

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT

I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

1.1. DMD REVIEW PROCESS

The Committee received with appreciation the report of the Director for Mission and Development on the proposed repositioning of the department. The committee affirms the proposed programmatic directions of Communion Building, Church Growth and Sustainability, and Capacity for Diakonia as important expressions of the DMD mandate. However, some members expressed the concern that the refocusing of the work in DMD needs to take into account the fragility of some member churches in the communion, especially numerically small churches without bilateral relations. The sustainability of churches is about the core of being church which emphasizes missiology and ecclesiology. Therefore the focus on proclamation capacity has to be strengthened in the proposed new direction. This emphasis could also lead to growth of churches, especially where there are declining numbers of membership.

The committee acknowledges that coordination and collaboration of relationship among member churches is a key role of the DMD. It was realized that the need to accompany the regional expressions should be matched with enough capacity and resources in the Area Desks.

It is

RECOMMENDED: to approve the renewed DMD programmatic directions of Communion Building, Church Growth and Sustainability, and Capacity for Diakonia in accordance with the General Secretary's Report (Exhibit 9, p. 5).

1.2. TASK FORCE ON RESOURCE SHARING IN THE LWF COMMUNION OF CHURCHES

The LWF Council at its meeting in June 2013 endorsed a proposal that DMD takes the initiative to research and analyse trends and changing dynamics in funding relationships between LWF member churches, related organizations and the LWF. In view that this could result in the discovery of new models for relationships and collaboration between partners and DMD, especially related to project funding. Following this decision a Task Force on Resource Sharing in the LWF communion of churches was established. The report of the task force was received with appreciation and discussed.

Based on the report

It is

RECOMMENDED: that DMD establishes mechanisms for communion solidarity for member churches to share gifts and support each other. These support mechanisms could include funding such as a communion solidarity fund, sharing of human resources and other capacity building aspects.

II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION BY THE COUNCIL

HIV AND AIDS WORK IN THE LWF

Based on discussions on the report of the LWF General Secretary, the Committee for Mission and Development noted with concern the absence of HIV and AIDS programs and responsibilities in the LWF. Issues of stigma, theological understanding and advocacy around HIV and AIDS are still a reality in Africa and Asia regions.

The committee recommends that further discussion and consideration on the place and priority given to HIV and AIDS issues in the LWF communion of churches be discussed.

III. ISSUES DISCUSSED BY THE COMMITTEE - for information to the Council

1. GUIDELINES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL WITHIN THE LWF COMMUNION OF CHURCHES

The Committee for Mission and Development received and endorsed the framework for developing a guideline for exchange of personnel within the LWF communion of churches. The guidelines are intended to create a better understanding about the functioning of the basic principles and procedures for the exchange of church workers and personnel in the communion.

A task force of seven members representing the seven regions of the LWF is working with staff in the LWF communion office in Geneva to develop the draft guidelines to be presented to the LWF Council in 2015 for approval.

2. SUBCOMMITTEE FOR MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT

The committee voted to receive with appreciation the report of the Subcommittee for Mission and Development meeting held in Montreux, Switzerland from April 28th to 30th, 2014 and to share with the Council the list of member church projects approved (Exhibit 15.1) during its meeting.

IV. ISSUES REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. LWF BUDGET 2015

The Committee for Mission and Development endorses the approval of the 2015 Budget for the LWF Department for Mission and Development in the amount of EUR 8'207'090 as reflected in Exhibit 13.1.

2. PROGRAM PLAN 2015

The Committee for Mission and Development endorses the program directions for the Department for Mission and Development for 2015 as outlined in Exhibit 13.1.1.

The Committee for Mission and Development authorizes the Department for Mission and Development to develop program plans based on these program directions.

The Committee for Mission and Development authorizes the Communion Office to fundraise for DMD programs.

3. COOP 2015--2016

The Committee for Mission and Development endorses the LWF DMD 2015 2016 COOP.