



Communiqué

Anglican–Lutheran International Commission on Unity and Mission (ALICUM)

Amman, Jordan

29 March–2 April 2025



The full ALICUM Commission met in Amman, Jordan, from 29 March until 2 April 2025 with the theme 'Our baptismal unity'. After the Anglican–Lutheran International Co-ordinating Council completed its work in 2016, ALICUM was constituted in 2018 by the Lutheran World Federation Council and the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion. ALICUM provides a new approach to the promotion and monitoring of Anglican–Lutheran relations around the world: ALICUM is a dispersed commission, consisting of regional or national pairings of Anglican and Lutheran bishops and other church leaders exercising *episcopé*. The ALICUM Steering Group is tasked with planning and accompanying these pairings; it meets annually. This was the first meeting of the full commission. Anglican–Lutheran pairs from Cameroon, Colombia, the Holy Land, Malaysia, Tanzania, and the USA as well as from the Porvoo Communion (Ireland, Scotland and Finland) and Germany took part. The Canadian and Hong Kong pairs were unfortunately unable to attend the meeting.

Members of the Commission prayed, worshiped and sang together, sharing morning and evening prayer, and attending Sunday Eucharists at the Anglican Church of the Redeemer and the Evangelical Lutheran Good Shepherd Church, both in Amman. They heard and discussed presentations on baptismal ecclesiology and on the existing Anglican–Lutheran agreements. Guided by Pastors Imad Haddad and Mark LaChonce, the Commission was privileged to make a pilgrimage to the site of Jesus’ baptism at Bethany Beyond the Jordan, the site of Moses’ death at Mount Nebo, and the 5th/6th-century mosaic map of the Holy Land at Madaba. They renewed their baptismal vows at the Jordan River, and reaffirmed their commitment to their churches’ shared mission to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The meeting closed with a commissioning service at the Evangelical Lutheran Good Shepherd Church.

The ALICUM pairs shared stories of their work together and of projects they are undertaking together. A rich picture emerged, offering many examples of deep relationships, expressed in prayer, liturgically and in shared mission. Areas of shared mission include collaboration in theological education, public theology, care for minorities, youth work and a range of different forms of shared discipleship. This witnesses to the way that local experiences of unity and mission continue to shape and inform theological dialogue. There was some discussion of the practical challenges of working closely together, including the different expectations of our churches around licensing and authorisation of clergy and worship leaders. The Commission affirmed that its work builds on the theological foundations laid by the work of earlier Anglican–Lutheran International Commissions, particularly on ministry, *episcopé*, and *diaconia*, and by the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, of which the Lutheran World Federation is an original signatory, and which has been affirmed by the Anglican Communion. ALICUM pairs worked together to agree aims and commitments for the next three years – to the next ALICUM summit in 2028 – while also planning for the longer term. Going forward, the Commission will also meet annually online to ensure the continuity of the shared work.

There remain important theological questions. One concerns the implications of full communion agreements for other churches in communion with the partners (known in ecumenical contexts as ‘transitivity’). A second concerns confirmation: while agreements of (full) communion achieve mutual recognition of ordained presbyteral and episcopal ministries (and differences on diaconal ministries have been recognised not to be communion dividing), Anglican canonical requirements for episcopal confirmation as a prerequisite for ordination mean that mutual recognition of confirmation has not always been achieved. Questions around the place and significance of confirmation are also raised within many of our churches by the renewed emphasis on baptismal ecclesiology. There also remain cultural challenges which impact our work towards unity, both locally and globally. Divisions within our communions can also challenge Anglican–Lutheran relationships.

In North America and Europe, Anglican–Lutheran relationships are rooted in and formed by formal agreements, particularly the full communion agreements: the Porvoo Common Statement (1996),¹ Called to Common Mission (1999/2000),² the Waterloo Declaration (2001),³ and the Augsburg Agreement (2024).⁴ It is, however, clear that even where no formal written agreements exist, Anglicans and Lutherans often work very closely together, up to and including mutual participation in episcopal ordinations and interchange of clergy, both of which imply a relationship of (full) communion. Several pairs articulated a wish for these relationships to be given a more formal basis, and various possibilities for taking this forward were discussed. The question of the implications of regional agreements for the global communions more widely was also raised. The Memorandum of Understanding for Joint Advocacy, signed in 2024 by the Lutheran World Federation and the Anglican Communion, was presented as an important basis for Anglican-Lutheran relations in the area of public theology.

The Commission members are very grateful to Pastor Imad Haddad of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Shepherd Church for the support and accompaniment of the Summit and to Archdeacon Fae'q Haddad of the Anglican Church of the Redeemer for his welcome. They are particularly grateful for the gracious and generous hospitality offered to them in this time of great trial. The Christians of Jordan and the Holy Land are Living Stones, bearing witness to the Gospel with faith and resilience. Commission members shared worship and meals with both Anglican and Lutheran congregations in Amman, and, having heard their stories of struggle and hope, stand in solidarity with the peoples of the Holy Land. Those who come from other places leave with a fresh commitment to pray and work for a just and lasting peace in this region.

¹ The member churches of Porvoo are: (Anglican): Church of England, Church of Ireland, Lusitanian Church of Portugal, Scottish Episcopal Church, Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain, Church in Wales; (Lutheran): Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark, Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, Church of Iceland, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania, Church of Norway, Church of Sweden, Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Worldwide, Lutheran Church in Great Britain. See <https://porvoocommunion.org>.

² The signatories of Called to Common Mission are The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. See https://resources.elca.org/wp-content/uploads/Called_To_Common_Mission.pdf.

³ The signatories of the Waterloo Declaration are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada. See www.anglican.ca/resources/called-to-full-communion-the-waterloo-declaration/.

⁴ The signatories of the Augsburg Agreement are The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bavaria. See <https://oekumene.bayern-evangelisch.de/dialog-mit-der-episcopal-church.php>.

Members of the Steering Group

Co-Chairs

The Rt Revd Dr Given Gaula, Bishop of Kondo, Anglican Church of Tanzania

Bishop Cindy Halmarson, Bishop (retired) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Lutheran Members

The Revd Terry Kee, Pastor of Jurong Christian Church, Singapore; former Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Singapore

Ms Titi Malik, Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria; Director of Women's Ministry, Yola Diocese; former member of the LWF Council

Bishop Dr Oliver Schuegraf, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schaumburg-Lippe

Anglican Members

The Revd Canon Professor Charlotte Methuen, Scottish Episcopal Church; Convener of the SEC Inter-Church Relations Committee

The Revd Canon Dr Scott Sharman, Anglican Church of Canada; Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

The Revd Professor Jeremiah Yang Guen Seok, Anglican Church of Korea; former president of the Sungkonghoe University, Seoul

ALICUM pairs

Cameroon

The Rt Revd Dibo Thomas-Babyngton Elango, Bishop of Cameroon, Church of the Province of West Africa

Bishop Jean Lamy Limangna, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon

Canada

The Rt Revd Chris Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop and Presiding Elder of the Sacred Circle, Anglican Church of Canada (unable to attend)

Bishop Jason Zinko, Bishop of Manitoba Northwestern Ontario Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (unable to attend)

Colombia

The Rt Revd Pastor Elías García Cárdenas, Bishop of Colombia, The Episcopal Church

Bishop Atahualpa Hernández Miranda, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia

Germany

The Rt Revd Mark Edington, Bishop in charge of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, The Episcopal Church (unable to attend)

Oberkirchenrat Michael Martin, Ecumenical Project Leader, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria

Holy Land

The Revd Canon Wadie Far, Canon Pastor to the Arabic Congregation, St George's Jerusalem, Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

Pastor Fursan Zu'mot, Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Reformation in Beit Jala, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

Hong Kong

The Revd Augusta Leung, Associate Priest, St Luke's Church and St Stephen's Church, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (unable to attend)

The Revd Ben Chun Wa Chang, LWF Vice-President for Asia, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (unable to attend)

Malaysia

The Rt Revd Dr Steven Abbarow, Bishop of West Malaysia, Church of the Province of South East Asia

Bishop Thomas Kok Chan Low, Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia

Porvoo Co-Chairs

The Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin and Bishop of Glendalough, Church of Ireland

The Rt Revd Dr Matti Repo, Bishop of Tampere, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Porvoo

The Rt Revd Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh, Scottish Episcopal Church

Bishop Kaisamari Hintikka, Bishop of Espoo, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Tanzania

The Rt Revd Dr Given Gaula, Bishop of Kondo, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop of Dodoma, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (represented at the summit by the Revd Stanley Tabulu, Assistant to the Bishop)

USA

The Rt Revd Betsey Monnot, Bishop of Iowa, The Episcopal Church

Bishop Amy Current, Bishop of Southeastern Iowa Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Staff

Co-Secretaries

The Revd Professor Dirk G. Lange, Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical Relations, Lutheran World Federation

Dr Christopher Wells, Director of Unity, Faith and Order, Anglican Communion Office

Ecumenical Staff

The Revd Neil Vigers, Programme Executive for Unity, Faith and Order, Anglican Communion Office

Ms Monika Rawcliffe, Support Officer in the Office of the General Secretary, Lutheran World Federation