

# The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)

The Rt. Rev. Munib A. Younan, Bishop of ELCJHL LWF Vice-President of Asia

# Appointments within the ELCJHL

1998 – Pres.	Bishop (Consecrated Jan. 5, 1998)
2007 – Pres	Chair of the Board of Dar al Kalima Academy
2004 – Pres.	Chair of Abraham's Herberge in Beit Jala
1998 – Pres.	Chair of Evangelical Lutheran School Board
1990 - 1998	Synod President of the ELCJHL
1984 - 1998	Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hope, Ramallah
1979 – 1984	Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Beit Jala
1976 – 1979	Assistant Pastor of the Church of Redeemer, Jerusalem
1977 – 1988	Youth pastor of the ELCJHL
1976 – 1997	Teacher and coordinator in Christian Education in Lutheran schools
Ordained May 30, 1	1976 at the Church of the Redeemer, Jerusalem, by Bishop Daoud Haddad

# **Education**

1988	Study and research at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Illinois
1972 – 1976	Theological study at the University of Helsinki, Finland
	Graduated with a Master's Degree; Dissertation: "Election in Deutero Isaiah"
1969 – 1972	Study of Deaconry at Luther Opisto College in Järvenpää, Finland
1968	High School Certificate, the Tawjihi, from Al-Ahlia College, Ramallah
1955 – 1967	Lutheran schools in Jerusalem and Beit Jala

# **Family**

Born 18 September 1950 in Jerusalem to Andria Younan, originating from Beersheba, and Alice Qandalaft from West Jerusalem (both refugees from 1948). Still holder of a United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) refugee status card.

1980 to Suad Yacoub (born 2	23 Oct 1959) from Haifa, originally from Kfar Bir'im
Annaliza (born 1982)	Currently working at the US Consulate in Jerusalem
Andria (born 1984)	Currently studying for masters degree in biomedical
	engineering at the Technon in Haifa
Martha (born 1991)	In high school at St. Joseph's School in Jerusalem
	Annaliza (born 1982) Andria (born 1984)



# **Other Assignments**

## 1. In the Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

July, 2003 – Present	Vice-President of the LWF and member of the Council
July, 2003 – Present	Member of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees
2001 - 2004	Board Member of the Vocational Training Center (VTC) Beit Hanina
1998 – 2003	Chairperson of the Asian Regional Church Leaders Conference (ARCC)
1997	Member of the Department for Mission and Development (DMD)
1997 – 2003	Vice-Chairperson of the Program Committee for Mission & Development
1997 – 2003	Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Institute for Ecumenical
	Research, Strasbourg, France
1997 – 2003	Voting member of the LWF Council
1990 – 1997	Adviser to the LWF Council
1981 – 1984	Member of the LWF Youth Committee

## 2. In the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC)

1995 – Present	Member of the MECC Executive Committee
1993 – 1998	Member of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR)
1990 – 1995	Member of the Life and Service Committee
1985 – 1990	Member of the Education Committee

## 3. Fellowship of the Middle East Evangelical Churches (FMECC)

2004 - 1	Present	President o	of the	FMEEC

## 1991 – 1996 Member of the Theological Committee

## 4. Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)

2002 – Present A founding member of church initiative calling for EAPPI Chair of the Local Reference Group

## 5. World Council of Churches (WCC)

1998 – 2006 Member of the WCC – Orthodox Study Group

## 6. International Christian Committee (ICC), Jerusalem

1998 - 2004 President of the Board of Managers

## 7. Lutheran World Service, Jerusalem

1998 C Chairperson of the Augusta Victoria Hospital Board

## 8. Near East School of Theology (NEST), Beirut

2003-Present Member of the Board of Managers

1999 - 2003 Vice-President of the Board of Managers

## 9. Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem International Grand Priory

2004 – PresentGrand Chaplain2001 – PresentMember, Priory of Finland

# Awards

Fall 2005	Bethlehem Star Award from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas
October 2004	Holyland Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) Prize, Washington, DC
October 2004	Bethanien (Bethany) Prize, Methodist Church, Oslo, Norway
December 2001	Human Rights Award from the United Nations Association, Washington, DC
September 2001	Honorary Doctorate of Divinity (D.D.) from Wartburg University, Iowa, US
January 2001	The Finnish Peace Price 2001 from the Finnish Christian Peace Movement.

## **Initiatives**

## **Inter-religious encounter**

2006 A founding member of the emerging Council for Religious Institutions in the Holy Land 1991 – Present

Initiated a number of informal, long-running dialogue groups, serving as forums for joint reflection of local Christians and Jews. Known as "Quiet Ecumenism" (Jerusalem Post, October 2000) and called the Jonah Group.

Initiated dialogue among the three monotheistic religions in Palestine, (the Trialogue).

1982 Co-founder of Al-Liqa' Centre for Religious Studies, Jerusalem

## Ecumenism

2006	Instrumental in getting a Mutual Recognition Agreement signed by Evangelical Churches in the Middle East
1998–Pres.	Working for a deepening of the communion between Lutherans in Jerusalem and developing communion by signing agreements with companion synods and diocese.
1984-Pres.	Instrumental in the local Lutheran - Anglican dialogue.
1993	Translator of the first Arabic translation of the "Augsburg Confession" with an elaborate survey.
1997 – 2000	Instrumental in developing the first Palestinian Christian Instruction Curriculum, which is ecumenical, and recognized by the Palestinian Ministry of Education for use in all Palestinian schools.
1997 – Pres.	Evaluator of the future Palestinian curriculae, and wrote "The Christian Dimension of the Palestinian Curriculum," which was adopted in 1998 by the Church Leaders in Jerusalem as the main document for negotiations with the Ministry of Education. Active in Church to Church relationships in Jerusalem.

#### **Just Peace and Reconciliation**

A high-profile lecturer and speaker, locally and internationally, on what makes for just peace from a Palestinian Christian perspective based on Christian teachings and doctrines.

# **Publications**

# Book

	June 2003	Witnessing for Peace: In Jerusalem and the	World, Augsburg Fortress, USA
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# **Articles, Lectures and Presentations**

2006	"Religion and Politics," World Council of Churches Assembly, Brazil The Theology of Accompaniment, Geneva, Switzerland
2005	"Reconciliation in the Middle East," Sweden
2004	"Cultural Diversity," Address to the UNDP, Oslo, Norway "The Future of the Reformation Tradition," Moorhead, Minnesota
2003	"The Witness of the Palestinian Lutherans in the Middle East"
2000	"Das ökumenische Leben in Jerusalem" (Ecumenical Life in Jerusalem), in "Jerusalem: Stadt der Friedens" EMW Annual 2000, Hamburg, Germany.
1999	"The Significance of Jerusalem to the Christian Churches in Jerusalem." Speech held at Capitol Hill, Washington, Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs (LOGA).
	<ul> <li>-"Challenges of a Palestinian Church" in Festschrift to Bishop Christian Krause, Braunschweig, Germany</li> <li>– The Jubilee for the Palestinian Christians</li> <li>– The vision of religion towards the III Millennium</li> <li>– The role of religion for just peace and reconciliation</li> <li>– The history of the Arab Christians and the challenges in the Holy Land and the Middle East.</li> </ul>
1998	<ul> <li>"Let the Church Be the Church" programmatic lecture on the occasion of his consecration as bishop, 5 January 1998</li> <li>"Prayer and Reconciliation in a Shared Land" in "Toward the Third Millennium. Trialogue in Jerusalem: Jews, Christians and Muslims," ICCI-Jerusalem.</li> <li>The challenges of the Palestinian Christian Lutherans</li> <li>The Local Church and the Ecumenical Dialogue</li> <li>Religion – the heart of culture</li> </ul>