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– A Communion of Churches**

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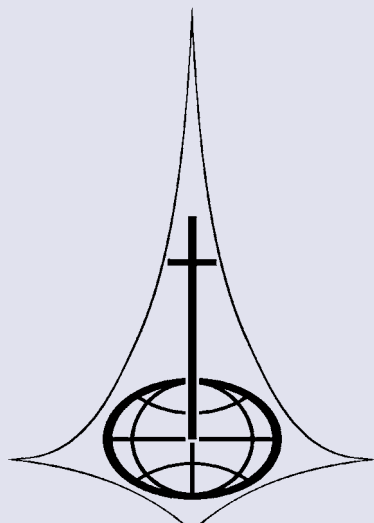
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Equipping Young Communicators for Today's Challenges

In one room, 27-year-old Evelyn Heck from Argentina is busy at a computer combining texts and images for a newspaper page. Next door, the computers are humming away at full speed as Ethiopian Yohannes Hailu (31), Meghan Johnston (26) from the United States of America, and Brazilian Josias Wagner (27) work together to create a Web site on HIV/AIDS. Down the corridor, 20-year-old Dénes Horváth from Hungary is playing guitar in the recording studio as background music for a radio spot.

It is Wednesday, 27 April 2005. Five teams at the Media Center Crec Avex near Lyon, France have been working until the wee hours of the morning to produce news for a newspaper, radio feature, Web site, and video recording. They will present their results the next morning.

This scene resembles daily life in a newsroom, but it is the final stages of a Lutheran World Federation (LWF) youth communication workshop.



*Developing content and structure for a magazine on HIV/AIDS.
© LWF/D.-M. Gröttsch*

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North American Church Marks 35 Years of Women's Ordination

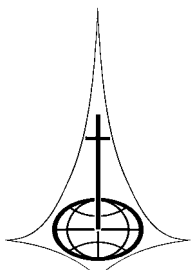
As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) celebrates the 35th anniversary of women's ordination this year, statistics indicate that for the first time, the number of women who were ordained has surpassed men. According to the ELCA Department for Research and Evaluation, 155 women were ordained in 2003, compared to 151 men. In 2002 and 2001, the numbers were close: 143 men and 140 women, and 156 men and 153 women respectively. The 35th anniversary of ordination will be marked at the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in San Antonio in July, and at the August Churchwide Assembly in Orlando, Florida. Out of the ELCA's 65 synodical bishops, seven are women.

The ELCA, with nearly five million members, is the second largest member church of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Four ELCA women bishops participated in a recent consultation of women bishops and presidents from among the LWF member churches worldwide. The issues of women's ordination and equal access to leadership in the churches, were some of the topics discussed at the conference held at the LWF Geneva secretariat, June 16-19.

(192 words)

(See page 11-12.)

(Adapted from the ELCA magazine, The Lutheran.)



Parties in Nigerian Lutheran Church Conflict Sign Memorandum of Understanding

LWF General Secretary Noko Presides over Mediation

ABUJA, Nigeria/GENEVA, 8 June 2005 (LWI) – Parties in an internal conflict that had divided the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN) for the past ten years, have signed a memorandum of understanding affirming their willingness to reconcile and move forward as one church.

At a mediation meeting held June 5–6 in Abuja, Nigeria, representatives of the LCCN diocesan and non-diocesan groups agreed, among other things, that both parties suspend all court cases instituted since 1995. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko, presided over the meeting and signing of the memorandum by seven representatives from each group.

The magnitude of the conflict was extensive, threatening not only church unity but also political harmony in Adamawa State where the LCCN is headquartered, and the country. It had negatively affected the LCCN's "mission and work and caused pain to families, individual church members and the public," both parties noted in the memorandum. Earlier mediation efforts had involved the LWF, local and international ecumenical bodies, and the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, without success. Prior to the Abuja meeting, Noko held separate discussions with the Adamawa State governor and traditional rulers.

The 1988 and 1995 LCCN Constitutions had been major points of contention. Both parties therefore agreed to set up a constitutional review committee that would examine the controversial sections for the sake of reconciliation in the church. The ten-person team, with an equal number drawn from each side, is expected to submit a new LCCN constitution in three months, effective June 6.

Churches That Had Been Locked Up To Be Re-opened

The conflict had led to the setting up of several church administrative structures, and consequent ordination of pastors, consecration of bishops and an archbishop. In the memorandum of understanding, both parties agreed to establish a committee that would "study and advise how these structures shall be harmonized into one reconciled LCCN in accordance with the reviewed LCCN constitution agreeable to all." They resolved that all churches that had been locked up would be re-opened "with immediate effect."

The grassroots' reception of the LCCN parties' agreement is crucial in achieving peaceful co-existence in the church and communities affected. It was resolved that leadership on both sides embark on effective and vigorous enlightenment of church members about the signed document, including translating it into Hausa language. A joint pastors' meeting to explain the memorandum is planned in three weeks' time, followed by a joint gathering of the women's and youth fellowship groups.

Archbishop Nemuel A. Babba led the LCCN diocesan delegation, while Rev. Dr. Danu H. Wonosikou led the non-diocesan group. Dr. Noko and Department for Mission and Development Area Secretary for Africa, Rev. Dr. Musa P. Filibus, officially witnessed the signing. There are two LWF member churches in Nigeria, the LCCN with over 1.2 million members, and the Lutheran Church of Nigeria with a membership of 135,000.

(502 words)

German Protestant Church Convention, a Gift to the Wider Church

LWF General Secretary: Need to Reformulate Pastoral Education Programs

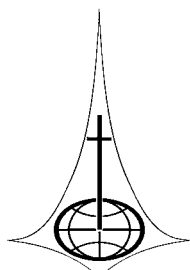
GENEVA, 10 June 2005 (LWI) – The General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko, has described the German Protestant Church Convention (DEKT) "Kirchentag" as a gift to the wider, universal church. In an interview with *Lutheran World Information (LWI)*, Noko said worldwide understanding of the convention as "our Kirchentag," would be an important signal in a globalized world.

The biennial convention of Christian lay movements, held in Germany, represents a unique possibility for participating organizations, including churches, to present their message to the public,

Noko said. Reflecting on his own participation in the May 25–29 event in Hanover, the general secretary said the public, on the other hand, has an opportunity to respond.

The Kirchentag sets important markers, particularly as a Christian lay movement. Its strength lies in the fact that it takes place each time in a different German city.

Noko said he was impressed by the significant number of representatives from political and business circles at the gathering who delivered speeches and responded to questions, thereby rendering themselves publicly accountable.





At the Kirchentag in Hanover, LWF General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko (left) visits the LWF German National Committee stand. Rev. Matthias Gürtler (right) from Greifswald, hands out some rice, equivalent to the daily ration for a refugee. © LWF/Rainer Lang

The convention, he said, also represents an important education forum. It was clear in Hanover that programs for pastoral formation need adaptation to 21st century challenges with the aim to equip pastors for their leadership role.

Innovative and Acceptable Ways to Observe Worship

Sunday worship was a key issue for Noko, including the question as to whether worship should be held on Sundays only. This year's event, the 30th Kirchentag, had again clearly demonstrated that there were a number of innovative and acceptable alternative ways to observe worship. Being open to celebrations with representatives of other Christian confessions in the same shared open space available to other religions was part of this consideration, Noko said.

The LWF General Secretary participated in a student's forum that reflected on the question, "Is faith the answer?" under the topic "How Do We Want to Live?" He also took part in the mid-decade liturgical celebration of the World Council of Churches' initiative, *Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace, 2001–2010*.

Noko co-celebrated the Eucharist with Bishop Dr Margot Kässmann, leader of the Kirchentag host church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hanover.

Prior to the Kirchentag, Noko had attended the Global Network Congress held May 23-25 at the Protestant Academy Loccum in Germany. The meeting, under the theme "Values–Economics–Global Community," was attended by 160 Kirchentag experts from 35 countries. Business people, media and political experts, and representatives of religious communities and churches discussed globalization.

According to the organizers, some 400,000 people visited the Kirchentag, including 5,000 international guests from 90 countries. Around 105,000 daily visitors participated in its 3,000 events.

DEKT President, Prof. Eckhard Nagel foresees the possibility of opening up the bi-annual convention to the rest of Europe and developing it into a global-level meeting. The Kirchentag, he notes, already is the largest Christian lay movement in the world.

Established in 1949 as an independent Protestant lay movement, DEKT understands itself as a "free movement of people brought together by Christian faith and their commitment for the future of the church and the world." (541 words)

Helsinki Lutheran Bishop Calls for Shared Eucharist with Roman Catholics

Bishop Eero Huovinen Addresses Italian National Eucharistic Congress

BARI, Italy/GENEVA, 14 June 2005 (LWI) – Finnish Bishop Eero Huovinen pleaded for shared Eucharist between Lutherans and Roman Catholics when he addressed an annual gathering of Roman Catholics aimed at strengthening dedication to Holy Communion.

"It is our fervent wish that we Lutherans could kneel together with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers at the common Communion table," Huovinen, bishop of the Helsinki Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (ELCF), told the 24th Italian National Eucharistic Congress, held May 21–29 in Bari, Italy.

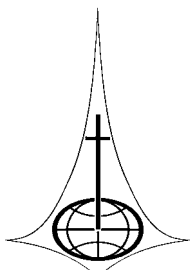
"We yearn for a common table because the Holy Eucharist is the feast



LWF Nordic Countries Vice-President, Bishop Dr Eero Huovinen from Finland. © LWF/H. Putsman

of Christ's presence," he said. His call for unity on May 25, the day the Congress devoted to ecumenism, was applauded.

The ELCF bishop believes Roman Catholics and Lutherans commonly respect and practice the holy feast, a point from which the churches should seek unity. "Faith in the real presence of Christ at the Eucharist has always united us Lutherans and Catholics," he said. "We have always wanted to have confidence that Christ himself is present at the Holy Eucharist in the bread and the wine 'truly and in substance,' *vere et substantialiter*, giving the baptized believer the reality of all



of salvation. As a community the church lives in the true meaning of the words *de eucharistia*, out of the mystery and gift of the Eucharist.”

While Huovinen desires a shared table, he believes the churches must find commonality in beliefs and practices of basic truths before joining at that table. “There is no shortcut to a joint Holy Eucharist,” he said. “The goal of visible unity and of a common Communion demand that we dig deeper into the foundation of our Christian faith,” he added.

Huovinen, who is the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Vice-President for the Nordic Countries, hopes

the churches would take the steps necessary toward eucharistic sharing. The Congress’s dedication to ecumenism may be, according to the bishop, one of such initiatives.

A significant milestone of ongoing bilateral relations and dialogue between Lutherans and Roman Catholics was the October 1999 signing of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification by the LWF and Vatican in Augsburg, Germany.

(376 words)

(By Christine Hallenbeck, youth trainee, LWF Office for Communication Services.)

FEATURE: Equipping Young Communicators for Today’s Challenges

Youth Consultation in Lyon Launches Three-year LWF Training

LYON, France/GENEVA, 24 June 2005 (LWI) – In one room, 27-year-old Evelyn Heck from Argentina is busy at a computer combining texts and images for a newspaper page. Next door, the computers are humming away at full speed as Ethiopian Yohannes Hailu (31), Meghan Johnston (26) from the United States of America, and Brazilian Josias Wagner (27) work together to create a Web site on HIV/AIDS. Down the corridor, 20-year-old Dénes Horváth from Hungary is playing guitar in the recording studio as background music for a radio spot.

It is Wednesday, 27 April 2005. Five teams at the Media Center Crec Avex near Lyon, France have been working until the wee hours of the morning to produce news for a newspaper, radio feature, Web site, and video recording. They will present their results the next morning. This scene resembles daily life in a newsroom, but it is the final stages of a Lutheran World Federation (LWF) youth communication workshop.

After nomination by an LWF member church and completion of the application process, a total of 26 participants from all continents, aged 18–30 years were invited to participate in the workshop in Lyon. It was the first time that the LWF Office for Communication Services (OCS) in cooperation with the LWF Department for Mission and Development were organizing such an event.

The candidates selected to participate in the three-year program include Web designers, journalists, teachers, theologians and musicians. They come from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Russia, the USA and Zimbabwe.

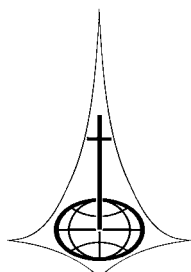


In the recording studio: A group of participants in the youth consultation workshop discuss their input for radio production. © LWF/D.-M. Grötzsch

Dynamic Information Society Demands New, Creative Response

A strong sense of teamwork and an exchange of personal experiences characterized the consultation. Rodrigo Covarrubias, a 24 year-old Chilean, said “meeting people from other countries and exchanging experiences with them changed my perspective.” Covarrubias, a student in electrical engineering, added, “I learned how to cooperate within an international team.” Resource persons who led the workshop included journalists and other communication experts from Australia, Brazil, Finland, Switzerland and the USA.

OCS Director, Ms Karin Achtelstetter stressed the objective to train young leaders in the area of communication. “Through this program, we want to teach young people both conceptual and technical skills so that they can develop into a new generation of multipliers,” she said.





Participants in the LWF youth consultation in Crec Avex, France. © LWF/D.-M. Grötzsch

The gathering also sought to establish a basis for a worldwide network of young communicators, since, as Achtelstetter put it: “The generation of 20 and 30 year-olds is expected to react in new, creative, and appropriate ways to the challenges that the newly developing information society poses to local communities and churches, as well as to the global community.”

Practical presentations, group work and a press conference on HIV/AIDS provided an opportunity to reflect on the challenges that Christian communicators face. In his key note address, Philip Lee, the World

Association for Christian Communication director of the Global Studies Program and Regional Coordinator for Europe, spoke about global poverty, intolerance, the right to communication and communication for peace. Lee said, “It will take a generation that has not been brought up in a culture of war to find a constructive and sustainable way forward.”

As a follow-up to the workshop in Lyon, communications projects will be implemented in the regions throughout the coming year in consultation with the respective LWF member churches. Each participant

selected a focus area. Nineteen year-old Manisha Mahanandia from India, for example, plans to distribute “a newsletter for the youth in my community.” Other program participants will create Web sites or produce documentary films. Contact people in each region will support the young adults in their endeavors. The program will concluded in the third year with a conference and an evaluation of the projects.

(643 words)

(A contribution by Barbara Schneider, youth trainee, LWF Office for Communication Services.)

David Miller, ELCA Magazine Editor Resigns, Accepts New Role

Rev. David L. Miller resigned effective June 30 as editor of *The Lutheran*, the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He accepted a five-year term as Dean of the Chapel and the first Floy L. and Paul F. Cornelsen Director of Spiritual Formation at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC).

ELCA Presiding Bishop, Mark S. Hanson announced that Sonia C. Solomonson, managing editor, will serve as the magazine’s interim editor.

At the LSTC, Miller, 52, will offer courses and retreats in spiritual formation, coordinate the seminary’s worship life and develop a center for spiritual formation, an LSTC news release stated. The LSTC is one of eight ELCA seminaries.

Miller had served on *The Lutheran* editorial staff since 1987. He was first elected the magazine’s editor at the 1999 ELCA Churchwide Assembly and re-elected at the 2003 Churchwide Assembly. During his tenure, the magazine received several awards for outstanding writing, photography and design. Before joining *The Lutheran* staff, Miller was pastor at Salem Lutheran Church, Superior, Nebraska, and St Mark’s Lutheran Church, Olathe, Kansas.

He is married to Dixie Miller, and they have two adult children.

The Lutheran is at www.thelutheran.org on the Web.

(207 words)

(ELCA News Service)

New Web Site for Lutheran Minority Churches in Europe

The Communication Committee for Lutheran Minority Churches in Europe (KALME) has a new Web site. Launched during its April meeting in Vienna, Austria, www.kalme.net offers Lutheran minority churches in Europe the opportu-

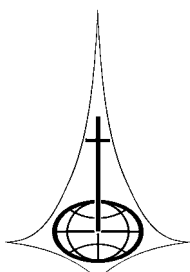
nity to publicize and exchange their press releases. The bilingual (English and German) Internet platform provides wide ranging information on KALME’s member churches, and also allows for the exchange of projects. (71 words)

Botswana Lutherans Elect New Bishop

The 18th Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana (ELCB) elected Rev. Dr Cosmos Moenga as its new bishop. The synod met April 19–24. Moenga, 48, currently principal of the “Woodpecker” Lutheran Theologi-

cal Seminary will be succeeding Rev. Philip J. Robinson, ELCB’s first bishop, who has led the church for 24 years. The 20,000-member ELCB joined the LWF in 1986.

(66 words)



LWF EUROPEAN CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONSULTATION, JUNE 8-13, REYKHOLT, ICELAND

Changing Concepts of “Being Church” and its Role in European Society

REYKHOLT, Iceland/GENEVA, 9 June 2005 (LWI) – “Lutheran Churches in Europe—Set Free to Be a Healing Communion,” was the theme of a regional Lutheran World Federation (LWF) consultation held June 8–13 in Reykholt, Iceland. Participants included Over 90 bishops, superintendents, pastors, and representatives of LWF member churches from 23 European countries.

Outlining the meeting’s objectives, Rev. Dr Andreas Wöhle, Area Secretary for Europe in the LWF Department for Mission and Development (DMD) said one of the key issues at the LWF European Church Leadership Consultation would be: “What models of leadership are favorable to a church that has the self-understanding of being church in communion?”

The concept of “being church” and its role in European society in particular would be discussed. There would also be discussion on issues that could be potentially church dividing, and thus represent-

ing a significant challenge for the various European churches.

Representatives from the three LWF European sub-regions—Central Eastern, Central Western and Nordic Countries—started preparations for the meeting about a year ago. According to Wöhle, the Iceland consultation aimed at contextualizing what the LWF communion discussed globally and decided at the July 2003 Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada. The last European Church Leadership Consultation was held in Meissen, Germany, in 1999.

The LWF Central European region comprises 15 member churches with a combined membership of over 1.7 million, whereas Central Western Europe has 22 member churches bringing together more than 16.3 million people. There are six member churches totaling 20.5 million members in the Nordic Countries region. (271 words)

Former Estonian Archbishop Urges Open Dialogue among Europe’s Churches

REYKHOLT, Iceland/GENEVA, 13 June 2005 (LWI) – A former archbishop of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church has called for openness and mutual willingness to dialogue among European churches in efforts to deal with dwindling membership and significant changes among Lutheran churches on that continent.

“What our churches can and should do is to be partners in dialogue,” retired Archbishop Jaan Kiivit told church representatives attending the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) European Church Leadership Consultation in Reykholt, Iceland, June 8–13.

The meeting provided a discussion platform for social and ecclesiological change in European Lutheran churches. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland hosted the event.

From a sociological understanding of religion, the experiences of churches in eastern Europe were not “fundamentally different” from those of western Europe, Kiivit explained. But the loss of Christian



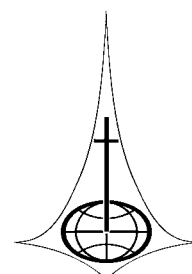
The Lutheran Cathedral in Riga, Latvia, is the largest cathedral in the Baltic region. © LWF

traditions and values in Central Eastern Europe, he said, had not been caused by “progressive and almost imperceptible dismantling,” but, rather, resulted from the violent repression within former communist-led countries. “The process of globalization shows us how entire systems of values and social structures are disappearing, and being replaced by others,” he observed.

Europe was strongly characterized by a change in the perception of piety, Kiivit said. “People are leaving the church not because they no longer have faith, but because they no longer need the church.” He remarked that although many churches were “now empty,” a strong craving for religiousness

could still be felt among the majority of people.

This changing society, according to Kiivit, should not be viewed as a threat, but more as the “context in which the church has to proclaim the gospel and administer the sacraments.” It is a situation that could lead to totally new opportunities. “Linking church





Former archbishop of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rev. Jaan Kiviit, addresses the LWF European Church Leadership Consultation. © LWF/B. Schneider

with culture such as music, poetry, and descriptive art,” could be one of them. Particularly important for missionary work, he said, was to be familiar with the religious origins of culture; the church had always been a vehicle of culture.

In his address to the consultation, LWF General Secretary, Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, noted there was no healing without recollection and memory. Every church, he said, had its own history in which it was embedded. But in view of current challenges, it was necessary to go beyond such considerations and recall the history shared by the Lutheran community since its founding at the first LWF Assembly in Lund, Sweden, in 1947.

(406 words)

Church Needs “Concrete Utopia” to Avoid Loss of Vitality, Theologian Cautions

REYKHOLT, Iceland/GENEVA, 16 June 2005 (LWI) – The church needs a “concrete utopia” to avoid the risk of wasting away, a Dutch theologian told participants in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) European Church Leadership Consultation, held in Reykholt, Iceland, June 8–13.

Prof. Jan Hendriks, lecturer emeritus of practical theology at the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, recounted his experience with so-called “hospitable churches” under the topic European church models with a viable future. To illustrate his concept of such a church, he gave the example of an international congregation in Antwerp, Belgium, in the city’s district 24, under the right-wing populist party “Vlaamsch Blok,” where various nationalities together celebrate worship and the Eucharist every Sunday. The atmosphere there is not one of an event hosted by a specific nation but of one of different nationalities who are mutual guests. The congregation that puts the guest in the center, according to Hendriks, demonstrates a pluralistic model.

The theologian pointed out that models of building congregations with a viable future needed to relate



Dutch Theologian Prof. Jan Hendriks: The church is called not to rule, but to serve. © LWF/B. Schneider

to everyday life, taking people and their own specific situations seriously into account. He mentioned the importance for successful congregation building of accompaniment, which created scope for the guest, and for one another, in encountering the unfamiliar. “It is only possible to speak about a hospitable congregation once hospitality characterizes the culture and structure of the congregation and church,” he said, noting the communities of Taizé, France, and Sant’Egidio in Rome, Italy as examples.

A concrete utopia, Hendriks said, is the basis for change within the church. He interprets this utopia as “a profound craving for an alternative to the current situation, an accessible and realistic pathway,” such as faith and trust. “The core of the church is, therefore, the mission of the church, and not how it should be managed.” The church, he said, is called not to rule, but to serve. For governing church ministries, this implies encouraging “joint deliberation instead of handing out instructions.”

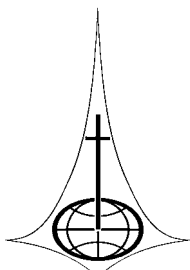
(372 words)

European Churches Challenged to Learn From Counterparts in the South

REYKHOLT, Iceland/GENEVA, 16 June 2005 (LWI) – Churches in Europe need to learn from their fellow churches in the South, Rev. Dr Kjell Nordstokke, Director of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for Mission and Development (DMD) told an LWF regional consultation in Reykholt, Iceland.

“The times call for mutual learning and sharing of experiences,” Nordstokke told church representatives attending the recent European Church Leadership Consultation.

In his presentation, Nordstokke referred to the LWF document “Mission in Context: Transformation,



Reconciliation, Empowerment—An LWF Contribution to the Understanding and Practice of Mission.” The LWF Council endorsed this document during its September 2004 meeting in Chavannes-de-Bogis, Switzerland. The official text is currently only available in English language.

Changing Perception of Mission Activities

Nordstokke emphasized that the heartland of Christianity was no longer in Europe, but in Latin America, some parts of Asia, and in Africa. While churches’ membership in the South was increasing significantly, European churches were faced with a steady decrease. Mission could therefore no longer be understood as an activity decided by the North in view of the South. On the contrary, churches in the South needed to serve as an example for churches in the North. The South concepts should be understood as “gifts and potential, for our renewal as missional churches in our context,” he stressed.

The DMD director spoke of the widespread uncertainties that characterize the mood in Europe, including the fear of losing social security, increasing immigration, and a worsening crime rate with increasing violence. He said “the latest ‘No’ (vote) to the visions of a united Europe may be understood [not only] as valid reactions against centralization and neo-liberal ideology, but also, as fear regarding the future and lack of confidence in political projects.”

In Europe, the trend to emigration had shifted to immigration, he said. “Tens of thousands are moving to Europe and North America from countries in the South and also from the East.” Immigrants tended to remain outside the life of the churches, and inte-

gration in the life of European churches had not yet occurred. He observed that churches in Europe had until now been characterized by “their [ethnic] roots, their historical social position, and the behavior of middle class values and interest.”

An Expression of Partnership and Resource Sharing

Europe’s Lutheran churches were therefore being challenged to be missional in the current context. Missional work was always integral and included both the diaconal work and proclamation of the gospel. Nordstokke pointed out that “mission expresses partnership and sharing of resources.” The church needed to overcome the rift between the rich and the poor, and do away with prevailing inequalities, he said.

To be a missional church, according to Nordstokke, meant being a church that accompanies, and “is ready to walk together with those who are on the road, sensitive to people’s experiences and questions, empowered to communicate surprising good news and prepared to share the gift and table of communion, so that empowerment and reconciliation could happen.”

In the discussion that followed, Bishop Herwig Sturm, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria, pointed out that so much was happening in Europe that “we as churches need to react to this.” A long-term vision was necessary, he said. Sturm referred particularly to the challenge posed by Islam in this context. “We are now suddenly meeting people in Austria who tremendously value their religion.” The impact of religion on their lives and actions “challenges us to question how strongly we value our faith,” Sturm added. (597 words)



LWF/DMD Director, Rev. Dr. Kjell Nordstokke.
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Lutheran Churches in Europe Declare They Will Strengthen Communion Globally

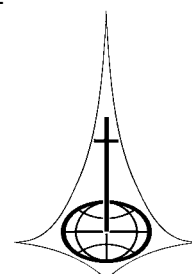
REYKHOLT, Iceland/GENEVA, 16 June 2005 (LWI) – Delegates attending a Lutheran World Federation (LWF) regional church leadership consultation have committed themselves to strengthening the Lutheran communion on a global level.

“The partnership between our churches has developed into one based more on equality and spiritual communion; but there is still a demand for solidarity,” participants from 45 Lutheran churches represented at the June 8–13 European Church Leadership Consultation said in a final message. The conference focused

on ecumenical challenges for Lutheran churches in the region’s changing context.

Participants however, observed that there were still significant differences between Lutheran churches in Europe, especially between “large” and “small” churches, and between those in the east and west.

It was also possible for delegates to discuss potentially church-dividing subjects such as women’s ordination, and homosexuality “in an atmosphere of mutual respect.” Participants emphasized the European churches’ responsibility in strengthening



the role of women in positions of church leadership. Young people, they noted, should be more actively involved in church committees with decision-making powers.

The church leaders underlined migration as one of the major challenges for European societies, particularly in view of the continent's current social situation. They stressed the need for a system that would safeguard basic inviolable rights for all people, regardless of their legal status. At the same time, they pointed out: "If we actively open our doors to the brothers and sisters in our midst, we go on a path to become welcoming and hospitable churches."

In their final message, delegates affirmed the regional leadership consultation as a platform to facilitate exchange between the different forms and levels of church leadership.

The next European Church Leadership Consultation will be held in 2007. Bishop Dr Hans-Jürgen Abromeit, Evangelical Church of Pomerania, Germany, suggested an invitation to Greifswald. A committee established to organize this meeting will start its work next year. *(324 words)*

(Barbara Schneider, youth trainee in the LWF Office for Communication Services, wrote the LWI articles on the European Church Leadership Consultation.)

Austria: General Synod Adopts Revised Church Constitution

The General Synod of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg and Helvetic Confessions in Austria has adopted a revised church constitution.

The document's adoption on May 18 by the joint synod was preceded by intense discussion that resulted in a series of changes particularly concerning the formulation of the self-understanding of the church, and the tasks that should be included in pastoral services. Other proposed amendments to individual provisions were referred to the synod's Theological Committee and Legal and Constitutional Committee. The committees will in turn establish a joint sub-committee to deal with any unresolved matters. Some sections of the amended constitution will still need to be revised in view of the issue of gender equality.

As Prof. Raoul Kneucker, Deputy Oberkirchenrat for legal affairs stated before the synod, the constitutional review was aimed at systematically separating the fundamental constitutional rules from the individual regulations,

and "taking stock" of the statutes that govern the Protestant church. Kneucker said this step was decisive for the development of the church's legal affairs.

The requisite two-thirds majority adopted the revised constitution May 18 in Vienna. The new constitution, which was drafted by Oberkirchenrat Robert Kauer and retired Landessuperintendent Peter Karner, is based on one dated 1949.

The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg and Helvetic Confessions in Austria is a union of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria, with around 322,000 members, and the Evangelical Church of the Helvetic Confession in Austria, with 19,500 members. The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Austria has been a member church of the Lutheran World Federation since 1947. *(274 words)*

(Adapted from a contribution by Austria's Protestant Press Service, epdÖ.)

Udo Hahn, VELKD Press Officer, Moves to Protestant Body Church Office

Oberkirchenrat Udo Hahn assumed leadership of the Media and Public Relations unit of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). In late January, the EKD Council appointed Hahn, 43, a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, as successor to Oberkirchenrat Robert Mehlhose, who retired in early 2004. Since 1999, Hahn has been the Press and Public Relations Officer of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (VELKD), and for the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) German National Committee (GNC), headquartered in Hanover, Germany.

Before moving to Hanover, the theologian and journalist was, among other things, head of the "Christ

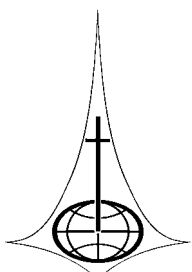
and the World/Protestant Church" unit of the weekly newspaper "Rheinischer Merkur." He studied Protestant Theology in Erlangen, Neuendettelsau and Munich, in Germany.

The EKD brings together 24 Lutheran, Reformed and United regional churches in Germany. The VELKD is an association of eight regional Lutheran churches in Bavaria, Brunswick, Hanover, Mecklenburg, North Elbia, Saxony, Schaumburg-Lippe and Thuringia. The LWF/GNC represents 13 Lutheran churches with a combined membership of over 13 million people. *(181 words)*

Alfred Eichholz New Bishop in Kyrgyzstani Lutheran Church

At its synod meeting in May this year, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kyrgyzstan elected **Rev. Alfred Eichholz** as its new bishop. Eichholz, 44, succeeds Bishop Emanuel Schanz, who retired at the end of May. The Kyrgyzstani church belongs to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rus-

sia and Other States (ELCROS), the regional body bringing together Lutheran congregations of German tradition in Russia and other successor states of the former Soviet Union. ELCROS joined the Lutheran World Federation in 1989. *(87 words)*



LWF WOMEN BISHOPS AND PRESIDENTS' CONSULTATION, JUNE 16-19, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Conference Is Significant for Lutheran Communion

GENEVA, 17 June 2005 (LWI) – A conference of women bishops and presidents from among the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member churches began here June 16, with an affirmation of the event's historic significance for the whole Lutheran communion.

"This gathering should not be subjected to mere footnotes of history," LWF General Secretary, Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, said in welcoming the participants to the June 16–19 "Conference of Women Bishops, Presidents and Leaders with the Ministry of Oversight." It was organized by the Women in Church and Society (WICAS) desk of the LWF Department for Mission and Development (DMD).

Noko noted that three women bishops only had participated in the 1994 LWF Church Leaders' Consultation, also in Geneva, which had included representatives from all 114 LWF member churches at the time. Realizing the current conference has been "a monumental task" over several years, he said. There are around 25 women bishops and presidents among the current 138 LWF member churches.

"Today, it is happening, and it is a privilege that we are here," the general secretary told the gathering of church leaders from nine countries. Participants deliberated on issues of common concern within the Lutheran constituency, including exploration of relevant leadership models to address the challenges they face in their contexts as leaders, and as women. They also highlighted the issues they confronted globally including social injustices such as violence against women, and HIV/AIDS.

In his address titled "Value-Based Leadership," DMD Director, Rev. Dr Kjell Nordstokke facilitated a discussion focusing on leadership as professional training, and some possible leadership roles including ones that "inspire and empower." "Women in leadership serve as excellent role models," he stressed.

In relation to the LWF's ecumenical engagement, representatives of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and World Council of Churches (WCC) were also present. Rev. Patricia Sheerattan-Bisnauth from the WARC Department of Partnership of Women and Men, spoke about the alliance's work on gender justice among the world's Reformed churches. Doug Chial, coordinator of the WCC 9th Assembly, outlined plans for the February 2006 WCC Assembly in



LWF General Secretary, Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, with participants in the "Conference of Women Bishops, Presidents and Leaders with the Ministry of Oversight." © LWF/B. Schneider

Porto Alegre, Brazil, and how women's issues would feature in the Assembly discussions.

The women shared experiences of how their churches had influenced their leadership. Many leaders within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) emerged from ELCA youth camp programs, according to Bishop April Ulring Larson of the La Crosse Area Synod; so leadership was developed at an early age.

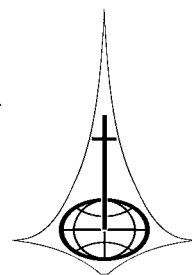
But in Germany, according to Bishop Maria Jepsen of Hamburg, North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church, the age of ordination is somewhat advanced. Leadership is not learned early on as a precursor to a church career.

Bishop Christina Odenberg of the Church of Sweden's Lund Diocese, said she considered the church to have failed in developing leadership skills among its youth.

But in South Africa, according to Moravian Church in South Africa President, Ms Angelene Swart, the church provides a strong venue for leadership development.

A recent WICAS analysis shows that 41 out of the 138 LWF member churches do not as yet ordain women for ministry in the church. Several reasons are cited, including: theological teachings and biblical literalism; church structures, policies and strategies; social and cultural impediments; and, fear of division in the church.

The conference participants included: Bishops Cynthia Halmarson (Canada); Maria Jepsen (Germany); Khunansori Basumatary (India); Caroline Krook and Christina Odenberg, and assistant bishop Christina Berglund (Sweden); April Ulring Larson, Marie Jerge, Andrea



DeGroot Nesdahl and Wilma Kucharek (USA). Presidents are Rev. Bekure Daba Bultum (Ethiopia); Rev. Ilona Fritz (Netherlands); and Ms Angelene Swart (South Africa). Ms

Aleksandra Blachut-Kowalczyk from Poland was invited as an observer from Central Eastern Europe, where there is no woman bishop or president. (674 words)

Lutheran Women Call for Equal Access to Leadership in the Church

GENEVA, 23 June 2005 (LWI) – In May 2000, Rev. Bekure B. Daba became the first woman to be ordained as a pastor in the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY). Two years later, she was elected president of the Ghimbi Jorgo Synod in the west, becoming the EECMY's only woman synod leader. But ordination came after a long wait—20 years—since her graduation from Addis Ababa's Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, followed by various roles in the church. The over 4-million-member church now counts six women among its 1,287 pastors, who serve in more than 5,500 congregations. The challenges for women are many and factual, Daba says, but she is optimistic that Ethiopian Lutherans will have more women pastors and synod presidents in the future.

Daba recounted her experiences at the June 16–19 Lutheran World Federation (LWF) "Conference of Women Bishops, Presidents and Leaders with the Ministry of Oversight," attended by 14 women leaders from among the LWF member churches. Other participants shared similar stories: Bishops Christina Odenberg, leader of the Church of Sweden Lund Diocese since 1997, and Caroline Krook, leader of the Stockholm Diocese since 1998, were ordained as pastors in the 1960s. In January 2005, Rev. Khunansori Basumatary was elected bishop of the Bodo Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Himalayan States, in northeastern India. Prior to her 1998 ordination, she had served the church in various capacities including working with marginalized groups.

In their official message from the conference, the church leaders strongly affirmed the Lutheran church's theological understanding that women and men were created in the image of God, and were both called to diverse ministries. "The fullness of the gospel is most accurately represented where both women and men are given access to leadership roles," they said.

They cited significant "benchmarks" within their combined 13 years of service as women bishops and presidents in the Lutheran church. These include a growth in the number of women pursuing academic preparation for ministry, serving as lay and ordained people in parishes, in specialized service, and as bishops and presidents. Mentioned as equally important was the presence of recent generations of church members, which have always, and only, known full participation of women and men in ministry. They stressed the significance of "the presence of 25 Lutheran women Bishops and Presidents around

the world who bear witness with their lives to God's amazing, compelling, and sustaining call to ministry." Among the conference participants was Bishop Maria Jepsen of Hamburg, North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Germany, who in 1992 became the first Lutheran woman bishop ever.

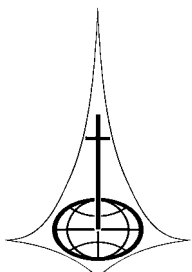
But there are major challenges to women's full participation in church leadership. The conference participants noted in their message that some Lutheran churches still do not recognize women's call to ordained ministry, and are yet to allow their ordination. Some women and men do not value the particular nature of women's leadership gifts, they observed, and some churches, while speaking of the full participation of women and men, tolerated unequal compensation, and limited access to all the levels of ministry.

The message also drew attention to violence against women as a major concern in all the churches, with some churches still remaining "silent" on the issue. They urged their associate bishops and presidents "to join us in publicly speaking out against violence toward women." Much of the discussion on this topic was sparked by a presentation on "life-giving theologies and ethics," delivered by Rev. Dr Nyambura Njoroge, global coordinator of the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Theological Education program in the Mission and Ecumenical Formation Team. Speaking from an African perspective, the Kenyan theologian said rape, for example, was used as a weapon against women. "Africa begs for life-giving theologies and ethics," she said, at the same time acknowledging the problem as worldwide. "These stories are everywhere. We have to speak out," Njoroge urged.

Underscoring the conference's importance, in their recommendations the women leaders requested that the LWF host another meeting for further reflection on how to encourage ordination of women in places where it was not happening; how to deal with issues confronting them in their different contexts; and in order to learn about different leadership styles. They also requested the LWF to encourage the participation of women in inter-confessional dialogues so that the current 40 percent quota for representation by women at all LWF events would be reached. (794 words)

(Christine Hallenbeck, youth trainee in the LWF Office for Communication Services, contributed to this article.)

(More stories from the conference of LWF women bishops and presidents will be printed in LWI No. 07/2005.)



LWF General Secretary Urges Zimbabwean President to Combat Poverty, Not the Poor

“Operation Murambatsvina” Has Increased Economic Vulnerability

GENEVA, 9 June 2005 (LWI) – The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) General Secretary, Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko has urged Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to exercise his authority to restrain police and security forces from carrying out harsh evictions in Harare and other cities in a government operation called “Operation Murambatsvina.”

In a letter to Mugabe, the LWF General Secretary affirms his support for calls by other Zimbabwean church leaders asking the president to engage in a war against poverty but not against the poor.

Since 18 May 2005, thousands of people have been forcibly removed by police from informal market areas in Harare, apparently with the aim to restore order, clean up urban centers and tackle illegal trade in foreign exchange. Similar actions have taken place in other cities across the country. Although the government claims the traders are unlicensed, human rights lawyers say many of those arrested have licenses.

Noko notes that while the government has a “right and duty to maintain law and order and to promote improved sanitary and environmental conditions,” other ways of achieving these goals could have been consid-

ered to avoid “putting such a large number of people who are already poor into an even worse situation.”

He criticizes the name of the operation, “Murambatsvina,” which means “remove rubbish,” saying the people expelled from their homes and businesses “are not ‘rubbish’ [but] human beings.” As a representative of an organization that has long sought to support efforts for human development and poverty alleviation in Zimbabwe as in many other parts of the world, “I cannot believe that any government genuinely committed to helping the poor and dispossessed could engage in such actions,” Noko writes.

He observes that the government bore a significant degree of responsibility for the economic difficulties that had led so many Zimbabweans to resort to whatever available means to support their families. The actions being taken against these people would deepen rather than alleviate poverty in the country. This would also worsen the conditions that had driven desperate people to illegal activity and to seek refuge in neighboring countries, giving the country an increasingly negative image in its own region, Noko adds. (377 words)

LWF Active Engagement Sought in Achieving Broader Ecumenical Assembly

Consultation on LWF Future in the Context of Ecumenical Reconfiguration

GENEVA, 13 June 2005 (LWI) – Participants in a Lutheran World Federation (LWF) international consultation at Chavannes-de-Bogis near here, proposed that the LWF work actively toward the goal of holding a broad ecumenical assembly where Christian World Communions (CWCs) could “have their specific space.” They declared: “Our vision for ecumenical work is to be visibly united for the sake of participating in the Triune God’s mission for the healing of the world.”

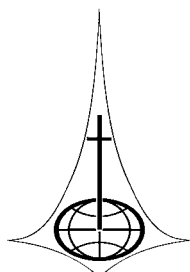
The consultation held June 1–3, brought together representatives from some of the LWF member churches, national committees, regional expressions, and major partner organizations for mission and humanitarian relief and development. It was organized under the theme “The Future of the LWF in the Context of Ecumenical Reconfiguration.” Its objectives included exploring how more effective coordination might occur within the Lutheran communion and ecumenically, and clarifying tensions and aspects of the present pattern of cooperation.

After considerable discussion to correct some previous impressions, it became clear to participants



Geneva Ecumenical Center General Secretaries, from left to right: Rev. Dr Keith Clements (Conference of European Churches); Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko (LWF); Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia (World Council of Churches) and (far right) Rev. Dr Setri Nyomi (World Alliance of Reformed Churches); and (second right) LWF Council adviser Ms Margareta Grape, Church of Sweden, during the LWF international consultation. © LWF/S. Oppegard

that “bilateral and multilateral” ways of working to serve human need “both contribute to the vitality of the LWF and should be seen as complementary” rather



than in competition with each other. As a communion of churches, the LWF includes diaconal and mission organizations, as well as other partners, who are called to relate to each other “in a spirit of mutual recognition and accountability,” participants observed.

A report on the consultation cites the need to secure the faith-based identity and visibility of the LWF Department for World Service (DWS), as well as a clear mandate with the necessary freedom corresponding to the work it carries out. The theological basis of diakonia must be upheld “in ways that affirm who we are as a communion of churches, and that effectively engage the contextual needs and affirm the dignity of the people and communities that diakonia serves.”

The participants also recommended that the LWF continue its active engagement in shaping the proposed ecumenical alliance for development, with particular attention to DWS’ special contributions to global ecumenical humanitarian efforts. The proposed alliance, they insisted, needs to be inclusive

of all regions and to engage all partners of the LWF communion in addressing its objectives.

The consultation’s perspectives were also intended to contribute toward the ongoing discussions of ecumenical reconfiguration. The LWF was encouraged to participate in these discussions actively, and to “seek more concrete ways of collaborating especially with the WCC, and to demonstrate the crucial contributions CWCs play in the ecumenical movement.” It was noted that efforts should also be made to include churches and families of churches that currently were not members of ecumenical organizations.

Participants noted that further strategic planning in the LWF, as requested by the LWF Council in 2004, should involve a broader array of stakeholders. The report from this consultation will become part of the strategic planning report that the General Secretary will bring to the September 2005 LWF Council meeting for consideration.

(504 words)

LWF General Secretary Congratulates Newly Elected CEC Leader

Anglican Archdeacon Colin Williams Succeeds Keith Clements December 2005

GENEVA, 14 June 2005 (LWI) – The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) General Secretary, Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko, has congratulated Anglican Archdeacon of Lancaster, Colin Williams, on his recent election as General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches (CEC).

The CEC Central Committee elected Williams on June 6 at its meeting in Aghios Nikolaos, Crete, Greece. The incumbent, Rev. Dr Keith Clements, will retire at the end of November 2005 after eight years of service. Williams will assume his tenure in December 2005.

In a congratulatory letter to Williams, Noko highlights the shared ecumenical concerns of the LWF and CEC, expressing confidence that “we shall develop the same good and close rapport” as that experienced with Clements.

Noko draws attention to the different ecumenical relations that some LWF member churches have developed with churches from different Christian traditions on the continent. Among the 43 LWF member churches in Europe some are bilaterally in communion with Anglican churches, and with Reformed churches, and multilaterally in communion with Anglican and Reformed churches. Others are in communion bilaterally with Methodist churches in the region, or through the Leuenberg Agreement. “The experience you will build on as you assume your responsibilities has connected you directly with some



Newly elected CEC General Secretary, Anglican Archdeacon Colin Williams. © CEC/Luca. M. Negro

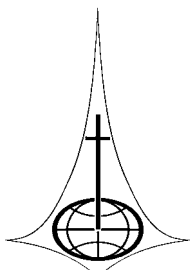
of the main ecumenical developments, prospects and challenges related to Anglican–Lutheran–Reformed relations in Europe,” Noko writes.

The LWF general secretary highlights the international dialogues in which the LWF is engaged as a Christian World Communion. He affirms the Lutheran communion’s strong commitment to relations that seek church communion also with the Orthodox Churches and Roman Catholic Church. Equally important, he adds, are relations with the Jewish people, and people of other faiths. He says he hopes these relations could be a contribution

“also in the years to come to a harmonious development of Europe at the religious level.”

On social concerns, Noko mentions the need for both the LWF and CEC to keep “prominently” on their agendas the challenges of economic globalization. “Your dedication to a Europe which is open, compassionate, just and in touch with its spiritual heritage will echo very well in the environment of which you will be a part here in Geneva,” he notes.

Founded in 1959, the CEC is a fellowship of some 125 Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican and Old Catholic churches from all countries of Europe, plus 40 organizations with which it is associated. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, it has offices in Brussels, Belgium and Strasbourg, France. (423 words)



FEATURE: The Maya-Q'eqchí Struggle for Their Rights as Guatemala Grants Mining Licenses

Regional Consultation Challenges LWF to Raise Global Awareness about Full Citizenship Rights

COBÁN, Guatemala/GENEVA, 22 June 2005 (LWI)

– Life for local communities in El Estor municipality, some 320 kilometers from Guatemala City, involves a constant struggle for improved environment and better health in an area where mining companies are exploiting the land and other natural resources. The Maya-Q'eqchí people are concerned not only about the government's granting of mining licenses to private companies without consulting them, they worry about the long-term impact of such development-oriented activities. The companies and government talk of job creation for the residents of this humid region, but the people's daily struggle also involves dealing with water pollution, soil degradation, toxic effects on human health and life, and on the communities' cultural life.

Through the Department for World Service (DWS) regional program in Central America, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is encouraging Indigenous communities like the Maya-Q'eqchí to advocate for their rights as citizens through projects that empower them to oppose the exploitation of mines and privatization of health care; promote the preservation of the natural environment; and defend their cultural rights as Indigenous People. In El Estor, a local LWF partner Madre Selva, in collaboration with the lobby group, Friends of the Lake Association, has managed to suspend petroleum explorations that had started in Guatemala's largest lake, Lake Izabal, which is a source of food for the local people.

El Estor was one of the communities visited by participants in a recent LWF regional consultation focusing on citizenship, interculturality and prophetic diakonia, and the importance of these concepts, especially in the LWF's emergency and development work. Those who participated in the field trips described their experiences as unforgettable lessons learnt from the Indigenous People about defending their own culture and nature.

Full Citizenship in Latin America Limited to Some Population Groups

The 60 participants in the May 23–27 consultation in Cobán, Guatemala included mainly DWS field program staff and staff from the LWF Geneva headquarters, as well as representatives of local churches, partner organizations and related agencies. The discussion subjects were approached from a conceptual, political

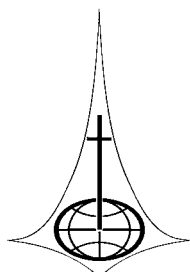


Indigenous children in Cobán, Guatemala. © LWF/DWS Central America

and ethical point of view. While citizenship was underscored as the full realization of all human rights, it was underlined that it also embraced the full belonging to a political community with all rights and duties, and maximum participation in all its decisions.

In Latin American countries, participants heard, full citizenship was always limited to a small group of the population: white, European descendant, male and urban. Indigenous people and African-descendants, women, peasants and young people were considered second class citizens. This caste or colonial situation was still in place today. Globalization on other hand, did not help in overcoming the exclusion and oppression of minorities, even though it facilitated the building up of worldwide relations and alliances, including movements of social change.

Therefore, building truly inclusive societies and achieving the goal of full citizenship was not an easy undertaking. There may be tensions between defending some presumably universal values from Western,





Through its project on strengthening diakonia, the LWF/DWS Central American regional program aims at unconditionally serving people in need, including these women in Guatemala, by focusing on social transformation and gender equity. © LWF/DWS Central America

Christian and enlightened tradition—including human rights—and the need to take different cultural particularities seriously, as Rev. Dr Karen Bloomquist, director of the LWF Department for Theology and Studies explained.

The participants also discussed the different positions in the relation between socio-economic equality and cultural affirmation: the “integrationist” position on one hand, promoted the socio-economic integration of the Indigenous population, while the “culturalist” view point advocated autonomy and self-determination of the Indian peoples, possibly neglecting the integration of multicultural states and socio-economic equality.

As participants reflected on the personal aspect of citizenship they stressed the need to “understand that we ourselves, our culture, our beliefs, our values are part of this structure, and have to become part of the agenda for change.” Changes in the external

structures should go hand in hand with an internal change of values, they said.

They challenged the LWF to raise global awareness about people’s right to full citizenship by creating guidelines that would help people realize their cultural recognition and aspirations. The consultation was organized by the LWF/DWS Central American regional program that covers Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

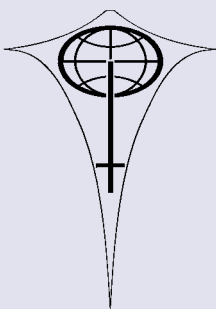
(703 words)

***This article is part of the ongoing *LWI Features on Healing* focusing on the LWF Tenth Assembly theme, “For the Healing of the World.” The series highlights the relevance of the Assembly theme in the different contexts of the worldwide Lutheran communion by presenting projects and activities aimed at promoting reconciliation and healing. This theme continues to be an important aspect of LWF’s work even after the 21–31 July 2003 Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada.**



A small-scale farmer in Zacapa, Guatemala. © LWF/DWS Central America

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