

Global Young Reformer Report

In 2018, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Youth desk relaunched the Global Young Reformers Network. It is now known as the Global Young Reformers Network 2.0. This programme aims to build a strong network among young people and meaningful contributions for the Lutheran churches. It is built by the young Lutherans within the context of reformatory heritage, Lutheran identity, LWF Youth priorities and today's global connectivity and framework of Justice and Peace. It enables a space for the young people to share their ideas and proposals and collectively develop a structure of working together in the global Communion with the young people and for the young people

The LWF Youth priorities are Revival of Churches, Equity and Education. Youth participation and Climate Justice will continue to be the cross-cutting themes as reflected in the LWF Youth Message to the LWF Twelfth Assembly

We are excited about our tenure as LWF Global Young Reformers representing the youth from ELCSA (N-T). We aim to ensure that ELCSA (N-T) Youth are well represented and engaged in decision-making platforms, that ELCSA (N-T) Youth are connected and united, and finally that the youth begin taking ownership of their church.

Timeline of our engagement as Global Young Reformers

Virtual Meeting

Every last Friday of the month, we connect with Global Young Reformers from all across the world to discuss various themes and for the future work of the young reformers. The topics for the meetings have ranged from 'Being a Lutheran' to 'Churches towards the Sustainable Development Goals'. This platform is open to ALL youth from LWF member churches. Please contact us if you would like more information on the virtual meetings.

LWF Africa Lutheran Church Leadership Consultation (ALCLC)

The Youth preparatory meeting held in Moshi, Tanzania, on May 13 2019, at ALCLC, brought together LWF youth leaders and young reformers to identify contextual challenges and develop a strategy for young Lutheran participation at the heart of LWF's Global Youth Priorities that were adopted at the LWF Twelfth Assembly in Namibia in 2017. These priorities include: the revival of churches, the equity and education. The overall goal of the preparatory meeting for youth and the message to ALCLC is to further strengthen youth development within the church. The goal was to strengthen and build the capacity of youth in LWF regional and global platforms.

LWF Youth Leaders and Global Youth Reformers present at ALCLC have adopted the LWF's global youth priorities.

The Youth Message presented at ALCLC:

Young people represents the largest part of the members of African churches. The future of our church is in our hands. We are the seeds of the church that can revive our church. To be effective leaders in our growing church, young people need to become aware of church activities and engage in them today so that we can prepare for the church of tomorrow as we have done today.

We offer the following recommendations to revive our churches:

- Empowering young people to be more involved in different ministries of the church, for example by including young people in the management of the liturgy,
- Promotion of new methods of worship, not necessarily deviating from traditional methods, but reinforcing our method of worship, more user-friendly,
- We encourage more young people to attend theological training,
- We urge youth leaders to support young people, enabling them to play their role effectively in the church.

EQUITY

Young people defend equality between the sexes and the ages. For us, equity means inclusion and ownership, equal access to opportunities, respect for diversity, acceptance of women's and youth's ideas and opinions, as well as equity and Justice.

The church should recognize the ideas of previously marginalized groups, such as women and youth. We are capable and powerful members of the church, capable of making a difference.

We propose the following recommendations to achieve equity in our churches:

- We encourage our churches to apply the LWF participation quota, which encourages 20% of young people, 40% of women and 40% of men, at decision-making levels,
- The capacities of women and youth must be strengthened and realized in the church for the improvement of the church,
- The church must have a prophetic voice challenging the injustices of society.

EDUCATION

Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world. It is necessary to improve the knowledge of young Christians by providing them with the resources they need in their daily lives to solve many problems such as poverty.

We propose the following recommendations on education:

- Promoting not only secular education, but also theological education,
- Encourage climate education,
- Involve young people in opportunities that will improve their chances of getting a job.

CONCLUSION

We are honored to share our ideas and recommendations for consultation with leaders of the Lutheran Church of Africa. We look forward to adopting and implementing these recommendations.

Whilst a lot has been done to connect with the youth from LWF member churches, we hope that we can improve our work with the youth of our church. We hope that this report inspires many youth and church leaders to assist us to enhance youth participation in our church.

Yours in Christ

Ditebogo Lebea

Tristen Krüger

ditebogocarolinel@gmail.com

061 243 8177

tristankruger35@gmail.com

060 948 9852