



FOLKEKIRKENS
MELLEMKIRKELIGE RÅD

His Holiness Kirill
Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia
Russian Orthodox Church
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Copenhagen, October 10, 2023

The Council on International Relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark wants to acknowledge with gratitude Your letter of response signed by +Anthony Metropolitan of Volokolamsk, Chairman, Department for External Church Relations, Moscow Patriarchate on June 2nd, 2023.

It is important within the ecumenical fellowship of churches that contacts are maintained as long as possible, even though there are severe disagreements between us, when it comes to the assessment of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. We still call on the Russian Orthodox Church to distance itself to the invasion and any theological legitimization of the war.

After World War II, the ecumenical fellowship among Churches within the World Council of Churches was built on the principles of respect for international law and national sovereignty. We call on the Russian Orthodox Church to confirm these principles.

We acknowledge the historical and theological importance of Kyiv for Orthodox faith, but we encourage you to find a solution by dialogue and peaceful means to what you call 'the internecine strife'. War is not the way to establish peaceful co-existence within the Christian Church and among nations within internationally recognized borders.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ said to his disciples: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you" (John 14, 27). This is our common calling and challenge today.

In Christ,

Prof Peter Lodberg
Chairman of the Council International Relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark

Rt Revd Peter Skov-Jakobsen,
Bishop of Copenhagen Diocese