



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND – FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL – FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

THE GENERAL SECRETARY

To the Lutheran-Orthodox Joint Commission

Gathered in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, 2-9 November 2006

I greet you sincerely and warmly in the name of our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As you are gathering this year, we have reason to thank God from our heart for the twenty-five years of international dialogue between the Eastern Orthodox Churches and the Lutheran World Federation.

As the sequence of Statements from this dialogue shows, the official Orthodox and Lutheran representatives at the world level have been able to travel together a journey of theological investigation considering the broad, fundamental subjects pertaining to the understanding of salvation and the church.

From now on, the road is open for further, and even more specific, discussions of issues that need study in order that our two traditions might move more and more concretely in the direction we both desire, which is that of real and visible forms of ecclesial communion.

Since the dialogue has already shown the very significant level of our theological commonalities, let us pray trustfully that God the Holy Spirit will continue to guide our dialogue and our growing relationship, for the sake of that unity which is God's will for the entire Church of Jesus Christ.

I pray for the meeting on which you are now embarking, that the Blessed Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit will be with you and your deliberations this year.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko
General Secretary
The Lutheran World Federation

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