



West Rand Lutheran Community Church

Served by Jesus to serve each other

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Dear Bishop Müller,

This letter serves as a request to Synod to support the application for debt relief in favour of the WRLCC subsequent to consultation with ELCSA-NT.

Background

It is evident from our Audited Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2018 that the WRLCC is financially constraint in that it is continually battling to service its outstanding debt owed to ELCSA-NT. As at 31 December 2018, the outstanding debt to ELCSA-NT amounted to around R1,7 million which the congregation has an obligation to repay.

The total assets as at financial year end 2018 amounted to R4,054 million and the total liabilities amounted to R3,911 million. In an attempt to alleviate some of our financial pressures, the Congregational Council of the WRLCC together with Church Council took a decision to cut the Pastor's post and employ the Pastor through the Congregation. This decision was taken, so as to not increase the debt to ELCSA-NT. At present, the Pastor's salary is being paid by the Congregation. Considering our financial situation, the Youth's Pastor post was also cut in the beginning of 2019. We have also considered disposing of some of the Congregation's assets but this would currently not make a huge difference and would actually only further weaken the financial situation and ministry of the congregation.

It is very clear, that the economic climate of our country is having its direct effect on the income streams of the congregation. Our revenue streams (tithing, pledging etc.) have not been growing as they should, putting a further burden to maintain Church operations. The WRLCC has effectively been running on an overdraft facility for the last three years.

In spite of all this, the WRLCC is a vibrant and healthy Congregation making a huge impact in the community of the West Rand, especially amongst children and teenagers. Most of the

outreach ministry though is funded by company donations and also dedicated donations from individuals in South Africa and abroad (Germany and USA) as well as camp fees. We are also seeing again, that paying the Pastors salary directly by the congregation definitely has a positive effect on the pledges and tithing of members and prevents the congregation from defaulting on its obligation to repay the pastors salary package to ELCSA(NT).

We do believe that if the Synod could assist the WRLCC to get its debt with ELCSA(NT) under control the congregation would be able to get its financial situation in order again. We therefore want to ask the Synod to please consider the following request of the WRLCC favourably.

Our request

After a number of consultations with Church Council of ELCSA-NT, we ask for the following:

- We request that no future interest be levied against the outstanding debt of around R1.7 million.
- We request that 45% of accumulated debt (capital and historic interest) be written off against every payment the congregation will make in future
- These requests would be backdated to January 2019

Payment Plan

The WRLCC commits to pay a monthly amount of R10,000 against the outstanding debt as of January 2019.

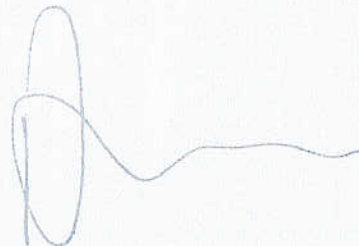
Conclusion

Considering our financial position, we are of the view, that if our motion is accepted, it will greatly assist the WRLCC to come out of its financial distress.

Thank you for your consideration.



WRLCC Chairperson
Lexicon Mutshekwane



WRLCC Treasurer
Tumi Malambe