

# NATIONAL DIALOGUE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

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Acting Secretary: Rev. Dr Terry Wall

14 June 2018

Rev Dr Olav Fykse-Tveit  
The General Secretary  
World Council of Churches  
150 route de Ferney  
1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

Dear Dr Olav,

The three New Zealand member churches of the World Council of Churches, The Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia, The Methodist Church of New Zealand – Te Hahi Weteriana o Aotearoa and the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, send warmest greetings to you and the Council on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the World Council of Churches.

Over the years our churches have benefited greatly from membership of the Council. We have had our understanding of church and mission extended; we have had our appreciation of the diversity of the church enlarged and we have received many gifts in the fields of liturgy and spirituality.

The lives of our churches in New Zealand have been enriched immeasurably and our agendas have been changed by the challenges that we have been encountered through our participation in the great fellowship. Those New Zealanders who have worked at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva have brought back insights and experience that has been invaluable.

Over the years our trust in the World Council of Churches has developed to the point where we have great respect for the programmes and priorities that the Council has established. When the World Council of Churches speaks on issues of our day from the crisis on the Korean Peninsula to the conflict between Palestine and Israel, we are encouraged to know that you are speak boldly in our name.

We have confidence in the future of the Council to promote the quest for the unity of the churches to serve the unity of creation. When the Council speaks about issues of displaced people, religious conflict and famine, we know that the Council has the ability to bring a distinctively gospel voice.

So we join with you in celebrating these seven decades of prayer and study, witness and advocacy in the name of the churches. We pray that those who serve the Council in the future will build on the legacy that is so compelling.

Peace and joy

Most Rev. Philip Richardson and Most Rev Don Tamihere  
Archbishops Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

Revd. Prince Devanandan  
President Methodist Church

Most Rev Richard Dawson  
Moderator - Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand