

SOCIETY AND CHURCH – CHANGING LANDSCAPES

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What is our role and task in impacting the landscapes around us?

What kind of landscape does God call us to co-design?

What is God's mission in this world?



Faith, always frees us, liberates us to be obedient and follow God's call to participate in God's mission, making the new creation in Christ a little more visible in this world. We live and act in faith, that is, in the assurance of things hoped for (Hebrews 11:1).

- 1. Context of our work**
- 2. Role of the church in the public space**
- 3. Sharing hope**



THE LWF

- 150 member churches, 99 countries, 78 million Christians
- Diverse in terms size, contexts, history, role of religion in society
- Global platform for mutual sharing, responsibility and reflection on what it means to confess and witness to the gospel

OUR GLOBAL CONTEXT

- Position and role of churches in society
- Polarization
- Climate emergency
- Increased numbers of displaced people, refugees, forced migration
- More wars and conflicts
- Impact of digital technology



CHURCH IN THE PUBLIC SPACE

- Unity – uniformity vs diversity
- Task is to gather people
- Churches should support public initiatives that strengthen dialogue and protect dignity and solidarity
- Contribute to reconciliation, stand against injustice
- Churches should be active in the public space – escapism not in line with gospel

"Thou shalt not be indifferent" is the eleventh commandment.

Marian TurSKI



CHURCHES AS MODELS

- Churches have potential and even an obligation to participate in the public life through sharing the message of dialogue, peace building, and solidarity, as it grows out of good soil of the faith in Jesus Christ.
- Politicians may come and go, but churches continue to serve
- In some contexts churches themselves are models for “open society”

KEY LUTHERAN PRINCIPLES

1. Take human brokenness seriously while claiming the primacy of God's grace and love
2. Believers belong to spiritual and worldly realms: church, families, cultures, communities; participate in democracy



AUTHENTICITY AND SOLIDARITY

- We are only authentic when we walk the talk – this applies to churches and to countries/democracies
- *1 John 3:18: “Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth”*
- Show actual solidarity with oppressed people, visiting places that are dangerous, meeting people different from us

SHARING HOPE

- One of the most important tasks of the church
- “Neither naïve optimism nor simple belief in progress, but hope that is based on faith in Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen Lord, who is already present here and now, comforting us, but also encouraging us to make a change.”



- Hope is at the center of the LWF strategy
- We are called to be outward-looking communities, offering hope to all people living in this broken world





THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches