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Statement on Ukraine

On 16 June 2014 the LWF Council adopted the following Public Statement:

The Council of the Lutheran World Federation, meeting in Medan, Indonesia June 11-17, 2014, is deeply concerned about the conflict in Ukraine which has intensified since December 2013 and has already resulted in nearly 400 deaths. This conflict, while centered in Ukraine, has the potential of destabilizing all of Europe.

We have learned from the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine, our member church there, that many of the Ukrainian people feel helpless and cut off from the international community and that many are receiving misinformation about the reality in Ukraine. Our brothers and sisters have expressed fear that no one is willing to respond adequately to their situation, placing economic interests over the protection and preservation of human rights.

Our member church asks for our prayers and expressions of love and solidarity.

Therefore, the LWF Council, together with the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of European Russia, affirms the unity and indivisibility of the Church of Jesus Christ everywhere regardless of political divisions and calls on all member churches to:

1. Pray that God may grant wisdom to all decision-makers to establish peace, stability and common understanding between the Ukrainian and Russian nations for the sake of the people of Ukraine and in order that the current conflict does not escalate or spread to other places in the region;
2. Pray for all churches in Ukraine and pledge our spiritual support for the well-being of all people; and
3. Pray for the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of European Russia that they may continue to witness to unity in Christ despite political boundaries and divisions.

Medan, Indonesia

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