

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF LUCSA RESOURCE PERSON FOR ELCSA N-T

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report will largely be based on the attendance of annual workshops facilitated by LUCSA HIV and AIDS desk officers as thus far the coordination of projects in ELCSA N-T is still under review.

I am thankful for the opportunity to be part of the Mission Committee whose mandate includes DIACONIA which could have been the best forum for coordination of the LUCSA activities. Though progress in this regard has been minimal, the advantage of participating in the annual workshops as mentioned before were helpful, as my input has always been trying to understand why the Regional Lutheran Communion was embarking on a process which rightfully should be the responsibility of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Governments to which all the LUCSA member- churches belong. My strong feeling from the beginning was that instead of only concentrating on HIV and AIDS and Malaria, as a Church we should be concentrating on our Commission which is DIACONIA which is inclusive addressing on all needs of our congregations and communities.

As you will realise in the Workshop report, DIACONIA has been included in the mandate of LUCSA and is responsible for coordinating all other programmes under LUCSA.

It is my plea that the Synod should take this bold step of strengthening our DIACONIA committee which will coordinate the projects in accordance with LUCSA 2018/2022 Strategic Plan which I have availed to the Church office.

REPORT ON ANNUAL WORKSHOP OF LUCSA RESOURCE PERSONS: 11-16 FEBRUARY 2019

VENUE: OUTLOOK LODGE, KEMPTON PARK

PURPOSE

LUCSA member churches to share their reports on achievements and challenges in implementing the first year of the 2018/2022 LUCSA Strategic plan, and to develop plans for the following year.

NEW APPROACHES ADOPTED BY LUCSA TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE

The three projects, HIV and AIDS, Malaria and Christian Education are now collaborating under Diaconia, this will assist in resource mobilization as the funding from traditional donors is running dry, innovative ways should be developed through this collaboration to ensure sustainability.

REPORTS

Throughout the week, Resource persons presented their reports followed by discussions by participants and the LUCSA officials. The reports were focussing on the four focal areas under HIV and AIDS, Malaria and Christian Education. According to the reports, there is progress, especially on income-generating projects initiated by countries like Malawi and Zimbabwe, other counties can learn from such. Some Resource Persons were new and as such needed a lot of support as they did not participate in the development of the LUCSA strategy, LUCSA staff will arrange workshops with their churches.

Another Strategic Focus area is Diaconia, which was discussed at the meeting by Dr Morekwa, the coordinator, its strategic focus area is, Institutional capacity building in all LUCSA churches its strategic goal is, Competent church institutions in Diaconia Mission work.

Regarding report from ELCSA-NT, Ms Mzezewa was not available, but Ms Dube her assistant gave the report on the Ecclesiastical Committee workshop. She reported that a decision taken was a follow up meeting should be held with the Deans. She further reported that LUCSA is supporting Foster Care Units of St Peter's By The Lake in Johannesburg.

COLLABORATION

Dr Morekwa made a presentation on the strategy of collaboration of LUCSA desks under Diaconia. This arose from the financial challenges experienced due to the shrinking funding base and the spirit of communion, as a means of maximising on resources, sharing experiences and enhancing programme success. The collaboration has seen the production of the Resource Book between HIV and AIDS and Christian Education Desks, which allows for the sharing of the Good News in a contextual manner.

POPULAR EDUCATION

This new concept was introduced to the workshop as a method used to embrace democratic principles in community education. It is a method similar to andragogy (adult education, but in this context grounded in class, political struggle and social transformation. The main idea is to ensure equal participation between the presenter/facilitator and participants, respecting their personal experiences and knowledge of their own situations/ community and not speaking down to them like in pedagogy (child education). This is encouraged as it respects human rights especially their dignity and freedom of expression which are basic tenets of democracy.

This method is used to mobilize the community which in other instances it is called dialogue, community capacity enhancement etc., it enhances ownership of decisions and plans for community programmes.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The strategic focus area of Christian Education is Spiritual growth. It is intended to increase knowledge of the Lutheran doctrine among all congregants and apply that Christian understanding to improve quality of life at family/household, church, community and national levels. It is expected that when an individual is knowledgeable about Christianity and uses the values as embodied in the Lutheran doctrine and teaching, indeed the person becomes a mature Christian.

CONCLUSION

Though LUCSA is experiencing financial challenges in implementing programmes according to the Strategic Plan 2018-2022, members are enthusiastic especially that the programmes are working together under Diaconia, this will address cross cutting issues and thus cut on the budget. One of the saving measures would be that one official will be able to address all programmes with one visit instead of all officials being together.

Regarding participation by LUCSA, my recommendation is that the follow up meeting planned between ECCLESIASTICAL committee and LUCSA officials should focus on DIACONIA and CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, which are the core principles of GREAT COMMISSION.

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