



RECEIVED

EN

Original

Report of the Governance and Nominations Committee revised

The moderator of the governance and nominations committee, Dr Audeh Quawas, welcomed the members of the committee and called the roll. The meeting began with prayer. The rapporteur of the governance and nominations committee, Rev. Dr Manhong Lin, reviewed the mandate of the committee in full (Rule X.3).

We received a request from the Rev. Vilma I. Yanez Ogaza (Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia) to join the governance and nominations committee. She was welcomed and participated.

Recommendation

The governance and nominations committee recommends that:

1. *The central committee **elect** by consensus Rev. Vilma I. Yanez Ogaza to serve on the governance and nominations committee for the duration of the central committee.*

Approved by consensus

I. Governance and Nominations Committee Proposed Agenda (NOM 01)

The agenda was approved by consensus with the addition of:

- A proposal on establishing the commission on climate justice and sustainable development and the process.
- The report of the permanent committee on consensus and collaboration as referred by the plenary to the governance and nominations committee.

II. Moderator's Address (01) and Report of the General Secretary (02)

The governance and nominations committee expressed appreciation and gratitude for the moderator's address and the report of the general secretary.

The references to the climate crisis in both reports were appreciated. Given the urgency of the situation, the moderator and general secretary were asked to put more emphasis on these issues, reflecting the call from the Karlsruhe Assembly.

Regarding the war in Ukraine, the committee strongly and gratefully affirmed the round table process referred to by the moderator and described by the general secretary. The committee encouraged the general secretary to ensure that the meetings be well prepared and that the most appropriate parties be invited. While dialogue among member churches should be encouraged the war is between states and it was suggested that the WCC engage other important actors involved in the work for peace.

The committee encourages the WCC leadership to find ways of addressing political leaders and using the United Nations system, through the CCIA and the WCC UN Office, to promote peace. The WCC should be mindful of influences of other organizations. The WCC must not only facilitate such processes but also insist that problems and conflicts are solved through dialogue rather than military force.

Churches are also encouraged to exert pressure on their own governments to resolve this conflict. The WCC should find action-oriented approaches to resolve this conflict.

Recommendations

The governance and nominations committee recommends that:

- 2. The central committee **receive** with appreciation the Moderator's Address and **express** its sincere gratitude to Bishop Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm for his leadership as moderator of the central committee.*
- 3. The central committee **receive** with appreciation the Report of the General Secretary and **express** its sincere gratitude to Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay for his leadership as general secretary.*

Approved by consensus 2 and 3

III. Proposal for Youth Advisors (NOM 08)

The governance and nominations committee reviewed the proposal for youth advisors in full, noting that the Assembly Youth Statement and the Assembly Nomination Committee encouraged the assembly to find ways to strengthen youth participation in the life and work of the central committee.

At the election of the central committee during the Karlsruhe Assembly concern was expressed that few youth members had been elected. The Busan Assembly also experienced this and proposed the appointment of youth advisors to the central committee. The executive committee affirmed this approach and presented a proposal to this meeting of the central committee. It was noted that in the first decision plenary of the meeting the youth advisors were seated for this meeting. The governance and nominations committee was asked to prepare a recommendation to the central committee for youth advisors to serve for the duration of the term of the central committee until the next assembly.

The secretariat expressed its regret that it was not able to invite the youth advisors to the central committee before approval by the executive committee in May 2023.

It was explained that the number of proposed advisors (17) is meant to achieve the target of 25% youth participation in the central committee. Every proposed youth advisor was either a participant at the assembly and/or was nominated by their church for the Young People in the Ecumenical Movement Commission.

The committee discussed the term "youth". In principle, the term "youth" refers to young people between 18 and 30 years of age at the time of their election; they may not be "youth" at the end of a full term on the central committee, but continue to represent the voice and concerns of the younger generation. It was noted that, while there were youth advisors in the previous central committee, this is the first time youth advisors are included in the governance and nominations committee.

A suggestion was made to have two terms of four years, rather than asking youth advisors to serve for eight years in order to ensure participation from a wider number of younger people. However the committee felt that the full period between assemblies was needed to understand the central committee and be able to engage more fully.

The committee was reminded that appointing youth advisors was just one way to respond to the Assembly Youth Statement. The WCC Stewards' Programme at big WCC meetings strengthens youth participation and intergenerational formation. The Bossey Ecumenical Institute welcomes 35 students each year for academic study and ecumenical formation. The committee noted that several of the members of governance and nominations committee previously served as stewards, interns, and youth members of the previous central committee.

Recommendation

The governance and nominations committee recommends that:

4. The central committees **appoint** the following 17 youth advisors to the 2023-2030 term of the central committee to strengthen the voice of young people in the work of the central committee:

Region	Title	First Name	Last Name	Member Church	Church Family	G	Yth	L/O	IP	EDAN
AF	Mr	Kuku Fajak	Avajani	Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan	Anglican	M	Y	L	N	N
AF	Ms	Deborah	Asiedu	Methodist Church Ghana	Methodist	F	Y	L	N	Y
AF	Mr	Jacques	Heymans	Dutch Reformed Church	Reformed	M	Y	L	N	N
AF	Ms	Ayo Oladapo Praise	Inioluwa	Nigerian Baptist Convention	Baptist	F	Y	L	N	N
AF	Mr	Jonah	Ojjala	Church of Uganda	Anglican	M	Y	I	N	N
AS	Ms	Joeun	Kim	Presbyterian Church of Korea	Reformed	F	Y	L	N	N
AS	Ms	Ruth	Mathen	Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church	Oriental Orthodox	F	Y	L	N	N
CA	Mr	Dominic	Blair	Moravian Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands	HPC and Moravians	M	Y	L	N	N
EU	Ms	Siiri	Klubb	Orthodox Church of Finland	Orthodox Eastern	F	Y	L	N	N
EU	Ms	Annika	Mathews	Church of England	Anglican	F	Y	L	N	Y
EU	Mr	Andrei	Ursulean	Romanian Orthodox Church	Orthodox Eastern	M	Y	L	N	N
LA	Ms	Mariana	Jorge Madeiros Batista	Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil	Anglican	F	Y	L	N	N
ME	Mr	Pierre Hanna	Hanna	Coptic Orthodox Church	Orthodox Oriental	M	Y	L	N	N
ME	Fr	Hussam Butros George	Snobar	Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem	Orthodox Eastern	M	Y	L	N	N
NA	Ms	Brianna	Lane	United Church of Canada	United and Uniting	F	Y	L	N	N
PA	Mr	Sladen	Jieta	United Church of Christ – Congregational in the Marshall Islands	United and Uniting	M	Y	L	N	Y
PA	Ms	Iemaima	Vaai	Methodist Church of Samoa	Methodist	F	Y	L	Y	Y

Approved by consensus

IV. Report of the Executive Committee (03)

The committee expressed gratitude and appreciation for the report and the work of the executive committee since the assembly. The executive committee was encouraged to implement the action plan for the strategic plan with appropriate timelines and budget allocations.

Recommendation

The governance and nominations committee recommends that:

5. The central committee **receive** the report of the executive committee with thanks and appreciation.

Approved by consensus

V. Report of the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration (PRC 04)

The governance and nominations committee expressed appreciation for the report of the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration noting that while human sexuality is a divisive issue among the churches, all perspectives should be respected. It was noted that while the report could not be changed, the governance and nominations committee could make recommendations about the report, including the implementation of its recommendations, to the central committee for decision.

Recommendation

The governance and nominations committee recommends that:

6. The central committees **receive** the report of the permanent committee on consensus and collaboration with thanks and appreciation.

approved by consensus

VI. Follow up on Recommendations of the Assembly Nominations Committee (NOM 02)

The governance and nominations committee reviewed in detail the status of follow up on the recommendations of the Assembly Nominations Committee. It noted good progress with the

recommendations to include youth delegates nominated for but not elected to the central committee in commissions and as youth advisors. It also noted good progress with the recommendation to include member churches not represented on the central committee in commissions and joint consultative bodies.

The committee recognized the need to refer a number of recommendations concerning the composition of the future central committee to the regular governance review process that will take place during the term of the central committee. The relevant assembly recommendations remain on the agenda of the central committee.

VII. Membership of Governing Bodies (NOM 03)

The governance and nominations committee reviewed Membership of Governing Bodies (NOM 03), with reference to replacements for the central committee and the formation of the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration (PCCC). The committee took note of executive committee appointments to the Steering Committee for the Green Village and the Audit Committee.

A. Central Committee

The committee was informed that six members of the central committee elected at the assembly have resigned. In accordance with the rules, the respective member church has named a replacement for the duration of the term of the central committee. The proposed replacements were seated as substitutes for this meeting in the first decision plenary of this meeting.

The committee reviewed the proposed replacements noting that five of six were present at the assembly as delegates or advisors. Overall, the group of replacements preserves the balances of the central committee.

The committee noted that the constitution and rules do not require that a replacement was present at the assembly or a delegate to the assembly. Some members felt it was important that replacements were present at the assembly or delegates to the assembly. Other members noted that it would be difficult for churches which only send one delegate to the assembly. The committee noted the need to continue reflecting on this during its term, but affirmed the list of replacements as presented.

Recommendation

The governance and nominations committee recommends that:

7. *The central committee **elect** by consensus the following replacements for the term of the central committee:*

- a) Mr Imran Siddiqui (M/L) from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to replace Ms Khadijah Islam (F/L/Y)
- b) Most Rev. B.K. Nayak (M/O) from the Church of North India to replace Bishop Prem Chand Singh (M/O)
- c) Rev. Phonesavanh Kounthapanya (M/O) from the Lao Evangelical Church to replace Mrs Phasouk Singitthiphon (F/L)
- d) Rev. Margaret R. Rose (F/O) from The Episcopal Church to replace Rev. Yoimel Gonzalez Hernandez (M/O)
- e) Rev. Rita Famos (F/O) from the Protestant Church in Switzerland to replace Rev. Serge Fornerod (M/O) as of end June 2023
- f) Mr Stefan Zeljković (M/L/Y) from the Serbian Orthodox Church to replace Very Reverend Protopresbyter-Stavrophoros Dr Vladislav Topalović (M/O)

Approved by consensus

B. Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration

The committee reviewed the process for the formation of the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration (PCCC). It noted that the PCCC has fourteen members elected from the central committee – seven who represent Orthodox member churches and seven who represent other member churches. It noted the requirement that at least seven members of the PCCC are on the executive committee.

In accordance with the rules, the Orthodox members of the governance and nominations committee, in consultation with the other Orthodox members of the central committee prepared a draft slate of seven Orthodox members. In accordance with the rules, the other members of the governance and nominations committee prepared a draft slate of the seven other members. The committee notes that the two slates together fulfil the requirements for the formation of the PCCC.

Recommendation

The governance and nominations committee recommends that:

8. The central committee **elect** by consensus the following members¹ of the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration:

Central committee members representing Orthodox member churches								
Region	Title	First Name	Last Name	Church	M/F	L/O	Youth	Church family
EU	Prof. Dr	Marina	Kolovopoulou	Church of Greece	F	L	N	Orthodox Eastern
EU	Very Rev. Archimandrite		Philaret	Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate)	M	O	N	Orthodox Eastern
EU	H.E. Elder Metropolitan Emmanuel of Chalcedon			Ecumenical Patriarchate	M	O	N	Orthodox Eastern
EU	H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste			Romanian Orthodox Church	M	O	N	Orthodox Eastern
ME	H.E. Archbishop Dr	Nareg	Alemezian	Armenian Apostolic Church (Holy See of Cilicia)	M	O	N	Orthodox Oriental
ME	Dr	Audeh	Quawas	Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem	M	L	N	Orthodox Eastern
ME	H.E. Metropolitan		Thomas	Coptic Orthodox Church	M	O	N	Orthodox Oriental
Central committee members representing other member churches								
Region	Title	First Name	Last Name	Church	M/F	L/O	Youth	Church family
AF	Rev. Dr	Billy	Gama	Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Blantyre Synod	M	O	N	Reformed
AS	Rev. Dr	Robinson	Butarbutar	Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP)	M	O	N	Lutheran
AS	Ms	Jingqin	Gu	China Christian Council	F	L	N	Post denomination
CA	Rev.	Bjorn	Warde	Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago	M	O	Y	Reformed
EU	Rt Rev. Dr	Gregory	Cameron	Church in Wales	M	O	N	Anglican
NA	Bishop	Sally	Dyck	United Methodist Church	F	O	N	Methodist
NA	Rev. Dr	Karen Georgia	Thompson	United Church of Christ	F	O	N	United and Uniting

Approved by consensus

Note: According to the rules, the Orthodox members of the PCCC elect one co-moderator and the other members of the PCCC elect one co-moderator.

¹ Rev. Dr Jennifer Leath (African Methodist Episcopal Church) noted her dissent to this decision due to the imbalanced representation, especially with respect to people living with disabilities, youth, women, indigenous people and lay and regional representation.

VIII. Proposed Nominations for Commissions and Joint Consultative Bodies revised (NOM 04 revised)

The governance and nominations committee reviewed the process of how nominations were secured and the proposals brought forward for consideration by the central committee, which is responsible for electing commissions, including their leadership.

In January 2022, the acting general secretary wrote to all member churches requesting nominations for commissions and joint consultative bodies. A reminder was sent in June 2022. The secretariat recorded 490 nominations (Doc No. NOM 05) to fill about 200 seats in the commissions and joint consultative bodies.

The secretariat prepared draft slates for review by the executive committee. The executive committee finalized proposed slates for membership and leadership for review by the central committee.

The governance and nominations committee received over 20 emails at this meeting with corrections, replacements, new nominations and questions. It reviewed each request in detail, making every effort to accommodate requests. The committee noted that 29 member churches not represented in the central committee are included in the proposed nominations in response to the assembly recommendation.

The committee reviewed the revised slates commission by commission to confirm balances and ensure that each nomination is supported by the respective member church. The committee reviewed and affirmed the proposed leadership for each body.

There are six WCC commissions. The central committee approves commission bylaws and elects commission members.

Recommendations

The governance and nominations committee recommends that:

9. *The central committee **elect** by consensus the Nominations for Commissions and Joint Consultative Bodies revised (Doc. No. NOM 04 rev).*

10. *The central committee **elect** by consensus the proposed leadership for each body (Doc. No. NOM 04.1)*

Commission on Faith and Order

- *Moderator: Prof. Dr Stephanie Dietrich, Church of Norway approved by consensus*

Commission on World Mission and Evangelism

- *Moderator: Rev. Michael Blair, United Church of Canada approved by consensus*

Commission on Ecumenical Education and Formation

- *Moderator: Rev. Dr Meehyun Chung, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea approved by consensus*
- *Vice-Moderator: Dr Teddy Chalwe Sakupapa, Uniting Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa approved by consensus*

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

- *Moderator: Dr Mathews George Chunakara, Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church approved by consensus*

Young People in the Ecumenical Movement Commission

- Moderator: Ms Karen Erina Puimera, Gereja Protestan di Indonesia Bagian Barat (GPIB) approved by consensus

Commission on Health and Healing

- Moderator: Dr Stavros Kofinas, Ecumenical Patriarchate approved by consensus

Joint Working Group between the WCC and the Roman Catholic Church

- Co-Moderator: H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian, Armenian Apostolic Church (Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin) approved by consensus

Joint Consultative Group between the WCC and Pentecostal Churches

- Co-Moderator: Rev. Dr Jennifer Leath, African Methodist Episcopal Church approved by consensus

IX. Draft Bylaws of the Commission on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development revised (NOM 06 rev)

The committee reviewed the Draft Bylaws for the Commission of the Churches on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development. The commission was proposed by the assembly. Draft bylaws were developed with reference to other WCC commission bylaws, i.e. based on best practices. They were reviewed by the executive committee for presentation to the central committee, which has the authority to establish commissions.

The governance and nominations committee reviewed the bylaws article by article, making some suggestions to improve them.

The committee discussed the urgency of the climate crisis and its devastating impact on people and the living planet. The committee discussed the need for “ecological *metanoia*” as the way of transforming discipleship that Christ is calling us to follow. The governance and nominations committee appreciated the rich theological and legal perspectives shared during the discussion.

Recognizing the need to secure nominations from the member churches and refer the election to the executive committee, the committee urged the leadership of the central committee and the general secretary to continue providing “front-line” leadership for climate justice and sustainable development during the formation process.

Recommendations

The governance and nominations committee recommends that:

11. The central committee **adopt** the bylaws of the Commission of the Churches on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development (Doc. No. NOM 06 rev).

Approved by consensus

12. The central committee **ask** the general secretary to inform the member churches about the creation of a new commission and **request** nominations for the Commission of the Churches on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development.

Approved by consensus

13. The central committee **delegate** to the executive committee the election of the membership and leadership of the Commission of the Churches on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development at its meeting in November 2023.

Approved by consensus

X. Proposal for Change in WCC Rules VI and XVIII

The governance and nominations committee proposes two changes, consistent with Rule XX Amendments.²

A. Proposed change in Rule VI.5.m

If the central committee approves the bylaws of the Commission of the Churches on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development, it is necessary to amend Rule VI.5.m, to include reference to the new commission in the list of WCC commissions.

Recommendations

The governance and nominations committee recommends that:

- 14. The central committee **amend** Rule VI.5.m to include the newly created Commission of the Churches on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development among the other commissions of the WCC.

Approved by consensus

B. Proposed change in Rule XVIII.6 (NOM 07)

The governance and nominations committee reviewed the proposal to change Rule XVIII on “legal provisions”. The rule defines the WCC as a non-profit association under Swiss law. The committee was informed that a revision of Rule XVIII.6 by the previous central committee was challenged by the State of Geneva.

The committee noted that Rule XVIII.5 describes the resources available to finance the work of the Council. It clearly states that the WCC may use contributions, donations, grants, bequests and income generated from its properties and assets to support its work.

The committee noted that Rule XVIII.6 states the “Council shall not pursue commercial functions”, affirming its registration as a non-profit association. According to the State of Geneva, Rule XVIII.6 as amended by the previous central committee, does not correspond with the WCC registration as a non-profit association and should be amended accordingly.

Rule XVIII.6 may be amended by the central committee by consensus. No confirmation by the assembly is required. The proposed amendment was confirmed by an independent legal review.

Recommendation

The governance and nominations committee recommends that:

- 15. The central committee **amend** Rule XVIII.6 to correspond with the Council’s registration as a non-profit association according to the Swiss civil code:

Current version of Rule XVIII.6	Proposed amendment to Rule XVIII.6
The Council shall not pursue commercial functions but it shall have the right to act as an agency of interchurch aid, to publish literature in connection with its aims, and to use its properties and other assets for the purposes of generating income to support its work. It is not entitled to distribute any	The Council shall not pursue commercial functions but it shall have the right to act as an agency of interchurch aid, to publish literature in connection with its aims, and to use its properties and other assets for the purposes of generating income to support its work. It is not entitled to distribute any

² Amendments to these rules may be proposed at any session of the assembly or at any session of the central committee by any member and shall be decided according to the procedures in rule XIX.9; if the meeting shifts from consensus to voting, then the procedures in rule XIX.10 will apply. In this case, the proposed change must receive a two-thirds majority of those present to be adopted. No alteration in rules I, VI and XX shall come into effect until it has been confirmed by the assembly. Notice of a proposal to make any amendment shall be given in writing at least twenty-four hours before the session of the assembly or central committee at which it is to be considered.

surplus income by way of profit or bonus among its members.	surplus income by way of profit or bonus among its members.
---	---

Approved by consensus

XI. Joint Consultative Group between the WCC and Pentecostal Churches

The governance and nominations committee met again to reflect on the discussion regarding the formation of the Joint Consultative Group between the WCC and Pentecostal churches. The committee understand the importance of including Pentecostals that are members of the WCC. It agreed with the proposal of the general secretary, that before making that decision, there should be consultation with the Pentecostal World Fellowship.

Recommendations:

The governance and nominations committee recommends that:

- 1. The central committee **elect** by consensus the WCC members of the Joint Consultative Group between the WCC and Pentecostals (Doc. No. NOM 04 rev).*
- 2. The central committee **elect** by consensus the proposed leadership of the Joint Consultative Group, Rev. Dr Jennifer Leath, African Methodist Episcopal Church.*
- 3. The central committee **ask** the general secretary to consult with the Pentecostal World Fellowship on the formation of the Pentecostal members in the Joint Consultative Group; and to report progress to the executive committee.*
- 4. The central committee **ask** the executive committee to monitor progress, giving attention to the concerns expressed by the central committee and the possibility of enlarging the Joint Consultative Group to include additional members representing WCC Pentecostal member churches, i.e. from Latin America and Africa.*

Approved by consensus

Note: the WCC has 7 Pentecostal member churches in Argentina, Chile, Angola and South Africa.

Full report RECEIVED by consensus