



BISKOPPEN OVER HADERSLEV STIFT

His Holiness Karekin II
Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians
Armenian Apostolic Church
Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin
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Haderslev 4. April 2024

On behalf of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Denmark, we greet you in the name of our Triune God!

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark and the Armenian Apostolic Church has a long common history, also through times of sorrow, loss, and mourning. The efforts of Karen Jeppe and Maria Jacobsen during the genocide in 1915 stands out as an example of mission and ecumenism for both our churches. Personally, I recall with fondness my visit to Armenia in the summer of 2005. Invited by the Danish Bible Society, I visited several of your churches and experienced the deep spiritual unity between our two Christian traditions in the church worship which I attended.

In the fall of 2023, the disturbing news from Nagorno-Karabakh culminated with pictures of Armenians fleeing their ancestral homeland. Many have sought refuge in Armenia, and we have anew been reminded of the generous hospitality of your church and people. We express deep solidarity with the Armenian people and churches in this tragic situation. It is also a time to regret that the Nagorno-Karabakh war of 1992-1994 did not end with a sustainable peace for the people of the region. We pray that your church and your people will be able to assist refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh and that a long term just peace for all with respect of territorial integrity of Armenia will be achieved.

Amidst the tribulations and trials, we also want to express our joy when celebrating the 20-year jubilee of the Sunday school work of the Armenian Apostolic Church, the joint project with the Danish Armenian Mission. We are also thankful for the former missionary to Armenia, Per Damgaard Pedersen, who continues to be an important bridge builder between yours and our own national Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark.

We continue to pray for the affected people, and to support and accompany the Armenian Apostolic Church as you minister to the Armenian people and nation in this time of uncertainty for the future. May the Spirit embolden our hearts and lead us in these times of trials, so that we can give glory to the Lord!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marianne'.

Marianne Christiansen

Bishop of Haderslev