

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT

I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

1. Report of the Department for Mission and Development

The Committee received with appreciation the report of the department presented by the Director and staff. The Committee welcomed the commitment and plans for DMD to grow and strengthen its work and resources. The Committee also expressed concern and cautioned that securing funds from outside the churches and related organization should not compromise LWF's values and identity. The LWF communion needs to engage in deeper conversations of its self-understanding and how resources are allocated to the various ministries.

It is

- RECOMMENDED:**
- a. to encourage DMD to move forward with plans to explore new opportunities for its work such as addressing the root causes and effects of migration, religion and development discourse, agenda 2030 for sustainable development, enhancing communion building, as well as new models of funding.**
 - b. to call upon all member churches to participate in solidarity, to the best of their ability, in developing the financial economy of the LWF as well as bringing up to date their financial obligations such as the membership fees, assembly fees and endowment contributions**
 - c. to request the LWF General Secretary to ensure that departments especially DMD and DWS are better aligned and collaborating in order to increase effectiveness of the work thus strengthening the communion.**
 - d. to call upon the Communion Office to ensure there is intentional collaboration between the Office of Communication and DMD. Telling the stories and sharing about relationships built are crucial to the life of the communion.**

2. With reference to Council Exhibit 9.6

The committee discussion focussed on the part that is entitled "Envisioning the gift and task of the communion building in LWF". The Committee affirmed the importance of strengthening relationships among member churches across the regions.

It is

- RECOMMENDED:**
- a. to request the General Secretary to include the input and reflections from the committee in further development of the concept of communion building.**
 - b. to request the director to steer programs on communion building towards the vision outlined in the concept document.**

3. With reference to Council Exhibit 9.6.2.

The committee discussed the proposal for a reorganized LWF governance to support the future sustainability of the LWF and its communion office. The committee raised deep concern on the proposed reduction in the size of Council as well as the discontinuation of the Standing Committee for Communication. The Committee is of the opinion that the reduction of the size of Council is counter the goal of communion building.

The committee expressed concern on the reasons given for changing the Meeting of Officers back to an Executive Committee. The committee sees the need for the council to discuss and hear more options for the proposed change.

It is

RECOMMENDED:

- a. to request the General Secretary not to pursue the proposed reduction of the size of the Council and the discontinuation of the Standing Committee for Communication, but to consider other means of improving the efficiency of the Council such as changes in methodology.
- b. to request the General Secretary to provide further information to the council for changing the Meeting of Officers back into an Executive Committee in view of the potential impact.

II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION BY THE COUNCIL

The committee calls for Council discussion on the document 'The Church in the Public Space'.

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

1. Ordination of Women in the ELCL

The committee expresses deep concern regarding the decision to change the church constitution restricting the ordained ministry to men alone in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia.

2. Report of the Subcommittee for Mission and Development

The Committee received with appreciation the report of the Chairperson for the Subcommittee for Mission and Development. The Committee acknowledged and confirmed the member church projects with a financial volume of EUR 2,174,900 approved by the subcommittee. The list of projects approved is shared with the Council as Exhibit 14.1.

3. Opportunities presented by the LWF Assembly

In view of the location of the LWF 12th General Assembly in 2017, the churches are encouraged to discover and enforce their inherently missionary nature in Namibia, where Christian faith has permeated the society through mission during some 150 years. The three Lutheran churches in the country are a living witness of the power of the Gospel that is to be proclaimed in words and deeds all over the world.

4. Financial Sustainability of DMD

The committee expressed concern regarding the financial viability of the department as it pertains to the life and identity of the LWF communion.

IV. ISSUES REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Committee discussed the LWF Strategic Priority Areas 2017 – 2018 as presented in Council Exhibit 12. The committee endorsed for approval the LWF Strategic Priority Areas 2017 – 2018.

The Committee discussed the LWF DMD Program and Budget Overview 2017. The Committee endorsed for approval the LWF DMD Budget for EUR 6,809,900 for 2017.

The Committee discussed the report of the implementation of the LWF COOP 2015. The committee endorsed for approval the implementation report.