

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort

2. Tagung der 12. Generalsynode
der Vereinigten Evangelisch-Lutherischen Kirche
Deutschlands
Bremen 2015

**Grusswort aus der
Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida de Argentina y Uruguay,
Andrea Carolina Baez**

6. November 2015

ASAMBLEA DE LA VELKD

Good afternoon, sisters and brothers,

My name is Andrea Baez, I'm a Pastor in the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina and Uruguay. I bring you greetings from our church for your assembly.

During these last years our church has being been building a Participative Strategical Plan . This strategical plan will help us in faithfully answering to the evangelical call of God's mission in the world today. We see this plan as a tool that helps understand our church in it's context and ant the same time offers us certain guidelines on which to build programs for the following five to ten years.

Our church has identified five central themes that will be the guidelines for organizing programs and activities.

Spirituality with a diaconic commitment.

Evangelized and evangelizing communities.

Ministries.

Ecclesiastic communion and communication.

Sustainability and good governorship of Communities and the church (IELU) all in the framework of the worldwide communion.

Our next challenge is to generate an Operative Plan so that these general focuses may woven into a church-wide program of actions and activities.

Especially regarding Ministry, and the need to build and strengthen lay ministries, IELU has

created the "Contextual Pastoral Institute" that will help in accompaniment and training for lay people in communities in diverse areas, such as diacony, Christian education, stewardship, Lutheran identity, bible studies, gender issues, among others. This program will help to accompany those people who are already involved in church activities and would like to have more knowledge or skills for a better witness in their ministry. The Institute will offer opportunities for people to learn and share their experiences with others on-line and also in yearly gatherings.

As ISEDET, our ecumenical theological school in Buenos Aires has entered a closing process, one of the great challenges is to reflect on the future theological training for our future pastors. We believe that traditional theological training is suffering a severe crisis and that this crisis has made itself more than evident in the River Plate region. Here the challenge is to build creatively in ways for high quality contextual theological learning for those called to ordained ministry in the region.

We are very grateful for the support our church receives from VELKD, your support has been part of leadership building programs through publications in Spanish of theology and preaching; also the possibility of the meeting of female pastors of both LWF member churches in Buenos Aires.

I'd like to share a small token of our gratitude. This is handwoven by María Leiva, a Mapuche woman from a very small town named Cushamen in the Patagonia region. María is an aboriginal woman, a loom and knitting teacher, a hard worker. This pattern symbolizes the notion of "family" and María wished to share that even though distances are far, realities very different, diverse languages, we are all united in Christ's family. Please accept this token as a sign of this one family in Christ which we share.