

ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION — A COMMUNION OF CHURCHES



CONTENTS

From the General Secretary	1
World Service	3
Providing Bread for Today's Refugees and Tomorrow's Leaders	6
Sharing Our Bread Across Faith Boundaries	11
Theology and Studies	13
Give Us Today Our Daily Bread	16
Mission and Development	19
Together in Paths of Peace	22
International Affairs and Human Rights	24
Stewardship of the Gift of Communion	25
Ecumenical Affairs	26
Strasbourg Institute	27
Communication Services	28
Planning	30
Human Resources	31
Finance and Administration	32
LWF Foundation – Endowment Fund	33

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PROFILE OF THE LWF

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a global communion of churches in the Lutheran tradition, founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden. In 2010, the LWF included 145 member churches in 79 countries, representing over 70 million Christians.

The member churches are grouped in seven regions:

- **Africa:** 31 churches with 19.2 million members
- **Asia:** 52 churches with 8.8 million members
- **Central Eastern Europe:** 15 churches with around 1.4 million members
- **Central Western Europe:** 22 churches with nearly 15.3 million members
- **Nordic Countries:** 6 churches with 19.8 million members
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** 16 churches with nearly 847,000 members
- **North America:** 3 churches with nearly 4.7 million members

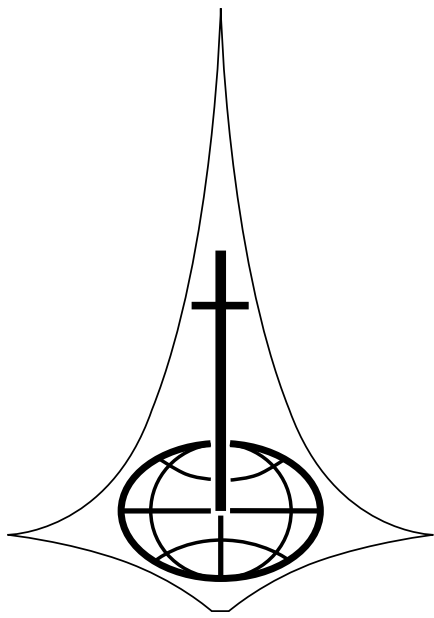
LWF CONSTITUTION – ARTICLE III: NATURE AND FUNCTIONS

The Lutheran World Federation is a communion of churches which confess the triune God, agree in the proclamation of the Word of God and are united in pulpit and altar fellowship.

The Lutheran World Federation confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian unity throughout the world.

The Lutheran World Federation:

- *further the united witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and strengthens the member churches in carrying out the missionary command and in their efforts toward Christian unity worldwide;*
- *further worldwide among the member churches diaconic action, alleviation of human need, promotion of peace and human rights social and economic justice, care for God's creation and sharing of resources;*



- *further through cooperative study the self-understanding and the communion of member churches and helps them to act jointly in common tasks.*

The LWF Secretariat is based in the Ecumenical Center in Geneva, Switzerland. This location makes possible cooperation with other Christian World Communions, the World Council of Churches (WCC), the United Nations (UN) and international secular organizations.

FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



Rev. Martin Junge
© LWF/H. Putsman Penet

As we, in light of the gospel, discover the reforming power of diversity and tension, God inspires us to repentance, reconciliation, and renewal.

As we dare to face the challenges of giving, receiving, and sharing, God creates God's people into newness.

The LWF is not turning its back on the world. Our priorities, largely shaped by Assembly decisions and commitments, are constantly being refocused to effectively respond to emerging local and global needs and opportunities.

The strategic planning process, to which member churches and related organizations have made a significant contribution, underlines the vision of a communion that is inspired by God's liberating grace to work together for a just, peaceful and reconciled world.

The pages that follow provide a glimpse of LWF engagement in advocacy, prophetic diakonia, gender justice, sustainable development, HIV and AIDS strategies, ecumenical activities, and a variety of expression of life in the churches.

I am grateful to all who contribute in the mutual sharing of resources and service for God's mission through our Lutheran communion.

Rev. Martin Junge
General Secretary

This Annual Report of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) takes a slight shift by presenting activities that go beyond the year 2010 in order to give a more precise account of the current and projected priorities.

With the theme "Daily bread: a holistic vision of the LWF," I find it helpful to look back to the July 2010 Eleventh Assembly in Stuttgart, Germany, where representatives of the communion studied, worshipped and took action together in the context of the petition of the Lord's Prayer, "Give us today our daily bread." The updates and stories in this Annual Report offer the communion a deeper understanding of what a **holistic** vision of that theme looks like in our day to day work.

The Message of the Eleventh Assembly concluded with these thoughts:

VISION OF THE LWF



*Following the earthquake, LWF staff map out distribution of non-food-items in Nerette IDP camp near Pétion-Ville, a suburb of the Haitian capital.
© LWF/B. Waddell*

WORLD SERVICE

SHARING BREAD – UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR AND OPPRESSED

SHARING BREAD – A WORLD IN SOLIDARITY

The catastrophe was overwhelming – and so was the solidarity from all over the world. On 12 January 2010 a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, and the result in a few seconds was death, destruction, misery and displacement. When the earthquake occurred LWF World Service had an office with over 40 staff in the capital Port-au-Prince. No LWF staff were harmed and LWF World Service was able to immediately assist Haitians and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti.

The LWF received support from churches, congregations and individuals from all continents. Financial contributions came not only from wealthy countries but also from Bangladesh and Brazil, from South Africa and Sudan. National staff from the Department for World Service (DWS) programs in Burundi, Central America and Rwanda were seconded to Haiti to strengthen the LWF's ability to assist.

Support came also from the churches' social service organization (SSID) in neighboring Dominican Republic. They provided a warehouse, vehicles for safe storage, blankets, tents and many other goods. This solidarity and the close cooperation with other members of ACT Alliance—the global network of churches and

related humanitarian and development agencies—was very encouraging. It illustrated the huge potential of World Service as the diaconal arm of the global Lutheran communion of churches, as well as ecumenical cooperation.

SHARING BREAD – WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD THROUGH ACT ALLIANCE

The ACT Alliance was founded in early 2010 and held its first assembly in Arusha, Tanzania. Hosts for the assembly were the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Tanganyika Refugee Service (TCRS), a localized World Service program. The LWF affirms its commitment to working with other churches. To be Lutheran means to be ecumenical.

SHARING BREAD – EVALUATING AND LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER

- A mid-term review of the Global Strategy 2007-2012 provides a platform for actions for the second phase of the strategy.
- For the first time, at a meeting in Bari, Italy, LWF World Service brought man-

agement teams from all country programs together to learn from one another and build a common vision.

SHARING BREAD – THROUGH ECUMENICAL, HUMANITARIAN WORK

The earthquake in Haiti and the foundation of ACT Alliance mark important directions for ecumenical, humanitarian work in the future. The ability of communities to recover rapidly from disasters and to strengthen their resilience in preparation for future disasters becomes even more important with the reality of climate change and the increase in various weather-related disasters.

The LWF strongly supports local capacity-building and leadership and works closely with local, national and international partners, also in disaster response. The LWF is strongly committed to greater coordination and efficiency within the ACT Alliance and other humanitarian actors.

In 2010 work focused on climate change, food security, gender empowerment, improving communities and HIV and AIDS response as highlighted in country reports that follow.

FACTS AND FIGURES

2010 Expenditure: USD 84.33 million

Geneva staff: 15

International field staff: 35

*Local field staff (Excluding associate programs):
2,245*

Number of country programs (including associate programs): 34

WOMEN LEARN SKILLS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

Mauritania enjoys intense solar radiation throughout the year, which represents a significant source of renewable energy. The LWF Mauritania solar lighting project in rural areas of the country, is a collaboration between the LWF, village communities, local partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the Barefoot College, India.

Rural families in Mauritania spend a large proportion of their income on candles

or kerosene for lighting. Children's education is hampered by the fact that they can't do homework after sunset. Adult education, literacy classes or other activities in the evenings are also restricted. The commonly used candles and kerosene lanterns contribute to pollution in the home.

The solar lighting project addresses these problems through use of solar energy collected on photo-voltaic panels. Women are

being trained as solar technicians and are able to earn an income through promotion and installation of the household lighting systems.

The Barefoot College in India provides training for the solar technicians and LWF Mauritania is raising funds to manage and promote the project. The LWF offers a 50 percent subsidy on solar lighting systems purchased by rural families. Six women technicians trained at the college installed solar lighting systems for 300 families in three villages. The plan is to serve an additional 1,000 households in 20 villages.

The household system includes a 30-watt solar photo-voltaic panel, a battery and two compact fluorescent lights. Compared to the carbon production of kerosene lamps, the production of light from this system over 20 years will amount to six tons less pollution. Pressure lanterns, the most common source of household lighting, would consume 2,360 liters of kerosene during the 20 year period

to produce the same amount of light. With the current European Union (EU) carbon trading cost, the lifetime value of carbon reduction for each household will be EUR 80 or EUR 80,000 per thousand!

BENEFITS

- Children can study at night → education enhanced
- Employment created for women → new livelihoods and financial stability
- Reduced lighting costs over 20 years → household economy improved
- Improved air quality in home → respiratory health enhanced
- Reduced carbon emissions → carbon offset value = EUR 80,000



*Ms Bowba Mint Brahim, representing the Mauritanian solar engineers at the LWF Eleventh Assembly.
© LWF/J. Larva-Hakimi*

LWF COMMUNION PROVIDES EMERGENCY RELIEF AS DAILY BREAD IN HAITI

It is estimated that more than 220,000 people lost their lives and at least 1.5 million were internally displaced from the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti. The physical damage is calculated in billions of US dollars.

The quake's epicenter Léogâne, was 25 kilometers west of Port-au-Prince, but several buildings in the capital city were toppled. The affected areas are still covered in plastic sheeting, homes are in ruins, and rubble is cleared with shovels and wheelbarrows.

Children were especially traumatized by the earthquake. A few of them are sitting under plastic sheeting on the site of their former school in Port-au-Prince. The school offers counseling support for the children and their families. Classes are now taught in the open while a new school is being constructed. It is a pilot project of the LWF and Finn Church Aid, members of ACT Alliance.

The school is being designed and built in active consultation with the children, their parents and the local community. Local workers construct using earthquake debris and river stones for the foundation and walls. It is designed to be safe in hurricanes, floods and earthquakes.

The children have been told about the construction process in order to help them feel safe when they come back. Together

with their teachers, they have chosen the school colors and the shutters will be covered with words in Creole, French, English and Finnish in response to the community's request. The 314 enrolled children will meet outdoors until construction is completed.

The school can be a model of a practical, safe and inspiring environment where children who have lived through extraordinary



*One year after the earthquake, reconstruction near Port-au-Prince.
© LWF/Anli Serfontein*



*At the Shekinah camp in Gressier municipality, Port-au-Prince, the LWF offers children guided play and learning.
© LWF/DWS Haiti*

upheavals and distress can again hope for a better future.

In the days and weeks following the earthquake, the voices praying in the ruined streets of Haiti were echoed in hundreds of languages around the LWF communion. Gifts came from member churches, individuals, towns, and staff from the Geneva Secretariat and other LWF offices which pushed the emergency response staff from two to 78. The LWF communion gifts totaling nearly USD 10 million went to ensuring that those most in need had shelter, water, blankets, buckets, and the assurance that they had not been forsaken or forgotten.

PROVIDING BREAD FOR TODAY'S REFUGEES AND TOMORROW'S LEADERS

As daylight finally overcomes the night, thousands of camp residents emerge from their heavily fenced homesteads and pour out onto the narrow streets of the expansive Kakuma Refugee Camp in northwestern

Kenya. These are the children of the camp. The processions they form lead them to various schools within the camp, where they spend most of their day in search of hope for their future. Kakuma is home to 80,000

refugees, most of them Somali nationals fleeing ongoing fighting and instability in their country. Many of these children were born in the camp or have lived most of their lives there. The LWF is responsible for managing refugee education in several refugee camps on behalf of the respective governments and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Education is a priority for camp families. Adults and youth say, "Deny us food, but give us education. It is the only benefit we will take back home for our country's development." As refugees leave the camp and find work, they are clear that the education they receive gives them hope for a future in their home country. There has been a drastic renewal of commitment, a sort of revolution, in the way education is supported and facilitated. The LWF, refugees, and partner organizations have managed to start a process of improving a much sought after right—education!

The LWF has a strong commitment to service with refugees. At the close of World War II, one out of every six Lutherans in the world was a refugee or displaced person. Today few Lutherans are refugees, but the LWF continues to operate major programs of assistance for displaced people around the world, responding to human need regardless of religion.



LWF's work in the refugee camps focuses on getting girls to school, such as these young Somalis. © LWF/P. Wijmans

SHARING EXPERTISE BUILDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Chu Mas lives in Svay Ph'aem, a small village in Cambodia where her family struggles to make enough money for food and other needs. In 2007 she was privileged to take an LWF-sponsored weaving course. After successfully completing the course, she was eager to open a business for weaving traditional *kramas* or scarves. The scarf has multiple uses. It can be used for protection from the sun, as a hammock for infants or as a towel. It is often used as a head covering in the Muslim Cham culture. Most people here own three or four *kramas*.

Unfortunately, Mas did not have enough money to buy the necessary loom, spinner and thread to start her business. Her mother sold some rice but learned the equipment wasn't available locally. Mas' eldest brother decided he could make a loom and spinner for her. He copied a sample of the equipment used in the LWF program and built a semi-automatic loom and spinner for his sister.

Mas has now opened her weaving business. Her primary customers are the villagers. She weaves three per day, selling each at one US dollar. Her sales vary seasonally with orders increasing during the dry season when there are weddings, religious ceremonies and parties. She is excited that her small business has now gone global! Through LWF Cambodia she filled out an order for 100 scarves for Australian Lutheran World Service, and 500 for the LWF Eleventh Assembly.

"These two big orders give me encouragement," said Mas, who went to school up to third grade. "The business is important to my family. Without it our lives would be very difficult. Before I had my weaving business, my mother would sell rice in order to buy food and other household necessities. Now I cover those costs."

Mas worries about the future. Even though she is the only weaver in her village she says, "Orders placed by the people in my village are small and now many of them have bought as many *kramas* as they need, but my *kramas* are good quality. I am hopeful."

*Chu Mas weaves new kramas
in Svay Ph'aem village.
© LWF/DWS Cambodia/R. Leuk*



FOOD SECURITY MEANS BREAD FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Central America is marked by the beauty of its oceans, mountains, rivers, forests and farmland. It is also an area rocked by on-going political crisis, human rights violations, drug trafficking, environmental degradation, violence, climate change, natural disasters and extreme poverty. The LWF is increasingly more important here as there is a remarkable decrease of international cooperation in the region.

Food security has fallen to levels not seen since the early 1990s and the number of undernourished people has risen to 52 million. LWF promotes sustainable agriculture programs, operates a sustainable agricultural model, promotes innovative practices with farmers and strengthens capacity for safeguarding food security. In 2010 more than 1,500 farmers benefitted from these programs.

Known as the “River of many waters” the Sonsonate region of El Salvador is an area in which the LWF teaches farmers organic agriculture with an emphasis on conservation, use of native seeds, planting fruit trees, irrigation

and crop diversification. Family food security is ensured because farming this way protects the environment, diversifies and lowers crop production costs and the local farmers profit by selling their surplus at local markets. Forty-eight percent of the farmers in this World Service program are women.

Working with others, the LWF has assisted in the creation of an agricultural cooperative. Launched by six communities after training and accompaniment by the LWF, the cooperative is a model of agriculture diversification and use of sustainable techniques for organic farming. Cesar Ascencio says, “As a member of the cooperative, I have a reserve of basic grains for a year. It permits me to sell grain in order to pay for health care and provide school books for my daughter.”

In Tacuba, Ahuachapan, women’s groups trained in sustainable farming techniques now produce food for local markets and are becoming self sufficient.

World Service is committed to the LWF vision of daily bread. In Central America the work is carried out with a focus on food security and sovereignty, advocacy and natural resource conservation, promotion of inclusive public policies, risk management and disaster response in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.



Thanks to a DWS project in Nicaragua, five-year old Cristbel Calix and her family have food security with the sale of surplus grain from her mother's field of sesame crop. © LWF/DWS Central America



MORINGA TREES AND SEWING MACHINES OFFER DAILY BREAD

Busy at her sewing machine, a member of the women's group that made folders for the LWF Eleventh Assembly. © LWF/DWS Mozambique/A. Mapandzeni

In Chamanculo, a suburb of Mozambique's capital Maputo, five women sit at their sewing machines making a living for themselves and their families. Using foam, a light brown local fabric and a label on which the LWF Eleventh Assembly logo and theme are embedded, they made document folders for use at the Assembly in Stuttgart. That project concluded and they have moved on to make shopping bags and school folders for sale locally.

Mozambique is one of the least developed countries in the world. HIV and AIDS has become a paramount concern here with an estimated 13 percent of the population living with HIV, including members of this women's group. In addition, the Southern African country has struggled with food

insecurity for decades due to both developmental issues and natural disasters.

There is a strong link between nutrition and HIV and AIDS. People living with HIV need to maintain an adequate diet in both quantity and quality in order to strengthen their immune system. Those on medication require a diet that ensures both caloric intake and adequate nutrition. Patients on anti-retroviral drugs are often not able to take their drugs as required due to lack of food. Providing adequate food for the whole family can be compromised by the need to increase quantity and quality for the infected member. The LWF is committed to improving knowledge of nutritional requirements and food-related practices

among people living with HIV, their care providers and family members.

LWF World Service has promoted the establishment of fruit-tree nurseries and the planting of hundreds of the *moringa* tree species—known for its medicinal properties and leaves that have high nutritional value. People living with HIV are encouraged to supplement their diet with a powder made from the dried *moringa* leaves.

LWF's multi-faceted AIDS program work in Mozambique includes projects where women and men seek to provide daily bread and enhance food security through improved farming techniques, tree planting, home gardens and demonstration farms among other initiatives.



A DWS Burundi staff person (left) with members of the LWF-supported farmer field school in Mwiruzi colline, Cankuzo province. © LWF/DWS Burundi/J. Ntirirusba

NEW TECHNIQUES PUT MORE BREAD ON THE TABLE

With the goal of learning about new farming techniques that would increase food production, the LWF sent a team of Burundian farmers to visit modern agricultural centers in Uganda. Two farmers from each of the nine LWF collines (local areas) were selected to participate in this farmer field school (FFS) program.

Upon returning home, they were given the task of organizing field schools within their respective collines. Initially the LWF assisted groups with startup costs and some

financial help alongside contributions made by group members.

Each group has a name and organizational bylaws. The FFS students in Rukoyoyo colline named their group Majambere. Their motto is *Kundibikorwa* which means “Stick to work.” The area representative Ms Halima Malik says, “I am amazed by the methods used in Uganda such as the cultivation of various vegetable crops by using bags. Fifty and 100-kilo natural fiber bags are filled with soil, manure and fertilizers

are added. Holes are poked in the bag and the top is left open. Seeds are planted in the holes and vegetables literally grow out of the bag holes and top. The bags take up much less space than normal field planting.”

According to Fulgence Kamana, a community extension technician for three of the collines, “techniques learned in Uganda allow our farmers to produce more food, even on small fields. One technique is the comparison approach. It involves cultivating two or more varieties of the same species

of a crop in similar conditions in order to observe the difference in yield.”

The schools are innovative in their approach to agricultural education. Students meet in the field to exchange knowledge and experience and conduct experiments together. FFS groups network with government bodies and the private sector to find appropriate crops for growth and experimentation.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization promotes this work in two provinces.

SHARING OUR BREAD ACROSS FAITH BOUNDARIES

A 2004 LWF visit to the tsunami-devastated Aceh area of Indonesia revealed how relationships between local Christians and Muslims were enhanced during the disaster as they reached out to help and minister to the traumatized and needy people regardless of race or religion. Understanding the reality of this collegiality, work has continued on the development of a platform for dialogue on ways Christians and Muslims can live and work together in harmony.

A first consultation in Medan, Indonesia, deepened the dialogue, with participants of different faiths pledging to strengthen cooperation in areas of social concerns, healing and meeting the needs for the common good. This cooperation is crucial in religiously pluralistic contexts such as Asia.

A second consultation on interfaith diapraxis was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This event focused on building communities of solidarity and mutual interest across faith boundaries. Each morning, people of different faiths—Buddhists, Christians, Hindus and Muslims came together to pray for the needs of the world—reaffirming the commitment made in Medan to build and strengthen the spiritual bond across faiths and to live in interfaith diapraxis.

The consultations defined interfaith diapraxis as: “Dialogue in action, where people of diverse faiths come together and engage themselves to resolve issues of common concern and to pave the way for transformation.” The Dhaka gathering revealed that all four major faiths have a common understanding on the essence of interfaith diapraxis.

The call to feed the hungry is shared across faiths and offers opportunities for common affirmation and action among religions. Diapraxis emphasizes the practical dimensions and visibility of dialogue among the faithful, without setting aside the prophetic voices of the religions: to speak the truth and promote justice.



*A project officer shows children how to wash hands properly at a relocation area in Taikako village in Mentawai, West Sumatra. This is part of ACT Alliance work with people displaced by the October 2010 tsunami in the Indonesian island.
© ACT/YEU/Prasetio*



THEOLOGY AND STUDIES

THEOLOGY FOR THE LUTHERAN COMMUNION: ENGAGING GOVERNMENTS, INTERFAITH PARTNERS – AND OUR OWN TRADITION

A TIME TO REAP AND A TIME TO PLANT ANEW

The Eleventh Assembly was a milestone not only for the LWF but for the Department for Theology and Studies (DTS). Among the many quiet signs of the influence of DTS' work on the assembly's actions was the conclusion of the Assembly Message, which included words written for worship at the April 2009 DTS consultation on climate change held in Puri, northeastern India.

As we face rising waters, hunger, and displacement, God suffers with us.

As we mourn the distress and wounds of God's creation, God weeps with us.

As we struggle for justice, God struggles with us.

As we expose and challenge climate injustice, God empowers us.

(God, Creation and Climate Change, p. 129)

In Stuttgart, DTS said farewell to its long-time director Rev. Dr Karen Bloomquist. Her legacy can be seen in completion of the six volumes of the *Theology in the Life of the Church* series, whose possible consequences for theological teaching in the communion were explored in a 2010 consultation in Wuppertal, Germany.

*Participants in the joint LWF-WCC consultation on "Engaging Structural Greed," held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
© Institute of Religion, Culture and Peace, Payap University*

"Churches Holding Governments Accountable" is a statement whose implications continue to be realized. The Bahasa Indonesia translation of a resource for reflection, discussion and action on this topic was launched during LWF General Secretary Martin Junge's visit to North Sumatra in March 2011.

WORKING AGAINST GREED WITH INTERFAITH PARTNERS

The Assembly committed the LWF to "engage with those of other faiths and with the rest of society in efforts to subvert greed and develop alternatives that are life-giving and sustaining for all." In August 2010, a consultation showing the potential of this engagement was organized jointly by DTS and WCC, hosted by the Institute of Religion, Culture and Peace at Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Participants included more than 30 Buddhists from Mahayana, Theravada and Vajrayana traditions, as well as Christians from Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Reformed and Roman Catholic traditions. The activists, economists, religious leaders and scholars from 14 countries discussed ways in which Buddhists and

Christians can learn from, and strengthen each other in engaging today's forms of structural greed. Papers and deliberations from this consultation will be published in 2011.

So promising was this approach that another consultation on this same topic is planned for 2011, this time with Muslims. Sabah Theological Seminary in Malaysia will host the conference and the following days of reflection on common learning from these events. It is hoped that these ongoing interreligious engagements and cooperation will contribute to overcoming greed, and realizing a world of greater compassion, justice and wisdom.

ARTICULATING LUTHERAN IDENTITY TODAY

LUTHERAN REFLECTIONS ON THE CHURCH

DTS has conducted several studies on Lutheran understandings of the Church since 2000. The most recent, *One Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church: Some Lutheran and Ecumenical Perspectives* was published in 2009. Continuing this project, the depart-



Theologians during a session at the consultation in Münster, Germany. © LWF/A. J. Benesch

ment, in cooperation with the Ecumenical Institute of the Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Münster, Germany, convened 18 theologians in June 2010. Their conversations encouraged ongoing theological reflection on how Lutheran churches throughout the world understand themselves and how, through transformative action in church and society, they live out what Lutherans profess about the Church in the Nicene Creed—that it is truly one, holy,

catholic and apostolic. Papers from the consultation were published in December 2010 in *Like Living Stones: Lutheran Reflections on the One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church*.

CONTEMPORARY LUTHERAN BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS

Biblical interpretation will be an increasingly prominent focus for DTS in the coming years. The Lutheran movement of reform began with a fresh reading of scriptures, and

since then Lutherans have been prominent in the disciplines of biblical interpretation. The upcoming 2017 Reformation anniversary invites attention to the ways in which the Bible is read today—ways that reflect the contextual diversity of the communion, but also seek common ground in approach and understanding. Since differences in biblical interpretation can also play roles in controversies within the communion, it is important to develop practices of reading the Bible togeth-

PUBLICATIONS: 2010 LWF STUDIES

Churches Holding Governments Accountable. A resource for reflection, discussion and action, Karen L. Bloomquist, John R. Stumme and Martin L. Sinaga;
Freedom and Responsibility. Christian and Muslim Explorations, LWF Studies, Simone Sinn and Martin Sinaga (editors);
"Like Living Stones": Lutheran Reflections on the One Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church, LWF Studies;
Thinking It Over # 25: "Abusive Sexual Practices: Breaking the Silence in the Church"



© LWF/H. Putsman Penet

er which are not bound to single issues. To begin to pursue this goal, plans were developed in 2010 to engage Lutheran theologians across disciplines, asking them to identify common perspectives on ways in which the communion can use the Bible in its critical and public witness. A consultation, involving 35 Lutheran theologians from the seven LWF regions, will be held in September 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya.

WIDELY ACCESSIBLE RESOURCES FOR UNDERSTANDING LUTHERAN COMMITMENTS

From discussions at the Assembly concerning the renewal process, and through staff discussions during the annual all-staff Week of Meetings in September 2010, the need was expressed for non-technical and accessible resources that convey cen-

tral Lutheran teachings in ways which can be useful for all who work for the LWF, Lutherans and non-Lutherans alike. To begin this preparation, DTS hosted several informal seminars on Lutheran identity at the Geneva secretariat. Designed to welcome all LWF staff, these sessions focused on unconditional acceptance, grace, justification, responsibility, and communion. Using this experience, these resources will be developed into a booklet intended for wide readership, including use by those working in LWF country programs.

Thinking It Over, the series of brief pamphlets distributed on the LWF web site, will now continue under a new name: *With Heart and Mind*. These short occasional pieces will examine a wide range of emerging theological questions for churches in the Lutheran communion.

GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD

The LWF Eleventh Assembly was held from 20 to 27 July in Stuttgart, Germany, hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg. More than 1,200 participants attended the normally once in every six years gathering of the highest decision-making body of the LWF. The Assembly included a variety of interaction and fellowship through daily worship, plenary presentations, “Village Group” business sessions, and ecumenical greetings among other events. The breaking of bread every day, the words and sermons, all communicated an urgent call for sharing the bread of life with the world, and the need for new tables of hospitality to be set in a manner that **all** may eat and celebrate God’s gifts.

The Assembly Message reminded the communion, that “Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors and the like.” (*Luther’s Small Catechism*)

Specific Assembly actions and commitments call for:

- Gender and intergenerational justice
- Food justice
- Climate justice
- Fairness for those suffering from HIV and AIDS
- Justice for migrants
- Relief for those who suffer under illegitimate debt
- Bold and prophetic action across ecumenical lines and with communities of other faiths

A particularly defining event was the reconciliation and healing action between Lutherans and Mennonite sisters and brothers. In a moving service the LWF asked for forgiveness from God and the Mennonites for the wrongful and unacceptable persecution and execution of Anabaptists during the early days of the Reformation. This action of reconciliation and forgiveness is a model for true reconciliation among churches and across faiths.

This Assembly was a living testimony of how God works among God’s people who share a common self-understanding that inspires them to common action. In a bold message the Assembly stated that, “In a time of ‘grabbing and keeping,’ we once again become aware that true humanity is found in receiving and sharing.”

Youth message presentation at the Eleventh Assembly
© LWF/Erik Coll

Assembly participants during a eucharistic service.
© LWF/Ratna Leak







MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND FOSTERING COOPERATION

The 145 LWF member churches around the world form the focal point for the work of the Department for Mission and Development (DMD). It fosters communion and facilitates capacity building to reach out to communities through proclamation, diakonia/service, and act together with others for human dignity and creation. The department provides spaces for building relationships and fostering cooperation among the churches and ecumenical partners. Promoting gender equality and the participation of youth in decision-making processes in the communion and within the churches is a core value of DMD.

Pre-Assembly meetings that had started the previous year continued in 2010 at regional and global levels to prepare delegates, and to lay the foundation for a fruitful Eleventh Assembly. Worship was pivotal in shaping the discussions at the Pre-Assemblies. Sharing bread and wine which are God's gift of grace and the spiritual means of daily life, were important elements in empowering participants to confront a world characterized by outcries for bread that are manifest differently in each context. A shared concern and commitment for attending to the needs of the neighbor was expressed in the different messages, high-

lighting issues that included food justice and ecological concerns, poverty, illegitimate debt, gender and generational justice, spiritual hunger, migration, human trafficking, and disease, especially HIV and AIDS.

Following the Renewal Committee report in 2009, LWF regional expressions have received new emphasis and are highlighted structurally within the communion. This new understanding will impact how the organization shapes its work, with the regions assuming greater responsibility for furthering the understanding, growing and living in communion.

DMD's work with member churches both through projects and programmatic activities was guided by a vision of daily bread holistically (physically and spiritually) that must be addressed through mission as proclamation, service (diakonia) and advocacy. A manual titled "Introducing Diakonia in Context" to facilitate the reception and stimulate study of the LWF document *Diakonia in Context – Transformation, Reconciliation, Empowerment* especially at local levels is being sent to selected readers for testing. Feedback will be collected and published as material for dissemination to equip churches in their diaconal work.

The reports and stories in this section reflect how DMD works with and supports

member churches in their contextual realities which in turn are crucial for strengthening the identity, visibility and sustainability of the Lutheran communion and its work in various contexts. Exploring new approaches, especially in promoting clarity and strengthening local initiatives and capacities, are being prioritized within a renewed LWF.

FACTS AND FIGURES:

Expenditure 2010: USD 12.042 million

Geneva staff: 18

Regional staff: 1

At the March 2011 Asia Church Leadership Conference, young members of the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia demonstrate how people in the state of Sabah embraced Christianity. © LWF/Maurice Malanes

AFRICA

In Africa, the theme of the LWF Assembly, “Give us today our daily bread,” provided a basis for reflection and deepening the understanding of the role of the churches within their own context. The 100 participants who attended the Pre-Assembly meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, considered daily bread as a matter of survival in Africa and therefore of urgency. Participants affirmed the crucial importance of churches working together on issues of access to land, water, education and gender equity.

During the year, three training seminars were held which addressed poverty, gender and the role of the church. The seminars facilitated the development of strategies for diaconal actions in order to address gender and generational injustice and poverty. In addition, two “Female Theologian’s Forums” were held which created opportunities for enhancing the capacity of women theologians and pastors.

The LWF renewal process has ignited conversations on how to strengthen the Africa regional expression and its role in supporting joint endeavors in holistic mission.

LATIN AMERICA

Meeting in Bogotá, Colombia, the Pre-Assembly affirmed that the “Give us today our daily bread” petition calls for reflection and solidarity with the community. It empowers churches to serve in God’s mission and become a space for encounter and renewal. In Latin America and the Caribbean this



The Abuja diocese choir of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria performs at the Africa Pre-Assembly. © LWF/S. Djibdi

prayer is the cry of the earth—an impoverished earth, violated, and hungry for food, ecological and gender justice.

Focus on economic and climate justice is an effort to enhance life and dignity. Countries here still subsist in contexts of dependence that increase their external debt. Latin American churches have learned that political diakonia can be a tool to empower action-reflection-action where greed and sin take place.

The Lord’s Prayer embraces justice and reconciliation for the whole creation and enlarges the table where not only members may share. In community, the sharing of bread has a different taste and deepens the sense of what it means to pray “give us today.”

Salvadoran Bishop Medardo E. Gómez Soto at the opening service of the Latin American and Caribbean region Pre-Assembly in Bogotá, Colombia. © LWF/R.de Faria





*Women delegates debate the meaning of food justice in the European context.
© LWF/E.Neuendorf*

EUROPE

European churches gathered in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, for their Pre-Assembly. Discussions lifted up the challenges for the churches to share God's gifts of both material and spiritual bread with those who are weak, defenseless, marginalized or despised. They also addressed the loss of human dignity involved in human trafficking, gender injustice and forced migration. Participants committed to the continuing priorities of gender justice and concern for God's creation.

Other European regional gatherings in 2010 addressed specific regional challenges in times of crisis and major change. These included the yearnings for a strong framework of faith, the need for confessional identity, struggles for sustainability, the church's public role and the endeavor of being in communion beyond all differences.

ASIA

Affirming the divine call to prophetic diakonia to speak out God's justice for all who hunger in body and spirit, the 2009 Asia Pre-Assembly held in Bangkok, Thailand, recognized the painful fact that so many in Asia do not have adequate food. Malnutrition rates among children and women are in the millions and there are thousands of hunger-related deaths on a daily basis. They resolved to call on governments to work for disarmament in order that funds used for national security might be used for food security.

cal, interfaith, government and ideological groups to speak more loudly for justice and to work toward greater reconciliation.

NORTH AMERICA

The highlight of the year for the three North American member churches was the Pre-Assembly held in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, in January. It was an opportunity to discuss contextualized responses to both local and global challenges. Discussion included response to world hunger, eradication of poverty and other related global



*From left to right: Rev. Teresita Valeriano, Mikka McCracken, Sunitha Mortha at the LWF North America Pre-Assembly.
© LWF North America*

Member churches were urged to ally with all people of good will, including ecumeni-

issues in the context of the current financial crisis and high unemployment in the region.

TOGETHER IN PATHS OF PEACE

¡No a la Violencia!

The word came from the Colombian capital Bogotá, from the Pre-Assembly for the Latin America and Caribbean region. Together, Lutherans and Mennonites can say no to violence—and can put that emphatic “No!” into action in praying together for peace and

working together to address the very concrete suffering violence causes.

In preparation for the Eleventh Assembly, Lutherans were recognizing their need to repent of their violent persecutions of Anabaptists. When the idea of asking forgiveness first emerged from the work of the Lutheran – Mennonite International Study Commission,

the expectation was for the Assembly to acknowledge the legacies of this painful history—an honest and important act.

But the expectation did not capture the whole meaning of this action, which began to expand, unpredictably and wonderfully. Because it rests on hope, reconciliation resonates with the hunger for peace in ways which cannot be fully anticipated. In the midst of so many cycles and spirals of violence, reconciliation offers, by the power of God, the possibility of spirals of hope.

In Bogotá, Lutherans and Mennonites claimed this hope. At the Assembly in Stuttgart, Bishop Eduardo Martínez of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia explained: “I realized the meaning of this act of reconciliation between churches in the context and situation we are living in our country. Colombians have long suffered violence, largely due to the inability of many to tolerate ideological, political or religious differences. The act of reconciliation of two churches which recognize the importance of healing wounds of the past in order to be able to live in peace in the present gives a message of vital importance to our society.”

Since the Assembly, the hope offered by reconciliation continues to inspire Lutheran communities on all continents. The meaning of “the Mennonite action” will be fully apparent only in the future, in ways Lutherans (and Mennonites) find themselves strengthened in the service of peace.



*Vice president of the Mennonite World Conference Executive Committee, Janet Plenert (left), presents outgoing LWF President Bishop Mark S. Hanson with a symbolic pine foot-washing tub.
© LWF/Erick Coll*

The Regional Office located in Chicago, USA, was closed on 31 July due to decreasing financial resources.

HIV AND AIDS

“For the sake of life” the LWF AIDS Campaign theme, and the Eleventh LWF Assembly theme guided all plans and activities of the HIV and AIDS campaign. Both themes express the right to food and to life. The overall goal of the campaign is the development of church capacities for effective AIDS ministries that are grounded in a solid theological base. The LWF is committed to intensifying focus on awareness, issues of stigma and rejection, inclusion of people living with HIV, prevention of HIV transmission and advocacy for universal access to treatment

YOUTH

Thirty-six global themes were discussed by church representatives at the Pre-Assembly Youth Conference in Dresden, Germany. From these discussions three priority themes became their focus:

- Sustainability in its social, economic and environmental dimensions
- Gender justice
- Visibility of the LWF

The participants continue to work together and remain connected on a lively online blog and on the youth Facebook page [HTTP://FACEBOOK.COM/LWFYOUTH](http://facebook.com/lwfyouth) .

GENDER JUSTICE

In addition to the October 2009 Women’s Pre-Assembly, women’s gatherings were held in conjunction with each Regional Pre-Assembly. In all the voices and experiences raised around the communion, a connection between sharing bread and sharing power was clear. Concerns include:

- Asia: Making women’s work visible in the church, including women’s ordination
- Europe: Human trafficking and the growing reality of poverty
- Africa: Women’s rights to access land to ensure food justice
- Latin America: Need to move from discussion to action and advocacy for gender policies, sustainable economic models and just access to resources
- North America: Address pornography issues, and identify processes that put women in leadership roles.

PROJECTS

With the reduction of available resources, DMD has become much more selective in its project screening. This has led to supporting projects where can clearly demonstrate added value by its accompaniment. Focus on more fragile structures and younger churches is emerging.



Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA) AIDS ministry: Children say a prayer at a center for orphaned and vulnerable children at a township in Johannesburg, South Africa. © LUCSA/Paula Powell

COMPREHENSIVE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The goal of this work is long-term, tailor-made capacity development processes based on requests from member churches. In 2010, strategic planning workshops were held in Colombia, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Madagascar and Palestine. The program focuses on building a stronger communion, inclusiveness, communication and diakonia as part of the holistic mission of the church.



School-going boys ferry water from a borehole in Amuria district, eastern Uganda. Access to potable water remains a challenge in the rural areas, compelling women and children to travel long distances in search of water for domestic use. © LWF Uganda/K. Ressel

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ADVOCATING FOR JUSTICE AND DIGNITY



*Ms Esther Okello
© LWF/H. Putsman Penet*

From its beginnings the LWF has been involved in advocacy. The LWF advocates because we are part of the Body of Christ. All people are created in the image of God and have equal dignity and value in God's eyes. When dignity and value are violated and there is injustice or violation of human rights, the LWF works to see justice done and dignity restored.

As an international NGO, the LWF is recognized and accredited by the UN to participate in its meetings. Advocacy is most compelling when it is grounded in

experience and the LWF is well-placed to take what happens in a local church or project and bring it to the global stage.

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) engages in periodic reviews of the situation of women in each country. Through World Service the LWF prepared a report for the review of women's rights in Uganda. Esther Okello from DWS Uganda attended the October CEDAW session in Geneva. She said she was thrilled to hear international experts use facts and language from her report as they questioned

and made recommendations to the Ugandan governmental representatives.

Ugandan women involved in the report said not only did they feel empowered by their participation but that the entire community benefited and felt empowered to see their neighbors given an opportunity to speak at the international level. Christine Auma says, "By giving us feedback I feel my views were presented to the international level for action. I feel I am playing a big role in the development process of this nation. I want to see and learn what other women are doing in other parts of the world and use it to build my nation. I am very grateful that we are represented at the international level."

Key advocacy issues for the LWF in 2010 included:

- Freedom of religion
- Climate change
- Generous protection for refugees and other forced migrants
- Gender justice
- Dalits and caste-based discrimination
- The Israeli/Palestinian conflict
- Illegitimate debt
- Specific country situations where human rights were violated

STEWARDSHIP OF THE GIFT OF COMMUNION

The LWF is engaged in an intense process of strategic planning. Based on insights from the LWF Renewal process and voices at the Eleventh Assembly, the communion is in discernment on the next step in our shared journey of witness and service in our world.

Where does this journey, initiated more than 60 years ago with the self understanding of being a **federation** of churches, lead us in the years to come, especially now that member churches understand themselves as churches in **communion**? How will it be shaped by the fact that the period (2012–2017) ends the year in which we will commemorate 500 years of the Lutheran Reformation?

Certainly, a process of strategic planning requires a very special approach. Communion is not something that belongs to the LWF and its member churches.

Rather, it is a gift that has been recognized as the shaping force of their relationships, and as the driving force of their shared journey. This journey does not have a pre-designed roadmap. Inspired by God's liberating grace for witness and service in the world, the LWF communion of churches evolves and unfolds as it reflects its practice and relates to the continuously changing contexts in our world.

The LWF communion of churches is never done, or accomplished, but is an ongoing, evolving process. It captures the dynamic character of the church which Luther expressed as "ecclesia semper reformanda"—"the church is in an ongoing process of reform."

On the basis of this self understanding, the strategic planning process needs to be approached from the perspective of stewardship. Planning the ongoing

journey of the communion is not about mastering its future; it is about responding to the gifts and resources received for the journey in an attitude of care and stewardship.

In the same way the planning process intends

to respond to the gifts received, it also seeks to respond to the changed contexts in which the journey of the LWF continues to evolve. The global human family is confronted today with new questions. In most parts of the world, climate change is no longer only an intellectual debate. It is a challenging, sometimes even deadly reality on the ground. Poverty, and particularly the gap between rich and poor seems to be a social paradigm around the world, reinforcing mechanisms of exclusion with devastating consequences on human beings and the social fabric of societies and the global village.

The question of individual identity and of entire groups in a rapidly changing world is becoming additionally urgent for large populations because of the very dynamic process of globalization. The potential of religions, with their important role of contributing to the shaping of individual and collective identities is recognized in new ways, and the challenge to resist misuse and instrumentalize religions increases.

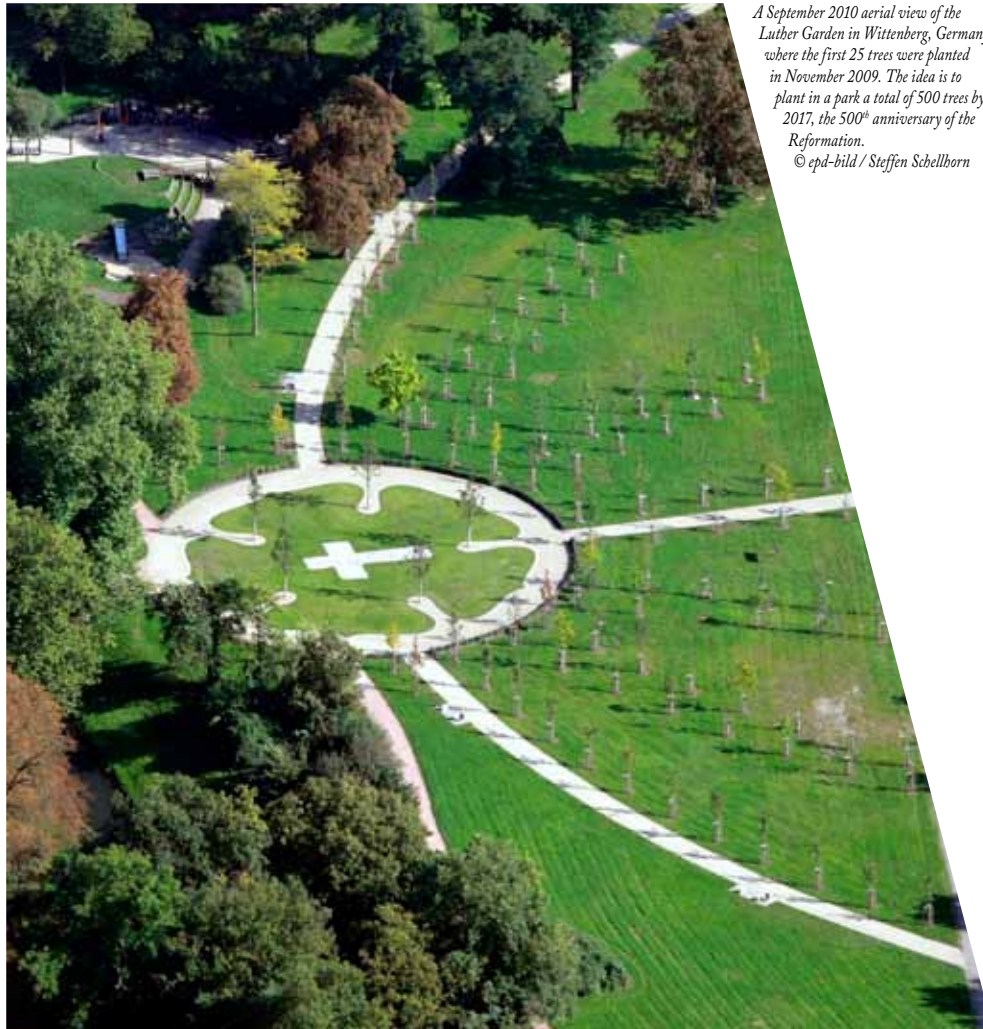
Within this context, the LWF communion of churches discerns its ongoing journey, expressed with a deep commitment for the church, and for the world and its pains. It is a process that announces hope, serving people in need and advocating for justice and peace.



*LWF Executive Committee members in round-table conversations with Geneva secretariat staff in November 2010.
© LWF/H. Putsman Penet*

ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS

MOVING TOWARD 2017: AN ANNIVERSARY THAT IS ECUMENICALLY ENGAGED AND ACCOUNTABLE



*A September 2010 aerial view of the Luther Garden in Wittenberg, Germany, where the first 25 trees were planted in November 2009. The idea is to plant in a park a total of 500 trees by 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.
© epd-bild / Steffen Schellborn*

Our anniversary is coming! As the Office for Ecumenical Affairs shares in LWF's preparation for 2017, it emphasizes the progress in relations with other Christians, distinguishing this 500th Reformation anniversary from earlier celebrations.

Among the Eleventh Assembly highlights was the reconciliation with Mennonites. Committing the LWF to remember its Reformation heritage in ways that foster reconciliation, this action encourages local peace-making initiatives around the world. The ongoing response continues to surprise and delight. At the Mennonite's urging, a trilateral conversation brought them together with Lutherans and Roman Catholics to examine diverse views of baptism, with an eye to strengthening the discipleship-forming practices of all.

For Roman Catholics, the tone of the Reformation anniversary obviously looms large. Meeting with Pope Benedict XVI in December 2010, LWF President Dr Munib A. Younan invited the Roman Catholic Church to work together with the LWF to shape the observance. One such collaboration is underway, as the Lutheran – Roman Catholic Commission on Unity, at its 2010 meeting, prepared a statement on the ecumenical significance of 2017.

Also important for this relationship, is fulfillment of a promise from the 1999 Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ), to deepen the doctrine's biblical basis. Methodist, Reformed, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic scholars gathered in the USA in 2010 and in Germany in 2011 to prepare a common text which expands the JDDJ's biblical statements by considering contemporary Pauline scholarship, the New Testament outside Paul's letters, and justification throughout the Bible.

An invitation to ecumenical collaboration for 2017 was also extended by the LWF president and general secretary to the Ecumenical Patriarch in March 2011. In 2010 the Lutheran – Orthodox Joint Commission, the LWF's longest continuous dialogue, met in the Holy Land to discuss the Church's nature and mission, and to plan a retrospective evaluation to celebrate its 30th year.

In April 2010, non-European members of the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission met in the USA to discuss the diaconal character of the Church. In January the Lutheran – Reformed Joint Commission had its final meeting in Svätý Jur, Slovak Republic. Its final report, *Communion: On Being the Church*, will welcome the new identity of the Reformed churches as an international communion.

STRASBOURG INSTITUTE

RESEARCH AND STUDY BUILD UNITY AND AWARENESS

The Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg (IERS), France, is managed by the LWF-related Lutheran Foundation for Inter-Confessional Research. The primary task in 2010 was research in cross-confessional working groups on the papacy, biblical foundations of the doctrine of justification, and the 95 Theses. Special attention was given to ecumenical hermeneutics and methodology, particularly regarding concepts of church unity.

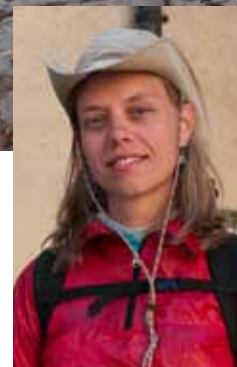
Institute professors serve as consultants to all LWF international bilateral dialogues. The Institute was instrumental in the mutual re-telling of the history between Lutherans and Mennonites, which led to the public apology and request for forgiveness at the LWF Eleventh Assembly. In addition:

- The Anglican-Lutheran dialogue worked to finalize a joint statement on diakonia
- Dialogue with the Orthodox considered the mission of the church
- The Lutheran-Reformed dialogue concluded a multi-year study called "Communion: On Being the Church"

- With the Roman Catholic Church, attention was on baptism and the growth of communion between divided churches, looking toward 2017
- The IERS also concluded a six-year exploratory dialogue with Pentecostals and released a study booklet, hoping to establish an official dialogue.

From 21 August to 30 October, Prof. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson observed the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's pilgrimage from Erfurt (Germany) to Rome (Italy) by retracing his steps. The pilgrimage was undertaken "live" with daily updates and photos on WWW.HEREIWALK.ORG along with excerpts from Lutheran, Catholic, and ecumenical texts.

The 2010 International Ecumenical Summer Seminar studied the interrelationship of mission and ecumenism. The annual two-week "Studying Luther in Wittenberg" seminar, gathered Lutheran pastors from all over the globe. Participants gained a deeper knowledge of Luther's theology, a firsthand exposure to the setting of the Reformation, and friendships across cultural boundaries united by a common theology.



On 25 October, Prof. Sarah Wilson's walk had several kilometers on completely intact Roman roads. "Amazing Montefiascone, Lazio, Italy," she remarked. © 2010 Andrew Wilson

COMMUNICATION SERVICES

COMMUNICATION GIVES VISIBILITY TO THE COMMUNION

The self-assessment of the LWF secretariat undertaken in May 2010, as well as reflection about the future strategic directions for the LWF emphasize the need for a thorough analysis and renewal in communications.

The goal of the Office for Communication Services (OCS) is to increase the visibility of the LWF and its work within the communion, with partners and other institutions, thereby supporting communion relationships and fundraising. Communication efforts aim to be rapid and agile, using new technologies and media effectively to ensure that member churches have timely access to information that helps connect their members to the LWF.

LWF Communications tailor its work to the needs of the different audiences, bearing in mind the call for consistent messaging on LWF's identity, direction and priorities. In turn, local and regional communication networks channel information to church leaders in forms that best equip them to communicate with church members.

LUTHERAN WORLD INFORMATION

For more than 60 years the LWF has offered news on the life and work of the communion through *Lutheran World Information (LWI)* in

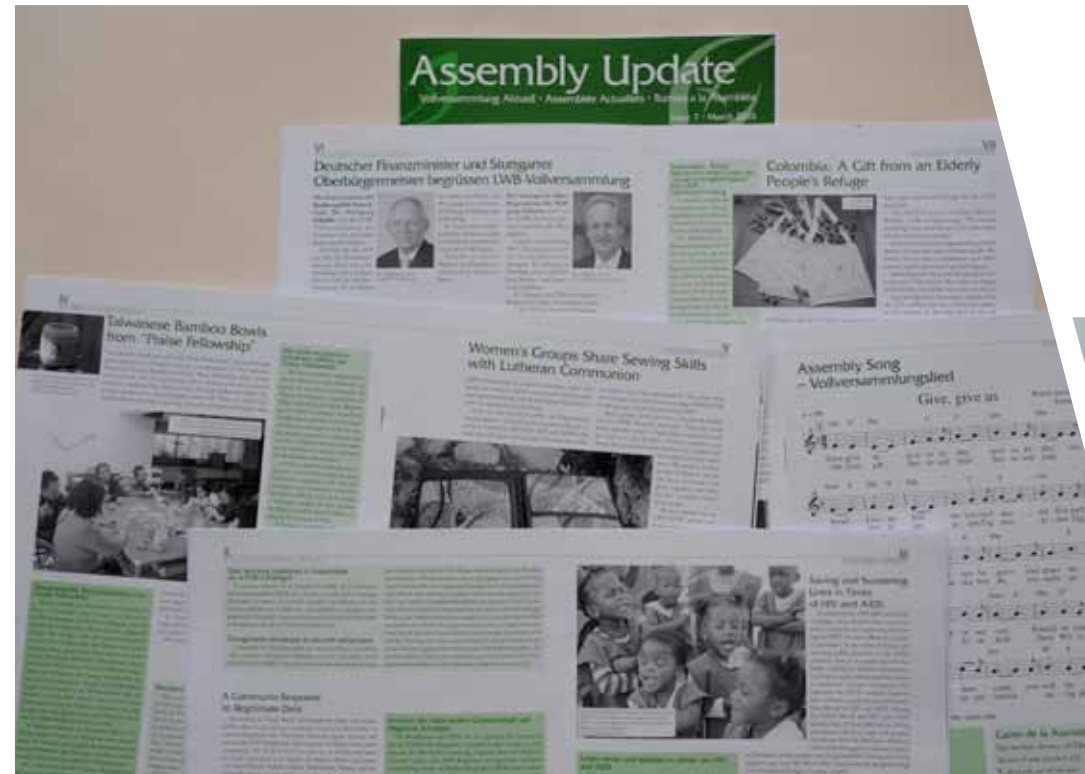
both English and German. During the budgeting process for 2011 it was decided that *LWI* would no longer be produced in printed version. *LWI* English subscribers were informed about the decision to print only two special editions per year. They continue to receive at no cost *LWI* by email and in a PDF format, which can be downloaded as required.

The 2008-2010 *LWI Africa Region* pilot project with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania pioneered the idea of regional collaboration aimed at increasing information accessibility to member churches and other organizations. An insert into the international *LWI* edition with articles also in Kiswahili and French started with an initial subscriber list of around 500 individuals and organizations, which during the pilot project increased to around 1,500, with still unmet demand for additional copies.

A similar project with the LWF German National Committee (GNC) started in April 2011 is enabling readers of *LWI German* to have additional news in German from the European region over the next two years. The GNC provides input for the regional version.

Two special editions of *LWI* were published in 2010. ...and forgive us – *Lutherans Repent Anabaptists Persecution* focusing on reconciliation with Mennonites was pub-

© LWF/H. Putsman Penet



lished before the Eleventh Assembly. Later in the year an edition on leadership, titled *Called to Nurture- Perspectives on Authority and Leadership* highlights stories of people across the world who are providing extraordinary leadership in the midst of economic

insecurity, prejudice, human rights violations, health crises, environmental degradation and natural disasters.

The increased use of electronic communication has improved feedback received from the LWF constituency for the annual mem-

bership statistics survey, published in *LWI*, on the Web site and in the Directory.

LWF WEB SITE

The LWF moved to a new Web site in 2010, increasing Web visibility and providing a user-friendly experience. The site features photos of church life and service worldwide. Content development is ongoing. The site is live in English and German, with a number of resources accessible in French and Spanish. Core content will be available in the four LWF working languages.

A Web presence was developed and maintained for the Eleventh Assembly with assistance from the host church in Stuttgart. Participants were able to prepare for and participate in the Assembly using the site's interviews, photo galleries, video clips and Facebook posts on the site. It also provided readily-accessible information to the 100 accredited media persons.

VISIBILITY THROUGH PHOTOS

OCS continues to enhance LWF visibility with dynamic, captioned photographs.

Assembly-related photos for Web and print use are available. The library of 56,000 photos is migrating to a Web-based archiving system used by related organizations, which will facilitate sharing images within the communion and beyond.

COMMUNIO GARDEN

The *Communio Garden* project moved forward with a Web space for the Lutheran Communion to share information and strengthen its online presence. An Assembly pilot project brought together relevant social media content. With its Danish implementing partner, OCS plans to launch the *Communio Garden* at WWW.COMMUN.IO in mid-2011.

LANGUAGE SERVICES

The LWF operates in four working languages: English, French, German and Spanish. Occasionally, additional languages are used. To modernize the process, ensure consistency in the use of terminology, improve efficiency and create a more modern institutional memory for languages used in the organization, translation and terminology management programs were purchased.

This process can accommodate as many languages as needed.

In preparation for the Eleventh Assembly, staff processed the translation of several publications in four languages including:

- Six Bible study brochures
- Assembly Six-Year Report
- Assembly Handbook
- Ten Assembly Updates
- All Assembly exhibits, background documentation, worship material and a hymnbook, among others.

During the Assembly, translators processed around 40,000 words. Following the Assembly the team produced the Official Assembly Report in all four languages.

PUBLICATION

Our *Daily Bread – Communication as a Mission and Ministry of the Church* (LWF Documentation 55) and its parallel German edition *Unser tägliches Bröt – Kommunikation als Auftrag und Dienst der Kirche* was produced in 2010. The book is a compilation of papers from a conference on new communication trends and expectations.



© LWF/H. Putsman Penet

PLANNING

The Office for Planning works to ensure that the wide number of LWF strategies and processes are shaped with the LWF's vision and mission. It also has responsibility for planning governance meetings.

LWF Executive Committee members in small group discussions on the strategic planning process. In the foreground, LWF President Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan (Palestine) Bishop Alex G. Malasusa (Tanzania) and Ms Colleen Cunningham (South Africa). © LWF/H. Putsman Penet



STRATEGIC PLANNING 2012-2017 SELF-ASSESSMENT

The office coordinated the development of methodology for the Strategic Plan. The plan establishes the priorities and strategies related to the core areas of work and organizational development for the future of the LWF. Key events in 2010 included:

- Conversation with staff, including DWS country program representatives
- Interviews with member churches, ecumenical partners and related organizations
- Workshops on Lutheran identity and values, theology and ecumenical relations, diakonia, international advocacy and strengthening of the communion
- Meetings with the WCC, World Communion of Reformed Churches and the ACT Alliance
- Tele-conference with the LWF Advisory Committee
- Meetings with the LWF Executive Committee
- Interviews with LWF Council members

A self-assessment process assisted a review and analysis of the secretariat's work from 2003 to 2010 to provide direction for the future. The assessment was developed with the themes of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. The participatory process included interviews with the LWF Executive Committee, senior management and staff.

LWF GOVERNANCE MEETINGS

Logistics, coordination and organization of governance meetings included:

- Assembly planning
- Three Executive Committee meetings
- Two Council meetings
- All staff meetings
- Annual week of meetings
- Cabinet meetings
- Strategic planning task forces

HUMAN RESOURCES

ENSURING FAIR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SALARY AND POSITION REVISIONS

A new salary system for Geneva-based staff was introduced in January 2011 following approval by the LWF Executive Committee. All staff positions have been classified based on a new analysis. The previous steps within a salary grade have been replaced by percentage increases. Automatic step increases have been replaced by performance-linked increases. Criteria for these increases will be determined along with training sessions for management staff.

Position descriptions will now be revised due to the change in salary systems. The revisions will help define a competency framework and establish needs for staff development.

A task force is working on salary revisions for DWS international field staff and will report to the LWF Executive Committee in June 2011.

COMMON POLICIES FOR DWS NATIONAL STAFF

Collaborating closely with DWS, the Office for Personnel has elaborated the common requirements for employment conditions for local, national staff in the DWS field offices.

The result is a detailed document which will assist DWS representatives in field offices to agree on measures to be taken on issues such as recruitment, pension funds and insurance.

COMPLAINT MECHANISM

Based on experience in DWS, a complaint mechanism will be introduced for all LWF staff. It will allow for better follow-up to the LWF Staff Code of Conduct regarding abuse of power, sexual harassment and exploitation. Clear criteria for handling complaints will increase LWF's credibility on this issue.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARTICIPANTS IN EVENTS ORGANIZED BY LWF

The LWF Council approved a Code of Conduct concerning sexual harassment and exploitation for participants in LWF-organized events. It is now used in all meetings and seminars organized by the LWF and helps avoid cases of sexual harassment and exploitation as well as outlining clear procedures in case of problems.



Staff who have recently joined the Geneva secretariat (left to right), Rev. Dr Patricia Cuyatti (Peru), DMD area secretary for Latin America & the Caribbean; Rev. Dr Kenneth Mtata (Zimbabwe), DTS study secretary for Lutheran Theology and Practice; Rev. Dr Elieshi Mungure (Tanzania), area secretary for Africa; and Rev. Dr William Chang (Singapore), area secretary for Asia. © LWF/H. Putsman Penet

CERTIFICATION FOR EQUAL SALARY

The Office for Personnel in cooperation with the Women in Church and Society desk has begun the process of obtaining Swiss certification for a gender-equal salary system. This certification will increase the credibility of LWF in the Swiss labor market.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

NAVIGATING SAFELY THROUGH STORMY WATERS

The current strategic planning process takes shape in changing global and church contexts. The LWF comprises churches whose membership is growing or declining, thus posing both challenges and opportunities for mutual resource sharing.

Churches that are decreasing are mainly in the global North, and have traditionally carried the main responsibility for financial support of the LWF either through membership fees or other designated funds. In some churches, attention to emerging local issues has led to decreased support for global concerns.

While many churches pay the fair membership fee according to criteria set by the LWF Council, there are churches in both the global North and South that do not pay their dues. Payment of membership fees is a constitutional responsibility. It is hoped that churches will continue their financial commitments to the LWF.

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2010

The “Summary of Income and Expenditure 2010” provides the overall financial picture. “Coordination (Geneva)” refers to the Geneva Communion Office (Secretariat) activities, including governance, planning, coordination, program implementation, monitoring, evalu-

ation and capacity building. “Coordination (Field)” relates to non-project activities in World Service country programs.

The Geneva Coordination expenditure in Swiss francs was seven percent below budget. The operational result for the year, including exchange differences and program write-offs, was a deficit of USD 1.2 million in Geneva and a surplus of USD 2.1 million in the field. Reserves of USD 24 million continue to serve us well.

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA audited the 2010 consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards without qualification.

INCOME

Membership fees and contributions from member churches, related agencies, governments, specialized UN agencies and LWF reserves fund the activities administered by the Communion Office. Income also comes from interest, local LWF World Service programs and patient fees from Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem. Total income in 2010 was USD 102 million.

EXPENDITURE

During 2010 the LWF Secretariat spent USD 100 million for coordination, programs and projects, and write-offs. See the *LWF*

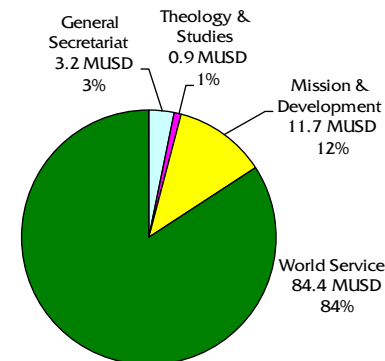
Expenditure 2010 chart for breakdown by department.

MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

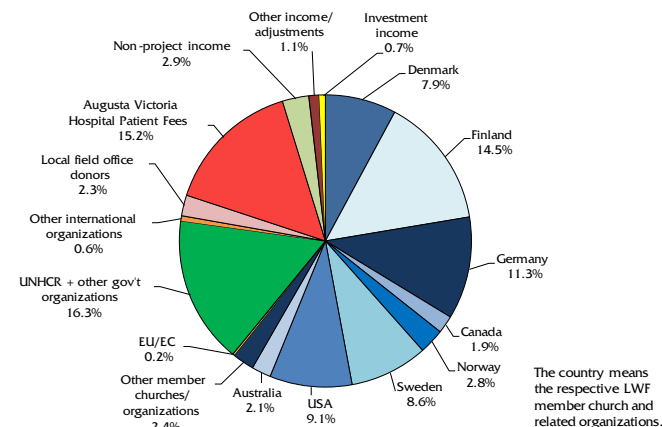
Efforts continue to enhance financial management by improving procurement policies and procedures in LWF World Service country programs.

The Secretariat paid USD 12,248 for CO₂ emissions compensation for all 2010 air travel. These funds will go towards the installation of solar panels in Kitgum, northern Uganda, and the promotion of sustainable livelihood and energy-saving practices in Orissa, northeastern India.

LWF Expenditure 2010, Total USD 100 Million



LWF Income 2010, Total USD 102 Million



SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2010

Amounts in USD	Coordination		Programs & Projects	Total
	Geneva	Field		
Income	10,008,358	4,674,691	86,909,443	101,592,492
Expenditure	(11,021,810)	(2,579,579)	(86,909,443)	(100,510,832)
Subtotal	(1,013,452)	2,095,112	0	1,081,660
Project write-offs	(25,573)	0	0	(25,573)
Financial result	(130,322)	0	0	(130,322)
Operational result	(1,169,347)	2,095,112	0	925,765
Release of pension provision	1,117,000	0	0	1,117,000
Net result	(52,347)	2,095,112	0	2,042,765
Reserves 01.01.2010	11,360,242	10,565,879	0	21,926,121
Internal transfer	186,769	(186,769)	0	0
Prior year adjustments	6,515	0	0	6,515
Reserves 31.12.2010	11,501,179	12,474,222	0	23,975,401

LWF FOUNDATION – ENDOWMENT FUND

World-wide economic and political uncertainties, the impact of recessions and exchange rate fluctuations may endanger the financial stability of the LWF. The Endowment Fund ensures that LWF work can continue in a sustainable manner in spite of fluctuations in income, and provide a lifeline into the future.

The LWF Endowment Fund supplements the financial support of the secretariat's work. The Fund, established in 1999 has a long-term target of CHF 50 million.

In 2010 CHF 258,269 was added to the Fund in Geneva and USD 112,168 was contributed in the USA. Total funds are now CHF 12.2 million. A current target of CHF 20 million by 2017 has been allocated to all

member churches based on their relative size and wealth.

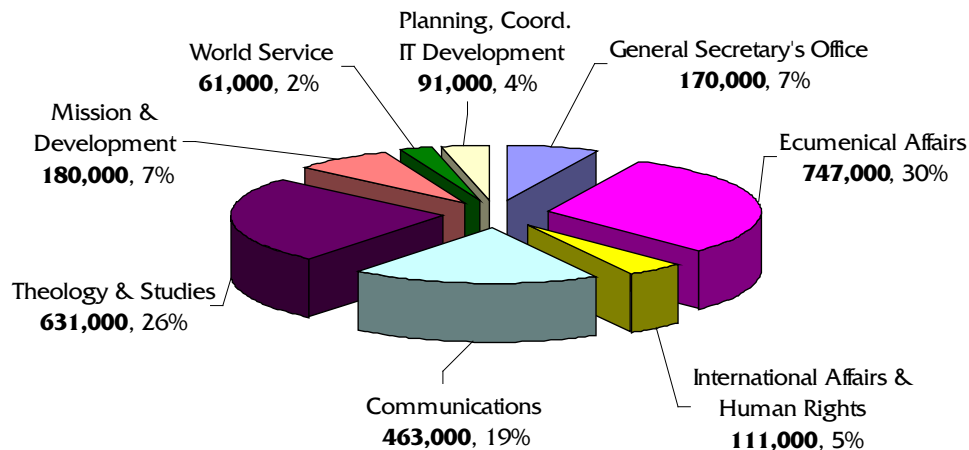
You CAN HELP!

Gifts and legacies from individuals, contributions from member churches and related agencies are welcome. Consider YOUR gift today.

LWF Foundation – Endowment Fund

LWF Office for Finance and Administration
P.O. Box 2100
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
E-mail: PKR@LUTHERANWORLD.ORG
Telephone: +41-22/791 64 55

Endowment Fund Donations to the LWF 1999-2010
Total CHF 2.5 million



*Fruits from
an apple
tree © Betsy
Devine/flickr*

LWF 2010 MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

NORTH AMERICA
4,699,900

EUROPE
36,749,519

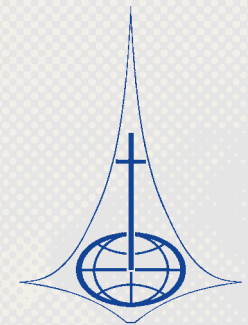
ASIA
8,802,945

**LATIN AMERICA
& THE CARIBBEAN**
846,939

AFRICA
19,208,991

© LWF

70 MILLION DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



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