



# World Council of Churches

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Geneva, 24 November 2020

Rt Rev. Dr Olav Fykse TVEIT  
Presiding Bishop  
Church of Norway

Dear Bishop Olav, dear Brother in Christ,

Today, is a very special day, your birthday, and we are celebrating with you, your family, your church and the wider fellowship of churches. We are grateful that we are able to connect online despite the global pandemic.

We give thanks to God for your life. We pray that you may enjoy many more years of wisdom and hope.

In 2020, you embarked on the new journey as the Presiding Bishop of the Church of Norway and leaving the WCC after serving as the general secretary for ten years. You are deeply missed in the WCC, but you remain always as part of the ecumenical movement as a leader for the Church of Norway.

We are grateful for all steps you have taken to foster the search for the visible unity of the Church. I remember with joy the visit of Pope Francis to the WCC and especially the visit to Bossey in June 2018. We have invited the staff community and friends from the wider fellowship to contribute with their memories of the work with you in the WCC. That's our gift an e-book with 45-50 pages with memories, greetings and photos from all over the world. They are shared by email with you.

The tenth assembly of the World Council of Churches called Christians and all people of good will to trust God's mercy, to turn around and to join God's pilgrimage of justice and peace in faith, hope and love. I hope and trust that the churches can come even more closely together to make this message heard in all places and moments where people need justice and peace for their life and survival. I am confident that we will have an opportunity to meet again in the future and explore together how to move forward with the vision for the ecumenical movement of Love.

Giving thanks to God for you and your service to the Church, I continue to keep my promise to pray for you and your ministry.

Happy birthday, and may God richly and specially bless you this day and always!

Ioan

Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca  
Interim General Secretary  
Professor and Director Ecumenical Institute Bossey