



DIOCESE OF LAPUA BISHOP

REPORT OF THE WCC BOARD'S VIDEO CONFERENCE, 9-13.11.2020

The Board of the WCC met between 9 and 13 March 2020 via a video link, because the covid pandemic prevented the participants from assembling. At the meeting issues were discussed in close accordance with the principle of consensus. The meeting opened with **introductions** by the Chair, Agnes Abuomi, and Acting General Secretary, Ioan Sauca. The speeches examined the pandemic's impact on humanity, the churches, and the WCC's activities.

Public issues. The Board adopted two statements on the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and the crisis in Ethiopia. A statement on the US election was abandoned. The Executive Committee also decided that it would in future only issue statements at its half-yearly meetings (in June and November), not at its other shorter virtual meetings.

Election of a new General Secretary. The election of a new General Secretary is the most critical issue for the WCC to resolve. According to the rules the election can only take place in the Central Committee. Procedures for handling the election include: 1) at the planned Geneva meeting; 2) at an assembly held electronically in accordance with Rule XVIII.8; 3) at an in-person meeting also employing electronic means (a hybrid model); 4) by voting on the addition of matters by amending Rule XVIII.9; or 5) by developing a model for the delegation of the Central Committee's decision-making power to the Executive Committee until the General Assembly. The Executive Committee will decide on the convening of the Central Committee and a possible course of action at its meeting in February 2021.

Programmes. The Executive Committee decided to extend the duration of the WCC's strategic plan and the monitoring of the results of programmes until 2022, when the next General Assembly will be held. The report covering the period from Busan to Karlsruhe should be updated to cover the impact of the pandemic and to describe the role the WCC has played in the crisis. The Executive Committee was presented with a plan to reform the Jerusalem Inter-Church Centre (JIC). According to the Programme Committee, the JIC needed a clear structure, which required more time to complete all the way up to June 2021. – A five-member working group was established to evaluate the programme for the General Assembly's Pre-Assemblies. – In addition, the Executive Committee was presented with updates concerning various programmes (Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace activities, Proposal for Transversal 6 Overcoming Racism, Proposal for Commission on Health and Healing – Roadmap and By-Laws, Report of the Gender Advisory Group, Summary Report of the CCIA).

Administrative matters and appointments. According to the Executive Committee the reform of the rules must take the PCCC's proposals into account. The revision of the rules must be

completed by the next Central Committee meeting. – The Episcopal Anglican Province of Alexandria has constituted itself as a separate church from its mother church and hopes to become a member of the WCC. The WCC Secretariat would investigate the matter with the churches and consult with the PCCC. The Executive Committee recommended to the Central Committee that it accept the membership application of the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa.

WCC finances. The financial situation seemed positive. There would be no need to draw on general funds, to which CHF 400,000 could be transferred. Bossay's result would again be in the red in 2020. The 2021 budget projects revenues of CHF 21.9 million, which is less than in previous years because of the pandemic. There would be no need to use general funds to finance the programmes. – Funding for the General Assembly would depend on a German state subsidy, which would be resolved by January 2021 at the latest. – The Green Village project was progressing according to plan, but the Kyoto project was delayed because of the pandemic, and no bookings had been received as anticipated. The delay was also causing difficulties in the design of the car park connecting the buildings. The Executive Committee also called for progress in negotiations with the LWF.

The Executive Committee will next meet for a video conference between 8 and 10 February 2021.

Simo Peura
Bishop