

## Meeting Between the International Lutheran Council and the Lutheran World Federation Geneva, Switzerland, 30 July – 1 August 2002



From left: Rev. Peter H. F. Ahlers (Pretoria, South Africa), Rev. Dr. Ralph E. Mayan (ILC, Winnipeg, Canada), Bishop David Piso (Papua New Guinea), Bishop Dr. Diethardt Roth (SELK, Hanover, Germany), Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick (St. Louis, MO, USA), Archbishop Nemuel A. Babba (Numan/Adamawa State, Nigeria), Ms. Priscilla Singh (LWF, Geneva, Switzerland), Rev. Wayne Zweck (North Adelaide, Australia), Rev. Dr. Andreas H. Wöhle (LWF, Geneva, Switzerland), Rev. Dr. James Rimbach (Hong Kong), Oberkirchenrätin Rev. Käte Mahn (GNC/LWF, Hanover, Germany), Rev. Dr. Carlos Walter Winterle (Porto Alegre, Brazil), Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko (LWF, Geneva, Switzerland), Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Nafzger (ILC, St. Louis, MO, USA), Rev. President Huberto Kirchheim (Porto Alegre, Brazil), Rev. Jon S. Enslin (Chicago, IL, USA), Rev. Sven Oppegaard (LWF, Geneva, Switzerland).

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### COMMUNIQUE

A meeting of representatives of the International Lutheran Council (ILC) and of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) was held 30 July - 1 August 2002 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The two bodies have member churches around the world. Each body seeks to promote cooperation and fellowship among its member churches. Some Lutheran churches are members of both organizations.

The meeting, encouraged in 2001 by the ILC Conference and by the Council of the LWF, was the first of its kind since the two world bodies held consultations in 1988.

Present from the two sides were:

*Lutheran World Federation Participants (alphabetically):*

Archbishop Nemuel A. Babba (Numan/Adamawa State, Nigeria), Rev. Jon S. Enslin (Chicago, IL, USA), Rev. President Huberto Kirchheim (Porto Alegre, Brazil), Oberkirchenrätin Rev- Käte Mahn (Hanover, Germany), Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko (LWF, Geneva, Switzerland), Rev. Sven Oppegaard (LWF, Geneva, Switzerland), Ms. Priscilla Singh (LWF, Geneva, Switzerland), Rev. Dr. Andreas H. Wöhle (LWF, Geneva, Switzerland), Rev. Wayne Zweck (North Adelaide, Australia).

*International Lutheran Council Participants (alphabetically):*

Rev. Peter H. F. Ahlers (Pretoria, South Africa), Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick (St. Louis, MO, USA), Rev. Dr. Ralph E. Mayan (ILC, Winnipeg, Canada), Rev. Dr. Samuel H. Nafzger (ILC, St. Louis, MO, USA), Bishop David Piso (Papua New Guinea), Rev. Dr. James Rimbach (Hong Kong), Bishop Dr. Diethardt Roth (Hanover, Germany), Rev. Dr. Carlos Walter Winterle (Porto Alegre, Brazil).

The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Samuel Nafzger and Dr. Ishmael Noko, staff of the two organizations.

Information was shared regarding the history, confessional / doctrinal basis, self-understanding, organizational structure, types of membership, and the nature, functions and objectives of the two organizations. Common ground as well as differences were identified in the area of theology, with particular reference to confessional and ecumenical issues.

The participants paid attention to geographical areas where ILC and LWF churches share common history and where cooperation is currently taking place around the world. Attention was also paid to areas where tensions have developed with regard to activities of ILC and LWF member churches. It was noted that relationships among member churches differ significantly from region to region.

It was recognized that often, in inter-church relationships, only issues of tension are highlighted. It was recognized that a number of important projects and programs, with cooperation and mutual support among churches of the two Lutheran organizations, are in place. The meeting emphasized the importance of better coordination, communication, and theological discussion, with a view to improving relations in the years ahead.

The meeting took place in a very cordial and constructive atmosphere that enabled a clear and frank discussion. It contributed significantly to knowing one another better. It involved sharing of positions and practices, of current challenges facing the two world bodies, and of commitments of their churches regarding mission and service.

The Executive Secretary of the ILC and the General Secretary of the LWF were asked to maintain contact with one another on a regular basis.

A next meeting between representatives of ILC and LWF is scheduled to take place 29-31 October 2003.