

Lutheran Mission Cooperation Tanzania
Minutes of the 44th LMC Board Meeting
15th – 16th October 2015
Bukoba

1. Introduction

1.1. Morning Devotion

15th of October: Bp Israel-Peter Mwakyolile

"... Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." John 8:1-11

The leaders did what they should do according to the scriptures and brought the woman, who had been caught in the act of adultery, to be judged. But Jesus is different. Jesus came to fulfil the law, not to condemn people. Adultery is a big sin, it's a sin that is seen. In our confession every Sunday we say seen and unseen sins. In this condemnation is only the woman, but where is the man? Jesus raises the woman and gives her another chance. She is an image of God, as men also are. We men, in this society, have to see everyone equal as Jesus saw the women and let them serve in the ministry.

16th of October: Ms Anna Claesson

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant..." Mary's Song in Luke 1:46-55

Mary was a young woman with a huge and enormous task. God made his choice in Mary, to encourage women and young people. Mary is one of the good examples in the bible of "Women in God's Service", showing the willingness to accept the task.

1.2. Opening of the 44th 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. Sireli Pallangyo, Administrative Officer

Sr. Flaviana Temba, Financial Officer

1.4. Acceptance of agenda and timetable

The agenda was accepted as presented.

1.5. Greetings and updates.

Israel-Peter Mwakyolile gave greetings from Konde Diocese. The diocese will celebrate 125 years in September 2016 and Mwakyolile invites all to share the celebration. The diocese has lost a highly appreciated pastor, Rev E Mwaipopo who was head of Evangelism and Mission and has also been working with the partnership in the southern zone.

Isaya Mengele gave greetings from Southern Diocese and informed the board that the Diocese had its 21st Synod Assembly in October which, among other things, reelected Rev Dr Fihavango as assistant to the bishop for another four years.

Manfred Scheckenbach gave greetings from the new directors of MEW. Now we are heading towards the Reformation Jubilee 2017, both on national and international level. Germany is receiving many refugees and in congregations people are volunteering to help.

Anna Claesson gave greetings from General Secretary Rev Stefan Holmström and Mission Director Rev Erik Johansson. SEM will celebrate 150 years in international mission during 2016 and starts the celebration with a gathering of all SEM personnel in Ethiopia the first week of November.

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. The Finnish government has decided to cut down the grant to foreign countries with 40% from January 2016. This effects FELM with EUR 3,5 million and a cut down of personnel with 25 persons worldwide. FELM wants to help, but this is a political decision by the government.

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 had been discussed by the Executive Committee with the recommendations to give the possibility to the diocese to deduct from the 12% administration in the program fund.

1.7.2. Reallocation of administration to pay audit fees

The Board assigned Loata Laizer Mungaya to visit and analyse the three dioceses that are not able to meet the pre-audit fee. Mungaya and LMC Secretary visited the South Central Diocese, the South Western Diocese and Diocese in Mara Region

in the end of September and reported to the Board from the assignment. The problem with delayed audits will be discussed by ELCT.

1.7.3. Medical Loan Scheme

The ELCT executive committee discussed in the beginning of October the usage of the Medical Loan Scheme and proposed to bring it to the Executive Council in April. The request for a vehicle to the Fistula Project at Selian Ngaramtoni Hospital, an outreach that is serving an area covering many dioceses, should be ordered and later be reported to the Executive Council in April by the Secretary General.

The LMC Board resolved

- To buy a vehicle for the Fistula Project. The vehicle has to be registered under ELCT Common Work or is to be used for the outreach work in the Fistula Project at Selian Ngaramtoni Hospital.

1.7.4. Future direction of LMC

The matter was presented to the ELCT Executive Committee in the beginning of October. There are people tasked to write papers about the matter and ELCT proposed the board to wait for the papers brought in before it is discussed by LMC members. The LMC Board seconded the proposal.

1.7.5. CBF Assessment report

The CBF Assessment report was presented to the ELCT Executive Committee in the beginning of October. ELCT proposed to take up group training for a pilot period of three years. The LMC Board seconded the proposal to be put forward to the Round Table.

1.7.6. Theological Education Fund

The ELCT Executive Committee discussed in the beginning of October the use of the fund.

The Executive Committee received the matter with appreciation. However, it was resolved that – the amount is significant to be decided by only a few people on behalf of the Church and hence, the matter be brought before the April Executive Council for decision.

The LMC Board brought forward a few matters to be included in those discussions in the ELCT Executive Council:

- To support certificate studies at recognized and defined institutions as Kidugala, Mwika and Nyakato.
- To support TEE (Theological Education by Extension)
- Possibility of translating theological literature to Swahili (see 5.1 below)

1.7.7. Representation of LWF at the LMC Round Table

The LMC Secretary informed that LWF has been invited to the Round Table but due to other assignments they couldn't attend this year.

2. Report and ongoing activities

2.1. LMC Secretary Report

The LMC Secretary presented his report and it was received with appreciation.

2.2. 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 academic year 2014/2015, BD1, there are only two female students out of 24 students. For BD1 2015/2016, there are four female students out of 24 students. The LMC Board will encourage the bishops to pay attention to the shortcoming on the gender balance in the BD course in the future.

2.3. CBF report

The CBF report for the academic year 2014/2015 was presented to the board. This year there have been 27 students and remaining students for the academic year 2015/2016 will be 11 and three students for 2016/2017.

2.4. Program Fund Report

A Program Fund report and an Audit status report were presented. There are shortcomings in reporting and still three dioceses have not been reported for the second instalment 2014 neither asked for the first instalment 2015 and one diocese has not received the second instalment 2014. Five dioceses have not reported the first instalment 2015 and 15 dioceses have received the second instalment 2015.

2.5. Ongoing 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. TZS 20 m of the funds is released to DMR and the diocese is awaiting the title deed to proceed with the project.
- South Central Dioceses "Agriculture": The machine is installed in Makete. The electrical installation will be paid from the remaining funds in the project with the South Central Diocese.

3. LMC Finances

3.1. LMC Budget 2016

LMC Secretary presented the LMC budget 2016. The Board discussed the budget and resolved:

- To accept the budget so that it is presented to the Round Table.

3.2. Management Letter

The management letter was presented. The auditor had a comment on password security and the LMC Secretariat implemented a password policy. The lack of approved signatories to access investment securities with Citibank is implemented

3.3. LMC bank accounts – Citibank

The LMC Secretary informed the board about the Citibank accounts and that LMC had to renew the signatories for the accounts.

4. The LMC Secretariat

4.1. Personnel

Salaries 2016 and renewal of contract with Siriel Pallangyo was discussed. According to the contract, a three party agreement, it is ELCT Common Work who is the employing unit and the personnel are seconded to LMC. Renewal of contracts and salary increment has to be agreed upon by the employing part before reporting to the board. The LMC Board is a technical unit and is legally under ELCT.

4.2. Incoming and outgoing members of LMC Board

End of term for ELCT are Bp Mwakyolile and Bp Mengele and from Northern partners Rev Kassahun, ELCA. ELCT and Northern members have to bring names respectively to the Round Table for decision.

4.3. Security situation in Tanzania

The security situation, during the day of election and until the elected president is announced, was discussed.

There may be heightened tension and unrest in the leading up to election particularly in towns and cities. Everyone should take care, be aware of surroundings and avoid political rallies, large crowds and public demonstrations.

5. Special request for funding

5.1. Swahili commentaries

The LMC secretariat has received a request for funding Swahili commentaries from Rev Dr Gerson Mgaya. The request has not been following the right channels and should have been passing through his diocese that is a member of the LMC. The LMC Board understands that there is a need of translated theological literature in Swahili and especially literature teaching of the Lutheran context. In the Theological Education Fund there can be a possibility of translating theological literature.

The LMC Board assigned LMC Secretary to write to General Secretary

- With a proposal, a list of literature, to be presented to the Theological board for evaluation.
- To ask ELCT to look into the possibility of using part of the Theological Education Fund for translating literature.

5.2. Day of People with Disabilities

The LMC secretariat has received a request from DCG Planning and Development Mr Mallumbo, to support the day for disabled people on the 3rd of December in Arusha region. The LMC Board didn't find the request following proper channels and the request didn't have a proper set up with goals, targets and purpose. The LMC Board asks the management at ELCT Common Work to look into it and eventually support the request.

6. ELCT matters

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

6.1.1. From Dioceses and Common work

The dioceses Audit fees.

The discussion was whether the audit fee for three dioceses, South Central Diocese, South Western Diocese, and Diocese in Mara Region has to be deducted from Administration fund.

It was resolved that: Dioceses solicit the audit funds on their own and the administration funds will be used to finance the vehicle funds.

Vehicle Policy

The discussion was whether Dioceses which will not contribute 1/3 of the vehicle funds for the 1st year dropped one position, for the 2nd year dropped to the last position and for 3rd year dropped out of the list.

It was resolved that: the procedure is good as it strengthens the payment of vehicle fund contribution and makes dioceses active. It was also resolved that vehicle funds will be deducted from administration funds which is a 12% of the core program funds.

Medical Loan Scheme

The discussion was that, since Medical Loan Scheme program is coming to an end, the funds available will be used to facilitate medical activities which benefit the Church as whole. Also discussed the request from the Fistula Program from Northern Central Dioceses (NCD).

It was resolved that: The idea of using the fund for medical activities was received with appreciation. The request from Northern Central Diocese – Fistula program is good, but it was not well presented. Since the funds are for the whole church and since the program was to benefit the whole church, then the request has to be presented by the Secretary General to the ELCT Executive Council.

CBF Funds

The discussion was whether the funds can be used in group training or for individual training or both.

It was resolved that: group training program should be adopted for a pilot period of three years and after, both programs can be taken, meaning that group training and individual training.

LMC Future

The discussion was to discuss the future of the LMC as it appears to contradict with ELCT's activities.

It was resolved that: Since there are people tasked to write papers about the matter, let the papers brought to the table to be discussed by ELCT and Northern members.

Theological Education funds of TShs 1.5billion:

The discussion was whether the 1.5billion set aside will be used to train Evangelists and Pastors of the low cadre. The Executive Committee received the matter with appreciation.

However, **it was resolved that** – the amount is significant to be decided by only a few people on behalf of the Church and hence, the matter be brought before the April Executive Council for decision.

ROUND TABLE for 2016 and 2017

2016 – Konde Diocese

2017 – Iringa Diocese.

ELCT – Dodoma Diocese

The ELCT Dodoma Diocese held a 12th General Assembly on 7th – 8th August, 2015 which was well attended and peacefully ended.

ELCT – Ulanga Kilombero Diocese.

The ELCT Ulanga Kilombero Diocese held its 6th General Assembly on 16th – 18th September, 2015, among other things it voted in favour of Bishop Renard Mtenji to continue as Bishop of the Diocese and re-elected Rev. Moses Nwaka assistant to the Bishop for the period of four years.

ELCT – Southern Diocese

The ELCT Southern Diocese, held its 21st General Assembly on 07th – 09th October 2015, among other things it re-elected Rev: Dr. George Fihavango assistant to the Bishop for the period of four years.

The ELCT 19th General Assembly

The ELCT 19th General Assembly was held at Tumaini University - Makumira on 12th to 14th August, 2015 of which, among other things it elected Bishop Dr. Fredrick Shoo the Presiding Bishop for the period of four years. The Presiding Bishop elect Dr. Shoo will be installed on 31st January 2016 at the Cathedral of ELCT Northern Dioceses, Moshi.

ELCT – Morogoro Diocese.

The ELCT Morogoro Diocese held its General Assembly in June, 2015, among other things it voted in favour of Bishop Jacob Ole Mameo to continue as Bishop of the Diocese and re-elected Rev. George Pindua assistant to the Bishop.

ELCT Bishops visiting Sweden

14 Bishops from ELCT and the 14 Bishops from Church of Sweden, representing two of the largest member churches of the Lutheran World Federation, have spent 24-28 August 2015 together. The goals for our Common Bishops' Meeting were:

- To get to know each other as leaders in the one Church of Jesus Christ
- To understand how context shapes our churches
- To strengthen trust between church leaders and between our churches.

6.1.2. ELCT Investments

New Safari Hotel:

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

Performance for the 3rd quarter 2015 shows an improvement compared to the 3rd quarter of the 2014. Total sales for the 3rd quarter were TShs 979 million compared to 824million in the 3rd quarter 2014. The room occupancy was 37.6% of its capacity while bed occupancy was 29% of its capacity compared to the same time last year which was 30.4% and 21.7% respectively.

Kunduchi Trinity

The Trinity Tower Project still in progress, the title deeds and other land ownership process were done. The project is now under LUICO and the Eastern Coastal Diocese.

Hymnal Book

Sales Hymnal Books

Sale of Hymnal books in nine months from January to September 2015 showing an improvement compared. Sale of the books for the period was TShs 279million, which is 97 % of the total sales of Tshs 287million of the year 2014.

Balance outstanding to Retirement Scheme

The retirement Scheme balance as up to 30th September, 2015 was TShs TShs 544,000,000. The amount is made of TShs 124 million being principal and 420million been an interest generated by the balance since 2013. It is our expectation to pay the 124million as of December 2015.

7. Round Table 2015

7.1. Agenda and Agenda Material

The agenda material was discussed and agreed on with some small corrections that have been discussed and decided under different agendas during the board. The board agreed on to have the section after lunch on Monday for a presentation of the Women Pastors and Theologians Consultation meeting held in Bukoba in May and the session after the Bible study on Tuesday for discussions in groups. To give all participants the possibility to discuss the Key Note Address and Bible Studies and then present the outcome of those discussions to the plenary.

8. Coming meetings

8.1. Board meetings 2016

3rd – 4th of March 2015, arrival 2nd departure 5th – in Moshi

24th – 25th of May, arrival 23rd departure 26th – in Arusha

14th – 15th and 19th of October 2016, arrival 13th departure 20th – in Mbeya

8.2. Round Table 2016

Date: 17th – 18th of October

Venue: *Mbeya, Konde Diocese*

Theme: *Reformation and the one World*

Bible verse: *not ready*

Bible Studies Leader: *Rev Dr Kenneth Mtata, LWF*

Keynote speaker: *Rev Dr Käßmann*

Budget: *not ready*

9. AOB and Closing

9.1. Closing

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

Bishop Dr. Israel-Peter Mwakyolile
LMC Chairperson

Peter Karlsson
LMC Secretary