



## Final message from the 2021 Cevaa General Assembly

Dear leaders of Cevaa Member-Churches, dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We, the delegates of the Cevaa Member-Churches, gathered in General Assembly by video meeting from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, address you our fraternal greetings in Christ. We met online around the exhortation of Jesus, according to the Gospel of Luke: "Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning" (Luke 12:35).

Yes, finally the General Assembly could take place! After its one-year postponement in 2020, it took place, but unfortunately remotely, and not in Switzerland as planned. This prevented us from having informal contacts, between us, in order to get to know each other better and to discuss our respective challenges. But, thanks to the technique, it is through the small squares of the screen that we saw each other. The Cevaa Secretariat has done a lot of work in this area, and we thank them. We delegates have trained to vote online, and it has been a new experience for many of us. But this was successful and saved time. In the end, this General Assembly could take place in good technical conditions, and the digital gap in the world seems to be fading. Thank you all for making an extra effort! However, we hope that next time it will be a face-to-face meeting. Both moderators managed to conduct delegates through works, discussions, and decisions. The delegates of the Swiss Churches opened the Assembly with a cult celebrated in front of the screen. Through their interventions, some leaders of the Swiss Churches brought greetings, and fraternal and spiritual messages. So, a short bridge was created with the Churches of this country that wanted to welcome us!

The delegates to this General Assembly listened to the report of activities by the Secretariat, and of the life of the Community over the past three years. They also adopted the accounts for past financial years, the budget for 2022 and the budgetary guidelines for the coming years. They took stock of the numerous meetings - in face-to-face or remotely - well conducted, and of the projects of exchange of persons, or solidarity, especially in the field of health. A "communication kit" was developed and presented; it will be sent to the delegates to strengthen the knowledge and the visibility of Cevaa in the Churches. Do not hesitate to ask your delegates for presentations of the Cevaa in your Church. Through its projects and exchanges, the Cevaa Community brings the Universal Church to life, and makes us well aware of all that connects us in the faith, and of all that challenges us in such an intercultural encounter.

This General Assembly experienced elections, the renewal of its bodies. First, we elected a new General Secretary in the person of Reverend Claudia Schulz of the UEPAL, who will take up her duties on 1<sup>st</sup> of September, 2022. Many thanks to the current General Secretary, Reverend Célestin Kiki, who continues to perform his duties with determination and dedication. We wish them a successful handover period.

The General Assembly then elected the new President of the Community in the person of the Reverend Michel Lobo of the EMU-CI. He will chair the new Executive Council, also elected by this Assembly, and inspire the Community with his legendary calm and deep prayer.

The Assembly warmly thanked the outgoing President, Mrs. Henriette Mbatchou, for her frank collaboration, and the spirituality with which she led the Community. Many thanks also go to the outgoing Council, which among others led Cevaa through the pandemic.

The General Assembly discussed the theme “Cevaa – Let’s keep the flame!” which interests to the whole Community. The Churches and parishes must seize this theme until the next General Assembly, in order to deepen their engagement in the Cevaa. Our thanks to the Executive Secretary of the Activities and Youth Pole for the working document. Workshops, in the form of online home groups, were moments of prayer and meditation around this theme; they allowed some more personal exchanges between the delegates. Our gratitude to their facilitators or moderators.

This year, which is the Jubilee or 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cevaa, opens up ways for us to innovate and create other forms of relations between the Member-Churches. On this occasion, children impressed the Assembly with magnificent drawings, sent in the contest launched for this purpose on the theme: «Draw me the Cevaa». New songs, specially composed on the occasion of the Jubilee, found a place in the Cevaa Community. A collection of prayers and meditations from the various Churches of the Community will be published by the end of the year; this collection book will include a presentation of Cevaa. Unfortunately, because of the sanitary situation, the remote meeting did not allow to hold a celebration party at the height of an event such as the Jubilee.

The closing worship service crowned and put an end to this General Assembly meeting. It was prepared by the outgoing Council, and the new President brought his message.

We encourage you, dear brothers and sisters, to pray for the following topics:

- May the Cevaa Member-Churches keep the flame for this commitment.
- May we urge each other to follow as well as possible health guidelines to fight this pandemic, to protect us and the others.
- May we pray for the new President of the Community and his Council.
- May the Evangelical Church of Cameroon move towards reconciliation under the patronage of Reverend Emmanuel Njike.

The Cevaa Community salutes you most fraternally and hopes to continue to forge links among all its Member-Churches, in order to strengthen ever more the witness of the life and work of Jesus Christ.  
**Yes, let’s keep the flame!**

The delegates in the 2021 General Assembly