

**Lutheran Mission Cooperation Tanzania**  
**Minutes of the 46<sup>th</sup> LMC Board Meeting**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016**  
**Moshi**

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Morning Devotion**

***3<sup>rd</sup> of March: Rev Manfred Scheckenbach***

*Jesus Walks on the Water. Matthew 14:25-33 “Lord, is it you?” Peter asked. “If it is, tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” Jesus said. So Peter got out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, “Lord! Save me!” Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.*

We looked at a picture with Peter swallowed in a black hole and the boat with the rest of the disciples is playing around like a nutshell on the huge waves. Jesus is in the midst of the storm, in the midst of the turmoil.

We are not afraid walking towards Jesus. But suddenly we are losing solid ground, we get afraid, we can't see an exit, everything is ending and there is no help, we feel despair. But Jesus is in the midst of the storm. Our comfort is that Jesus is with us and we can trust in him, he rescues us and we can confess together with the disciples, *“Truly you are the Son of God.”*

***4<sup>th</sup> of March: Mr Loata Laizer Mungaya***

*It is the World Day of Prayer, the theme for the week in the ELCT Calendar is Environment and the text for the day is about the Little Children and Jesus from Marcus 10:13-16 People were bringing little children to Jesus. They wanted him to place his hands on them to bless them. But the disciples told them to stop. When Jesus saw this, he was angry. He said to his disciples, “Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. God's kingdom belongs to people like them. What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who will not receive God's kingdom like a little child will never enter it.” Then he took the children in his arms. He placed his hands on them to bless them.*

We have the creation of God, the environment he created and we have to look with the eyes of God at the creation. The world is given to us, it is created for us and it's a free gift. But are we grateful, are we enhancing the creation? We can't be grateful when we destroy the gift from God. We are destroying the creation, we are destroying our sisters and brothers, our children are suffering. If God comes, what will he meet? We have to repent and ask for forgiveness. Jesus said *“Anyone who will not receive God's kingdom like a little child will never enter it.”*

**1.2 Opening of the 46<sup>th</sup> 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 year anniversary of mission work in September 2016 and Mwakyolile invites all to share the celebration. After the Round Table, in Mbeya, there will be a partnership meeting in Matema.

**Isaya Mengele** gave greetings from Southern Diocese.

**Manfred Scheckenbach** gave greetings from Rev. Dr. Gabriele Hoerschelmann, the new director of MEW who has just visited for the first time Africa and Tanzania. Germany is receiving many refugees and it affects the country and in congregations people are volunteering to help. In January 2017 Scheckenbach will retire and the successor will be Mr Klaus Heim now working in Usa River Rehabilitation and Training Center.

**Anna Claesson** gave greetings from SEM and CoS.

**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 is cutting down the grant to foreign countries and this has affected FELM. FELM wants to help, but this is a political decision by the government.

### 1.6 Confirmation of Minutes

#### 1.6.1 Confirmation of Minutes of 44<sup>th</sup> board meeting

The minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> LMC board meeting were confirmed as the correct records of the proceedings of the meeting.

### **1.6.2 Confirmation of Minutes of 45<sup>th</sup> board meeting**

The minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> LMC board meeting were confirmed as the correct records of the proceedings of the meeting.

## **2. Matters arising from previous meetings**

### **2.1 Pending matters**

Following pending matters will be discussed at ELCT Executive Council in April

- Theological Education Fund
- Medical Loan Scheme
- Vehicle Fund
- Audit Fees

### **2.2 Further Training Program (FTP) Policy**

The LMC Secretary presented a proposal of a Further Training (FTP) Policy. The policy was discussed and after some minor corrections the policy for group training was agreed on.

The amount put aside in the budget for 2016 for FTP is TZS 216 million.

### **2.3 Election of Board Members**

The question about the procedure of electing northern board members was discussed. In the Memorandum of Understanding there is no directives on how to go about with the election, this resulted in some misunderstandings, that have now been solved.

### **2.4 Request of Scholarship – Dodoma Diocese**

In last LMC Board the Secretariat presented a request for a scholarship from Dodoma Diocese. The LMC Board was aware of the importance to train the treasurer, but couldn't take individual scholarships without passing the procedures of the ELCT.

An application letter from ELCT Dodoma Diocese has been passing ELCT and Secretary General. As this is a special request and if there is a room for support, ELCT has no objection and asked LMC to act on the request.

The LMC Board discussed the request of scholarship from Dodoma Diocese and the importance to meet a minimum level of education in diocese key positions. LMC has a fund, ODF – Administration and Capacity Building Fund, which was decided last year to be closed down and the balance as at 31/12/2015 was TZS 4.6 million.

The LMC Board resolved

- To use the ODF for capacity building, to meet a minimum level of education in diocese key positions. Key positions to benefit from ODF are:
  - Bishop
  - Assistant to the Bishop
  - General Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Planner
- LMC will put aside up to TZS 20 million per year in the budget for the fund, i.e. the roof of the fund is TZS 20 million.

- A new policy for ODF to be worked out. Before the new policy is ready the CBF policy has to be followed.
- To accept the request from the Dodoma Diocese for a scholarship for Ms C Kombo and use the ODF fund. However, it is important, as it was for the old CBF, to sign a legally binding contract, to work at least five years, to submit progress reports etc.

## **2.5 Round Table 2015**

How to proceed and implement the theme “Women in God’s Service” was discussed. This theme is a matter for both northern and southern partners and should be encouraged to be discussed in the church.

## **2.6 LMC future**

The LMC Board discussed the paper from the Church of Sweden on the subject of the future direction of LMC.

The LMC Board appointed Bp Mwakyolile, Bp Mengele, Rev Scheckenbach and Rev Kassahun to meet before the next LMC Board and come up with a conclusion and a suggestion how to proceed concerning the future of LMC.

## **3. Report and ongoing activities**

### **3.1 LMC Secretary Report**

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

### **3.2 FELM Regional Director in Tanzania**

FELM Regional Director Lasse Lampinen’s representation in LMC is coming to an end and he is moving to Dakar, Senegal for the same position in West Africa and France. The new appointed regional director for Tanzania is Rev Pekka Härkönen. He has many years of work experience in Tanzania as a missionary. Rev Härkönen will start his responsibilities in March 2016.

### **3.3 Program Fund Report**

A Program Fund report and an Audit status report were presented. There are shortcomings in reporting and still one diocese has not reported for the second instalment 2014 and four dioceses have not requested first instalment 2015. One diocese has not received the second instalment 2014.

The shortcoming and the problem with reporting and audit reports was discussed. In the Program Fund Policy we can read in the guidelines:

- The implementations of the programs are done in a given calendar year. Any delay in implementation shall have prior communication by the unit to the LMC secretariat.
- The deadline for requesting fund for the particular year is 30 April of the following year.
- If programme fund is not requested from LMC by 30 April of the following year without written explanation, it is assumed that the unit will not be able to implement the budgeted programme and the fund will be regarded as income and should be returned to the LMC common basket for reallocation

Last year the Board assigned Mungaya to visit three dioceses to follow up the problem of auditing and reported in the October Board meeting. One of the dioceses was the South Central Diocese who had not received the second instalment of 2014 due to lack of audit reports. From the visit in September 2015 until January 2016 there was no change in the status of the audit. The diocese received a grace period until the end of February but there was no progress. The LMC Board resolved that:

- For South Central Diocese:
  - **2014:** 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of TZS 12.645.000 is regarded as income and shall be returned to the LMC common basket for reallocation.
  - **2015:** The LMC Board is awaiting the progress of how the diocese is meeting the audit divisions' requests. How the matter of the 2015 program fund proceeds for the South Central Diocese will be reported in the next LMC Board meeting in the end of May.
- To write to the other four dioceses concerning the reporting and requesting for the Program Fund 2015:
  - Diocese of Meru
  - Diocese of Mara Region
  - North Eastern Diocese
  - South Western Diocese

### **3.4 CBF report**

The CBF report for the academic year 2015/2016 was presented to the board. This year there are 15 students and remaining students for the academic year 2016/2017 will be three students.

### **3.5 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 academic year 2015/2016 for BD1 there are four female students out of 24 students and for BDII there are only two female students out of 24.

The LMC Board encourage the bishops to pay attention to the shortcoming on the gender balance in the BD course in the future and resolved:

- If a diocese manages to appoint two women candidates for the BD, LMC will pay for both women students.

### **3.6 Vehicle Fund 2016**

The order for vehicles 2016 was made in November last year and have arrived at the harbor.

The contribution to the Vehicle Fund for 2016 is TZS 3.187.000. Last year one diocese failed to contribute to the Vehicle Fund before the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

LMC secretariat has received a request to help a diocese to order a vehicle. If the secretariat will help a diocese with purchases of vehicles, two conditions have to be fulfilled. The full amount of the purchase has to be paid to LMC accounts before the order is made and the vehicle has to be only and exclusively for church work according to the rules concerning tax exemption.

### **3.7 Requirements for Work- and Resident Permits**

LMC Secretary informed about requirements for work- and resident permits. The new procedures with work- and resident permits were discussed and the northern members were worried about the delay in the procedures due to the bureaucracy.

A document with all information required is produced and will be distributed to all LMC members.

## **4. LMC Finances**

### **4.1 LMC Draft Accounts**

LMC Secretary presented the draft accounts for 2015. The accounts were received with appreciation. The income statement and the statement of the financial position with respective notes were scrutinized page by page.

- The LMC Board decided that 20% of the exchange rate gain and 20% of interest should be allocated to the working capital.
- The LMC Board approved the draft accounts and they will be forwarded to the auditors

### **4.2 Equity/Working Capital Fund – allocate surplus**

The level of the working capital should be 50% of budgeted turnover +/- 5%, i.e. the level of the working capital should be around TZS 1 billion. The working capital for 2015 exceeded one million and will stay in the fund until closing balance 2016.

- The closing balance of the working capital 2016 should be 50% of budgeted turnover +/- 5% and to be allocated to the funds in custody according to the financial policy. To be presented in the first LMC Board meeting 2017.

### **4.3 Changes in Program Grant Contribution - DANM**

LMC Secretary informed that DANM has informed that they have to reduce the grant contribution for 2016 with DKK 50.000 due to governmental reduction in grants towards DANM.

## **5. The LMC Secretariat**

### **5.1 Personnel**

LMC Secretary informed that salaries for 2016 and renewal of contract with Sirel had been discussed and agreed upon by Mr Killewa, Secretary General and Mr Mungaya, DSG Finance and Administration.

## **6. ELCT matters**

Loata Laizer Mungaya informed the board matters from the dioceses.

### **From Dioceses and Common work**

#### **Installation of the ELCT Presiding Bishop**

The Presiding Bishop Dr. Fredrick Onael Shoo was installed on 31 January 2016 to become the 5th Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania

(ELCT) during a Sunday Service which was held at the ELCT Lutheran Cathedral in Moshi.

The ceremony was well attended by the Lutheran Family, Government official lead by His Excellence Prime Minister Mr Kasim Majaliwa

### **Youth Conference**

The Youth from ELCT dioceses will have their Youth Conference, which will be held from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 in Dodoma at Martin Luther School. It is expected to be attended by a good number of Youth all over 24 dioceses and three mission areas and other church Institutions.

We kindly request your support in prayer and if possible materially.

### **Pastors' conference**

The Pastors from all the ELCT dioceses will have their Pastors' conference, which is expected to be held at the Dodoma University in September 2016. This conference is expected to be attended by 2000 Pastors from all over the country. We kindly ask for your prayer and support.

### **Investment**

I am glad to inform the Board members of the LMC that we made a big renovation of our guesthouse. The exercises started December last year, it was completed in February 2016. We are arranging with New Safari Hotel if they can provide breakfast while we are preparing ourselves. You are all welcome; the rooms are available for you.

## **7. Coming meetings**

### **7.1 Board meetings 2016**

24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> of May, arrival 23<sup>rd</sup> departure 26<sup>th</sup> – in Arusha

14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2016, arrival 13<sup>th</sup> departure 19<sup>th</sup> afternoon or 20<sup>th</sup> – in Mbeya

### **7.2 Board meetings 2017**

7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2017, arrival 6<sup>th</sup> departure 9<sup>th</sup> – in Moshi

23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> of May, arrival 22<sup>nd</sup> departure 25<sup>th</sup> – in Arusha

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

### **7.3 Round Table 2016**

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 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: *ready and accepted*

**7.4 Round Table 2017**

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> 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. Study Visit to Radio Voice of Gospel Moshi**

The LMC Board made a study tour at Radio Voice of Gospel in Moshi. It was interesting learning, to see coverage maps, learn about transmitters, possibility of satellite technic etc. Looking at the coverage maps we couldn't see transmitter or mast in big parts of the country. The importance of a Lutheran radio channel, that is covering the whole country, is of high priority and Radio Voice of Gospel is an ELCT owned radio. The LMC Board encourage ELCT to discuss ways on how to include all geographic areas covered by dioceses to be a part of the Radio Voice of Gospel by investing in masts and transmitters in the whole country.

**9. 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