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# **From Hong Kong To Winnipeg**

## **1997-2003**

**The Report of the General Secretary  
on behalf of the Council**



**From Hong Kong  
to Winnipeg**



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LWF Council members and advisers at their September 2002 meeting, Wittenberg, Germany.  
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## Introduction

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On 16 July 1997, in the context of a worship service, the Ninth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) concluded its official business by installing a newly elected Council. The current LWF Council undertook its six-year term with a first meeting July 17–18. As mandated by the LWF Constitution, the Council members elected the Federation’s Vice-Presi-

dents, the Council committees and respective chairpersons, and the General Secretary. They also reviewed decisions taken by the Assembly.

“From Hong Kong to Winnipeg,” the report of the General Secretary on behalf of the Council, gives an account of the life and work of the Federation, including the decisions of its governing bodies over the

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past six years, as provided for in the LWF Constitution. Highlights of the work carried out by the diverse LWF departments and offices during this period are included.

The LWF member churches and national committees received the Ninth Assembly commitments, as well as subsequent Council decisions for appropriate action. Implementation was possible in some instances but not in others. It is important to note the ever-changing and challenging contexts to be reckoned with in the attempt to effect such action. Since Hong Kong, for example, debate on the positive and negative impacts of globalization has intensified worldwide, and within the LWF constituency itself. Political, ecumenical

and missiological-theological environments have simultaneously shifted back and forth. These figure in more detail in relevant sections of this report.

The LWF is bound together by *communio-koinonia*—the “golden thread” intertwining all our work. Although this is neither new nor uniquely Lutheran, its emergence in the past and under present challenges such as globalization remains the theological and ecclesiological “key” to the depth of the work and life of the LWF, and through which it reveals itself. We understand ourselves, and the Federation’s activities, as participating in God’s mission for the sake of the world—the world that God made and redeemed.