

Hilversum ,den 2.Februar 2009

Liebe Frauen aus dem WICAS Netzwerk Westeuropa

Untenstehenden Bericht: kam aus Genf letzte Woche

Die lutherische Kirche in England hat jetzt eine Bischöfin

Jana Jeruma-Grimberga, ehemalige Pfarrerin der lutherischen Gemeinde

St Anns in London wurde am 17.Januar 2009 in ihr Amt eingesetzt

Aus dem WICAS Netzwerk Westeuropa herzliche Glück und

Segenswünsche fürs das neue Amt.

Lutheran Woman Bishop Jeruma-Grinberga Succeeds Jagucki in Great Britain

Noko: An Encouraging Sign to Other Churches

*LONDON, United Kingdom/GENEVA, 29 January 2009 (LWI)* - At her consecration on 17 January as the new bishop of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain (LCiGB), Bishop Jana Jeruma-Grinberga, the first woman to head the church, said the cultural and language diversities of the LCiGB were important contributions to the sharing of the faith.

"We are diverse in our cultural origins, diverse in our languages and diverse in the ways in which we 'do' church," said Jeruma-Grinberga, addressing congregation members including Lutheran leaders from different parts of the world, during her consecration in St Anne's Lutheran Church, London. That shows that the people there are united much more deeply by their shared faith, by a shared delight in the grace of God and by a desire to witness to the gospel in this land, she added.

Jeruma-Grinberga succeeds Bishop Walter A. Jagucki who had led the church since 2000. Jagucki presided at the consecration assisted by Archbishop Elmars E. Rozitis of the Germany-based Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad, and Bishop Jon Baldvinsson of Holar, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland.

In her sermon based on Job 19: 23-27, Bishop Antje Jackelen from the Diocese of Lund, Church of Sweden, spoke about the prophet Job as both a hero of faith and a questioner of faith. "You may argue with God, you may question God, you may call upon God against God in the face of evil and suffering," as Job had done, she said.

Job, she noted, is "a hero of faith, precisely because he is a questioner of faith and a questioner in faith [...] in the long row of questioners in the Scriptures, who all in their own ways received the blessing and the peace of the living God," Jackelen explained. "Now, there's a promise to walk with - as bishops and pastors and lay ministers, as women and men and children of faith," she concluded.

Greeting the congregation, the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko commended the LCiGB for electing a woman bishop to lead the church. He expressed his hope that this would encourage other churches who have not introduced the practice of ordaining women. "And I hope that this will also be regarded as a sign that ordination is for all the baptized, who are called through the church." He also reminded the ecumenical guests at the consecration service that "for Lutherans, ecumenism is not an option, but an obligation which is frequently stated in the saying: 'To be Lutheran is to be ecumenical.'"

Other Lutheran leaders participating in the consecration service included Bishop Matti Repo of Tampere, Finland; Presiding Bishop Alex Malasusa, Tanzania; and Rev. Ilona Fritz, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the Protestant Church in the Netherlands.

Jeruma-Grinberga was born in London in 1953 to parents who were refugees from Latvia. She was ordained in 1997 in the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Great Britain and served its London parish. She was the senior pastor of St Anne's Lutheran Church in London until July 2008. She is a director of the Lutheran Council of Great Britain (LCGB), which represents 10 national Lutheran churches that have congregations or chaplaincies in Britain.

The LCiGB has congregations worshipping in Amharic, Chinese, English, Oromo, Polish, Kiswahili and Tigrinya. It is the only church affiliated to the Council that has its bishop and full church administration in Britain. The other LCGB churches are under the jurisdiction of a bishop or church office in their home country.

The LCiGB has 2,810 members, and joined the LWF in 1988. The LCGB which represents a combined membership of 130,600 is a recognized Council of the LWF, which it joined in 1989. (630 words)

*(With contribution from the LCGB and the Communication Committee for Lutheran Minority Churches in Europe - KALME)*

Ende März Anfang April kommt der nächste Newsletter  
Bitte schicken Sie Artikel Ankündigungen, die wir veröffentlichen können  
bis 23. März 2009  
Herzlichen Gruss  
Cornelia Hübner