



# The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)

---



## Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan

Bishop Emeritus  
Former President of The Lutheran World Federation

### Appointments within the ELCJHL

<b>Bishop</b>	1998-2018
(Consecrated January 5 <sup>th</sup> 1998)	
<b>Chair</b>	2007-2018
Board of Trustees Al Diyar Consortium in Bethlehem	
<b>Chair</b>	2007-2018
Baptismal Site Committee	
<b>Chair</b>	2007-2018
Board of Trustees Severance and Pension Fund	
<b>Chair</b>	2004-2018
Abraham's Herberge in Beit Jala	
<b>Chair</b>	1998-2018
Coordination Committee for Cooperation between the ELCJHL and Overseas Partners	
<b>Chair</b>	1998-2018
Evangelical Lutheran School Board (ELSB), ELCJHL	
<b>President</b>	1990-1998
Synod of the ELCJHL	
<b>Pastor</b>	1984-2000
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hope in Ramallah	
<b>Pastor</b>	1979-1984
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Beit Jala	
<b>Associate Pastor</b>	1976-1979
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem	
<b>Youth Pastor</b>	1977-1988
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land	
<b>Teacher &amp; Coordinator of Christian Education</b>	1976-1997
ELCJHL Schools	

## Education

<b>Study &amp; Research</b>	1988
The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) Chicago, Illinois	
<b>Master in Theology</b>	1972-1976
Dissertation: "Election in Deutero Isaiah" University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland	
<b>Study of Diaconry</b>	1969-1972
Luther Opisto College Järvenpää, Finland	
<b>Tawjihi – High School Certificate</b>	1968
Al-Ahlia College in Ramallah	
<b>Evangelical Lutheran School in Beit Jala</b>	1962-1967
<b>Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran School in Jerusalem</b>	1953-1962

## Family

- Bishop Younan was born on 18 September 1950 in Jerusalem to Andria Younan, originally from Beersheba, and Alice Qandalaft, originally from West Jerusalem.
- Both Andria Younan and Alice Qandalaft were 1948 refugees.
- Bishop Younan still holds Refugee status with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).
- On August 24<sup>th</sup> 1980 Bishop Younan married Suad Yacoub (born 23 October 1959), who was residing in Haifa, originally from Kfar Bir'im. Mrs. Younan is an educator and Former Director of the Helen Keller School in Jerusalem.
- Bishop Younan and Suad Younan have three children and five grandchildren:
  - Annaliza (born 1982) is employed by the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem. In June of 2007 Annaliza married Nazih Khoury. They have three daughters, Katarina, born in 2009, and twin girls born 2013, Celina and Maria.
  - Andria Younan (born 1984) earned a Bachelor degree in Electrical and Computer Engineer from Valparaiso University, U.S. He graduated with a Master in Biomedical Engineering from the Technion in Haifa and is employed by ULife in Kfar Saba. In August of 2010 Andria married Natalie (née El-Far) Younan, an educator from Haifa. Andria and Natalie reside in Haifa with their daughters, Lour born in 2012 and Lili born 2015.
  - Martha Younan (born 1991) graduated with a Bachelor degree in Physical Therapy from Bethlehem University. She also earned a Master degree in stroke therapy medicine from the University College London. She is currently a registered occupational therapist. In June 2018, Martha married Shadi Bajjali who works with Amnesty International.

## Other Appointments

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

**President** July 2010-2017

<b>Chair</b> Executive Committee & the Board of Trustees, The Lutheran World Federation	July 2010- May 2017
<b>Vice President/Member of Council</b> The Lutheran World Federation	July 2003-July2010
<b>Member</b> Executive Committee & the Board of Trustees. The Lutheran World Federation	July 2003-July2010
<b>Member of Board</b> Vocational Training Center (VTC) in Beit Hanina	2001-2004
<b>Chair</b> Asian Regional Church Leaders Conference (ARCC)	1998-2010
<b>Member</b> Committee for the Department for Mission and Development (DMD)	1997-2010
<b>Vice Chair</b> Program Committee for Mission Development	1997-2003
<b>Vice Chair</b> Board of Trustees Institute for Ecumenical Research Strasbourg, France	1997-2003
<b>Voting Member</b> Council of The Lutheran World Federation	1997-2003
<b>Advisor</b> Council of The Lutheran World Federation	1990-1997
<b>Member</b> Youth Committee of the Lutheran World Federation	1981-1984
 <b>Middle East Council of Churches (MECC)</b>	
<b>Honorary President</b> The Middle East Council of Churches	2016 – Present
<b>President</b> Middle East Council of Churches – Evangelical Family	2010-2016
<b>Member</b> Executive Committee of the Middle East Council of Churches	1995-Present
<b>Member</b> Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR)	1993-1998

<b>Member</b> Life and Service Committee	1990-1995
<b>Member</b> Education Committee	1985-1990
<b>Fellowship of the Middle East Evangelical Churches (FMEEC)</b>	
<b>Member</b> Executive Committee	2010-Present
<b>President</b> Fellowship of the Middle East Evangelical Churches	2004-2010
<b>Initiator</b> Led the FMEEC General Assembly to accept the ordination of women	2010
<b>Member</b> Executive Committee	1998-2004
<b>Member</b> Theological Committee	1993-1998
<b>World Council of Churches (WCC)</b>	
<b>Member</b> World Council of Churches Orthodox Study Group	1998-2006
<b>Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme for Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)</b>	
<b>Chair</b> Local Reference Group, and Founding Member of original church initiative	2002-Present
<b>International Christian Committee (ICC), Jerusalem</b>	
<b>President</b> Board of Managers	1998-2004
<b>Lutheran World Service, Jerusalem</b>	
<b>Chair</b> The Board Augusta Victoria Hospital	1998-2018
<b>Near East School of Theology (NEST), Beirut</b>	
<b>Member</b> Board of Managers	2003-Present
<b>Vice-President</b> Board of Managers	1999-2018
<b>Swedish Theological Institute, Jerusalem</b>	
<b>Board Member</b>	2007-Present
<b>Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (OSMTH)</b>	
<b>International Grand Chaplain</b> International Grand Priory	2004-Present
<b>Member</b> Priory of Finland	2001-Present

## Other Organizations

### Chairperson

The Swedish Good Shepherd School in Beit Jala 1979- Present

### Board member

Yasser Arafat Foundation 2016-Present

### International Board Member

The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM) 2018

## Awards

*The Building Bridges of Understanding Award* 2018  
Georgetown University, USA

*The Niwano Peace Prize* 2017  
Japan

*Jerusalem Golden Award* 2016  
Al Quds University, Palestine

**Honorary Doctorate** 2014  
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany

*Civis Mundi Award* 2014  
Waterloo Seminary and Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada

*Al-Hussein Decoration for Distinguished Service* 2013  
First Class Given by His Majesty Abdullah Al-Hussein, Jordan

6<sup>th</sup> Recipient of *The Mikael Agricola Medallion* 2008  
From the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland

*Templar Peace Prize* 2007  
The OSMTH

*Bethlehem Star Award* 2005  
From Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas

*Holyland Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) Prize* 2004  
Washington, D.C.

*Bethanien (Bethany) Prize* 2004  
Methodist Church Oslo, Norway

*Human Rights Award* 2001  
United Nations Association, Washington, D.C.

Honorary Doctorate of Divinity (D.D.) 2001  
Wartburg College  
Iowa, U.S.A.

*The Finnish Peace Prize* 2001  
Finnish Christian Peace Movement

## Initiatives

### Interfaith Dialogue

**Chair** 2018

Al-Liqa' Center for Religious Studies Jerusalem

**Patron** 2017

Bethany Community Center for Women

**Member** 2010-Present

Religious Leader Commission

C-1 World Dialogue Foundation

**Founding Member** 2006-Present

Council for Religious Institutions in the Holy Land (CRIHL)

**Judge** 2010

*The World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize*

**Board Member** 2000-Present

Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Center Amman, Jordan

### **Initiator**

The Jonah Group

A number of informal long-running dialogue groups, serving as forums for joint reflection of local Christians and Jews. The Jerusalem Post called this "quietecumenism" (Jerusalem Post, October 2000). 1991-Present

**Participant** 1984

Jewish-Christian Dialogue Symposium

World Council of Churches

Sigtuna, Sweden

### **Ecumenical Dialogue**

- With His Holiness, Pope Francis, and the Lutheran World Federation General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge, and myself signed a Joint Statement commemorating the Lutheran Reformation and Historical Reconciliation between the Lutheran and Roman Catholic Churches. A co-hosted service and the first of its kind in 500 years. Oct 31 2016
- Joined global religious leaders with the initiative of the LWF President in signing the historic "Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders" developed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with an LWF-led initiative. 2012
- Anglican-Lutheran Dialogue. 1984-2018

### **Lutheran Patron**

Anglican Lutheran Society 2010-Present

### **Contributing Writer**

Worship Resources 2011

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2011

- Instrumental in the "Amman Agreement"  
A mutual recognition agreement among Middle East Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches (FMEEC), which is between the

ELCJHL and all of the reformed churches in the Middle East. 2006

- Continuing work for the deepening of communion relationships with churches, synods, and diocese around the world 1998-Present
- Active in local Church-to-Church relationships 1997-Present

**Evaluator** 1997-Present

Palestinian curricula

**Participant** 1984-Present

Anglican-Lutheran Dialogue Jerusalem

**Developer** 1997-2000

Palestinian Christian Instruction Curriculum

Recognized by the Palestinian Ministry of Education for use in Palestinian schools.

**Author**

“The Christian Dimension of the Palestinian Curriculum” adopted in 1998 by the Church Leaders in Jerusalem as the main document for negotiations with the Ministry of Education 1998

**Translator**

Arabic translation of the *Augsburg Confession* with study guide 1993

- A high-profile lecturer and speaker recognized both locally and internationally, Bishop Younan is sought after for speaking engagements on topics of Just Peace from a Palestinian Christian perspective, grounded in the teachings and doctrine of the Christian church.

## Selected Publications

### Books

- *Our Shared Witness: A Voice for Justice and Peace*. Lutheran University Press, Minneapolis, 2012.
- *Witnessing for Peace: In Jerusalem and the World*. Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, 2003.
- *The Augsburg Confession in Arabic*. Emerezian Est., Jerusalem, 1993.

### Chapters

- Forward by Bishop Younan. *Diakonia and Deacons in the New Testament and the Early Church*, Mohr Siebeck, Germany, 2018.
- “Beyond Luther: Prophetic Interfaith Dialogue for Life,” in *The Global Luther: A Theologian for Modern Times*. Fortress Press, 2009.
- “The Future of the Lutheran Reformation Tradition: From the Perspective of Palestinian Christians,” in *The Future of Lutheranism in a Global Context*. Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, 2008.
- “The Role of the Church in Peacemaking: Raising a Prophetic Voice,” in *The Forgotten Faithful*. Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, Jerusalem, 2007.
- “Theological Reflection and Theology,” in *Theological Reflection on Accompaniment*. World Council of Churches, 2005.

### Articles, Lectures & Presentations

- “The Role of Religion in Bridge Building.” Palestine, 2018
- “Re-reading the Reformation” International Symposium; Florence, Italy. 2017
- “Can religion solve conflicts in the Middle East?” aka “Bring religion back to the front lines of peace.” The Washington Post: On Faith, Common Ground News. 2010
- “Give us today our daily bread: A holy call to justice,” Asia Pre-Assembly Consultation and Asia Church Leadership Conference. 2009
- “Signs of Hope”, 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. 2009
- “Role of religious leaders in enhancing commitment to respect and the value of people of diverse faiths.” Consultation on Interfaith Diapaxis, Bangladesh. 2009
- “Fifty Years of Living Witness and Creative Diakonia.” Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary worship service, Jerusalem. 2009
- “The Nakba: Memory, Reality and Beyond.” Keynote address, Sabeel Seventh International Conference, Jerusalem. 2008
- “The future of Palestinian Christianity and prospects for justice, peace, and reconciliation” Currents in Theology and Mission. 2007
- “The Healing Program of Jesus.” Sermon, Landsdale, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. 2007
- “Religion and Politics,” World Council of Churches Assembly, Brazil. 2006
- “The Theology of Accompaniment,” Geneva, Switzerland. 2006
- “Reconciliation in the Middle East,” Sweden. 2005
- “Cultural Diversity,” Address to the UNDP, Oslo, Norway. 2004
- “The Future of the Reformation Tradition,” Moorhead, Minnesota. 2004
- “The Witness of the Palestinian Lutherans in the Middle East”. 2003
- “Das Ökumenische Leben in Jerusalem” (The Ecumenical Life in Jerusalem) for “Jerusalem: Stadt der Freidens,” EMW Annual 2000, Hamburg, Germany. 2000
- “The Significance of Jerusalem to the Christian Churches in Jerusalem,” Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs (LOGA), Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. 1999
- “Challenges of a Palestinian Church,” in *Festschrift to Bishop Christian Krause*. Braunschweig, Germany. 1999
- “Let the Church Be the Church: A programmatic lecture on the occasion of consecration as Bishop,” 5 January 1998, Jerusalem. 1998
- “Prayer and Reconciliation in a Shared Land”, in *Toward the Third Millennium—Trialogue in Jerusalem: Jews, Christians and Muslims.* ICCI-Jerusalem. 1998