



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

Office of the  
General Secretary

[lutheranworld.org](http://lutheranworld.org)

## STATEMENT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

Today, I have formally communicated to the LWF President that I will be stepping down as the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation on October 31, 2021. This day, I will be completing eleven years in office.

Serving the LWF for now almost ten years as its General Secretary has been an amazingly rewarding and inspiring experience in my overall calling to serve in the church. I am grateful for encounters with churches globally, for trust and support by the LWF Council, leaders and colleagues, and for all the meaningful witness of The Lutheran World Federation with its passion for the church and for the world. It continues to be an honour and a privilege to add my own contribution to the journey of the LWF.

My decision follows prayerful discernment. It is focused on the institutional wellbeing of The Lutheran World Federation – a communion of churches.

I am of the firm conviction that regular change in leadership is of great value for any organization. It supports innovation, invigorates vision and instills organizations with new momentum. This is also true for the Lutheran World Federation.

Now is the moment to make space. With my tenure scheduled to end a year after the 2023 Assembly, a change in leadership in 2021 paves the way for a well-paced transition and lays the foundation for a vigorous continuation of the LWF's witness beyond its Thirteenth Assembly. It allows an incoming General Secretary to prepare the Assembly, work with a newly elected Council to shape a new strategy, and lead the LWF into the future into which God is calling the communion.

My announcement comes in a time of important challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. I pledge my ongoing commitment and dedication during my remaining time in office, providing leadership and direction, and making the required decisions to respond and adapt to the new demands imposed on LWF member churches and the LWF – a communion of churches.

For this, I continue relying on God's grace, which liberates us to live and work together for a just, peaceful and reconciled world.

*Geneva, May 20, 2020*

*Rev. Dr Martin Junge*