



Acceptance Speech of LWF President Bishop Henrik Stubkjær

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ.

Dear President Filibus Musa, general secretary Anne Burghardt, delegates, advisers and alle guests.

It is with great humility and gratitude I receive the call as president of The Lutheran World federation.

I would like to say that these past days in Krakow have been a great joy and a deep experience of living communion among us.

Together we have reflected on the theme One Body, One Spirit, One Hope. We have come together from so many different churches from many different parts of the world, and I am so encouraged by seeing that we are indeed one communion, with one faith. And I have definitely felt a lot of spirit and a lot of hope for the future.

Thank you for the election. It is a great privilege to be able to serve as president of the LWF.

I believe that work in the coming years shall continue to be based on the basic four pillars LWF was founded on in the wake of the Second World War, namely, to work for the needy and oppressed, common initiatives in mission, joint efforts in theology and a common response to the ecumenical challenges.



LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND
FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE
FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL

P.O. Box 2100
Route de Ferney 150
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Email: lwf.info@lutheranworld.org



My vision for LWF is, that we gain added value by working together as a communion striving to put Christian faith into action through humanitarian and development work, advocacy, shared witness, and dialogue.

To be Lutheran has always been to contextualized. And therefore, our communion reflects a great diversity. I won't see it as a problem – rather I would see it as a sign on how God through his Son Jesus Christ is nurturing us as member churches – so that we are able to preach the Gospel in all our different contexts in a relevant way. Therefore, I will see it as my responsibility to secure diversity and that all voices will be heard.

Our diversity is – as former General secretary Martin Junge expresses it: “a sign that the Triune God is indeed alive and powerful!”

At the same time the world is being more polarized, and changes are being our daily life. But as the Pope said to us, who was part of a joint group from Caritas and Lutheran World Service that came to the Vatican to sign an agreement of more joint cooperation involving local churches: “You should beware, that it is in times of changes the Holy Spirit has greatest opportunity changing our minds”. In that sentence is Hope. We as Christian churches must be the sign of hope in the midst of an often-hopeless world.

I am looking forward to working together with you General Secretary Anne Burghardt and our competent and dedicated communion office in Geneva, and all staff and volunteers all over the world and I will do my best to secure an open and transparent relation between governance and Communion Office.

I see it as the responsibilities for the incoming council and president loyal and with dedication to implement the decisions made by this assembly.



LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND
FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE
FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL

P.O. Box 2100
Route de Ferney 150
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Email: lwf.info@lutheranworld.org



And to implement it in a way that underlines LWF's Holistic Mission, where Proclamation, diakonia and prophetic presence in society are interlinked.

Let me end by thanking all Nordic Evangelical Lutheran Churches for nominating me to this position and thanks to the entire assembly for the confidence you have shown to me.

I promise to be the servant of the entire communion. Thanks for your prayers, they will be needed.

And may God bless all of us today and in the days to come!

The [Thirteenth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation](#) takes place 13-19 September 2023 in Krakow, Poland. The theme of the Assembly will be "One Body, One Spirit, One Hope." It will be hosted by the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland.



LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND
FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE
FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL

P.O. Box 2100
Route de Ferney 150
CH-1211 Geneva 2
Email: lwf.info@lutheranworld.org