

MEETING OF THE LWF COUNCIL 2009

RESOLUTIONS and ACTIONS

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

It was voted:

to absolutely reject the turning of human beings into commodities, especially for the purposes of forced or exploitative labour, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, armed conflict or 'organ harvesting';

to call upon all LWF member churches:

- to acknowledge and address the challenges related to theological, spiritual, ecclesiological and Christian anthropological dimensions of human trafficking;
- to provide leadership – in preaching, teaching and other forms of public witness – against the commercial exploitation of human beings;
- to speak out and work against marginalization and stigma of vulnerable persons and victims of trafficking, within the churches and in the wider society;
- to identify specific persons at risk and vulnerable communities, and work to reduce the vulnerability and isolation of such individuals and communities by addressing issues of poverty, exclusion and insecurity;
- to work to raise awareness among vulnerable individuals and communities about the risks of human trafficking;
- to offer compassion, counseling and support to victims of trafficking, and promote their reintegration in the community in order to reduce the risk of them being trafficked again;
- to challenge the widespread impunity enjoyed by traffickers, insisting on the establishment of appropriate and effective laws against human trafficking;
- to consider how to engage with the perpetrators as well as victims so as to reduce the prevalence of human trafficking;
- to join local, national or international actions or campaigns against human trafficking, and support ecumenical and inter-faith cooperation on this issue;
- to work together on this issue with other bodies in the ecumenical movement and in civil society specialized in addressing human trafficking;
- to disseminate and study authoritative resources on human trafficking, such as the UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons;

- to develop and share liturgies, Bible study resources, prayers and songs on the issue of human trafficking, for use in congregations; and

to encourage LWF member churches, country programs and partners in countries that have not ratified the Trafficking Protocol (especially Angola, Bangladesh, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone and Swaziland) to challenge their governments to ratify the Protocol.

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.

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

It was voted:

to receive as information the Bible study brochures as presented;

to authorize the General Secretary to finalize the list of leadership (chairperson, vice-chairperson and recorder) for each village group in consultation with the Assembly Planning Committee;

to authorize the General Secretary to proceed with the proposed prioritization of keynote speakers;

to adopt the song 'Give, Give Us' as the theme song for the assembly and that the copyright issues be negotiated;

to approve the draft schedule of the Eleventh Assembly; [on the understanding that it would need to be approved by the assembly during its first session]

to divide the money collected during the worship services held throughout the assembly period 50-50 between the LWF Endowment Fund and projects related to the theme of the assembly;

to approve the draft Rules of Procedure for the Eleventh Assembly for submission to and adoption by the Assembly [Revised language having been agreed to in the section on Assembly Outcomes, and on the understanding that staff would undertake some editing in various sections of the document];

to ask the General Secretary to explore the possibility of resources to enable members of the Assembly Planning Committee to attend the assembly.

THEOLOGY AND STUDIES

“A Call for Churches Critically to Engage with Governments” Communiqué from the Consultation Holding Governments Accountable, Geneva, 19 – 21 October 2009

It was voted to affirm and commend the communiqué, “A Call for Churches Critically to Engage with Governments,” from the consultation Holding Governments Accountable, Geneva, 19–21 October 2009, and to ask the General Secretary to send it to member churches for their attention including the specific actions recommended.

A proposal for the Development of a Statement on Economic and Climate Justice en Route to the 2010 Assembly

It was voted to support the development of a call or declaration on economic and climate justice through the various events leading up to the Assembly, and encourage participatory input into it as it journeys through the various pre-Assemblies leading up to Stuttgart.

MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT

Address of the President

Address of the President - Human Sexuality

It was voted to request the LWF Secretariat to develop a plan of action for the years remaining until 2012 that takes into consideration the following aspects:

- that the General Secretary remind member churches about the Report of the Task Force on “Marriage, Family and Human Sexuality” adopted by the LWF Council at its meeting in Lund in 2007 and accompany them as they follow up through study and discussion of this document;
- that LWF (DMD-DTS) provide study material on how Lutherans understand and interpret Scripture in the light of current challenges of the communion;
- that the pre-Assembly meetings provide time and space for consultation on this issue and that DMD develop and provide a framework for discussion.

Report of the Treasurer

It was voted to request the LWF Secretariat to develop a draft policy for Council approval on stewardship in the communion that

- deepens our understanding of God-given gifts for the sake of our common mission and ways in which they are shared to support the communion;
- lifts up best practices of the member churches; and
- builds upon the praxis of sustainability within the context of spirituality of giftedness.

Report of the Assembly Planning Committee

Youth and Gender Representation

It was voted:

to urge member churches and regions to construct and re-construct the delegations to the Stuttgart Assembly in a way that fully adheres to the commitments regarding the representation of women and young people made at the LWF assemblies in Budapest 1984 and Curitiba 1990;

to remind the member churches of the resolution adopted by the LWF Assembly in Winnipeg and encourage its implementation: "to reaffirm their commitment to ensure and implement 20 percent youth participation at future assemblies, and to urge the member churches to ensure no less than 40 percent male and no less than 40 percent female youth representation among the delegations within their region at future assemblies;"

to ask the General Secretary to prepare a draft for a document on gender and youth participation in the LWF structures for appropriate action by the assembly in order to fulfill the resolution adopted by the LWF Assembly in Winnipeg 2003 that reads: "to request the new Council to clearly define the policy on gender balance in order to secure a common understanding in all regions for future assemblies;"

to commit to capacity building as needed to enable meaningful participation, not merely representation.

Gender and Power

It was voted:

to receive the document "It will not be so among you! A faith reflection on Gender and Power";

to encourage the member churches to actively participate in the follow-up process leading to the development of an LWF gender policy.

Diakonia Handbook

It was voted to request DMD to facilitate focused activities to promote utilization of the diakonia handbook.

MISSION AND DEVELOPMENT TOGETHER WITH WORLD SERVICE

Report of the General Secretary

ACT Alliance

It was voted:

to request the Council to encourage the member churches and agencies to consider applying for membership also; and

to request LWF to pursue in its relationship with the ACT Alliance the concerns and advice expressed in its message from the LWF Global Consultation on Diakonia (2008):

- Review relationships between churches, agencies and mission societies aimed at seeking new synergies and connectivity which will enhance the ability as a Lutheran and ecumenical family to be more effective in (...) diakonia.
- It is becoming an urgent task to translate and convey local knowledge of partners and networks in the global South into the dialogue with constituencies and governments in the North. Therefore the communication of their diaconal identity and their relationship with the global church is an immediate task.
- However, dealing with today's context,
 - specialized ministries and related agencies should primarily accompany and seek to promote capacity building in churches to engage in diakonia, while playing a facilitating role in diaconal work appropriate to local contexts;
 - organizations should commit themselves for long-term partnerships with churches;
 - there is an ongoing need to engage with one another in discussions about roles and approaches;
 - there is an urgent need for dialogue in order to establish codes of conduct in diakonia.”

WORLD SERVICE

ACT Alliance

It was voted:

to apply for membership in the unified ACT Alliance;

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Treasurer's Report

It was voted:

to strongly encourage all member churches and related organizations to maintain their support to the LWF;

to ask the General Secretary to bring a proposal through the Executive Committee to the Pre-Assembly Council meeting in July 2010 on how the LWF Secretariat structural deficit will be addressed, taking into account prioritization, the workload of staff, and the partnership possibilities with other organizations. Such work to be undertaken in conjunction with the recommendation approved under issue 9 of the Renewal Committee's report.

Financial Result of 2008

It was voted:

to receive the Reports of the Auditors on the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year 2008 ended December 31; and

to receive and adopt the Consolidated Financial Statements for 2008, and the Financial Statements of the General Secretariat, the Departments for Theology and Studies, for Mission and Development, and for World Service for 2008.

Appointment of LWF Auditors

It was voted to extend the term of PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditors of the LWF for the years 2009 and 2010.

LWF Geneva Coordination Budget for 2010

It was voted:

to approve the LWF Geneva Coordination Budget for 2010 with expenditure of CHF 12,390,862 as presented in Exhibit 15.3, currently showing a deficit of CHF 1,416,352;

to suspend the cost-of-living adjustment and step increases in salaries for 2010;

to give those staff members, whose step increase was put on hold, five additional vacation days in 2010; and

to charge the deficit against the reserves of the respective departments.

Report of the LWF Foundation – Endowment Fund

It was voted to receive the report of the Board of the LWF Foundation – Endowment Fund with thanks and appreciation.

COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Report of the General Secretary

It was voted that the General Secretary develop and bring to the Council clear procedures to be followed in case of elections and that these procedures include “Guidelines for Communication Procedures during Elections of the LWF,” describing internal communication management and potential public steps to be taken.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The 20th anniversary of the culmination of the peace prayer movement in the former German Democratic Republic

It was voted to adopt the following public statement:

Twenty years ago, a tidal wave of political and social change swept Eastern Europe, bringing down dictatorships and oppressive regimes across the region. Along with the prospect of freedom from oppression, this radical transition brought great turmoil and danger. In some parts of the region, there was violence and bloodshed. In others, peace miraculously prevailed. On this occasion, we particularly commemorate the role played by church people in the former German Democratic Republic in inspiring and mobilizing popular resistance to an oppressive government, through prayer and non-violent action for peace and freedom. These events culminated on 9 October 1989, when after prayers in the churches of Leipzig an estimated 70,000 people took to the streets bearing candles and prayers against guns and the threat of violence. The faith and courage of those people remains an example to all of us today, and calls us to reflect again on the role of the church in proclaiming God’s peace and justice and confronting violence and oppression wherever God’s people suffer.

Climate Change

It was voted:

to note that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has clearly indicated that if global warming is to be limited to between 2.0 and 2.4°C, global emissions must peak no later than 2015, stress again the critical urgency and unprecedented magnitude of the challenge of climate change and the threat that it poses to humanity and all living things on Earth;

to reiterate the call to member churches contained in the Council's resolution in Arusha, 2008, to engage in and deepen their theological and ethical reflection and action on climate change;

to commend to member churches the materials and resources produced by the LWF to aid such reflection and action, as well as the resources available from the WCC and other ecumenical partners;

to commend in particular the outcome documents from the LWF Climate Change Encounter in Puri, India, 16-20 April 2009, and the LWF Africa Regional Consultation on Climate Change, Food Insecurity and Poverty in Africa, Nairobi, 5-10 October 2009;

to call upon all member churches to observe 13 December 2009 – during the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen – as a day for prayer, confession and action on the issue of climate change, to ring church bells or to take other symbolic actions in solidarity for climate justice; and ask the General Secretary to produce and make available liturgical material for use by member churches on this occasion;

to ask the representatives of the LWF communion attending the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, and LWF member churches around the world, to:

- advocate for an agreement that is based on justice, raising up the voices of the vulnerable and the poor, highlighting especially the impacts of climate change on food insecurity and increasing human vulnerability, including the phenomena of climate change migration and climate change refugees;
- insist that the international community establish a fair, equitable, legally-binding agreement to succeed the Kyoto Protocol, in order to achieve the target of 40% reduction of developed country carbon emissions by 2020;
- promote the establishment of just and adequate means of financing climate change mitigation and adaptation in the countries of the developing world, so that developing countries can adapt to the worst consequences of global warming, reduce their emissions, and deploy 'clean' technologies. Funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries must not be drawn from existing development cooperation budgets/commitments;
- support calls for compensation and reparations for the disastrous consequences of climate change in the Global South;
- advocate for commitments and measures to ensure that global greenhouse gas emissions peak no later than 2015 and then decline rapidly towards a target of atmospheric CO₂ concentrations of less than 350 ppm as soon as possible; and
- draw on and integrate the important insights and wisdom of Indigenous Peoples on ethical and sustainable relationships with creation.

Justice for Dalits

It was voted:

to receive the Bangkok Declaration and Call, issued by the Global Ecumenical Conference on Justice for Dalits, Bangkok, 21-24 March 2009, and commend it to LWF member churches and programs;

to affirm that caste and related discrimination contradict the Christian teaching that all are created equal and in the image of God;

to endorse the Bangkok Call to churches, national and international ecumenical bodies, governments in caste affected countries, the wider international community and Dalit communities;

to request LWF member churches in both caste-affected and other countries to challenge their governments to make a firm global commitment to the elimination of caste-based discrimination, and implement measures to fulfill that commitment;

to emphasize the importance of working for the elimination of 'manual scavenging' by the end of 2010.¹;

to express support for the ongoing work of the UN human rights treaty bodies, the ILO and other international organizations to address untouchability and caste-based discrimination around the world;

to especially welcome and commend the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for her recent statement "Tearing down the walls of caste"; and

to urge the UN Human Rights Council to adopt the draft UN Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination Based on Work and Descent in order to provide an appropriate basis for the international community to address caste-based discrimination as a global concern.

Israel-Palestine

It was voted:

to note with concern the current efforts by Israelis to change the status quo in the Holy Basin in and around that city (the Old City, Silwan and the Mount of Olives);

to endorse strongly the statement by the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches in August-September 2009 with regard to Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

¹ 'Manual scavenging' is the manual removal of excreta ('night soil') from 'dry latrines' (i.e. toilets without a flush system). This is a traditional occupation of Dalits, and is still performed almost exclusively by Dalits – especially Dalit women. Some Indian States have passed laws to abolish manual scavenging, and the national Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act 1993 prescribes penalties for the employment of manual scavengers or the construction of dry latrines. However, manual scavenging persists throughout India (with an estimated 1.3 million Dalits still employed as manual scavengers) despite repeated government commitments to eradicate it. The campaign of the abolition of manual scavenging has been led by Safai Karamchari Andolan, an organization working among manual scavengers, which has identified 2010 (when India will host the Commonwealth Games) as a target date for the final elimination of this degrading and dangerous occupation.

to demand the immediate lifting of the siege of Gaza;

to re-affirm its support for the ministries and witness of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the Lutheran World Federation in their quest to continue to witness for justice and peace;

to re-affirm its support for restarting negotiations for the implementation of a just, two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including a shared Jerusalem;

to express thanks to church leaders who have visited recently or will soon visit the ELCJHL to accompany their ministries and learn about the situation in the region and ask that ways be explored for church leaders from the South to be able to do likewise;

to reiterate the importance of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel as a tangible act of solidarity and witness for peace and call on churches to continue to support the program and facilitate the presence of accompaniers from the churches of the South; and

to deplore actions, such as revocation of residency rights, home demolitions, and denial of permits, which reinforce the trend of Christian emigration from the Holy Land, a place where the Christian community can continue to be a bridge-builder with the other two Abrahamic faiths for peace.

ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS

Report of the Chairperson of the Board of the Lutheran Foundation for Interconfessional Research, Strasbourg

It was voted to receive the Report of the Chairperson of the Board of the Lutheran Foundation for Interconfessional Research with appreciation;

to thank the Institute for Ecumenical Research, Strasbourg, and its staff for its assistance to the LWF Office for Ecumenical Affairs;

to express appreciation for the continued support by the Institute for the bilateral dialogues and for its substantial contributions to these dialogues; and

to re-affirm the strong commitment of the LWF to the work in ecumenical research to which the Institute is devoted.

Lutheran – Roman Catholic Relations

Lutheran – Roman Catholic Commission on Unity

It was voted:

to receive the Communiqué from the first meeting of the Lutheran - Roman Catholic Commission on Unity 2009 meeting with appreciation; and

to look forward to receiving a text on the anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

Symposium of Biblical Scholars

It was voted to receive the report from the 2008 meeting of the Symposium of Biblical Scholars with appreciation.

Lutheran – Orthodox Relations

Preparatory meeting 2009 for the plenary in 2011

It was voted to receive the communiqué from the 2009 Preparatory Meeting for the 15th Session of the Lutheran – Orthodox Joint Commission with appreciation.

Anglican – Lutheran Relations

Anglican – Lutheran International Commission (ALIC)

It was voted to receive the Communiqué from the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission 2009 with appreciation.

Lutheran – Reformed Relations

Lutheran – Reformed Joint Commission

It was voted to receive the Communiqué from the Lutheran-Reformed Joint Commission 2008 with appreciation.

Lutheran – Mennonite Relations

It was voted:

to receive with appreciation the report, *Healing of Memories; Reconciling in Christ*, from the Lutheran - Mennonite International Study Commission, 2005-2009;

to commend the members of the Commission for their thorough and important work;

to thank the Strasbourg Institute for Ecumenical Research for its special support for this Commission;

to inform the International Lutheran Council about the report, *Healing Memories, Reconciling in Christ* and this Statement, and to invite its participation in affirming regret and sorrow over the Lutheran persecution of Anabaptists;

to ask the General Secretary to send this report to the LWF member churches for information, study and discussion, and possible response;

to provide delegates to pre-assemblies access to the report and the Statement and to request that they discuss them at their meetings; and

to approve this Statement and to recommend it for adoption at the Assembly in Stuttgart,

Germany in 2010.

Lutheran – Pentecostal Relations

It was voted:

to ask the General Secretary to begin a process of preparing for a Lutheran-Pentecostal International Commission; and

to report on the progress toward the formation of such a commission to the next meeting of the Council.

ELECTIONS

Council members

Replacement for the late Bishop Julius Paul

The Council voted to elect Bishop Solomon Rajah, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia, to replace the late Bishop Julius Paul, and to appoint him to the Program Committee for Communication.

Replacement for Mrs Sophia Hutagalung

It was voted to elect Miss Jenette Alisha Purba, The Indonesian Christian Church (HKI), to replace Mrs Sophia Hutagalung, and to appoint her to the Program Committee for Finance and Administration.

Advisers

Replacement for Rev. Roy Thakurdial

It was voted to elect the Rev. Kenneth Kross, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname, to replace the Rev. Roy Thakurdial, and to appoint him to the Program Committee for Ecumenical Affairs.

Program Committee for World Service

It was voted to appoint Rev. Dr A.G. Augustine Jeyakumar, The Arcot Lutheran Church [India], to the Program Committee for World Service.

Standing Committee for World Service

Replacement of chairperson

It was voted to elect Rev. Dr A.G. Augustine Jeyakumar, The Arcot Lutheran Church [India], as chairperson of the Standing Committee for World Service to replace the late Bishop Julius

Paul.

Replacement of members

It was voted to elect Mr Louis Dorvilier, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to replace Dr Belletech Deressa, and Mr Volker Gerdesmeier, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe/Bread for the World, to replace Dr Konrad von Bonin.

MEMBERSHIP

It was voted to extend full membership to the Evangelical Church in Central Germany, and to authorize it to send a delegation of five persons to the Eleventh Assembly.

CONSTITUTION

It was voted to add a final paragraph to Article 8.1 of the Bylaws to read as follows: The term shall not exceed retirement age regulated in the Personnel Policies.

LWF CENTER WITTENBERG

It was voted:

to acknowledge the newly-established LWF Center in Wittenberg as a joint initiative of the German National Committee and the Lutheran World Federation to enhance global Lutheran communion building through continuing theological formation and accompaniment of visitors in the historic town of the Reformation; and

to invite LWF member churches to participate in the Luther Garden tree-planting project, as a symbol of our global communion and its ecumenical relationships rooted historically in the town of Wittenberg.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would take place on 18-20 July 2010 in Stuttgart; the Executive Committee would meet on 17 July 2010.