



World Council of Churches

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Nanjing, 23 November 2016

To

the President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, HE Cardinal
Kurt Koch

the President of the Lutheran World Federation, Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan
the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, Rev. Dr Martin Junge

Re: A New Step In Our Common Pilgrimage For Unity

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, gathered in Shanghai and Nanjing, China, 17-23 November 2016, sends you its warm greetings as you have recently jointly commemorated 500 years of Reformation in Lund and Malmö, Sweden. We recognize the significance of the joint commitment signed by His Holiness Pope Francis and Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan, president of the LWF, a moment in the history of your churches. We give thanks to God for such an important event for the Lutheran World Federation and for the Roman Catholic Church for your present and future relations.

We also acknowledge the significance of this joint commemoration for the wider ecumenical movement. Your commitment and your common way so far, expressed in the publication "From Conflict to Communion" (joint PCPCU/LWF 2013 publication), is an inspiration to all that are involved in the ecumenical dialogues and the efforts towards visible unity of the Church, and for all that seek a common Christian witness and service for justice and peace in the world today.

We note that the commemoration was prepared and pursued in the spirit of being pilgrims together. Recognizing accountability for the divisions of the past, and mutual sharing of the gifts of the Gospel now, were done with a sense of humility and commitment to follow Jesus Christ together. The openness to one another and to how God is leading to new expressions of unity are signs of hope for the churches and for the world.

The World Council of Churches invites all churches to join us in a Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. We find that the common prayer and commitment to the communion that you already share, is a visible expression of how this pilgrimage finds new forms and meaning.

We see that there is a need for renewing the challenges from Reformation in our time. There are so many examples of the imperative to address human sinfulness in an accountable way, and to search for real repentance from greed, from violence and from actions of injustice. We also see the urgency to renew together our commitment for sharing the message of the Gospel with all.

We share the call to transformation for justice and peace in so many contexts of the world. Inspired and empowered by the justice and peace of God, we continue our ecumenical pilgrimage together.

We give thanks to the Triune God for what happened, and pray for the further implementation of your commitments

Yours in Christ,



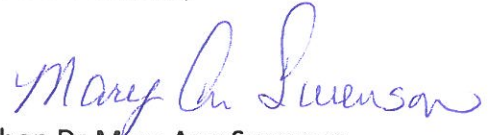
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