



**LUTHERISCHE
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**Prof. Dr. Werner Klän
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To
Bishop and Rector Dr. Wilhelm Weber, jr.
The LCSA Synod assembled at
Wartburg KZN,
South Africa

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ Who has given His promise: "Yes, I am coming soon." And we answer: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

I wish I were able to be among you, having received your venerable bishop's invitation to this synodical assembly a couple of months ago. Certain bureaucratic circumstances have impeded me from coming to South Africa. But in my mind and in my prayers, I am with you beseeching the Lord to bless your gathering, to guide your consultations, and to protect you and your congregations from all affliction by His might and mercy.

Bishop Dr. Wilhelm Weber, jr. had asked me to give a report on the progress the Joint Study Group on Apartheid, consisting of representatives from the LCSA, the FELSISA, and from SELK including its mission, LKM/MLC, has achieved. This trilateral Joint Study Group was established on March 19, 2012. We then decided on the basic principles and goals of the work commissioned to us on behalf of the churches we are to represent. (See the press release, Nr. 1. in the documentation 'Trilateral Working Group (LCSA – FELSISA – SELK/LKM/MLC). Results from the Oberursel Symposium on "Mission and Apartheid"'). A second meeting was scheduled for October this year. Due to the circumstances mentioned above, this meeting had to be postponed.

In the meanwhile, all the presentations given at the November 2011 Symposium held at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Oberursel/Germany have been published in print, most of them in English, or, if in German, accompanied by a summary in Englishⁱ. These presentations mark some early results of the work that lies ahead of the Joint Study Group and our churches. I will try exhibit to you some of the main issues addressed in those papers, and you may have a look at the excerpts, I have added to this letter.

ⁱ **Werner Klän / Gilberto da Silva (ed.): Mission und Apartheid. Ein unentrinnbares Erbe und seine Aufarbeitung durch lutherische Kirchen im südlichen Afrika (= Oberurseler Hefte, Ergänzungsreihe, vol. 14), Edition Ruprecht, Göttingen, 2012** [Mission and Apartheid. An Inescapable Heritage and Its Investigation by Lutheran Churches in Southern Africa]

