

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR THEOLOGY AND STUDIES

The specific mandate of this Department is as follows:

to assist and stimulate member churches to explore contemporary theological issues together with questions of theological method and function which confront the Lutheran communion as it seeks to carry on its ministry of witness, worship and service in today's world.

Consonant with the doctrinal basis of the Lutheran Communion, as set forth in the Constitution of the Lutheran World Federation (*Article II*), the work of the Department is to reflect that communion's commitment to being inclusive, contextually particular and ecumenically engaged, as well as to promote renewal of the theological self-understanding of the member churches.

In pursuance of its assignment and within the limits of its resources, the Department is authorized to:

1. initiate and conduct such studies as are approved by the Council;
2. accompany with theological research the programmatic involvements of other departments of the LWF;
3. pursue close contact with member churches, monitor emerging theological developments, and assist in clarifying theological aspects in such ongoing areas of concern as mission, social ethics, ecclesial structures, or worship and spiritual life;
4. maintain links with the ongoing work of the Institute for Ecumenical Research, Strasbourg, and develop mutual cooperation in research and study;
5. develop cooperative relationships in study and research or joint study projects with other institutes, universities, seminaries, ecumenical bodies or individuals; and
6. provide for the exchange of questions, ideas, and information with

member churches, institutions of research, Christian world
communions, and the World Council of Churches.