

CO, Oct. 9, 1974

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The Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
47th Meeting of Church Officers

MINUTES:

October 9, 1974

Present: The Hon. Fit. Balissa Jammo
Dr. Emmanuel G/Salassie
Ato Hailu W/Senait
Ato Berhe Beyene
The Rev. J. Launhardt
The Rev. Gudina Tumma
Ato Tarekegn Adebo

Guests: Miss Christa Held, LWF/CDS
Dr. H. Buchrow, LWF/DS

The meeting was opened with prayer.

Minutes from the October 2, 1974, meeting were read and approved.
The Rev. Gudina Tumma introduced the guests and extended a word of welcome to them. Dr. Buchrow in his brief talk expressed appreciation to the ECNY for her stimulating contribution to the studies on Church Identity and Resources through the document on: "Proclamation and Development" and by providing two consultants for the study task.

Miss Christa Held began her discussion by a word of thanks to the ECNY Department of Development for the good work done when preparing project requests for submission to the LWF/CDS. Miss Christa Held raised a number of points which were important for the future relations of the ECNY with the LWF and other donor agencies.

In the discussion were mentioned:

- a) - the wide response the ECNY document has received in the Lutheran Churches,
- b) - the concern of the CDS Governing Committee regarding big projects of the ECNY which could be a burden to the Church,
- c) - the need for evaluation of the on going projects such as the Youth Hostels,
- d) - the question of continuation of LWF grants for those projects supported for a longer period, e.g. YD Literacy Campaign, Didesha Project,
- e) - the implication of the international financial crisis on the subsidies to the Church. During the discussion clarifications were given to Miss Held on some of the points raised.

CO-74-168: With regards to above it was reported to the Church Officers that some supporting churches overseas may face financial difficulties in the future. In view of this it was resolved to ask the LWF to provide us with the magnitude of the financial difficulties so that we may be able to study the implications

this may have on the ECNY.

CO-74-169: Quoting Catholic Church sources from Eritrea, it was reported that over 600,000 people are affected by hunger in Eritrea due to drought and other reasons. It was resolved to authorize the Staff Committee to release up to Eth. \$100,000 from the Famine Relief Fund for Eritrea to be used through the Evangelical Church of Eritrea upon receiving reports of the famine.

CO-74-170: Resolved that the ECNY be responsible for processing of scholarship documents for W/t Kebabush Daba to go to Sweden pending receipt of a letter of responsibility from the Church of Sweden Mission or SEM.

CO-74-171: On the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee it was resolved to endorse the applications of the following people for submission to the LWF/DS.

Ato Haile Selassie Tesfaye
Ato Temesgen Asante
And the application of Ato Teferay G/Sgiabher was endorsed for presentation to the Ecumenical Scholarship Programme in Germany.

The applications of Ato Wellega Dufra and Haile Pantaye to be considered upon receipt of membership assurances to the ECNY.

CO-74-172: Resolved to employ Ato Degefa Itana as Secretary for Education and Scholarship with a monthly salary of Eth. 4650 as of Oct. 10, 1974.

CO-74-173: Resolved that sum of Eth. \$1000 from the Youth leader training fund be used for postage and other expenses for scholarship matters.

CO-74-174: It was resolved that land tax on the ECNY properties such as Nendo Gennet, Muchalai and Salekleka be paid.

CO-74-175: Upon recommendation from the Mekane Yesus Seminary Board it was resolved to call the Rev. Gustav Arens for a period of three years as of August 1975 to establish a joint ECNY archive at the MYS. It was further resolved that the CSN be requested to finance Rev. Arens stay in Ethiopia and to grant a one time sum for expenses in the establishment of the archive.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

[Signature]
Fit. Balissa Jammo

[Signature]
Rev. Gudina Tumma.

THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS
469th Meeting of the Church Officers

Minutes:

Sept. 25, 1974.

Agenda: The Hon. Fit. Baissa Jammo
Dr. Emmanuel Gabre Selassie
Ato Hailu Wolde Semaist
Rev. M. Mageroy
Ato Berhe Beyene
The Rev. Gudina Tumsa
Ato Tarekegn Adebo

The meeting was opened with prayer.

Minutes from the August 28, and September 18, 1974, meetings were approved.

CO-74-158: Recommendations from the Development Committee were presented by Mr.J.Erikson and it was resolved that the following items be adopted.

- a) The procedures for project requests be included in the agenda for consultation with the co-operating agencies during January, 1975 (DC-74-18)
- b) That request for water supply for Begi town in the amount of Eth. #59,560 be endorsed (DC-74-22)
- c) That Surface Water Development Project request for Seleklekta be forwarded to Oxfam and LWR (DC-74-22)
- d) That fertilizer Scheme Project request in the amount of Eth. #1,000 for Seleklekta be endorsed (DC-74-23)
- e) That assistance in the amount of Eth. #20,000 towards feeder road building in Shire Awraja be endorsed (DC-74-26)
- f) That Co-operative Training programme request for Seleklekta in the amount of Eth. #10,000 be endorsed (DC-74-27)
- g) That request in the amount of Eth. #45,000 for North Ethiopia Synod Training and Development Programme be endorsed.

CO-74-159: Resolved to endorse the Western Synod request for construction of 5 houses in the amount of Eth. #148,694 to be forwarded to NMS.

CO-74-160: A letter from the YD G.Manager requesting for guidance for the future work of YD in view of the present situation was presented. Resolved that the Rev. Gudina Tumsa draft a proposal on the issue as soon as possible. //

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THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS
470th Meeting of the Church Officers

Minutes

October 2, 1974.

Present: The Hon. Fit. Baissa Jammo
Dr. Emmanuel G/Selassie
Ato Hailu W/Semaiat
Mr. Magnar Mageroy
The Rev. Gudina Tumsa
Ato Tarekegn Adebo
By Invitation: Mr. R.Berglund

The meeting was opened with prayer.

Minutes from the September 25, 1974, meeting were read and approved.

CO-74-163: A Memorandum regarding the future cooperation of the Running Costs Advisory Committee in Germany with the ECMY, prepared by Ato Berhe Beyene, Mr.J.Eriksson and Mr. Rolf Berglund was discussed as presented by Mr.Rolf Berglund. It was resolved to accept the proposed principles for cooperation with the Running Costs Advisory Committee (see the attached Memorandum page 2, number 3.)

It was further resolved that the Finance Office and the Development Department prepare requests for presentation to the Committee.

It was also resolved to recommend the following projects for partial financing by RCAC beginning in the fiscal year 1975.

- 1. Addis Ababa Synod-Estate school
- 2. Central Synod-Nakamte School
- 3. North Ethiopian Synod-Woldia Hospital
- 4. South Ethiopia Synod-one hospital in the south
- 5. Western Synod-10 projects which KBD was previously involved
- 6. Kambata Synod-Home Economics School Hossana (att: page 3)

CO-74-164: The revised Constitution of the Board of Evangelical College DZ was presented. It was resolved that a Committee on Constitution and Policy be established by the next meeting of the Executive Committee and that all the matters pertaining to Constitutions and policy be dealt with by the Committee to be established.

CO-74-165: The schedule for the LWF group visit to the ECMY was presented and it was resolved to accept the schedule.

CO-74-166: It was resolved that Ato Petros Wontamo be employed for //

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THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH Mekane Yesus
46th Meeting of the Church Officers

Minutes:

July 30, 1974

Present: The Hon.Pit. Baissa Jammie
Dr. Emmanuel Gobre Selassie
Ato Haile Wolde Semait
Ato Berhe Beyens
Rev. K. Magery
The Rev. Gudina Tumsa
Ato Tarekgn Adebo,

The meeting was opened with prayer. Minutes from the July 24, 1974 meeting were approved.

CO-74-127: Concern was raised about the present situations of the Yemissachch Dists where the Council Chairman, the General Manager and the Studio Director are on leave and have gone abroad. Upon expressing dissatisfaction on the way the organization was left, it was resolved to discuss the matter at the meeting of August 14, 1974.

CO-74-128: Draft Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee of the ECNY was discussed. It was resolved to approve the Terms of Reference as amended.

CO-74-129: A letter from W/o Galanc Tessema explaining his sickness and inability to get proper treatment due to lack of money was considered. It was resolved to give W/o Galanc financial assistance up to Eth. \$100.00.

CO-74-130: A letter from the Rev. J. Massadorp, Associate General Secretary of the LWF about the nomination of a person for the post of the LWF/BS Director was considered. It was resolved to nominate Ato Menker Degefa for the post mentioned.

CO-74-131: A letter from Ato Yalem Teafa Mengistu concerning Salary increment for the North Ethiopia Area Teachers for the School year 1973/74 was considered. It was decided that the increment should be given. This was made as an alternative to dismissing some of the teachers, and as the teachers had presented the demand after stopping their job it was resolved not to request funds from the ALC for the increment for the past year but for the school year 1974/75.

CO-74-132: Upon lengthy discussion on Ato Yalem Teafa Mengistu's letter about the embasement of money by the Saleleka School Director on the matter, it was resolved to reject the Committee's decision to keep Ato Wolde G/Maria, the director, who embezzled Eth. \$5,275.20 in his job. It was further resolved to instruct the Administrative Committee to take a stronger action by filing case against Ato Wolde with the aim of immediate settlement of the misappropriated funds and fire him from his job.

CO-74-133: A letter from the Central Synod explaining the chaos created in the Bako Project due to the formation of Union by the workers was considered. The Project Bako run by sub-contractors abroad, was resolved to inform the Ministry of Social and Human Development the possibility that Church to run the Bako Project if the present labour chaos in the area is settled.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

(Signature)
Fit. Baissa Jammie

Rev. Gudina Tumsa.

The Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus

46th Meeting of the Church Officers

August 21, 1974

MINUTES:

Present: The Hon. Pit. Baissa Jammie
Ato Haile W/Socialist
Ato Berhe Beyens
Rev. K. Magery
Ato Tarekgn Adebo

The Meeting was opened with Prayer.

CO-74-140: It was resolved to write a letter of invitation to the representatives of the Lutheran Church in Ethiopia and the BY Mission to the next Officers Meeting to discuss the pending Yemissachch Dists Constitutional matters.

CO-74-141: A letter from the YD Literacy Campaign Department concerning request for states for the Literacy Campaign Schools was considered. As the letter does not give sufficient description, it was resolved to refer back the Matter to the YD to work out and present an elaborate project description of the request through appropriate channels.

CO-74-142: The letter of repentance of Kes Girmai, Tesfa Selassie who was one of the people who caused discord in the Gheralta work in the North, was considered. It was resolved that since Kes Girmai has repeatedly asked for forgiveness and as the Word of God teaches that we forgive each other, be-it-resolved that Kes Girmai be forgiven and to this effect a circular letter be written to the Synoda. It was further resolved that for employment Kes Girmai be advised to apply to the NMS Administrative Committee.

CO-74-143: It was resolved to table the request of the Development Department to purchase a Motor Cycle until the Director of the Department gives a full explanation.

The Meeting was closed with Prayer.

(Signature)
Fit. Baissa Jammie

(Signature)
Tarekgn Adebo

THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH Mekane Yesus

43rd Meeting of the Church Officers

February 27, 1974

MINUTES:

Present: H.E. Ato Emmanuel Abraham
The Hon.Pit.Baissa Jammie
Dr. Emmanuel O.Selassie
Ato Berhe Beyens
The Rev.Johannes Launhardt
The Rev.Gudina Tumsa
Ato Tarekgn Adebo

By Invitation:
Mr.John Eriksson
Rev.Tesgara Hirpo

The meeting was opened with Prayer.

The Minutes of the February 20, 1974, meeting were approved.

CO-74-33: It was resolved that Ato Tarfasa Yadesse be employed as Co-ordinator for the Study on Church Identity and Resources with a salary of (Eth.500:-) five-hundred dollars as of March 1, 1974.

CO-74-34: The Project description of the Pilot Project in the "Use of Mass Media in Social and Human Development" presented by the RVOO/ECNY Committee was discussed. It was resolved to accept in principle the Project description and to forward it to the LWF/BS General Director. Copies of the Pilot Project with a covering letter to be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Community Development, and Social Affairs and the HSU. It was further resolved that a letter of appreciation be addressed to the members of the Joint Committee for their valuable work in the preparation of the Project description.

CO-74-35: A letter from Ato Alemayehu Mogos requesting help for distribution of Bibles in Gojam was considered. It was resolved to use a sum from the 1972 Budget surplus for buying 1000 Bibles for distribution in Gojam. Arrangements to be made with the Bible Society for collection of the Bibles by Ato Alemayehu Mogos.

00, Feb. 27, 1974

CO-74-36: The Report on the Famine Situation in Kambata prepared by the Fact Finding Committee established by Resolution (CO-74-14) was discussed and the following actions were taken: Whereas the hunger situation of the drought stricken areas in Kambata calls for immediate action for relief work, be it resolved:-
a) to establish an Overall Relief Committee consisting of Ato Bekala Assefa (Convenor), Ato Erjabo Handiso, the Rev. Karlo Elvillammi, the Rev. Kalbora Wayoro, Ato Ejetta Tolessa and the Rev. N.Honkanen.
b) to establish an Executive Committee composed of Ato Erjabo Handiso, Ato Ayale Assele, Ato Ejetta Tolessa, Rev.N.Honkanen for the execution of the relief Programme.
c) that Eth.50,000:- be allocated from the ECNY Relief Fund Account for the purchase of food grains and seeds for the Kambata area. The amount to be sent to the Treasurer of the Kambata Synod.
d) that official letters of request for assistance towards the relief work in Kambata be addressed and copies of the report of the Fact Finding Committee to be forwarded to the LWF/BS, the PMS and the Foreign Minister of Finland in connection with his visit to Rogana, Kambata when he visited Ethiopia in Feb. 1974.

It was further resolved to express a word of appreciation to the members of the Fact Finding Committee for their valuable work in collecting the information on the famine situation in Kambata.

CO-74-37: It was resolved to employ W/t Adanech Dawit as of March 1, 1974, as Secretary/Archivist in the Central Office for a monthly salary of Eth.\$275.

CO-74-38: It was resolved to approve the scholarship grant to W/t Belstoch Teressa by Women's Organization of the Center Party in Sweden for study in Kenya.

The Meeting was closed with Prayer.

(Signature)

Emmanuel Abraham
President

Gudina Tumsa
General Secretary

THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS
417th Meeting of the Church Officers

MINUTES:

January 9, 1974.

Present: H.E. Ato Emmanuel Abraham
The Hon.Plt.Baissa Jammo
Dr. Emmanuel G.Selassie
Ato Berhe Bayene
Ato Tarekegn Adebo

By invitation:

Mr. John Eriksson

The Meeting was opened with Prayer.

Minutes of January 2, 1974, were approved.

CO-74-8: A letter from the Western Synod requesting the endorsement of application for assistance to the LWF/DCC for the building of the Management and Training Center at Bodija was considered. It was resolved to endorse the request in the amount of US \$3,609 and to forward the application to the LWF/DCC.

CO-74-9: It was resolved to endorse the Central Synod application for the ongoing subsidy for evangelistic work for the fiscal year 1975 in the amount of US.\$13,325 and to forward the request to the LWF/DCC.

CO-74-10: The 1974 Working Budget for the Addis Ababa Synod presented by the Finance Director was considered in detail. It was resolved to approve in principle the Working Budget for the Synod.

CO-74-11: A letter from the Bethel Church, expressing the decision of the two synods of the church to unite with one another was considered. As the idea of two synods in Bethel and location of the congregations which desire to merge with the EOMY was new, it was resolved to request the president of the Eastern Synod of Bethel to present in writing to the Church Office the names of the congregations that constitute the Eastern Synod. It was further resolved that the Fact Finding Committee constituted by resolution - to visit the Bethel Church start their mission in the course of February, 1974 and Dr. C. Hasselblatt to replace Rev. D. Anderson on the Committee.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Emmanuel Abraham
Emmanuel Abraham
President

Tarekegn Adebo
Tarekegn Adebo
Assoc. General Secretary

THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS
432th Meeting of the Church Officers

January 30, 1974.

MINUTES:

Present: H.E.Ato Emmanuel Abraham
The Hon.Plt.Baissa Jammo
Dr. Emmanuel G.Selassie
Ato Berhe Bayene
Rev.Magnus Magercy
Ato Tarekegn Adebo

The Meeting was opened with Prayer.

Minutes of the January 16, 1974, Meeting were approved.

CO-74-14: Pursuant to the directions of the 28th Executive Committee Meeting, it was resolved to set up a Fact Finding Committee for the districts which is reported to be present in Kamata; the members of the Committee to be the Rev.Kaarlo Hirvilahti, Mr.John Eriksson, Ato Tarekegn Adebo (Convenor) Ato Teesama Zevide, Rev.Kalbico Wayoro and Ato Ejigabo Hadiso.

CO-74-15: Report from Rev.M.Magercy on the situation of Hunger in Southern Ethiopia and the relief activities of the South Ethiopia Synod was received. The report indicated that although satisfactory work is being attempted by the ECOMY and the Co-operating Agencies to relieve the distresses of the hunger-stricken people, still much remains to curb out the disastrous situation. This being the case the Officers resolved that the Christian Relief Committee be approached to give another \$30,000 from the amount they were requested to give towards famine relief in Southern Ethiopia.

CO-74-16: A letter from Mr.John Eriksson, Director of the Development Department explaining the termination in August, 1974, of his employment contract with the SEM indicated. Since his services in Addis Ababa as Director of the Development Department have been of great importance and given satisfactorily to the development work of the Church, the Officers resolved that the SEM be approached with a view to procuring Mr.Eriksson's services in the above position for a further term of three years as of September 1974.

CO-74-17: It was resolved to employ Ato Asfaw Aylele as Administrative Assistant as of February 1, 1974, his salary to be Eth.\$400/- per month. \$120 from the Accountant's salary of January month be paid towards Ato Asfaw's salary.

CO-74-18: It was resolved to employ W/t.Taige Wongel Tekleab as a Secretary for Women's Work effective Jan.29, 1974, with a salary of Eth.\$350.

CO-74-19: A letter from the Youth Advisory Committee expressing concern about some misunderstandings between youth and elders in certain localities in the Church was considered. It was resolved to refer the matter to the Department of Evangelism for study of a special Committee under the chairmanship of the Director of the Evangelism Department. The Committee to be composed of Dr. Selassie W.Michael, Rev.Lamwoa Rato, Rev.K.S.Ashby and W/t.Taige Wongel Tekleab. The findings to be reported on April 23, 1974.

CO-74-20: It was resolved to call the first Addis Ababa Synod Convention on March 29, 1974, at 3.00 p.m.

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THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH NEKANE YESUS
30th Meeting of the Executive Committee

10th Executive Committee Meeting

AGENDA:

- ✓ 1. The meeting is opened by the President.
- ✓ 2. Roll Call.
- ✓ 3. Approval of the Agenda.
- ✓ 4. The President's Report.
- ✓ 5. South Ethiopia Synod Report.
- ✓ 6. Gambata Synod Report.
- ✓ 7. Western Synod Report.
- ✓ 8. Addis Ababa Synod Report.
- ✓ 9. Central Synod Report.
- ✓ 10. North Ethiopia Synod Report.
- ✓ 11. Report from the Development Department.
- ✓ 12. Report from the Evangelism Department.
- ✓ 13. Report from Department of Studies.
- ✓ 14. Report from the Finance Committee.
- ✓ 15. Report from the Salary Scale Committee.
- ✓ 16. The formation of Workers Union.
- ✓ 17. Letter from the Pension Board.
- ✓ 18. Scholarship Committee Form of Reference.
- ✓ 19. Bethel Synod Constitution.
- ✓ 20. Report from Yemissarach Dintie.
- ✓ 21. Others.

September 21, 1974.

The President's Report:

1. As reported to our last 29th Meeting of this Executive Committee, our

President, H.E.B. Ato Emmanuel Abraham is still detained. Up to about the middle of August our President was allowed to come three days a week to carry out his duties as President of the ECNY. It is unfortunate that he is now unable to continue coming as before. Let us continue in prayer to the God of forgiveness to lead those in detention to repentance and especially for the release of the President of the ECNY.

2. Coupled with the current social changes taking place incipient

problems are coming up to the forefront. It must be clear to all that the ECNY under the given circumstances has been making all possible efforts to help the poverty stricken class of the Ethiopian people to be on their own through the manifold ministries undertaken in the various parts of the Country. We believe that the proclamation of the Gospel rightly understood asserts the equality of human beings. As the result of the efforts of the ECNY these are Projects, as you all are well aware, whose origin objectives were to train street boys and girls to help them earn living. Later on as the pressure of financing the training projects has become acute, it was found necessary, for example, to undertake a production section with a view to making some income to keep the training Institution running.

At present employees in the various projects at the ECNY are applying to be recognized as a Labour Union members.

It is clear to all of us that in principle, the ECNY stands for human rights defended by labour, there are practical aspects to be taken into consideration. To help you get off the discussion these alternative suggestions have been submitted to you.

3. While dealing with labour Union question is a social issue requiring an answer based on the Theological understanding of a given Church, there must be also Theological reflections, in times of social changes, defining the position of the Church as regards her understanding of

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THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH NEKAWE YESUS
28th Meeting of the Executive Committee
January 12 and 13, 1974.

The President's Report:

1. One of the actions taken by our last General Assembly in Virgallen,Sidamo Province, was regarding the application of the Bethel Church to be a Synod of the ECNY. In follow-up of this, a Committee appointed by the Officers of the ECNY prepared a questionnaire for fact-finding as regards the prevailing situation among the Bethel Church. The main objective was to have a better understanding where the Bethel Church is working, namely, the Kafa District of Wellega Province, Gambella, Keta and Gore in Illubabor and Kaji and Mizan Tafferi in Kafa. The visit was to have taken place in March and April of last year. But as it was inconvenient for the Bethel Church it was not possible to have the visit at that time. Now Bethel Church has given us of her interest to be united with the ECNY and the Synods and the Committee consisting of the Rev.Tesfaye Hirpo, President of the Western Synod, Dr.Gunner Hasselblatt, Director of the Department of Evangelism and Theology and the General Secretary of the Church, the Rev.Judina Tumess will pay a visit to the areas mentioned above with a view to submitting a report to help us in implementing the resolution (GA-8-45-73) of the General Assembly.
2. Another action taken by the General Assembly in Virgallen to be mentioned at this Meeting is the formation of an Addis Ababa Synod of the ECNY. In follow-up of this resolution a Committee was set up to draft a constitution for the Synod to be newly established and the draft constitution has been distributed to the Synods and the ECNY Congregations in Addis Ababa. What is expected from this Executive Committee Meeting is to consider the draft Constitution and approve if found to be in line with the Constitution of the ECNY (GA-8-79-73).
3. Following the June 1973 Meeting of the Executive Committee, a Fact-Finding Delegation was appointed by the Church Officers and visited the congregations of the former North Ethiopia Synod in Wollo and Gondar. The report of the Fact-Finding Delegation has been made both strengths and weaknesses and will provide valuable information for the Committee charged to finalize the re-structuring of the former Synod.

Various changes in the administration of the North Ethiopia Work were felt to be necessary last October. The first was the appointment of a new Executive Committee to replace Ats. Bocho Beyene. At the same time an Administrative Committee was appointed to carry out the on-going work of the former Synod with headquarters in Dessie. This Committee is to meet frequently and with first-hand knowledge of the work. A future change has been the appointment of one of the Associate General Secretaries as liaison.

This administrative set-up is temporary until the re-establishment of the Synod. In order that this necessary re-structuring may be quickly be accomplished, a Special Planning Committee under the Chairmanship of the Hon.Pit.Nissa Jemmo has been given this specific task. The directive of the Church Officers is that the Planning Committee is "to submit a preliminary report in their report on the set-up of the future Synod to the Church Officers before the end of February 1974."

There is reason for optimism as we note the dedication and work of many of the Synod employees. The famine in the North has placed a special burden on the ECNY expresses its gratitude for the selfless service of many in the area.

4. You are all aware of the famine situation in North-Eastern Ethiopia and your contributions have been much appreciated in alleviating the unfavourable condition in that part of our Country. The attention of the world has been called to this and assistance and assistance is being secured from many countries of the world to improve the situation. It is deplorable that while an estimated 10 million people are in the famine situation in North-Eastern Ethiopia it is reported that it has spread to the Southern parts of the Country causing loss of human and animal lives. With assistance obtained from our friends abroad our Church has started a relief programme in the South through the South Ethiopia Synod. In a report from the Kambatti Synod it was stated that 100,000 people had lost their lives due to the scarcity of food in several areas of the Synod. I wish to appeal to you to bring this sad situation to the attention of our congregations soliciting their assistance to our brothers and sisters suffering from famine.

5. The Church of Sweden Mission will be celebrating her Centenary in May of this year. In connection with this about (Eth.550,000) fifty thousand Ethiopian dollars have been granted to the ECNY for specific tasks to be undertaken to further certain aspects of the ministry of the Church, an undertaking which will also serve as a promotional material in the Swedish congregations. The officers of the Church have allocated the Centenary gift in the following manner:-

"A Staff recommendation regarding the utilization of Centenary gift funds for the Church of Sweden Mission in the amount of SW.Cr.100,000 (Eth.50,000) was discussed. Some changes were made to the Staff recommendation and it was resolved to use the Centenary gift in the following fields.

1. Evangelistic Work, Goba, Hale -Eth.25,000
2. Evangelistic Work, Jimma,Kaffa-Eth.10,000
3. Youth Programmes " " 10,000
4. Special Evangelistic Work in the Synods (e.g. Women's work, Youth Work).

Western Syn d " 24,000	Central Synod Eth.22,000
South Eth.Synod "4,000	North Eth.Synod " 4,000
Kambatti Syn d "2,000	Addis Ababa Syn d "2,000

It was further resolved to thank the CSM and to inform them of the allocation in the fund."

As actions taken by the Church Officers require your approval, it is being presented to you for approval with respect to the allocations.

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6. A comprehensive budget estimate for 1975 has been prepared and is being submitted to you for consideration. A working budget for 1974 is also being presented for your action. The 1974 budget was not presented to you prior to submission to the Church of Sweden Mission due to shortage of time, especially during this transitional period when the ECNY is in process of establishing various Departments to cover the manifold aspects of her ministry.

In connection with this, I would like to inform you of the arrival of an Economic Adviser, Mr. Rolf Berglund last November to serve the ECNY as an Expert in his field. I am confident he will enjoy your co-operation as he travels around to assist you in adopting a unified budgeting system which at this time in our historical development is required of us.

The Job Description for Mr. Berglund will be made available to those interested.

7. Before closing I wish to bring to your attention that the position of the Information Officer is still vacant. We have been in correspondence with International Agencies to secure the services of an Information Officer to fill the vacancy we have not been successful so far to find someone whose qualifications meet the requirements outlined in the Job Description. Copies of the Job Description for the Information Officer are attached to this report with the expectation that you will nominate a person regardless of nationality or sex.

May our deliberations be guided by the Spirit of our Heavenly Father during this 28th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the ECNY.

Emmanuel Abraham
President

THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS

28th Executive Committee Meeting

Addis Ababa

January 18-19, 1974.

MINUTES:

- EC-28-1: January 10, 1974, at 9.00 p.m. hymn 235 was sang. The Rev. Tor Dag Kjosavik, the Representative of NSC read from II Cor.4.1-11 and prayed. Hymn 267 was sang.
- The Opening of the meeting
- EC-28-2: The President of the ECW, HoE.Ato Emmanuel Abraham declared the open opening of the 28th Executive Committee Meeting.
- Roll call
- EC-28-3: Rev.Gudina Tumsa, the General Secretary of the ECW introduced the members of the Executive Committee from each Synod.
- Approval of the Agenda
- EC-28-4: The Agenda for the meeting was read and approved.
- The President's Report
- EC-28-5: The President's report was presented by the President of the Church. Upon clarification on some questions the Executive Committee accepted the report.
- The South Ethiopia Synod Report
- EC-28-6: Report from the South Ethiopia Synod was presented by the President. After questions were answered on some points, the report was accepted.
- The Central Synod Report
- EC-28-7: The report of the Central Synod was read by Rev.Olana Djini, the administrator of the Synod. It was resolved to accept the report.
- The Western Synod
- EC-28-8: The Report of the Western Synod was presented by the President Rev.Tesgara Hirpo. Upon clarification on some of the points it was resolved to accept the report.
- About the schedule of meetings
- EC-28-9: The Committee discussed on the Western Synod report page 3 item 6 about the schedule of various meetings. It was

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January 1974

resolved that the Central Office in co-operation with the concerned bodies find ways and means to co-ordinate yearly Committee meetings of the Church to be held in connection to the Executive Committee Meetings so that extra cost and waste of time may be avoided. This in due time to be notified to the respective Committee members.

Employment of people who do not have Church Orientation

EC-28-10: On the Western Synod report in page 1 item 2 concerning employment of people who do not know the aims and objectives of the Church was discussed. It was resolved to instruct the Central Office to prepare guidelines regarding the employment of such people and present the same to the Church Officers who, after due consideration, will present to the next Executive Committee Meeting in May, 1974. Rev. Tasgara Hirpo to submit his views concerning the matter to the Central Office.

Kambata Synod Report

EC-28-11: The Kambata Synod report presented by the President Rev. Kalboro Wayoro was considered, upon clarification on some points it was resolved to accept the report.

Relief for the Drought Affected Areas

a) Considering item 8 on page 4 of the Kambata Synod, it was resolved that the Church Officers appoint a fact finding Committee with the view to studying the famine and distress caused by the drought and to find long range solution for the distress.

b) It was further resolved that the Church Officers take immediate action for starting relief work in Kambata.

Report on the North Ethiopia Area Work

EC-28-13: Report on the North Ethiopia Area Work was presented by Ato Yalem Tesfa Mengistu. Although the matter of the former North Ethiopia Synod is being studied by a special Committee, as the report mentions the cut back of budget and the consequent reduction in the workers it was resolved to refer the report to the Church Officers for their study and appropriate action.

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- EC-28-14: The Committee adjourned its meeting at 1.00 p.m. for lunch.
- EC-28-15: The Meeting was resumed at 3.00 p.m.
- 1974 and 1975 Budget Estimates for the Central Office
- EC-28-16: The Central Office budget estimates for the fiscal years 1974 and 1975 were presented by Ato Berhe Beyene the Finance Director. Some classifications were made to the questions raised by the members.
- Salary Scale
- EC-28-17: It was resolved to establish a Committee which will work in co-operation with Mr. Rolf Berglund, the Economic Adviser, to work out a uniform salary scale for the ECNY. The Committee to present its report to the September, 1974, Executive Committee meeting.
- EC-28-18: It was resolved to appoint The Rev. Marfred Lundgren to be the Chairman of the scale study Committee and Mr. Rolf Berglund the Vice Chairman. The Synod Presidents or their alternates to be members of the Committee. In case the Synod Presidents are unable to serve on the Committee they are to submit the names of their alternates before the ~~6th~~ of February, 1974. The salary scale Committee in order to do its job properly, was further authorized to coopt or, if necessary, to employ an expert.
- Study of the 1974 and 1975 Budget Estimates
- EC-28-19: As the proposed Central Office budget estimates for fiscal years 1974 and 1975 raised difference of opinion among the Executive Committee members, it was resolved to request the Synod Presidents and Treasurers to scrutinize the budget estimates and come up with a workable proposal.
- EC-28-20: At 6.00 p.m. hymn 151 was sang, Rev. Clana Dinij lead in a word of prayer and the Executive Committee closed its meeting for the day.

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- EC-28-21: The meeting was resumed on January 16, 1974 at 9.00 a.m. Hymn 91 was sang. Rev. Miller read from Romans 10 and lead in prayer. After singing hymn 255 the Executive Committee began its daily task.
- Establishment of the Addis Ababa Synod
- EC-28-22: The draft Constitution for the Addis Ababa Synod, Presented by Ato Faisil Nahum was considered. Upon through scrutiny of the constitution and some changes on few sections it was resolved to approve the draft constitution for the Addis Ababa Synod. It was further resolved to accept in principle the By-Laws of the Constitution and to direct the Church Officers to examine them in detail and to put in force.
- EC-28-23: It was resolved that upon their further consideration of the Constitution and the By-Laws of the Addis Ababa Synod the Church Officers call the convention of the Addis Ababa Congregations with a view to handing over the Constitution and the By-Laws for establishing the Addis Ababa Synod.
- EC-28-24: It was resolved that as soon as the establishment of the Addis Ababa Synod is put into effect, the 1974 budget be operative in the Congregations and that the moveable and immoveable properties be transferred the Addis Ababa Synod from the respective Synods under which these Congregation have been working.
- Report from the Scholarship Committee
- EC-28-25: The Report of the Scholarship Committee of the ECNY was presented by Rev. N. Lundgren.
- EC-28-26: The Western Synod President ~~had in proposed to the effect~~ ^{had in proposed to the effect} ~~in the name of the Addis Ababa Synod~~ ^{in the name of the Addis Ababa Synod} proposed the need for amendment of the Terms of Reference for the Scholarship Committee. It was resolved that copies of the Terms of Reference be ~~available~~ ^{available} to the members of the Scholarship Committee for their necessary action which will be reported to the next Executive Committee Meeting.
- EC-28-27: It was resolved to authorize the Scholarship Committee to coopt ~~any one~~ ^{any one} whom it deems necessary to its meetings until the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Scholarship Fund

- EC-28-28: It was resolved that a scholarship Fund be established in the Church and contributions be solicited from various sources.
- EC-28-29: After further discussion of the points raised by the scholarship Committee report, it was resolved
- a) To address a letter of appreciation to those Churches and Agencies which assisted the ECNY in granting scholarships.
 - b) To send greetings and encouragement letters to the scholarship students who are studying abroad.
 - c) To appoint a vice chairman, two educational experts and two women to the Scholarship Committee in addition to the present members.

EC-28-30: At 1 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for lunch

EC-28-31: The Executive Committee resumed its meeting at 2:40 p.m. Hymn 100 verses 1 - 2 were sang.

EC-28-32: The report of the Committee ~~which~~ intended to study the 1974 budget was presented by Ato Berhe Beyene. Upon lengthy discussion on the Committee's recommendation, that the budget proposal presented for 1974 be rejected and replaced by the 1973 budget, it was resolved that to establish a study committee composed of the Synod Presidents and Treasurers to study the 1974 budget of the Central Administration, Evangelical College, Mekane Yesus Seminary and the Yemisirach Diata in the light of the job descriptions of the respective positions. The Committee to report its findings to the Executive Committee in its meeting on Wednesday, January 23, 1974.

Comprehensive Budget of the Church

EC-28-33: It was resolved to establish a Budget Committee which will compile the comprehensive budget of the Church for submission to the Executive Committee. The Committee to consist of one member from each Synod and the Treasurer of the ECNY to serve as chairman of the Committee and the Finance Director as Recording Secretary.

Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee

EC-28-34: It was resolved that the Treasurer and the Finance Director of the ECNY prepare Terms of Reference for the Budget Committee and present it to the Church Officers for their approval upon which it will be given to the Committee as a guideline.

Acceptance of the 1975 Budget

EC-28-35: After some discussion on some items, it was resolved to accept the 1975 Budget Estimate as it was presented.

EC-28-36: It was resolved to pay a monthly allowance of EtB.3525 to the Vice President of the ECNY effective January, 1975.

Establishment of an Auditing Office

EC-28-37: It was resolved in principle that an Auditing Office be established in the ECNY effective 1975.

EC-28-38: It was resolved that the Kambata Synod and the South Ethiopia Synod be requested to be members of the Joint Programmes where they are not yet members.

Payment of Budget to the Joint Programmes

EC-28-39: It was resolved that Mr. Rolf Berglund be requested to prepare a suggestion about the way the Synods shall share the budgets for the Central Office and the Joint Programmes and present the suggestion to the next Executive Committee Meeting in May.

Requests for Capital Investment Budget and Personnel

EC-28-40: It was resolved the capital investment budget and personnel requests be presented with the comprehensive budget to the January Executive Committee Meeting.

Request for 1975 Capital Investment

EC-28-41: It was resolved that all the Synods that have not yet sent in their request for 1975 capital investment budget be reminded to send it to the Central Office ^{before} February 5, 1974.

EC-28-42: It was resolved that the comprehensive Budget for 1975 be presented to the traditional donors who have been supporting the work of the Synods.

Submission of the 1976 Comprehensive Budget

EC-28-43: It was resolved that the 1976 Comprehensive Budget be compiled by the Central Office and submitted to the Donor Agencies.

Suggestion for Depreciation

EC-28-44: It was resolved that Mr. John Eriksson and Mr. Rolf Berglund make a study regarding depreciation in the whole Church and prepare suggestions for submission through the Finance Office to the Next Executive Committee Meeting.

The Yemisarrach Dimsa Constitution

EC-28-45: The Yemisarrach Dimsa Constitution which was revised by a Committee that had been established by the 8th General Assembly for the purpose was approved by the Executive Committee as read by the President. It was resolved that after sending copies of the Revised Constitution to the cooperating churches and Mission the constitution be in force by the Church Officers.

Election of the YD Board Members

EC-28-46: In accordance with Article 8 member of the Yemisarrach Dimsa Constitution it was resolved that one member from each Synod and one member from the Church Officers be elected to the Yemisarrach Dimsa Board. To start with the members of the Addis Ababa, Kembata, North Ethiopia and the Central Synods will be elected for a two years period.

Chairman of the YD Board

EC-28-47: It was resolved that the member of the YD Board that will be elected from the Church Officers be the Chairman of the Board.

Family life Seminar

EC-28-48: Oral report was given by Dr. G. Hasseiblatt regarding Family Life Seminar. It was resolved that the Rev. M. Trobisch be invited to conduct a Seminar on Family Life in the month of May. However, for the future the time for such seminar to be decided in consultation with the Synods.

EC-28-49: Hymn 100 verses 3 and 4 were sang. At 10:30 p.m. the Executive Committee adjourned its meeting. The next session to be held on January 23, 1974, at 6:30 p.m.

EC-28-50: January 23, 1974 at 6:30 p.m. the Executive Committee resumed its meeting. Hymn 118 was sang and the Rev. Tagara Kirpo lead with a work of prayer.

1974 Budget

EC-28-51: Report on 1974 budget studied by a Committee composed of the Synod Presidents and the Treasurers was presented by Ato Berhe Beyene.

EC-28-52: As indicated in the Committee's report number 2, it was resolved that the Central Office Worker's salary for 1974 be based on their actual earnings of 1973 and a normal increment in accordance with the Debre Zeit General Assembly decision be given.

EC-28-53: As the Yemisarrach Dimsa, the Ethiopian Evangelical College and the Mekane Yesus Seminary have not yet been integrated into the EECY in accordance with the spirit of the Integration Policy, and as the Committee could not make any suggestion regarding the budget for these institutions it was resolved to postpone the matter for 1974.

Allotment for the Associate General Secretaries

EC-28-54: In accordance with number 3 on the Committee's report it was resolved that the Associate General Secretaries be paid position allowances of 30% of their salaries.

Salary for the Head Secretary

EC-28-55: As the Debre Zeit scale does not include the salary for the Head Secretary, it was resolved that the salary of the Head Secretary be \$400 per month despite the proposal of the Committee to make it \$375 per month.

Position Allowance

EC-28-56: It was resolved to approve the proposal indicated in the Committee's report number 5, concerning the position allowance and to instruct the Scale Study Committee to include the position allowance in its study upon which it will make a suggestion.

Information Officer

EC-28-57: In accordance with the Committee's recommendation number 6, it was resolved that the salary for the Information Officers be \$750 per month.

Cooperative Worker's Salary

EC-28-58: In accordance with the Committee's recommendation number 7, and according to the Church Officer's earlier proposal, it was resolved that the Salary of the Cooperative Worker be \$350 per month.

Severance pay for the Workers

EC-28-59: It was resolved that the balance of the 1974 Budget be used for the severance pay when some of the workers leave. For the future this to be worked into the budget system.

January 1974

The Constitutions of the Evangelical College Debre Zeit and the
Mekane Jesus Seminary.

EC-28-60: It was resolved that the Boards of the Evangelical College Debre Zeit and the Mekane Jesus Seminary revise their constitutions in accordance with the ECNY Constitution and in the spirit of the Integration Policy Agreement for presentation to the Church Officers before April 23, 1974 after which the Constitutions will be presented by the Officers to the 29th Executive Committee Meeting.

Seminar on Church Resources and Identity

EC-28-61: Ato Berhe Bayene reported on a Seminar on the study of Church Resource and Identity. Upon discussion on the report it was resolved to employ a Coordinator for the Study of Church Resources and Identity.

EC-28-62: After closing prayer by Mr. Magnar Magery, the President announced the closing of the 28th Executive Committee Meeting.

THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS
29th Executive Committee Meeting

A G E N D A :

June 7, 1974.

1. The meeting is opened by the President.
2. Roll Call.
3. Approval of the Agenda.
4. The President's Report.
5. Kindermothilfe Representatives.
6. Priority Listings-CSS Projects.
7. The South Ethiopia Synod Report.
8. The Central Synod Report.
9. The Western Synod Report.
10. The Kembata Synod Report.
11. The Addis Ababa Synod Report.
12. Report on the Work of the North Ethiopia Area.
13. Report from the Evangelical College Debre-Zeit
14. Report from the Mekane Jesus Seminary.
15. Report from the TD Mass media Programme
16. Report from the Tabor Seminary.
17. Report from the Mekane Jesus Youth Hostel and Center.
18. Co-operative Language Institute.
19. Appointment of Chairman for Scholarship Committee.
20. Letter of resignation from Ato Berhe Bayene.
21. Progress Report from the Salary Scale Study Committee.
22. Misikir Birhan Magazine.
23. Report from the Board of Pensions.
24. Appointment of Finance Committee (EC-28-33)
25. Contributions to Church Programmes.
26. Depreciation Policy with the ECNY.
27. Relationship with Running Costs Advisory Committee (KED).
28. Preparation for the 9th General Assembly.
29. Election of Christian Education Committee Chairman.
30. New form for Church Statistics
31. Purchase Counter.
32. Others.

THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS
29th Meeting of the Executive Committee

June 7, 1974.

The President's Report:

1. The Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus is deeply grieved at the detention of our President H.E. Ato Emmanuel Abraham. On behalf of the ECNY, I wish to thank those who have expressed concern in connection with the detention of our President through telegrams from abroad and through various means from within the Country. I believe prayers are being offered for the release of our President in order that he may be able to continue to serve the ECNY whose interest, growth and welfare has at heart.
2. As reported earlier upon the directions of the 8th General Assembly at Yirgalem an application for membership in the All Africa Conference of Churches was submitted to the Head Office of the Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The General Assembly of the AACG which meets once in five years has considered our application for membership and the Lusaka Assembly of the AACG in May of this year has accepted the ECNY into membership of the AACG. The ECNY has been represented by a delegation of two people at the Assembly of the AACG namely by Rev.Tesfayos Hirpo President of the Western Synod and by Ato Berhe Boyene, Finance Director of the Church.
3. In connection with this I would like to mention that our Church has participated in the Centenary Celebrations of the Church of Sweden Mission in May of this year. The representatives of the ECNY at the Centenary Celebrations of the Church of Sweden Mission were Ato Tarekogn Adebo, Associate General Secretary of the Church, Ms.Tsigeorgel Tokleab, Secretary for Women's Work and Ato Tekesta Teklu, teacher at the Yirgalem Teachers' Training Institute. Coupled with her growth the participation of the ECNY in Ecumenical Affairs is increasing from time to time. It is gratifying to see the increase of our participation in Ecumenical Affairs, if it is understood as means for partial fulfilment the responsibility of the ECNY in furthering the cause of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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3. One of the actions taken by the Yirgalem Assembly was concerning the formation of an Addis Ababa Synod in order to meet the pressing needs of urban ministry in this fast growing city of ours. It is with deep gratitude to the Lord of the Church that I inform you of the formation of the Addis Ababa Synod in 1974. We should pray that the Addis Ababa Synod may be a useful machinery in serving the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
4. You are all aware that famine is afflicting eight Provinces of our Country. The ECNY was the first to locate the drought stricken areas in North-Eastern part of the Country and in calling the attention of her Congregations to the problem to which our Synods have responded in a favourable manner to alleviate the afflictions. As you know the ECNY has appealed for assistance to International Organizations to help the famine stricken people and the responses from sister churches has enabled us to make substantial contributions to the famine program.
At this occasion I would like to ask you to inform our Congregations to make the famine problem a subject of prayer and once again to make contributions to help our suffering brothers. Let us not forget that a small contribution even in cents may save one person's life.
5. The responsibility of our Church as already mentioned is increasing on National and International levels. You will recall that the 8th General Assembly of the ECNY at Yirgalem passed a resolution urging the Ethiopian Government to take steps on the burning issue of land reform to improve the economic conditions of the Ethiopian peasantry. This was the first political decision made on higher level by our Church, as land reforming is recognized to be of vital importance in nation-building.
As the Constitution of our Country is in the process of revision, our Church has taken a step forward contending for more religious freedom, stating that a complete religious freedom can be realized only by establishing a secular state, guaranteeing equal freedom to all religious groupings. Copies of the view expressed to the Constitutional Commission have been sent to all our Synods, and your comments on the views presented to the Commission would be appreciated.

6. The Document of the ECNY "On Interrelation between Proclamation of the Gospel and Human Development" is continuing to attract serious attention from Ecumenical Church Bodies. Subsequently the Lutheran World Federation has planned a Consultation to be held in October of this year in Nairobi, Kenya, to come to a understanding of the subject "On Interrelation between Proclamation of the Gospel and Human Development." To make the Theological position taken by the ECNY clear, a paper is under way for presentation to the Consultation in October 1974. The paper will be made available to our Synods when it is ready for discussions and reflections. I would like to urge to study the Document distributed to you at the 8th General Assembly at Yirgalem, in order to carry out our work in accordance with our Theological understanding of reality.
7. In view of the forthcoming 9th General Assembly the staff at the Central Office has made efforts by way of preliminary preparation for your considerations in this meeting. The displays at the 8th General Assembly, in my opinion have contributed in giving a vivid picture of the manifold activities of the ECNY. In order to be able to approach lecturers the date for the Assembly should be fixed by the meeting. Your contributions and concerns would be much appreciated to make our forthcoming Assembly a contributory cause in furthering the extension of the Kingdom of the God who has entrusted us with the treasure, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- May the Lord of the Church lead and guide our deliberations at this meeting.

Pit. Baissa Jemmo
Vice President

THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH NEKANE JESUS
29th Meeting of the Executive Committee

Report from the Western Synod
June 7, 1974.

Glory be to the Lord, the Master of the work.

1. Evangelistic work: It has been mentioned several times that, in order to facilitate the work of the Synod, the Synod has been divided into six sections. Each section has four parishes. The work has been carried out successfully and the number of people has increased from 24 to 29. Recently Lord has increasingly called many souls into His flock, and since the work has grown wider the Synod board decided that the arrangement of each section be studied again. According to the study made, it has been decided, for the time being, that the Synod be divided into seven sections and in the future three of the parishes will soon come to the level of two sections. Therefore the Synod has planned to find a way through which the Gospel be proclaimed to the people around. Thus the number of parishes has reached 30. This arrangement was decided to be effective, starting September 1967 (Eth.Cal.)

2. Personnel: Although it is a known fact that there is shortage of personnel in every field of service, the Synod feels that there is a conspicuous lack of workers specially in the medical service. For instance, the Hospital at Aira was meant to have five nurses but, it never had five nurses at any one time. We have tried to get some nurses from other countries, even though the available ones left the hospital for their vacation leaving us without any nurse. Though we reported our problem many times to the head office, and requested our co-operatives we couldn't succeed. As a matter of fact there are many people who are qualified enough to be called for this vacation; but they couldn't get entrance visa and Work permit. Even if, we tried to get someone within the country we failed. In addition, we add in our list of workers who could help the hospital working nurses, dealing with patients during their annual vacation. Hence, we entreat the Committee to find the means for our problems and until then we request the Committee to ask other Synods for temporary volunteers.

3. Educational Work: The handicraft school which was built at Nedjo was inaugurated on May 4, 1974, at the presence of H.E. Atto Emmanuel Abraham, President, of the ECNY. The school has got two sections which are carpentry and mechanics. The carpentry section has already accepted students and started teaching. However the mechanical section did not start functioning because the teacher has not arrived. We hope that soon it will start giving service. At this occasion we would like to thank all those who were present at the inaugural ceremony. There was an arrangement which was prepared by Yemisrach Dintu Literacy Campaign Program to give prizes for Youth Organizations that participated in the Literacy Campaign Program of 1965 (Eth.Cal) and rated best among their competitors. Accordingly the prizes were given to the winners. This was done to thank those who participated in the Program, to encourage other

THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH MEKANE YESUS

29th Meeting of the Executive Committee

June May 7 to 8, 1974

M I N U T E S :

- EC-29-1: On May 7, 1974, at 9.30 a.m., Hymn 236 was sung. Ato Legesse Wolde, President of the South Ethiopia Synod, read from Acts, 16 and offered prayer. Hymn 331 was sung.
- EC-29-2: The Hon. Fit. Raisse Jammo, Vice President announced the official opening of the 29th Executive Committee Meeting.
- EC-29-3: The Rev. Gudina Tumessa, General Secretary of the Church introduced the members of the Executive Committee to each other.
- EC-29-4: The Executive Committee, having discussed the Agenda for the Meeting accepted it with amendments.
- EC-29-5: The President's report was read by the Vice-President and was accepted.
- EC-29-6: It was resolved that the Projects which are to be submitted to the Lutheran World Federation be in the following order of priority:
(1) The Didessa Valley Project; (2) Sales and Purchasing Center; (3) Challia Project; (4) Wendo Gennet; (5) Mekanissa; (6) Jarsa Gambel; (7) Tabar Seminary; (8) Bilharazia Control; (9) Hostel at Negheret; (10) Hostel at Hagere Selam; (11) Pilot Project on the use of Massmedia.
- EC-29-7: The Western Synod report was read by Ato Thophilus Asuana, the Executive Secretary of the Synod. Resolved that the Church Officials need to be more talking with the concerned Government Offices about foreign volunteers who come to this country to work as nurses to whom the Government has prohibited entry visa and work permit on the basis of their educational qualification the report was accepted.
- EC-29-8: The South Ethiopia Synod report was read and the Executive Committee accepted it.
- EC-29-9: The Kambatta Synod report was read by the Rev. Kelbare Weyero, President of the Synod. After explanation for some questions raised was given the Executive Committee accepted the report.
- EC-29-10: The Central Synod report was read by Ato Hailu W/Semait, President of the Synod. After discussing the report it was resolved that:
3. The question presented in the third paragraph of the report about polygamy be one of the papers to be discussed in the forthcoming General Assembly.

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b. The item on the fourth paragraph of the report about the budget of the YD Literacy campaign program and of employing literacy teachers on permanent basis be the Synods and their views be solicited.

- EC-29-11: It was resolved that whenever an employee of the Synod is dismissed from his job, the reason for his dismissal and the amount of money paid for severance, if there is any, be reported in detail to the Evangelical Church Mekane Jesus Head Office.
- EC-29-12: In the Central Synod's report it was stated that the workers at Bako Project have formed a Labour Union and other Church workers have a growing desire to form Unions in future. Upon discussion of the issue, it was resolved that the Church Presidents discuss with the Ministry of National Community Development about the basic rights of the Church, her income and services and report the outcome to the next Executive Committee Meeting. The Synod Presidents also to discuss the matter and present a suggestion.
- EC-29-13: The Executive Committee having discussed about the administration of the Congregation at Ghion, which was stated in the report; and knowing the fact that the Kambatta Synod had a plan to extend from Hosanna to Butajira and Volkite, and since the President of the Synod has told the Executive Committee the willingness of the Synod to extend work into these regions, it was decided that the members of the literacy schools at Gurer and Kuter-geders and the region up to the river Wabe be administered by the Kambatta Synod. The region from Addis Ababa to the river Wabe will be administered by the Addis Ababa Synod.
- EC-29-14: The Addis Ababa Synod report was read by Numeros Seleahie W/Michael, Executive Secretary of the Synod. Having given explanation to the raised questions the Executive Committee accepted the report.
- EC-29-15: The North Ethiopia work report was read by Ato Yalem-Tesf Mengistu, the Executive Secretary. The Executive Committee accepted the report.
- EC-29-16: The Debrezeit Evangelical College report was read by Mr. Ragnar Norheim, the director. Upon explanations to the questions raised, the Executive Committee accepted it.
- EC-29-17: The Mekane Jesus Seminary report was read by the Rev. Rune Eackland. Upon explanation to the questions raised the Executive Committee accepted the report.
- EC-29-18: Hymn 80 was sang and the Committee adjourned for lunch.

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EC-29-19: The session resumed at 3.10 p.m., by singing hymn 255.

EC-29-20: Mr. Karsten Vallen read a report on Tabor Seminary and the Executive Committee accepted it.

BC-29-21: The Mekane Yesus Youth Hostel and Center's report was read by Mr. Odumend Gravdal and the Executive Committee accepted it.

EC-29-22: The Rev. Gudina Tumsa explained to the Committee about the situation of Yemirach Dims. The Executive Committee having discussed the problems of the Yemirach Dims and realizing the responsibility the ECNY has in front of the government and international agencies it was resolved that the Church Officers closely watch the work and do whatever necessary and report their findings to the next Executive Committee meeting.

EC-29-23: The Rev. Gudina Tumsa proposed that a new Chairman be elected for the scholarship Committee because the Rev. Manfred Lundgran, the former Chairman has submitted a resignation latter stating that his new job occupies all his time. It was resolved to appoint Rev. Paul Hoffman to be the chairman of the Scholarship Committee until the terms of Kefarekend or the Committee are revised. That the revised terms Reference be submitted to the next Executive Committee meeting.

EC-29-24: The Rev. Gudina Tumsa disclosed that Ato Berha Beyene has submitted a resignation latter from the Church Officers stating that it was not according to the regulation while he is an employee of the Church. After discussion on the matter, it was resolved that Ato Berha Beyene be requested to continue as a Church Officer until January, 1975.

BC-29-25: The Committee discussed about the Langauge co-operative Institute and resolved that those Synods that need the service of the School should use it by becoming members of the Institute.

EC-29-26: After explanation about the acute need of the medical personnel by the Rev. Tesgaa Hirpo, President of the Western Synod, it was resolved that according to the suggestions forwarded by the Health Committee the problem be studied and reported to the 30th Executive Committee meeting.

BC-29-27: The report of the Board of Pensions was read by Ato Berha Beyene. After discussion about giving loans to

Synod workers from the Pension Fund, it was resolved that Ato Berha Beyene, the Executive Secretary of the Pension Board prepare a guideline as to how the loan will be given and send this to every Synod.

EC-29-28: At 6.30 p.m. a hymn was sung and the meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Rev. Gudina Tumsa.

EC-29-29: June 8, 1974, at 9.15 a.m. hymn 192 was sung. Rev. Schmidt and Mr. Lours from the Kinder nohlfe Organisation extended a word of greetings from their organisation and told the Committee the willingness of their organisation to cooperate with ECNY through assisting poor children. The Executive Committee welcomed the assistance and thanked the organisation.

SC-29-30: Mr. Karstian Valley read from Matt. 28:17 and offered prayer, where after hymn 176 was sung and the Executive Committee continued the meeting.

EC-29-31: Mr. Blair and Ato Kebada W/Mariam from the Mahbara Kristos gave an explanation about the magazine Mesekeira Berhan. After the Executive Committee discussed the matter, it was resolved that the ECNY be a member of the Magazine. However, it was decided that the constitution and bylaws of the Magazine after due consideration by the Church Officers be sent to the Synods for study and sending their reactions to the Head Office before Nishass 30, 1986 upon which the matter will be presented to next meeting. In the meantime to continue the publication it was further resolved to raise 5th. # 2000:- from the budget allocated for the Yamistrach Dims paper.

EC-29-32: Mr. Rolf Berglund read the report of the Salary Scale Committee. It was resolved that the Synods and Institutions which did not send a participant to the Committee be informed to send 5th. # 2000:- from the Budget allocated for the Yamistrach Dims paper.

EC-29-33: After the Executive Committee discussed about the choice of members for the Finance Committee, it was resolved that the Presidents of the Synods or their Executive Secretaries and Treasurers of the Church be the chairman.

EC-29-34: The Report about contributions of the Synods to the Institutions was read by Mr. Rolf Berglund. It was resolved that the Finance Committee study the matter and make suggestions to the next Executive Committee meeting.

SC-29-35: At 1.p.m. the Committee adjourned for lunch.

EC-29-36: The session resumed at 3.p.m. by singing hymn 151 no 2-4.

- EC-29-37: After a lengthy discussion on the seminar held in Dessie it was resolved that in September three days before the Executive Committee meeting in ad hoc Committees consisting of one person from each Synod be set up to study the resolutions passed by the Seminar and present the study to the next executive meeting for proper action.
- EC-29-38: Instead of the previous members of the Development Committee, it was resolved, according to the proposal made by the Dessie seminar, that experts in the fields of agriculture, health education, evangelisation, co-operative work and small scale industries be members on the development committee.
- The resolution was made in the following manner.
1. From the Central Synod expert in the field of agriculture.
 2. From the Addis Abeba Synod expert in the field of co-operative work.
 3. From the South Ethiopia Synod expert in the field of health.
 4. From the Kambatta Synod expert in the field of evangelisation.
 5. From the Western Synod expert in the field of education.
- It was also resolved to send a copy of the seminar report to Geneva.
- EC-29-39: The depreciation policy report was read by Mr. Wolf Erglund, Economic Adviser. It was resolved that the issue be studied by the Finance Committee and be presented to the next Executive Committee meeting.
- EC-29-40: It was resolved that the Running Cost Advisory Committee, as any other cooperating agency contribute a certain amount of fund to the total budget of the Church. It was also agreed that the decision of the Executive Committee be communicated to the Advisory Committee and that an invitation be made to them to participate in the General Assembly which is to be held in January, 1975.
- EC-29-41: Resolved to elect the Rev. Olaf Nydahl as the chairman of the Christian Education Committee.
- EC-29-42: The report from the Educational Advisory Committee was read by Mr. Oscar Nydahl. It was resolved that the Educational Advisory Committee make a study as to how many teacher training institutes and on what educational level the ECHY needs and present proposals to the coming Executive Committee meeting.
- EC-29-43: It was resolved to elect Ato Theophilus Quana to be the chairman of the Educational Advisory Committee.

- EC-29-44: After some discussion, the Committees accepted the proposal on the preparation of the 9th General Assembly with amendment.
- EC-29-45: It was resolved that of the Five year plan of the Church, the Synods make evaluation of the Third and Fourth year plan and send to Mr. Rolf Farglund before Hidar, 1967 SC.
- EC-29-46: The Church's statistics booklet was presented by Mr. Oscar Nydahl. After a short discussion it was resolved that the statistics form be sent to the Synods for trial and reporting on the outcome to the next Executive Committee Meeting.
- EC-29-47: Ato Berhe Beyene presented a report on the Purchase Center and Marketing Organization. After a lengthy discussion on the report it was resolved that the Terms of Reference and the organization chart be prepared by Ato Berhe Beyene, Mr. Wolf Erglund and Mr. Oscar Nydahl. It was further resolved that the study be presented first to the Church Officers for their views on it and then to be sent to the Synods for their reaction before it is presented to the 30th Executive Committee Meeting for action. Further more copies of the present report to be sent to every Synod.
- EC-29-48: At 8.00 p.m. the Rev. Gudina Tumsa offered prayer and Hymn 251 was sung.
- EC-29-49: The Hon. Fit Baisa Jammo, the Vice President announced the closure of the 26th Executive Committee Meeting.

Fit. Baisa Jammo
Vice President

Rev. Gudina Tumsa
General Secretary

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MATERIALS TESTED AND INDEXED

30th Ex.Com., Sept.1974 - President's Report

- 2 ... -
reality, and her basic philosophy of life, is to carry out
the commission given to her by the Lord of the Church without being
swayed by the wind of time. In view of the changes taking place
currently I would like to request you discuss the question of a
Theological statement defining the position of our Church.

May His will be done.

Baissa Jammo
Vice-President

M E M O R A N D U M

On: Labour Union within the ECNY.
To: 30th Meeting of the Executive Committee Sept.1974
September 21, 1974.

Conscientization and creation of self awareness in the people have been
some of the main aims of the activities of the ECNY. It is to be noted
with joy that during the past years the Church through her various
fields of services aimed at liberating the whole man has tried to
awaken the people to realize their spiritual as well as socio-political
and economic alienation.

As a result of this, even prior the beginning of the present change
during last February, formation of workers union had started in the
Church. The Boko Project workers formed their union before last
February.

At present, being encouraged and motivated by the changes that have been
brought by the Military and the people, workers of the Church,
like elsewhere in the nation have started movements to form unions.
This although, is a normal development in a society, it is a new
situation for the Church where decision is needed what course to take
for the future.

Hence, there are three alternatives to be considered.

1. A workers union be recognized on Church level.
2. Refusal of recognition of any union in the Church
3. Formation of workers association which is not recognized by the Government.

COMMENTS: If alternative 1 is adopted the Church will have to open
a legal department and employ a full-time lawyer and assist to handle
the matters that arise during negotiations with the Union.

Alternative 2 would create a negative attitude in the workers and a
difficult atmosphere for the work of the Church. It may also leave
negative consequences for the future life of the Church.

Alternative 3 would mean that the workers will have the right to
negotiate collectively with the Church but this will be done with
a common sense as they are not recognized by the Government.

Exhi. 1 .../10 (Att. 1)

Contributions from the Synods to the Joint Programmes 1975

	Central Administration	Yemisarach Dimts	MY Seminary	Eth.Evang. College D.Z.	Total
CS	32,102	18,397	25,358	20,918	96,775
NES	32,102	18,397	25,358	20,918	96,775
SES	32,102	18,397	--	20,918	71,417
KS	32,102	18,397	12,683	--	63,182
WS	32,102	18,397	25,358	20,918	96,775
AAS	<u>32,102</u>	<u>9,199</u>	<u>25,358</u>	<u>10,459</u>	<u>77,118</u>
	<u>192,612</u>	<u>101,184</u>	<u>114,115</u>	<u>97,131</u>	<u>502,042</u>
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

Contributions from the Synods to the Joint Programmes 1975

235,341	121,450	147,165	109,755	613,711
Youth Leader Institute				<u>35,695</u>
				<u>649,406 x)</u>

x) = 9,6% of the total comprehensive running budgets 1975 for the Synods.

Working budgets 1975

(Comprehensive running budgets)

	Expenses	Income	Need from abroad	Personnel expatriate	Grant from abroad
CS	1053,923	442,986	610,937	57,294	558,652
Nes	642,635	138,834	503,801	82,400	433,410
SES	1874,271	603,184	1271,087	315,000	938,425
KS	330,096	81,383	248,713	36,816	216,905
WS	2539,278	803,242	1736,036	178,360	1562,684
AAS	<u>351,207</u>	<u>59,100</u>	<u>292,107</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>310,772</u>
	<u>6791,410</u>	<u>2128,729</u>	<u>4662,681</u>	<u>675,870</u>	<u>4003,711</u>
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

5. Assess proposals regarding projects before they are submitted to Donor Agencies. Special attention to be given to the relation between capital investments and running costs (short and long term).
6. Comment on budget proposals from synods and institutions of the ECMY.
7. Initiate market research and feasibility studies with a view to achieving self-reliance.
8. Develop training programmes for the finance personnel of the ECMY.

E. Means

In order to fulfill the above-mentioned duties the Committee shall work out rules and procedure such as:

- a. Uniform accounting system b. Uniform budgeting system c. Uniform reporting system d. Internal control and auditing.

F. Reporting

The Chairman of the Committee shall make reports to the ECMY Executive Committee Meeting at least once a year.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE ECMY
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Exhi. 1 .. 6,

A. Motivation

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has sufficient to finish it?"

(Luke 14.28)

B. Aim

The Finance Committee of the ECMY shall plan for a sound economic life for the ECMY. In this plan the Committee shall observe the context in which the ECMY carries out her activities.

C. Membership

Each Synod shall appoint one qualified voting member. The Treasurer and the Finance Director of the ECMY shall be members of the Finance Committee and they shall serve as chairman and secretary respectively.

D. Policy Making

In order to fulfill this task the Committee shall:

1. Formulate consistent, sound and uniform policies regarding income and expenses. By doing this a realistic concept of financial responsibility and relationship could be developed.

Areas suitable for policy making: a. Extent and methods of co-operation with Churches and Agencies (grant, missionary personnel) b. depreciations c. rent for residences owned by the ECMY d. maintenance of property e. dealing with church property in other respects f. insurance for personnel and property g. regulations for loans h. salary scale i. per diem j. mileage etc.

2. Stimulate stewardship training.

3. Give guidelines for economic and financial planning (short and long term).

4. Recommend priorities by:

a. Evaluating the different projects with special emphasis on the economic effect on the Church and the Society, the relationship between the invested resources and the output b. studying the percentage for administration costs etc.

Pre-Assembly Executive Committee Meeting

Participants

Church Officers

Dr. Emmanuel G/Selassie
Fit. Raissa Jammo
The Rev. Cudina Tumsa
Ato Tarekegn Adebo
Ato Asfaw Ayele
Rev. Magnar Magroy

Western Synod

Rev. Tesgera Mirpo

Central Synod

Rev. Olena Djini

Kambata Synod

Rev. Kalbero Wayero
Rev. Ilpo Perttila

South Ethiopia Synod

Ato Legesse Wolde
Ato Tekeli Aregay Tesemma

North Ethiopia Synod

Ato Yalem Tesfa Mengistu
Rev. Alf Ringvold

Yemissrach Dimts

Dr. Ayalew G/Selassie
Rev. Dennis Everson

Central Office

Dr. Hasselblatt
Mr. John Erikason
Mr. Berglund
Mr. Knut Sigurd Aasebo

Addis Ababa Synod

Rev. John Launhardt

Debre Zeit

Mr. R. Norheim

Observers

Ato Bekale Basare
Ato Haile Lemesh

Mekane Yesus Seminary

Rev. Rune Backlund

sister churches within the country as well as to the cooperating agencies abroad. This action was taken with the assumption that the situation caused by famine was to be considered a force major for conducting a regular General Assembly.

EC-31-40: In view of the fact that the 9th General Assembly is postponed, it was resolved to call an Executive Committee Meeting on January 21-22, 1975 with an enlarged membership. Each synod is to send delegates in the following order.

Western Synod 9

South Ethiopia Sy. 3

Central Synod 5

Kambata Synod 5

North Eth. Synod 3

Addis Ababa Synod 5

Kalem Bethel Sy. 2

Shea,Kaffa and Illuhabor Synod 2

EC-31-41: It was resolved that the Synods be reminded to express their opinion to the committee on Constitution and Policy, about the frequency of the meeting of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly.

EC-31-42: After discussing the question of self-reliance in the Church, it was resolved that Ato Berhe Beyene, Mr. Rolf Berglund and Mr. John Eriksson make a specific study about the possibility of endowment funds from abroad for investment and present suggestions to the Church Officers before February 30, 1975. Mr. John Eriksson to be the Chairman of the Committee.

EC-31-43: At 1:00p.m. hymn 176 was sang. Ato Legesse Wolde led with prayer. The Executive Committee closed its 31st Meeting with hymn 226.

Exhi. 1. .5/

f)The proposed simple, practical ways of self-reliance scheme
be studied further,

- EC-31-34: A memorandum prepared on the formation of Labour Union in the Church was presented by the Rev. Gudina Tumsa. As there is a need for a fulltime lawyer in the Church to deal with legal matters and also labour relations, it was resolved to establish a legal office in the Church and employ a lawyer with an LLB/. The budget for operating the office is to be Eth.\$ 23,600 as proposed in the memorandum.
- EC-31-35: December 14 at 9.00 p.m. the Rev. Gudina Tumsa led the meeting with devotion by prayer and reading from Acts 5:22 Hymn 201 was sang. The Executive Committee resumed its business.
- EC 31-36: The special committee presented their proposal on the memorandum "The relationship between the ECIM and the Cooperating Missions/Churches". After a long discussion on the paper it was resolved to accept it for presentations to the planned consultation on January 18 and 20, 1975. (See EC - 31-4)
- EC-31-37: It was resolved to establish a committee on Constitution and Policy. The members of the Committee to be Ft. Baisa Jammo. The Rev. Tasgara Hirpo. Memhro Silishi W/Michael and Dr. Ayalew GebreSelassie. It was further resolved that the Rev. Gudina Tumsa be the convener of the Committee.
- EC-31-38: It was resolved to establish a committee on Women's Work and the following people to be members of the committee:

Miss Olga Hamdeland SDS
Miss Christi Mourenen HS
W/ z Worknesh Dereesa WS
W/ z Amsale Abebe CS
W/ z Tsedale Worku AAS

- EC-31-39: Matters regarding the 9th General Assembly of the ECIM were discussed at length. It was the considered opinion of the Executive Committee members that expenses to be incurred in connection with the 9th General Assembly which was estimated to be about Eth.\$ 50,000 be used for the various famine stricken areas in our country as a contribution to alleviate the distress caused by the draught. It was therefore resolved that the date for holding of the 9th General Assembly of the ECIM be postponed and this decision be communicated to all the congregations of the ECIM, affiliated organisations,

EC-31-29: The matter of the Tefelli Makkenen Hospital of Nakamte which had been run by the Swedish Mission until it was taken over by the Ministry of Public Health was discussed. It was reported that the Ministry of Public Health wants to hand over the responsibility of the Hospital to the MUNY. It was resolved to authorize the Church Officers to follow up the matter and report the results to the next Executive Committee Meeting.

EC-31-30: The findings about the new salary scale were reported by Mr. Rolf Berglund. As the proposed salary scale was found to be unworkable by the synods, it was resolved to reject the proposed scale.

EC-31-31: It was resolved to appoint a new Salary Scale Committee to make improvements to the current Zart scale which is functional at present. The following people to be members of the Committee.

Mr. Theophilus Gunnar	KS
Mr. J. Hindnes	SUS
Rev. Elpo Nurmi	KS
Machine Milesie W/Michael	AAS
Mr. A. Rinnevala	NES
Ato Hailu Wolde Semaiat	CH
Mr. Rolf Berglund	

Ato Hailu W/Semaiat to act as chairman and Mr. R.Berglund as secretary of the committee.

EC-31-32: It was resolved to accept the Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee. (See att.)

EC-31-33: It was resolved to accept the following recommendations presented by a consultation on the YDLC.

- a) That Eth. #175 grant should continue in the Third Five Year plan effective 1968 E.C. (1975)
- b) That a request be sent to the LWF to reconsider its decision to phase out the Literacy Campaign grant.
- c) That in case the LWF refuses to reconsider its decision the possibility of contacting other agencies be investigated.
- d) That in addition to the Eth. #175 grant per school special subsidies towards teachers salaries and the work in Moslem or new areas be looked for from other agencies.
- e) In view of the new educational and development movement the Government be requested for subsidies towards the YDLC schools in operation.

Exhi. 1

<u>Synod</u>	<u>Requests</u>	<u>Grants</u>
CS	Eth. 3108,450	Eth. 4 97,000
NSS	"	"
SES	"	"
KS	"	"
WS	117,000	63,817
	60,000	55,000
AAS	109,400	19,400
		32,673

EC-31-23: It was resolved that salaries and benefits of the Head of Agricultural and Rural Development section be dropped from the Central Administration budget and substituted by that of Secretary for Institutions.

EC-31-24: It was resolved that increment be given to the ECNY employees for a period of ten years if and when the employees continue serving in the same positions or job. If employees in question move for higher position, salary increment shall be considered for another period of ten years. Prior service increment would be included within the ten year increment period regardless of the place of service and employer.

EC-31-25: It was reported that the Addis Ababa Synod was unable to cover the Eth. 43,000 which was indicated in the Income of the Finance Office. It was resolved that the Finance Office negotiate with the AAS in regards to the payment towards the 1974 budget of the Finance Office. It was further resolved that any deficit incurred in this connection be applied towards the credit balances in the Central Administration.

EC-31-26: At 1.00p.m., the Executive Committee adjourned its meeting.

EC-31-27: At 3.00p.m. hymn 130 was sang. The Executive Committee resumed its meeting.

EC-31-28: The question of possible transfer to the concerned Government Ministry of some of the big institutions presently run by the ECNY was discussed at length. It was resolved that the Department of Development make a thorough study of the matter and present proposals to the 33rd Executive Committee Meeting to be held in May, 1975.

The Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus

Pre-Assembly Executive Committee Meeting

Dec. 13-14, 1974

MINUTES:

- EC-31-1: Hymn 117 was sang. Memhra Sileshie W/Michael lead the Meeting by reading from Phil. 4:4-9 and with prayer.
- EC-31-2: Dr. Emmanuel G/Selassie was elected as chairman and announced the opening of the Pre-Assembly Executive Committee Meeting.
- EC-31-3: The Agenda was read and accepted as amended.
- EC-31-4: Mr. Rolf Berglund presented a Memorandum on "Relationship Between the ECOMY and Cooperating Missions/Churches" prepared by a committee established for the purpose by the action of the 30th Meeting of the Executive Committee. After discussing some points in the memorandum it was resolved to refer the memorandum to a special committee for study.
- EC-31-5: The Working Budget for 1975 and the Budget proposals for years 1976 and 1977 for the Central Administration were presented by the Finance Director. Upon explanation of some points raised by the Executive Committee members it was resolved to accept the Working Budget for 1975 and Budget proposals for 1976 and 1977.
- EC-31-6: It was resolved that the Synods make further studies about house rent regulations and housing policy and present proposals to the Finance Committee.
- EC-31-7: It was resolved that the Finance Office make a study about salary increments for those people who have worked in the Church for many years and have reached their ceiling. The Synods to give their views about the matter. This study to be presented to the 33rd Executive Committee Meeting to be held in May, 1975.
- EC-31-8: It was resolved that Editor I of the Christian Education Curriculum continue to work on full time basis. It was further resolved that salary increments for the workers in the Christian Education Curriculum be made on the basis of the Debre Zeit scale and that the whole project be included in the total budget of the Central Office pending the proposal by the YD Board.
- EC-31-9: It was received to have a Medical Adviser in the Central Office for the task of coordination and improvement of medical services of the Church passed by majority vote.

- [REDACTED]
- EC-31-10: Upon a lengthy discussion on different items, it was resolved to accept the Comprehensive running budgets for the Institutions and Synods of the EECNY for the year 1975.
- EC-31-11: It was resolved that the starting salary of the Information Secretary be Eth. \$650 per month.
- EC-31-12: It was resolved that when an auditor is employed his salary shall not exceed Eth. \$1,000 per month.
- EC-31-13: It was resolved to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee not to have a director for the Christian Education Curricula.
- EC-31-14: It was resolved to accept the working budgets for the Yemissrach Dintsa, The Mekane Yesus Seminary, and the Evangelical College Debre Zeit for fiscal year 1975. (See att.)
- EC-31-15: Resolved to approve the working budget for the Central Synod for fiscal year 1975. It was further resolved that from grant for the Central Synod grant Eth. \$23,000 be allocated to the North Ethiopia Synod and Eth. \$22,000 to the Kambata Synod pending approval of the Central Synod. The Central Synod is to give its reaction before January 15, 1975. (See att.)
- EC-31-16: Resolved to approve the North Ethiopia Synod Area working budget for fiscal year 1975 Eth. \$23,000 to be received from the Central Synod provided the synod agrees. (See att.)
- EC-31-17: Resolved to approve the working budget for the Kambata Synod for the fiscal year 1975. Eth. \$22,000 are to be received from the Central Synod provided the Synod agrees. It was further resolved to request additional Eth. \$24,135 from the FMS and/or SEM.
- EC-31-18: It was resolved to approve the working budget for the Western Synod for the fiscal year 1975. (See att.)
- EC-31-19: Resolved to approve the revised working budget for the Addis Ababa Synod for the fiscal year 1975.
- EC-31-20: It was resolved that the Addis Ababa Synod have a half membership in the Yemissrach Dintsa and EEC, Debre Zeit Board and full membership in the Central Administration and the Mekane Yesus Seminary.
- EC-31-21: It was resolved that deficits incurred in YD and Debre Zeit in view of half membership of the Addis Ababa Synod be taken from previous balances or budget adjustments by the two institutions.
- EC-31-22: The following information was received about requests and grants for investment.
- [REDACTED]

35th Ex.Cc

M E M O R A N D U M

Aug. 1975

To Ato Emmanuel Abraham, President, ECNY
From Gudina Tumsa, General Secretary, ECNY

Re: Some Issues requiring Discussions and Decisions.

A Church may continue her activities as if nothing has happened in this Country. However, this will be ignoring the complex social issues, a disservice to the cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A Church may be aware of the revolutionary changes taking place in the social structure of the society as well as in the minds of the people and neglect making radical decisions demanded by the situation to be an effective instrument for witnessing to the Gospel of the risen Christ and giving useful service, salt and light to the world. It is out of such a conviction that I presented a memorandum to the Church Officers of the ECNY on June 5, 1975, requesting that I should be released partially from the daily Office routine to reflect on some issues relevant to the life of the ECNY in the light of the revolutionary changes taking place in our Society. The points listed in the memorandum presented to the Church Officers are as follows:

1. (1) Help Church members to be aware of the emerging danger of unbelief.
(2) Define the border between the Gospel and Socialism
(3) Study of Ecumenical Issues.
(4) Through extensive travel in the Synods, foster a closer relationship among the Church leaders.
2. (1) Is Integration a reality?
(2) The Policy of the ECNY towards the Missions.

Prior to reflecting on the issues enumerated in the memorandum to the Church Officers and on some other aspects of the revolutionary changes affecting all dimensions of human existence in our Society, I take the liberty of raising some issues in general which I consider to be worthy of deliberation at the forthcoming 35th Executive Committee Meeting, September, 1975, and copies of the Memorandum are being sent to the members of the Executive Committee of the ECNY in order to give them time to ponder on the issues raised before they come to the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Church.

As indicated in the Pastoral Letter sent to our congregations in March, 1975, fundamental changes have taken and are taking place in our Country. What are taking place are not only changes affecting the social and economic life of our Society as was customarily thought. Revolutionary changes affecting all aspects of the societal life, philosophies, economy, politics, religion, history, social life as a whole, are taking place at very high speed, unprecedented in the recorded history of this Country in a manner, to the best of my knowledge, not forecast by social scientists in our Country. The high rate at which the Ethiopian revolutionary changes are marching forward is winning a mixture of surprise and admiration from national and international circles. The Church being part and parcel of a given society, to say nothing of the type of revolutionary changes taking place in Ethiopia, any change in the general sense is bound to affect the Christian community, either negatively or positively.

In the case of the ECNY, a statement in connection with the present revolutionary changes has not been issued with the exception of the Pastoral Letter referred to above. This is to say that there is a lack of Theological reflection regarding the changes which affect all aspects of the life of our Society. Theology is a relative statement on the central message of the Christian Gospel in an attempt to translate that message to the people in the process of revolutionary changes in this Country of ours? Lack of a sound Theological reflection in the present Ethiopian situation has in my opinion affected our work in a negative way, which if allowed to continue uncorrected will be very harmful to the life of this Church to which we have committed ourselves for service.

I. Institutions:

The ECNY is running quite a number of institutions established for the benefit of the poverty-stricken sector of our society. These institutions are schools on elementary and secondary levels, hospitals, clinics, vocational training schools such as carpentry, automechanics, masonry, etc. In recent years a number of hostels have been built with a view to providing conducive facilities for students flocking to the areas where there are high schools. In our opinion, these institutions have rendered useful services to the Ethiopian people and through these institutions the Church has been enabled to contribute

her share to the present revolutionary movement taking place in our Country.

Now, it appears that these institutions are becoming hinderances to our original intention of contributing to the improvement of the living conditions of our Society due to lack of understanding on the part of the public as to what the institutions stand for.

The ECMY has not had any profit-making undertaking in this Country. All our institutions are service organizations, non-profit making undertakings to improve the lot of needy people in our Society. The complaints against this Church come out of ignorance of what the ECMY is working for.

Due to the significant number of institutions run under the auspices of the ECMY and the substantial amount of contributions being made to help Ethiopian Society to reach a level of economic take-off and self-sustained economy through these manifold activities, there are misunderstandings from within (for example, the Bako Project and Wondo Gennet), from outside, for example, the Ministry of Finance through its Inland Revenue Department has filed a case against the Church for more than Eth. \$ 57,000 as tax on the ECMY Hostel. These examples are cited to indicate the magnitude of the problems arising out of misunderstanding. Unless ways are found to solve these problems and the misunderstandings are corrected urgently, it will bring disaster to the ECMY before too long.

It would be wise for the ECMY to hand over these institutions to the Government Departments concerned on a time schedule to be agreed upon.

2. Functional Approach:

This functional approach (non-institutional) to development service i.e. handing over the institutions run under the ECMY, does not hint at all at reducing our contribution towards helping the Ethiopian people to help themselves. It means from the stand point of the ECMY that the approach used so far is to be changed due to the polciy of the Government (see Economic Policy Statement) and to correct the misunderstanding that has arisen between the Church and her workers as well as with some people who have no idea about the nature of the Church. A few examples of what I call a functional approach to nation building are seconding agriculturalists, economists, co-operative

experts and engineers to the peasant associations being organized all over the Country. Secondment of experts will depend on those interested in the assistance of the ECMY and on the resources available to our Church.

This new approach, the non-institutional, will show that the ECMY is:

- a) not running business in any form, and

- b) it will reassure anyone interested in knowing that we are not working from motives of prestige but out of Christian love, to serve the Ethiopian people because the needs are very great.

There are people in our Church who think that raising the question of handing-over the institutions would be looked at from the side of the Government as sabotage and that therefore an unfavourable relationship might develop between the Government and the ECMY. According to this view, the ECMY should continue to run the institutions out of fear, regardless of the demands of the situation. The Biblical understanding of service is that it flows out of Christ's love poured into the hearts of his followers, the demands of the living Jesus Christ is that "You should love God above all else and your brother as yourself," (Matt.) This is the guiding principle for all forms of Christian ministry and service. It should be clear to all therefore that Christian integrity does not allow us to do Christian social service out of fear. What is not done out of faith is sin.

There is another point to be raised in connection with this issue or any issues to be discussed with the Government; the ECMY should be reasonable and justify her decisions on Christian grounds. We should be aware that those leading the Country understand reasonable arguments and there is observable evidence for this contention.

The ECMY has won credibility for working not only for but with the people and the evidence for this is that through the Yemissrach Dinti Literacy Campaign recognition was given by an international organization to the fact that she has been working with communities at the grass-roots level.

According to the government policy issued recently, peasant associations on twenty 'gashas' of land the smallest unit are to run their own schools as part of developing their areas. This is a happy development in our country and should be supported as much as

possible. For us there is no need to run our literacy schools as done in the past under the feudal structure when the Ethiopian people were denied right, ability and knowledge in working for the betterment of their lot and their living conditions.

At present the Ethiopian people are in active process of being organized, taking their destiny into their own hands; marching forward towards handling their own affairs and deciding for themselves. Our Literacy Schools should be handed over to the farmers' associations and the subsidies given now to the YDLC should be integrated into the work of the farmers' associations. Our grants should be given to the Associations. As far as I know this is in line with the original intention of our literacy programme.

3. Integration:

The Integration Policy Agreement has been implemented in a satisfactory manner since it was signed in 1969 and big steps have been taken in the Synods of the ECMLY. Integration between the ECMLY and the Co-operating Lutheran Agencies was a natural process of the culmination of Lutheran Mission activities as organizations on Ethiopian soil. The right implementation of the Integration Policy of the ECMLY is that Foreign Organizations ceased to exist in our Country as separate bodies and are integrated with the national Church. What does this mean as regards expatriate personnel?

4. Expatriate Personnel:

To the best of my knowledge all expatriate personnels are here because the ECMLY has taken the responsibility of calling them out here to work under this Church due to shortage of Ethiopian personnel to carry out the manifold ministries the ECMLY has undertaken for the benefit of our people. The Synods of the Church normally request for the services of expatriate personnel; the Central Office applies to the Government Department concerned for their entry into Ethiopia, taking the responsibility for their stay and work in Ethiopia. This is to say that the expatriate personnel are an integral part of the workers needed by the ECMLY to carry out her responsibility to the Ethiopian people. The only difference between the national personnel and the international personnel is that the latter are supported from outside Ethiopia as far as their remunerations are concerned. As

regards assignments to specific areas of work and obligations in carrying out their duties, there is no difference and there should not be any difference between nationals and expatriates. Our Constitution is quite clear in defining the obligations and rights of Missionary personnel under the ECMY. It appears that there are unnecessary misunderstandings as to the role of expatriate personnel in the ECMY. Incidents have arisen in a number of places creating unfavourable situations for the relationships required for the achievement of our objectives.

The Reports of the President to the previous Assemblies of the ECMY have been taken as basic policies for our relationships to foreign organizations so far. It is about 2½ years since the last Assembly at Yirgalem where the President defined our policy as regards Missionary personnel.

It should be understood that the ECMY has been able to maintain her integrity and credibility before those with whom we are working in this Country as well as before international organizations of all sorts. The ECMY should redefine her policy in a clear manner as regards expatriate personnel and ecumenical relationships. To make statements out of courtesy is a disservice to the cause of the Gospel we are committed to serve. To find justifications for expatriate personnel to work in Ethiopia is against Christian Integrity if we are convinced that there is no actual need for their services in the ECMY. The ECMY as a mature Church is able to make clear policy decisions guiding her activities and regulating her relationships with ecumenical organizations and co-operating Agencies which send us expatriate personnel.

5. Moratorium:

Moratorium has become a burning issue in ecumenical circles, attracting attention from all Christian denominations, calling for negative and positive reactions from Churches and ecumenical bodies, depending in some cases on the Theological positions maintained and in other cases on the specific economic situation out of which one speaks.

In my opinion moratorium is in the first place a Theological issue, and one's specific economic situation should not be allowed to overrule Theological conviction. Understanding that the position of my Church was quite clear as regards the relationship with Missionary

personnel as well as other personnel connected with evangelistic outreach and based on my own Theological reflections, I have spoken against moratorium whenever opportunity offered. In Adelaide, Australia, at the Commission Meeting of the LWF Church Co-operation I made it clear that moratorium lacks Theological basis in the Biblical sense. Contending that moratorium lacks Theological basis, I have so far neglected spending time on digging deep into the subject, since I considered it a luxury for the Churches who have more personnel than they needed for the essential work of their Churches. In short moratorium is defined as withdrawal of resources and expatriate personnel for a certain period of time from the former Mission Fields in order to give the Churches in the Third World time to find their identity as they make efforts to depend on their own personnel and finances thereby attaining self-reliance.

Self-reliance is the final goal of any Church; however, for the sake of self-reliance moratorium should not be applied to the primary task of the Church which is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I contend that proclaiming Christ to this world is the responsibility of every Christian and every Church regardless of the varying situations in which we find ourselves.

The Church of Jesus Christ is one and we all belong to her. Our Lord is the Head of the Church, all who believe are members of the Body. The resources available to any particular Church are to be used by all other Churches wherever there is a need - we are all stewards. In my opinion we are responsible for the use of resources in whatever form they are available, whether personnel or finances. To argue that the availability of resources from Overseas reduces the responsibility of the National Churches in the Third World is misunderstanding the nature of the Church and the responsibility that belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ entails.

6. Planning an Alternative to Moratorium:

The ECNY has been and is operating on a planned five-year basis. The first five-year plan started in 1971 and will end in 1975. In outlining the first period, 1971-1975, the object was to get a clear picture of the situation within our congregations. Now, this has been done. The second period, 1976-1980, will be launched in January of next year. The intention was that during the course of the first

... period a realistic plan should be set forth for the second period to enable the ECMY to increase her local resources so that grants from abroad should not be increased. The third period, 1981-1985, should see a gradual decrease of grants from overseas. The fourth period, 1986-1990, should be the last period for any financial grants from abroad. This planned way towards self-reliance is an alternative to moratorium which is a withdrawal for a certain period of time.

Christian responsibility demands that we should march towards self-reliance in a planned manner while at the same time maintaining Christian integrity and avoiding unnecessary contradictions. The spirit of hypocrisy should not be allowed to operate in the Church of God to talk about moratorium while applying for grants from abroad is dissimulation.

A paper will be presented on moratorium to the Executive Committee Meeting in September of this year.

7. Labour Union:

The formation of labour union under the ECMY has been discussed at the various meetings of the Executive Committee of the ECMY. At its 34th Meeting the Executive Committee decided not to recognize a labour union under the Church. Being on official duty in Australia I was not able to participate in the discussion. In the Pastoral Letter circulated to our congregations it was hinted that the Church was not a profit-making company. Because of the institutions the Church is running for the benefit of the Ethiopian people, there is a misunderstanding that the Church is a profit-making organization. Such a notion is maintained not only by outsiders but also by many who are working in the Church. Some people think that the ECMY can bring bulks of money from abroad if she applies for it. All such views are partly due to ignorance of the nature of the Church of Jesus Christ and partly due to lack of information. It is regrettable that so far the ECMY has not been able to run an information office.

Labour organizations stand for justice in general and justice is the final goal of Christian social service (See Amos).

Since the aim of labour unions is in line with what the ECMY believes to be social justice why does not the Church wish to recognize a labour union in the various institutions of the ECMY?

To reply to this question one should define the sources of income for the ECMY. There are two sources;

- a) voluntary contributions by members of the Church. Since this is voluntary, the Church can never have a guarantee as to the amount of money she can dispose for the next year. We do not have any business to help us secure ten thousand dollars for the year 1976;
- b) another source of income is from our Sister Churches and Mission Agencies from Overseas. From these organizations there is no guarantee that we can obtain funds for the year 1976.

We may be informed in August or September of this year what they would be able to grant. The grants the ECMY receives from abroad may be stopped for various reasons:

- a) The ECMY may stop applying for grants from Sister Churches and Missions on her own initiative.
- b) The Sister Churches and Mission Agencies may stop granting on the assumption that enough has been done and that the ECMY is now able to carry on her task as a Church.
- c) The 3rd possibility is that the Government if it so wishes can stop the ECMY from receiving grants from her Sister Churches and Mission Agencies.

Either of these three possibilities or any other reason may happen. This is to say that to enter into an agreement with any organization or union for the following two or three years is out of the question as far as the ECMY is concerned. How does the ECMY continue her work if there is no guarantee for the following two or three years? "We walk by faith not by sight." We believe in the providence of the Lord of the Church, speaking spiritual things to spiritual men.

We plead with those concerned not to judge the Church on the basis of rules and laws issued to regulate profit-making organizations. This is to say that the inability of the Church to recognize the formation of a labour union under her should not be taken as a reactionary attitude and defiance to social justice.

This apologetic approach is to solicit reasoning and understanding of the position the ECMY is maintaining. As the Church by nature is not interested in profit-making, those who do not desire to serve in such an uncertain situation should decide for themselves. An organization having no assurance of a fixed guaranteed income can

never guarantees its employees for years to come. To look for security where there is no guaranteed income is unreasonable. (Luk. 9:58)

8. Contributions to Nation Building:

In the light of the present situation, I have contended in the preceding paragraphs that the functional approach is preferable to the institutional, as far as the Church is concerned, as regards our contributions to nation building for various reasons.

One reason is that the present Government has declared that it would look after the welfare of its citizens and the ECMY should not give any hint that she is competing. As stated in the Pastoral Letter, the ECMY welcomes the present changes that promotes the cause of the masses and serves their interest. As a matter of fact, the ECMY has contributed her share for the changes that are taking place all over our Country. In the event anyone doubts the validity of this statement and the integrity of this Church, one should be referred to the resolution of the 8th General Assembly of the ECMY held at Yirgalem. In January 1973, the General Assembly of the ECMY discussed extensively matters concerning land reform and passed a resolution requesting for a land reform law. The resolution of the Assembly was communicated to the two Houses of Parliament and to the Ministries of Land Reform and the Interior. (See 8th General Assembly)

The ECMY has been a pioneer in settling landless peasants under the oppressive feudal system and if anyone is interested in ascertaining this one should visit the Settlements of nomadic Shank alias in the Didessa Valley. Anno-Ganbella is another model community. The contribution the ECMY makes to eliminate poverty, ignorance and disease is not to win favour from anyone. The ECMY does it because the need is there and Christian love compels us to make as much contribution as possible so that our Country may be a beautiful and comfortable place to live in.

The ECMY will continue to contribute her share to the economic development of Ethiopia, to improve the living conditions of the people, to the political orientation of the people in being useful to Society in knowing their rights and obligations as citizens.

Training Literacy School teachers Selected by the bodies concerned at the expense of the Church is a possibility to contribute to the mental development of Society. The Provision of radio receiving sets at reduced prices, in consultation with the Government, is something to be explored.

The contribution of the ECMY to the famine and rehabilitation programme should be reinforced from within our congregations as well as from abroad knowing that our Sister Churches are showing great interest in continuing to help the drought-stricken areas of our Country.

Training Co-operative workers for the farmers' associations at our own expense is another way to be explored to accelerate the development of Socialist Ethiopia.

At Yirgalem a paper was submitted to the 8th General Assembly exploring different ways of providing work opportunity to some of the prostitutes in Addis Ababa. However, due to lack of a concrete plan, we have not been able to make a contribution towards the elimination of this social evil.

Now, because of Government's intention to change this condition we should be able to co-operate with the Government Department concerned to do our best.

Undertaking small scale industries to provide employment for urban and rural communities is something within the possibility of the ECMY on the basis of the experience acquired in past years. In past years, the ECMY invested in development projects millions of Ethiopian dollars annually. For the sake of discussion, I have just mentioned a few examples to show the manifold ways in which we can contribute to the development of Ethiopia.

9. Identity and Resources of the Church:

The identity question is occupying the minds of many Theologians and Church leaders presently and rightly so. As the Zulu Theologian, Dr. M. Buthelezi, has once remarked, in order to produce indigenous Theology there must be an indigenous Theologian. The sources of Christian Theology are found in the Scriptures as well as in the Classical Confessions inherited from the Fathers and have come to us through the Church of Jesus Christ.

The Reformation tradition as well as the traditions of the revival movements which took place during the 19th Century (especially in Scandinavia, Ruzenius and Hauge), out of which the Lutheran Missions have grown and started work about the Second Quarter of this Century in Ethiopia are part of our Christian heritage.

An indigenous Theology in the Ethiopian context may be defined as a translation of the Biblical sources, the various Confessions and traditions transmitted to us throughout the history of the Christian Church to the patterns of the thought of our people that they may feel at home with the Gospel of love as revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Contextual Theology is making the message of the Gospel of the Risen Lord meaningful and relevant to our life situation, economic life, political life and social life as a whole. In our case Theology must grow out of concrete daily experiences from our dealing with the ordinary affairs of life as we experience them in our situation, in our cultural setting, in our economic life, in our political experience and in our social practice.

Has the ECMY any Theological experience to share with her Sister Churches, a contribution to the Church universal? The ECMY is in the process of developing an indigenous Theology grown out of her experience in dealing with the Ethiopian situation, taking the spiritual and the physical together in an inseparable manner. This Theological position of the ECMY was communicated to the Lutheran World Federation and has attracted interest beyond expectation from ecumenical bodies around the world.

10. A Wholistic Theology:

Western Theology has lost the this-worldly dimension of human existence and Wholistic Theology is an effort in rediscovering total human life. Apolitical life is not worthy of existence, uninvolved is a denial of the goodness of creation and of the reality of incarnation. We are not interested in creating medieval monasteries, in setting up ghettos (modern monasteries), but in being involved in the complex social life of our people as we find it daily, with full knowledge of our Christian responsibility.

The history of the people of God in the Old Testament starts

with the liberation of a group of slaves from oppression. Nothing is political than this Biblical Narratives. In our Continent what is prevalent is the basis to define economic policy, agricultural development, foreign relations - "politics decides who should die and who should live". African Theology should develop a political Theology relevant to the African political life. During my recent visit to the South Ethiopia Synod, it was encouraging and inspiring to observe how the elders of our congregations who were elected as leaders of peasant associations were making efforts to practise their Christian Faith in the leading positions they occupy. Political Theology should grow out of such experiences on the local congregational level.

11. Nurture and Evangelism:

There are two inseparable responsibilities, nurture and evangelism, confronting us at present as at any time, although sharpened because of the present changes taking place in the Country. We may be tempted to maintain the one at the expense of the other rather than maintain the two in a dialectical relationship - a healthy tension to be appreciated. Looking at the situation of our Church and at her history up to the present, one may conclude that evangelistic outreach was at the heart of the ECNY while nurture was at its minimum. There seems now to be a shift of emphasis from evangelistic outreach to nurture. These two aspects of the Christian ministry should be maintained in a balanced manner. The responsibility for evangelistic outreach is laid on the shoulders of the ECNY for this Country as well as elsewhere and there is no-one else to carry out this responsibility for her. The only reason for retaining expatriates is for evangelistic outreach which can never be neglected without entailing serious consequences for the life of the Church. The ECNY has many ethnic groups in her fold speaking various languages. One of the handicaps to nurture was the policy of the feudal system which had hindered the use of the vernaculars spoken in the country by the different ethnic groups.

The present policy of the Government encourages the development of the various languages and the use of these languages should be taken as a good opportunity for the production of Christian literature in the languages the people understand. A substantial amount of funds and sufficient personnel should be assigned to produce Christian

literature in the mother tongues of our membership. Those who preach should be requested to keep their sermons and devotions in writing.

12. The Cost of Discipleship

To believe in Christ is to take the form of a servant, to be a servant for others. The full implications of the Suffering Servant in the Old Testament (See Is. 42:1-4; 52:13; 53:1-12) as fulfilled in the New Testament (Jn. 13:12-17; Phil. 2:5-11) should be practiced by the ECHY today. There is a turning point in the history of any nation, any Church or any individual person. September 12, 1974, was a turning point in the history of this Country.

Ethiopia can never be what she was before September, 1974. Fundamental changes especially in the economic field have taken place. One should expect that changes in the economic aspect of the country would generally affect the salary scales introduced under the feudal system.

Ethiopia with one of the lowest per capita incomes in the world will not be able to maintain the salary scales in practice at present. My contention is not whether the Government will be able to pay people on the basis of the salary scales in practice or not, the point is that a Socialist Government will not be able to operate on scales introduced by a feudal system.

As a Church, the ECHY has a prophetic role to play in this Society. It is our duty to remind the Government some issues that we consider to be of vital importance to the life of our Country.

The aim of this memorandum is not to discuss our relationship with the Government but to raise some vital issues as they relate to the life of the ECHY so that they may be discussed with a view to making drastic policy decisions to meet the demands of the time we are confronted with due to the process of historical development as Ethiopia marches forward into the future.

The ECHY has to interpret the signs of the time as we believe in the God of history who determines the destiny of nations. History is the field of activity of the Creator of the universe and it is our duty to detect and interpret the guiding hands of God in the present historical development in our Country and to co-operate with

the God of history in order to shape her future history.

One of the demands of the time for the ECMY is to take drastic steps in matters pertaining to the present practices of payment for the employees under her. There are arguments in favour of a drastic review of payment practices now in operation. One may bring up a number of points in support of this view. But as it is impossible to dwell on all the points in this outline, let me mention two or three reasons for the sake of argument. A drastic review of payment practices must be made for the sake of the Church, "though He was rich yet He became poor for our sake" (II Cor.8:9). We should be prepared to give up luxury for the sake of the Gospel of Salvation. Another point is that the ECMY should be an example to others. This Church has been able to ^{set}an examples in showing interest to the outcast in our Society. The third point is that a realistic view of the economic situation of our Country requires a drastic review of the salary scales now in operation in the Country as well as in the Church.

In this matter which is so personal to everyone of us, we have to make decisions affecting our personal interests, our living standard, the luxury that we enjoy, thereby setting an example for the Government as for others concerned, not by words but by actions of sacrificial nature. This is what it means to be the Church for others. Jesus Christ lived and sacrificed Himself for others.

In my opinion the minimum payment for anyone working under the ECMY should be seventy Ethiopian dollars while the maximum payment should be four hundred and fifty (450) Ethiopian dollars per month. My suggestion is that as of January 1976 payments should be adjusted in such a way that for those receiving less than seventy dollars a month increment should be made to bring them up and cuts should be made from those getting more than four hundred and fifty dollars a month so that this will be the maximum. Those in categories between ninety and four hundred and fifty dollars will have to face a cut of a certain percentage of their salaries but those with less than ninety dollars should not be affected by this reduction.

Personnel working in project undertakings for a limited period of time should be employed on contract not exceeding a two-year period at a time. Thus, their salaries will not be affected by this decision.

In my opinion this is the cost of discipleship we have to pay

for the sake of the Gospel and for the sake of our Country. This is what the love of Christ demands of us in the present historical development. This is what it means to love God above all and our neighbour as ourselves in the present concrete Ethiopian situation.

Let not anyone deceive himself in taking Christianity as one of the social systems or ideologies. To be a Christian is to be a follower of the Risen Christ confessing Him as the Lord of history. The confession that "Christ died for our sins" implies that we, the confessors are ready to sacrifice whatever the Lord of history demands of us in a concrete situation. To pay the cost of discipleship is not to buy our salvation; it is to demonstrate the quality of love that led Jesus of Nazareth to the Cross. To pay the cost of discipleship in the present situation means for us to take a concrete decision to go from Jerusalem to Golgotha (Matt.20:17-19, Acts 20:22-24).

The demands for the cost of discipleship will be met by various responses from each one of us. To some it will mean a reduction of pay in a drastic way. To others it will mean giving everything way to be members in farmers' associations. Still to some who earn their means of living either through the employment of wife or husband it will mean serving in a different manner. Whichever may be the way we respond, the inevitable demand of the cost of discipleship is that the saving power of the Gospel should be preached regardless of the sacrifices it may entail (Rom.1:17-18).

13. Higher Theological Education:

The best Theological scholarships should be afforded to those who have proved to be committed to the ministry of the Church. However the purpose for higher Theological scholarship must be redefined in the light of the Biblical understanding of the ministry of the Church. This is to say that the purpose for Theological scholarship should be to give better service to the Church of Jesus Christ rather than to earn a better salary. From those to whom much is given much is required says the Bible. There should be no difference of salary on the basis of certificates, diplomas or degrees. Any payment to be made to those serving in the ECNY must be the minimum to enable the person concerned to live. An opportunity to attract someone to work under the ECNY should never be given in the form of salary

or scholarship." Serving in the Church must come out of a calling from the Holy Spirit. The purpose therefore for a higher Theological scholarship should be explained to the prospective students in such a way that they should be clear in their minds that they are being given higher education not to earn higher salaries but to render better service to the people of God. The expectations of the ECMY from the Seminaries should be clearly defined in such a way that these expectations should in turn influence preparation for Theological education.

14. The Central Administration of the ECMY:

The Central Administration as well as the Synod Administrations must be simplified and reduced to the minimum. At present there are about 40 people working in the Central Administration. In the light of the changes taking place in Ethiopia, these must be reduced by 50% beginning January of 1976 as concrete steps towards self-reliance. There are positions to be discontinued and other positions to be created which in my opinion will call for amendments to the Constitution and bylaws of the ECMY.

In restructuring the ECMY the heavy expenses incurred in the Yemissrach Dimts as well as the wisdom of running two Seminaries under a Church of the size of the ECMY should be studied in terms of good stewardship.

15. Information Service:

Our congregations need information on what are taking place in the various parts of our Country and within our Church. So far this has been neglected and in a way we are suffering from the consequences of this negligence. It is not necessary to discuss the need for an information service in the ECMY. The point is that ways and means of making information available to our congregations in the languages they understand should be discussed and steps taken at the forthcoming Executive Committee Meeting.

Conclusion:

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is God's power to save everyone who believes it. It is the power that saves from eternal damnation, from economic exploitation, from political oppression, etc. Because of its eternal dimension the Gospel could never be replaced by any of the ideologies invented by men throughout the Centuries. It is the

only voice telling about a loving Father who gave his Son as a ransom for many. It tells about the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the body. It is the Good News to sinful man, the only power to save mankind from its sinfulness. It is too powerful to be compromised by any social system. It is too dear a treasure to be given up (Matt. 13:46). Nationalism has its own place, but it can never replace the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I hope and pray that the ECHT will be able to make the right decision at this critical moment in her history.

Addis Ababa, July 21, 1975.