

PRESS RELEASE

Meeting of the Augustana Working Group in Wittenberg

The second meeting of the Concordia Lutheran-Catholic Augustana Working Group took place in Wittenberg from December 8 to 11, 2024. Under the chairmanship of Bishop Dr. Juhana Pohjola and Auxiliary Bishop Dr. Peter Birkhofer, the participants discussed the statements of the Augsburg Confession on justification and the office of the ministry from a pre-confessional perspective. This new methodological approach will be explored in greater depth at the next meeting in Rome in February 2025.

The Augustana Working Group includes representatives of the International Lutheran Council (ILC) and the Catholic Church. Following the conclusion of the theological discussions between the ILC, an association of Concordia Lutheran churches, and the Catholic Church (2014-2019), both sides suggested the establishment of a working group as a specific ecumenical-theological format. The working group is not an official dialog commission. Father Dr. Augustinus Sander OSB takes part in the meetings as a permanent guest of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity (DPCU).

The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Rome from February 23 to 26, 2025.

Participants of the International Lutheran Council (ILC)

Bishop Dr. Juhana Pohjola, Helsinki, Finland, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Missionary Diocese of Finland; Chairman of the International Lutheran Council (ILC)

Prof. Dr. Joel Elowsky, St. Louis, Mo., USA

Prof. em. Dr. Werner Klän, D.Litt., Lübeck, Germany

Assistant Prof. Dr. Jonathan Mumme, Hillsdale, Mich., USA

Prof. Dr. Tom Winger, St. Catharines, Ont., Canada

Prof. Dr. Klaus Detlev Schulz, Ft. Wayne, Ind., USA (ILC General Secretary) - temporary participation, but not a member

Catholic participants

Auxiliary Bishop Dr. Peter Birkhofer, Freiburg / Breisgau, Germany

Prof. Dr. Markus Lersch, Siegen, Germany

Dr. Tim Lindfeld, Aachen, Germany

Assistant Professor Dr. James Prothro, St. Louis, Mo., USA

Father Dr. Augustinus Sander OSB, Vatican, permanent guest of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity