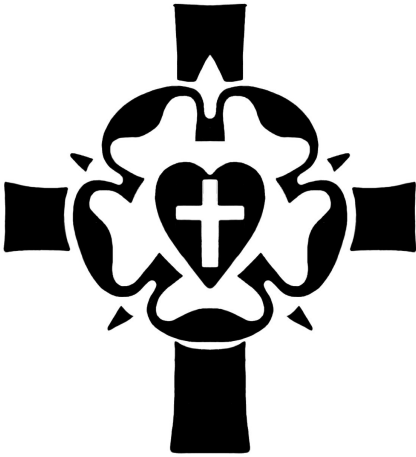


SOUTH AFRICAN LUTHERAN BISHOPS MEET



From 5-8 August 2002 the bishops of all seven dioceses of our sister church, ELCSA (see below), and the bishops of ELCSA (N-T) and the Cape Church met in Cape Town. They convened at the invitation of the Presiding Bishop of ELCSA, Bishop Louis Sibiya, and with the Cape Church as host. It was a very significant meeting, the first after several years; most of the bishops were also new and had not been part of previous joint bishops' conferences.

According to Bishop Nils Rohwer, the bishops spoke openheartedly about their work in the church, circumstances and challenges in their dioceses / church, and the situation in our country. This included addressing the fears arising from criminality, developments in Zimbabwe and their impact on South Africa, as well as the devastating AIDS epidemic.

At the meeting of the Circuit Conference West on 14 September 2002, Bishop Rohwer reiterated that the matter of church unity within South Africa is of great importance to the Cape Church.

NEW BISHOP FOR CAPE ORANGE DIOCESE OF ELCSA

At the meeting of the synod of the Cape Orange Diocese of ELCSA on 22-27 September 2002 in Kimberley, Pastor Mervyn Assur was elected to succeed Bishop A Fortuin. Bishop Rohwer, who attended the Synod, thanked the outgoing bishop for the good relationship and fellowship and wished him a blessed retirement. He also congratulated Pastor Assur on his election and expressed the hope for very good co-operation between them. Bishop Rohwer will attend the consecration in Kimberley on 25 January 2003.