# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR Mission and development

## I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY THE COUNCIL

*1. With reference to Council Exhibit 9.1 and CMD Exhibit 5. and 5.1.*

The committee received with appreciation the report of the Interim Director of the Department for Mission and Development (DMD) which incorporated the report on the implementation of the COOP 2014 (Exhibit 9.1). The committee also reflected on issues specific to DMD regarding the reducing income and budget frame for the department as highlighted in the Chairperson of Finance Committee’s report (Exhibit 10). The urgent need for dialogue and action on how the work done by the department and that of individual member churches (projects) can be sustained financially and otherwise is highlighted. The committee noted with deep concern that the declining of funds is not new in DMD, it has been discussed in previous meetings of the committee and a Task Force on Sharing of Resources in the communion had been established. However, there is no positive change to the financial situation in the department.

Therefore, the committee

**Recommended:** 1**.** to establish and facilitate a platform for conversations among memberchurchesto

1. review the bilateral work being implemented
2. ascertain how these activities support the goals in the operational plan related to communion building and holistic mission and
3. identify ways to increase revenue for the communion’s multilateral agenda through the work of DMD

2. to request LWF Area Secretaries to be in conversation with member churches in the respective regions, with a goal to creating opportunity to participate in the financial support of projects from member churches.

3. the Communion Office and the member churches to explore in a working group new ways of cooperation to secure the program work.

## II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION BY THE COUNCIL

1. President’s Address

The committee discussed the president’s address and acknowledged with appreciation that it addresses a number of issues pertinent to the work of the LWF and its member churches. The committee requests the council to discuss with the intention to take action on the call by the president for LWF to organize together with the World Council of Churches a conference on interreligious relations for Christians living in minority contexts in all regions.

The committee also acknowledges the importance of coordinating theological education among Lutheran seminaries, networks and educational programs. The committee encourages the communion office to connect the work of the working group on the exchange of personnel in the member churches to the LUTEN processes for a deeper theological input on the theme of mutual recognition of ministry.

2. Report of the General Secretary

The committee thanked the General Secretary for his report (Exhibit 9) and appreciates the issues raised. The committee reiterates the concern raised by the General Secretary on the issue of migration and how it is affecting members in the LWF communion of churches. The committee encourages the LWF to continue reflecting on the deeper issues around the question of migration such as internally displaced people, racism and xenophobia and how we continue to accompany members of the communion dealing with this reality. The need to find an interregional accompaniment model is urgent.

The committee requests the Council to include questions of ecological standards in its review of the Communion Office location.

## III. ISSUES DISCUSSED BY THE COMMITTEE - for information to the Council

1. Report of the Finance Committee Chairperson

The committee thanked the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for her report.

2. Report of the Director of the Department for Mission and Development

The committee voted to receive the report of the director of the Department for Mission and Development and Program Coordinators both with appreciation, but also concern with regard to the resources.

3. Subcommittee for Mission and Development

The committee voted to receive with appreciation the report of the Subcommittee for Mission and Development from its meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland from 27th to 29th April, 2015. The committee also voted to approve the Terms of Reference for the Communion Solidarity Fund.

4. Regional Matters

The committee received with appreciation and discussed reports from the Area Secretaries relating to key challenges in the life of the member churches.

**IV. ISSUES REFERRED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**1. Implementation of the Communion Office Operational Plan 2014**

The Committee for Mission and Development endorses the Implementation of the Communion Office Operational Plan 2014 for the Department for Mission and Development with appreciation as reflected in the Council Exhibit 9.1.

**2. LWF Budget 2016 and Program Plan 2016**

The Committee for Mission and Development endorses the approval of the LWF Budget 2016 and Program Plans 2016 of the Department for Mission and Development in the amount of EUR 6,845,896 as reflected in the Council Exhibits 12 and 12.1.

**V. ISSUES REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee for Mission and Development endorsed the Terms of Reference for its Committee (Council Exhibit 18.3).