



World Council of Churches

General Secretariat

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Geneva, 29 March 2011

Archbishop Fred Hiltz
Anglican Church of Canada
Bishop Susan Johnson
Evangelical Lutheran Church in
Canada
Bishop Mark Hanson
Evangelical Lutheran Church of
America
Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori
The Episcopal Church (USA)

"We rejoice in our Declaration as an expression of the visible unity of our churches in the one Body of Christ. We are ready to be co-workers with God in whatever tasks of mission serve the Gospel. We give glory to God for the gift of unity already ours in Christ, and we pray for the fuller realization of this gift in the entire Church."
(*Waterloo Declaration, 2001*)

"We do not know to what new, recovered, or continuing tasks of mission this Concordat will lead our churches, but we give thanks to God for leading us to this point. We entrust ourselves to that leading in the future, confident that our full communion will be a witness to the gift and goal already present in Christ, "so that God may be all in all." (1 Corinthians 15:28)" (*Called to Common Mission, 2001*)

Dear Archbishop, dear Bishops,

Ten years ago your churches embarked on a new journey of unity and mission. Your declarations of full communion reflected a conviction that the call to be one demands of us a commitment to walk together in the journey of faith. You did not know then where this affirmation of unity would lead you. In that way, the *Waterloo Declaration* and *Called to Common Mission* truly were acts of faith.

Years later your churches have much to celebrate. Shared ministries between Anglican/Episcopal and Lutheran parishes flourish in both Canada and the United States. Collaborative mission projects and justice-advocacy speak of the way in which your churches understand the importance of speaking and acting with a common voice and mind. Through ongoing theological dialogue and reflection, your churches have been enriched in matters of doctrine and faith. Your leaders and members have supported each other in prayer and in their ministries. In all of this, you have remained strong ecumenical leaders, always seeking ever fuller unity and common mission within the Christian faith.

The wider ecumenical family celebrates these anniversaries with you. The basis for your full communion agreements emerges in part from the work of multilateral and international bilateral dialogues. Your experience of living in full communion now offers you the opportunity to share your learning and vision with the ecumenical movement. I hope too that the significance of these relationships is felt throughout your churches, and that local congregations and parishes celebrate that they are part of an important ecumenical statement.

I extend my congratulations on behalf of the World Council of Churches to the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and The Episcopal Church (USA) on the tenth anniversary of your respective full communion agreements. May your bi-national celebrations be an ecumenical witness for your region as well as for your churches.

Yours in our Common Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olav Fykse Tveit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit
General Secretary