

Lutheran Mission Cooperation Tanzania
Minutes of the 43rd LMC Board Meeting
9th – 10th June 2015
New Safari Hotel, Arusha

1. Introduction

1.1. Morning Devotion

9th of June: Rev. Manfred Scheckenbach

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me.” John 15:26

When we are thinking about mission, we come back to Mathew 28 and the great commission. In John’s words, we are coming close to the words of Mathew. In Mathew the disciples are the subjects *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”* In John, the disciples are the objects *“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father”*, the disciples will receive the Holy Spirit. God is doing, it is not we who are doing with converts in statistics. The mission is Gods and we have to rely on the Counselor. In Luke 24 we read that when the disciples are sent out they are equipped with the Holy Spirit.

10th of June: Bp. Isaya Mengele

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.” James 1:19-21

We have just celebrated 60 year anniversary in Marangu. In the Lutheran family you can find differences within but all are we under Jesus Christ. Let us listen to each other. 60 years ago was before the independence, under the colony, but the church started earlier. There were restrictions and can be in the future, but God is beyond all restrictions. We are approaching an election, a new government. Politicians are quick to speak on their issues, but our people should listen more and not talk for their candidates.

“... Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...”

Let us pray for the election, the new president and the new government. Let us pray for peace.

1.2. Opening of the 43rd board meeting

The LMC chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming all board members.

1.3. Roll-Call

Bp. Dr. Israel-Peter Mwakyolile, LMC Chairperson
Rev. Manfred Scheckenbach, LMC Co-Chairperson
Bp. Isaya Mengele, ELCT
Ms. Mary Laiser, ELCT
Mr. Lasse Lampinen, FELM
Rev. Benyam Kassahun, ELCA
Ms. Anna Claesson, SEM
Mr. Loata Laizer Mungaya, ELCT DSG Finance and Administration

LMC Secretariat

Mr. Peter Karlsson, LMC Secretary
Mr. Sirieli Pallangyo, Administrative Officer
Sr. Flaviana Temba, Financial Officer

Invited

Mr. Stig Lundberg, COS
Rev. Dr. Leonard A. Mtaita, CCT General Secretary (2.4)
Rev. Prof. Joseph W. Parsalaw, Vice Chancellor, TUMA (4.1)
Rev. Dr. Angela Olotu, Dean Faculty of Theology, TUMA (4.1)
Mr Eliakim Lekoringo, Bursar, TUMA (4.1)

1.4. Acceptance of agenda and timetable

The agenda was accepted as presented.

1.5. Greetings and updates.

Manfred Scheckenbach gave greetings from Neuendettelsau and the office of Mission Eine Welt. He informed about the new leaders, a couple taking over the leadership of MEW and will start their work in September. There will be a summer school for pastors.

Stig Lundberg gave greetings from the Church of Sweden. COS has appointed a new team leader for Africa, Mr Peter Karlsson-Sjögren, a liaison officer for Tanzania, Ms Eva Palmqvist. Mr Mark Simbizi will be the liaison officer in Uganda and the program officer for Tanzania, after Simbizi, will be Mr Erik Berggren.

Anna Claesson gave greetings from General Secretary Rev Stefan Holmström and Mission Director Rev Erik Johansson.

Benyam Kassahun gave greetings from ELCA and the presiding bishop.

Loata Laizer Mungaya gave greeting from the ELCT Common Work and the General Secretary.

Mary Laiser gave greetings from North Central Diocese and Bishop Rev Solomon Massangwa.

Lasse Lampinen gave greetings from FELM. Director Seppo Rissanen is back in the office and Rolf Steffansson is now Deputy Director. A new government is formed in Finland and they have announced that they will cut up to 40 % of the foreign aid, which will affect the bilateral support by FELM.

1.6. Confirmation of Minutes of 43rd board meeting

The minutes of the 43rd LMC board meeting were confirmed as the correct records of the proceedings of the meeting.

1.7. Matters arising from previous meetings

1.7.1. ELCT contribution towards the vehicle fund

The procedure on the ELCT contribution to the vehicle fund will be discussed in the August 2015 Executive Council and brought to the LMC Board in October.

1.7.2. Reallocation of administration to pay audit fees

The suggestion to reallocate TZS 72m from the program fund (administration) to pay audit fees has been discussed in the ELCT with the following recommendations:

- That the Audit division has introduced a pre-payment audit fee of 50% and a good number of dioceses are positively responding to it.
- Three dioceses (South Central Diocese, South Western Diocese and Diocese in Mara Region) are not able to meet the pre-payment audit fee and therefore, the proposal of using the administration, should only be affected to the three dioceses.

The LMC Board discussed the strained financial and reporting situation of those three dioceses. The Board assigned Loata Laizer Mungaya to visit and analyse the problems of those three dioceses and come up with a suggestion for a solution to the next board meeting.

1.7.3. Medical Loan Scheme

The Northern Diocese had made a request from the Medical Loan Scheme, for a vehicle to the fistula project, a work that is serving many dioceses. The ELCT CW management suggested, due to the fund belongs to all dioceses, the matter has to be taken by the Executive Committee.

- The LMC Board will await the Executive Committee.

1.7.4. Report on 20 million for Capacity Building

LMC has received a letter of appreciation for the support to the Capacity Building Workshop held with participants from the planning and finance departments of the 24 dioceses and ELCT headquarters. The impact of the workshop has already been seen in an increase of 50% in the 2%-collection to ELCT and in the reporting of Programme funds to LMC Secretariat.

1.7.5. Closing old funds

The LMC Secretariat has received a suggestion from Radio Voice of the Gospel, Moshi, how to use the remaining amount, LWF/ELCT Air time of TZS 10.321.000. From the SACCO at ELCT headquarters the Secretariat has received a progress report. The remaining amount held by LMC for the Saving and Credit Society Promotion is TZS 13.278.000

The LMC Board resolved:

- To release the funds to Radio Voice of the Gospel with TZS 10.321.000 and to ELCT HQ SACCOs with TZS 13.278.000

1.7.6. Report on Women Pastors and Theological Consultation

LMC Secretary informed about a report from Rev. Rachel Axwesso, DSG Social Service and Women's Work, on Women Pastors and Theological Consultation held in Bukoba on the 11th – 15th of May 2015.

1.7.7. Women and youth delegates from northern members

The LMC Board discussed the matter of the northern members to nominate two women and two youth delegates to attend the RT. FELM offered to send two youth delegates to the Round Table 2015 and 2016. The LMC Board accepted the offer and encouraged the northern members to nominate delegates according to the MOU. Manfred Scheckenbach was asked to contact the northern members on the issue.

2. Report and ongoing activities

2.1. LMC Secretary Travel Report

The LMC Secretary presented his travel report to the northern members in Europe, including the travel report from Sireli Pallangyo and Tumsifu David. The reports were received with appreciation.

The LMC Board resolved that, to achieve a better understanding and cooperation between northern members and ELCT, a visit like this should have included the ELCT General Secretary.

2.2. Future direction of LMC

The future role of LMC was discussed by the board. The subject has been on the agenda earlier years and during the visit to northern members it has been actualized. Different aspects of the future direction of LMC were discussed and some of the subjects that were covered are:

- LMC is a service office – theological issues are at forums for bishops
- Has the time come to integrate LMC and Common Work?
- Bilateralism, donor dependence syndrome, continuing depending on the north.
- How is the ELCT Strategic plan related to northern members in relation to ELCT?
- LMC is there for the sake of fairness – not all dioceses have the connection to the north.
- LMC has a role to maintain the unity of the ELCT, without LMC the unity can't exist,
- To transform LMC to a foreign department of the ELCT.
- To have a completely different Round Table 2017 – take out the “money” from the RT.

The LMC Board:

- Assigned Stig Lundberg to write a paper on how to initiate a “Foreign Department” in ELCT.
- Assigned Lasse Lampinen to write a proposal on how to change and improve the Round Table 2017.

2.3. LMC History

The LMC History, "A Historical-Theological Study on Partnership: Lutheran Mission Cooperation and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania from 1998 to 2004", was discussed. There are two aspects of the paper. If you are well initiated in the history of the LMC and former LCS, and knowing the relation ELCT and northern members, you find shortcomings and weaknesses in statements and assertions. Supports and substantiates are not always so well-founded. But on the other hand the history can be a useful source for the future.

2.4. "Political, Economic and Social Situation of Tanzania"

Rev. Dr. Leonard A Mtaita was invited to give a presentation on the subject "Political, Economic and Social Situation in Tanzania". His presentation was highly appreciated.

2.5. BDF report

LMC Secretary presented a report on BDF. In the policy for the BDF it is stated that "Gender balance shall be observed when appointing candidates". In the first year, BD1, there are only two female students out of 24 students. The LMC Board encourages the bishops to pay attention to the shortcoming on the gender balance in the BD course in the future.

2.6. CBF report

The CBF report for the academic year 2014/2015 was presented to the board. This year there have been 29 students and remaining students for the academic year 2015/2016 will be 13 and one student for 2016/2017.

2.7. CBF Assessment report

An assessment report of the CBF programme was presented.

A list of 126 students that were enrolled at different times from 2003 to 2011 was used. 90% of them completed their courses and 80% are still working with ELCT units. 71% of the students were men and 29% women.

A questionnaire was given to all units to learn to know the priorities of the church for a future CBF. Two alternatives were given, the current system with longer individual courses (current system) or group training and there were questions about priority areas. Two areas had a higher priority, "Mission & Evangelism" and "Resource Mobilization". Concerning the type of training 56% preferred group training, 29% current system and 15% both systems.

The LMC Board resolved that

- Not to change the decision of no new intake 2015/2016 until a final decision of the CBF program is made at the RT
- To change the CBF program from the existing system with long individual courses to group training.
- To bring the information to ELCT and then to decide on the Round Table.

2.8. Program Fund Report

A Program Fund report and an Audit status report were presented. There are shortcomings in reporting and still half of all dioceses have not been reporting for the second installment 2014 neither asked for the first installment 2015. Nine dioceses have received the first Installment 2015 and three dioceses have not fulfilled the requirements of audit reports or draft accounts (see 1.7.2 above).

- The secretariat will follow up and continue to remind the dioceses.

2.9. Changes in text “Programme Fund Policy”

The LMC Secretary presented an updated Program Fund Policy. There are some changes in wording from “operating subsidy” to “administration” and in the guidelines for a unit to be eligible for the 1st respective the 2nd subsidy installment. The Programme Fund Policy will be presented in the Round Table.

2.10. Project report

A report on pending projects was presented.

- Central Diocese “Acquisition of Land”: The payment to the government is acknowledged with receipt and the work is going on. Awaiting for the title deeds.
- Diocese of Mara Region “Bishop House”: Drawings, plans and budget is submitted. The new house stands at TZS 80m and the LMC funds cover TZS 40m. We are awaiting for assurance of the locally raised and other donors for TZS 40m.
- South Central Dioceses “Agriculture”: The machine is still stored in Mbeya. The machine needs to be re-painted, greased and tested before taking to Makete. The balance stands for TSZ 900.000. We are still awaiting for the bills for transportation and electrical installation that will be paid from the remaining funds in the project with the South Central Diocese.

3. LMC Finances

3.1. 2014 Audited Financial Statement

LMC Secretary presented the 2014 Audit Financial Statement and explaining the corrections after the draft accounts presented at the March board meeting.

We are awaiting for the management letter from the auditors that will be distributed to the board members on arrival to the office.

- The LMC Board approved the 2014 Audit Financial Statement.

3.2. Theological Education Fund

In the books of 2014 an amount of TZS 1.5 billion was reserved for theological education (42nd LMC Board meeting: 4.3.1). The LMC Board discussed the different usage of the fund. Education on different levels, gender balance in theological education and supporting theological education outside TUMA. Two of the parameters for the fund, that was discussed, was sustainability and equitability. After the meeting with the representatives of TUMA, LMC Board resolved that:

- To encourage the bishops to send women for theological education and to encourage women to be pastors.

- To suggest the bishops meeting that LMC supports two students from each diocese for ongoing education at TUMA (see 4.1 below).
- To calculate the possibilities to support certificate and/or diploma studies at recognized and defined institutions.
- To suggest ELCT to create a post at national level to coordinate theological education.

4. TUMA

4.1. Meeting with representatives from TUMA

LMC had invited Joseph W. Parsalaw, Angela Olutu and Eliakim Lekoringo from Tumaini University to discuss mutual matters concerning training of church ministries. Two main subjects were discussed, ongoing and inservice education and the experience of new routines with the BD course.

Two types of courses were presented, the inservice and the ongoing course. The inservice course is built up with thematic blocks and the ongoing is a continuation course for pastors. The duration of both courses are two months in two years. The fee structure was presented and the total cost for one student one year is TZS 1.112.000

The experience of the administration of BD students, all payments are made from LMC office, are good. It seems that everything has gone smoothly with only a few mistakes due to oversight with information between LMC – TUMA – Dioceses that is corrected.

5. Matters from Members

5.1. ELCT matters

Loata Laizer Mungaya informed the board from the dioceses and Common Work and ELCT Investments.

5.1.1. From Dioceses and Common work

ELCT Diocese – North Western Diocese

I am pleased to inform you that on 2nd June 2015, the General Assembly of the ELCT- North Western Diocese elected Rev. Dr. Abedinego Keshomshahara to be a Bishop, a successor of Bishop Elisa Buberwa. Before election, Rev. Dr. Keshomshahara was the Deputy Provost Finance and Administration of Josiah Kibira University College of Tumaini University Makumira.

The General Assembly also elected Rev. Lermy Lwankomezi to continue serving the Diocese as Assistant to the Bishop for another term of four years.

Please remember them in your prayer.

Marangu Conference

ELCT hosted the 60th Marangu Anniversary in the week of 19th to 24th of May 2015, in Moshi. The event was very successful as it was well attended by the Africa Church Leaders and Lutheran Churches Family Worldwide. The conference was

part and parcel of the commemoration of the 500 year of the Reformation to be held in Windhoek Namibia 2017.

5.1.2. ELCT Investments

New Safari Hotel:

Last year performance review

The hotel performance last year was not as expected. However, it managed to recover its operation with a small profit of TShs 56 million after tax. Despite the challenges faced by the hotel industry during 2014 being political mishaps, booming of churches and public area, New Safari Hotel, compared to other hotels around Arusha town, made this effort to survive.

Performance report for the 1st Quarter 2015:

Performance for the 1st quarter 2015 shows an improvement compare to 1st quarter of the 2014. Total sales for the 1st quarter were TShs 332million compared to 305million in the 1st quarter 2014. The room occupancy was 37.1% of its capacity while bed occupancy was 27% of its capacity compared to the same time last year which was 30.4% and 19.6% respectively.

The following are the factors contributed to this achievement:

New customer from three parishes from Eastern Coastal Dioceses whom resulted from a visit done by the Hotel Marketing Term just before the year 2014. The parishes were Azania Front, Kijitonyama, and Mbezi. Other visits which brought a positive impact was – PPF, CRDB Bank, NBAA, Ministry of Agriculture, Hellow Tanzania Tours Ltd, Care International, I-TECH, Future Group, CAMFED (T) TTU, and WHO. Others are Foundation for Civil Society, IATA, Tours and Takims. These groups either hosted their meeting or the member visited the hotel for accommodation of food.

Way Forward. The following are plans for more future improvements:

Increase advertisement through international and local magazine and use of social media.

Increase more visit to Corporate, SME, individual business people and Government organizations.

Enhance staff contribution as being ambassadors of the Hotel

Enhance our brand being a church organization that has its own niche – *The customers with not fun of alcohols but needs somewhere cool.*

Kunduchi Trinity

The Trinity Tower Project still in progress, the title deeds and other land ownership process was done. The project is now under LUICO running with other development implementation process on way.

Hymnal Book

Sales Hymnal Books

Sale of the Hymnal book in a period of five months from January to May 2015 seemed to be showing an improvement compare to the last year. For a period of four month sale of the book was TShs 170million, this is 60 % of the total sale of Tshs 287 for the year 2014.

Balance from Dioceses

The balances outstanding from the dioceses which tuning to TShs 877million is still a challenge to collect. Several measures were taken to ensure this balance is recovered one being converted balances in monetary term rather than in inventories of books held by dioceses, Introducing 12% interest for outstanding balances, and advising the dioceses to open to private vendors (Private Bookshop) to buy and sell the books. The balance statements on monthly bases are now provided to them to make them being aware of their status.

Balance outstanding to Retirement Scheme

The retirement Scheme Balance as up to 31December 2014 was TZS 628,000,000 as analysed below. ELCT head Office pays the balance sufficiently, of which this year we planned to pay 25 million each month and hence our expectation is to pay up to 300 million. As up to April 2015 a total of TShs 150 million paid. The remained balance of TShs 478 million is the Interest earned by the balance as shown below:

Balance at 31st December 2014: TZS 628 million (principal TZS 150m and interest TZS 478million)

Amount paid as up to 30th of April 2015: TZS 150 million

The net balance as of to date TZS 478 million

Venue for the Round Table 2016

The letter was written by the Secretary General to all dioceses informing them to invite the LMC Round Table for the year 2016 as a procedural process. Once the invitation is received the office of the Secretary General will communicate to the LMC Secretariat so that the Octobers LMC Board will propose to the RT on the venue.

ELCT HQ's Request

The Executive Council of the Church in its meeting held on 25th -26th May, 2015 in Moshi realized that, two departments at HQ office, Mission and Evangelism department and Youth Department lacks of vehicles to perform their duties. It was resolved that the matter will be presented to the LMC Board to see whether they can be assisted. There are two proposed ways, one being through Common basket Funds or through reserves. However, it is about the LMC Board decision to decide on how they can assist in this. The proposed vehicle is LAND CRUISER HARD TOP for both offices due to the nature of their work

The LMC Board appreciated the report from Loata Laizer Mungaya. The board discussed the matter of transparency and how thorough the reporting, to LMC board, regarding ELCT investments should be.

The request of the two vehicles was discussed. The reserve fund, is according to the agreement in the Matema consensus, intended to be used for ELCT investments. The other option is to include the purchase in the ELCT Vehicle Fund. The fund is limited and only one vehicle could be included in an extension of the fund.

The LMC Board resolved:

- The ELCT Executive Council has to decide on the information on investments to be shared with LMC Board.
- To buy one vehicle and make an extension of the ELCT Vehicle fund for Common Work for a full 6 year cycle and ELCT CW has to pay two shares of the one third that ELCT is contributed to the fund yearly.

5.2. From northern members

5.2.1. Proposal to the agenda at Round Table 2015 from Danmission

Mr Simon S. Kristensen, Danmission Regional Representative, proposed an agenda to RT on gender imbalance among churchgoers. The number of men attending the church are decreasing and the majority of churchgoers are women and children.

- The LMC Board resolved not to take it to the agenda. The theme of the RT is Women in God's Service and there will be an opportunity to discuss gender issues.

6. Coming meetings

6.1. Board meetings 2015

15th – 17th and 21st of October 2015, arrival 14th

6.2. Board meetings 2016

3rd – 4th of March 2015, arrival 2nd

24th – 25th of May, arrival 23rd

13th – 15th and 19th of October 2016, arrival 12th

6.3. Round Table 2015

Date: 19th – 20st of October

Venue: *Bukoba, North Western Diocese*

Theme: *Women in God's Service*

Bible verse: *Matthew 28:5-11*

"But the angel said to the women ... come and see ... then go quickly and tell his disciples"

Bible Studies Leader: *Rev Dr. Wyvetta Bullock, ELCA*

Keynote speaker: *Dr Agnes Abuom, WCC*

6.4. Round Table 2016

Date: 17th – 18th of October

Venue: *not ready*

Theme: *Reformation and the one World*

Bible verse: *not ready*

Bible Studies Leader: *not ready*

Keynote speaker: *not ready*

Budget: *not ready*

7. AOB and Closing

7.1. Representation of LWF at the LMC Round Table

It was proposed to invite LWF to the LMC Round Table. The LMC board agreed on

- To invite LWF to LMC Round Table
- To include LWF in the mailing list for information from LMC.

7.2. Closing

The LMC chairperson expressed thanks to all board members for their contributions. Board members gave a word of appreciation to the chairperson, then he closed the meeting with a word of prayer.

Bishop Dr. Israel-Peter Mwakyolile
LMC Chairperson

Peter Karlsson
LMC Secretary