

Declaration of the consultation of partner churches

Preamble

„...so that Globalisation serves Life“ – under this headline the synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mecklenburg (ELLM) passed a declaration on the occasion of the G8 summit in Heiligendamm 2007, which took place in its area. With this declaration a consultation process about globalisation was started that involved the partner churches of ELLM. Meeting in Leipzig Mission 28.09. - 01.10.2009, representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (Pare Diocese), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Southern Ohio Synod), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg agreed on the following recommendations for the member churches, participants and for the 11th Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation 2010 in Stuttgart.

Prologue

“For I do not what I want, but I do what I hate.” (Romans 7,15)

We are aware, that by our own power we are unable to realize the targets we formulate. But we trust in the redemptive power of the crucified and risen Lord, Jesus Christ, who works through us. By God’s grace and the leading of the Holy Spirit we have hope for a more perfect future as God’s kingdom has entered the world through Jesus Christ. We confess, that Jesus Christ is the source of our courage to articulate in love to the church and society what we consider as necessary on the matter of globalisation. Love of God, neighbour, and creation compels us to advocate in favour of human dignity and the integrity of creation in an age of globalisation. To that end we make our declaration with the prayer that God’s will be done and God’s kingdom will come, in part, through us.

Recommendations

Facing the severe effects of the global financial- and economic crisis with their dire consequences for developing nations, it is indispensable that in the future the financial sector return to its serving function in the economic system. It should also be used to restructure the world economy on the principles of sustainability, accountability, democracy and transparency. The costs of the financial crisis should be covered especially by the financial sector. A financial transaction tax, as being presently proposed by several European governments, can be an effective step towards the above mentioned goal.

Payment of executive bonuses amounts to preferential treatment of one segment of the workforce on no legitimate grounds whatsoever. We therefore reject payment of bonuses as an amoral practice that should be abolished.

As churches we are called to make sure that our own investments will serve the ecological restructuring of world economy.

Purchases by churches and church bodies have to meet high social standards of production and accountability.

Moreover just ecological and social standards of production and accountability have to be introduced and enforced globally.

Progressing climate change is leading to environmental degradation that will eventually destroy life and livelihood. It is therefore essential, that renewable energy

resources replace the presently used non-renewable resources of energy. Renewable sources of energy may not compete with the production of food stuffs.

Nuclear Energy is not a viable alternative – since nuclear waste is a threat to humanity.

Solar energy and other renewable sources of energy have to be accessible and affordable for every body. It is urgent, that the problem of efficient storage of solar energy be solved.

According to “polluter-pays principle”, industrial nations have to finance the costs of adaptation to the effects of climate change in developing countries – in addition to existing development budgets.

International law has to grant the status of climate refugees to people who leave their home areas for reasons of environmental degradation caused by climate change.

Experiences from Kazakhstan (Lake Aral), the Southwest USA (Lake Mead), and Tanzania (Lake Victoria and the melting snow of Mount Kilimanjaro) and other examples point to the fact, that effective protection of lakes and river systems has to be enforced globally.

In order to raise the awareness of environmental issues churches in industrialised countries are asked to compensate for their CO₂ emissions by contributing funds to projects in their partner churches.

As Christians it is our foremost duty, to develop through education and culture a sustainable and eco-sensitive lifestyle of minimum use of resources in order to allow a life in abundance for all creation.