



## **Joint statement**

*By Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Church of Sweden.*

We, 18 Bishops out of 26 from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and 13 Bishops out of 14 from the Church of Sweden, representing two of the largest member churches of the Lutheran World Federation, have spent three days (from May 6-8, 2019) together at the Lutheran Uhuru Hotel and Conference Center in Moshi, Tanzania, deliberating on various issues of great importance for our two partner churches. This was our second joint Bishops' conference. The first one was held in Rättvik, Sweden, in 2015, and the purpose then was to get to know each other as leaders in the one Church of Jesus Christ, to strengthen trust between us and our churches and to understand how contexts shape our churches.

To continue this, the theme for the Moshi Conference was Proclaim the Gospel: The Church in the Public Space. As a common point of departure, we used a study document prepared by the Lutheran World Federation, on the eve of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation as a way of assisting churches in their active engagement in the public space in light of the ongoing reformation. In addition, our discussions benefitted from presentations held by Rev. Dr. Salli Ndombo, representing Programme for Christian-Muslim relations in Africa, PROCMURA, and Rev Dr. Elieshi Mungure from the Lutheran World Federation.

Moreover, we visited institutions – Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre and the Deaf School in Mwanga – to study two examples of the Church in the public space.

### **Our focus was on:**

- Proclaiming the gospel in our contexts
- Being baptized into the weakness and the power of Christ
- Challenging injustice: What is our mission?

The method for our dialogue was worshipping and praying together, reflections on relevant Bible texts, input by speakers as well as local visits to Church institutions in the public space.

### **We call on our churches and commit ourselves as leaders of our churches:**

To pray regularly for each other, especially on Reformation day, October 31, and to share concrete needs in prayer

- To scale up our commitment to address causes and the impact of climate change and loss of biodiversity on people's livelihoods
- To encourage young people to engage in the relationship between our churches
- To promote interfaith dialogue and friendly co-existence, especially between Christians and Muslims
- To support each other in claiming and prophetically utilizing public space
- To promote diversity, equality and respect in Church leadership - especially to promote women in leadership roles
- To continue developing and deepening Christian education and teaching
- To engage in diaconia, advocacy, social and gender justice for all so that we leave no one behind

Bishop Dr Alex Malasusa	Eastern and Coastal Diocese
Bishop Dr Edward Mwaikali	Konde Diocese
Bishop Elias Nassari	Meru Diocese
Bishop Dr Benson Bagonza	Karagwe Diocese
Bishop Andrew Gulle	East of Lake Victoria Diocese
Bishop Dr Abednego Keshomshohara	North Western Diocese
Bishop Jacob Mameo Ole Paulo	Morogoro Diocese
Bishop Charles Mjema	Pare Diocese
Bishop Dr Alex Mkumbo	Central Diocese
Bishop Dr Stephen Munga	North Eastern Diocese
Bishop Dr Solomon Massangwa	North Central Diocese
Bishop Michael Adam	Diocese in Mara Region
Bishop Nicolaus Nsanganzulu	Mbulu Diocese
Bishop Lucas Mbedule	South Eastern Diocese
Bishop Dr Emmanuel Makala	South East of Lake Victoria Diocese
Bishop Ambele Mwaipopo	Lake Tanganyika Diocese
Bishop Chediel Sendoro	Mwanga Diocese
Bishop Dr Isaac Laiser	West Central Diocese

Bishop Dr Karin Johannesson	Diocese of Uppsala
Bishop Johan Tyrberg	Diocese of Lund
Bishop Dr Fredrik Modéus	Diocese of Växjö
Bishop Dr Sören Dalevi	Diocese of Karlstad
Bishop Dr Martin Modéus	Diocese of Linköping
Bishop Dr Johan Dalman	Diocese of Strängnäs
Bishop Dr Mikael Mogren	Diocese of Västerås
Bishop Åsa Nyström	Diocese of Luleå
Bishop Thomas Petersson	Diocese of Visby
Bishop Eva Brunne	Diocese of Stockholm
Bishop Dr Susanne Rappmann	Diocese of Gothenburg
Bishop Åke Bonnier	Diocese of Skara

Moshi, May 8, 2019

On behalf of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania

Church of Sweden

Presiding Bishop Dr Fredrick Shoo

Archbishop Dr Antje Jackelén