

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT COMMITTEE REPORT

World Methodist Council Meeting  
August 1-3, 2011 Durban, South Africa

Dear brothers and sisters we greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We want to present to you an apology from the Chair of the Youth & Young Adult Committee Vishwas Udgirkar from India. He was not able to join us in this meeting due to work commitments. We as young people in the Presidium want to present this report to you on behalf of the Youth and Young Adult Committee.

During the past five years our biblical base has been 1 Timothy 4:12 “Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

### YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT REPRESENTATION

We want to share some words from the Youth and Young Adult Committee report presented in Australia in 2007, “*Where are the youth??? .....We are deeply saddened that there are many fewer young people on this executive committee than in the last quinquennium. It's essential that member churches send youth and young adults as part of their delegation.*” Today we would like to make an appeal to all the member churches that we must continue to involve more young people in the life and ministry of the church especially in the selection process in becoming members of this council; but we are delighted to say that the last quinquennium we had three young people elected to be part of the presidium board which allowed us to be involved and connected with the committee.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The youth and young adult committee were able to meet twice in this past quinquennium, but we need to recognize that our work was not very effective due to the small representation of the youth and young adult to the Executive committee meetings. We pray and hope that for the coming term we will have a larger representation to continue the work and the involvement of the young people in this body.

### YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT POSITION

The idea of having a youth coordinator was hatched during the IMYLS in Seoul, Korea. The youth and young adult committee exerted efforts in bringing the matter to the Council. During the executive committee meeting in Sydney in 2007, the proposal of having a youth & young adult coordinator post was approved. Fabiola Grandon has been appointed as the first part time youth & young adult coordinator from 2008-2011. She is ending her terms in this meeting. This body has approved the name of John Thomas III from the AME USA as the new Youth and Young Adult Coordinator. In the process of selecting a new youth and young adult coordinator it was very important to make sure that the original thrust as envisioned by the youth and young adults group was achieved.

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT NETWORK

It has been a great challenge to build relationships with the regional Youth and Young Adult Methodist Networks namely: Youth in Mission Program of Evangelical Methodist Churches in Latin America and The Caribbean, Asian Methodist Youth Network, Africa Methodist Youth Movement and European Methodist Youth Council. We have been able to follow the work that these networks are doing in their own regions. We trust that the new committee will continue to strengthen these relationships, creating new ways to work together.

## IMYLS 2011

The International Methodist Young Leaders Seminar is an event held prior to the Council and Conference where we have the opportunity to gather as young Methodist leaders to exchange experiences, to be trained and to meditate on the general theme of the conference, but also there is an opportunity for the young people to stay on for the council as observers and to participate in the conference as the main event for the Wesleyan/Methodist family.

We need to say that is not easy to bring young people from around the world for a 3 day seminar, especially if they are not council members. As such we encourage member churches to include youth and young adults as council members within their delegation.

We thank God because after praying, dreaming and planning we had our International Methodist Young Leaders Seminar on July 28 to 31, 2011 in Botha's Hill, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. We gathered 70 young people from 29 countries from the all continents, plus 15 volunteers from the Methodist Church in Southern Africa. We reflected on the theme "Jesus Christ for the healing of the nations". We thank the Chairperson Rev. John Barrett for his visit, the General Secretary for his address about the World Methodist Council and we thank to our guest speakers Rev. Sifiso Khuzwayo, Rev. Kim Reisman, Rev. J.C. Park and Dr. Eddie Fox. We thank the local host committee and volunteers for the wonderful hospitality shown to all the delegates. Many of these volunteers are currently serving as volunteers for the council and conference. From the 70 delegates to the youth and young adult event 35 will remain for the Conference, and aprox. 17 are here now as Council Members ready to learn and invest all their gifts and talents in benefit of God's Kingdom.

Participants from the youth and young adults seminar prepared the following declaration for the World Methodist Council which we now want to present to you.

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## FINAL WORDS

Dear members of the council, at the end of this report we want to encourage you to continue trusting and supporting the young people of the church. We really believe that we as young people are not only the future of the church; we are the present of the church and we want to be God's instrument in his hands. We need your guidance and your help.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve in the World Methodist Council for these five years past and we believe that the new members of the committee and the presidium member will bring a new vision, a new passion, a new energy, but the same conviction which is "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." (1 Tim.4:12)

May God bless you all.

*(Video from IMYLS will be presented)*