

MESSAGE

Pre-Council Youth Workshop  
16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March, 2007, Höör SWEDEN

23 stewards, young council members and youth delegates gathered in Höör, Sweden between 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 under the theme “Living in Communion in the World Today”. We were introduced to the life of the local church, we worshipped with the local congregation and also joined the seminar “*Fundamentals for a Lutheran Communion in the Face of Fundamentalism*” organized by the Department of Theology and Studies of the LWF.

We discussed the report on the YICAS Evaluation mandated by the LWF Council in 2004 and carried out in 2005-2006. We express our gratitude towards the work of the consultant Mia Wrang and the helpful evaluation. We support the LWF-Youth Strategic Plan (SP) and commit ourselves to promoting the work of the Youth Desk. We expect the Youth Desk to be a useful instrument in connecting young Lutherans in different countries (as expressed in Goal 4 of LWF-Youth SP) and empowering young people to meaningful participation in the LWF and in the local church (Goals 1 and 2). Furthermore, we stress the importance of abiding by youth quotas at the upcoming assembly.

We also deliberated on the meaning of Lutheran identity today. In our deliberations we recognized that our common Lutheran identity is being lived differently throughout the communion. However, we find that our faith as Lutherans is founded on the good news that is witnessed in the Holy Scripture. Lutheran identity has a mission to strengthen Christianity and the ecumenical movement, to evangelize among people who have not heard of the gospel and to serve our neighbours. At the same time, our ways of worship, diaconal service and church structures should be continually reevaluated and developed according to the good news.

We acknowledge the efforts made by the LWF to become an inclusive and open communion, but through stories we have heard, we know that there are still many people who do not realize the purpose and activities of the organization. We would like to encourage every delegate and Council member to carry the message of the LWF back to their local contexts, making the projects and programs more visible in the world today.

We as the youth of the LWF acknowledge that the whole church has very different opinions on the topic of Marriage, Family and Human Sexuality. Where we acknowledge this difference, we all also agree that this diverse issue should not divide the communion. Through our own discussion of this issue, we would like to see the discussion continue in the wider communion. Within them, we trust that the Holy Spirit will guide us.

Höör, 18 March 2007

Jeruel BASALONG, Philippines  
Alfonso CORZO, Colombia  
Vickfarajaeli Zebedayo DAUDI, Tanzania  
Christopher EPHRAIM, Nigeria  
Ellen FORSSTRÖM, Sweden  
Ida GAASTRA, Netherlands  
Ewa ISSEL, Poland  
Thomas JENSCH, Germany  
Rebekka Højmark JENSEN, Denmark  
Amber KENDEL, Canada  
Brunke KOCH, Germany  
Jani LIPPONEN, Finland  
Karen MELVILLE, Guyana  
Tiina-Mari MÄLLINEN, Finland  
Sindisiwe NDELU, South Africa  
Sabine NEUFELD, Germany  
Joshua NGILIULE, Tanzania  
Ombeni Festo NGOWO, Tanzania  
Michel NGOY MULUNDA, D.R. of Congo  
Simon Pedersen SCHMIDT, Denmark  
Kazuhiro SEKINO, Japan  
Timmy ULLHAG, Sweden  
Klara WAGNER-BALICZA, Hungary