

July 25, 2011

The Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit
General Secretary
World Council of Churches

Dear Dr. Tveit:

On behalf of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches, we write to convey our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of the tragic bombing in Oslo and the senseless killings on Utøya Island last Friday. Having experienced equally senseless carnage when Timothy McVeigh bombed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995 which killed 168 people, including 19 children, we understand something of the pain and suffering which the whole of Norway is experiencing now in the aftermath of Friday's tragedy.

Please know that yesterday, the churches of Oklahoma prayed for the victims, the families, and all the people of Norway. Know also that we stand in solidarity with the churches of Norway as they minister to the families and help all Norwegians cope with the challenges which such random acts of violence bring to society as a whole.

We know that as a Norwegian pastor yourself, the events of Friday were especially painful for you personally. We are grateful for your leadership and the statement you made on behalf of the WCC fellowship in the midst of this tragedy. Be assured of our own continued prayers and support in the difficult days ahead.

The Rev. Dale Assink, Regional Minister, Synod of the Heartland, Reformed Church in America

James R. Bellatti, Executive Presbyter, Cimarron Presbytery

The Rev. Krista Betz, Interim Conference Minister, Kansas-OK Conference, United Church of Christ

The Rev. Aaron Carland, General Presbyter, Indian Nations Presbytery, Presbyterian Church, USA

The Most Rev. Paul Coakley, Archbishop, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

The Rev. Dr. Gregory J. Coulter, General Presbyter, Eastern OK Presbytery, Presbyterian Church, USA
Rex Friend, Religious Society of Friends

The Rev. Dr. Michael Girlinghouse, Bishop, Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rt. Rev. Samuel L. Green, Presiding Bishop, Twelfth Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Church

Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr., Bishop, Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church and the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference

The Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Jewell, Regional Pastor, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oklahoma

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward J. Konieczny, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma

Sadie Mast, Mennonite Church

The Most Rev. Edward Slattery, Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Tulsa

***Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Bishop, Southwestern Delta Episcopal District, West Tennessee-
Mississippi, South Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma Conferences, African
Methodist Episcopal Zion Church***

The Rev. Charles (“T”) Thomas, Coordinator, Cooperating Baptist Fellowship of Oklahoma

Bishop James B. Walker, Bishop, Ninth Episcopal District, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rev. Dr. George E. Young, Sr., Progressive Oklahoma Baptist State Convention

The Rev. Dr. William Tabbernee

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