

## **THE ECUMENICAL CHURCH IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD**

**January 7-21, 2009 intensive academic course, in Geneva, Switzerland**

Open to theological students in M.Div or M.A. programs, or comparable programs in other parts of the world

### **Objectives:**

- to interact and learn from students and staff who come from quite different cultural, economic and political contexts
- to experience and learn from dimensions and activities of the ecumenical movement
- to develop a deeper appreciation of what it means for local churches to be part of a global communion of churches
- to understand how neoliberalism, empire, interfaith realities and sharp cultural differences challenge and are being addressed by the ecumenical church

Most days will involve presentations and discussions with the teaching team and different Ecumenical Centre staff persons, as well as small group reflections regarding the implications for ministry in local contexts, and visits to the Ecumenical Institute in nearby Bossey, and to UN-related organizations.

Themes likely to be dealt with during the seminar sessions:

- The work of the Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches, and other confessional families such as the World Alliance of Reformed Churches
- The meaning and implications of being a communion of churches in an ecumenical context
- Ecumenical dialogues in pursuit of church unity
- How neoliberal globalization and empire challenge what it means to be the church
- The particular challenges facing churches in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe
- Interfaith dialogue and diapraxis
- Humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, and climate change
- International affairs, human rights and advocacy, especially in the context of the UN
- How our own churches, and cultural differences, are viewed in relation to other churches in the communion
- Reading the Bible, worship and spirituality in a global, cross-cultural context (i.e., through participation in the life of the English-speaking Lutheran Church of Geneva)

**Readings:** a variety of articles related to the above themes.

**Requirements:** engaged participation in the presentations and discussions, regular indepth journal reflections, which will become the final paper.

**Coordinators:** in Geneva, Rev. Dr. Karen Bloomquist (Director, LWF Department for Theology and Studies), in the US, Rev. Dr. Maria Erling (Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg), plus others who will participate in the teaching and small group discussions

**Estimated costs** (depending on currency exchange), in addition to airfare to be arranged by the participant (est. \$700-800), will be a total of approximately \$1000 for two weeks of accommodations and meals (shared room with bath, in the John Knox Retreat Center, breakfast there, midday meal at Ecumenical Center, evening meal on your own).

**Registration deadline:** October 1 or as soon as spaces are filled. To reserve a place, send a non-refundable registration fee of \$150. (checks made out to "LWF"). Send to Rev. Teresita Valeriano at the LWF North American office at the ELCA (teresita.valeriano@elca.org).. For further information on the course, contact [kbl@lutheranworld.org](mailto:kbl@lutheranworld.org) or merling@lts.edu.