

Ostrava Declaration
to the Delegates of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) from
the Christian Fellowship United in Ostrava, March 12th, 2012

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy, 3, 16-17)

The basic constitutive principle of the Lutheran theology has been the principle *sola Scriptura*. This principle refers to the authority of the Holy Scripture perceived as the highest norm of everything which is being taught, confessed and practiced at church.

We regret to observe that a number of Lutheran churches (namely in Europe and Northern America) parted with this principle and their approach to the Scripture is worse than the approach of the Roman church to the Scripture used to be at the time of Luther's reformation. Their wrong procedures in interpreting the Bible completely distort or empty out its message.

In the recent years this became especially apparent on the fact that these churches accept homosexual relationships and give a blessing to people living in sin. What the Bible calls sin, the liberal theologians call an alternative way of demonstrating love. The words of the apostle Peter apply to them:

"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive opinions. They will even deny the Master who bough them – bringing swift destruction on themselves." (2 Peter, 2, 1)

We are convinced that those who do not respect the authority of the infallible Holy Scripture can no longer claim to be called Lutherans or even Christians. Regarding the fact that we form a part of the Lutheran World Federation alongside with those whom we consider as heretics and apostates, we ask ourselves what is the purpose of such fellowship? Can anything good come out of it?

We thus call upon the members of the Lutheran World Federation to stop pretending unity which does not exist. It's time to admit that the Lutheran World Federation is constituted by churches which have nothing in common apart from a distant historical or cultural link.

European and Northern-American churches within the LWF can continue imposing their unbiblical theology and ignoring the voices of churches especially from Africa, Asia and Latin America that wish to preach in this world the pure Word of God. Unless any change occurs, the churches faithful to the Scripture will undoubtedly leave the Federation and we believe our church will be one of them. Another option might be to allow these churches to constitute within the LWF their own closer fellowship where they would be able to experience brotherly unity in truth and love, such unity being impossible within the whole organisation. A third way remains open. It is a way outlined by the words of the Lord of the Church Himself who even today calls the perfidious leaders, deceitful teachers and seducers of the little ones among us to repentance:

"Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent." (Revelation 2, 5)

The Christian Fellowship is an intra-missionary (inward directed) movement of the Silesian Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic. It arose at the beginning of the 20th century as a result of a blessed spiritual revival that God gave to the region surrounding Těšín (Teschen). One of its major aims is a practical realisation of the principle of universal priesthood of all Christians.