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Message to the LWF Member Churches on Encouraging meaningful participation of youth in the life and work of member churches

The LWF Council, meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from 27 June to 2 July, 2018, under the theme “freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8), deliberated and adopted the following message to the LWF member churches:

Encouraging meaningful participation of youth in the life and work of member churches

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)

- (1) The LWF Assembly and Council have on several occasions issued resolutions and public statements on the participation of youth in the life and work of member churches. The Stuttgart Assembly resolution on “Inclusiveness in the Lutheran World Federation” and the Windhoek Assembly resolution on “Youth participation” are some cases in point among others.
- (2) The Council is encouraged by the progress in youth participation in the LWF governance meetings, however, meaningful youth participation remains a challenge in some member churches. Youth in the LWF have voiced concerns about the gap between good policies adopted about youth participation and actual practice in some member churches.
- (3) The Council strongly affirms the Youth Message that was adopted at the 12th Assembly in Windhoek, Namibia and urges church leaders to focus on creating space for intentional inclusion of youth. They bring particular skills, knowledge and experience to the life of the church.