



LWF CENTER
WITTENBERG
THE LUTHERAN
WORLD FEDERATION



LWF Center Wittenberg, Jüdenstraße 9, 06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg

To all member churches of the Lutheran World Federation

Wittenberg, January 10, 2023

**Invitation to the
6th LWF International Seminar for Lay Persons in Church Leadership in Geneva and Wittenberg,
June 18-27, 2023**

Respected Bishops and Presidents,
dear Sisters and Brothers in the leadership of the member churches of the Lutheran World Federation,

Many of you know about the **LWF International Seminars for Lay Persons in Church Leadership** that are organised in close cooperation of the LWF Communion Office in Geneva and the LWF Center Wittenberg. A lot of participants from LWF member churches have come back home from these LWF seminars strengthened and inspired for their leadership ministry.

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the annual LWF Seminar for Lay Leaders was held in a digital format in the last two years. In **2023**, we return to invite **in person** to the LWF Communion Office in Geneva and the LWF Center Wittenberg.

It is my honor and pleasure today to convey to you our invitation to the

**6th LWF International Seminar for Lay Persons in Church Leadership:
“Lutheran visions and values in church leadership practice today –
Inspiration from the Bible and Lutheran tradition”,
June 18 – 27, 2023, in Geneva and Wittenberg.**

We are working together with two distinguished academic teachers: **The Rev. Cheryl M. Peterson, Ph.D.**, Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, Columbus (USA), and **the Rev. Dr. Samuel Dawai**, former director of EFLC’s Kaélé Seminary (Northern Cameroon) and since July 2022 LWF Regional Secretary for Africa, Yaounde (Cameroon).

The seminar will **start on June 18, 2023, in Geneva**. Besides theological studies and reflection on church leadership, participants will learn about the organization and work of the Lutheran World Federation at its Headquarters.

On **June 23**, the group will travel together to **Wittenberg**. Here, participants will have the opportunity to continue theological studies and reflection as well as to deepen their spiritual life while connecting with the historical roots of the Lutheran faith and tradition.

On **June 27, 2023**, the participants will travel **home directly from Wittenberg**.

Distinguished Bishops and Presidents,

We kindly ask you to **identify suitable lay persons in leadership position** in your church whom you would like to **nominate** for this seminar. We would like to encourage you to think also of women and young people to be nominated. Those who participate should have the capacity and opportunity to share their knowledge and newly gained competence after the seminar with other church leaders at home.

Please, be aware that participants will need a document for international travel (**passport**) which must be **valid at least until December 28, 2023**.

Excellent knowledge of English is required since the seminar will be conducted in English.

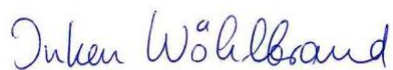
We ask the sending churches to **take over all costs** related to the **visa process** of their participant(s). We also ask for a **contribution** to the **seminar costs** of about 1,000 EURO (accommodation, meals, entrance fees, study material) plus flight ticket costs. Please indicate in the **nomination form** what your church resp. the participant can contribute. We expect the sending churches resp. participants from the regions North America, Nordic Countries, Western & Central Europe and Australia to fully cover these costs.

Official letters of invitation, health insurance (if necessary), information about the visa process and details about the flight booking will be sent to the participants at a later stage.

Attached, you will find a **nomination form**. Please, send your nomination(s) to Rev. Dr. Sámuel Nánási, Director of Studies at LWF Center Wittenberg (nanasi@dnk-lwb.de), **no later than February 20, 2023**.

With kind greetings from our academic teachers Cheryl Peterson, Ph.D., and Dr. Samuel Dawai as well as from my colleagues Rev. Katariina Kiilunen, Program Executive for Leadership Development at LWF Communion Office, and Rev. Dr. Sámuel Nánási, Director of Studies at LWF Center Wittenberg,

Yours in Christ –



(Rev. Inken Wöhlbrand, Executive Director)