

Partnership agreement between Byåsen church within the Church of Norway and Church of Hope, Ramallah within the ELCJHL

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hope, Ramallah and Byåsen church in Trondheim, Norway have agreed upon forming a partnership agreement between our two churches. Our two churches unite in the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ. We recognize that there are differences between our two countries, but through the mutual understanding of our cultures we consider each other as people of God, united in the Lutheran Church tradition.

History

The partnership agreement was initiated in 2016 by the Diocese of Nidaros, Bishop Tor Singasaas and Bishop Munib Younan for the Evangelical Lutheran church. Rev. Imad Haddad visited Byåsen church fall 2016, and august 2017 15 members of Byåsen church visited The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hope.

Objectives of this agreement

Through this agreement we wish to share our Christian faith and life. We will promote partnership and the mutual understanding of our two cultures and ways of life, and so inspire each other to fulfil the commission given to our churches.

- We want to connect local congregations to the universal Church
- We want to increase the mutual understanding and love between our different churches, which may enrich, develop and renew life in our churches
- We acknowledge the differences in our circumstances and want to understand and support each other's situations in achieving our mission as Christian human beings in our different contexts.

Initiatives

- We will exchange at least two letters a year, containing:
 - o Information about the political and social situation in our region
 - o News of a positive and inspirational character concerning individuals and congregations
 - o Reports about problems or particular challenges within the church
- We will pray for each other in our worship services and during other events in the churches.
- We will arrange visits from Ramallah to Byåsen, and from Byåsen to Ramallah.

Visiting each other

Our main goal is to develop a partnership between the congregations, meaning:

- Organized visits from both churches to the other
- Exchanging knowledge and experiences concerning work with children, youth and adult ministries.
- We intend to bring knowledge to our members about each other's contexts and the difficulties we may be passing through.

Evaluation

After 4 years the two churches will evaluate the experiences achieved through this partnership agreement, with the purpose of its continuance.

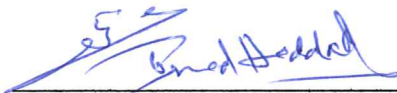
Church of Hope, Ramallah, September 3, 2017



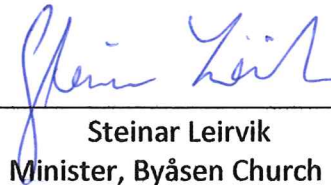
Issa Mrebe, church board
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hope



John Stene, church board
Byåsen Church



Imad Haddad
Minister, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hope



Steinar Leirvik
Minister, Byåsen Church