



UGANDA JOINT CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMUNIQUÉ 2016

Preamble

The General Assembly of Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) was held on 2nd June, 2016 at Jevine Hotel, Kampala, under the theme; “Striving for Greatness through Servant hood” (Mathew 23.11). The meeting which was attended by Archbishops, Bishops, the Clergy women and men drawn from all the UJCC 17 regions of the Uganda was held against the background of the Celebration of Uganda Martyrs Day on 3rd June 2016.

The meeting began at 8.30 a.m with devotion followed by welcome remarks from the Executive Secretary, Rev. Fr. Dr. Silvester Arinaitwe Rwomukubwe. In his remarks he informed the delegates of the purpose of our meeting and reminded them of the reason why and when the Council was founded.

This was followed by remarks by the Chairperson of the Council, The Most Rev Stanley Ntagali and the Co-chairpersons of the Council, The Most Rev. Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga and a representative of Metropolitan Jonah Lwanga, Fr. Stephen Lunagula. The remarks dwelt on a wide range of issues ranging from Comprehensive Sexuality Education, Islamic Banking, Human Rights and Rule of Law to Irresponsible Consumption of Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Gambling.

After all this there was a presentation and discussion of the Report of the Executive Committee and the audited accounts. The report of the Executive Committee which was presented by the Executive Secretary, Rev. Fr. Dr. Silvester Arinaitwe Rwomukubwe. It highlighted various developments that have taken place since the last General Assembly which was held last year, 2015, including the reorganization of working committees of the Council and various programmes implemented by the Secretariat in the fields of ecumenism, social services, human rights and good governance and peace building.

After an exhaustive discussion of issues raised in the report of the Executive Committee and the matters arising from the remarks of the spiritual leaders, the Assembly made the following resolutions:

(a) On Comprehensive Sexuality Education

The Assembly noted with concern the introduction of the so-called Comprehensive Sexuality Education which was introduced in some schools, including church founded schools, without due consultation with the foundation bodies and an approved curriculum. The Assembly condemned the unilateral move of introducing the so-called Comprehensive Sexuality Education which has components that undermine the teachings and core values of the Church. The Assembly directed UJCC Secretariat to engage the Government and all other stakeholders with a view to finding a lasting solution to the matter for the good of our children and the youth.

(b) On Islamic Banking

The Assembly noted with concern the introduction of Islamic banking through the Financial Institutions (Amendment) Act 2016 which will have far-reaching implications for the whole country, especially the Christian community considering that this was done without adequate consultation with the relevant stakeholders. In that regard, the Assembly asked the Secretariat to spear head the mobilization of the entire Christian community in the country to address this common challenge with a view to, inter alia, engaging all the stakeholders including the Government of Uganda.

(c) On Human Rights and Rule of Law

The Assembly expressed concern about the inhuman treatment being meted out by the security forces against opposition political leaders and their supporters. The Assembly urged the Government to exercise restraint and to use dialogue as a means of resolving political disputes. The Assembly asked UJCC Secretariat to engage the Government on this matter with a view to reducing the current tension in our country.

(d) On Electoral Reforms

The Assembly noted that elections constitute the building blocks of democratic governance which is essential for peace and sustainable development. The Assembly expressed concern about the minimal nature of constitutional and electoral reforms that were undertaken in the run-up to the General Elections held in 2016. In that regard, the Assembly asked UJCC Secretariat to continue to engage the Government, political parties and all other stakeholders on the issue of comprehensive electoral reforms based on adequate consultation involving all stakeholders, including the civil society fraternity.

(e) On Irresponsible Consumption of Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Gambling

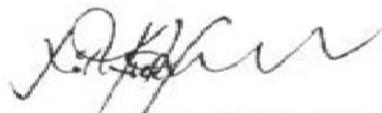
The Assembly noted with concern the rampant culture of irresponsible consumption of alcohol, drug abuse and gambling, especially by the youth. The Assembly called upon the Government to tighten these laws with a view to addressing the unregulated production and consumption of alcohol as well as drug abuse and gambling in order to safeguard the family which is the basic unit of society, especially the youth who are the main victims.



The Most Rev. Stanley Ntagali
Chairperson of Uganda Joint Christian Council



The Most Rev. Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga
Co-Chairperson of Uganda Joint Christian Council



Metropolitan Jonah Lwanga
Co-Chairperson of Uganda Joint Christian Council