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Overlying Theme: “Trust in the Lord next to Us” -- Faith, Hope and Love

Scriptural Theme:

There are three things that remain --- faith, hope, and love --- and the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 13:13

Lutheran Reformation 500th Anniversary for Women



Rev. Hiroko Hiraoka
Pastor,
Hoya Church

The Lutheran World Federation’s Gender Justice Polity, a booklet that outlines the framework for LWF, was translated into Japanese in 2015 and is now delivered to the hands of JELCW members in Japan. I would like to thank the WICAS Japan Committee for their effort and commitment.

In the forward of this booklet, LWG General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge states as follows:

The biblical call to uphold justice is at the very heart of the [LWF] communion’s self-understanding.

It is an invitation to everyone particularly church leaders, theologians, women and men in leadership and decision-making positions, people managing programs and projects—to affirm gender justice as a matter of faith. Thus, gender justice points

at fundamental dimensions of the being of the church and its prophetic voice in the public space. (P1, Gender Justice Policy)

Rev. Junge continues to state that this initiative is a call from God to awaken us to the mission of ongoing renewal as we prepare for the upcoming 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017. He concludes that, with the power of God, the Church will be able to transform into relationships that are based on justice and equality from both men and women. In 1952, the women’s section was first initiated in LWF, and the First Advisory Committee to the Women’s Desk was appointed in 1975. In the 1984 LWF Assembly, it was decided that all global and regional councils, committees, and communion offices adopted the following male/female ratio: 40% Men; 40% Women; 20% Youth (within Youth, the same gender ratio was also adopted.)

This approach by the WLF was taken for the women of the world who continued to face challenges in church and society. What will this 500th anniversary of the Reformation mean for the women of the Lutheran Church, and for all of us? May God bless the Women’s Reformation 500th Anniversary!