

# Towards 2010

## Notes and Minutes from Stakeholders Planning Meeting St. Colm's International House, Edinburgh 3-5 July 2006

### Background

The first International Towards 2010 planning meeting was held at St. Colm's International House in Edinburgh took place 2-5 June 2005. At that meeting select representatives from theological institutions around the world worked on defining a number of study themes – resulting in the document *Mission in Humility and Hope*. Participants at that meeting formed the *Towards 2010 Interim Council*. And a working group – the *Subcommittee of the Interim Council* was formed in order to carry the process forward.

Over the last year the subcommittee has met three times in order to find viable ways to move ahead. The subcommittee identified a need to call together committed and potential stakeholders in the 2010 centenary in order to discern views on and enthusiasm for a centenary celebration and in order to hear whether the already proposed study processes towards 2010 are desirable and viable and interconnect with plans within each constituency. The following are the notes and minutes from this meeting of stakeholder, which took place 3-5 July 2006.

The participating stakeholders listed below were invited based on the following:

- a) an already identified interest in 2010, demonstrated in emerging plans for a 2010 event
- b) representatives of large Christian world communities with an interest in the centenary, including those excluded from Edinburgh 1910.

The Subcommittee is much aware that a number of other groups could and probably should have been invited as they may have an equal interest in 2010. The *Towards 2010* process is in principle open to all Christian groups wanting to take part. Therefore it should not be concluded that *any* group or person has been deliberately excluded from the meeting. At the same time the subcommittee admits that it has not had the resources or contacts that would make proper consultation with all major churches and organizations worldwide possible. Therefore, any person, institution, church, organization or other grouping who feels bypassed and who is interested in taking part in 2010 preparations and celebrations is invited to join the process at any time and level through contacting the 2010 coordinators.

The stakeholders meeting was held in St. Colm's International House, Edinburgh - a Christian guest house which was also used for Edinburgh 1910 planning meetings. Each morning and evening participants met for worship led by Rev. Andrew Anderson, and the meeting concluded with a communion service on Wednesday afternoon.

### List of Participants

#### *Stakeholder Representatives*

1. Doug Birdsall            Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization
2. Jacques Matthey        WCC
3. Jet Den Hollander        WARC
4. Kjell Nordstokke        Lutheran World Federation
5. Rose Dowsett            World Evangelical Alliance, and World Evangelical Alliance Mission Commission
6. Des Van Der Walter      Council for World Mission

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 7. Nico Botha        | South African Association for Mission Studies (SAMS)  |
| 8. Angus Morrison    | Church of Scotland Mission Forum  |
| 9. Jonathan J Bonk   | International Association for Mission Studies, American Association of Missiology<br>(Tuesday only) |
| 10. John Dybdahl     | Seventh Day Adventist   |
| 11. Philomena Mwaura | International Association for Mission Studies   |
| 12. Janice Price     | Anglican Communion and <i>Global Mission Network</i> of British Churches (Wednesday only)           |
| 13. Maria Aguedo     | WCC – Pontifical Council of the Roman Catholic Ecumenical Representative                            |
| 14. Keith Warrington | Pentecostal   |

*Staff/ Volunteers*

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 15. T. Jack Thompson | University of Edinburgh (Wednesday afternoon only) |
| 16. Fergus MacDonald | Bible Society                                      |
| 17. Birger Nygaard   | Areopagos  |
| 18. Knud Jorgensen   | Areopagos  |
| 19. Ken Ross         | Church of Scotland: World Mission Council          |
| 20. John Wylie       | Administrator                                      |
| 21. Andrew Anderson  | Worship Coordinator                                |

*Apologies:*

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 22. Archbishop Ioann         | Russian Orthodox Church  |
| 23. Ricardo Barbosa de Sousa | Latin American Theological Fraternity (due to late invitation and unavailability of flights) |

All of Tuesday was spent for listening to each stakeholder plans for events towards and in 2010.

<b>Wednesday Minutes</b>
--------------------------

**Chair: Kenneth Ross**

**Day Agenda**

- 1) Outcomes revisited – Approval of Towards 2010 Document
- 2) 2010 Event
- 3) Processes Towards 2010 – Study Themes
- 4) Structure and governance
- 5) Office and staff
- 6) Finance
- 7) Publication, dissemination, communication

*An introduction to the 7 items was presented by Knud Jørgensen*

*The following minutes concentrate on decisions. Discussions on each issue are reflected in the mind maps 1-7, which are attached as Annex C.*

**1. Outcomes revisited – Approval of Towards 2010 Document**

*Documents:* Towards 2010 – Mission for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Document  
The 2010 Mission Themes

*Issues:* The meeting is to approve the documents

*Discussion:* Cf. mind map 1 – Affirmation of Outcomes

- Comments on intended outcomes – discussed and changes implemented
- Suggestion on including action-reflection method: *Pilot projects will be organized/encouraged in select countries, which will engage Christians in ecumenical mission action-*

*reflection processes, focused on one of the nine study themes.*

- Remember a focus on those not formally trained
- Comment on theme 1: The *holistic* aspect is very important in mission
- Comment on theme 5: Power should not be regarded as altogether negative, but the positive stewardship aspect of power should be included.

*Resolution:* Based on discussions, the following adjustments were implemented:

*Outcome 2 – first line:*

The biblical call to mission will be affirmed. . .

*Outcome 3 – first line:*

A key conversation on mission will be initiated between, e.g.

*Outcome 5 changed to:*

Networks will be mobilized and alliances formed so as to develop greater strategic collaboration and greater synergy in fulfilling the mission mandate.

*Outcome 6 changed to:*

Based on a critical assessment of the status of the world, a new vision in terms of God's purposes for creation in Christ and a renewed spirituality and mission ethos will be developed in the life of the churches worldwide.

A suggestion on action-reflection based method will be included in the text, either as a transversal or in the introduction to outcomes.

“Youth and mission“ and “Ecological perspectives” to be included as transversal themes

The General Committee adopted the two papers as they now stand. However, it is the nature of the documents that there are open to further improvement as the study groups embark on the processes.

The revised document is enclosed as Annex C to these minutes.

## **2. The 2010 Event**

*Documents:* Oral introduction on common 2010 celebration

*Issues:* Should the common event be in Edinburgh?

*Discussion:* Cf. mind map 2 – Edinburgh Event

- Questions were raised whether Edinburgh should be the place for the common 2010 event

*Resolution:* In light of the fact that several other events will take place in the Global South in 2010, it is felt that Edinburgh is the proper place for the shared centenary celebration.

The General Committee finds that the event needs to be rooted in an invitation from the British Churches – and looks forward to receive such an invitation. A local committee should be in charge of the event together with the General Committee, which will supply contents based on study processes and the working out of a “2010 Message”

The general direction of a conference in Edinburgh needs to mature over the coming couple of years.

### **3. Processes Towards 2010 – Study Themes**

*Documents:* The 2010 Mission Themes  
+ Oral presentation

*Issues:* The study processes are underway, yet there is need to see more groups get involved at various levels and in various ways.

*Discussion:* • Cf. mind map 3 Study processes

*Resolution:* The General Committee affirms the general direction of the study process plans.

As the staff will, over the coming months, further develop the strategy for study processes, it is requested to respond to issues raised. The General Committee will then revisit the process at its next meeting.

### **4. Structure and Governance**

*Documents:* Oral presentation to structure given

*Issues:* How is the Towards 2010 to be structured and governed?

*Discussion:* Cf. mind map 4 Governance

- It is a great concern of all participants that the process will duly reflect the present composition of World Christianity.

*Resolution:* It was resolved that Towards 2010 will be structured and governed as follows:

1. A *General Committee* of up to approximately 20 members, representing a) Major groups planning events in 2010, b) global mission organizations c) churches that were not duly represented in 1910.  
The General Committee is the highest governing body and is responsible for major policy decisions and for working out the “Message of 2010”. The utmost is to be done in order to have member organizations appoint persons in such a way that a fair geographical, gender and age balance is achieved. The General Committee is to meet in 2007, 2009 and at regular telephone conference calls.
2. From members of the General Committee an *Executive Committee* of 4-5 persons is formed with representation from at least four continents. This committee is responsible for day to day policy decisions and for overseeing staff.  
The Executive Committee will meet regularly at telephone conference calls and face to face as needed.
3. Staff - will be appointed and seconded as necessary. Staff members do not have policy making power, but work under the policy directions of the General Committee and the Executive Committee.
4. Board of Reference – an advisory group that can be expanded as needed, consisting of 2010 stakeholders (individuals or representatives of organizations/churches, study process representatives, etc.). The Board of Reference will not meet, but can be consulted as needed and will receive

regular update reports.

The outgoing subcommittee of the Interim Council is requested to

- a) Work out Terms of Reference for the General Committee and the Executive Committee
- b) Approach each of the groups represented at the meeting, requesting formal appointment of a representative to the committee
- c) Nominate candidates for the Executive Committee to be elected by the General Committee.

## **5. Office and staff**

*Documents:* Oral Presentation

*Issues:* How to organize daily execution of 2010 functions?

*Discussion:* Cf. mind map 5 – Office

*Resolution:*

1. A 2010 office is to be set up, located in Edinburgh
2. A staff person will be employed as soon as funding for such a person is pledged.  
The staff person will be responsible for all coordination and communication.
3. Other staff will be seconded by stakeholders as needed.

The General Committee is requested to be proactive in the search for a suitable candidate.

## **6. Finance**

*Documents:* Mind Map 6 – Finances

*Issues:* How to finance Towards 2010?

There is an immediate need to finance an office with one staff person in Edinburgh – annual budget of USD 125.000  
Close to half the funds for this has been pledged already. There is a need for stakeholders to take part in financing the rest of the budget.

*Discussion:* Each representative gave input on the prospects for financial contributions.

*Resolution:* The General Committee appreciates the willingness of stakeholder organizations and churches to contribute financially towards the cost of common processes.  
All stakeholders will receive a letter with budget and suggestions on ways to give to *Towards 2010*. Each stakeholder is requested to reply to that letter in writing, confirming existing pledges and/or pledging further support.  
The General Committee will continuously be informed of the financial development.

## **7. Publication, dissemination, communication**

*Documents:* Mind map 7 – Communications  
Oral presentation

*Issues:* The *Towards 2010* organisation is to be highly geared to communication and coordination

*Discussion:* Cf. Mind map 7 – Communications  
Suggestions were given on communication and publication

*Resolution:* The General Committee requests that a well-developed communications strategy, be developed as soon as possible. Special emphasis should be given to regular communication to stakeholders. A priority for the Edinburgh office will be the development of a high quality website. No new print outlets will be developed but articles will appear in existing missiological journals and relevant books may be granted the right to use the Towards 2010 imprint.

Attached as Annex D please find a tentative time line towards 2010