

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

Meeting of Council

Wittenberg, Germany

15 - 21 June 2016

AGENDA



THE
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Theme: “Grounded in God’s love – discerning God’s future”

15 - 21 June 2016

Proposed

AGENDA

1. WORSHIP LIFE

The Opening Service will take place on Wednesday 15 June at 2:00 p.m. in the “Stadtkirche” in Wittenberg, Germany. The Sunday worship on 19 June will take place in different local congregations. On plenary days, the morning devotions will be held in the nearby “Stadtkirche” except on 20 June when it will be held in the Catholic Church “Marienkirche”. The evening devotions will take place in the plenary. During the Committee meetings, devotions will be conducted by these groups in their respective meeting rooms. The closing devotion will be held in the plenary.

2. FORMAL OPENING OF THE BUSINESS SESSION

On 16 June at 2:00 p.m. LWF President Bishop Dr Munib Younan will formally open the meeting in the plenary hall of the “Stadthaus”.

3. ROLL CALL

The roll will be called (see EXHIBIT 3 for the List of Participants). According to Section 3 of the Rules of Procedure, the Council shall have a quorum if more than half of its voting members are present. The quorum for public statements shall be two-thirds of the voting membership of the Council.

3.1 Greetings

Ecumenical Representatives are invited to bring greetings to the Council. They may be brought throughout the meeting.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND TIME SCHEDULE

The Agenda and Time Schedule (EXHIBIT 4) are to be adopted with the understanding that changes might be made in the course of the meeting as required.

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It is

RECOMMENDED: to adopt the Agenda and Time Schedule with the understanding that in the course of the meeting further changes might be made as required.

4.1 Adoption of proposed Rules of Procedure for LWF Council Meetings

The Rules of Procedure for LWF Council Meetings are submitted as EXHIBIT 4.1 for information or discussion.

It is

RECOMMENDED: to approve the proposed Rules of Procedure for LWF Council Meetings as presented.

4.2 Code of Conduct for Participants in Events Organized by the LWF

The Council in 2015 adopted the updated Code of Conduct (EXHIBIT 4.2).

It is

RECOMMENDED: to appoint the following persons as the response team:

Rev. Jaharianson SARAGIH SUMBAYAK

Ms Mami Brunah ARO SANDANIAINA

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 2015 COUNCIL MEETING

The Minutes of the Council meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, 18 - 22 June 2015 were shared with Council members and Advisers on 8 February 2016. Since no amendments had been registered (EXHIBIT 5),

It is

RECOMMENDED: to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the LWF Council in Geneva, Switzerland, 18 - 22 June 2015, as circulated.

6. UPDATE ON THE MEETING OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Minutes of the Meeting of Officers and Board of Trustees on 18 – 20 November 2015 had been shared with the Council on 22 April 2016. The LWF President Bishop Dr Younan will give an oral update about the discussions and decisions taken by the Meeting of Officers and Board of Trustees preceding the Council (15/16 June).

7. APPOINTMENT OF AD-HOC NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Council is requested to appoint an Ad-hoc Nominations Committee.

It is

RECOMMENDED: to appoint an ad-hoc Nominations Committee for the duration of the meeting with the following members:

National Bishop Susan C. JOHNSON, North America (chair)

Bishop Dr Tamás FABINY, Central Eastern Europe

Bishop Dr Frank JULY, Central Western Europe

Ms Eun-hae KWON, Asia

Presiding Bishop Dr Alex G. MALASUSA, Africa

Deacon Magnea SVERRISDOTTIR, Nordic Countries (due to the absence of Presiding Bishop Helga Haugland BYFUGLIEN)

Rev. Dr Gloria ROJAS VARGAS, Latin America & the Caribbean

The Nominations Committee will, in the course of the meeting, submit its report and recommendations to the Council for discussion and action as required (EXHIBIT 7).

7.1 *Appointment of Deacon Magnea Sverrisdottir as chairperson to the Committee for Mission and Development*

Following the passing away of Bishop Niels H. Arendt (male, ordained) from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, the Nominations Committee will present an appropriate recommendation under EXHIBIT 7 to Council for action. The church endorsement is enclosed for information (EXHIBIT 7.1).

7.1.1 *Appointment of Deacon Magnea Sverrisdottir to the Standing Committee for Constitution and Membership*

Following the passing away of Bishop Niels H. Arendt (male, ordained) from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, the Nominations Committee will present an appropriate recommendation under EXHIBIT 7 to Council for action.

7.2 *Information about Council member Elijah ZINA*

The Council is informed that Mr A. Elijah ZINA from the Lutheran Church in Liberia resigned as Council member. He had moved to the USA and felt that he could therefore no longer represent his church and region. He will not be replaced according to the Council decision in 2015 to refrain from filling further vacancies that occur after the Council in 2015.

7.3 *Information about Adviser Rev. Ireneusz LUKAS*

The Council is informed that the Adviser Rev. Ireneusz LUKAS from the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland had been appointed as LWF Area Secretary for Europe. He therefore resigned as Adviser. He will not be replaced according to the Council decision in 2015 to refrain from filling further vacancies that occur after the Council in 2015.

7.4 *Information about the resignation of a CWS member*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) holds a seat in the Committee for World Service per decision of the LWF Council in 2011. In view of the resignation of Mr Carl Stecker from his position with the ELCA, ELCA has appointed Dr Rebecca Durst as of 30 March 2016 for the remaining term until the Assembly.

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7.5 *Advisory position to the Committee for World Service for Associate Programs*

The Council 2014 in Medan approved the creation of an advisory position to the Committee for World Service for one representative of the Associate Programs to be nominated collectively by the Associate Programs for a 3-year term

Following the decision of the Committee for World Service at its meeting in January 2016 to end the category of Associate Programs, there will no longer be such an advisory position to the Committee for World Service.

8. ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

The LWF President, Bishop Dr Munib Younan, will deliver his address in which he will reflect on the thematic focus of the Council (EXHIBIT 8).

It is

RECOMMENDED: to receive the Address of the President with appreciation.

9. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The LWF General Secretary, Rev. Dr Martin Junge, will submit his report as EXHIBIT 9. The following EXHIBITS 9.2 and 9.2.1 on “In the beginning was the word” (Joh 1:1): The Bible in the Life of the Lutheran Communion - A Study Document on Lutheran Hermeneutics, 9.3 and 9.3.1 on “The Church in the Public Space” and 9.4 Executive Summary of the Report of the LWF Mennonite Task Force “Bearing Fruit: Claiming Implications of the 2010 Reconciliation between Lutheran and Mennonites/Anabaptists” listed under his report will be discussed by the Committee for Theology and Ecumenical Relations in order to bring recommendations to the Council.

It is

RECOMMENDED: to receive the Report of the General Secretary with appreciation and refer relevant matters arising from it to the Committees for discussion and appropriate action.

9.1 *Report of the Implementation of the LWF Communion Office Operational Plan 2015*

The General Secretary, Rev. Dr Martin Junge, will provide a report to the Council about the implementation of the LWF Communion Office Operational Plan 2015 (EXHIBIT 9.1). The report will be discussed in the respective committees and a recommendation for Council action will be brought by the Finance Committee.

9.5 *Mid-term Review of the LWF Strategy 2012 – 2018*

The General Secretary will present a Mid-term Review of the LWF Strategy 2012 – 2018 (EXHIBIT 9.5).

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It is

RECOMMENDED: to receive the Mid-term Review of the LWF Strategy 2012 – 2018
to request the General Secretary to follow up on issues arising from the Mid-term Review of the LWF Strategy 2012 -2018.

9.6 Progress Report - Projecting a sustainable LWF and its Communion Office -

The General Secretary, Rev. Martin Junge, will provide a Progress Report on “Towards a sustainable projection of the LWF and its Communion Office” (EXHIBIT 9.6). He will seek advice on some aspects and propose specific actions.

It is

RECOMMENDED: to receive the Progress Report - Projecting a sustainable LWF and its Communion Office - for information.

9.6.1 Process design for Assessment of the location of the Communion Office

The General Secretary will present a process design for the assessment of the location of the Communion Office (EXHIBIT 9.6.1). This exhibit was already presented and approved by the Meeting of Officers in November 2015.

It is

RECOMMENDED: to approve the Process Design for the assessment of the location of the Communion Office;
to recommend the process design to the new Council to be elected by the Assembly in 2017.

9.6.2 Proposal for a reorganized LWF governance to support future sustainability of the LWF and its Communion Office

The General Secretary will present a Proposal for a reorganized LWF governance to support future sustainability of the LWF and its Communion Office (EXHIBIT 9.6.2).

It is

RECOMMENDED: to refer to the Committee for Constitution and Membership to recommend the wording of the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws which would be required to accomplish the proposed changes.
to request the General Secretary to bring a detailed plan for implementing the changes to the November 2016 Meeting of Officers, having taken into account the feedback and directions given by the Council.

10. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

LWF Chairperson for the Finance Committee, Ms Cristina Jackson-Skelton, will present her report as EXHIBIT 10.

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It is

RECOMMENDED: to receive the Report of the Chairperson for the Finance Committee with appreciation and refer it to the Finance Committee and other Council Committees for discussion and appropriate action.

10.1 LWF Membership Fees 2017 – 2018

The LWF Membership Fees 2017 – 2018 have been updated to adjust the changes in member churches in the last two years (EXHIBIT 10.1). The Finance Committee will bring a recommendation to the Council for action.

11. LWF TWELFTH ASSEMBLY

The General Secretary will present a Report on the preparations for the Twelfth Assembly (EXHIBIT 11).

11.1 Twelfth Assembly Process and Methodology (Update)

The General Secretary will present an updated Process and Methodology of the Twelfth Assembly for information (EXHIBIT 11.1).

11.2 Schedule of the Twelfth Assembly (Update)

The General Secretary will present an updated Schedule of the Twelfth Assembly for information (EXHIBIT 11.2).

11.3 Report of the International Worship Planning Committee (IWPC)

The chairperson of the International Worship Planning Committee Rev. Stephen Larson will present the IWPC Report to the Council (EXHIBIT 11.3).

It is

RECOMMENDED: to receive the Report of the International Worship Planning Committee.

11.4 Proposed Rules of Procedures for the Assembly

The Standing Committee for Constitution and Membership will discuss the Rules of Procedure for the Assembly (EXHIBIT 11.4) and present them within the discussion on the Assembly. The Terms of Reference of the Assembly Committees are part of the Rules of Procedure.

It is

RECOMMENDED: to approve the Rules of Procedure and recommend them to the Assembly for its adoption.

11.5 Proposed composition of the Assembly Committees

The Nominations Committee will discuss the proposed composition of the Assembly Committees and present recommendations to the Council within the discussion on the Assembly (EXHIBIT 11.5).

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It is

RECOMMENDED: to approve the proposed Composition of the Assembly Committees and recommend them to the Assembly for its adoption.

11.6 Proposed Amendments to the LWF Constitution & Bylaws

The Standing Committee for Constitution and Membership will discuss the proposed amendments to the LWF Constitution (EXHIBIT 11.6) and LWF Bylaws EXHIBIT 11.6.1) and present them within the discussion on the Assembly.

It is

RECOMMENDED: to approve the proposed amendments to the LWF Constitution and LWF Bylaws and recommend them to the Assembly for its adoption.

11.7 Guidelines for “Nominations of members of the same family”

The question has arisen whether the LWF’s anti-nepotism policies apply also to the appointment of Assembly delegates. For example, the LWF Personnel Policies provide that it is the policy of the LWF not to appoint to a staff position any person whose spouse, child, parent, brother, sister or direct relative is already a member of the staff. “Direct relative” includes parents-in-law and children-in-law. The oral understanding in the past has been that the anti-nepotism policy should apply to Assembly delegates; however, this has not been put into writing. The Council is requested to clarify this matter by adopting the following:

It is

RECOMMENDED: to approve that no Assembly delegate shall be the spouse, child, parent, sibling, parent-in-law, or child-in-law of another delegate.

11.8 Guidelines on subsidized delegates bringing spouses

Guidelines on subsidized delegates bringing spouses

The question has arisen whether a delegate should be eligible for an LWF financial subsidy if the delegate’s spouse will be coming to the Assembly. This does not appear to be fair, since it would indicate that the delegate or the delegate’s church does indeed have the resources to finance the participation of the delegate. Accordingly,

It is

RECOMMENDED: to approve that a delegate whose spouse will be attending the Assembly shall not be eligible for an LWF financial subsidy. An exception may be made in case of a delegate with a disability for whom the spouse is the caregiver.

12. LWF STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS 2017 – 18 (FORMERLY COOP) AND BUDGET 2017

The General Secretary will present to the Council the LWF Strategic Priority Areas 2017 – 2018 (formerly COOP) (Exhibit 12). The Finance Committee will bring the recommendation to the Council for action.

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It is

- RECOMMENDED:** to approve the LWF Strategic Priority Areas 2017 – 2018;
- to authorize the General Secretary to revise the LWF Strategic Priority Areas 2017 - 2018 as need arises;
- to request the General Secretary to report annually to the Council about the implementation of the LWF Strategic Priority Areas 2017 – 2018.

12.1 LWF BUDGET 2017

The General Secretary will present to the Council the LWF Budget 2017 (EXHIBIT 12.1). The Program and Budget Overview will be discussed in the Committees. The Finance Committee will bring the recommendation to the Council for action.

It is

- RECOMMENDED:** to approve the LWF Budget 2017 with expenditure of EUR Currently showing a surplus of EUR ...;
- to charge any possible deficits against reserves of the respective departments;
- to authorize the Meeting of Officers to approve adjustments to this budget at its meeting if necessary;
- to authorize the LWF Communion Office to fundraise for its LWF Budget 2017.

13. COMMITTEE FOR THEOLOGY AND ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

EXHIBIT 13 Report of the Committee for Theology and Ecumenical Relations

EXHIBIT 13.1 Report of the Institute for Ecumenical Research, Strasbourg

14. COMMITTEE FOR MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT

EXHIBIT 14 Report of the Committee for Mission and Development

EXHIBIT 14.1 Projects Approved by Committee 2017 – 2019

15. COMMITTEE FOR WORLD SERVICE

EXHIBIT 15 Report of the Committee for World Service

16. FINANCE COMMITTEE

EXHIBIT 16 Report of the Finance Committee

EXHIBIT 16.1 LWF Consolidated Financial Statement as of December 31, 2015

EXHIBIT 16.2 Report of the Board of the LWF Foundation – Endowment Fund

17. COMMITTEE FOR ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC VOICE

EXHIBIT 17 Report of the Committee for Advocacy and Public Voice

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EXHIBIT 17.1 Public Statements and Letters (May 2015 - April 2016)

18. STANDING COMMITTEE FOR CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP

EXHIBIT 18 Report of the Standing Committee for Constitution and Membership

19. STANDING COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

EXHIBIT 19 Report of the Standing Committee for Communications

20. PERSONNEL MATTERS

The Council will meet in an Executive Session with a separate agenda.

21. REPORTS FROM LWF NATIONAL COMMITTEES

In keeping with Article IX of the LWF Constitution, National Committees have been requested to submit annual activity reports, which can be found as EXHIBIT 21 and following.

22. DATE AND PLACE OF COUNCIL MEETING IN 2017

The next and last meeting of the current Council will take place on 9 May 2017 immediately prior to the Twelfth Assembly.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

24. CLOSING

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