



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

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**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, 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.

Married:	1980 to Suad Yacoub (born 23 Oct 1959) from Haifa, originally from Kfar Bir'im
Children:	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

## ***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 – Present	President 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
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### **5. World Council of Churches (WCC)**

1998 – 2006	Member of the WCC – Orthodox Study Group
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### **6. International Christian Committee (ICC), Jerusalem**

1998 – 2004	President of the Board of Managers
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### **7. Lutheran World Service, Jerusalem**

1998 – C	Chairperson of the Augusta Victoria Hospital Board
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### **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 – Present	Grand Chaplain
2001 – Present	Member, 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 Prize 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**

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| 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.

