

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY FOR ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS

The Office of the Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs is an integral part of the General Secretary's office. It reports to the Standing Committee for Ecumenical Affairs and, through it, to the Lutheran World Federation Council.

The Office for Ecumenical Affairs is to:

1. maintain vital relationships with other Christian world communions and to provide leadership and support for bilateral dialogues approved by the Council;
2. encourage the processes of reception of dialogue results both internationally and nationally, note and share the reception experiences of the churches locally, and explore new ways of interconfessional encounter, rapprochement, and cooperation;
3. maintain contact with national/regional ecumenical agencies and find ways to coordinate and further national/regional bilateral relations;
4. organize official visits to and from other churches and Christian world communions;
5. arrange for studies and research projects required by dialogues and other forms of ecumenical engagement, working primarily with the LWF Department for Theology and Studies and the Institute for Ecumenical Research, Strasbourg;
6. maintain a dialogical relationship with other units of the LWF to foster an ecumenical approach to all areas of Federation work;
7. maintain close contact with multilateral programs of the World Council of Churches, particularly the work of Faith and Order; and
8. foster contact with those Lutheran churches which are not members of the Federation.