

## **MEETING OF THE LWF COUNCIL 2009**

### **RESOLUTIONS and ACTIONS**

#### **RENEWAL COMMITTEE**

It was voted:

to ask the Standing Committee for Constitution to prepare for the Executive Committee meeting in March 2010 the exact proposal for the wording of the Constitution and Bylaws with the assistance of a Swiss lawyer;

to ask the Standing Committee for Constitution to prepare for the Executive Committee meeting in March 2010 the transition plan from the old to the new Constitution and its consequences to the governance structures, taking into account that the new Constitution will be effective only one year after the Assembly;

to send to the Council for approval by mail vote the proposed Constitutional and Bylaw changes as approved by the Executive Committee at its March 2010 meeting.

#### **Issue 1:**

It was voted to defer issue 1 (The role of organizations and institutions for mission and diakonia) of the Renewal Committee's report to the incoming Council for action;

#### **Issue 2:**

It was voted to defer issue 2 (Theological Formation, identity and practice) of the Renewal Committee's report to the incoming Council for action;

#### **Issue 3:**

It was voted:

to make the required amendments in the LWF Constitution and Bylaws so that the consultative role of regional expressions, such as proposing items for Council agendas, preparing the slates for Council election by the Assembly, and other areas, be adequately defined. The contributions from the regional expressions are made through the Vice-Presidents of the relevant regions;

to mandate the Standing Committee for Constitution to formulate the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws in such a way that they respect the unique needs of each region and ensure flexible regional expressions.

#### **Issue 4:**

It was voted:

to ask member churches to consider their own regulations so that they provide for mutual recognition of ordained ministry with sister churches in the communion; such recognition does not take away the ability of each church to specify expectations for ordained ministers which are appropriate to its context;

that DMD develop basic criteria/guidelines for exchange of church workers and other personnel.

**Issue 5:**

It was voted:

to affirm the LWF Assembly in keeping with the LWF Constitution, as the principal authority of the communion, and the primary legislative and policy-making body in the LWF, with representatives from every member church in the communion; and

to consider concretely the recommendations of the WCC Central Committee concerning future assemblies, with possible expanded spaces for Christian World Communions, preparing – if relevant and required – amendments in the Constitution and Bylaws so that LWF assemblies (with their own defined character) may in the future be held within expanded spaces provided within the framework of WCC assemblies.

**Issue 6.2:**

It was voted to request the Constitution Committee to prepare for the Executive Committee in March 2010 clear regulations on:

- who will be the official signatories of the LWF, taking into consideration the need for different situations, e.g. signing the minutes of the governing bodies, signing commercial contracts, etc.;
- who will be the acting President in case the President is incapacitated;
- how the Council will ensure that the team of Vice-Presidents will have a gender balance, when it has to elect them upon recommendation of the relevant pre-assemblies;

It was voted to consider and act upon the following description of the role of the Vice-Presidents including making an amendment in the Constitution:

“The Vice-Presidents, members of the Council, are elected by the Council upon recommendation of the relevant Pre-Assemblies. The Council shall ensure that the team of Vice-Presidents shall be a combination of women and men. The Vice-Presidents, lay or ordained leaders in their own churches, represent the LWF in the region to which their churches belong. The Vice-Presidents may preside over regional meetings. They shall report on the life of their regions, on behalf of their regional expressions, to meetings of the Council.”

**Issue 6.3:**

It was voted:

to consider and act upon the following description of the role of the Chairperson of the Finance Committee (the Treasurer) including making an amendment in the Constitution (Article X.2):

“The Chairperson of the Finance Committee shall be a member of the Council and elected by the Council. She or he shall chair the Finance Committee, interpret reports to the Council on financial matters, maintain such policies and limitations as pertain to financial operations, and assist the Council in setting policies for financial support from the member churches. It is the task of the Finance Committee to monitor the competence and accuracy of financial transactions and to recommend financial policies to the Council. The Chairperson of the Finance Committee shall be a member of the Meeting of Officers.”

to ask the Standing Committee for Constitution to allow the appointment of the Chairperson of the Finance Committee from outside the Council; and

to ask the Standing Committee for Constitution to provide for such option in the amended Constitution.

**Issue 7.1:**

It was voted:

to consider and act upon the following description of the Council, including making the required amendments in the Constitution (Article VIII):

“The purpose of the Council shall be to ensure that the continuous interpretation of the communion’s mission shall be maintained from one Assembly to the end of the next, and that it shall be communicated and implemented throughout the membership. The role of the Council involves articulating, and taking action on strategy and policy, and monitoring the overall work of the communion office through the General Secretary. The Council shall survey and assess the global environment in which it is called to mission, to set priorities, and to ensure that all aspects of its work receive appropriate attention.

The Council shall ensure clear communication of its priorities and a regular schedule of review and consultation with the General Secretary through the Meeting of Officers. It is the task of the Council to make its vision and expectations clear for the General Secretary, so that the accountability of the Council and the General Secretary shall be unambiguous and mutual.

The Council shall be further responsible for the approval of governance documents such as Bylaws, Rules of Procedure and other policy enactments. These documents establish the authority and limitations within which the General Secretary functions, and ensure legal compliance on behalf of the LWF.

The Council shall consist of 48 members nominated by the regions and elected by the Assembly. The Council may appoint up to 21 advisers.

The Council shall elect from within itself, with gender balance, seven Vice-Presidents on a regional basis, and the Chairperson of the Finance Committee (Treasurer.) It shall elect the General Secretary and make Cabinet appointments upon the General Secretary’s nomination. It shall also approve the annual Statement of Needs (SoN) and budgets, appoint Council committees, and make all the necessary decisions regarding the LWF between assemblies as outlined in the Constitution, Bylaws and other governing documents of the LWF. These documents establish the authority and limitations within which the General Secretary functions, and ensure legal compliance on behalf of the LWF. (Cf. the LWF policies and regulations that govern appointments).”

to request that the above recommendation be amended to ensure that the principles of inclusiveness (40% men, 40% women and 20% youth) are applied to all governing levels of the LWF.

to ask the Constitution Committee to ensure that the President is a member of the Council with the possibility of an additional seat.

to ask the Constitution Committee to prepare clear regulations for the Executive Committee in March 2010, so that, in case the Council would not meet every year, the Meeting of the Officers has the authority to approve the annual financial statement.

**Issue 7.2:**

It was voted:

to consider and act upon the following description of the Meeting of Officers, including making the required amendment in the Constitution (Article VIII):

“The Meeting of Officers shall consist of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and the Chairperson(s) of the Program Committee(s). It serves as the Board of Trustees for the LWF and as a Personnel Committee in approving executive level staff appointments. The role and function of the Meeting of Officers is described in the Terms of Reference; and

to add two at-large positions for the purpose of ensuring gender and generational participation.”

**Issue 8:**

It was voted to consider and act upon the following description of the role of the General Secretary, including making required amendments in the Constitution (Article XII):

“The General Secretary is elected by the Council. The General Secretary is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and, together with the President, a public representative and chief spokesperson for the LWF.

It is the General Secretary’s responsibility to prepare, in cooperation with the Meeting of Officers, the meetings of the Council and to implement the visions and execute the decisions of the Assembly and the Council. The General Secretary shall maintain close connections with the member churches and church organizations for mission and diakonia, and implement strategic choices based on the Strategic Plan.

As the Chief Executive Officer, the General Secretary is responsible for reporting to the Council and Assembly on all activities of the communion office. The General Secretary is accountable to the strategic priorities established by the Council and accountable for strategic plans and management structures that will lead the communion toward its vision.

The office and functions of the General Secretary are described in the Terms of Reference.”

**Issue 9:**

It was voted:

to put in place a comprehensive process with the aim of ensuring that LWF programs and organizational structures are financially sustainable by the member churches. Such a process should be supported by an external consultant with proven expertise in this area. The process should consider:

- a) structure of the communion office;
- b) staffing needs to support the programs of the communion;
- c) the cost of governance structures;

- d) the location of the communion office; and
- e) communication mechanisms and structures.

It was furthermore voted:

- a) that the process also be supported by an advisory committee, consisting of people (from member churches) with organizational development experience, appointed by the Executive Committee and with Terms of Reference established by the Executive Committee;
- b) that the process ensures excellent communication between the secretariat and the member churches;
- c) that the process develop a means for priorities setting for the work of the secretariat;
- d) that the process be started as soon as possible;

to request the General Secretary in consultation with the Chairpersons of the Program Committee for World Service and Standing Committee for World Service to present a new structure for the governance of World Service to the Executive Committee in March 2010; and to develop a recommendation for the Council's consideration and action.