

11th PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES GENERAL ASSEMBLY

26th Oct- 1st Nov 2018

Auckland, New Zealand

**Wansolwara: One Ocean;
One Salt; One Voice**

Wansolwara
(One Soul Warrior)
This is who we are
Identity brings vitality
Crosses Land & Sea
Near & far

Recall the songs
Our Grandmothers shared
Remember that we cared
Extractive industries tempt us
But Jesus walks, talks, forgives.

Sickness sways, hollowed out
"I feel it in my belly"
Long for the time to love again
To feel the spirit moving

You are our prophets
You must lead the way
For a better tomorrow
We must act today

By Jackie Ete



ECUMENICAL ANIMATORS PROGRAMME ACTIVITY REPORT

2013- 2017

A. INTRODUCTION

The theme 'Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God' (Micah 6:8) was chosen by the Pacific Conference of Churches in 2013 at the 10th General Assembly in Honiara, Solomon Islands as the guide to its programme work in the last five years. The 2014 -2017 Strategic Plan translated both the theme and the resolutions of the 2013 General Assembly into three thematic focus areas and overall objectives of the PCC secretariat work.

The Strategic Plan identified the Vision, Mission and Programme Goals outlining the programmes' framework.

B. VISION

Rethinking and renewal of the Household of God in the Pacific- Pacific- 'Oikos'- that is defined by unity, solidarity, justice and peace and grounded in the prophetic witness and voice of the Church.

C. MISSION

Lead and coordinate a spirit of ecumenism in the Pacific by facilitating cooperation amongst member churches to implement programming, education and research that bears prophetic witness on issues of morality, justice and peace.

D. PROGRAMME GOALS

1. Renewed ecumenical cooperation and solidarity amongst the Member Churches, National Council of Churches and Regional Ecumenical Organizations at all levels in areas of identity, solidarity, social justice action, leadership and theological education.
2. Lead and actively contribute to re-thinking the stewardship role of the churches on self-determination, rethinking development and gender relations within the mission and life of the church and to secular policy making bodies.
3. Strengthen the prophetic voice of the church on self- determination, rethinking development and gender relations within the mission and life of the church and to secular policy making bodies.

In the 2012 Executive Meeting of the Pacific Conference of Churches, a resolution was passed outlining the restructuring of PCC's programme framework based on these **three core pillars**:

(1) Ecumenism; (2) Stewardship; and (3) Self- Determination. In addition, the resolution emphasized the importance of Women and Youth Empowerment as integral components of all three pillars.

E. 10th GA PROGRAMME RESOLUTIONS

1.1. 46 resolutions from the 10th General Assembly in Honiara, Solomon Islands were particularly focused on programmes. These resolutions were grouped into five (5) key focus programmes: ecumenism, stewardship, self-determination, women and youth empowerment.

1.2 In the next item on the report looks at how the resolutions were addressed through the 5 programs from 2013- 2017, while PART G identify some of the challenges faced during 5 years term.

F. PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

This section reports on the significant regional activities from 2013- 2017 that were organized and facilitated by the PCC secretariat. Consultations and training at the national level; advocacy and research work, and other notable activities are noted in the annual reports of 2013- 2017.

These are annexed as **appendices F1 – F5**.

F1: ECUMENISM IN THE PACIFIC

1.1 June 2014- Nuku'alofa, Tonga : Social Justice Workshop in the Tonga Archdeaconry

After series of educational and training workshops at the Archdeaconry level in 2011 and 2012, the Diocese of Polynesia moves into the second phase- to implement the training at the parish, mission centers and parochial levels.

1.2 June 2014 - Rethinking the Household of God in the Solomon Islands. In partnership with the Anglican Church of Melanesia. The following three proposals are derived from the discussions of the above issues:

Work among the churches with regards to the general elections that will be held later in the year (2014). The process of self-determination, a rethinking of the Solomon Islands' development since its political independence 36 years ago. This project is a long term one and will require the cooperation of political and traditional leaders as well as those from civil society organisations. In view of the developmental problems and the perceived loss of civic and spiritual values that are plaguing the country, the consultation participants believed it is necessary to have this process started. Training trainers on governance and leadership.

1.3 November 2014- Fiji Council of Churches Consultation: Ecumenical Renewal and the Call to be Different. In partnership with Fiji Council of Churches (FCC) and Ecumenical Centre for Research Education and Advocacy (ECREA). This was the first time the member churches of PCC and the Pentecostal churches in Fiji to come together to discuss the realities of Fiji, and the call for ecumenical renewal and joint actions together. Using the formation series as the basis for reflections, there was a shared realization that the churches needed to work together on pertinent issues regarding development, governance and leadership, social and economic justice, and the treatment of the environment. It was a successful consultation with an outcomes document, titled, “Nadave Covenant” to be endorsed and signed by the Fiji church leaders (mainline and Pentecostals).

1.4 2013- 2014: Accompaniment of the PCC secretariat with the revival of the Fiji Council of Churches and similarly with the Methodist Church in Fiji in the development of the MCIFs' connexional plan – **Na Lako Yani Vou / The New Exodus.**

1.5 October 2016: Revival of the Papua New Guinea Council of Churches was a milestone for the PNG member churches. The

appointment of Rev. Roger Joseph a few months prior to the October 2016 consultation in Goroka, to be the new General Secretary of the PNGCC, was timely. Since then, the PNGCC has been actively involved in addressing environmental and social justice issues in PNG as well as envisioning the possibility of a provincial council of churches structure. The Goroka 2016 consultation was an opportunity



where Rev. Roger’s position as General Secretary was reaffirmed and the vision of the PNG church leaders to revive the PNGCC under the PNG concept of “gutpela sindaun”. The PCC was able to assist the PNG churches in this regard and hope that the PCC secretariat will continue to work together with the PNGCC.

1.6 March 2013 – July 2017: The research project “Strengthening Ecumenical Cooperation in Oceania”, in collaboration with the Pacific Theological College, was conducted. In July 2017 the publication “Navigating Troubled Waters: The Ecumenical Movement in the Pacific Islands since the 1980s” was launched at the Pacific Theological College by the then President of the Methodist Church in Fiji, Rev. Dr. Tevita Banivanua. The

recommendations on each country chapter contained in the book will be one of the resources in “writing a new story for our ecumenical movement in the Pacific”, a proposal from the PCLM working committee that will be presented later in the week during this assembly.

1.7 August 2015 – October 2016: Facilitated the ecumenical renewal process with the member churches in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Pohnpei, Papua New Guinea, Maohi Nui and Kiribati. The report and the key findings from these in-country consultations will also be a resource for the “writing a new story for our ecumenical movement in the Pacific” as noted above. The findings are as follows:

1. Development of simple teaching materials on ecumenism, relational hermeneutics, and the formation series for the churches and use in the church schools. Most of the churches that participated in the in-country consultations made specific requests for teach-in materials, especially for their Sunday schools teaching and learning, and the theological training of their pastors.
2. Accompaniment of internal church renewal processes with planning, implementation and facilitation. This recommendation was specifically at the request of the Churches in Kiribati and Pohnpei, and to some extent, Vanuatu.
3. Provision of facilitation and resources for in-country ecumenical cooperation activities and events. This particularly refers to materials on ecumenism, its history and theology, in the Pacific as most church members don't know about the regional ecumenical movement, how it started, its vision and mandates, and how their churches became members of the regional ecumenical movement.
4. A regional process on the renewal of theological education to be facilitated by the three regional ecumenical organizations, namely, PCC, PTC and SPATS. The churches in Kiribati, Vanuatu, Cook Islands and Pohnpei particularly proposed this recommendation.
5. Accompaniment and the provision of resources for the churches renewal of their theological education curriculum content. This was specifically the request of the Kiribati and Vanuatu churches for expertise and finances to conduct a review of their theological colleges' current curriculum.
6. A regional training programme on stewardship that looks into family, morality, governance, social justice and the environment, as part of a regional renewal programme of learning and training. This was at the request by all the churches. In addition and relation to this recommendation, was the request for training and teach-in materials on stewardship.

- 1.8 January 2017: The Launch of the Institute for Mission and Research (IMR).** The Institute is a merger of the God's Pacific People (GPP) Programme which PCC owned but managed by PTC and the Institute for Research and Social Analysis (IRSA) which was established by the PTC Council. The Principal of PTC and the General Secretary of PCC, launched of the Institute. The merger was a significant event, at least at the programmatic level. It speaks of (a) the possibilities in join programme work between PCC and PTC, and the potential and capacity it has to accommodate the PCLM vision on programme, and (b) because of the merger, the ecumenical movement has the enormous opportunity to develop the Institute in the provision of quality mission training and research. A report of the work of the Institute and a recommendation for general assembly financial support will be tabled before the assembly delegates.



F2. STEWARDSHIP

- 2.1 2012:** PCC approached by the government to provide research and accompaniment to the Vunidogoloa community, first community to be relocated in Fiji. Allowed PCC the space to dwell further into the discussion of Climate Induced displacement or Forced Migration as some call it and provide the space to engage with different groups in the community- men, women, youth and children. Through the Methodist Church in Fiji this accompaniment process saw the need for the church to monitor and see that affected communities are central in the discussion of relocation and drives the planning, designing and framing of the transition. The outcome of this partnership allowed the PCC to be involved in the formulation of the National Relocation Guideline and a new project 'Breaking Waves Project'.
- 2.2 2015- 2018: Accompaniment work with member churches in the Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Fiji through the Breaking Waves Project.** These are countries that are either undergoing resettlement initiatives like Fiji or will do so in the near future. This was a proactive response to the global warming/sea level rise debates, and to the wishes of church communities in low lying island atolls that had to seriously consider their security and their future. Climate resettlement is still a potentially sensitive issue at both regional and

international policy discussions. Consequently, PCC's proactive response, involving in-depth research in communities that were already being forced to move due to rising sea levels, put the PCC in a unique position in terms of being among the first to conduct in-depth work in the area of climate-induced resettlement in the region. The research and accompaniment (community awareness and advocacy initiatives) work so far has been undertaken through the church networks already established in the affected areas.

2.3 September 2015: National Climate Change Summit in Fiji: For PCC, the opportunity to present a workshop on faith and climate change – the first time that such a topic has been received at the Summit, and also contributed to a relocation workshop, when the role of the church was highlighted in the relocation process

2.4 September 2015: Parliamentarian Workshop in the Solomon Islands: Seven parliamentarians were part of a 3 days' workshop on the biblical narrative's view on stewardship and its centrality in and linkages to political governance and leadership, the care of the environment and the struggle for political independence. A parliamentarian statement was an outcome that was well received by Director of Climate Change department.

2.5 December 2015: Dr Julia Edwards from Methodist Church of Britain, who was working as research officer for PCC was part of the Fiji Govt. delegation to the COP 21 in Paris, France. The outcome of this UNFCCC event saw the influence of the Pacific Leaders in the negotiation of key items on the Paris Agreement. The Pacific churches were key players in the discussion of Loss and Damage and Climate Induced Displacement based on the work the churches are involved in on this area. The General Secretary, Rev Francois was key also in this conference representing the churches from the Pacific standing in solidarity with the faith communities from around the world.

2.6 March 2016: Relocation Workshop, Solomon Islands: In partnership with ACOM, this is the first time through this collaboration participants from affected communities were invited to share their experiences with the representatives from the Govt., the Church, youth, women and other stakeholders working in the area of Climate Change. (Breaking Waves Project)

2.7 March 2016: Joint workshop on Ecumenical Renewal and Stewardship: A roundtable meeting with the President and the Ministers of the Tahiti Government with realization on the need to have the Government and the church work hand in hand to raise awareness on Climate Change and also provide communities with technical advice, spiritual guidance through eco-theology and frameworks that could best allow the people to mitigate, adapt or relocate if need be, with the increasing adverse impacts of Climate Change. How the discussion of the Nuclear Free Pacific is can also fuel the Climate Change talks in the Tahiti context.

2.8 September 2016: Climate Change, DRR and EPRP Workshop: A regional consultation bringing together Climate Change Desk Officers in-country of Member Churches and National Council of Churches to pave the discussion of the work at church platform, engagement with the governments at national level, regional and international forums. The TOKATOKA Declaration was the outcome of the workshop as statement of church leaders and climate desk officers from the churches to the COP 22.

2.9 August 2016: CIDRA and Disaster Chaplaincy Workshop: EKT, Tuvalu: Continuation of CIDRA

work in partnership with Uniting Church under the Navigating the Tides Project engaging 60 participants from the 8 islands in Tuvalu – church leaders, women group leaders and youth leaders on a week long discussion of Eco-theology, practical action through the CIDRA method and the formation of Disaster Chaplaincy Network who would be involved in pastoral care, counselling, awareness and advocacy on Climate Change and Disaster Management.



F3. SELF- DETERMINATION

4. 2012- 2016: The initiative to undertake a journey into rethinking the Pacific, in which this project is a part of that journey, came out of the concept note titled “Rethinking Oceania” to Church and Political leaders by the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) secretariat and the Pacific Network on Globalisation (PANG) in 2010. The PCC secretariat presented the “Rethinking Oceania” concept note³ to the churches, starting with the churches in Vanuatu in 2011.

⇒ It spurred the churches and civil society organisations in Vanuatu to organise a protest march against the ascending of Vanuatu to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

⇒ It was then presented to the church in Maohi Nui (Tahiti) in 2012. The result was the unanimous endorsement by the church to support the re-inscription of Maohi Nui onto the UN list for decolonisation. In May 2014, the UN General Assembly voted in favour of Maohi Nui’s re-inscription onto the list).

5. **October 2014- “Madang Wansolwara Dance Gathering”**: PCC was requested through Bread for the World regional partners to organize a conference on regional identity and rethinking in 2014 with the issue of West Papua to be the focus. Prior to that, a workshop to plan the conference was held in Fiji. Among the outcomes of the planning meeting were the proposed name for the conference, affirmation of the rethinking and renewal theme, and an outcomes statement which provided the content and rationale for the conference that¹ was held in Madang in Papua New Guinea under the title “Madang Wansolwara Dance Gathering”. It was a highly successful conference from which various initiatives started including the launch of **The Wansolwara Movement**.



6. **December 2014: Pacific Conference of Churches** facilitated talks in Port Vila by the leaders of the Federal Republic of West Papua, the West Papua National Parliament and West Papua National Coalition for Liberation to form the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULPM) where each group will maintain independent status within West Papua but its members will work together with a common goal of self-determination. The agreement was made possible through the efforts of the Vanuatu Government, its chiefs, churches and a group of Kanaky (New Caledonian) leaders.
7. **September 2016: REBIRTH-** A mother's call to renewal production staged in Fiji. Early in 2016 a team from PCC secretariat and young people from USP travelled to the Solomon Islands to do awareness and advocacy on the issue of West Papua and Climate Justice through a stage show. After the Solomon Islands, the same team conducted a five days stage production in Suva, Fiji that saw the public coming out to witness singing, drama, poetry, dance choreographed into a play that specifically focused on the West Papua struggle to Self Determination and Climate Justice.
8. **April 2017:** Regional partners for Bread for the World organized a Deep Sea Mining Workshop in Suva, Fiji with participants from Govt., regional institutions working on the issue of Deep Sea Mining, CSOs, church leaders and community representatives as build up the World Oceans Conference later in June in New York. An outcome statement released by only

¹ Figure 1: Drawing by an artist articulating the struggles for Self Determination by the West Papua people.

the church leaders at this workshop was a solidarity move taken by the faith communities to support churches in PNG leading the campaign 'NO TO DEEP SEA MINING'.

9. **September 2017:** Accompaniment of KPCNC towards the 2018 referendum. The secretariat visited the churches in New Caledonia and meet with church leaders to highlight some of the ways the secretariat with member churches could accompany the people of New Caledonia as they head into the referendum in November 2018.

F4. Women's Programme

4.1 The women's programme officer was recruited in 2014 from the Solomon Islands and had a three years contract that ended in September 2017. During her time at the Secretariat, she continued some of the on-going programs and introduced spaces to accommodate new findings raised during workshops

4.2 The Pacific Day of Prayer continued to be coordinated by the Women's Programme officer every year. The coordination includes deciding the country of focus each year, the relevant information needed for all participating churches to know about, the struggles and the hope despite the struggles. Programs and liturgies are prepared and shared for churches to follow through in one accord and solidarity with the country in focus.

4.3 2015 - 2017: Through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Funding (DFAT), Australia, the Women's Prgramme received funding in collaboration with the Pacific Theological College and SPATS. The programme particularly focused on Gender Based Violence among member churches however the funding only allowed activities done at National level thus most of the trainings and workshops were conducted in Fiji.

4.4: Male Advocacy Training: As the accompanying program to the very strategic EAW training, the Male Advocacy training identifies influential church leaders who go through sessions to understand the lived through experiences of women documented by' organizations that looks after women's' issues locally. The outcome of the Male Advocacy program was build a pool of champions; the church leaders and young men from the Member churches who would continue the advocacy work and champion the cause at the different levels of their involvement in the church or their communities.²



² Photo By: Rev James Bhagwan

4.5 Joint Media and Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop, Fiji and the Solomon Islands: With the national program co-currently running on GBV and Male Advocacy, there was realization the type of reporting by media sources and other agencies that could be contributing factors to increasing gender based violence. There is often an increase in gender based violence during the disaster period. The National training program began to include these request in conducting the full EAW consultation

F5. Youth Programme

5.1 2013 World Council of Churches General Assembly: A group of 21 young people from PCC member-churches, led by the Youth Animator, were invited to the WCC General Assembly in Busan, Korea in 2013. The staged their messages of advocacy of key issues from the Pacific through creative art and managed to reach a lot of participants represented at the WCC General Assembly. The representation of young people from member churches indicated the great network of young people within the church.

5.2 Young Ecumenist of the Pacific (YEP): The initiative continues to grow in other countries where the YEP has yet to be established. Communications through this group and awareness of activities or events conducted by PCC secretariat is often shared through this network and allows for engagement and dialogue from members of the group. This continues to be a vital platform to engage young people in for discussion especially in seeing they will carry on this journey of ecumenism at present and in the future.

5.3 April 2016- Cook Islands Christian Church's Youth Convention: Reconnecting and the direct communications between PCC with CICC Youth Desk after a lapse of 3 years. Further discussion with CICC Youth Director on how PCC can assist in the work with young adults in the church, around youth engagement and empowerment – ready for mission.

5.4 October 2016: PCC's Youth and Young Ecumenist of the Pacific (YEP) Ecumenical visitation to Vanuatu: The visitation was continuing the ecumenical formations for PCC Youth Desk and members of YEP Fiji Chapter to counterparts in Vanuatu. This visitation was to affirm the participation of pacific youth at all levels regarding effective development (from national to regional and also at the Global level) and continue the engagement working with other youth organization representing different sectors, regions, sub-regions of the world.



YEP Team's ecumenical visitation to Vanuatu

G. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT 2013- 2017

G1 CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

- 1.1 Communication with member churches and the national council of churches. The Secretariat has often been faced with the difficulty of having a stable contact to reach its members. At times it could be the network not working well, contacts are not updated and may have changed and other times new people take up the office and thus the changes altogether
- 1.2 When conducting in-country activities there is often a setback in terms of the implementation of the activity is sometimes due to co-financing. The secretariat's core financing only covers 45% of the total cost of the whole project thus there is a need to agree with members in sharing cost for activities to be implemented accordingly. Find below the table that shows the breakdown of expenses of each program from 2013-2017.

Program Expenses	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Ecumenism Program Activity Cost	\$66,774	\$48,810	\$147,207	\$136,899	\$167,354
Stewardship Program Activity Cost	\$14,654	\$44,981	\$40,862	\$178,084	\$53,780
Self Determination Program Activity Cost	\$85,921	\$232,973	\$9,240	\$72,817	\$13,498
Women and Youth Activity Cost	\$214,797	\$2,283	\$19,358	\$63,398	\$90,900
Governance Program Activity Cost	\$160,595	\$86,247	\$75,179	\$39,129	\$71,685

- 1.3 **Programme Staffing:** There was a high turn-over of staff between 2015 and 2016. Early 2015, the Stewardship Programme Animator resigned to join the Fiji Government. At the end of the same year the Self Determination Programme Animator submitted his resignation for personal reasons. In the mid of 2016, the Ecumenism Programme Animator resigned followed by our research officer from the London Mission Society. A new enabler for the Self Determination and Ecumenism Programme was recruited and a new research officer to carry on the work but they both resigned on January 2018 to take up positions in other organizations.

- 1.4 **Mission Workers and Interns:** This program continues with church partners in Germany, USA and UK who wishes to have their mission workers engage in project here in the Pacific. These mission workers often assist with the organising of events by the Secretariat and often times they become very useful in research work and planning and/or designing of activities and collating resource materials. However, when their Terms of Reference are not clear of the partner church requirement of them, then there is a possibility that they may not be following or learning anything at all. The partner churches involved in such programs must be attentive of this.
- 1.5 **Important church events organized by member churches (e.g. the annual conference or synod)** that the secretariat is often unaware of such events to build the relationship with member churches and congregation and also to relate the work PCC does and how the secretariat can support work of churches at national and community level.



An artist's drawing of self-determination on West Papua.



West Papua students on an exchange program at PTC

H. RECOMMENDATION

1. **ECUMENISM:** The Member Churches of the Pacific Conference of Churches work towards the establishment of permanent Ecumenism desks to be the point of contact or liaison officers with the National Council of Church and the Pacific Conference of Churches.

Rationale: The Ecumenism formation series in the last project years with continued interest from a lot of member churches and the adoption of the learnings in the church ecumenical development continue to gain interest. An area that needs specific attention is mission, specifically mission personnel of the churches. They make up the human resources for the church, and if they are not continually refreshed with skills, ideas, and contextual analysis, it may be for the detrimental for the churches. Part of the renewal exercise in moving forward with this thematic area is to focus on the mission personnel of the churches and supporting

skills training workshops, in-country (and/or regional) mission conferences on mission story sharing, models in doing mission work and contextual analysis.

2. STEWARDSHIP: Reaffirm the accompaniment work of the Pacific Conference of Churches with the Member Churches to the communities displaced because of Climate Change.

3. SELF- DETERMINATION: The accompaniment of West Papua, Maohi Nui and Kanaky, specifically on regional advocacy among churches and governments, pastoral visits to the churches in the three countries and a presentation Forum Island Leaders meetings.

I. CONCLUSION

The work implemented in the last 5 years can be reflected well in how the Member Churches and National Council of Churches have taken ownership of issues related to the core areas on Ecumenism, Self Determination, Stewardship, Youth and Women. The accompaniment work with Member Churches has been a journey of fellowship with communities to learn of the challenges and struggles but in the midst of this find hope.

We sincerely would like to acknowledge the tremendous support of the PCC management and the Executive Committee. The partners for their generous support in terms funding and technical support for the implementation of programs since the 10th PCC General Assembly. To the delegates of the 11th General Assembly, we pray for God's blessings of wisdom and clarity of thought and may His Spirit guide you in your deliberations and decision making in the coming days.

Vinaka vakalevu and God bless.

Programmes Team