



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Office of the
General Secretary

lutheranworld.org

Presiding Bishop
Olav Fykse Tveit
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NORWAY

Geneva, 10 May 2020

Concecration and inauguration of Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit

Do as the occasion demands; for God is with you. (1 Samuel 10:7)

Dear Bishop Tveit, dear Brother in Christ!

It is with gladness in my heart to extend prayerful congratulations to you on behalf of the Lutheran World Federation, the worldwide Communion of Lutheran churches, on your consecration and inauguration as presiding Bishop of the Church of Norway. I wish you God's richest blessing and guidance for your new ministries and responsibilities.

The beginning of your episcopal ministry in the Church of Jesus Christ comes at a time of new challenges both for our churches and societies. On an unprecedented scale, the nations of the world are facing the consequences of the Covid-19 virus infection. Our attention and forces are now focused on health and safety, especially on those who are most vulnerable and exposed to the negative effects of the pandemic. We all see more and more clearly that the changes taking place around us will affect the lives of all of us. Undoubtedly, the current situation also makes us look at our churches and ourselves, and think about our own decisions, choices and lifestyles.

As people of faith we do so with an awareness of God's presence in the world, which is most fully revealed in our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. As people saved and renewed by Christ the Crucified and Resurrected, we remember the words of the Risen Jesus, "peace be unto you" and "do not be afraid". These words empower us to engage in God's holistic mission in this world as it is.

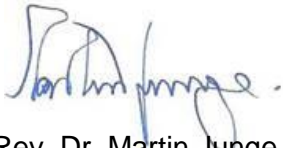
I often remind our churches that there is no better time to be the church, than the very time in which we live today because of what is entrusted to us as churches: the message of Jesus Christ in which we can all find life in abundance. Let this encouragement guide also your ministry into which you have been called by the church.

As General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, you have repeatedly testified to faith, hope and peace in the midst of many challenges and many diversities. I am convinced that as the presiding bishop of the Church of Norway you will draw on the rich ecumenical experience in building peace and understanding, so important at this time. I am deeply grateful for our cooperation so far and I now welcome you warmly as the head of one of our largest member churches.

Personally, I am glad to relate to you now in your new capacity and look forward to the ongoing exchange of experiences, gifts, and knowledge between the Church of Norway and the global communion of Lutheran churches, of which your church is a faithful and active member.

As a global communion of Lutheran churches, we will gladly accompany you in your journey of faith and we are looking forward to our continued good cooperation.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martin Junge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Rev. Dr. Martin Junge
General Secretary