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Expression of Gratitude

The Policy and Reference Committee recommends that the Assembly adopt the following Expression of Gratitude:

- (1) This Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, convened in Stuttgart, expresses its gratitude to the following persons and organizations for their part in making this Assembly a meaningful and important event in the life the LWF and the lives of those who participated in the Assembly.
- (2) To the Lord Mayor of the City of Stuttgart, Mr. Wolfgang Schuster, who brought greetings to the Assembly, and to the officials and their co-workers who welcomed the Assembly participants and extended the hospitality of the city.
- (3) To His Excellency Mr. Wolfgang Schäuble, the Minister of Finance of the Federal Republic of Germany, for his address and greetings he brought from Her Excellency Dr. Angela Merkel, German Chancellor, to the Assembly.
- (4) To the management and staff of the Liederhalle, in particular Project Manager Mr. Sascha Schmidt, and the Evangelische Medienhaus for video streaming, and for providing meeting and technical facilities. In addition, we note the comfortable accommodations provided to the participants at the Maritim, Royal, Wartburg, Ketterer, Hansa, and Kronen hotels as well as the Diakonie House. We also thank all of the companies and organizations that have provided extraordinary technical and other additional services.
- (5) To our generous hosts, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg, its bishop, the Rev. Frank Otfried July, and the congregations of the ELCW for their warm hospitality and hard work.
- (6) To the churches of Germany which prepared the local diaconal visits. We wish to thank the Rev. Hans-Wilhelm Kasch and all of the local churches for their hospitality and leadership.
- (7) To the churches in Württemberg who welcomed the participants to attend worship services in their congregations and to share a meal with them.
- (8) To the coordinator of the Local Assembly Planning Committee, Kirchenrat Klaus Rieth, the Assembly Logistics Coordinator, Mr. Christoph Glogger, as well as the hard-working and efficient staff of the local Assembly Planning Office and more than 200 dedicated volunteers.
- (9) To the Stiftskirche of Stuttgart for welcoming the Assembly to hold its opening and closing worship services at there, those who planned and carried out the morning eucharists and midday prayers, all in a moving spirit of collaboration.

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- (10) To the those who held exhibitions and displays for our benefit and enrichment.
- (11) To the member churches, national committees, and in particular the German National Committee, related agencies and mission societies for contributing to the Assembly budget, and to Kärcher, Evangelische Kreditgenossenschaft AG, the City of Stuttgart, the State of Baden-Württemberg, Deutsche Bank, Wüstenrot Holding AG and the Biblische Reisen.
- (12) To the member churches in Germany and their LWF National Committee, led by Bishop Johannes Friedrich, which prepared the visitation programs prior to the Assembly.
- (13) To the Assembly Planning Committee and its chairperson, Ms. Angeline Swart, for their capable leadership in guiding Assembly preparations.
- (14) To the Rev. Dr. Ishmael Noko, General Secretary of the LWF, particular appreciation is expressed for his wise and effective leadership of the Assembly preparation process, and his excellent collaboration with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg in this process. We also thank the Deputy General Secretary, the Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, the Assembly Content Coordinator, the Rev. Dr. Erwin Buck, for the able guidance and direction they provided, and the staff of the Assembly Office.
- (15) To the Assembly Coordinators for Worship, the Rev. Per Harling, Communication, the Rev. Karin Achtelstetter, Finance, Mr. Pauli Rantanen, and the pre-Assembly consultations, Mr. Jaap Schep, as well as other staff, co-opted staff and many others from the member churches who have unselfishly given of their time and efforts to the Assembly. Many persons have worked long and hard, but always cheerfully, to assist in making the Assembly function efficiently. A special word of thanks goes to the General Secretaries in the Making (stewards) for their great service. Particular gratitude is expressed to the language service, the interpreters, the translators, the editor and staff of the daily Assembly Update and the technical service for their continuous efforts to enable communication among the Assembly participants, the editors and staff of the Assembly web site and Lutheran World Information for informing the world and the audio and video news teams.
- (16) The Assembly wishes to thank the local worship implementation group, Bishop Frank July and Oberkirchenrat Dr. Ulrich Heckel, the music director, Mr. Michael Čulo, and liturgical leaders and assistants who planned and carried out the spirit-filled worship services.
- (17) The gathering of people from all over the world in the opening service in the dramatic setting of beautiful and historical Stiftskirche Stuttgart, made a lasting impression of our unity. We also thank the preachers: the Rev. Mark S. Hanson at the opening service, and the Rev. Shu-Chen Chen at the closing service.
- (18) The Assembly expressed its deep gratitude to His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, the keynote speaker and respondents, Ms. Jeanette

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Ada and Ms. Inga Marie Nordstrand, those who made contributions through the Public Hearings on Daily Bread, Climate Change and Food Security, as well as on Illegitimate Debt and on HIV and AIDS.

- (19) This Eleventh Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, convened in Stuttgart, expresses its profound gratitude to Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for his exceptional leadership and pastoral skill in guiding our deliberations. His role as pastor of this Assembly was a fitting culmination of his servant leadership of the LWF communion since the Tenth Assembly.
- (20) This Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, convened in Stuttgart, expresses its gratitude for the work of the LWF Executive Committee, the Council, and its various committees since the Tenth Assembly. The Assembly at Winnipeg took many actions that required the attention and action of the Council. The Council has faithfully carried out those resolutions and statements. The members of the Council and its Committees have diligently executed their tasks, including providing helpful resources and assistance to the member churches. Our profound appreciation is extended to all these persons who have served during the past seven years.
- (21) This Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, convened in Stuttgart, expresses its appreciation for the many greetings extended to the assembly by representatives of other religious communities. We note those provided by His Eminence Walter Cardinal Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the Rev. Olav Fyske Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima (Limouris) of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, Dr. John Graz, Director for Public Affairs and Religious Liberty of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, Chairman of the International Lutheran Council, the Rev. Dr. Larry Miller, General Secretary of the Mennonite World Conference, Ms. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, General Secretary of the World Young Women's Christian Association, Dr. Jean-Daniel Plüss, Chairman of the European Pentecostal Charismatic Research Association, and the Rev. Nicta Lubaale, General Secretary of the Organization of African Instituted Churches.
- (22) This Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, convened in Stuttgart, expresses its thanks to the large number of representatives of the press, radio and television who have extensively covered and reported on the activities of this Assembly. These representatives have assisted in communicating to the world the role of the Lutheran World Federation in the affairs of churches and nations.
- (23) This Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, convened in Stuttgart, recognizes that there are many other persons and organizations who have been involved in the preparation, planning and functioning of this Assembly. Although unnamed, their contributions are not unnoticed, and our hearty thanks are extended to them.

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- (24) This Assembly rejoices in having former President Landesbischof Christian Krause and former General Secretary Bishop Gunnar Stålsett among us.
- (25) Beyond this expression, we thank God for the many blessings bestowed upon this Assembly.