



World Student Christian Federation

35th General Assembly Report



YMCA Bogotá, Colombia
27th February - 5th March, 2015



Introduction

The 35th General Assembly of the World Student Christian Federation was held at the YMCA in Bogotá, Colombia, from the 27th February to the 5th March 2015. The Assembly was attended by 163 participants, with 78 delegates from 64 member movements, Senior Friends of the WSCF and representatives from churches, international and local partners and networks. The Assembly gathered under the theme *We are Many, We are One-Sent to Build God's Peace*. The theme of the Assembly reflected the nature of the Federation as a diverse Christian community committed to unite as one body of Christ. It expressed its vision to build God's peace based on justice in the context of war, militarization and conflicts in many parts of the world. The Assembly gathered in Bogota with an explicit intention to contribute to the on-going peace building process initiated by the Government of Colombia and supported by the people, churches and civil society organizations to find permanent solutions to end decades of conflict that has devastated generations of peoples lives and property.

The General Assembly was organized in the context of internal financial crisis of the Federation. Originally planned to be held in August 2014, the dates of the GA was postponed to March 2015 to allow for more time for fund-raising, implement immediate measures to address the urgent financial crisis and call for strategic measures for the long-term sustainability and stability of the Federation. The need for the global Federation to urgently respond to this situation shifted the framework from which the programs and activities of the GA were prioritized and originally planned. This gathering was therefore a crucial turning-point in the life of the Federation, where the delegates were presented with a challenge and opportunity to take collective action to make substantial changes for the future of the Federation.

This report provides a brief highlight of the major sessions of the Assembly and the significant accomplishments of the work of the General Assembly, its strengths and limitations and the plan forward. This report is divided into the following sections:

1. Purpose and Process of the Assembly
2. Summary of the General Assembly Sessions
3. Highlights of the Reports: The State of the Global Federation
 - Our Global Perspective
 - Our Regional Perspective
 - Movement Expansion
4. Advocacy and Solidarity Work for Colombia and Palestine, Affirming Dialogue on Gender and Sexuality
5. Election of Officers and the Executive Committee
6. Towards a Change Process and the Way Forward for the Federation
7. GA Evaluation from the Participants
8. Financial Report Summary
9. List of Participants

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1. Purpose and Process of the Assembly

The General Assembly is “the most representative expression of the WSCF’s life” (WSCF Constitutions), it is the highest policy-making body which aimed to set the priorities of its work in the coming 4 years (2015-2019) and to envision the movement’s potential today at the beginning of the 21st century. This process involved evaluation of the work of the past 6 years and the context in which the Federation is working, taking a fresh look at WSCF identity and mission and looking at its potential contribution to change and exploring thematic issues.

Specifically the Assembly aimed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Increased solidarity with Colombia
- Agreement on foundational aspects of WSCF mission and vision
- Commitment to strengthening theological foundations of WSCF
- Identify the priority goal areas for 2015-2019
- Description and agreement on WSCF role in partnerships
- Develop Senior Friends program or strategy
- Elect New Officers and affirmed the General Secretary
- Decisions for necessary changes in Federation structure and processes and plan forthorough institutional change process following the General Assembly
- Reception of new movements

The seven-days Assembly Program aimed to achieve a balance of all the aforementioned objectives, however given the backdrop of the financial crisis of the Federation, some activities originally planned in August 2014 had to be cancelled or streamlined to prioritize the sessions related to decisions on the future of the Federation. For example, the Senior Friends Gathering (SFG) previously organized to be held simultaneously with the GA was cancelled, thematic workshop sessions had to be shortened to give enough time for the participants to discuss the Future of the Federation (FoF) Report.

At this General Assembly, the role of the WSCF senior friends, partners and networks have been integral in the process and outcome of the Assembly. They have been invited to participate in the various sessions and discussions of the Assembly, except the right to





vote and participate in the election discussion and session. Unlike previous Assemblies, the Assembly called everyone within the influence of the Federation to contribute, share their creativity, gifts and talent in the change process that the Federation aimed to commence in the GA.

2. Summary of the General Assembly Sessions

The programmatic and thematic aspect of the work of the GA where achieved through the following sessions;

The Women and Men Pre-Assemblies. The Women Pre-Assembly session, facilitated by Elsy Wakil, WSCF Middle East Regional Secretary, focused on the topic of women's role in the peace building. Rev. Gloria Ullua, World Council of Churches (WCC) President from Colombia gave a presentation on the history of the conflict and the peace process in Colombia. She emphasized the role of women in the on-going Colombian peace negotiation happening in Cuba and invited the participants to support the process and promote women's initiatives to build lasting peace in their communities. Women participants who came from similar situations of war and conflict shared stories from their own contexts. This was followed by women

student delegates sharing their personal stories of difficulties in becoming leaders in their movements and affirmed the need to support each other as women within the Federation. Finally, the WSCF Sexual Harassment Policy was introduced at the end of the session.

The Men's Pre-Assembly was led by WSCF Exco members, Marco Fornerone from Italy and Immanuel Kitnan from Sri Lanka. The participants shared their personal background and told stories of what brought them to the GA and what they want to share to the Assembly. The men also reflected on the power of language, how it is misused or abused, recognizing that language represents relationship of power that often reflected male attitude. They also affirmed that the power of language especially the use of words could open safe spaces of encounter,

understanding, expression and exchange. To recap the session, Marco led a Bible reflection inspired by the use of language in the Bible. This was followed by reflections on the theme of the Assembly. The session ended with the introduction of the WSCF Sexual Harassment Policy by Immanuel.

Three Keynote Speeches were presented in the Assembly. Rev. Dr. Johnston McMaster, senior friend from SCM UK and from the Irish School of Ecumenics, explored the theme “Sent out to Build God’s Peace.” He traced the historical roots of the post-colonial violence from World War I to the War on Terror and the role of the powerful state actors in the wars of aggressions. He identified the complicit role of imperial church from the post Constantine period carried onto the wars of aggressions in the former colonies. He added that in today’s globalized context, it is important to maintain the diversity of life as God’s gift of Peace. Rev. Chris Ferguson, senior friend from Canada and the General Secretary of World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) following on the historical analysis from Dr. McMaster’s presentation, focused his presentation on the theme “SCMs Gathered in Colombia: Seeing, Interrogating & Transforming The World”. He presented a geopolitical analysis of the root causes of conflicts and the war of aggression and the role the Empire, manifested in the local situation of conflict in Colombia.

Dr. Fulata Moyo from the World Council of Churches (WCC), provided a gender perspective on the theme and gave a presentation on the topic, “Discovering difference, effecting, transformation: a postcolonial Ecofeminist-ethical perspective.” In a very inspiring feminist methodology, Dr. Fulata began her presentation by sharing her personal journey as single mother with 2 sons. She candidly shared the challenges of bringing gender awareness in a predominantly patriarchal culture of Malawi and her church. She shared her perspective on Ecofeminism and related this to the feminist vision for peace. She said that Peace couldn’t be achieved when violence against women is pervasive in different communities.



The first Bible Study led by Rev. Lekisha Reed from the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church (UMC) reflected on the meaning of “Solidarity and Love” in the book of Esther 2-4. Her presentation was divided into 3 reflections sessions, in the first reflection, she asked the participants to acknowledge the women that came before them in the movement and inspired them to join the movement. The second reflection reminded the participants that the work for God means being in solidarity with those that are in the peripheries, excluded and persecuted in their communities similar to those described in the book of Esther 3. She also reminded the delegates that the work for God is to call for justice and confront systems and power as Esther has done when she defied the King’s order. Rev. Reed used powerful songs to inspire the youth delegates in their reflection, at the end of her session she invited everyone to identify a song for their SCM and to share it to everyone, she shared a final song entitled, “Hanging Tree,” a theme song of the popular movie series the Hunger Games.



Dr. Rogelio Dario Barolin from Uruguay, led two equally engaging Bible Study sessions on the text of Jeremiah and Isaiah. His first session entitled 'Foreigners' reflected on specific groups of people that were considered foreigners and excluded in early communities such as the Eunuchs and find parallel situation in today's context with the exclusion of sexual minorities and marginalized people in our communities. His second session entitled *New Laws for Peace, Metaphors & Feminism*, reflected on the New Laws for Peace, from the experiences and perspective of those that have long been marginalized or oppressed and the reversal of roles in the process or empowerment and peace building.

He emphasized that in this New Law for Peace, Justice is central in the reconciliation and healing process.

Through daily **Worship of praise and prayer** led by the Local Host and regional groups, the Assembly's spiritual life strengthened the unity of the Assembly and the presence of the fellowship of Christ in the midst of the various traditions of worship and praise from the movements. Through the Worship, the GA sought to understand where in our world today the word of God and the reign of the God of Justice and Peace and Love is coming into being.

A one and half day Exposure Program was organized to see first-hand the realities of Colombian people affected by the conflicts with guidance and inputs from Colombian





partners. The delegates and participants visited, met and listened to the stories of children and young people in three community shelters around Bogota. These were in Bemposta, Bosa, and Universidad Nacional. A final in exposure was organized at the *Centro de Memoria Paz y Reconciliacion* in Bogota, where participants met and listened to the leaders of People's Organizations involved in the peace process. There were inputs from ecumenical and social organizations in Colombia, specific SCMs with experience of work on some issues, partners and Senior Friends.

The Assembly was divided into the following Thematic Workshops themes; Identity Diversity & Dialogue (IDD), Colombia, Middle East and Palestine, Rights of the People and Corporations, Water and Environmental Justice and Youth, Student Movements as Political Actors, Construction of Knowledge & process of the Community, Construction of Peace by Interreligious Dialogue. The outcome of the Thematic Workshops have been put forwards as Resolutions and Statements passed at the last day of the GA and will be forwarded to the Advocacy and Solidarity Committee for further action and planning.

The panel on the theme Contribution to Change left the delegates in no doubt that there is a major task for the Federation to undertake in every continent of the world. The panel presentations had three parts, the Biblical and Theological Analysis by Milton Mejia from Colombia, Ecumenical Transformational Diakonia by Isaiah Kipyegon Toroitich from ACT Alliance, Advocacy and Solidarity by Peter Prove of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance. This session underscored the importance of WSCF's partnership with churches and all agencies who share a call to work for Justice and Peace is the only way forward.

The Strategy Working Groups session was divided into three groups, the Biblical and Theological Analysis, Advocacy and Solidarity, Ecumenical Transformational Diakonia and Capacity Development. The output of the groups will be the basis for the development of the Strategic Plan of WSCF. GA delegates were formed into group and were asked to respond to the following questions: What concepts can be highlighted from the presentation for this specific action line? What strategies could be implemented at the local/regional/global levels? What capacities at the leadership and organizational levels need to be developed in order to implement these strategies?

The Governance Work of the GA included the presentation and review of the reports from Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer, Regional reports, Centennial Fund and approval of resolutions and messages and the elections of officers. A significant time in the GA's governance function was devoted to discerning the report of the Future of the



Horacio Mesones, WSCF Chairperson



Christine Housel, WSCF General Secretary

Federation (FoF) Task Group. The process began with the presentation of the FoF report followed by discussions in regional groups and inter-regional group with specific guide questions. Results of the group discussions were presented in the plenary where questions were responded to by the members of the Task Group and a final recommendation report was approved by the GA at the end of the final GA session.

3. Highlights of the WSCF Reports: The State of the Global Federation

An understanding of the state of the global Federation can be gleaned from the composite reports from the global perspectives presented by the WSCF chairperson, Horacio Mesones, the General Secretary's Report from Christine Housel and Treasurer Report by Youhanna Shawky Kamal, as well as and the regional perspectives from the reports of Regional Secretaries, Amos Mushendwa from Africa, Sunita Suna from Asia, Elsy Wakil from Middle East, Natia Tsintsadze from Europe, Luciano Kovac from North America, and Marcelo Leites, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Our Global Perspective

The common thread that brought together the reports presented by the global officers were that of the context of WSCF internal financial crisis and questions on the sustainability of the organization in the future and its institutional capacity. The Chairperson's report emphasized that immediate financial crisis is brought about by the following factors; the impact of the global financial crisis on the WSCF's partners translated into reduced ability to financially support to the Federation in the same level, weakened internal financial position of WSCF, changing financial fiscal arrangement with the WCC, changes in the standard of reporting and accountability procedures of partners, the shift in priorities towards working more in cooperation with partners for program implementation. The 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.

The Treasurer's Report provided the financial evidence of these analysis calling the situation as constantly like being inside an "Emergency Room." The accrued deficit of the IRO has totaled to \$161,200 (US) as of the end of 2014. He provided 3 factors in the overall financial crisis of the Federation, (1) continuous decrease in the undesignated funds, (2) increase in the administration expenses, (3) dependent on small number of external sources (4) and WCC debts and cash-flow situation. He also pointed out that the production of Red Book, the support of the Centennial Fund and the Give One Be One Campaign have been important factors in the stability of the finances of the Federation.



Since the 2008 GA in Montreal, the Federation worked towards strategic global programming to integrate the work of the IRO and regions in four areas: Radical Renewal of Biblical and Theological Reflections, Ecumenical Leadership Formation, Advocacy and Solidarity, and Capacity Development. This has been the framework of global programs and regional priorities which guided the various activities and programs in the past six-years. Among these four areas, Ecumenical Leadership Formation has been the one with most positive tangible results to date with the existing strong leadership programs of the regions and the nascent Inter-regional Leadership Training Program (IRLTP) organized in Thailand (2009), Lebanon (2010) and Jordan/Palestine (2013). Advocacy and Solidarity was the most promising and with most potential to further develop and pursue with the effective mechanism and leadership put in place, the Advocacy and Solidarity Committee (ASC). With an active Committee member meeting *online* and in-person in 2008 and 2011, the ASC provided leadership on responding to call for action, solidarity and appeal from the SCMs, provided global advocacy platforms and led campaigns on Water and Eco-justice. Admittedly, the work on the Radical Renewal of Biblical and Theological Reflections having had the least impact and work done with no leadership or an implementation mechanism.

The work towards partnership building with global and international groups has visible increased in the past year as presented by the General Secretary. WSCF has developed and sustained partnerships with WCC, GCF, CWME, EWN, ACT Alliance, EAA, WCRC, LWF and other global partners. This growth area has potential impact on the future sustainability of the Federation given the changing funding landscape of the Ecumenical Movement. Another tangible results of this is the various ways in which engagements have been reciprocated, such as the visible presence of a significant number of partners at this General Assembly and the possibilities of developing common strategies in the near future.

Our Regional Perspective

A major highlight of the GA and has often been a highpoint in the gathering has been achievements and work in the six regions of the Federation. The highlights of the regional reports points to growing movement activities and SCM leadership presence in all the regions, but more significantly in the Middle East region (ME), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and North America.



Natia Tsintsadze, Europe



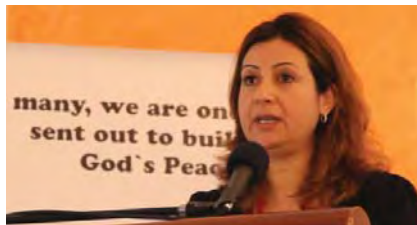
Amos Mushendwa, Africa



Sunita Suna, Asia-Pacific



Luciano Kovac, North America



Elsy Wakil, Middle East



Marcelo Leites, Latin America and the Caribbean



Faced with tremendous challenges of growing threat of violent conflicts and war, the movements in the Middle East, accompanied by the regional structure continue to bear witness to Christian presence and solidarity among people of different faith and vision for Peace in the Arab world. In the context of Israel's aggressive war and the post Arab Spring violence, Regional Secretary for Middle East Elsy Wakil exclaimed in her report, "How difficult it is for an Arab Christian to witness today in an era of war and violence! How difficult it is for Arab women to raise their cause in a context where staying alive is the only crucial cause!" Our SCMs in the ME have inspired the global Federation to be steadfast in its prophetic role in situations of difficulties and challenges and to build leadership capacity. Elsy added that "in spite of the destruction, under the bombs and the notorious war, in Syria's Damascus, a WSCF Ecumenical Youth committee was born. It witnesses Christ among the combatants."

Movements from our GA host region, Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) have re-envisioned themselves with closer relationship and strategic partnership with the churches and ecumenical groups in the region. Our SCMs have benefited from this shared ecumenical work and vision with the LAC churches by receiving strong theological formation for our students in the SCM. Churches on the other hand recognized the leadership role played by the SCMs in the local churches. Our work in the North America region has come full-circle with the revival and active presence of SCM USA in the GA and its full affiliation as a member. The SCMs in this region have provided a fresh perspective on what it means to be part of a global community, to be inter-regional in their vision and programming and to be in solidarity with justice work in the South.

Movement Expansion

Prior to the Assembly, WSCF was composed of 118 movements, with 101 affiliated and associated and 17 contacts located in 95 countries. The GA welcomed the following 8 movements from being an associated to affiliated member of the WSCF, these were the following:

1. Student Christian Movement Ireland (ISCM)
2. Youth Diocese Church from Lebanon
3. Palestine Youth Ecumenical Movement (PYEM)
4. Fellowship of Orthodox Youth in Poland
5. SCM-USA
6. Christian Youth Association of Malawi (CYAMA)
7. Centra Ecumenica from Belarus
8. Young Christians for Peace and Democracy (YCPD) from Georgia



The state of the global Federation is both promising and challenging. Promising because the potential for growth and the capacity of its existing organized local movements to contribute to social change and the impact of its work and mission in a changing and diverse context is deeply rooted in its vision and mission as an organization located in different parts of the world. Because of its rootedness and movement dynamism, it is able to adapt to rapid changes and often rise to the occasion. The challenge lies in the ability of the current membership and leadership to turn-around the organizational financial crisis to an opportunity to make strategic change in the institutional capacity of the Federation.

4. Advocacy and Solidarity Work for Colombia and Palestine Affirming Dialogue on Gender and Sexuality

The Call for Justice, Peace in Colombia was at the heart of the work of the Assembly. Through 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, the delegates have heard and been able to support the work of Justice and Peace in Colombia. These engagements have demonstrated in action what the delegates learned of the keynote addresses, how there can be no peace without justice.

The GA adopted the Colombian Statement highlighting the call for international involvement for justice and peace in Colombia. The GA reiterated its commitment to pray and accompany the Colombian people in its hope for peace. The GA appealed to the Colombian government and the FARC not leave the negotiations until a peace agreement is reached in order to put an end to the armed violence that has affected the Colombian people. The Assembly asked the Colombian government to initiate soon a public dialogue with the ELN. It also asked the global ecumenical movement to accompany and support the social organizations, communities and churches in Colombia in their endeavors for peace, based in the respect for human rights and the search for justice and democracy to allow a true reconciliation. It called upon the international community, country governments and multilateral organizations, to maintain the presence in Colombia to make a contribution to the compensation of the victims, and a peace that's a fruit of justice and reconciliation in Colombia.

The Assembly passed a historic Palestine Policy Paper, from which deepened work for justice in Palestine will be launched. The Paper citing as its basis from International Human Rights Convention and the Kairos Document, the Policy Paper has put forward 10 positions;

- To call to end the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and all forms of discrimination; as this occupation is a crime against God and humanity.
- Jerusalem must be an open and shared city for the two peoples and the three Abrahamic religions.
- The Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories – including East Jerusalem – are illegal under International Law and must be dismantled.
- We call to revisit theological positions that support certain unjust political options with regard to the Palestinians; theologies that legitimize the Israeli Occupation of the Palestinian land.



- The Wall constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian territories is a breach of international law and must be dismantled.
- Palestinians’ right of self-determination must be respected, as should be the right of return.
- Maintaining just peace and a sustainable solution to the conflict is only achieved through peaceful means. Violence cannot be justified whether perpetrated by Israelis or Palestinians.
- We call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanction of the occupation, as a non-violent tool for justice, peace and security.
- We call churches and ecumenical organizations worldwide to visit the occupied Palestinian territory in accordance with Kairos Palestine call under “Come and See”
- We call upon the Regional and National WSCF and SCMs to educate their members on the conflict and be engaged in solidarity activities with the Palestinian people and with justice- building initiatives

There was also an agreement to continue dialogue about Human Sexuality and a Task Group on Identity Diversity and Dialogue (IDD) mandated to lead further the efforts. At the GA, the IDD Report identified the challenges of the Federation as the following; (1) strong and painful disagreements and approaches to sexuality and gender identity as movements have varied perspective based on theology, the Bible, church tradition, cultural and societal contexts; (2) recognition of the presence of power dynamics within structures of the church, historical experience of colonialism and society in general, (3) and the lack of spaces to engage in constructive dialogue within the Federation. The following recommendations were put forward;

- The IDD Task Group be mandated by the General Assembly to continue as a working group until the next GA in order to further and support this dialogue.
- All levels of the Federation commit to engage in this process.
- Members of WSCF meet at regional and global levels for dialogue on this topic.
- National movements discuss and decide what approach is appropriate for them in their own contexts and at the same time commit to the Federation process of dialogue.
- The Federation base this process of dialogue in the deeper work of discerning anew our identity, mission and vision-- “examining who we are” by creating clearer conceptual links between our core mandate and our local, national, regional, and global work.

- WSCF use the following to ensure a fruitful dialogue: Academic Study, Bible Study, Exploring the language we use to be sensitive and inclusive, Explore the power imbalances within the Federation and intersections with marginalisation on the basis of gender or sexual identities.
- The WSCF source, create and widely share resources to increase our understanding of sexuality and gender diversity.



5. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members

The General Assembly has not been able to successfully elect a Chairperson and a woman Vice-chairperson at this Assembly. It has also suspended the election of the Co-secretary General following the recommendation of the Future of the Federation (FOF) Task Group.

The following Officers and Regional Executive Committee members were elected:

Inter-regional Officers

Mr Immanuel Kitnan of Sri Lanka Student Vice-Chair
Ms Bronwyn Claire of Australia as Honorary Treasurer

Regional Representatives

Ms. Marianne Azer of Egypt
Mr. Dany El-Obeid of Lebanon
Ms. Fanny Chung of Hong Kong
Mr. John Gravestone from New Zealand
Ms. Annika Foltin of Austria
Mr. Valentin Tranchand of Germany
Mrs. Lydia Nabunya from Uganda
Mr. Paul Martin Nguimgo of Cameroon
Ms. Dianet Martínez Valdés of Cuba
Mr. Oscar Reicher of Uruguay
Ms. Brandi Thorpe of Canada
Mr. Louis Tillman of US





Regional Proxies

- Ms. Isatu Ville from Liberia
- Mr. Edgar Munatsi from Zimbabwe
- Ms. Milka Hanook from Pakistan
- Mr. Tuntun Oo from Myanmar
- Ms. Zuzana Babicova from Slovakia
- Mr. Victor Liza Jaramillo from Peru
- Ms. Sarahi Garcia Gomez from Cuba
- Ms. Mira Neaimeh from Lebanon
- Mr. Youssef Zaky Wahib from Egypt

The election process has been one of the most difficult session in the Assembly. The voting delegates decided to keep the election discussion a closed session only open to the voting delegates, WSCF executive staff, candidates and members of the Search Committee. The Assembly requested those that were non-voting delegates, observers, senior friends and partners, networks to leave the session on elections. This action has received varied reactions from the non-voting members of the Assembly, especially WSCF senior friends and partners. Some understood the decision as being part of the long standing tradition of the organization, fully aware that it is within the limits of the exercising the rights of the Assembly delegates, while a significant number of senior friends felt negatively and hurt by this decision after being fully participating from the beginning of the Assembly.

6. Towards a Change Process and the Way Forward for the Federation

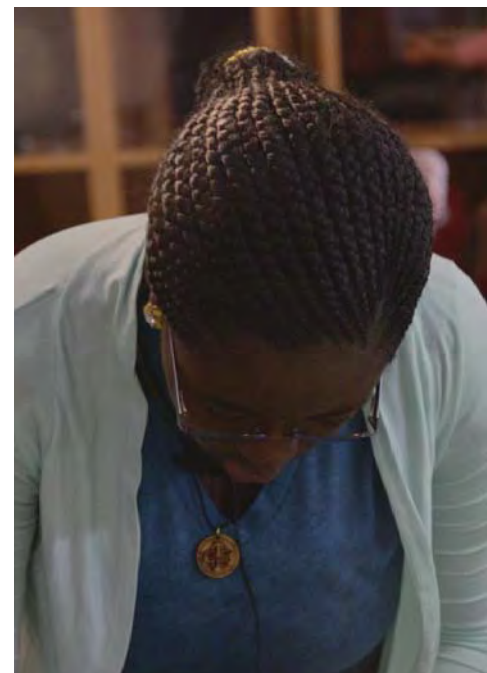
The work of the Future of the Federation (FoF) Task Group was a major focus for this General Assembly. The formation of the FoF Task Group was a direct response to the urgent financial ‘emergency’ crisis of the Federation which resulted in the postponement of the GA from August 2014 to March 2015. Established by the Executive Committee in November 2014, the Task Group was composed of Chris Ferguson, Salters Sterling, Jorge Domingues, Dhalia Lakis, Yong Ting Jin, and Pretty Mubaiwa. The Task Group was mandated to bring a detailed analysis of the Federation’s current situation and provide concrete recommendations about the way the Federation may develop its vision and structure to the General Assembly.

At the GA, the FoF Task Group provided a comprehensive report with analysis of the current situation of WSCF and measures necessary in the next six months and measure necessary in the next two years for the change process to take-place. The FoF report states

that, “as the financial situation of the Federation has eroded over the years, so too has the clarity of its vision and purpose, the trust and confidence of its officers and executives, the relationship between the regional and inter-regional offices. Sustained financial problems have resulted in years of increasing deficit and debt. Lack of clarity of functions and responsibility has compromised the opportunity to tackle these seemingly intractable problems.”

As an immediate measure, it recommended the elections of the General Secretaries be suspended for six month, while an Interim Staff Coordinator be appointed, who will work with the Transition Team of five people to support the management of the Federation. In six-month, the Transition Team will further recommend steps for the reconfiguration of the Federation for action by the Executive Committee. The Interim Transition Team is mandated to develop and propose specific recommendations to reform its Governance Structure and Constitution, its Management and Operational Systems and finally to implement specific measures to immediately address the declining financial state of the Federation. In the next two years, the following objectives were presented by the FoF;

1. Articulate our common global vision and mission understanding for WSCF (including global and regional priorities and concerns).
2. Reform governance structure and constitution.
3. Improve reporting and documentation of all WSCF activities and events.
4. Improve trust and communication between the Inter-regional Office (IRO), Executive Committee, Regional offices, SCMs and partners and donors.
5. Rebuild trust and communication with traditional and new donors.
6. Increase the income of the WSCF (IRO and Regional).
7. Clarify roles, responsibilities and line reporting arrangements for staff at different levels (GS, Chairperson, Exco, Regional Secretary, SCMs).
8. Improve the capacity of the IRO, regional staff and ExCo members.
9. Implement a process to consider the move of the IRO, or, to relocate the Inter Regional staff to a more cost efficient location.



Overall, the Future of the Federation Task Group Report was accepted by the GA with some minor suggestions and revisions. Following the urgency of the situation, the newly elected members of the Executive Committee appointed former Asia Pacific Regional Secretary Ms. Necta Montes of the Philippines as the Coordinator. 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.

7. GA Evaluation from the Participants

A post GA Evaluation was conducted with an online platform through Google Forms as well as distributed during the last session at the Assembly. The following is the summary as well as some highlights from the Evaluation form of the 57 respondents. The forms were divided into 3 major sections: first, Logistics Support (Hospitality, Accommodation, Meals/Food, Documentation, Translations) second, Program Content (Men and Women Pre-Assemblies, Worship, Bible Studies, Exposure, Keynote, Reports, FoF Work, Thematic Workshops) and third, Open Questions. The respondents were asked to rate according to the degree of how they felt about the item being evaluated from Excellent, Great, Good, OK, and Bad.

On GA Logistics and Support:

- Almost half of the respondents agreed that the Hospitality was Great, with few rating them Bad. These were mainly due to complaints on the airport pick-up, where they were made to wait for more than two hours and with no English translator to communicate with.
- Participants were billeted in four different Hotel accommodations. Over-all the hotels were rated mostly Good and Great, with few rating them Bad, especially



those that did not provide internet connections and was far from the GA venue like Bavaria Hotel. Hotel Isabel received the most positive comments because of its close proximity to the venue of the GA, friendly and accommodating hotel staff, and with internet connection.

- The GA venue YMCA was rated mostly Good, noting that the main hall was relatively small for the gathering, lighting was not good and majority complained about the bad



- internet service at the venue hall. The food catering was rated Good by most of the respondents with having enough quantity for everyone to enjoy, while vegetarians noted that there were very few choices.
- Documentation and Paperworks were rated mostly Bad especially with the breakdown of internet service at the Assembly where official documents were being shared online through Dropbox. Respondents also complained of not having received the Reports and Documents for the Assembly in advance which affected the quality of discussions at the Assembly. Some noted that the Treasurer Report was not properly translated with differences in the actual presentation and translated document.

On the GA Program Content:

- Overall the majority of respondents rated the content of the GA as Good.
- The Keynote Speeches were highly rated and appreciated as powerful presentation and academic excellent papers. Some however raised questions on the link to the situation and challenges to the youth and students and suggested for the presentation to remain short, concise to be more interesting.
- The first three Bible Studies were rated Good, while the final session was Excellent. Suggestions were made to use more participatory approaches rather than an academic reading of the Scripture and encouraged the resource persons to integrate prayers in the BS sessions.
- The Worships were highly appreciated with its strong contextual presentations, while others appreciated the various ways the regions led the worships, others thought they were more cultural presentations than Worships. Special appreciations were noted of the Closing Worship.
- The Men and Women Pre-Assemblies were rated OK, with few women appreciative of the opportunity to tell stories and listen to other women's experiences, while significant number raised questions on the continued use of gender dichotomy in the Pre-Assemblies.
- The Exposure to the three communities were rated Great by the participants, thanking the organizers and local host for giving them time to interact with the people in Colombia. Others suggested to organize the exposure program in areas where the SCMs are directly working and others felt the final program to the Center for Peace and Reconciliation was not effective with limited time to visit the place and interact with the leaders of the People's Organizations present at the Center.
- The Reports were given mostly Good and significant Bad ratings. These were due to the following reasons, incomplete data presented in the Treasurers Report and no financial reports in the Regional Secretaries Reports, the General Secretary report was too long, and presented more personal stories and opinions rather than organizational perspective which did not allow for substantial discussions. The Reports could have been prepared in advance and sent before the GA for people to prepare to raise questions and discuss during the GA. The Reports were not properly discussed.

- The FoF Report was well appreciated, with some critical comments on the focus on financial perspective or financial crisis prism used and lack of review of the history, vision and mission and relevance of the Federation in this context. Others commented that language and cultural barriers lead to inefficiency.
- On facilitation of the Assembly, the respondents appreciated that they did their best with some limitations. The use of the English medium by session chairpersons were not effective which resulted in misunderstandings, there should be guarantee that non-English speakers, and facilitators need to understand the rules and procedures of the Assembly and should follow a higher standard of facilitations.

Open Questions:

Several Open-ended Questions were used in the evaluation form. The four most important questions of the Evaluation Form are highlighted here for the purpose of Evaluation and forward looking. The answers to the open ended questions were varied and sometimes conflicting at the opposite end of the spectrum. For brevity, the following are direct quotes from the responses of the respondents.

What did you like most about WSCF-GA?

- “The students were very bold, many of them were able to articulate very well. The Senior Friends and Partners were allowed to be present with the right to speak in most sessions.”
- “Renewal of Commitment. The chance to meet and get to know Young Christians from all over the world was transforming experience for me spiritually, academically and ecumenically. I feel blessed and want to thank everyone that made this possible. I know my evaluation might seem critical otherwise, but this is just for development of our organizations way of working. It doesn’t lessen the value of this great experience.”
- “Getting an overview where the movement stands! Networking and intergenerational exchange of views and experiences! Meeting old friends and getting to know new ones! At least also avoiding the closure of the activities and commitments to launch the new phase!”
- “Students’ participation and passion!”
- “The results: a work plan for the incoming ExCo(FOF document),



the policy paper on Palestine, and the IDD document. The fellowship among the delegates.”

- What did you gain personally from the General Assembly? And how this GA will influence your SCM or the Institution you represent?
- “I believe the path was paved for me to regain the faith I had lost with the death of my sister three years ago. It enabled me to be vulnerable and open to God. During Holy Week (about 6 weeks after the Assembly) I was able to feel the presence of God for the first time in years. I was able to share this with my new friends from the GA and feel really encouraged in this.”
- “I think that having been to the GA, I will be able to encourage my SCM to be more supportive of the WSCF. We will now have a greater understanding of the problems of the Federation BUT that the Federation is working to resolve these issues.”
- “Personally I came to know about the life and work of the SCMs around the world. It is useful to review the work in our local SCM and learn from other countries.”
- “The GA spent little time in actual debate about the current situation and engaging the delegates in helping to shape the future of the organization. The exclusion of senior friends and partners from the plenary at the time of elections was a very negative action and hurt the relationship between the Federation and its supporters.”



- “Extraordinary experience - and the joy that the work continues!”
- “Personally my life will always be more positive and I have made some friends for life from GA. Spiritually it has brought my faith closer to me.”
- “A reaffirmation that “difficult” issues can be discussed and solved in a respectful way (IDD).”

How can we improve the WSCF-GA? What are the Strength and Weakness points?

- “Start preparing the next GA long a head many things seemed to be done in the last minute, think about how to keep people together how to build a community/team etc. do a better chairing of sessions and stick to the timetable.”
- “GA has to be longer, more planned and leadership has to be more trained and firm. You have to send all the documents in advance in all languages. There should be more fun activities as reward for all the hard work the delegates do. More freetime, so that people can rest and gain from getting to know to each other, since the relationships that were made





are the future and heart of the federation.”

- “The strength is having such gathering by itself is the strength. Further, the role of advocacy and justice are very much important and timely. Open discussion without any imposition, I loved that.”
- “General Assembly is a place of Celebration which we totally missed in GA 2015. Strength is to see people face by face is good to strengthen the fellowship and friendship. The weakness is too much focusing on elections rather on the policies and resolutions. The elections can be done on the first day and can have more time for discussions on our work in the SCMs.”
- “GA can be improved if the political side of things reduced and more people realised the seriousness of situations and think not just for their region but for WSCF Global.”
- “It was excellent with many good points. Also there are some weak points, like, less Movement/struggling/fighting Spirit but much worried about Money, less respect to Senior Friends but much hunger of own political agenda/position.”
- “For an organization of students in the 21st century, the GA is still formatted on how we did assemblies in the middle of last century. There was no interaction

with students who couldn't come, no electronic communication, no participation beyond the delegates who traveled to Colombia. In the internet age, the assembly seemed to be stuck in the past.”

- “Leaders should read constitution and bylaws and understand it before the GA. The task group have to make sure that we have more than one candidate. GA should have a time keeper in order to respect the timetable. The strength is that at the end of the day we made it. We made a fruitful GA.”

Any ideas for an ONLINE tool for a next GA or for the Constitution change in the future?

- “A new approach is required - perhaps the next GA should be prepared through an additional Online Assembly to at least confirm the outcome of the Transitional phase and to give guidelines for the preparations of the next GA.”



- “The use of live streams to expand the reach of the presentations. The use of remote participation by the movements, with space for twitters, Facebook comments, online interaction. The constitution should allow for actual elections of ExCo members at the plenary with candidates being selected to represent the interests of the GA instead of their regions.”
- “The strength of the GA is to meet people face to face. It looks like the IRO is deciding to have next GA online which is a worst case scenario. This idea should be thrown in to the bin.”

8. WSCF 35th General Assembly

SUMMARY OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME (in USD)		
Summary (see details in the next page)		
Church Partners and Institutions (37)	342,912	
Individual Contributions (52)	26,798	
SCM Contributions received by IRO	13,355	
Registration Fee	12,874	
Accommodation Contribution Partners/Senior Friends	5,170	
TOTAL INCOME		401,109
EXPENDITURES (in USD)		
Travels	178,129	
Visa & immigration costs	10,277	
Hotel accommodation	44,410	
Conference center	32,791	
Local transportation	4,332	
Resource people	4,052	
Communication & Material	2,836	
Translators	6,786	
Stewards	3,000	
GA preparation	24,160	
GA coordinator	14,482	
Medical Insurance	5,662	
Other expenses	6,229	
General admin (10%)	33,715	
TOTAL EXPENSES		370,861
Net Result		30,251

DETAILS OF THE INCOME

Church Partners and Institutions (37)		342,912
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA)	50,000	
Council for World Mission (CWM)	40,287	
Arcus Foundation	40,000	
General Board for Global Ministries (GBGM) of the United Methodist Church	30,000	
Karibu Foundation	25,400	
Waldesian Church Italy Otto Per Mille Fund	19,317	
United Church of Canada (UCC)	14,826	
National Church Council of Finland	14,719	
Christian Aid	10,901	
WSCF Centennial Fund	10,000	
Church of Sweden	10,000	
Waldesian Church Otto Per Mille Fund	8,533	
Methodist Church UK	7,000	
WSCF Canada / Solidarity fund	5,620	
US Trustees Anonymous	5,000	
WSCF Canada	4,577	
United Church of Christ (UCC)	4,500	
United Church of Christ – USA Area Executive for Southern Asia Desk	4,500	
Anglican Church of Canada	3,937	
United Church of Canada (annual grant WSCF LAC)	3,500	
Ash Wed. Appeal 60% Allocation (US Trustees)	3,177	
United Methodist Women	3,000	
Disciples of Christ – USA Area Executive for East Asia and Pacific	3,000	
Episcopal Church USA	2,852	
US Trustees A. Hageman	2,500	
Presbyterian Church Libertyville (LAC funds)	2,200	
National Council of Churches USA	2,000	
Week of Compassion, Disciples of Christ	2,000	
WSCF Canada / Solidarity fund	1,875	
Princeton University	1,650	
WSCF Canada (NA funds)	1,405	
Canterbury Downtown & Episc. Dioc. New York	1,200	
Reformed Churches of BernJura & Soleure	1,036	
Church's Auxiliary for Social Action India (AP funds)	1,000	
UCC Disciples of Christ Africa Desk	500	
Reformed University	500	
United Church of Christ USA Europe Desk	400	

SCM Contributions		13,355
SCM Australia	3,283	
SCM Taiwan	2,458	
SCM Canada	2,368	
SCM Norway	1,180	
SCM Malaysia	240	
SCM Slovakia	300	
Korea SCM	623	
WSCF LAC	800	
Visa Reimbursements from SCM delegates	2,103	
Individual Contributions (49)		26,798
Salters Sterling / Michael Hanna	8,206	
Thomas Wieser	5,574	
Bruce MacLeod (Africa funds)	2,500	
Bungaran Saragih (AP funds)	2,000	
Anonymous Individual donor	1,000	
Anonymous Individual SCM donor	1,000	
Dorothy Wyman	500	
Timothy Oyeyinka	500	
Felix Kokou Aklavon	359	
Zuzana Babikova	340	
Eilidh Whiteford	330	
Kathy and George Todd	300	
Patt Petterson	250	
George Abraham (AP fund)	250	
Anonymous	224	
Abraham Abraham (AP fund)	220	
Carlos and Tania Ham	220	
John Lindner	200	
Manju James and Vinod Johnson	200	
Elizabeth Tapia	200	
Clare Chapman	150	
WSCF NA	150	
Desiree Kameka	150	
Colin Dwyer	150	
Jack Ferlino	150	
Trond Gunnan Rasmussen	130	
Tamara Bernard	100	
Baldwin Sjollema	100	
Anna Harrison	100	
Jorge Domingues	100	
Toddie Peters	100	
Ann Teicher	100	
Kerry Flynn	100	
Anita Palathigal	70	
Inbaraj Jeyakumar	53	
Derrick McQueen	50	
Emily Tynes	50	
Michael Adee	50	
Mark McMeley	50	
Itang Young	50	
Joya Colon-Berezin	40	
Milka Hanook	32	
Linsey Mercer	30	
Registration Fees		12,874
Accommodation Contribution Partners/Senior Friends		5,170

9. List of Delegates and Participants to the 35th WSCF General Assembly

Name		Country	Designation
Christine	Housel	USA	IRO Staff
Jean-Luc	de la Soujeole	Switzerland	IRO Staff
Amos Kamugisha	Mushendwa		RS Africa
SunitaSumati	Suna	India	RS Asia Pacific
Natia	Tsintsadze		RS Europe
Marcelo	Leites	Urguay	RS LAC
Elsy	Wakil	Lebanon	RS Middle East
Luciano	Kovacs	Italy	RS North America
Horacio	Mesones	Argentina	EXCO
Bronwyn	Claire	Australia	EXCO
Shantha Ready	Alonso	USA	EXCO
Youhanna	Kamal Shawky	Egypt	EXCO
Isatu	Ville		EXCO
Paul Martin	Nguimgo	Cameroon	EXCO
Hiu Fan	Chung	Hong Kong	EXCO
Immanuel	Gopalakitnan	Sri Lanka	EXCO
Annika	Foltin	Germany	EXCO
Marco Alfredo	Fornerone	Italy	EXCO
Dianet de la Caridad	Martínez Valdés	Cuba	EXCO
Oscar Eduardo	Reicher Salazar		EXCO
Marianne Amir Rofael	Azer	Egypt	EXCO
Dany	El-Obeid	Lebanon	EXCO
Youssef Zaky	WahibZaky	Egypt	EXCO
Cydney	Proctor	Canada	EXCO
Logan	Boese	USA	EXCO
MawunaGhislaïne Jacqueline	Madjro	Bénin	Delegates
Jean-Marie	Nzambimana	Burundi	Delegates
Nadeige	ShimbaKilongo	Congo	Delegates
Akissi Ninon Claire	Konan	Côte d'Ivoire	Delegates
Fekadu	Genala	Ethiopia	Delegates
Mengistu	Bedassa	Ethiopia	Delegates
Akua Bema	Adomako	Ghana	Delegates
Kevin Kimani	Kahuro	Kenya	Delegates
ThoraRodrique	Mohau	Lesotho	Delegates
Miezaka Andriamalagasy	Razafindralambo	Madagascar	Delegates
Christopher Gervas	Chimangeni	Malawi	Delegates
Shali Dama Omwene	Kapepo	Namibia	Delegates
Timothy Opeyemi (replacing Harold)	Oyeyinka	Nigeria	Delegates
Yvette	Mukagajulzabayoy	Rwanda	Delegates
Jean Pierre	Habimana	Rwanda	Delegates
Aluel Jervase Manyuat	Adiang	South Sudan	Delegates
Naomi	John Rushima	Tanzania	Delegates
Kodjo Mawuli	Aklavo	Togo	Delegates
Pamella	Nuwarinda	Uganda	Delegates

Name		Country	Designation
Sharon Moola	Mushokabanji	Zambia	Delegates
Adam	Van	Australia	Delegates
Edward Tarun	Roy (Marvin Gomez)	Bangladesh	Delegates
Ham	Kimhoun	Cambodia	Delegates
ChienLoke	Wong	HongKong	Delegates
Inbaraj Jeyakumar	Vedanayagam	India	Delegates
AdolfínDeslina	Datang	Indonesia	Delegates
YeoJin	Song	Korea	Delegates
Ming Ern (Ernest)	Lee	Malaysia	Delegates
TunTun	Oo	Myanmar	Delegates
Ajit Kumar	Tamang	Nepal	Delegates
Scott Michael	McSorley	New Zealand	Delegates
Milka	Hanook	Pakistan	Delegates
Einstein Zapata	Recedes	Philippines	Delegates
Kahagallalage Saman	Jayasuriya (Tharaka)	Sri Lanka	Delegates
Yi-Lin (Irene)	Wu	Taiwan	Delegates
Antonio Bernardo Scheunemann	Da Silva	Timor Leste	Delegates
Krista Henrika	Autio	Finland	Delegates
Valentin	Tranchand	Germany	Delegates
Annette (Maria)	Klinke (Esfandiari)	Germany	Delegates
Rachel	Power	Ireland	Delegates
Lina	Leonaviciute	Lithuania	Delegates
Tonje Catharina	Eide	Norway	Delegates
Audun	Stranden	Norway	Delegates
Marta	Całpińska	Poland	Delegates
Petru-Lucian	Cîrlan	Romania	Delegates
Zuzana	Babicova	Slovakia	Delegates
Are	Kaspersen	Sweden	Delegates
Clare	Wilkins	United Kingdom	Delegates
María Gloria	AlmanBornes	Argentina	Delegates
Teodocia	Flores Otoyá	Bolivia	Delegates
Edoarda	Sopelsa Scherer	Brasil	Delegates
Johana	Nuñez	Colombia	Delegates
Alexander	Mulet De Los Reyes	Cuba	Delegates
Marco Giovanni	Panchi Jima	Equador	Delegates
Karina Martha Mireya	García Carmona	Mexico	Delegates
Kathia	Alba	Peru	Delegates
Ramy Farouk	Hanna	Egypt	Delegates
Maria Yousry	MakaryGabra Isaac	Egypt	Delegates
Sherry Samuel	BotrosKaliney	Egypt	Delegates
Peter Amir Ibrahim	Abdo	Egypt	Delegates
FadiGhaithFathullah	Al-Ajdh	Iraq	Delegates
Hind	Farahat	Jordan	Delegates
Charbel	El Saykali	Lebanon	Delegates
Alexandre	Roumi	Lebanon	Delegates

Name		Country	Designation
Guitta	Kahaleh	Lebanon	Delegates
Nare	Saghdejian	Lebanon	Delegates
Bayan Issam Hanna	Barham	Palestine	Delegates
Mina Gerges	AdliFakhouri	Sudan	Delegates
Sonia	Almassad	Syria	Delegates
Brandi Jenessa Dawn	Friesen	Canada	Delegates
Carter	Habeeb	USA	Delegates
Louis	Tillman	USA	Delegates
Ting Jin	Yong	Malaysia	Search committee
Florence	Kanyike	Uganda	Search committee
Yarkus	Perez	Chile	Search committee
Kokou Hodenou (Félix)	Aklavon	Togo	Candidates
Masimba Lovemore	Kuchera	Zimbabwe	Candidates
Jurgette Nectarinia	Montes Rocas	Phillipines	Candidates
David Anirudha	Das	Bangladesh	Senior friends
David Raton	Halder	Bangladesh	Senior friends
Richmond	Milton	Bangladesh	Senior friends
William Salters	Sterling	Ireland	Senior friends
Micheal Victor	Hanna	Ireland	Senior friends
Markus Ilari	Rantakari	Finland	Senior friends
Gabriela	Miranda Garcia	Guatemala	Senior friends
Jorge	Domingues	USA/Brazil	Senior friends
Elizabeth Muriel Findlay	Anderson	USA	Senior friends
William Mead	Muhler	USA	Senior friends
Kenneth	Guest	USA	Senior friends
George	Mathew	India	Resource people
Michael	Garcia	Philippines	Resource people
Johnston	McMaster	Ireland	Resource people
Carolyn Heather	Williams	UK	Resource people
Analia	Kim	Argentina	Resource people
Humberto	Shikiya	Argentina	Resource people
Marcelo	Schneider	Brazil	Resource people
Rogelio Dario	Barolin	Uruguay	Resource people
Don	Reasoner	USA	Resource people
Dr. Fulata Lusungu	Moyo	Malawi	Partner, WCC
Isaiah Kipyegon	Toroitich	Kenya	Partner, ACT Alliance
Peter	Prove	Australia	Partner, EAA
Dinesh	Suna	India	Partner, EWN
Rev. Peniel Jesudason Rufus	Rajkumar	Switzerland	Partner, WCC
Martina Viktorie	Kopecká	Czech Republic	Partner, WCC
Tyler Dale	Hauger	Norway	Partner, Karibu
Ana Veronica	FlachierLudeña	Ecuador	Partner
Paul St Patrick Anthony	Gardner	Jamaica	Partner, GCF
Joy Eva	Bohol	Colombia	Partner
Jenny	Neme	Colombia	Partner

Name		Country	Designation
Deivit Andres	Montealegre Cuenca	Argentina	Partner
Rudelmar	Bueno de Faria	USA	Partner
Rev. Dr. Shanta	Premawardhana	USA	Partner, SCUPE
Rev. Edward	Pratt	USA	Partner
Rev. LeKisha	Reed	USA	Partner, UMC GBGM
Lorenzo	Vargas	USA	Partner
Amy Blythe	Crawford	Canada	Partner, UCC
Rev. Chris	Ferguson	Canada	Partner, WCRC
Milton	Mejia	Colombia	Colombia resource people
Maricel	Mena	Colombia	Colombia resource people
Abilio	Pena	Colombia	Colombia resource people
Eleazar	Torreglosa	Colombia	Colombia resource people
Diego	Higuita	Colombia	COLOMBIAN guests
Milciades	Pua	Colombia	COLOMBIAN guests
Javier	Rodriguez	Colombia	Colombian guests
Gloria	Ullua	Colombia	Colombian guests
Eduardo	Martinez	Colombia	Colombian guests
Erik	Norman	Colombia	Colombian guests
Saara	Vuorensola-Barnes	Colombia	Colombian guests
Sarahí	García Gómez	Officers	Lac guests
Felipe	Adolf	Ecuador	Lac guests
Carlos	Tamez	Costa Rica	Lac guests

Acknowledgement

The World Student Christian Federation expresses its profound gratitude to the partner churches and donor institutions, our senior friends and individual contributors and the SCMs for their generous contribution towards the WSCF General Assembly funds. Our deepest appreciation to our resource persons, our dear senior friends and ecumenical partners for sharing your time, talents, knowledge and skills and journeying with us at this difficult time of the General Assembly. Our Local Host Committee and church partners in Colombia and the Latin America and Caribbean region, for your gracious welcome and grounding the Assembly in the realities of your region, allowing us to witness the life and ministry of the churches. Blessed and inspired by all the prayers and best wishes received from all our friends and networks worldwide, we extend our heartfelt thanksgiving to everyone.

Your support and prayers enabled the Assembly to embody the theme, *“We are Many, We are One, Sent to Build God’s Peace.”*

Thank you for sharing your gifts and blessings to the worldwide Federation. May our gracious and loving God bless us all with Grace and Peace.

Ut Omnes Unom Sint!



“Others will have differing memories and reflections. My own estimate of the 35th General Assembly of the World Student Christian Federation is that it was a soberingly good experience challenging us all to work harder for Justice while at the same time making whatever structural, governance and financial changes are agreed to be necessary. The Federation, now 120 years in operation, still has a major contribution to make to the universities and colleges of this planet and the work of articulating a global vision for a divided world will be an exciting adventure of Faith. I am most deeply grateful for the invitation to contribute this piece.”

- Salters Sterling.



1. Purpose and Process of the Assembly

The General Assembly is “the most representative expression of the WSCF’s life” (WSCF Constitutions), it is the highest policy-making body which aimed to set the priorities of its work in the coming 4 years (2015-2019) and to envision the movement’s potential today at the beginning of the 21st century. This process involved evaluation of the work of the past 6 years and the context in which the Federation is working, taking a fresh look at WSCF identity and mission and looking at its potential contribution to change and exploring thematic issues.

Specifically the Assembly aimed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Increased solidarity with Colombia
- Agreement on foundational aspects of WSCF mission and vision
- Commitment to strengthening theological foundations of WSCF
- Identify the priority goal areas for 2015-2019
- Description and agreement on WSCF role in partnerships
- Develop Senior Friends program or strategy
- Elect New Officers and affirmed the General Secretary
- Decisions for necessary changes in Federation structure and processes and plan forthorough institutional change process following the General Assembly
- Reception of new movements

The seven-days Assembly Program aimed to achieve a balance of all the aforementioned objectives, however given the backdrop of the financial crisis of the Federation, some activities originally planned in August 2014 had to be cancelled or streamlined to prioritize the sessions related to decisions on the future of the Federation. For example, the Senior Friends Gathering (SFG) previously organized to be held simultaneously with the GA was cancelled, thematic workshop sessions had to be shortened to give enough time for the participants to discuss the Future of the Federation (FoF) Report.

At this General Assembly, the role of the WSCF senior friends, partners and networks have been integral in the process and outcome of the Assembly. They have been invited to participate in the various sessions and discussions of the Assembly, except the right to





vote and participate in the election discussion and session. Unlike previous Assemblies, the Assembly called everyone within the influence of the Federation to contribute, share their creativity, gifts and talent in the change process that the Federation aimed to commence in the GA.

2. Summary of the General Assembly Sessions

The programmatic and thematic aspect of the work of the GA where achieved through the following sessions;

The Women and Men Pre-Assemblies. The Women Pre-Assembly session, facilitated by Elsy Wakil, WSCF Middle East Regional Secretary, focused on the topic of women's role in the peace building. Rev. Gloria Ullua, World Council of Churches (WCC) President from Colombia gave a presentation on the history of the conflict and the peace process in Colombia. She emphasized the role of women in the on-going Colombian peace negotiation happening in Cuba and invited the participants to support the process and promote women's initiatives to build lasting peace in their communities. Women participants who came from similar situations of war and conflict shared stories from their own contexts. This was followed by women

student delegates sharing their personal stories of difficulties in becoming leaders in their movements and affirmed the need to support each other as women within the Federation. Finally, the WSCF Sexual Harassment Policy was introduced at the end of the session.

The Men's Pre-Assembly was led by WSCF Exco members, Marco Fornerone from Italy and Immanuel Kitnan from Sri Lanka. The participants shared their personal background and told stories of what brought them to the GA and what they want to share to the Assembly. The men also reflected on the power of language, how it is misused or abused, recognizing that language represents relationship of power that often reflected male attitude. They also affirmed that the power of language especially the use of words could open safe spaces of encounter,



understanding, expression and exchange. To recap the session, Marco led a Bible reflection inspired by the use of language in the Bible. This was followed by reflections on the theme of the Assembly. The session ended with the introduction of the WSCF Sexual Harassment Policy by Immanuel.

Three Keynote Speeches were presented in the Assembly. Rev. Dr. Johnston McMaster, senior friend from SCM UK and from the Irish School of Ecumenics, explored the theme “Sent out to Build God’s Peace.” He traced the historical roots of the post-colonial violence from World War I to the War on Terror and the role of the powerful state actors in the wars of aggressions. He identified the complicit role of imperial church from the post Constantine period carried onto the wars of aggressions in the former colonies. He added that in today’s globalized context, it is important to maintain the diversity of life as God’s gift of Peace. Rev. Chris Ferguson, senior friend from Canada and the General Secretary of World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) following on the historical analysis from Dr. McMaster’s presentation, focused his presentation on the theme “SCMs Gathered in Colombia: Seeing, Interrogating & Transforming The World”. He presented a geopolitical analysis of the root causes of conflicts and the war of aggression and the role the Empire, manifested in the local situation of conflict in Colombia.

Dr. Fulata Moyo from the World Council of Churches (WCC), provided a gender perspective on the theme and gave a presentation on the topic, “Discovering difference, effecting, transformation: a postcolonial Ecofeminist-ethical perspective.” In a very inspiring feminist methodology, Dr. Fulata began her presentation by sharing her personal journey as single mother with 2 sons. She candidly shared the challenges of bringing gender awareness in a predominantly patriarchal culture of Malawi and her church. She shared her perspective on Ecofeminism and related this to the feminist vision for peace. She said that Peace couldn’t be achieved when violence against women is pervasive in different communities.



The first Bible Study led by Rev. Lekisha Reed from the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church (UMC) reflected on the meaning of “Solidarity and Love” in the book of Esther 2-4. Her presentation was divided into 3 reflections sessions, in the first reflection, she asked the participants to acknowledge the women that came before them in the movement and inspired them to join the movement. The second reflection reminded the participants that the work for God means being in solidarity with those that are in the peripheries, excluded and persecuted in their communities similar to those described in the book of Esther 3. She also reminded the delegates that the work for God is to call for justice and confront systems and power as Esther has done when she defied the King’s order. Rev. Reed used powerful songs to inspire the youth delegates in their reflection, at the end of her session she invited everyone to identify a song for their SCM and to share it to everyone, she shared a final song entitled, “Hanging Tree,” a theme song of the popular movie series the Hunger Games.



Dr. Rogelio Dario Barolin from Uruguay, led two equally engaging Bible Study sessions on the text of Jeremiah and Isaiah. His first session entitled 'Foreigners' reflected on specific groups of people that were considered foreigners and excluded in early communities such as the Eunuchs and find parallel situation in today's context with the exclusion of sexual minorities and marginalized people in our communities. His second session entitled *New Laws for Peace, Metaphors & Feminism*, reflected on the New Laws for Peace, from the experiences and perspective of those that have long been marginalized or oppressed and the reversal of roles in the process or empowerment and peace building.

He emphasized that in this New Law for Peace, Justice is central in the reconciliation and healing process.

Through daily **Worship of praise and prayer** led by the Local Host and regional groups, the Assembly's spiritual life strengthened the unity of the Assembly and the presence of the fellowship of Christ in the midst of the various traditions of worship and praise from the movements. Through the Worship, the GA sought to understand where in our world today the word of God and the reign of the God of Justice and Peace and Love is coming into being.

A one and half day Exposure Program was organized to see first-hand the realities of Colombian people affected by the conflicts with guidance and inputs from Colombian





partners. The delegates and participants visited, met and listened to the stories of children and young people in three community shelters around Bogota. These were in Bemposta, Bosa, and Universidad Nacional. A final in exposure was organized at the *Centro de Memoria Paz y Reconciliacion* in Bogota, where participants met and listened to the leaders of People's Organizations involved in the peace process. There were inputs from ecumenical and social organizations in Colombia, specific SCMs with experience of work on some issues, partners and Senior Friends.

The Assembly was divided into the following Thematic Workshops themes; Identity Diversity & Dialogue (IDD), Colombia, Middle East and Palestine, Rights of the People and Corporations, Water and Environmental Justice and Youth, Student Movements as Political Actors, Construction of Knowledge & process of the Community, Construction of Peace by Interreligious Dialogue. The outcome of the Thematic Workshops have been put forwards as Resolutions and Statements passed at the last day of the GA and will be forwarded to the Advocacy and Solidarity Committee for further action and planning.

The panel on the theme Contribution to Change left the delegates in no doubt that there is a major task for the Federation to undertake in every continent of the world. The panel presentations had three parts, the Biblical and Theological Analysis by Milton Mejia from Colombia, Ecumenical Transformational Diakonia by Isaiah Kipyegon Toroitich from ACT Alliance, Advocacy and Solidarity by Peter Prove of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance. This session underscored the importance of WSCF's partnership with churches and all agencies who share a call to work for Justice and Peace is the only way forward.

The Strategy Working Groups session was divided into three groups, the Biblical and Theological Analysis, Advocacy and Solidarity, Ecumenical Transformational Diakonia and Capacity Development. The output of the groups will be the basis for the development of the Strategic Plan of WSCF. GA delegates were formed into group and were asked to respond to the following questions: What concepts can be highlighted from the presentation for this specific action line? What strategies could be implemented at the local/regional/global levels? What capacities at the leadership and organizational levels need to be developed in order to implement these strategies?

The Governance Work of the GA included the presentation and review of the reports from Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer, Regional reports, Centennial Fund and approval of resolutions and messages and the elections of officers. A significant time in the GA's governance function was devoted to discerning the report of the Future of the



Horacio Mesones, WSCF Chairperson



Christine Housel, WSCF General Secretary

Federation (FoF) Task Group. The process began with the presentation of the FoF report followed by discussions in regional groups and inter-regional group with specific guide questions. Results of the group discussions were presented in the plenary where questions were responded to by the members of the Task Group and a final recommendation report was approved by the GA at the end of the final GA session.

3. Highlights of the WSCF Reports: The State of the Global Federation

An understanding of the state of the global Federation can be gleaned from the composite reports from the global perspectives presented by the WSCF chairperson, Horacio Mesones, the General Secretary's Report from Christine Housel and Treasurer Report by Youhanna Shawky Kamal, as well as and the regional perspectives from the reports of Regional Secretaries, Amos Mushendwa from Africa, Sunita Suna from Asia, Elsy Wakil from Middle East, Natia Tsintsadze from Europe, Luciano Kovac from North America, and Marcelo Leites, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Our Global Perspective

The common thread that brought together the reports presented by the global officers were that of the context of WSCF internal financial crisis and questions on the sustainability of the organization in the future and its institutional capacity. The Chairperson's report emphasized that immediate financial crisis is brought about by the following factors; the impact of the global financial crisis on the WSCF's partners translated into reduced ability to financially support to the Federation in the same level, weakened internal financial position of WSCF, changing financial fiscal arrangement with the WCC, changes in the standard of reporting and accountability procedures of partners, the shift in priorities towards working more in cooperation with partners for program implementation. The 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.

The Treasurer's Report provided the financial evidence of these analysis calling the situation as constantly like being inside an "Emergency Room." The accrued deficit of the IRO has totaled to \$161,200 (US) as of the end of 2014. He provided 3 factors in the overall financial crisis of the Federation, (1) continuous decrease in the undesignated funds, (2) increase in the administration expenses, (3) dependent on small number of external sources (4) and WCC debts and cash-flow situation. He also pointed out that the production of Red Book, the support of the Centennial Fund and the Give One Be One Campaign have been important factors in the stability of the finances of the Federation.



Since the 2008 GA in Montreal, the Federation worked towards strategic global programming to integrate the work of the IRO and regions in four areas: Radical Renewal of Biblical and Theological Reflections, Ecumenical Leadership Formation, Advocacy and Solidarity, and Capacity Development. This has been the framework of global programs and regional priorities which guided the various activities and programs in the past six-years. Among these four areas, Ecumenical Leadership Formation has been the one with most positive tangible results to date with the existing strong leadership programs of the regions and the nascent Inter-regional Leadership Training Program (IRLTP) organized in Thailand (2009), Lebanon (2010) and Jordan/Palestine (2013). Advocacy and Solidarity was the most promising and with most potential to further develop and pursue with the effective mechanism and leadership put in place, the Advocacy and Solidarity Committee (ASC). With an active Committee member meeting *online* and in-person in 2008 and 2011, the ASC provided leadership on responding to call for action, solidarity and appeal from the SCMs, provided global advocacy platforms and led campaigns on Water and Eco-justice. Admittedly, the work on the Radical Renewal of Biblical and Theological Reflections having had the least impact and work done with no leadership or an implementation mechanism.

The work towards partnership building with global and international groups has visible increased in the past year as presented by the General Secretary. WSCF has developed and sustained partnerships with WCC, GCF, CWME, EWN, ACT Alliance, EAA, WCRC, LWF and other global partners. This growth area has potential impact on the future sustainability of the Federation given the changing funding landscape of the Ecumenical Movement. Another tangible results of this is the various ways in which engagements have been reciprocated, such as the visible presence of a significant number of partners at this General Assembly and the possibilities of developing common strategies in the near future.

Our Regional Perspective

A major highlight of the GA and has often been a highpoint in the gathering has been achievements and work in the six regions of the Federation. The highlights of the regional reports points to growing movement activities and SCM leadership presence in all the regions, but more significantly in the Middle East region (ME), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and North America.



Natia Tsintsadze, Europe



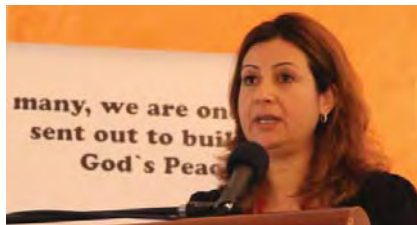
Amos Mushendwa, Africa



Sunita Suna, Asia-Pacific



Luciano Kovac, North America



Elsy Wakil, Middle East



Marcelo Leites, Latin America and the Caribbean



Faced with tremendous challenges of growing threat of violent conflicts and war, the movements in the Middle East, accompanied by the regional structure continue to bear witness to Christian presence and solidarity among people of different faith and vision for Peace in the Arab world. In the context of Israel's aggressive war and the post Arab Spring violence, Regional Secretary for Middle East Elsy Wakil exclaimed in her report, "How difficult it is for an Arab Christian to witness today in an era of war and violence! How difficult it is for Arab women to raise their cause in a context where staying alive is the only crucial cause!" Our SCMs in the ME have inspired the global Federation to be steadfast in its prophetic role in situations of difficulties and challenges and to build leadership capacity. Elsy added that "in spite of the destruction, under the bombs and the notorious war, in Syria's Damascus, a WSCF Ecumenical Youth committee was born. It witnesses Christ among the combatants."

Movements from our GA host region, Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) have re-envisioned themselves with closer relationship and strategic partnership with the churches and ecumenical groups in the region. Our SCMs have benefited from this shared ecumenical work and vision with the LAC churches by receiving strong theological formation for our students in the SCM. Churches on the other hand recognized the leadership role played by the SCMs in the local churches. Our work in the North America region has come full-circle with the revival and active presence of SCM USA in the GA and its full affiliation as a member. The SCMs in this region have provided a fresh perspective on what it means to be part of a global community, to be inter-regional in their vision and programming and to be in solidarity with justice work in the South.

Movement Expansion

Prior to the Assembly, WSCF was composed of 118 movements, with 101 affiliated and associated and 17 contacts located in 95 countries. The GA welcomed the following 8 movements from being an associated to affiliated member of the WSCF, these were the following:

1. Student Christian Movement Ireland (ISCM)
2. Youth Diocese Church from Lebanon
3. Palestine Youth Ecumenical Movement (PYEM)
4. Fellowship of Orthodox Youth in Poland
5. SCM-USA
6. Christian Youth Association of Malawi (CYAMA)
7. Centra Ecumenica from Belarus
8. Young Christians for Peace and Democracy (YCPD) from Georgia



The state of the global Federation is both promising and challenging. Promising because the potential for growth and the capacity of its existing organized local movements to contribute to social change and the impact of its work and mission in a changing and diverse context is deeply rooted in its vision and mission as an organization located in different parts of the world. Because of its rootedness and movement dynamism, it is able to adapt to rapid changes and often rise to the occasion. The challenge lies in the ability of the current membership and leadership to turn-around the organizational financial crisis to an opportunity to make strategic change in the institutional capacity of the Federation.

4. Advocacy and Solidarity Work for Colombia and Palestine Affirming Dialogue on Gender and Sexuality

The Call for Justice, Peace in Colombia was at the heart of the work of the Assembly. Through 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, the delegates have heard and been able to support the work of Justice and Peace in Colombia. These engagements have demonstrated in action what the delegates learned of the keynote addresses, how there can be no peace without justice.

The GA adopted the Colombian Statement highlighting the call for international involvement for justice and peace in Colombia. The GA reiterated its commitment to pray and accompany the Colombian people in its hope for peace. The GA appealed to the Colombian government and the FARC not leave the negotiations until a peace agreement is reached in order to put an end to the armed violence that has affected the Colombian people. The Assembly asked the Colombian government to initiate soon a public dialogue with the ELN. It also asked the global ecumenical movement to accompany and support the social organizations, communities and churches in Colombia in their endeavors for peace, based in the respect for human rights and the search for justice and democracy to allow a true reconciliation. It called upon the international community, country governments and multilateral organizations, to maintain the presence in Colombia to make a contribution to the compensation of the victims, and a peace that's a fruit of justice and reconciliation in Colombia.

The Assembly passed a historic Palestine Policy Paper, from which deepened work for justice in Palestine will be launched. The Paper citing as its basis from International Human Rights Convention and the Kairos Document, the Policy Paper has put forward 10 positions;

- To call to end the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and all forms of discrimination; as this occupation is a crime against God and humanity.
- Jerusalem must be an open and shared city for the two peoples and the three Abrahamic religions.
- The Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories – including East Jerusalem – are illegal under International Law and must be dismantled.
- We call to revisit theological positions that support certain unjust political options with regard to the Palestinians; theologies that legitimize the Israeli Occupation of the Palestinian land.





- The Wall constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian territories is a breach of international law and must be dismantled.
- Palestinians’ right of self-determination must be respected, as should be the right of return.
- Maintaining just peace and a sustainable solution to the conflict is only achieved through peaceful means. Violence cannot be justified whether perpetrated by Israelis or Palestinians.
- We call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanction of the occupation, as a non-violent tool for justice, peace and security.
- We call churches and ecumenical organizations worldwide to visit the occupied Palestinian territory in accordance with Kairos Palestine call under “Come and See”
- We call upon the Regional and National WSCF and SCMs to educate their members on the conflict and be engaged in solidarity activities with the Palestinian people and with justice- building initiatives

There was also an agreement to continue dialogue about Human Sexuality and a Task Group on Identity Diversity and Dialogue (IDD) mandated to lead further the efforts. At the GA, the IDD Report identified the challenges of the Federation as the following; (1) strong and painful disagreements and approaches to sexuality and gender identity as movements have varied perspective based on theology, the Bible, church tradition, cultural and societal contexts; (2) recognition of the presence of power dynamics within structures of the church, historical experience of colonialism and society in general, (3) and the lack of spaces to engage in constructive dialogue within the Federation. The following recommendations were put forward;

- The IDD Task Group be mandated by the General Assembly to continue as a working group until the next GA in order to further and support this dialogue.
- All levels of the Federation commit to engage in this process.
- Members of WSCF meet at regional and global levels for dialogue on this topic.
- National movements discuss and decide what approach is appropriate for them in their own contexts and at the same time commit to the Federation process of dialogue.
- The Federation base this process of dialogue in the deeper work of discerning anew our identity, mission and vision-- “examining who we are” by creating clearer conceptual links between our core mandate and our local, national, regional, and global work.

- WSCF use the following to ensure a fruitful dialogue: Academic Study, Bible Study, Exploring the language we use to be sensitive and inclusive, Explore the power imbalances within the Federation and intersections with marginalisation on the basis of gender or sexual identities.
- The WSCF source, create and widely share resources to increase our understanding of sexuality and gender diversity.



5. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members

The General Assembly has not been able to successfully elect a Chairperson and a woman Vice-chairperson at this Assembly. It has also suspended the election of the Co-secretary General following the recommendation of the Future of the Federation (FOF) Task Group.

The following Officers and Regional Executive Committee members were elected:

Inter-regional Officers

Mr Immanuel Kitnan of Sri Lanka Student Vice-Chair
Ms Bronwyn Claire of Australia as Honorary Treasurer

Regional Representatives

Ms. Marianne Azer of Egypt
Mr. Dany El-Obeid of Lebanon
Ms. Fanny Chung of Hong Kong
Mr. John Gravestone from New Zealand
Ms. Annika Foltin of Austria
Mr. Valentin Tranchand of Germany
Mrs. Lydia Nabunya from Uganda
Mr. Paul Martin Nguimgo of Cameroon
Ms. Dianet Martínez Valdés of Cuba
Mr. Oscar Reicher of Uruguay
Ms. Brandi Thorpe of Canada
Mr. Louis Tillman of US





Regional Proxies

- Ms. Isatu Ville from Liberia
- Mr. Edgar Munatsi from Zimbabwe
- Ms. Milka Hanook from Pakistan
- Mr. Tuntun Oo from Myanmar
- Ms. Zuzana Babicova from Slovakia
- Mr. Victor Liza Jaramillo from Peru
- Ms. Sarahi Garcia Gomez from Cuba
- Ms. Mira Neaimeh from Lebanon
- Mr. Youssef Zaky Wahib from Egypt

The election process has been one of the most difficult session in the Assembly. The voting delegates decided to keep the election discussion a closed session only open to the voting delegates, WSCF executive staff, candidates and members of the Search Committee. The Assembly requested those that were non-voting delegates, observers, senior friends and partners, networks to leave the session on elections. This action has received varied reactions from the non-voting members of the Assembly, especially WSCF senior friends and partners. Some understood the decision as being part of the long standing tradition of the organization, fully aware that it is within the limits of the exercising the rights of the Assembly delegates, while a significant number of senior friends felt negatively and hurt by this decision after being fully participating from the beginning of the Assembly.

6. Towards a Change Process and the Way Forward for the Federation

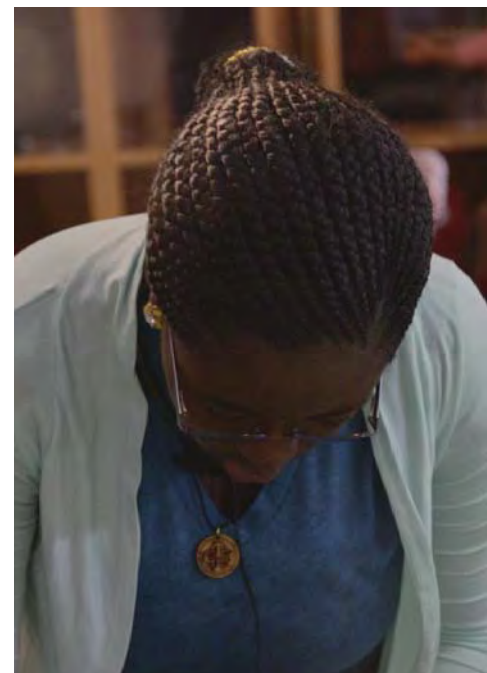
The work of the Future of the Federation (FoF) Task Group was a major focus for this General Assembly. The formation of the FoF Task Group was a direct response to the urgent financial 'emergency' crisis of the Federation which resulted in the postponement of the GA from August 2014 to March 2015. Established by the Executive Committee in November 2014, the Task Group was composed of Chris Ferguson, Salters Sterling, Jorge Domingues, Dhalia Lakis, Yong Ting Jin, and Pretty Mubaiwa. The Task Group was mandated to bring a detailed analysis of the Federation's current situation and provide concrete recommendations about the way the Federation may develop its vision and structure to the General Assembly.

At the GA, the FoF Task Group provided a comprehensive report with analysis of the current situation of WSCF and measures necessary in the next six months and measure necessary in the next two years for the change process to take-place. The FoF report states

that, “as the financial situation of the Federation has eroded over the years, so too has the clarity of its vision and purpose, the trust and confidence of its officers and executives, the relationship between the regional and inter-regional offices. Sustained financial problems have resulted in years of increasing deficit and debt. Lack of clarity of functions and responsibility has compromised the opportunity to tackle these seemingly intractable problems.”

As an immediate measure, it recommended the elections of the General Secretaries be suspended for six month, while an Interim Staff Coordinator be appointed, who will work with the Transition Team of five people to support the management of the Federation. In six-month, the Transition Team will further recommend steps for the reconfiguration of the Federation for action by the Executive Committee. The Interim Transition Team is mandated to develop and propose specific recommendations to reform its Governance Structure and Constitution, its Management and Operational Systems and finally to implement specific measures to immediately address the declining financial state of the Federation. In the next two years, the following objectives were presented by the FoF;

1. Articulate our common global vision and mission understanding for WSCF (including global and regional priorities and concerns).
2. Reform governance structure and constitution.
3. Improve reporting and documentation of all WSCF activities and events.
4. Improve trust and communication between the Inter-regional Office (IRO), Executive Committee, Regional offices, SCMs and partners and donors.
5. Rebuild trust and communication with traditional and new donors.
6. Increase the income of the WSCF (IRO and Regional).
7. Clarify roles, responsibilities and line reporting arrangements for staff at different levels (GS, Chairperson, Exco, Regional Secretary, SCMs).
8. Improve the capacity of the IRO, regional staff and ExCo members.
9. Implement a process to consider the move of the IRO, or, to relocate the Inter Regional staff to a more cost efficient location.



Overall, the Future of the Federation Task Group Report was accepted by the GA with some minor suggestions and revisions. Following the urgency of the situation, the newly elected members of the Executive Committee appointed former Asia Pacific Regional Secretary Ms. Necta Montes of the Philippines as the Coordinator. 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.

7. GA Evaluation from the Participants

A post GA Evaluation was conducted with an online platform through Google Forms as well as distributed during the last session at the Assembly. The following is the summary as well as some highlights from the Evaluation form of the 57 respondents. The forms were divided into 3 major sections: first, Logistics Support (Hospitality, Accommodation, Meals/Food, Documentation, Translations) second, Program Content (Men and Women Pre-Assemblies, Worship, Bible Studies, Exposure, Keynote, Reports, FoF Work, Thematic Workshops) and third, Open Questions. The respondents were asked to rate according to the degree of how they felt about the item being evaluated from Excellent, Great, Good, OK, and Bad.

On GA Logistics and Support:

- Almost half of the respondents agreed that the Hospitality was Great, with few rating them Bad. These were mainly due to complaints on the airport pick-up, where they were made to wait for more than two hours and with no English translator to communicate with.
- Participants were billeted in four different Hotel accommodations. Over-all the hotels were rated mostly Good and Great, with few rating them Bad, especially



those that did not provide internet connections and was far from the GA venue like Bavaria Hotel. Hotel Isabel received the most positive comments because of its close proximity to the venue of the GA, friendly and accommodating hotel staff, and with internet connection.

- The GA venue YMCA was rated mostly Good, noting that the main hall was relatively small for the gathering, lighting was not good and majority complained about the bad



- internet service at the venue hall. The food catering was rated Good by most of the respondents with having enough quantity for everyone to enjoy, while vegetarians noted that there were very few choices.
- Documentation and Paperworks were rated mostly Bad especially with the breakdown of internet service at the Assembly where official documents were being shared online through Dropbox. Respondents also complained of not having received the Reports and Documents for the Assembly in advance which affected the quality of discussions at the Assembly. Some noted that the Treasurer Report was not properly translated with differences in the actual presentation and translated document.

On the GA Program Content:

- Overall the majority of respondents rated the content of the GA as Good.
- The Keynote Speeches were highly rated and appreciated as powerful presentation and academic excellent papers. Some however raised questions on the link to the situation and challenges to the youth and students and suggested for the presentation to remain short, concise to be more interesting.
- The first three Bible Studies were rated Good, while the final session was Excellent. Suggestions were made to use more participatory approaches rather than an academic reading of the Scripture and encouraged the resource persons to integrate prayers in the BS sessions.
- The Worships were highly appreciated with its strong contextual presentations, while others appreciated the various ways the regions led the worships, others thought they were more cultural presentations than Worships. Special appreciations were noted of the Closing Worship.
- The Men and Women Pre-Assemblies were rated OK, with few women appreciative of the opportunity to tell stories and listen to other women's experiences, while significant number raised questions on the continued use of gender dichotomy in the Pre-Assemblies.
- The Exposure to the three communities were rated Great by the participants, thanking the organizers and local host for giving them time to interact with the people in Colombia. Others suggested to organize the exposure program in areas where the SCMs are directly working and others felt the final program to the Center for Peace and Reconciliation was not effective with limited time to visit the place and interact with the leaders of the People's Organizations present at the Center.
- The Reports were given mostly Good and significant Bad ratings. These were due to the following reasons, incomplete data presented in the Treasurers Report and no financial reports in the Regional Secretaries Reports, the General Secretary report was too long, and presented more personal stories and opinions rather than organizational perspective which did not allow for substantial discussions. The Reports could have been prepared in advance and sent before the GA for people to prepare to raise questions and discuss during the GA. The Reports were not properly discussed.

- The FoF Report was well appreciated, with some critical comments on the focus on financial perspective or financial crisis prism used and lack of review of the history, vision and mission and relevance of the Federation in this context. Others commented that language and cultural barriers lead to inefficiency.
- On facilitation of the Assembly, the respondents appreciated that they did their best with some limitations. The use of the English medium by session chairpersons were not effective which resulted in misunderstandings, there should be guarantee that non-English speakers, and facilitators need to understand the rules and procedures of the Assembly and should follow a higher standard of facilitations.

Open Questions:

Several Open-ended Questions were used in the evaluation form. The four most important questions of the Evaluation Form are highlighted here for the purpose of Evaluation and forward looking. The answers to the open ended questions were varied and sometimes conflicting at the opposite end of the spectrum. For brevity, the following are direct quotes from the responses of the respondents.

What did you like most about WSCF-GA?

- “The students were very bold, many of them were able to articulate very well. The Senior Friends and Partners were allowed to be present with the right to speak in most sessions.”
- “Renewal of Commitment. The chance to meet and get to know Young Christians from all over the world was transforming experience for me spiritually, academically and ecumenically. I feel blessed and want to thank everyone that made this possible. I know my evaluation might seem critical otherwise, but this is just for development of our organizations way of working. It doesn’t lessen the value of this great experience.”
- “Getting an overview where the movement stands! Networking and intergenerational exchange of views and experiences! Meeting old friends and getting to know new ones! At least also avoiding the closure of the activities and commitments to launch the new phase!”
- “Students’ participation and passion!”
- “The results: a work plan for the incoming ExCo(FOF document),



the policy paper on Palestine, and the IDD document. The fellowship among the delegates.”

- What did you gain personally from the General Assembly? And how this GA will influence your SCM or the Institution you represent?
- “I believe the path was paved for me to regain the faith I had lost with the death of my sister three years ago. It enabled me to be vulnerable and open to God. During Holy Week (about 6 weeks after the Assembly) I was able to feel the presence of God for the first time in years. I was able to share this with my new friends from the GA and feel really encouraged in this.”
- “I think that having been to the GA, I will be able to encourage my SCM to be more supportive of the WSCF. We will now have a greater understanding of the problems of the Federation BUT that the Federation is working to resolve these issues.”
- “Personally I came to know about the life and work of the SCMs around the world. It is useful to review the work in our local SCM and learn from other countries.”
- “The GA spent little time in actual debate about the current situation and engaging the delegates in helping to shape the future of the organization. The exclusion of senior friends and partners from the plenary at the time of elections was a very negative action and hurt the relationship between the Federation and its supporters.”



- “Extraordinary experience - and the joy that the work continues!”
- “Personally my life will always be more positive and I have made some friends for life from GA. Spiritually it has brought my faith closer to me.”
- “A reaffirmation that “difficult” issues can be discussed and solved in a respectful way (IDD).”

How can we improve the WSCF-GA? What are the Strength and Weakness points?



- “Start preparing the next GA long a head many things seemed to be done in the last minute, think about how to keep people together how to build a community/team etc. do a better chairing of sessions and stick to the timetable.”
- “GA has to be longer, more planned and leadership has to be more trained and firm. You have to send all the documents in advance in all languages. There should be more fun activities as reward for all the hard work the delegates do. More freetime, so that people can rest and gain from getting to know to each other, since the relationships that were made



are the future and heart of the federation.”

- “The strength is having such gathering by itself is the strength. Further, the role of advocacy and justice are very much important and timely. Open discussion without any imposition, I loved that.”
- “General Assembly is a place of Celebration which we totally missed in GA 2015. Strength is to see people face by face is good to strengthen the fellowship and friendship. The weakness is too much focusing on elections rather on the policies and resolutions. The elections can be done on the first day and can have more time for discussions on our work in the SCMs.”
- “GA can be improved if the political side of things reduced and more people realised the seriousness of situations and think not just for their region but for WSCF Global.”
- “It was excellent with many good points. Also there are some weak points, like, less Movement/struggling/fighting Spirit but much worried about Money, less respect to Senior Friends but much hunger of own political agenda/position.”
- “For an organization of students in the 21st century, the GA is still formatted on how we did assemblies in the middle of last century. There was no interaction

with students who couldn't come, no electronic communication, no participation beyond the delegates who traveled to Colombia. In the internet age, the assembly seemed to be stuck in the past.”

- “Leaders should read constitution and bylaws and understand it before the GA. The task group have to make sure that we have more than one candidate. GA should have a time keeper in order to respect the timetable. The strength is that at the end of the day we made it. We made a fruitful GA.”

Any ideas for an ONLINE tool for a next GA or for the Constitution change in the future?

- “A new approach is required - perhaps the next GA should be prepared through an additional Online Assembly to at least confirm the outcome of the Transitional phase and to give guidelines for the preparations of the next GA.”



- “The use of live streams to expand the reach of the presentations. The use of remote participation by the movements, with space for twitters, Facebook comments, online interaction. The constitution should allow for actual elections of ExCo members at the plenary with candidates being selected to represent the interests of the GA instead of their regions.”
- “The strength of the GA is to meet people face to face. It looks like the IRO is deciding to have next GA online which is a worst case scenario. This idea should be thrown in to the bin.”

8. WSCF 35th General Assembly

SUMMARY OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME (in USD)		
Summary (see details in the next page)		
Church Partners and Institutions (37)	342,912	
Individual Contributions (52)	26,798	
SCM Contributions received by IRO	13,355	
Registration Fee	12,874	
Accommodation Contribution Partners/Senior Friends	5,170	
TOTAL INCOME		401,109
EXPENDITURES (in USD)		
Travels	178,129	
Visa & immigration costs	10,277	
Hotel accommodation	44,410	
Conference center	32,791	
Local transportation	4,332	
Resource people	4,052	
Communication & Material	2,836	
Translators	6,786	
Stewards	3,000	
GA preparation	24,160	
GA coordinator	14,482	
Medical Insurance	5,662	
Other expenses	6,229	
General admin (10%)	33,715	
TOTAL EXPENSES		370,861
Net Result		30,251

DETAILS OF THE INCOME

Church Partners and Institutions (37)		342,912
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA)	50,000	
Council for World Mission (CWM)	40,287	
Arcus Foundation	40,000	
General Board for Global Ministries (GBGM) of the United Methodist Church	30,000	
Karibu Foundation	25,400	
Waldesian Church Italy Otto Per Mille Fund	19,317	
United Church of Canada (UCC)	14,826	
National Church Council of Finland	14,719	
Christian Aid	10,901	
WSCF Centennial Fund	10,000	
Church of Sweden	10,000	
Waldesian Church Otto Per Mille Fund	8,533	
Methodist Church UK	7,000	
WSCF Canada / Solidarity fund	5,620	
US Trustees Anonymous	5,000	
WSCF Canada	4,577	
United Church of Christ (UCC)	4,500	
United Church of Christ – USA Area Executive for Southern Asia Desk	4,500	
Anglican Church of Canada	3,937	
United Church of Canada (annual grant WSCF LAC)	3,500	
Ash Wed. Appeal 60% Allocation (US Trustees)	3,177	
United Methodist Women	3,000	
Disciples of Christ – USA Area Executive for East Asia and Pacific	3,000	
Episcopal Church USA	2,852	
US Trustees A. Hageman	2,500	
Presbyterian Church Libertyville (LAC funds)	2,200	
National Council of Churches USA	2,000	
Week of Compassion, Disciples of Christ	2,000	
WSCF Canada / Solidarity fund	1,875	
Princeton University	1,650	
WSCF Canada (NA funds)	1,405	
Canterbury Downtown & Episc. Dioc. New York	1,200	
Reformed Churches of BernJura & Soleure	1,036	
Church's Auxiliary for Social Action India (AP funds)	1,000	
UCC Disciples of Christ Africa Desk	500	
Reformed University	500	
United Church of Christ USA Europe Desk	400	

SCM Contributions		13,355
SCM Australia	3,283	
SCM Taiwan	2,458	
SCM Canada	2,368	
SCM Norway	1,180	
SCM Malaysia	240	
SCM Slovakia	300	
Korea SCM	623	
WSCF LAC	800	
Visa Reimbursements from SCM delegates	2,103	
Individual Contributions (49)		26,798
Salters Sterling / Michael Hanna	8,206	
Thomas Wieser	5,574	
Bruce MacLeod (Africa funds)	2,500	
Bungaran Saragih (AP funds)	2,000	
Anonymous Individual donor	1,000	
Anonymous Individual SCM donor	1,000	
Dorothy Wyman	500	
Timothy Oyeyinka	500	
Felix Kokou Aklavon	359	
Zuzana Babikova	340	
Eilidh Whiteford	330	
Kathy and George Todd	300	
Patt Petterson	250	
George Abraham (AP fund)	250	
Anonymous	224	
Abraham Abraham (AP fund)	220	
Carlos and Tania Ham	220	
John Lindner	200	
Manju James and Vinod Johnson	200	
Elizabeth Tapia	200	
Clare Chapman	150	
WSCF NA	150	
Desiree Kameka	150	
Colin Dwyer	150	
Jack Ferlino	150	
Trond Gunnan Rasmussen	130	
Tamara Bernard	100	
Baldwin Sjollema	100	
Anna Harrison	100	
Jorge Domingues	100	
Toddie Peters	100	
Ann Teicher	100	
Kerry Flynn	100	
Anita Palathigal	70	
Inbaraj Jeyakumar	53	
Derrick McQueen	50	
Emily Tynes	50	
Michael Adee	50	
Mark McMeley	50	
Itang Young	50	
Joya Colon-Berezin	40	
Milka Hanook	32	
Linsey Mercer	30	
Registration Fees		12,874
Accommodation Contribution Partners/Senior Friends		5,170

9. List of Delegates and Participants to the 35th WSCF General Assembly

Name		Country	Designation
Christine	Housel	USA	IRO Staff
Jean-Luc	de la Soujeole	Switzerland	IRO Staff
Amos Kamugisha	Mushendwa		RS Africa
SunitaSumati	Suna	India	RS Asia Pacific
Natia	Tsintsadze		RS Europe
Marcelo	Leites	Urguay	RS LAC
Elsy	Wakil	Lebanon	RS Middle East
Luciano	Kovacs	Italy	RS North America
Horacio	Mesones	Argentina	EXCO
Bronwyn	Claire	Australia	EXCO
Shantha Ready	Alonso	USA	EXCO
Youhanna	Kamal Shawky	Egypt	EXCO
Isatu	Ville		EXCO
Paul Martin	Nguimgo	Cameroon	EXCO
Hiu Fan	Chung	Hong Kong	EXCO
Immanuel	Gopalakitnan	Sri Lanka	EXCO
Annika	Foltin	Germany	EXCO
Marco Alfredo	Fornerone	Italy	EXCO
Dianet de la Caridad	Martínez Valdés	Cuba	EXCO
Oscar Eduardo	Reicher Salazar		EXCO
Marianne Amir Rofael	Azer	Egypt	EXCO
Dany	El-Obeid	Lebanon	EXCO
Youssef Zaky	WahibZaky	Egypt	EXCO
Cydney	Proctor	Canada	EXCO
Logan	Boese	USA	EXCO
MawunaGhislaine Jacqueline	Madjro	Bénin	Delegates
Jean-Marie	Nzambimana	Burundi	Delegates
Nadeige	ShimbaKilongo	Congo	Delegates
Akissi Ninon Claire	Konan	Côte d'Ivoire	Delegates
Fekadu	Genala	Ethiopia	Delegates
Mengistu	Bedassa	Ethiopia	Delegates
Akua Bema	Adomako	Ghana	Delegates
Kevin Kimani	Kahuro	Kenya	Delegates
ThoraRodrique	Mohau	Lesotho	Delegates
Miezaka Andriamalagasy	Razafindralambo	Madagascar	Delegates
Christopher Gervas	Chimangeni	Malawi	Delegates
Shali Dama Omwene	Kapepo	Namibia	Delegates
Timothy Opeyemi (replacing Harold)	Oyeyinka	Nigeria	Delegates
Yvette	Mukagajulzabayoy	Rwanda	Delegates
Jean Pierre	Habimana	Rwanda	Delegates
Aluel Jervase Manyuat	Adiang	South Sudan	Delegates
Naomi	John Rushima	Tanzania	Delegates
Kodjo Mawuli	Aklavo	Togo	Delegates
Pamella	Nuwarinda	Uganda	Delegates

Name		Country	Designation
Sharon Moola	Mushokabanji	Zambia	Delegates
Adam	Van	Australia	Delegates
Edward Tarun	Roy (Marvin Gomez)	Bangladesh	Delegates
Ham	Kimhoun	Cambodia	Delegates
ChienLoke	Wong	HongKong	Delegates
Inbaraj Jeyakumar	Vedanayagam	India	Delegates
AdolfínDeslina	Datang	Indonesia	Delegates
YeoJin	Song	Korea	Delegates
Ming Ern (Ernest)	Lee	Malaysia	Delegates
TunTun	Oo	Myanmar	Delegates
Ajit Kumar	Tamang	Nepal	Delegates
Scott Michael	McSorley	New Zealand	Delegates
Milka	Hanook	Pakistan	Delegates
Einstein Zapata	Recedes	Philippines	Delegates
Kahagallalage Saman	Jayasuriya (Tharaka)	Sri Lanka	Delegates
Yi-Lin (Irene)	Wu	Taiwan	Delegates
Antonio Bernardo Scheunemann	Da Silva	Timor Leste	Delegates
Krista Henrika	Autio	Finland	Delegates
Valentin	Tranchand	Germany	Delegates
Annette (Maria)	Klinke (Esfandiari)	Germany	Delegates
Rachel	Power	Ireland	Delegates
Lina	Leonaviciute	Lithuania	Delegates
Tonje Catharina	Eide	Norway	Delegates
Audun	Stranden	Norway	Delegates
Marta	Całpińska	Poland	Delegates
Petru-Lucian	Cîrlan	Romania	Delegates
Zuzana	Babicova	Slovakia	Delegates
Are	Kaspersen	Sweden	Delegates
Clare	Wilkins	United Kingdom	Delegates
María Gloria	AlmanBornes	Argentina	Delegates
Teodocia	Flores Otoyá	Bolivia	Delegates
Edoarda	Sopelsa Scherer	Brasil	Delegates
Johana	Nuñez	Colombia	Delegates
Alexander	Mulet De Los Reyes	Cuba	Delegates
Marco Giovanni	Panchi Jima	Equador	Delegates
Karina Martha Mireya	García Carmona	Mexico	Delegates
Kathia	Alba	Peru	Delegates
Ramy Farouk	Hanna	Egypt	Delegates
Maria Yousry	MakaryGabra Isaac	Egypt	Delegates
Sherry Samuel	BotrosKaliney	Egypt	Delegates
Peter Amir Ibrahim	Abdo	Egypt	Delegates
FadiGhaithFathullah	Al-Ajdh	Iraq	Delegates
Hind	Farahat	Jordan	Delegates
Charbel	El Saykali	Lebanon	Delegates
Alexandre	Roumi	Lebanon	Delegates

Name		Country	Designation
Guitta	Kahaleh	Lebanon	Delegates
Nare	Saghdejian	Lebanon	Delegates
Bayan Issam Hanna	Barham	Palestine	Delegates
Mina Gerges	AdliFakhouri	Sudan	Delegates
Sonia	Almassad	Syria	Delegates
Brandi Jenessa Dawn	Friesen	Canada	Delegates
Carter	Habeeb	USA	Delegates
Louis	Tillman	USA	Delegates
Ting Jin	Yong	Malaysia	Search committee
Florence	Kanyike	Uganda	Search committee
Yarkus	Perez	Chile	Search committee
Kokou Hodenou (Félix)	Aklavon	Togo	Candidates
Masimba Lovemore	Kuchera	Zimbabwe	Candidates
Jurgette Nectarinia	Montes Rocas	Phillipines	Candidates
David Anirudha	Das	Bangladesh	Senior friends
David Raton	Halder	Bangladesh	Senior friends
Richmond	Milton	Bangladesh	Senior friends
William Salters	Sterling	Ireland	Senior friends
Micheal Victor	Hanna	Ireland	Senior friends
Markus Ilari	Rantakari	Finland	Senior friends
Gabriela	Miranda Garcia	Guatemala	Senior friends
Jorge	Domingues	USA/Brazil	Senior friends
Elizabeth Muriel Findlay	Anderson	USA	Senior friends
William Mead	Muhler	USA	Senior friends
Kenneth	Guest	USA	Senior friends
George	Mathew	India	Resource people
Michael	Garcia	Philippines	Resource people
Johnston	McMaster	Ireland	Resource people
Carolyn Heather	Williams	UK	Resource people
Analia	Kim	Argentina	Resource people
Humberto	Shikiya	Argentina	Resource people
Marcelo	Schneider	Brazil	Resource people
Rogelio Dario	Barolin	Uruguay	Resource people
Don	Reasoner	USA	Resource people
Dr. Fulata Lusungu	Moyo	Malawi	Partner, WCC
Isaiah Kipyegon	Toroitich	Kenya	Partner, ACT Alliance
Peter	Prove	Australia	Partner, EAA
Dinesh	Suna	India	Partner, EWN
Rev. Peniel Jesudason Rufus	Rajkumar	Switzerland	Partner, WCC
Martina Viktorie	Kopecká	Czech Republic	Partner, WCC
Tyler Dale	Hauger	Norway	Partner, Karibu
Ana Veronica	FlachierLudeña	Ecuador	Partner
Paul St Patrick Anthony	Gardner	Jamaica	Partner, GCF
Joy Eva	Bohol	Colombia	Partner
Jenny	Neme	Colombia	Partner

Name		Country	Designation
Deivit Andres	Montealegre Cuenca	Argentina	Partner
Rudelmar	Bueno de Faria	USA	Partner
Rev. Dr. Shanta	Premawardhana	USA	Partner, SCUPE
Rev. Edward	Pratt	USA	Partner
Rev. LeKisha	Reed	USA	Partner, UMC GBGM
Lorenzo	Vargas	USA	Partner
Amy Blythe	Crawford	Canada	Partner, UCC
Rev. Chris	Ferguson	Canada	Partner, WCRC
Milton	Mejia	Colombia	Colombia resource people
Maricel	Mena	Colombia	Colombia resource people
Abilio	Pena	Colombia	Colombia resource people
Eleazar	Torreglosa	Colombia	Colombia resource people
Diego	Higuita	Colombia	COLOMBIAN guests
Milciades	Pua	Colombia	COLOMBIAN guests
Javier	Rodriguez	Colombia	Colombian guests
Gloria	Ullua	Colombia	Colombian guests
Eduardo	Martinez	Colombia	Colombian guests
Erik	Norman	Colombia	Colombian guests
Saara	Vuorensola-Barnes	Colombia	Colombian guests
Sarahí	García Gómez	Officers	Lac guests
Felipe	Adolf	Ecuador	Lac guests
Carlos	Tamez	Costa Rica	Lac guests

Acknowledgement

The World Student Christian Federation expresses its profound gratitude to the partner churches and donor institutions, our senior friends and individual contributors and the SCMs for their generous contribution towards the WSCF General Assembly funds. Our deepest appreciation to our resource persons, our dear senior friends and ecumenical partners for sharing your time, talents, knowledge and skills and journeying with us at this difficult time of the General Assembly. Our Local Host Committee and church partners in Colombia and the Latin America and Caribbean region, for your gracious welcome and grounding the Assembly in the realities of your region, allowing us to witness the life and ministry of the churches. Blessed and inspired by all the prayers and best wishes received from all our friends and networks worldwide, we extend our heartfelt thanksgiving to everyone.

Your support and prayers enabled the Assembly to embody the theme, *“We are Many, We are One, Sent to Build God’s Peace.”*

Thank you for sharing your gifts and blessings to the worldwide Federation. May our gracious and loving God bless us all with Grace and Peace.

Ut Omnes Unom Sint!

“Others will have differing memories and reflections. My own estimate of the 35th General Assembly of the World Student Christian Federation is that it was a soberingly good experience challenging us all to work harder for Justice while at the same time making whatever structural, governance and financial changes are agreed to be necessary. The Federation, now 120 years in operation, still has a major contribution to make to the universities and colleges of this planet and the work of articulating a global vision for a divided world will be an exciting adventure of Faith. I am most deeply grateful for the invitation to contribute this piece.”

- Salters Sterling.