



## World Student Christian Federation

The 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the World Student Christian Federation meeting in Bogotá, Colombia, from the 27<sup>th</sup> February to the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 records its profound gratitude to the Colombian churches and ecumenical organizations, the Colombian government, and the People of Colombia for the exceedingly warm welcome which we have been accorded.

The Assembly was made up of 78 delegates from 64 countries as well as Senior Friends of the WSCF and representatives from the World Council of Churches, ACT Alliance, WACC, WCRC, Global Christian Forum, Globethics, SCUPE, The Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries, United Church of Canada, Karibu, and the WSCF Centennial Fund, US Trustees, and WSCF Canada. Students, Senior Friends, and Partners- Colombian and international- served as resource persons for our panel discussions and workshops. The following 8 movements were affiliated into the WSCF through a unanimous vote by the 2015 General Assembly: Student Christian Movement Ireland (ISCM), Youth Diocese Church from Lebanon, Palestine Youth Ecumenical Movement (PYEM), Fellowship of Orthodox Youth in Poland, SCM-USA, Christian Youth Association of Malawi (CYAMA), Centra Ecumenica from Belarus, Young Christians for Peace and Democracy (YCPD) from Georgia.

The Assembly passed a historic Palestine Policy Paper, from which deepened work for justice in Palestine will be launched. There was also an agreement to continue dialogue about human sexuality and a Task Group mandated to lead the efforts.

The theme of our Assembly was *We are Many, We are One- Sent to Build God's Peace*. Through daily worship of praise and prayer and through daily Bible study, we have sought to understand where in our world today the reign of the God of Justice and Peace and Love is coming into being. In these days of violence, militarization, and war, the WSCF highlighted through this Assembly our commitment to mobilizing students around the world to a vocation of peace. It is never easy when people of different countries, different genders, different religious traditions, different political, economic and social perspectives come together to learn with and from each other, and that has been true for our Assembly.

Through our visits to educational institutions, community projects and the Memory, Peace and Reconciliation Centre in Bogotá and also through the visits to the Assembly of victims of the conflict and people working in Colombian communities for peace, we have heard and been able to support the work of Justice and Peace in Colombia. These engagements have demonstrated in action what we learned of in our keynote address, how there can be no peace without justice.

Our Federation has had to face a significant shortfall in annual income just at the moment when all ecumenical agencies are facing a reduction in the funds available to them. We have struggled to understand what is the best way forward for our organization, founded in 1895. We know that there is a massive task to be undertaken.

With this realization, the *Future of the Federation* was a major focus for this General Assembly. Our panel speakers on the theme *Contribution to Change* left us in no doubt that there is a major task for the Federation to undertake in every continent of the world. We cannot do it on our own and partnership in and with churches and all agencies who share a call to work for Justice and Peace is the only way forward. It is the intention of the World Student Christian Federation so to do as we move to implement the program of changes recommended by the Future of the Federation Report as adopted by the General Assembly.

One of the changes recommended, and adopted, by the Future of the Federation Task Group Report was the suspension of the position of General Secretary for a 6-9 month transition period, during which time an Interim Transition Coordinator would work with a Transition Team appointed by the Executive Committee to examine needed changes in the WSCF's structure, governance, and functioning. Former Asia Pacific Regional Secretary Ms Necta Montes of the Philippines has been chosen in the Coordinator role. The officers elected by the Assembly are Mr Immanuel Kitnan of Sri Lanka as Student Vice-Chair and Ms Bronwyn Claire of Australia as Honorary Treasurer. As no Chairperson or Female Vice-Chair was elected, a search process will follow in the coming months and former Africa Regional Secretary Ms Georgine Kengne Djeutane of Cameroon was appointed by the Executive Committee in a meeting following the Assembly as Acting Chair. Also appointed by the Executive Committee, the Transition Team will be composed of Senior Friends Rev Christopher Ferguson (Canada) and Mr Salters Sterling (Ireland), who also sits on the Centennial Fund Board of Trustees; Students Rev Marco Fornerone (Italy) and Pretty Mubaiwa (Zimbabwe); and the Acting Chair and Treasurer of WSCF.

As we begin to take the first steps of this moment of transition we repeat our greetings and our gratitude to the citizens of Bogotá and the people of Colombia and we ask God's blessing on all the students, staff, Senior Friends, and partners as we continue the journey.

#### The WSCF Executive Committee

Ms Georgine Kengne Djeutane, Acting Chairperson  
Mr Immanuel Gopala Kitnan, Vice-Chairperson  
Ms Bronwyn Claire, Honorary Treasurer  
Mrs Lydia Nabunya, Africa Region Representative  
Mr Paul Martin Nguimgo, Africa Region Representative  
Ms Brandi Friesen Thorpe, North America Region Representative  
Minister Louis Tillman, North America Region Representative  
Ms Chung Hiu Fan, Asia-Pacific Region Representative  
Mr John Graveston, Asia-Pacific Region Representative  
Ms Annika Foltin, Europe Region Representative  
Valentin Tranchand, Europe Region Representative  
Ms Dianet de la Caridad Martinez Valdés, Latin America & Caribbean Region Representative  
Mr Oscar Eduardo Reicher Salazar, Latin America & Caribbean Region Representative  
Ms Marianne Azer, Middle East Region Representative  
Dr Dany El Obeid, Middle East Region Representative  
Rev Amos Mushendwa, Africa Regional Secretary  
Mr Luciano Kovacs, North America Regional Secretary  
Ms Sunita Suna, Asia Pacific Regional Secretary  
Ms Natia Tsintsadze, Europe Regional Secretary  
Mr Marcelo Leites, Latin America and Caribbean Regional Secretary  
Ms Elsy Wakil, Middle East Regional Secretary  
Ms Necta Montes, Interim Coordinator

25 March 2015