



African Communion of Reformed Churches

Called to communion, committed to justice

*[Promoting Justice, Peace, Mission,
Theology, Ecumenism, and Communion in
the African Continent]*

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Report on the Life and Work of the Africa Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) to the 2022 World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) Executive Committee

INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 has taken a toll on many organizations, not sparing the ACRC. The ACRC has not been so vibrant in year under review, as it used to, previously. Nonetheless, some work has been covered. This report will present an overview of the life and work of the ACRC, since the last meeting of the WCRC Executive Committee. The report discusses the structure of the ACRC, the strategic plan and the operationalization thereof, the meetings and typical agenda items thereof, the interventions in conflict ridden areas, and natural disasters as experienced in certain parts of the region.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE ACRC

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee consists of the four office bearers, the coordinators of the sub-regions and the five (5) members of the WCRC Executive Committee who come from Africa.

Table1: ACRC Executive Committee – Office Bearers

Serial No	Position	Name
	a	b
1	President	Rt. Rev.Dr. Uma Onwunta (Nigeria)
2	Vice President	Rev. Pauline Mwaura (Kenya)
3	Secretary	Rev. Dr. Lungile Mpetsheni (South Africa)
4	Treasurer	Mr. M. Koku Mawulikplimi Amega (Togo)

The Subregional Coordinators

For control purposes and for ease of reach to the member churches, the ACRC is structured in four (4) regions as shown in the table below.

Table 2: ACRC Sub-regions and Coordinators

Serial No	Sub-region	Coordinator
	a	b
1	Central Africa	Rev. Isaac Kalonji (Democratic Republic of Congo)
2	Eastern Africa	Rev. Martin Wanjala (Kenya)
3	Southern Africa	Rev. Dr. Gustav Claassen (South Africa)
4	West Africa	Mrs. Paulina Afful-Arthur (Ghana)

OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK – STRATEGIC PLAN

The ACRC Assembly that was held in Rwanda in June 2018 adopted a strategic plan to serve as an operational framework for the Communion in the region. The table below portrays the strategic areas and the champions thereof.

Table 3: ACRC Strategic Areas and Champions

Serial No	KEY FOCUS AREAS (In line with WCRC)	RESOURCES/ People Responsible
	a	b
1	Gender Justice	Prof. Christine Landman Mrs. Veronica Muchiri
2	Peace Making	Rev. Dr. BeniboFubara-Manuel
3	Economic and Ecological Justice	Prof. Jerry Pillay Rev. Dr. Gustav Claassen
4	Overcoming Racism and Affirming the Rights of Indigenous People	Rev. Dr. Buhle Mpofu
5	Refugees and Internally Displaced People	Mrs. Veronica Muchiri Rev. Omwero SC Knony-Halema
6	Youth Development	Adv. Tibonge Ng'ambi
7	Theology	Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi

The operationalization of the plan is one area that has suffered the most, due to the loss of energy among the champions, blame it on COVID-19. The last meeting of the ACRC Executive Committee resolved to hold webinars on the different aspects of the strategic plan, as shown in the table below.

Table 4: ACRC Plan on Strategic Areas

Serial No	Month	Strategic Area
	a	b
1	April 2022	Theology, with focus on Accra Confession in the context of COVID-19.
2	May 2022	Gender justice
3	June 2022	Ecological justice
4	July 2022	Migration
5	August 2022	Peace making
6	September 2022	Youth (This will, hopefully, be a physical meeting, all things being equal)

MEETINGS

Since the last report (March 2021), the ACRC Executive Committee has held four virtual meetings, as follows: 11 May 2021, 11 August 2021, 16 November 2021, and 15 February 2022. The Committee is making optimal use of the available technology to remain connected.

TYPICAL AGENDA ITEMS

The ACRC Executive has been consistent in discussing the following items, among others:

- ✓ Implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- ✓ Accompanying Churches to incorporate Accra Confession in their life and work.
- ✓ Raising Awareness about the Communion.
- ✓ Update on the activities of the WCRC, especially on COVID-19 and Beyond programme and WCRC Sustainability project.
- ✓ ACRC and partnerships.
- ✓ Finance updates – especially on the payment of affiliations to the WCRC and ACRC.
- ✓ Subregional reports.

Through the meetings and the discussions of the main aspects of the life and work of the Communion, the members of the Executive are apprised of the developments in the Communion and the member churches are given information. The ACRC has already accepted the GRAPE initiative and is waiting upon the Hanover office to roll out the programme. The member churches were informed about this programme and the campaign on WCRC Sustainability.

INTERVENTIONS IN CONFLICT RIDDEN AREAS

The ACRC Executive Committee welcomed the visit by Dr. Hanns Lessing to parts of the region that are experiencing ongoing conflicts. The subregional coordinators continue to journey with the brothers and sisters in those parts of the Communion. The areas that suffer the worst of the conflicts include, but not limited to the following: Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Tigray Province of Ethiopia, Cabo Delgado Province of Mozambique, Northern parts of Nigeria, certain parts of Kenya and eSwatini. We continue to request for prayers for the peoples in the areas to experience peace, stability, and prosperity.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL DISASTERS

The effects of climate change have been felt hard in some parts of the region. The recent occurrences include the following:

- ✓ Floods, landslides, and volcanic eruptions in parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2021.
- ✓ Strong winds and heavy rains (cyclone) in Malawi in Dec 2021
- ✓ Floods in parts of South African April 2022

Most unfortunately, as it is usually the case, people who suffer the worst are the poor. The governments need to improve in putting in place the early warning systems and in human settlements, in general. Humanity must be informed and sensitised about climate change and the effects thereof.

CONCLUSION

Some of the governments in the region have lifted the states of disaster which were put in place to manage the spread of COVID-19. Those governments claim to have developed capacity to manage the situation. Humanity, as they get used to living with COVID-19 or as they come out of COVID-19, should be guided on how to take of themselves. The church must also learn to be church in a new context. As people began assembling for church activities, there should be focused messages from every pulpit, giving guidance and raising awareness on the issues of socioeconomic and spiritual nature.

Climate change is fast becoming a force to be reckoned with. The issues of racial, economic and gender justice remain with us. The Communion is continuously challenged to lead in the prophetic, liberation, and developmental ministries, to remain relevant and in touch with the people, the *laos* of God. The ACRC will endeavour to pursue its strategic plan, as the plan remains relevant to being and doing church in our context and times.