

## **500<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary: Calvin no saint, but source of inspiration**

'Calvin was no saint, but an inspiration. His view on social and public questions is still inspiring in our days.' According to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) in a declaration on the occasion of the 500<sup>th</sup> birthday of Calvin, which will be celebrated worldwide on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2009.

In the declaration Calvin's recommendations in the area of economical and social issues for the church of the 16<sup>th</sup> century are quoted. WARC links these recommendations to the topicality of the present, such as climate change and the financial crisis.

Calvin advocated fair trade: 'An honest division is possible if the rich do not go on enriching themselves further, if they stop with the annexation of what belongs to others' (from Calvin's comment on Exodus 16: 19). In the world where man ruins God's creation, Calvin's words are still up to date: 'Who owns a piece of land should cultivate it in a manner that it does not cause constant damage' (from Calvin's comment on Genesis 2: 15).

"It is our hope that inspired by this, we who live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will also be faithful to God in our commitment to Christian unity, to confronting the forces of evil and injustice in society, and to doing everything we can to be Gods agents of transformation, making a difference in our communities," president Kirkpatrick and secretary Nyomi of WARC say in a declaration.

*The World Alliance of Calvinistic and Reformed Churches is a community of 75 million Christians in 214 churches and 107 countries.*