

November 14, 2022

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Dear Pastor Mueller & Saints of St John & St Luke Lutheran Churches,

The International Lutheran Council (ILC) is getting much attention.

The ILC is 55 Lutheran church bodies from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America that believe the Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God and that the Lutheran Confessions are the true exposition of these Scriptures. The ILC is getting attention because presidents and bishops of these churches recently elected Bishop Juhana Pohjola (Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland) to be the new chairman of the ILC board of directors. Bishop Pohjola has been fighting for freedom of religious speech since being charged with hate crimes for publishing a booklet that lays out the biblical understanding of marriage, rejecting homosexuality and calling all to faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. (See more at www.ILCouncil.org.)



The ILC exists to encourage, strengthen, and promote confessional Lutheran theology and practice centering in Jesus

Some of the Bishops & Church Presidents attending the ILC World Conference in Kisumu, Kenya, September 2022, where Bishop Pohjola (far left) was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Christ, both among member churches and throughout the world. Bishop Pohjola was elected by acclamation and without opposition.

His election underscores two things about the ILC. First, the ILC is truly determined to stand fast on the Bible and the faith once delivered to the saints. Second, the ILC is determined to have leaders who are willing to put livelihood, reputation, and life on the line for sake of Christ and His Word.

The ILC is funded by (1) dues from member churches, (2) grants from foundations such as the Lutheran Legacy Foundation (<u>www.lutheranlegacyfoundation.org</u>), and (3) the voluntary gifts of individuals, congregations, and organizations.

We hope you also will choose to encourage confessional Lutherans around the world by

- learning more about the ILC and what is happening in global Lutheranism by frequently visiting our website www.ILCouncil.org;
- inviting us to share about the work of the ILC and explain the pressures that world Lutherans are facing.
 ILC leadership is eager to speak at your congregations, church conferences, pastor circuits, and conventions;
- supporting the ILC financially. One thousand donors of \$1000 per year (or \$100 per month) would presently fund the ILC and provide opportunity for program development.

To learn about our new Seminary Accreditation Agency, the Lutheran Leadership Development Program, World Conferences, Mission in Mercy—Ukraine, and other efforts of the ILC go online to www.ILCouncil.org or call or email us.

Retiring BOD Chairman, Bishop Hans-Jörg Voigt of Germany, (L) confers with Chair-elect Pohjola during a break at the ILC World Conference in Kenya.

The church year is near an end, and we pray *Come, Lord Jesus!* with urgent joy and confidence. Until our Lord returns Lutherans around the world continue to confess our faith in the God who has given all for our forgiveness through His Son and by His Spirit. Pray for our churches to remain faithful to this good confession.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Timothy C. J. Quill

General Secretary, ILC

P.S. use the enclosed giving card and envelope or visit <u>ILCouncil.org</u> and donate online. Look for the donate link donate online to the upper right corner of our web page.

P.P.S. If you do not desire to receive communications from the ILC, simply send an email or leave a phone message informing us.

CONGREGATION/ ORGANIZATION

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☐ We have a question or prayer request:			



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The International Lutheran Council (ILC) shares with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) an unconditional commitment to the inspired and infallible Holy Scriptures as the Word of God and to the Lutheran Confessions contained in the Book of Concord as the true exposition of the Holy Scriptures. The LCMS was the founding member, and continues to provide major financial and theological support for the work, of the ILC.



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