

The Mission of God

Second Consultation of the Lausanne-Orthodox
Initiative

Monastery of St. Vlash, Albania



The Lausanne-Orthodox
Initiative

the
Lausanne
movement

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15 - 19 September 2014

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The Lausanne-Orthodox
Initiative



a joint initiative by Orthodox and Evangelical leaders
with a focus on the Mission of God

The LOI Mission Statement

The goal of the Lausanne Orthodox Initiative is to reflect constructively on the history of relationships between Orthodox and Evangelicals in order to work towards better understanding and healing where wounds exist. Through this process Evangelicals and Orthodox will be mutually enriched and strengthened in the work of mission, working towards mutual respect, support and cooperation.

CONSULTATION PARTICIPANTS

His Eminence Archbishop Anastasios, Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania

Rev Dr. Femi B Adeleye, World Vision International

His Grace Bishop Angaelos, Coptic Church of Egypt, UK

Bishop Mathews Mor Aphrem, Syrian Orthodox Church, India

Dr Ramez Atallah, Bible Society of Egypt

Dr Bishara Awad, Bethlehem Bible College

Revd Dr Doug Birdsall, Lausanne Movement

Mr Harry Bryans, European Evangelical Alliance

Prof Dr Otniel Ioan Bunaciu, President of Baptist Union of Romania

Prof Simon Chan, Singapore

Metropolitan Dr Yuhanon Mar Demetrios, Syrian Orthodox Church, North India

Bishop Yuhanon Mar Diascoros, Syrian Orthodox Church, South India

Mrs Leslie Doll, Lausanne Movement

Ato Yilma Getahun, Bible Society of Ethiopia

Dr Tim Grass, Spurgeon's College, UK

Pastor Alfred Gollosi, Albanian Evangelical Brotherhood (VUSH)

Mr Richard Harvey, Jews for Jesus, UK

Mr Taylor Hostetter, Orthodox Church in America

His Grace Bishop Nikolla Hyka, Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania

Mr Altin Hysi, Interconfessional Bible Society of Albania

Revd Dr Nelson Jennings, Overseas Ministries Study Centre, USA

Revd Geoff Kimber, Church of England/Church Mission Society

Prof Anne-Marie Kool, Central & E. European Assoc. for Mission Studies, Hungary

Mr Sergey Koryakin, Moscow Evangelical Christian Seminary

Prof Dimitra Koukoura, Ecumenical Patriarchate, Greece

Mr Petro Kovaliv, Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary

Dr Jim Kushiner, Executive Director of the Fellowship of St. James

Dr Ralph Lee, Navigators, Ethiopia

Mr Georges Lemopoulos, Ecumenical Patriarchate, Greece
Ms Lisa Loden, Musalaha
Mr. David Lyons, Navigators, USA
His Eminence Archbishop Makarios, Orthodox Church, Kenya
Dr Danut Manastireanu, World Vision, Romania
Mrs Grace Mathews, Lausanne Movement
Dr Rajan Mathews, Syrian Orthodox Church, India
Mr Jeffrey MacDonald, Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania
His Grace Bishop Andon Merdani, Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania
Revd Dr Larry Miller, Global Christian Forum
Mr Tekletsadik Belachew Nigru, Ethiopia
Mr Zefjan Nikolla, International Fellowship of Evangelical Students
Mr Moss Ntlha, World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission
Revd Canon Mark Oxbrow, Faith2Share
Dr Parush Parushev, International Baptist Seminary, Amsterdam
Ms Katerina Pekridou, Church of Greece
Archpriest Stephen Platt, Moscow Patriarchate, UK
Mr Anton Ponomarev, Faith2Share
Protodeacon Radomir Rakic, Bible Society / Orthodox Church of Serbia
Dr Mel Robeck, Fuller Theological Seminary, USA
Fr Prof Dr Ioan Sauca, World Council of Churches
Dr Alexey Somov, Institute of Bible Translation, Russia
Dr James Stamoolis, USA
Dr Elmer Thiessen, Canada
Prof. Stelian Tofana, Romanian Orthodox Church
Archpriest Eric Tosi, Orthodox Church in America
Fr. Spiro Tsimouris, Church of Greece
Dr. Grant White, Orthodox Church of Finland
His Eminence Metropolitan Dr. Geevarghese Mar Yulios, Syrian Orthodox Church, North India

The LOI Website

During the consultation please use the LOI website to access an electronic version of the programme, practical details and the many resources held there.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative website. The header features the title "Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative" in a large, bold, blue font against a background of flowing blue and white patterns. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Welcome", "News", "Our Churches", "2014 LOI Consultation", "Resources", "Links", "Prayer", and "Contact", along with a search icon. The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, a "Welcome" section includes a paragraph about the initiative's purpose and a photograph of a man in a white shirt performing a ritual on a woman in a colorful, patterned dress. To the right of the photograph is a "Subscribe to Blog via Email" section with a text input field containing "markobrow@aol.com" and a red "Subscribe" button. Below the photograph is a "Latest News" section with a red header and the text "The Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative (LOI) Mission Statement". The mission statement text is located below this header. On the far right, a "Recent Posts" section lists several articles with titles like "A 50 year perspective", "Evangelicals in Syria and Lebanon issue urgent appeal", "Solidarity with Christians in the Middle East", "Respecting one another in mission", and "Ethiopian Orthodoxy".

Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative

Welcome News Our Churches 2014 LOI Consultation Resources Links Prayer Contact

Welcome

The Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative is a movement of Orthodox and Evangelical Christians who wish to respect each other's beliefs, learn from each other, and support one another as we each obey the call to share in God's mission.

The initiative was established after the Third Lausanne Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, in 2010.

We welcome your active participation.



Latest News

The Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative (LOI)

Mission Statement

The goal of the Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative is to reflect constructively on the history of relationships between Orthodox and Evangelicals in order to work towards better understanding, and encourage reconciliation and healing where wounds exist. Through this process Evangelicals and Orthodox will be mutually enriched and strengthened in the work of mission, working towards mutual respect, support and cooperation in the spirit of our Lord's prayer for His Church in John 17.

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All Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative news is shared through our Blog page on this website. Enter your email address here to receive these updates direct to your in-box by email.

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Recent Posts

- A 50 year perspective
- Evangelicals in Syria and Lebanon issue urgent appeal
- Solidarity with Christians in the Middle East
- Respecting one another in mission
- Ethiopian Orthodoxy

www.loimission.net

CONSULTATION PROGRAMME

Monday 15 September

Morning/afternoon – Participant arrivals and registration. (*Airport transits will be provided for all participants who have notified the LOI facilitator of their arrival time and flight number.*)

5.15pm. **Welcome Reception**

7.00pm. **Opening Dinner and Reception** with a welcome from His Eminence Archbishop Anastasios and Pastor Ali Kurti, President of the Evangelical Alliance of Albania.

Biblical Reflection from His Eminence Metropolitan G. Mar Yulios, **Progress Report on LOI** by the co-chairs His Grace Bishop Angaelos and Mrs. Grace Mathews.

9.00pm. Small group introductions

9.30pm. Free time

Tuesday 16 September

7.45am. Breakfast

8.45am. **Consultation Welcome**
His Grace Bishop Angaelos and Mrs. Grace Matthews

9.00am. **Biblical Reflection** : Dr Ramez Atallah

9.30am. **Plenary : SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION**
Presenter : Prof Stelian Tofana
Responder : Prof Anne-Marie Kool

10.15am. Break

10.30am. **Plenary : CONVERSION**

Presenter : Prof Simon Chan

KOINONIC EVANGELISM

Presenter : Archpriest Eric Tosi

11.15am. Break

11.45am. **Discussion Groups**

1.00pm. Lunch

3.00pm. **YOUTH EVENT**

Speakers : His Grace Bishop Angaelos, Coptic Church of Egypt (UK) and
Mr. Austin McCaskill, Albanian Encouragement Project.

4.45pm. Break

5.15pm. **Small Groups : Sharing our Journeys in Mission**

7.00pm. Dinner (with youth participants)

8.15pm. **Plenary : HOPE and COLLABORATION**

Report from Global Christian Forum meeting,

'Call to Mission and Perception of Proselytism' Rev Dr Larry Miller

Short Reports of Collaboration in Mission

1. **Institute for Bible Translation, Moscow** : Mr Alexey Somov
2. **Fellowship of the Cross of Nails** : Rev Geoff Kimber
3. **Veritas** : Mrs Leslie Doll
4. **Logos Centre, Kiev** : *Video presentation*

Participants will be invited to share their own experiences of collaboration between Orthodox and Evangelical Christians as part of the mission of God during this session.

Wednesday 17 September

- 8.00am. Breakfast
- 9.00am. **Biblical Reflection** : His Grace Bishop Andon Merdani
- 9.30am. **Plenary : ECCLESIOLOGY and MISSION**
Presenter: Fr. Ioan Sauca
- 10.15am. Break
- 10.30am. **Plenary : ECCLESIOLOGY and MISSION**
Presenter: Dr. Mel Robeck
- 11.15am. Break
- 11.45am. **Discussion Groups**
- 1.00pm. Lunch
- 2.00pm. **Plenary : CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION**
A discussion with a panel of speakers led by His Grace Bishop Angaeolos with Dr. Bishara Awad, Ato Tekle Belachew, Dr Richard Harvey and Archdeacon Radomir Rakic.
- 3.45pm. **Prayer for Situations of Conflict**
- 4.30pm. Depart for Tirana
- 5.30pm. Visit to 'Resurrection of Christ' Orthodox Cathedral, Tirana
- 6.30pm. **Group visit to ALBANIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH in Tirana**
To include worship, a presentation and testimonies from several evangelicals about their Christian journey.
- 8.15pm. Buffet Supper in Tirana with evangelical community
- 10.00pm. Arrival back at St. Vlash

Thursday 18 September

8.00am. Breakfast

9.00am. **Biblical Reflection** : Revd Dr Femi Adeleye

9.30am. **Plenary : ETHICAL EVANGELISM and PROSELYTISM**
Presenter: Dr. Elmer Thiessen

10.15am. Break

10.30am. **Plenary : ETHICAL EVANGELISM and PROSELYTISM**
Responders: His Eminence Metropolitan Dr. Yuhanon
Mar Demetrios and Dr. Danut Manastireanu

11.15am. Break

11.45am. **Discussion Groups**

1.00pm. Lunch (Steering Group meets over lunch)

3.00pm. **Plenary : NEXT STEPS**
A discussion led by members of the Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative Steering Group to consider the next steps for this initiative and Orthodox-Evangelical relationships in general.

3.45pm. **Group Discussions**

4.30pm. Break

5.15pm. **Final Plenary**

7.00pm. **CLOSING DINNER and EVENING RECEPTION**

Friday 19 September

8.00am. **Orthodox Liturgy**

9.30am. Breakfast

Morning/afternoon : Departures

Host and Speaker Profiles

His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios

His Beatitude Anastasios (Yannoulatos), Archbishop of Tirana, Durrës and All Albania is the head of the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania. Besides being a prolific writer, Archbishop Anastasios is known for his missionary initiatives in East Africa and critical leadership in the resurrection of the Albanian church in the 20th century after it was decimated by the Communist regime. He graduated in Theology from the Theological School of the National University of Athens in 1952, later undertaking postgraduate studies in the history of religion including ethnology, missiology and African studies both in Uganda and Germany. His doctorate in theology was awarded by the National University of Athens where he later became Professor of the History of Religions. In 1982, as a missionary to East Africa, he re-opened the Orthodox Seminary in Nairobi and over the next ten years saw 60 indigenous clergy trained and ordained.



Professor Stelian Tofană

Professor Stelian Tofană teaches in the Faculty of Orthodox Theology at Babe-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. His expertise is in the areas of New Testament studies and languages, Johannine theology, Pauline pastoral theology and the Letter to the Hebrews. He has published many articles in his specialist topics and has an interest in mission and ecumenical relations. He was a participant in the first Lausanne-Orthodox Consultation in 2013.



Professor Anne-Marie Kool

Prof. Dr. Anne-Marie Kool was born in the Netherlands. She holds an MA in Theology, a PhD in Missiology from Utrecht University and Dr habil from Reformed University of Divinity, Debrecen. Since 1987 she served as one of the first unofficial staff members of IFES residential behind the iron curtain in



Hungary, whilst pursuing PhD studies. Since 1994 she has been active in several networks for theological and missiology education in Central and Eastern Europe, and served since 1998 as Professor of Missiology at several seminaries and universities in Hungary and elsewhere. Anne-Marie has been President of the Central and Eastern European Association for Mission Studies.

Professor Simon Chan

Simon Chan is Earnest Lau Professor of Systematic Theology at Trinity Theological College in Singapore. He is an ordained minister of the Assemblies of God of Singapore and was involved in the Pentecostal-Orthodox discussions in the past. One of his areas of academic interest is the interface between Pentecostalism and the larger Christian spiritual traditions. His publications include *Pentecostal Ecclesiology: An Essay on the Development of Doctrine* (2011) and more recently *Grassroots Asian Theology* (2014).



Archpriest Eric Tosi

Archpriest Eric George Tosi is the Secretary of the Orthodox Church in America. He has served parishes in Montana, Nevada and New Jersey. He was the former Chair of the Department of Evangelization of the OCA and currently manages and lectures the Mentorship Program for St. Vladimir's Seminary. He has a BA in Economics and History and an MA in European History from Fordham University, an MDiv from St. Vladimir's Seminary. He is currently defending his doctoral thesis at the University of Toronto on "Koinonic Evangelism: A Case Study of the Theology and Practice of Evangelism as Practiced in Three Parishes of the Orthodox Church in America". He is married with two children.



Professor Ioan Sauca

Fr Prof. Ioan Sauca, of the Orthodox Church in Romania, serves as Professor and Director at Bossey Ecumenical Institute and as Associate General Secretary for the WCC programme on Ecumenical Formation. Prior to joining the



WCC he taught mission and ecumenism at the faculty of theology in Sibiu, Romania and later served his Patriarchate as head of the newly established Department of Press and Communication with additional responsibility for the Department for External and Ecumenical Church Relations and of religious education in public schools. Fr Ioan obtained his Ph.D. in Theology (Missiology) at the University of Birmingham, UK. He is also an alumnus of the Graduate School at the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey.

Dr Mel Robeck

Dr. Cecil M. Robeck, Jr. (Mel) serves as Professor of Church History and Ecumenics and Director of the David du Plessis Center for Christian Spirituality at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA, USA. He is a member of the Commission on Faith and Order of the WCC. He is the co-chair of the International Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue, the World Communion of Reformed Churches-Pentecostal Dialogue, the Joint Consultative Group, and a member of the Lutheran World Federation-Pentecostal Dialogue. His recent writings include *The Azusa Street Mission* (Thomas Nelson 2006), and Cecil M. Robeck, Jr. and Amos Yong, Eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Pentecostalism* (2014).



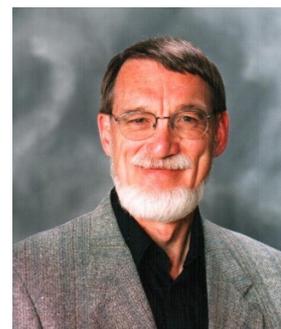
Bishop Angaelos

His Grace Bishop Angaelos is General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the United Kingdom. Born in Cairo he emigrated to Australia during his childhood and later obtained a degree in Political Science, Philosophy and Sociology, continuing on to postgraduate studies in Law. In 1990 he returned to Egypt to the monastery of St Bishoy in Wadi-El-Natroun where he was consecrated a monk by the late Pope Shenouda III and served as his private secretary, until 1995 when he was delegated to serve a parish in the UK, consecrated bishop in 1999. His ministry as a bishop in the UK has focused particularly on youth ministry, ecumenical relations and advocacy for Christians in the Middle East. In addition to many ecumenical and community appointments Bishop Angaelos serves as co-chair of the Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative.



Dr. Elmer Theissen

Elmer Thiessen comes to us from Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, where he has resided since his retirement in 2007. The bulk of Elmer's career was spent teaching philosophy at Medicine Hat College in Alberta, for 36 years. Since his retirement he continues to teach on a part-time basis in Kitchener/Waterloo, as well as overseas. His most recent foreign teaching assignment was at the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology in Kingston, Jamaica, in the fall of 2013. He has published numerous articles and book reviews, both in professional journals and religious magazines. His most recent book, *The Ethics of Evangelism: A Philosophical Defense of Ethical Proselytizing and Persuasion*, was published by Paternoster Press and IVP Academic in 2011. Elmer has been active in Mennonite churches as lay-minister, preacher, and teacher. He and his wife, Maggie, have 3 married children and 6 grandchildren.



Metropolitan Dr. Yuhanon Mar Demetrios

Bishop Youhanon Mar Demetrios is the metropolitan of the Diocese of Delhi of the Malankara Orthodox Syria Church, one of the family of the Oriental Orthodox Churches. He took his Ph. D in New Testament and was Professor of BT at the Orthodox Theological Seminar in Kerala for 22 years before his consecration as metropolitan in 2010. He is active in ecumenical relations, representing his church in the Global Christian Forum, the Catholic-Oriental Orthodox Churches Dialogue and regional council of churches.



Dr Danut Manastireanu

Dr. Danut Manastireanu, an Anglican theologian in Romania, has finished in 2005 his PhD studies in Orthodox theology at Brunel University, London. He is Director for Faith & Development for the Middle East & Eastern Europe region of World Vision International. He has been involved for over twenty years in promoting dialogue and cooperation between Evangelicals and the Orthodox in Romania and beyond.



Discussion Groups

Green	Blue
<p>Richard Harvey Grace Mathews Yilma Getahun Sergyey Koryakin Larry Miller Elmer Theissen Katerina Pekridou Metropolitan Mar Diascoros Alfred Golloschi</p>	<p>Jim Stamoolis Archbishop Anastasios Bishop Angaelos Dimitra Koukoura Geoff Kimber Basha Awad Petro Kovaliv Tekle Nigru Jim Kushiner</p>
Red	Purple
<p>Moss Ntlha Tim Grass Metropolitan Mor Aphrem Lisa Loden Taylor Hostetter Stephen Platt Ramez Atallah Anton Ponomarev Jeffrey MacDonald</p>	<p>Ralph Lee Danut Manastireanu Rajan Mathews Grant White Simon Chan Eric Tosi Georges Lemopoulos Metropolitan Mar Demetrios Femi Adeleye</p>
Yellow	Brown
<p>Otniel Bunaciu Leslie Doll David Lyons Alexey Somov Nelson Jennings Ioan Sauca Anne-Marie Kool Spiro Tsimouris</p>	<p>Parush Parushev Mel Robeck Radomir Rakic Metropolitan Mar Yulios Harry Bryans Mark Oxbrow Stelian Tofana Doug Birdsall Archbishop Makarios</p>

Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World

Recommendations for Conduct

World Council of Churches; Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue; World Evangelical Alliance

Preamble

Mission belongs to the very being of the church. Proclaiming the word of God and witnessing to the world is essential for every Christian. At the same time, it is necessary to do so according to gospel principles, with full respect and love for all human beings.

Aware of the tensions between people and communities of different religious convictions and the varied interpretations of Christian witness, the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID), the World Council of Churches (WCC) and, at the invitation of the WCC, the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), met during a period of 5 years to reflect and produce this document to serve as a set of recommendations for conduct on Christian witness around the world. This document does not intend to be a theological statement on mission but to address practical issues associated with Christian witness in a multi-religious world.

The purpose of this document is to encourage churches, church councils and mission agencies to reflect on their current practices and to use the recommendations in this document to prepare, where appropriate, their own guidelines for their witness and mission among those of different religions and among those who do not profess any particular religion. It is hoped that Christians across the world will study this document in the light of their own practices in witnessing to their faith in Christ, both by word and deed.

A basis for Christian witness

1. For Christians it is a privilege and joy to give an accounting for the hope that is within them and to do so with gentleness and respect (cf. 1 Peter 3:15).
2. Jesus Christ is the supreme witness (cf. John 18:37). Christian witness is always a sharing in his witness, which takes the form of proclamation of the kingdom, service to neighbour and the total gift of self even if that act of giving leads to the cross. Just as the Father sent the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit, so believers are sent in mission to witness in word and action to the love of the triune God.
3. The example and teaching of Jesus Christ and of the early church must be the guides for Christian mission. For two millennia Christians have sought to follow Christ's way by sharing the good news of God's kingdom (cf. Luke 4:16-20).
4. Christian witness in a pluralistic world includes engaging in dialogue with people of different religions and cultures (cf. Acts 17:22-28).
5. In some contexts, living and proclaiming the gospel is difficult, hindered or even prohibited, yet Christians are commissioned by Christ to continue faithfully in solidarity with one another in their witness to him (cf. Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:44-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8).

6. If Christians engage in inappropriate methods of exercising mission by resorting to deception and coercive means, they betray the gospel and may cause suffering to others. Such departures call for repentance and remind us of our need for God's continuing grace (cf. Romans 3:23).

7. Christians affirm that while it is their responsibility to witness to Christ, conversion is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit (cf. John 16:7-9; Acts 10:44-47). They recognize that the Spirit blows where the Spirit wills in ways over which no human being has control (cf. John 3:8).

Principles

Christians are called to adhere to the following principles as they seek to fulfil Christ's commission in an appropriate manner, particularly within interreligious contexts.

1. Acting in God's love. Christians believe that God is the source of all love and, accordingly, in their witness they are called to live lives of love and to love their neighbour as themselves (cf. Matthew 22:34-40; John 14:15).

2. Imitating Jesus Christ. In all aspects of life, and especially in their witness, Christians are called to follow the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, sharing his love, giving glory and honour to God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit (cf. John 20:21-23).

3. Christian virtues. Christians are called to conduct themselves with integrity, charity, compassion and humility, and to overcome all arrogance, condescension and disparagement (cf. Galatians 5:22).

4. Acts of service and justice. Christians are called to act justly and to love tenderly (cf. Micah 6:8). They are further called to serve others and in so doing to recognize Christ in the least of their sisters and brothers (cf. Matthew 25:45). Acts of service, such as providing education, health care, relief services and acts of justice and advocacy are an integral part of witnessing to the gospel. The exploitation of situations of poverty and need has no place in Christian outreach. Christians should denounce and refrain from offering all forms of allurements, including financial incentives and rewards, in their acts of service.

5. Discernment in ministries of healing. As an integral part of their witness to the gospel, Christians exercise ministries of healing. They are called to exercise discernment as they carry out these ministries, fully respecting human dignity and ensuring that the vulnerability of people and their need for healing are not exploited.

6. Rejection of violence. Christians are called to reject all forms of violence, even psychological or social, including the abuse of power in their witness. They also reject violence, unjust discrimination or repression by any religious or secular authority, including the violation or destruction of places of worship, sacred symbols or texts.

7. Freedom of religion and belief. Religious freedom including the right to publicly profess, practice, propagate and change one's religion flows from the very dignity of the human person which is grounded in the creation of all human beings in the image and likeness of God (cf. Genesis 1:26). Thus, all human beings have equal rights and responsibilities. Where any religion is instrumentalized for political ends, or where religious persecution occurs, Christians are called to engage in a prophetic witness denouncing such actions.

8. Mutual respect and solidarity. Christians are called to commit themselves to work with all people in mutual respect, promoting together justice, peace and the common good. Interreligious cooperation is an essential dimension of such commitment.

9. Respect for all people. Christians recognize that the gospel both challenges and enriches cultures. Even when the gospel challenges certain aspects of cultures, Christians are called to respect all people. Christians are also called to discern elements in their own cultures that are challenged by the gospel.

10. Renouncing false witness. Christians are to speak sincerely and respectfully; they are to listen in order to learn about and understand others' beliefs and practices, and are encouraged to acknowledge and appreciate what is true and good in them. Any comment or critical approach should be made in a spirit of mutual respect, making sure not to bear false witness concerning other religions.

11. Ensuring personal discernment. Christians are to acknowledge that changing one's religion is a decisive step that must be accompanied by sufficient time for adequate reflection and preparation, through a process ensuring full personal freedom.

12. Building interreligious relationships. Christians should continue to build relationships of respect and trust with people of different religions so as to facilitate deeper mutual understanding, reconciliation and cooperation for the common good.

Recommendations

The Third Consultation organized by the World Council of Churches and the PCID of the Holy See in collaboration with World Evangelical Alliance with participation from the largest Christian families of faith (Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Evangelical and Pentecostal), having acted in a spirit of ecumenical cooperation to prepare this document for consideration by churches, national and regional confessional bodies and mission organizations, and especially those working in interreligious contexts, recommends that these bodies:

1. **study** the issues set out in this document and where appropriate formulate guidelines for conduct regarding Christian witness applicable to their particular contexts. Where possible this should be done ecumenically, and in consultation with representatives of other religions.
2. **build** relationships of respect and trust with people of all religions, in particular at institutional levels between churches and other religious communities, engaging in on-going interreligious dialogue as part of their Christian commitment. In certain contexts, where years of tension and conflict have created deep suspicions and breaches of trust between and among communities, interreligious dialogue can provide new opportunities for resolving conflicts, restoring justice, healing of memories, reconciliation and peace-building.
3. **encourage** Christians to strengthen their own religious identity and faith while deepening their knowledge and understanding of different religions, and to do so also taking into account the perspectives of the adherents of those religions. Christians should avoid misrepresenting the beliefs and practices of people of different religions.
4. **cooperate** with other religious communities engaging in interreligious advocacy towards justice and the common good and, wherever possible, standing together in solidarity with people who are in situations of conflict.
5. **call** on their governments to ensure that freedom of religion is properly and comprehensively respected, recognizing that in many countries religious institutions and persons are inhibited from exercising their mission.
6. **pray** for their neighbours and their well-being, recognizing that prayer is integral to who we are and what we do, as well as to Christ's mission.

Introducing the LOI Website

During the past year the LOI website has grown into a major resource centre for those concerned for better relationships between Evangelical and Orthodox Christians as we engage in mission.

We now have:

- Several pages of resource listings, many with direct hyperlink access to the relevant resource;
- Reports and pictures from the 2013 consultation;
- Complete information on the 2014 consultation;
- Links to other organisations and movements;
- Regular news items (with 54 news items during the last year);
- And much more.

In future we plan to publish some of the papers from our consultation on the website.

You can register to receive the news items as they are published by entering your email address on the home page of the website and clicking  .



www.loimission.net

The Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative expresses its deep gratitude to all who have made this consultation possible. We are especially indebted to:

His Beatitude Archbishop Anastasios and the Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania for their hospitality at St. Vlash monastery

The Interconfessional Bible Society of Albania, The Bible Society (UK) and those other individuals and corporate bodies who have made substantial financial contributions to ensure this consultation is a success.

Faith2Share for its administrative and facilitation services

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to share information between participants and with the many others who are supportive of this initiative but were unable to be here in Albania. You can also keep in touch with the LOI by emailing mark.oxbrow@faith2share.net

NOTES



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