

[A letter sent 15 May 2013 by Bishop Thor Henrik With, before his meeting with Mrs. Mrs. Laila Riksaasen Dahl, the CoN Bishop of Tunberg Diocese]

Dear Friends,

Will you pray for me and for a discussion tomorrow, Thursday, May 16?

I am summoned to a meeting with the bishop of Tunsberg tomorrow at 10 A.M., because I have allowed myself to be consecrated bishop of the Evangelical-Lutheran Diocese in Norway. Apparently the bishop of Tunsberg wants to inform me of the decision that my authorization to serve as a pastor in the Church of Norway will be revoked, what is called being defrocked.

Because the Church of Norway has made the heresy that God blesses gay relationships into a doctrine that bishops and priests can advocate in their dioceses and parishes, the loss of pastoral authorization is sad, but no catastrophe. What is heavy to bear is that the church's members will be deceived in this way, and that brother pastors, alongside whom I have previously fought the good fight of the faith, have become opponents. The church that took me into pastoral ministry in my ordination on 16 December 1979 is also suffering in other serious ways. It is in severe conflict with the only Word that can give life and eternal salvation.

Will you pray that I receive wisdom and love to bring concern and good counsel to the bishop of Tunsberg, and to bear witness clearly about that to which God's Word commits us?

What is first and foremost at stake is the bishops' and priests' faithfulness to Scripture and the Lutheran confessions, the allegiance which they solemnly vowed at their ordinations – and thus their correct guidance and care for all God's people, on the path to the Judgment and the resurrection of life.

Thank you, friends, that I can count on you!

Yours in Christ,
+ Thor Henrik

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