



**THE BISHOP
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF LITHUANIA**

2009-12-03

Dear Rev. Yngve Kalin,

We thank you for sharing with us the concerns of the Kyrklig Samling. We understand that you find yourself in difficult situation.

It appears to us that it is not adequate to say that the recent action of the Church of Sweden imperils the unity of church. That has long since been broken by decisions and actions which cannot be reconciled with the Scriptures and the faith, as we have been taught to believe, teach, and confess it. These decisions and actions themselves destroy the outward unity of the church and necessarily isolate the Church of Sweden from other ecclesiastical bodies. Those, committed to the care of the bishops and clergy of the Church of Sweden, have in fact been betrayed and the betrayers must be called to account. If one is to continue in any outward fellowship with a church body which purposely misleads those whom God has called it to lead aright, this necessitates a strong and bold call to humble confession and repentance, lest by speaking only with quite voices or remaining silent altogether they themselves become complicit in the betrayal.

We can give no other advice to others than that which we ourselves must also painfully learn to follow more closely and that is to speak boldly the Word of God, both Law and Gospel, which judges us to and which alone is the ground of our hope.

As to whether we can recognize in the Church of Sweden as it presently stands the Church of Christ, as it is described in the New Testament and the Nicene Creed, we

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would have to answer in the negative, at the same time recognizing that we must also examine ourselves according to this same standard.

As to whether or not it is possible to remain in the Church of Sweden without accepting its decay of faith and order, we have already spoken above. This can only be done with great difficulty and peril.

Finally as to whether an ordain minister of the Church of Sweden could be unconditionally accepted to minister the word and sacraments of Christ in our church, it can only be said that only those who meet the canonical requirements of our church are permitted to minister at our altars and among our people. Some in the Church of Sweden doubtless meet this requirements, other plainly do not.

We assure you of our continued concern and prayers not only for you but for the people of Sweden who are deprived of the Word of God and the fullness of the faith which is proclaimed and offered in the Word of God and Sacraments of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. Sabutis', with a small cross symbol above the first letter.

Bishop Mindaugas Sabutis