

# Executive Council of Cevaa – video meeting - June 2020



## Final Communiqué

The Executive Council of Cevaa was held on 24, 25 and 27 June 2020 in videoconference sessions under the presidency of Mrs. Henriette Mbatchou, President of the Community. All the members of the Council took part from their respective countries of residence (Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic, France, Switzerland, Italy, Madagascar, Mauritius, Togo, Ivory Coast, Benin, French Polynesia). The meeting was technically managed from the General Secretariat in Montpellier.

Every morning before the works began, meditations gathered the participants around the texts: 1 Kings 8:54-66; Isaiah 60:16b; Romans 8:35; Psalm 35:1-5; and John 11:40.

After having verified execution of the Council decisions of October 2019 in Lomé, Togo, the Council adopted the minutes of the Bureau meetings of February, April and May 2020, which resulted in the automatic validation of several projects and dossiers. The Council then handled several subjects concerning the life of the Community and of the Secretariat.

### **Fighting the Pandemic: Message of support to the Churches**

Attentive to the worrying situation due to the pandemic of Covid-19 and responsive to the concerns of the Churches, the members of the Executive Council, who follow with sustained attention and constant interest the evolution of the news, decided to address a message to the Churches, to show their fraternal support and reassure them of their prayers.

### **Projects**

This year, the Council considered and adopted a document defining the eligibility provisions and criteria for Cevaa projects. The adoption of these provisions and criteria aims to facilitate not only the work of the Coordinations and of the Secretariat, but also the submission of projects by the Churches. Several projects of the Churches had already been validated by the Bureau in February. The Council approved some new projects with a cultural character. The projects approved this year focus on vocational training, capacity building for new leaders, women's empowerment, health and food security...

It should be noted that the current financial constraints required a thorough analysis of the projects; some could not be validated for lack of funding or for the sake of balance between Churches of the Community. As a reminder: the validated projects are financed by the Cevaa budget, with the precious help of the funds provided by the OPM Office, Otto-Per-Mille, organ of the Evangelical Waldensian Church in Italy.

### **Openings of long-term positions**

Two member Churches have requested the Cevaa for openings of long-term positions.

The Evangelical Church in Morocco, EEAM, wishes to perpetuate the pastoral position of Casablanca. The Council requested the EEAM to submit an application for opening position, so that it could be examined according to the usual process and validated by decision of the Council at its next meeting.

The Protestant Church of La Réunion, EPre, requests the opening of a part-time position for a pastor at the parish of Saint-Pierre de la Réunion. The Council decided to open the position and entrusted the Secretariat to implement the appeal for the position.

### **Activities and Youth, training and scholarships**

Youth and training remain priority areas for Cevaa action. As every year, the Executive Council had to study many projects and scholarship applications. This year, the Council awarded

eight (8) new scholarships to candidates recommended by the 2020 Activities Coordination, including five in theology, one in public health, one in general medicine and one in management and human resources. The Council also approved two new Youth projects, in addition to those already approved by the Bureau. These are mostly projects of exchange between young people of different Churches and training projects: leadership training, empowerment of young ladies...

### **Health-Solidarity Project – Tavola Valdese-OPM-Cevaa**

The Executive Council received the report of the Health Mission Leader, as well as the framework document for Phase 2 of the Health-Solidarity Project (PSS2). The Council was informed about the impact of the pandemic on the work of the health structures, which are involved in the fight against Covid-19, and in particular in raising awareness of compliance with barrier measures, around the slogan “Covid-19 will not go through me”.

### **Communication**

The Executive Council appreciated the Cevaa communication related to the current pandemic. The Council took some decisions aimed at anticipating the technical evolution of its means of communication (website in particular) and at improving further its future communication.

### **Finances**

The Executive Council adopted and approved the accounts for 2019 and decided to allocate the negative result to the accumulated surplus. The Council also received the report of the group working on Community finances. After thanking the group members for their reflections, the Council asked them to continue their work, according to the remarks and amendments presented during the Council.

### **Postponement of the General Assembly by one year**

Due to the global health situation to date, the Council unanimously decided to postpone the next General Assembly by one year. The General Assembly will therefore take place from 02 to 10 October 2021 in Bossey, Switzerland. Accordingly, the mandates of all members of the Executive Council shall be extended until that date. The moderators elected at the 2018 General Assembly are confirmed for the next Assembly in 2021. Ecology, the theme of the General Assembly, was confirmed, and explicit: “Inhabit creation differently” (Gen. 2,15).

### **Admission of new Churches into the Community**

The admission of new Churches into the Community is a prerogative of the General Assembly, which decides on the recommendation of the Executive Council. Following the postponement of the General Assembly, the Council decided to postpone the adoption of its recommendation about the admission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of The Gambia, ELCTG, until the next Executive Council meeting.

### **Farewell to Samuel D. Johnson and Roger Lasmothey**

A moment of farewell to Samuel D. Johnson, Executive Secretary in charge of the Activities Pole, after 12 years of service, and to Roger Lasmothey, Youth Mission Leader, after 6 years of service, had been planned. Not having been able to do so in person, the members of the Council took advantage of the remote session to convey to the departing ones their messages of congratulations for the accomplished work and blessings for the future.

### **Acknowledgements**

The President closed the session by thanking the Council members for their availability, and the Secretariat team for the organization, which allowed an effective Council session. She apologized for possible inconveniences caused by a videoconference meeting.