



GLOBAL
YOUNG
REFORMERS
NETWORK
THE LUTHERAN
WORLD FEDERATION

20 May 2015, Moshi, Tanzania

Report of the African Young Reformer Delegates to LUCA/ Marangu Consultation

We, the 14 youth delegates of the African Lutheran churches gathered at Umoja Hostel in Moshi on May 19, 2015 had conducted a full day discussion on issues related with the youth in the region and the communion and come up with the following points.

But first of all, who are we?

We want to be agents of ongoing reformation

The Global Young Reformers Network is a program of the Lutheran World Federation created by youth and for youth.

We are active, creative young people who identify with their churches and therefore want to (re)form them. As we journey towards the 500th anniversary of the start of the Lutheran Reformation, we want to empower young people to engage in all aspects of church and communion life. With our global network of young reformers, we want to show the meaning of *ecclesia semper reformanda* – a church in ongoing reformation!

Our first meeting

During our morning devotion we heard in the 1 Cor. 11

“I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.”

As you all know, the division that was taking place in the church of Corinth had made Paul frustrated that he called fellow believers to abstain from running to division and hold hand to hand bring change in their respective society. This made us to appreciate what our forefathers did for the establishment of the African Lutheran Communion sixty years back at a place that is about 50 kilometers away from us. Being a member of LWF was not a criteria that compelled them to move further away from home and sit at the foot of the largest mountain of Africa. It was their Lutheran identity that called them together. It was the unquenchable desire of unity and working together. This reminds us today to hold hand in hand as we fight for our Lutheran Identity that is being shaken by different unbiblical teachings and experiences.

As we are called to be salt and light to this world, it is time for us to narrow our difference further and concentrate on areas that the youth, the next generation, has been challenged. We know that reformation is not a one and never again event but a continuous process in our churches. There are things that we always reform as the world is changing from time to time. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther has also underlined this reformation process in one term ‘*ecclesia semper reformanda*’ a church in ongoing reformation. This might call us to think of some of our worship styles and their attractiveness towards the young and vibrant generation that likes movement which we thought is a positive thing. We discussed a lot on this issue and agreed that we need to bring it your attention so that if there are ways that you can reform our worship style and if not to provide us the teaching.

As you respected leaders know, the 500 Reformation celebration is drawing closer and

closer. The Reformation that the Lord brought through Rev. Dr. Martin Luther has changed and challenged the unbiblical practices of the Catholic church at that time and turned up-side-down the perspective of people of his time to concentrate only on faith, grace and scripture. If we see what is going on around us, the prosperity gospel is defiling the Church of Christ and we need to have young reformers who can take the responsibility. There is a strong movement that has been working with the zeal of Reformation and identified by you to be part of it. The Global Young Reformer Network has a plan to have at least 10,000 very active and vibrant young members that can be the change agents of the world. We kindly ask once again for you to support us as we work hard towards the same goal.

Creation is not for sale

Climate change is an urgent issue for all generations. The global temperature is warming up year after year and developing countries are the main one to be afflicted by it. Studies show that beside the industrial wastes we personally contribute something for the global warming as we cut trees without replanting. We think that it is time for us to be reminded that creation is not for sale. The Lord created everything within five days and handed it over to man on the sixth day to be stewards of the creation. We can't exploit nature nor claim that it is our personal possession. If we exploit it the price we pay is double fold. First and foremost, nature by itself turns back against us and we will suffer. We can't create trees nor can we retrieve the dead ones. Hence, we ask you to keep on working hard on greening our worshiping areas at least and our hometowns at most. We also agreed that it is time to connect at least with our neighboring Lutheran churches in our respective countries or other countries to draft plans for effective working towards climate justice. We have sent two young delegates from the ELCT to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro which is the highest peak of Africa to hang the banner of this gathering and also put a message on creation is not for sale. We will welcome them this Sunday with great joy but we have assignments to be hanged on the walls of our office on this issue. It is also high time for us to act upon it and equip our fellow members.

Human being is not for sale.

We discussed that the migration of people to seek for better job and life is increasing every year and it is mainly young people. This has many reasons behind but demands a diaconal work of the church for active participation towards the solution of youth migration, child abuse, human trafficking etc. Day after day ships are heading to Mediterranean to smuggle illegally to Europe but many lose their life on water.

Many people today are persecuted for their faith. Extremist religious groups like Boko Haram, Al Shebab, Islamic State in Lybia and others are threatening Christianity and its future. We have said that humanity is not for sale but our sisters have been abducted and abused against the will and intention of God.

We are facing xenophobia, albino killing in some of the African countries.

We need to work together.

It is known to you that we have established the African Lutheran Youth Network last year in Accra. The network needs strong spiritual, moral and financial support from leaders so that it can achieve some of its goals. We also would like to call regional communion offices like LUCSA, LUCCEA and LUCCWA strengthen their youth offices so that the network can walk the talk.

We are now celebrating the 60th years anniversary of the Marangu meeting and we know the reasons behind celebrating it on 60th year not on 75th or 100th. We even like to be celebrated every year so that at least once in a year youth delegates can meet here and discuss about issues and achievements in their respective areas and plan for action through learning from one another.