**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

**FOR COMMUNICATION**

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE COUNCIL**

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1. **ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION BY THE COUNCIL**

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1. **ISSUES DISCUSSED BY THE COMMITTEE – for information to the Council**

The Committee met for one 1.5 hour session on 20 June, 2015.

The Committee discussed preparations for the 12th Assembly. It was requested to make a concept note on how people who will not be present at the Assembly could interact and be engaged with the Assembly discussions and outcomes. Included in the note should be milestones from different parts of the Communion Office.

The Committee noted that it was important to be realistic about what can be achieved with the given resources for the 12th Assembly. The importance of working with the Local Assembly Planning Committee was also noted.

The Committee asked that the Communications Office explore how to best use the outcome of the Global Young Reformer’s Conference in Wittenberg in August 2015 in preparation for the 12th Assembly.

The Committee welcomed the increased use of social media. It was suggested that the Communion Office explores how youth can be trained to support and offer training and resources to church leaders in engaging with social media. The Committee also underlined the importance of making church leaders more aware of the value of communications. This could possibly be included in the new LWF induction program for church leaders.

The Committee welcomed the work undertaken to strengthen regional communication networks including the launch of regional websites. It was proposed to have official translations of the mission, vision and objectives of the LWF in various languages to ensure consistency of messaging on core issues.

The Committee also recommended a closer link between the global site and the regional sites and that the Communications Office looks into ways to support material sharing between and among churches in different regions.

The Committee noted that communications is closely linked to sustainability and is a strategic area for continued investment as it supports fundraising efforts and sharing the mission and vision of the LWF.

The Committee also noted that communications is the most democratic tool which can balance economic differences between regions. The Committee recommended that the Communications Office involve resources from all regions. This could, for example, be in the area of translations.

1. **Report on COOP 2013-14**

The Committee received the report with appreciation.

The Committee expressed appreciation for the results the Communications Office has achieved in ensuring that communications is a concerted effort and not a departmentalized exercise in the LWF Communion Office.

The Committee underlined that the Communion Office be mindful of this in the sustainability discussion and ensuing decisions.

1. **Budget and Program Plans 2016**

The Committee endorsed the approval of the 2016 budget and program plan.

1. **Terms of Reference**

The Committee endorsed the revised Terms of Reference. The Committee underlined the importance of ensuring regional representation in the Committee to be able to fulfill point 5 in the ToR to “Offer a regional perspective and advice on regional distribution and use of LWF communications.”