



World Council of Churches

General Secretariat

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Trondheim, June 24, 2016

Your All Holiness,
Your Beatitudes, Heads of the autocephalous Orthodox Churches
Your Eminences,
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On behalf of the members of the central committee representing the 345 member churches of the World Council of Churches gathered these days in Trondheim, Norway, would like respectfully to convey to you our warm greetings as you are also gathered in the historic Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church.

As you are looking for meaningful and effective ways of witness and mission of the Orthodox Church in today's world in response to the many challenges of our times, our hearts and prayers are with you all.

Our suffering and troubled world compels us all more than ever before to be prepared to give together an answer, with gentleness and respect but at the same time with boldness and courage, to anyone who asks for a reason for the hope that is in us (I Peter 3,15).

As Christians, we confess with pain that we are still divided and searching for credible ways of reconciliation and healing. But despite all the divisions, the hope in our common Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ unites us in a common witness and common message of hope to the world.

We pray that Almighty God may strengthen us all, despite our weaknesses and failures, to continue our journey together witnessing to the world the liberating and healing joy of the Gospel and the life affirming values of God's Kingdom.

The Leadership of the WCC Central Committee.

Dr. Agnes Abuom
Moderator

Metropolitan Prof. Dr. Gennadios of Sassima
Vice-Moderator

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson
Vice-Moderator

Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit
General Secretary