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DER REGIONALBISCHOF FÜR DEN PROPSTSPRENGEL STENDAL-MAGDEBURG



Büro des Regionalbischofs für den Propstsprengel Stendal-Magdeburg |
Am Dom 18 A | 39576 Hansestadt Stendal

Worcester Partnership

2019-06-05

Greetings from Stendal

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this message finds you all well and in a good temper. I feel like sending you some warm greetings from the church area of Stendal and Magdeburg.

While preparing this Greeting I was realizing the history of this day. You know it much better for sure: today 44 years ago there was one of the first membership referendums in the UK. In 1975 67.23% voted "YES" to continued European Community membership.

Today the situation is quite different; not only in Great Britain but also in whole Europe the desire for separation is rising more and more. The election to the European Parliament one week ago revealed the fault lines. Nationalists and Populists were elected into the European Parliament, to destroy the EU from inside.

In many countries the ditches between Eurosceptics and Europe supporters are very deep and wide. A dialogue is hardly possible. The fronts can not find a shared language. Interestingly, also the question of how to deal with climatic changes separates the two fronts. The populists in Germany consider the climate changes to be a lie, a scare tactic, and reject an environmental policy. European supporters are moved by both the desire for peace and community and a shared effort to preserve creation.

This situation highlights the great responsibility for a reconciling church and the great importance of our partnership work. It is our job to maintain contact, to deepen our understanding of the others on meetings and exchange, and to look together to find solutions to the new challenges. We are born of the message of Christ addressed to the whole world and to all people.

PROPST
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Thankful I remember the statement of Bruce Rienstra during the "Kirchentag" here in the Altmark. He spoke about God's Love which is indivisible. We should become thoughtful today about people who try to transform God's Love to all people into an exclusive love only to the own country, the own religion, the own milieu. God's Love is indivisible devoted to all people, to the whole mankind and also to his creation. Christian Church has to insist on this again and again. And also our Partnership has to be a symbol for it. So I say Thank You so much for strengthening this! Thank You for building bridges not walls!

For this evening I wish you all joy and an enriching exchange.

I look forward to seeing you again soon. Wishing you God's blessings.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christoph Heubel?".

Area Bishop of Stendal and Magdeburg