

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

A COMMUNION OF CHURCHES – EINE KIRCHENGEMEINSCHAFT – UNA COMUNIÓN DE IGLESIAS – UNE COMMUNION D'ÉGLISES
LUTHERISCHER WELTBUND – FEDERACIÓN LUTERANA MUNDIAL – FÉDÉRATION LUTHÉRIENNE MONDIALE

His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

11 July 2011

Re: Lutheran World Federation Endorsement of World Interfaith Harmony Week

Your Majesty:

It is our honor to transmit to Your Majesty, as the initiator of World Interfaith Harmony Week, the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted by the Council of the Lutheran World Federation – A Communion of Churches (LWF) at its annual meeting last month in Geneva:

Resolution on World Interfaith Harmony Week

- (1) On 20 October 2010, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the first week of February every year to be World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs. The General Assembly recognized the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions, and also that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding. It encouraged the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill, “based on love of God and love of one’s neighbor or on love of the good and love of one’s neighbor, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions”.
- (2) The LWF Council has affirmed the importance of ongoing relationships and dialogue with other faiths, with civil society and state actors and United Nations agencies. These relationships have great importance for member churches and the communion office in our efforts toward peace, reconciliation, sustainable livelihoods and justice.
- (3) That the LWF Council:
 - 1) Encourages LWF member churches to observe the first week of February every year as World Interfaith Harmony Week;
 - 2) Expresses appreciation and encouragement for the various member churches’ dialogues with people of different faiths and religions; and
 - 3) Prays that Lutheran churches around the world will be known for their love of God, for their love of neighbor, for their service and for their efforts to enhance understanding, harmony and cooperation among people.

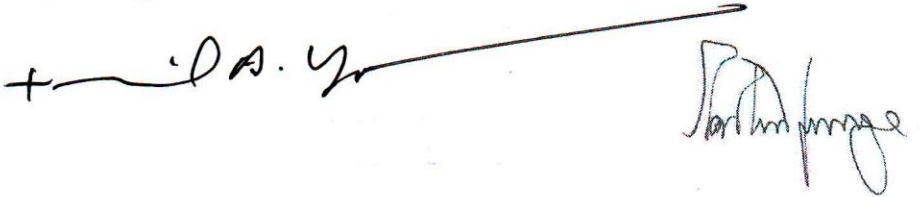


The Lutheran World Federation is a global communion of Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition. Founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, the LWF now has 145 member churches in 79 countries around the world, representing more than 70 million Christians. The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, human rights, communication and the various aspects of mission and development. Its secretariat is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

We believe that, in our troubled world, religion and religious organizations can be an active force for peace, justice, and reconciliation—a source of solutions rather than a source of conflict. Your Majesty, the Lutheran communion is committed to interfaith dialogue and diapraxis, for we believe that if peace is among the followers of religion, then peace based on justice, forgiveness and reconciliation will become a reality in our world. We look forward to continuing cooperative work with Your Majesty and with others who endorse interfaith harmony, and look forward to further discussions about the practical shape that such cooperative work might take.

With our high regards and appreciation for your leadership in interfaith dialogue and harmony.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures. On the left is the signature of Munib Younan, which appears to be 'M. Younan'. On the right is the signature of Martin Junge, which is more stylized and includes a large loop at the end.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Munib Younan
President
The Lutheran World Federation

The Rev. Martin Junge
General Secretary
The Lutheran World Federation

Cc: H.R.H. Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad bin Talal