

Mission Committee Report: Synod 2019

Go with purpose is the theme of our synod. In Mark 16:15 we read, **Go** into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation. The calling is very clear, we need to **GO**. We have a clear purpose, we have a clear goal. The question is how many congregations are more than a Sunday service, Bible studies and a fundraising congregation? Do we reach out further than the boundaries of the people in our congregation? Often we have wonderful visions but find it difficult to implement them.

May we find new strength and courage to look at ourselves and our congregations critically and ask ourselves how we can become more effective in living out our calling to **go** into the world. To go with purpose we need to come out of our comfort zone. Are we prepared to make changes, so that we can more effectively reach outsiders?

In our meetings we have spoken about the relevance of the Mission Committee. In the past we helped congregations by supporting a part of the Pastors salary, when research had shown that there was scope for expansion, outreach and growth. We assisted congregations with subsidies, so that they could afford a youth Pastor. Suggestions were made for courses that helped congregational growth. We have also held different workshops on relevant issues in our church. Over the years many congregations have benefited from the inputs and suggestions made by the mission committee. We are looking anew at where our Lord is leading us as a committee in the next years so that the work can be more effective in supporting congregations in their mission.

The Mission Projects that we support at the moment are as follows:

- The Dolphin Coast Lutheran Congregation,
- the Evangelical Lutheran Church on the East Rand,
- the Trinity Zululand Lutheran Church and
- the Migrant Refugee Project in Pretoria.
- We also give a small support to the ERF.
- We also brainstorm and hear reports about the diaconal work in our Church.

We visited the Dolphin Coast Lutheran Congregation in January. They are ELCSA (N-T) 's youngest congregation that was formed in 2018. We spent a weekend with them to encourage them as they seek to grow their congregation.

Please pray for these projects that they may hear the voice of God so that they can live out their calling as it pleases Him.

Currently the Mission committee consists of the following representatives:

Northern Circuit: Ms Catherine Makwakwa, Pastor - vacant
Central Circuit: Lay – vacant, Dean Remo Koehne (Chair)
Eastern Circuit: Mr Johann Engelbrecht, Dean Hugo Filter
Southern Circuit: Mr Walter Klingenberg, Pastor Ron Küsel
Ex officio: Bishop Horst Müller

I will stand down as chair of the committee in January 2020. I wish the committee well for the future.

Pastor Remo Koehne