

Lutheran Mission Cooperation Tanzania
Minutes of the 45th LMC Board Meeting
21st October 2015
Bukoba

1. Introduction

1.1 Morning Devotion

Rev Benyam Kassahun

“After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light...”
The Transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-8

Jesus wants to show something, to reveal himself for his disciples. They knew that Jesus raised people from death, healed people, he was a good leader and a good teacher, but Jesus wanted to show them something special and transformed in front of them. The important is the voice of confirmation: “This is my Son, whom I love”. This is the message comes to us every day through the bible; “This is my beloved Son”. Listen, pay attention. After the message they went down to the crowd with another experience. We have those experiences, top and valley, but God is accompanying us.

1.2 Opening of the 45th 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

Mr. Loata Laizer Mungaya, ELCT DSG Finance and Administration

Ms. Mary Laiser, ELCT

Ms. Anna Claesson, SEM

Rev. Benyam Kassahun, ELCA

Mr. Lasse Lampinen, FELM

LMC Secretariat

Mr. Peter Karlsson, LMC Secretary

Mr. Sireli Pallangyo, Administrative Officer

Sr. Flaviana Temba, Financial Officer

1.4 Acceptance of agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented.

2. Evaluation of the 12th LMC Round Table

A discussion and an evaluation were made by the board on an overall impression, travel and transports, hotels, food, services and conference centre. In following bullets are some of the board members observations summarized:

- The theme, “Women in God’s Service” was excellent. The bible studies, the keynote address, the presentation of the 25th anniversary of women ordinations and the chairperson’s opening speech were all around the theme with different angles and approaches. People were engaged and got time enough to discuss the theme both on Monday and at the group discussions on Tuesday.
- Even though the RT was two days the time was managed very well between discussions and information thanks to chairperson and co-chairperson.
- The preparation with the agenda material was good and kept down the discussions, but the discussions are needed.
- The food, conference facilities and service was excellent.

The LMC Board asked the LMC Secretary to write a letter of appreciation to the North Western Diocese.

3. Scholarship Programs

3.1 CBF

The CBF is coming into an end with the academic year 2016/2017 with the last three students who are finishing their studies. In the future there will be group training for a three year period with an evaluation. The program should have a new name to avoid misunderstanding and be mixed with the CBF policy. The program needs a new procedure and policy that should follow the priority areas of the ELCT Strategic Plan.

The LMC Board resolved.

- To change the name to Further Training Program, FTP
- The LMC Secretariat and ELCT should work together with procedures and new policy.
- The planning should follow the ELCT Strategic Plan

3.2 Request for scholarship from Dodoma Diocese

LMC secretariat has received a request for a scholarship from Dodoma Diocese. The treasurer of the diocese is taking a three year course in accounts and has passed the first year and the diocese asks for support for year two and three. She is working at the same time as she is studying full time. The LMC Board is aware of the importance to train the treasurer, but can’t take individual scholarships without passing the procedures of the ELCT.

3.3 Theological Educational Fund

The Theological Educational Fund will be discussed in April 2016 in the ELCT Executive Council. The LMC Board brought forward a few matters to be included in those discussions:

- To support certificate studies at recognized and defined institutions as Kidugala, Mwika and Nyakato.
- To support TEE (Theological Education by Extension)
- To support Christiana Education and Sunday School teacher training
- Possibility of translating commentaries and theological literature to Swahili

4. Reports

Program fund, ongoing projects, bilateral projects and volunteers were discussed. It is important with transparency about reporting all kinds of projects and support, both from southern to northern members and from northern to southern members.

- There have been problems with hijacked email accounts with new instructions how and where to send money. It's important to be alert if there are any changes in routines.
- There are also important with information on money transfers due to the global problem of money laundering, so please be transparent with transfers.
- We have to respect the immigration regulations with visa. Volunteers have to be reported to respectively diocese and they have to have a volunteer visa to be able to work as a volunteer.
- The more sensitive matter is that of journalists. If a northern member sending a journalist to visit ELCT they have to have a journalist visa.

5. Election of Board Members

Benyam Kassahun couldn't attend the meeting because of an early departure and had written a letter concerning procedures for election of board members. The letter was presented to the board. The matter will be discussed in next board meeting in March.

6. Bank accounts

In the Round Table it was questioned why are we not using the two banks within ELCT, Uchumi Commercial Bank and Maendeleo Bank. LMC has already two banks in Tanzania, NBC and KCB, for everyday transactions. LMC is also holding ELCT funds in custody in foreign currency in our bank in Germany. If those funds are going to be put into fixed deposits in Tanzania it has to be ELCT doing that.

7. Meetings

7.1 Board meetings 2016

3rd – 4th of March 2016, 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 19th afternoon or 20th – in Mbeya

7.2 Board meetings 2017

13th – 14th and 18th of October 2017, arrival 12th departure 18th afternoon or 19th
– in Iringa

7.3 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*

7.4 Round Table 2017

Date: 16th – 17th of October

Venue: *Iringa Diocese*

Theme: *not ready*

Bible verse: *not ready*

Bible Studies Leader: *not ready*

Keynote speaker: *not ready*

Budget: *not ready*

8. Closing

The LMC chairperson expressed thanks to all board members for their contribution. 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