i DMDs programarbeid.
3. Education. I fjor var det kritiske innvendinger mot at education var blitt nedprioritert innenfor DMD. Siden da har en konsultasjon lagt opp til et nettverksarbeid som er tenkt å knytte ildsjeler innenfor kirkelig opplæring sammen, både globalt og regionalt. Komiteen var tilfreds med denne løsningen.
4. Kvinner med fysiske funksjonshemninger. I fjor ble det holdt en konsultasjon i Geneve i regi av LWF med deltakere som representerte denne gruppen. Rapporten herfra foreslo en rekke tiltak for å sikre kvinner med funksjonshemming bedre deltaking i kirken, bl.a. gjennom kvotebestemmelser for ansettelse i LWF. Anbefalingene ble videresendt uten at det ble tatt stilling til de enkelte forslag.
5. Ungdomsrepresentasjon. Medlemskirkene ble oppfordret om å følge opp initiativ som ble tatt i regi av LWF for å styrke ungdommers deltakelse.
6. Vold mot kvinner. På bakgrunn av rapporten fra Det økumeniske kvinnetiåret foreslo komiteen at Rådet skulle vedta en resolusjon om vold mot kvinner. Resolusjonen oppfordrer medlemskirkene til å ta denne saken opp innenfor sin egen kontekst og at kvinne-desken i LWF følger dette opp.

Alle disse sakene ble senere lagt for rådet som gav dem sin tilslutning.

Det ble registrert med bekymring at budsjettet til DMDs koordinering har gått ned de siste årene. Selv om dette i noen grad skyldes planlagt omorganisering og dermed sammenslåing av flere enheter, må følge være økt press på staben og følgelig større risiko for redusert kvalitet i det arbeidet som utføres. Når det samtidig fra enkelte hold i nord stilles spørsmål med DMDs faglige kompetanse, må det også sees i denne sammenhengen. Den bør gi grunn til bekymring at Danchurchaid har valgt å trekke seg ut av DMD og går foran i en generell problematisering av DMDs kompetanse.

Generelle kommentarer

Arbeidet innad i sekretariatet med å øke konsentrasjonen om prioriterte oppgaver har ført til et behov for å klargjøre forholdet mellom "aims" and "goals". I tråd med moderne vesterlandsk organisasjonstenkning går det første på overordnede mål, mens det andre handler om mer konkrete målsettinger for en fastsatt tidsperiode og som det dersom er enklere å vurdere mht måloppnåelse. Også DMDs programkomite ble bedt om å bidra til klargjøringen av disse begrepene, og særlig til større konkretisering av "goals". Men dette ble komplisert, bl.a. fordi skjelningen mellom begrepene forutsetter engelsk språklighet, i andre språklige kontekster gir det liten mening å skjelne mellom dem. Diskusjonen ble dermed en god illustrasjon på tendensen til å forankre globale fellesskap i en bestemt kulturtradisjon og måten denne definerer meningsfull handling på.

I tilknytning til dette er det fristende å skrive noen linjer om det maktspeillet som også er så åpenbar del av LWF og dets årlige rådsmøtet. Maktspeillet blir mest synlig når konkrete spørsmål som hvem som skal undertegne Joint Declaration tas opp. Med dette kommer også regelmessig fram som tradisjonsmakt og definisjonsmakt. Det er et kjent fenomen at den som har engelsk eller tysk som morsmål har større maktmidler til disposisjon enn de som må bruke et fremmedspråk. Men vel så viktig er myndigheten til å hevde at noe er uklart, særlig dersom noe påstås å være uklart ekklesiologisk. Innenfor dette området har særlig tyskerne, men også representantene fra Norden store maktfortrinn. Representantene fra Sør kompenserer denne definisjonsmakten med symbolmakt. Stadig flere opptrer i lilla bispeskjorter og med ærverdige titler.

I denne sammenhengen er det viktig med kritisk bevissthet om nøkkelbegreper som kan gis særlig definisjonsmakt og gis ideologisk vekt på en måte at de også får symbolmakt. Innen misjonstenkningen har "holistisk misjon" fått slik status. Det samme gjelder "bærekraft" i diskusjonen om utvikling. Her handler det ikke bare om moteord, men om nøkkelbegreper som like mye kan låse en samtale som de kan åpne den.

Alt dette gjør det spennende og utfordrende å delta i DMDs programkomite, og jeg ser allerede fram til neste års møte i Finland!

Oslo, 10. juli 1999
Kjell Nordstokke

RAPPORT FRA "STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS

Ørnulf Steen

Som en av representantene for Nasjonalkomiteen i Norge deltok jeg i Rådsmøtet for LVF i Bratislava fra 21. til 29. Juni. De dagene rådet arbeidet i komiteer, fulgte jeg forhandlingene i Standing Committee for Ecumenical Affairs (SCEA)

Fra komiteens arbeid vil jeg trekke frem følgende saker:

Felleserklæringen om rettferdiggjørelseslæren.

Denne saken ble sluttbehandlet på forrige rådsmøte (juni 1998). Som kjent ga Den katolske kirkes svar som kom etter rådsmøtet, behov for mer arbeid med forståelsen av erklæringen. Dette arbeidet, inkludert en endelige enighet mellom Den katolske kirke og LVF, kom til en konklusjon rett før Rådsmøtet (Brav til Medlemskirkene fra Generalsekretæren, datert 3.juni 1999) Følgelig ble mye av oppmerksomheten i SCEA rettet mot undertegningen av felleserklæringen. På ny fikk man en diskusjon om med hvilken myndighet LVF undertegner denne erklæringen. Er det LVF som organisasjon eller er det primært den enkelte kirke innenfor fellesskapet som undertegner? Rådet gjorde følgende vedtak:

The Council voted to understand this signature on behalf of the LWF as implementation of the action of the Council of 16 June 1998, based on the positive responses to the Joint Declaration by the vast majority of the LWF member churches. The Lutheran affirmation is the result of a process involving both the action of the affirming churches and the action of the LWF Council.

Rådet vedtok også at de som skal undertegne på vegne av LVF er president, visepresidenter og generalsekretær. Undertegningen vil finne sted i Augsburg 31.oktober.

LVF's økumeniske rolle

Medlemskirker i LVF er opptatt av å understreke at LVF's økumeniske rolle er det som må ha prioritet. Komiteen anbefalte et nærmere samarbeid både med de øvrige kirkelige verdenssammenslutninger og med KV. Som ledd i dette ble LVF's sekretariat anmodet om å arbeide med en mulig samordning av fremtidige generalforsamlinger.

SCEA behandlet også vedtaket fra KV's gen.forsamling om å opprette et forum for kirker og økumeniske organisasjoner. Komiteen, og senere Rådet, ba om at LVF måtte delta aktivt i dette arbeidet, samtidig som man erkjente de vanskeligheter som et slikt forum kan representere både når det gjelder strukturer, representativitet, målsetting og "accountability". Det ble understreket at en forutsetning for å satse på dette fra LVF's side er at Den Katolske kirke, de ortodokse kirker, pinsevennene og de evangelikale også blir med i et slikt forum.

Dialoggruppene

Det er mange dialoger i gang, både nasjonalt, regionalt og globalt. Komiteen mottok rapporter fra flere av disse. Fra norsk side kan vi glede oss over at Stephanie Dietrich ble oppnevnt som medlem av den luthersk-orthodokse samtalegruppen.

Det økumeniske senter i Strasbourg

Senteret i Strasbourg, Department for Theology and Studies (DTA) og Office for Ecumenical Affairs (OEA) har oppgaver som til dels er sammenfallende og til dels tangerer hverandre. Det er gjort et arbeid for å tydeliggjøre hvem som skal ha hvilke oppgaver. Representanten for senteret som deltok i rådsmøtet og SCEA uttrykte tilfredshet med dette. Det kan virke som om senteret i for liten grad arbeider med teologi som har røtter og kontekst utenfor Europa. Dette er en svakhet som ble påpekt i SCEA.

OEA som "nettverksfasilitator"

SCEA konstaterte at spekteret av aktiviteter som ligger under OEA er bredere enn man i den nåværende ressursituasjon kan forvente å kunne gjøre noe med. Det ble derfor understreket at OEA må arbeide med å identifisere de kirker og institusjoner i den lutherske familie som allerede er i arbeid med områder som naturlig hører til OEA og fungere som sentral i et mulig nettverk.

Noen vurderinger:

- Observatører og representanter for Nasjonalkomiteer var i betydelig grad aktive i komiteens forhandlinger. Medlemmene av komiteen fra Asia og Afrika var mindre aktive enn enkelte av de europeiske medlemmene. Ulikt engasjement tror jeg i noen grad avspeiler en europeisk agenda, hvilket det også ble gitt uttrykk for fra en av komiteens rådgivere fra Latin-Amerika. Rådgiverne spilte en balansert og god rolle.
- Flere av diskusjonene avdekket en ulik forståelse av hva LVF er og kan gjøre. Forståelsen av *communio* og viljen til å la LVF representere denne *communio* har i ulike grad slått gjennom i medlemskirkene. Det kunne man merke tydelig når det gjaldt felleserklæringen om rettferdiggjørelseslæren.
- Det er viktig for Dnk å følge opp Felleserklæringen i lokaløkumeniske markeringer sammen med den katolske kirke, men også å invitere inn representanter for andre kirkesamfunn for å understreke den økumeniske betydningen, ikke bare bilateralt, men multilateralt.

Referat fra Nordisk møte under LVFs rådsmøte, Bratislava 24. juni.

Fra : Stig Utne, MKR

Møtet var innkalt av Sigrun Møgedal som nordisk medlem av LVFs eksekutivkomite. Det var enighet om følgende fem dagsordenpunkter:

1. Forumvedtaket i Harare
 2. Situasjonen i LWS
 3. Endowment Found
 4. Joint Declaration
 5. Kommunikasjon, konsultasjon og samhandling mellom Rådsmøtene.
-
1. KV har fattet prinsippvedtak om opprettelsen av Forum. Nordiske kirker har støttet dette. Hva bør nå være våre neste skritt utover snakkestadiet ?
 - a) LVF sekretariatet må bli trygg på at det finnes medlemskirker som vil ta ansvar for at arbeidet med å realisere Forum blir gjennomført. I dette lys er LVFs eget avklaringsarbeid med å identifisere egne kjerneoppgaver og de viktige policyimplikasjonene av dette, noe vi bør oppmuntre.
 - b) LVF/Sekretariatet bør være en bro mellom Lutherske kirker med dobbelt medlemskap i LVF og KV rundt dette spørsmålet.
 - c) LVFs ansvarlige organer bør aktivt signalisere vilje til å gå inn i og delta i forum som kirkefamilie, og rådsmøtet bør fatte vedtak om dette. En anbefaling fra Standing Committè on Ecumenical Affairs vil være viktig.
 - d) Det vil også være ønskelig at rådsmøtet gir sekretariatet i oppgave å utrede/identifisere den kapasitet som finnes i medlemskirkene utenfor Geneve til ulike oppgaver.
 2. Det viser seg at de nordiske agencies (DCA,NCA,FCA og Lutherhjelpen) med ulik tyngde har uttrykt bekymring over den integrasjonsprosessen av LWS i LVF som har skjedd i løpet av de siste to år. Kjernen i uroen er at LWS i dag kanskje ikke er i stand til opptre så profesjonelt og uavhengig som ønskelig. I møtet ble det i tillegg hevdet at vi må se i øynene at andre medlemskirker kanskje tenker annerledes og at det finnes en frykt for et LWS som ikke er luthersk nok. I denne saken er det ulike utfordringer – intern kommunikasjon mellom nasjonale agencies og nasjonale komiteer og nasjonale LVF sekretariater og LVFs nordiske styre-og rådsmedlemmer. Det var enighet i møtet om at viktige policydiskusjoner i agenciene må kommuniseres bedre utover i egne kirker, gjerne ved å invitere til deltakelse i samtaler.
For det andre er det klart at om det finnes ulike oppfatninger mellom de nordiske agenciene i slike viktige policyspørsmål, vil det være vanskelig for LVF å kunne vite hva som er en "nordisk posisjon." Derfor må vi alle ta ansvar for at slike diskusjoner skjer i nærkontakt med kirkenes valgte representanter i LVFs styrer og råd og med de økumeniske sekretariatene/nasjonalkomiteene.

På møtet kom det fram et forslag om en nordisk konsultasjon om diakoni i år 2000 for å belyse bl.a. utfordringene i LWS/ACT. Det var enighet om å forfølge denne ideen og det

vil være naturlig at de økumeniske sekretærene griper fatt i dette. Det var også enighet om at det notat som Tapio og Atle har skrevet om LWS må sirkuleres til deltakerne på dette møtet via sekretariatene.

3. På dette punktet i møtet ble det stort sett utvekslet informasjon om hva de enkelte nordiske land har gitt/planlegger å gjøre/ikke gjøre med Endowment Found. I korthet er situasjonen slik at Sverige har bidratt med et betydelig beløp, Finland søker å bidra mens Danmark og Norge har sagt at de ikke kommer til å bidra.
4. Danmark foreslo at vi fra nordisk hold skulle arbeide for leg deltakelse på "LVFs lag" som undertegner Joint Declaration. Forslaget fikk støtte og vil bli fulgt opp i arbeidet med saken i Ecumenical Affairs og i selve Rådsmøtet.
5. Sigrun Møgedal åpnet for en samtale om hvordan vi identifiserer og samhandler rundt spørsmål av policykarakter og/eller spørsmål som er "cross-cutting" underveis mellom Rådsmøtene. Samtalen identifiserte minst to ulike utfordringer, den første, hvordan bør rådsmøtene planlegges og forberedes, gitt den struktur organisasjonen i dag har med et sekretariat og med valgte officers og med valgte visepresidenter fra alle LVFs regioner. For det andre, hvordan kan rådsmøtet selv få mer innflytelse over policyspørsmålene? Og for det tredje, hvordan kommuniserer vi i Norden oss imellom når vi kommer over "issues" som utfordrer til en nordiske samtale, refleksjon, respons eller resepsjon? Sigrun ba om et mandat fra gruppen til å ta opp disse spørsmålene i ex.coms.evalueringen av dette Rådsmøtet. Dette fikk hun, men utover dette konkluderte ikke møtet i dette spørsmålet. Det ble understreket av flere at Norden må være transparente i LVF når vi tar opp dette slik at det ikke oppleves som om vi kjører egne agendaer. Samtidig ble det sagt at det er ok om ulike regioner har egne agendaer. Poenget er at man må vite om hverandre i åpenhet.

Møtet ble avsluttet med enighet om at Stig Utnems referat fra diskusjonen sirkuleres til de nordiske lands økumeniske sekretærer for videresending til alle deltakerne på rådsmøtet 1999.

Oslo 1/8-99



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND - FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL - FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

Office of the General Secretary

kopi OST

July 1999

TO: LWF MEMBER CHURCHES AND
NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Dear Friends,

The Council held its annual meeting from 22 to 29 June 1999 in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. It was hosted by the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (ECAC) in Slovakia and counted eight days of fruitful deliberations. I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate my gratitude to General Bishop Julius Filo and his colleagues for their generous hospitality and the assistance which all participants received before and during the meeting.

The ECAC is the second largest Christian church in Slovakia. Its beginnings reach back to the 16th century when the Reformation was introduced to today's Slovakia by followers of Luther. The church established its first organizational structures in the year 1610. It was banned, however, during the years of the counter-Reformation from 1670 to 1680 and was permitted to resume activities, with a number of restrictions, in 1681. But it was not until the year 1781, when a pact of tolerance was concluded, that the church was free to take up its work and open its doors to its believers. With the founding of the Republic of Czechoslovakia in 1918, today's ECAC constituted itself. Today ECAC is active through a great number of diaconal institutions and also primary and secondary schools.

The opening and closing worship services manifested the ECAC's cultural and spiritual richness. The Council's daily morning worship services were celebrated by different congregations of the church. The Council was honored by the visit of the newly-appointed **President of the Slovak Republic, Rudolf Schuster and Prime Minister Mikuláš Dzurinda.** In his welcoming speech the Prime Minister underlined that his government would continue to work towards improving relations between state and church. The meeting also benefitted from the presence of a number of **ecumenical guests, representatives from member churches and national committees as well as related agencies.** A young and culturally rich spirit reigned among **the stewards** who had come from a number of eastern European countries. Their efficient service had a positive impact on the meeting.

The President, Bishop Christian Krause referred in his opening remarks to the sad news of the death of Council member Ms Ilse Labadie. **Ms Labadie, President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname,** was also Vice-chairperson of the LWF Program Committee for Finance and Administration and was known for her engagement in human rights matters and the improvement of living conditions for persons with disabilities. In her memory the Council observed a moment's silence.

It is with much pleasure that I welcome four new member churches to the worldwide Lutheran family: **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mozambique, Lutheran Church in**

Consultation on Churches in Mission which took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 25 to 29 October 1999. The consultation had provided an opportunity for reflection on relevant missiological issues and practices and promotion of a participatory engagement in the process of rethinking and reformulating the mission task of the church. The Council decided to forward the *Findings and Recommendations* to the member churches for further study which will be done through the Department for Mission and Development.

The Council also addressed the ever-growing **HIV/AIDS epidemic** in a number of countries, and especially in Southern Africa. It took the decision to ask the member churches to renew their efforts to build awareness on the international level and in LWF field programs and to raise additional funds to enable developing countries to address adequately this epidemic.


The Executive Committee which also met in Bratislava approved the appointment of the following three persons to the Geneva Secretariat: **Dirk Michael Grötzsch** from Leipzig, Germany, as assistant editor - German in the Office for Communication Services; **Dr Karen L. Bloomquist** (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) as Study Secretary for the Church and Social Issues, Department for Theology and Studies; **Dr Jacob Koos Schep** (Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Kingdom of the Netherlands) as Secretary for Project Implementation and Monitoring, Department for Mission and Development. I am also happy to welcome the **Rev. Dr. Päivi Hannele Jussila**, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland; who was appointed by mail vote in March this year as Study Secretary for Worship and Congregational Life, Department for Theology and Studies, and **Ms Jessie Kgoroadira** from South Africa (Roman Catholic Church), as Finance Officer for the Action by Churches Together.

Every day all of us are confronted with a wealth of information material. I, therefore, intend to keep this letter as short as possible because you have been well informed about the deliberations and some of the decisions taken by the Council through press releases and Lutheran World Information (lwi) No. 7. The decisions and resolutions which the Council wishes to forward to the member churches for attention and appropriate follow-up are being sent to you by way of attachments to this letter. This may facilitate distribution to the responsible desk for follow-up in your own church.

Please give your undivided attention to the decisions taken by the Council. Any feedback on what your church is doing to advance and implement Council resolutions is very much appreciated.

On behalf of the LWF staff in Geneva and in the field, I wish you God's blessings as you faithfully witness and serve God's people in your immediate context.

Yours sincerely,



Ishmael Noko
General Secretary

Attachments

cc: Council



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND - FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL - FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

Office of the General Secretary

ANGOLA

Resolution adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation

Noting with deep regret that the humanitarian and political situation in Angola has deteriorated such that approximately 1,6 million persons are internally displaced, of which about one third have been uprooted since the beginning of the year;

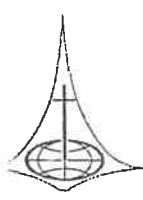
alarmed that the response by the international community has been vastly inadequate to address the situation of the people in need and that the majority of those requiring assistance are in areas which are inaccessible to humanitarian agencies,

The Council

VOTED: *to call upon the member churches to build awareness of the situation in Angola, which has received little media attention and an inadequate international humanitarian response and*

to call upon the member churches to appeal to their government to take appropriate action to instill the political will within the international community to deal with the deepening humanitarian and political crisis, and to request the General Secretary to take similar appropriate steps.

Council 1999, Bratislava, Slovak Republic



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND - FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL - FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

Office of the General Secretary

THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES and LIGHT WEAPONS AND SMALL ARMAMENTS

Resolutions adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation

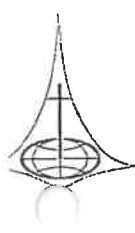
The Council

- VOTED:** 1. *To reaffirm the commitment of the Hong Kong Assembly that all member churches be encouraged to continue their involvement and commitment in the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, including political involvement and operational programs of humanitarian demining, with the final goal of the total elimination of landmines from the earth.*

The Council

- VOTED:** 2. *To encourage all member churches to support and participate in initiatives and networks working towards reducing the threat posed by the proliferation of small arms, including the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Trade (NISAT), the ecumenical activities relating to the World Council of Churches (Program to Overcome Violence), Fellowship of Councils of Churches in West Africa (FCCWA), and Association of Protestant Agencies for Development (APRODEV).*

Council 1999, Bratislava, Slovak Republic



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND - FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL - FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

Office of the General Secretary

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Resolution adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation

The Seventh Assembly in Budapest, Hungary called on the churches to be advocates in society for people with disabilities. The Eighth Assembly in Curitiba, Brazil committed itself and member churches to intensify efforts as a sign of an inclusive communion.

In June 1998 a Strategy Planning Meeting of Women with Disabilities took place in Geneva, Switzerland. The main purpose of the meeting was to find ways for people with disabilities to participate in the work of the LWF and its member churches and thus impact their programs/projects. A list containing numerous precise and worthwhile proposals was the outcome of the deliberations. The Council took note of the listing which is also attached to this resolution for information and attention.

The Council

VOTED: *to remind the member churches of the commitments of the LWF's Seventh and Eighth Assemblies to lift up the concerns of people with disabilities and*

to ask the General Secretary to find appropriate ways to implement the recommendations of the Strategy Planning Meeting of Women with Disabilities.

Council 1999, Bratislava, Slovak Republic



YOUTH IN CHURCH AND SOCIETY

Resolution adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation

The Ninth Assembly in Hong Kong committed itself to ensure that youth be granted an active participation in decisions in the LWF and its member churches at all levels and that the role of the younger members of the LWF Council as representatives and resource persons for the churches in their region be strengthened.

The Desk for Youth in Church and Society (YICAS) of the Department for Mission and Development has been faithful to this mandate by - amongst other things - supporting or establishing regional networks amongst young people which are linked to the respective churches. So far, networks have been established in Latin America and Africa. The recent European Lutheran Youth Consultation discussed the possibility of networking and the Asian consultation in 2001 is expected to initiate a youth network on that continent.

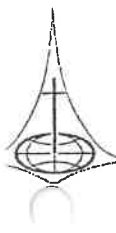
In view of the difficulties YICAS has encountered in obtaining responses from some member churches concerning youth representation in LWF-sponsored events, it is clear that the status of the youth contact persons needs to be strengthened and church leaders need to ensure that the youth position is always filled.

The Council

VOTED: *to ask each member church to designate a young person to serve as a liaison with the Desk for Youth in Church and Society; and*

to authorize the Desk for Youth in Church and Society to have direct communication with the person designated regarding youth ministries, including identification of youth representatives at LWF-sponsored events, with the understanding that all correspondence would be copied to the respective church headquarters.

Council 1999, Bratislava, Slovak Republic



HUMAN RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

Resolution adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation

The Ninth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation said: "Women's rights are human rights. Women are disproportionately affected by the unequal sharing of resources; in marginalized groups of refugees, indigenous and prison populations women are the most vulnerable. In many places women are blocked from inheritance and property rights, and are less able to gain skills and education. Violence against women is widespread in society, and happens also in the church and Christian homes. Violence is silenced, ignored, indirectly accepted and sometimes backed by biblical interpretations. We must confess and acknowledge the sin of the church in tolerating violence against women, especially the abuse of women within the church."

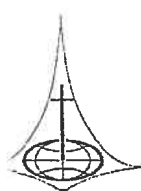
The Desk for Women in Church and Society of the Department for Mission and Development addresses all forms of violence against women and works towards a community of solidarity in which the respect for the human being reigns for women and men alike.

The Council

VOTED: *to encourage all member churches to face the painful issue of violence against women in all its manifestations particular to their context; and*

to ask the Desk for Women in Church and Society to propose ways to accompany the churches in their efforts to address the issue.

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THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND - FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL - FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

INDIA

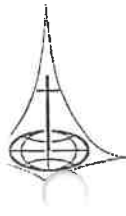
Resolution adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation

The Lutheran World Federation notes with shock and sadness the recent attacks on Christian communities in India which are contrary to the culture of tolerance which has prevailed in Indian society for many centuries. It deplors the fact that the blood of many innocent people has been shed during these acts of violence.

The Council VOTED:

- to express its hope and prayer that the religious tensions in India will lessen and the wanton acts of violence will cease, and that the rights of Dalits and ethnic minorities will be protected;
- to declare its solidarity with the victims of the violence, and with the churches as they continue their dialogue with other religious communities and with the government with the aim of improving the inter-religious climate in India; and
- to encourage the LWF and its member churches to seek advice from the Indian churches on the developing situation and to respond with tangible expressions of solidarity to any requests for support from the churches as they seek to promote religious tolerance and harmony in India.

Bratislava, Slovak Republic
28 June 1999



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND - FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL - FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

INDONESIA

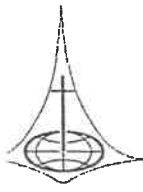
Resolution adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation

The Lutheran World Federation notes with thanksgiving the significant and positive changes which are occurring in Indonesian society, including advances in freedom of speech, of the press, and fairer electoral processes. It is concerned, however, about the reports of violence, including loss of life and destruction of churches and schools, associated with ethnic and religious tensions in Indonesia.

The Council VOTED:

- to express its solidarity with the churches and the people of Indonesia in the midst of the changing political, economic and social context and in facing the outbreaks of violence;
- to encourage LWF member churches to support in prayer and in material ways the activities of the Indonesian churches to reduce religious and ethnic tensions and to promote reconciliation within Indonesian society; and
- to urge the Indonesian government to take pre-emptive steps to prevent further violence and bring to justice those responsible for these criminal acts.

Bratislava, Slovak Republic
28 June 1999



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND - FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL - FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

EAST TIMOR

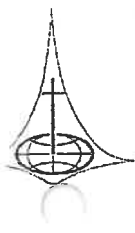
Resolution adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation

The Lutheran World Federation welcomes the recent developments in the internationally-agreed process leading up to a popular ballot regarding self-determination for the people of East Timor this coming August.

The Council VOTED:

- to express its support to the religious leaders in East Timor who have been working for an impartial and free expression of the will of the people;
- to express its hope that the Indonesian government will take steps to ensure a peaceful balloting process, and that all parties will respect the outcome of the ballot; and
- to encourage the LWF and its member churches to engage in ecumenical initiatives for the promotion of a democratic and just resolution of the status of East Timor.

Bratislava, Slovak Republic
28 June 1999



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND - FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL - FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Resolution adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan, a member church of the Lutheran World Federation, is part of the Christian tradition which has been continuously present in the Holy Land since the days of Christ. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan is engaging in increasingly close dialogue with other churches and the two other major religions represented in the region in order to promote reconciliation and a common approach to social issues.

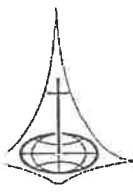
At its Ninth Assembly in Hong Kong in 1997, the LWF stressed that Jerusalem is the city of two nations - Israel and Palestine - and significant for three religions - Judaism, Christianity and Islam - and the necessity of promoting freedom of religion, equity and pluralism in this context.

The Council VOTED:

- to reiterate its vision of Jerusalem as a city of two peoples and three faiths, and therefore to renew its call for an end to measures designed to alter the region's demographic realities for political purposes, including the establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements and the withdrawal of residency rights for Palestinians;
- to declare that there can be no sustainable peace or justice in the region without equitable and non-discriminatory access to economic opportunity and to water resources, and therefore to call upon the Government of Israel to bring an end to inequity and discrimination in these areas, and to appeal to both the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to take all possible steps to promote equitable economic development for the Palestinian people;
- to call upon the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to ensure, now and in the future, that the religious communities enjoy their full freedoms of worship and religion as well as their civil and historical rights;
- to encourage the Palestinian Authority in its endeavours to ensure religious freedom and pluralism, through appropriate guarantees within the constitutional and legislative structures of the future State of Palestine;
- to affirm the need for educational curricula in the State of Palestine which will be inclusive and pluralistic, so as to promote mutual respect among religious communities and to discourage all forms of fundamentalism;
- to call again upon the Government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to respond to the *kairos* of the Great Jubilee in the year 2000 with new and concrete acts of peace, justice and reconciliation; and
- to call upon member churches to communicate with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and other ecumenical partners in relation to their plans for celebrating the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Christ in the land of His birth.

Bratislava, Slovak Republic
29 June 1999

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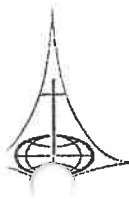
INTERNATIONAL DEBT

Resolution adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation

The Council VOTED:

- to acknowledge the additional debt relief offered in the proposals emanating from the Cologne Economic Summit of the G7 nations, 18-20 June 1999, and in particular the proposals aimed at lowering the target ratios for debt sustainability and for entry into the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative, reducing the qualification period for effective delivery of debt relief, and total cancellation of remaining Official Development Assistance debt;
- to declare, however, that such proposals do not go far enough in addressing the unsustainable debt burden upon many income-poor countries, and will not in most cases lead to the prompt availability of significantly increased funds for health, education and other urgently-needed social spending;
- to emphasize that such proposals do not adequately address critical issues related to the prevention of future debt crises and the promotion of human development in the world's poorest countries; and
- to call upon member churches to maintain and intensify their involvement in the Jubilee 2000 campaign for the cancellation of the unsustainable debt of the world's poorest countries by the year 2000.

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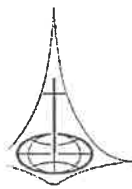
IMPUNITY IN BRAZIL

Resolution adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation

The Council VOTED:

- to acknowledge receipt of a dossier from the Comissão Pastoral da Terra of Brazil, a partner of the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil, containing the names of 1,160 persons murdered in land conflicts in Brazil during the period 1985-1998;
- to note with sorrow that only a very small proportion of the cases referred to in the dossier have been the subject of court proceedings, and that this therefore represents an unacceptable level of impunity;
- to call upon the Government of Brazil to make all possible efforts to bring to justice those responsible for the crimes recorded in the dossier; and
- to request the General Secretary to explore other means, especially through the relevant UN and regional human rights bodies, for drawing attention to these cases.

Bratislava, Slovak Republic
28 June 1999



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND - FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL - FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Resolution adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation

The Lutheran World Federation believes that reflection is required on questions related to the use of violence and how to create a just and lasting peace. It condemns ethnic cleansing wherever and by whomever it is practised. Together with churches and people of good will everywhere, the LWF is appalled by the atrocities which have been perpetrated upon the ethnic Albanian population in Kosovo. It is also deeply concerned by the innocent suffering and death caused by the NATO intervention, the reprisals upon Serbs in Kosovo by returning ethnic Albanians, and the proposed moratorium on reconstruction assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It is clear that the methodology of the NATO intervention in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia requires critical assessment from an ethical and legal perspective, and that it carries important implications for the resolution of future international peace and security issues.

The LWF considers that dialogue and diplomacy and the existing mechanisms for addressing international peace and security issues (i.e. the United Nations) have not been used adequately or appropriately in the resolution of this crisis.

The churches have a critical role to play in promoting respect for human rights, democratic values and the peaceful resolution of disputes through dialogue and mutual understanding, and in caring for the victims of violence.

The Council VOTED:

- to express support for the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia as it takes steps to bring to justice those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity;
- to call on the LWF member churches to express concern to their governments about the adverse humanitarian effects of the NATO intervention and the proposed moratorium on reconstruction assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;
- to ask the General Secretary to institute a process of inter-departmental reflection on the theological and ethical implications of the concept of armed intervention to defend human rights, for example as practised by NATO in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with a view to further discussion of this issue by the LWF Council at its next meeting;
- to call upon the LWF member churches and people of good will everywhere to engage in building relationships with the churches and people of Serbia, and to avoid and actively work against the demonization of the Serbian people, in order to promote the process of reconciliation;

MKR-sak 29/99 A

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(Original)

**REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS
to the Council**

I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE COUNCIL**I.1 The Signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification**

Documents received:

- a) The General Secretary's letter to the LWF member churches of June 1999, with the Official Common Statement and its Annex;
- b) Excerpt of the Minutes from the meeting of the Executive Committee in Bratislava 20-21 June 1999.

From the above mentioned documentation it is clear that the Joint Declaration is now ready to be confirmed with signatures by the LWF and the Roman Catholic Church.

In a letter to the Standing Committee the General Secretary has explained why the plan of action concerning the follow-up of the Joint Declaration, requested by the Council in 1998 will be submitted in 2000 instead of in 1999: The plan of action for this follow-up can only be made now when it is clear that the Joint Declaration will be confirmed. It will be developed in consultation with the Roman Catholic Church.

It is**recommended:** - that the Council express its support of the decisions by the Executive Committee to approve

- the process carried out by the General Secretary, in fulfillment of the Council resolution of 16 June 1998, to determine, in consultation with the President and the Executive Committee and in coordination with the Roman Catholic Church, how the Joint Declaration might most appropriately be jointly confirmed, and
 - the signing of the Official Common Statement with the Annex and by this the signing of the Joint Declaration planned to take place in Augsburg on 31 October 1999;
- that the choice of the persons to sign on behalf of the LWF be made by the Executive Committee with due consideration of the role of laity - women and men of different regions - in the Lutheran churches,

(3)

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- that this signature on behalf of the LWF be understood as implementation of the action of the Council of 16 June 1998, based on the positive responses to the Joint Declaration by the vast majority of the LWF member churches. Thus this signing is understood to be done on behalf of these member churches.
- that appreciation be expressed that the Official Common Statement, with its references to JD 40 and 41, and the Annex have been developed as instruments to fulfill the specified intention of the Council stated in its action of 16 June 1998 concerning the Joint Declaration,
- that the plans made for a signing celebration in Augsburg, Germany, on 31 October 1999, be endorsed, emphasizing the value of invitations being extended to representatives of other communions, and,
- that the message from the General Secretary be received that a plan of action concerning the follow-up of the Joint Declaration be presented to the Council in 2000.

I.2. The proposal for a forum of Christian churches and ecumenical organizations

The proposal for a "forum" was affirmed by the WCC Assembly 1998 in the context of the search "for a more effective, more sustaining, more inclusive network of relationships among churches and ecumenical organizations." The WCC Assembly emphasized that "there needs to be a clearly articulated distinction between the nature and purpose of the WCC and that of the forum." Likewise, "participation by churches in a forum should in no way be seen as comparable to the ecumenical accountability and commitment of ongoing membership in the WCC."

At present, consultation is continuing between the WCC and potential participants in the forum, in order to determine whether and how the forum proposal might respond to the need for a wider, more open and inclusive space for communication related to the goal of Christian unity.

It is

- recommended:**
- that the exploration and discussion regarding the proposal for a forum of Christian churches and ecumenical organizations be continued,
 - that the LWF participate actively in this process of consultation,
 - that the recognized difficulties of the proposal regarding representativity, accountability, purpose and organizational structure be discussed openly, and,

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Meeting of the Executive Committee on Monday, 28 June 1999

The committee convened once more on Monday in order to affirm the minutes of their previous meetings. For a number of reasons it also wished to reconsider the dates it had agreed upon earlier for the proposed Council meeting next year in Turku, Finland. The President acknowledged the presence of Bishop Eero Huovinen and Rev. Reetta Leskinen who had kindly agreed to be present for this discussion.

Bishop Huovinen reiterated his invitation and affirmed that the Council is most welcome in Finland. After some discussion,

the Executive Committee

RECOMMENDED: to accept the invitation from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland to meet in Turku and hold the Council meeting from 14 to 21 June 2000.

The Executive Committee decided that it will meet prior to the Council, namely on 13 June 2000.

Bishop Huovinen shared with the committee a tentative program for the celebrations on the new millennium and the 700th anniversary of the Cathedral of Turku in June 2000. This program is attached for information. President Krause thanked both Bishop Huovinen and Rev. Reetta Leskinen for their presence.

SIGNING OF THE JOINT DECLARATION

The Council in its session on Monday, 28 June voted the following:

- **that the choice of the persons to sign on behalf of the LWF be made by the Executive Committee with due consideration of the role of laity - women and men of different regions - in the Lutheran churches. (Report of the Standing Committee for Ecumenical Affairs to the Council, Exhibit 18)**

According to this decision, the Executive Committee entered into a discussion on this matter. It consulted the LWF Constitution to seek advice as to who has the legal authority to sign on behalf of the LWF. Neither the Constitution nor its Bylaws provide strict counsel to this effect. However, some guidance was provided under IV. SCOPE OF AUTHORITY in the following articles:

1. President

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The President shall be the chief official representative and spokesperson of the Federation. He/she shall be the presiding officer of the Assembly, the Council and the Executive Committee.

The President shall oversee the life and work of the Federation, in consultation with the Treasurer and the General Secretary. (X. Officers)

2. The General Secretary shall be responsible to the Council for his/her work. He/she shall conduct the business of the Federation and carry out the decisions of the Assembly and the Council. (XII. General Secretary)
3. The Council shall elect the Vice-Presidents from among its members taking into consideration the seven regions. (VIII Council, article 6)
4. Among other things, it (namely, the Executive Committee) determines who is entitled to sign on behalf of the Lutheran World Federation within the Council or the administration. (VIII Council, article 6, paragraph 7)

The discussion evaluated a number of different scenarios and also paid attention to what was known about the possible representation of the Roman Catholic Church at the signing event.

In summarizing the discussion, the President acknowledged that the Lutheran World Federation as a communion of churches is best represented at this historical event if the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification is signed aside from the President and the General Secretary as the chief Officers of the Federation, by the Vice Presidents representing the LWF regions. This will include men and women, lay and ordained persons and will underline the global communion aspect of the Federation.

The Executive Committee

VOTED: that the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification be signed by the President, the General Secretary and the Vice Presidents of the Lutheran World Federation.

The President expressed his gratitude to the members of the committee for their thoughtful input. He noted that the following members were not present due to early departure, namely Rev. Dr. Prasanna Kumari and Bishop Béla Harmati.

MKR/~~AKA~~-sak 29/99 A

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financial support to the Luther Academy until "it had been assured that men and women would be granted equal access to all educational opportunities at this institution". The Council voted that such criteria for funding should not be applied retroactively and to ask the General Secretary to engage in dialogue with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia "to discuss and advise on the implications of the Assembly resolutions concerning the empowerment of women as a means of full inclusion in society for any future support to the Luther Academy."

Following correspondence and personal conversations with Archbishop Vanags and his church, it had been confirmed in a letter to the General Secretary on 8 June 1998 that the church is interested that women receive equal theological education. The General Secretary in his letter to the Executive Committee said that he was satisfied that every effort will be made by the church to provide female students with the same theological education as male students. He proposed to lift the withholding of the funds for the Luther Academy.

By a majority mail vote (which was subject for a discussion at this meeting and the outcome of which was then reconfirmed) it was decided that the freeze on the funds be lifted. Two members were hesitant about their affirmation in view of how the Archbishop had phrased his response and are of the opinion that women will not receive the same theological education as offered to male students if the church at the same time "will not invite women to prepare for ordination". One member was not satisfied by the response from Latvia.

The discussion revealed the complexity and sensitivity of the matter under discussion. The prevailing opinion was that financial support to theological institutions should be disassociated from the fact that some churches do not permit the ordination of women. The General Secretary reminded that even in those churches where women are ordained, opposition is not uncommon. The President recommended that the matter continue to be on the agenda of the Federation in order that it may be discussed in a pastoral and supportive approach with the churches that are opposed to the ordination of women.

10. Closing

The President thanked the Executive Committee for their interest and contributions.

The meeting adjourned on Monday, 22 June 1999 at 14.00 hours.

