

**Report of the LWF National Committee in the Netherland  
(Evangelical Lutheran Synod)**

In 2014 the Synod prepared a policy report. The following is a quote from the report:

*Although the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PKN) is a member of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), information about what is happening in the Geneva office does not reach us sufficiently. It will be our task to translate what happens in Geneva into the Dutch context. What happens there is not insignificant. The Lutherans are our brothers and sisters in a community sharing preaching and communion.*

To put this policy goal into practice, we have asked one of our ministers to look through publications by the LWF with a view to possibly translating them.

At present the document 'From Conflict to Communion' is being translated. This work is being facilitated through cooperation with the Katholieke Vereniging voor Oecumene, a Dutch-based organization of Roman Catholics striving for church unity and cooperation. The translation will be ready in the summer of 2015 and will be sent to all the Protestant churches and also to the Roman Catholic Church.

The Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PKN) is a member of the LWF. The Lutheran Synod has agreed to maintain the contacts. The PKN as a whole is also a member of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). Numerically, Lutherans make up a small minority: fewer than 10,000 members in a community of two million Reformed members. The decrease in membership, resulting in reduced financial circumstances, means that the PKN has to economize. This means that representations abroad, not only to the meetings of the LWF but also to other meetings, have to be assessed critically.

There are a number of working groups in which the Evangelical Lutheran Synod or Lutherans in the Netherlands are involved beyond average participation, not taking into account our two representatives in the Council (Ms Johanna van der Sluis-Reuvers and Ms Daan Leker).

These include:

1. WiCaS - Women in Church and Society (part of LWF's Women & Gender): Coby Aartsen – Kraaypoel;
2. LEKKJ - European Lutheran Commission on the Church and the Jewish People: Dr A.H. Wöhle;
3. KALME - Kommunikationsausschuss Lutherischer Minderheitskirchen in Europa (communication committee of the Lutheran minority churches in Europe), which forms a communication channel together with the communication department of the LWF; Praxedis Bouwman is the chairman since the middle of 2014;
4. Global Young Reformers: Freek Houweling and Maren Mielke;
5. A youth representative for the climate summit: Amber Arnoldus.

We are giving particular attention to the anniversary celebration in 2017. In Lutheran circles, the

themes of the Luther Decade are being used. The PKN is working together with the Roman Catholic Church on a national celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

The Hague, 26<sup>th</sup> of March, 15

Rev. Trinette Verhoeven  
President of the Lutheran Synod in the Netherlands