



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

A Communion  
of Churches

[lutheranworld.org](http://lutheranworld.org)

## Message of the Council of the LWF

The LWF Council met in a special session on June 13 to discuss the council document “Claiming the gift of communion in a fragmented world.” The document provided the basis for a good, respectful discussion. It allowed the Council members to articulate concerns, pains and hopes for the future.

As council members we want to offer the following key messages from the discussion:

- We are committed to being a communion of churches into which the 143 member churches of the LWF have been called by God’s grace.
- We continue celebrating the joy, blessings and gift resulting from our being together as a communion of churches. We rejoice over the vitality of the communion as it continues witnessing for a just, peaceful and reconciled world.
- We are concerned about the rupture of communion relations among three of our member churches that has been brought to our attention. We want to tend to the resulting pain.

Therefore:

1. We ask all LWF member churches to pray for the three churches and for the entire communion so that relationships are healed.
2. We affirm the process of accompaniment offered by the Communion Office to those three churches.
3. As a communion we are committed to work together. We have therefore asked for the following actions:

That the General Secretary continues providing for close contact with the three member churches and continues offering space and processes for further conversation between them.

That the General Secretary engages member churches in further theological reflections on how to respect the autonomy of LWF member churches’ decisions and express and deal with the resulting differences, while at the same time upholding their commitment to live and work together as a communion of churches.

We commend the document “Claiming the gift of communion in a fragmented world” to the LWF member churches for study.

Celebrating God's abundant gifts, God's life-giving Spirit and trusting God's ongoing presence and action among us we re-affirm our commitment to journey together.

*Geneva, 17 June 2013*