



Saksdokumenter:

Brev fra generalsekretær Ishmael Noko i LVF av desember 2007 (*vedlagt*)

Saker fra de økumeniske organisasjonene

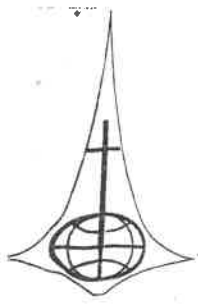
Det lutherske verdensforbund (LVF)

Sammendrag

Vedlagt følger brev fra LVFs generalsekretær, Ishmael Noko, med informasjon om hva som skjer i organisasjonen, bl.a. Rådsmøtet som skal finne sted i Arusha, Tanzania 25. juni til 1. juli. Rådsmedlem Helge Aarseth vil gi ytterligere informasjon om dette på MKRs møte.

Forslag til vedtak

Saken tas til orientering.



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

A COMMUNION OF CHURCHES – EINE KIRCHENGEMEINSCHAFT – UNA COMUNIÓN DE IGLESIAS – UNE COMMUNION D'ÉGLISES
LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND – FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL – FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

Office of the General Secretary

To: LWF Member Churches

December 2007

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Let me at the outset send you my Advent greetings. We have entered the season of Advent, a time which compels us to reflect once again on the good news as presented to us in the birth of Christ. This good news enters deeply into the suffering and hope that our world experiences.

I write this letter to inform you about the recent happenings in the Federation. Let me share some brief highlights:

1. LWF Council meeting in Arusha, Tanzania

We have accepted the invitation extended to us by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) for the LWF Council to meet in Arusha in June/July 2008. In accepting this invitation, we are deeply aware that this pilgrimage will expose us to and help us to understand the unique challenges faced by the LWF communion and its expressions in the United Republic of Tanzania. Meeting in Arusha also presents us with the opportunity to learn more about the 'House of Africa', as we did in Lund for the 'House of Europe'.

This venue for the next Council meeting also offers us the possibility to experience something of the life of the congregations in the ELCT dioceses of Meru and Arusha, and to visit some of the many DWS and DMD projects and programmes implemented in collaboration with the ELCT and other member churches in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. Moreover, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda is located in Arusha and we will be meeting near its precincts, reminding us of the ongoing search for justice in the Continent and the continuing challenge of impunity.

The ELCT has begun its preparations to welcome the LWF Council. We are grateful to the leadership of the ELCT and look forward to our meaningful time together in Arusha.

2. Council Theme

For some time now it has been our practice to identify a theme for each meeting of the LWF Council. The theme is developed in consultation with the host church, and this has helped us to focus our collective theological reflection on the most important issues confronting the communion and in the context in which we are meeting. Taking into account present global environmental challenges and the context of the ELCT, we have agreed on the following theme:

"Melting Snow on Mount Kilimanjaro: Christian witness amidst the suffering Creation"

This theme connects well with our concerns related to ecology and global warming, pointing to some stark realities and injustices. As we will not be too far away from the mountain, we may be able (on a clear day) to see the receding snowcap on Kilimanjaro for ourselves!



3. Observing a "Sunday on Climate Change"

In this context, while the Council is in session in Arusha in June/July 2008, there are several ways by which we will ask member churches to participate. Firstly, we request you to remember the events at Arusha in your prayers, particularly praying for the host church and for the deliberations of the Council.

Secondly, on Sunday 29 June, we can reflect and worship together in spirit, and use this occasion to focus on the theme. I urge you to write pastoral letters about the Council and its theme to your churches and urge them to observe Sunday 29 June 2008 as the '*Sunday on Climate Change*' to sensitize the pastors and the congregations on the urgent issues related to God's suffering creation.

4. Assembly Planning Committee meeting

We have begun in earnest the preparations of the Eleventh Assembly of the LWF, to take place in Stuttgart in 2010. The second meeting of the Assembly Planning Committee will be held between 28 and 30 January 2008 in Stuttgart. This time the members of the Committee, in addition to their other deliberations, will be given an orientation to the facilities at the Conference *Zentrum*, to the opportunities for worship and interaction with the life of the host church, and to the leadership of the host church and its organizing team.

5. LWF Executive Committee meeting

The LWF Executive Committee meeting was held in Geneva between 30 November and 2 December 2007. We have taken relevant decisions related to the staff and other issues. We discussed the implementation of the Strategic Plan and received information from the members of the Executive Committee regarding the life of the churches in the regions, while paying particular attention to efforts for reconciliation in internal church conflicts.

6. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the Global Christian Forum

I ask you to pray for unity among Christians and for Christ's Body, the Church. This year marks a significant anniversary for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, whose antecedents reach back now for a century. Please join anew in Christ's prayer that all who live by his love may also be lovingly united with one another.

We pray also for all the efforts by which the LWF and our member churches seek to make visible this unity. In particular, this year we pray for the next steps for the Global Christian Forum, which in November brought together in Kenya representatives from an unprecedented range of Christian families. May the experience of participants there, who saw Christ's face in one another, be carried by the Spirit to living expression in many places and at many levels around the world.

This Advent time, may Christ be born again in our lives and in the Universe for greater justice and reconciliation.

Yours in Christ,



Ishmael Noko
General Secretary

CC: LWF President, LWF Cabinet