



World Council of Churches

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Rev. Kristine Sandmæl
Church of Norway

Geneva, April 12, 2016

Dear sisters in Christ,

I send you my warmest greetings and congratulations on your election as moderator of the Church of Norway National Council, moderator of the Sami Church Council, and moderator of the Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations.

Your elections come at a crucial time, when the Church of Norway is taking full responsibility for its own decisions, priorities and strategies, as opposed to the state. Furthermore, it comes at a time when the roles of the churches in the European countries are challenged and are changing in many ways. The trust in your leadership, evidenced in the strong vote in the General Synod, should remain an inspiration for your ministry.

This is a moment to see your calling and commitment to the mission of God in new roles. It is time to seek guidance and strength from the God of life, for your personal responsibilities as well as for the fellowship in the Church of Norway and among the churches. In the World Council of Churches we trust in your contributions to the work we are called to do together. We particularly look forward to the meeting of our central committee in June in Trondheim, hosted by the Church of Norway.

Your elections are a significant event for the Church of Norway in another sense, too, as they show, together with the position of the Praeses, Bishop Helga Haugland Byfuglien, the solid confidence in women's leadership of the Church of Norway. It is a strong encouragement for women's leadership elsewhere.

May God bless you and your ministry for the church in Norway and around the world.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit
General Secretary