

# **WCC GENERAL SECRETARY MEETS WITH H.B. THEOPHILOS, PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM**

On the morning of Wednesday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of November/7<sup>th</sup> of December 2016, the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC), Mr Olav Fykse Tveit, accompanied by Ms Marianne Ejdersten, Director of Communications, and former Jordan MP and member of the Central Committee of the WCC, Mr Ode Kawas, was welcomed by H.B. Theophilos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Theophylaktos of Jordan, and the Elder Secretary-General, Archbishop Aristarchos of Constantina.

An interesting discussion unfolded in the context of the meeting, on the Christian character of Jerusalem, the position of Christians in the Middle East and the possibilities for humanitarian aid in view of the problems facing Christians in the occupied areas of Palestine and elsewhere.

On this occasion, His Beatitude expressed the Patriarchate's interest in continuing to participate in and collaborating with the World Council of Churches.

On the conclusion of the meeting, the General Secretary of the WCC offered His Beatitude a cross and emblem of the WCC. The Patriarch reciprocated with icons of Theotokos to the three guests, as well as an icon of the Aedicula of the Holy Sepulchre.

**From the Secretariat-General**