

**Lutheran—Roman Catholic Commission on Unity**  
**Kyoto, Japan, 12 - 20 August 2013**  
**Communiqué**

From 12—20 August 2013, the Lutheran—Roman Catholic Commission on Unity met in Kyoto, Japan. The dialogue, conducted under the auspices of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU), focuses on the topic “Baptism and Growing Communion.” This year’s meeting was hosted by the LWF, with the generous assistance of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC).

During the meeting, at a reception hosted by the JELC at the Kansai Seminar House the commission members met with Rev. Tadahiro Tateyama, President, JELC; Rev. Isamu Aota, Vice President, in charge of ecumenical affairs, JELC; Rev. Naoki Asano, President of the East Japan Diocese and member of the LWF Council; and with Bishop Nomura, of the Diocese of Nagoya, The Roman Catholic Church of Japan, in charge of ecumenical affairs.

On Sunday 18 August, the commission participated in the service of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Kyoto Church. The commission also enjoyed ecumenical hospitality of the Episcopal Church in Japan, which kindly offered the St Agnes Cathedral in Kyoto for the use of the commission and its daily worship. The program of the meeting included also visits to several shrines and temples in the Kyoto region and Nara.

Co-chairs of the commission are, on the Lutheran side, Bishop emeritus Eero Huovinen of Helsinki, Finland and, on the Catholic side, Bishop William Kenney, Birmingham, United Kingdom. Bishop Kenney, who was only recently appointed to this position, was not able to attend the meeting but addressed a letter to the Commission expressing his good wishes for its work.

Lutheran participants at this meeting were Rev. Dr Wanda Deifelt (Brazil/ USA), Dr Sandra Gintere (Latvia), Prof. Dr Dirk G. Lange (USA), Rev. Dr Fidon R. Mwombeki (Tanzania/Germany), Prof. Dr Friederike Nüssel (Germany), Prof. Dr Turid Karlsen Seim (Norway/Italy), Rev. Prof. Dr Hiroshi Augustine Suzuki (Japan); Rev. Prof. Dr Theodor Dieter (France) as consultant, and Rev. Dr Kaisamari Hintikka (Switzerland) as co-secretary.

Catholic participants were Bishop Dr Karlheinz Diez (Germany), Rev. Prof. Dr Michel Fédou, S.J. (France), Rev. Prof. Dr Angelo Maffei (Italy), Dr Christian D. Washburn (USA), Prof. Dr Susan K. Wood, SCL (USA); Prof. Dr Eva-Maria Faber (Switzerland) and Prof. Dr Wolfgang Thönissen (Germany) as consultants, and Msgr. Dr Matthias Türk (Vatican) as co-secretary.

In its study process on the topic baptism and growing communion, the commission is building on earlier ecumenical dialogues on baptism. In doing so, it is focusing on reflecting on the question of what kind of ecclesial communion arises from baptism.

The next meeting of the commission will take place from 20-28 July, 2014 and will be hosted by the Pontifical Council of Promoting Christian Unity at a venue to be determined.

Kyoto, 20 August 2013