

### **Transition into the International Ecumenical Movement–Kenya Chapter (IEM-K)**

As a group, NEG had no financial or structural resources. This did not stop it from doing the work of the Lord, but the oversight of the work, and the responsibility for the bulk of the financial, structural and administrative support that was needed fell on the two parent churches, St Paul's Catholic University Chaplaincy and PCEA St Andrew's Church, as well as the Missionaries of Africa.

As the mandate and scope of the Group's work grew, it became obvious that there was need for it to come of age by being registered as a legal entity, capable of raising and managing its own resources, and more importantly, acquiring the requisite corporate character to enable it undertake its ministry of reaching out to other church communities in the city.

### **Registration as a Society**

In May 2014, the Group hosted a 'Church Leaders' Prayer Breakfast' to brainstorm this new development. The Prayer Breakfast was attended by the leaders of the main churches, para-church organisations and church umbrella bodies domiciled in the County of Nairobi. At the Prayer Breakfast the church leaders gave the Group the go-ahead and the blessings to seek legal mandate to operate as an autonomous society registered under the Laws of Kenya.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 the Registrar of Societies, registered the Fellowship as the **International Ecumenical Movement–Kenya Chapter (IEM-K)**, under Certificate of Registration number 46166. The fifteen initial subscribing members were drawn from many churches in Nairobi.

### **Achievements**

IEM-K builds on the achievements made by its predecessor NEG in partnering with the larger ecumenical family in various initiatives. Some of the highlights of these partnerships are:

1. In December 2009, by invitation of the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK), NEG (now IEM-K) became a member of the NCCCK-led Global Christian Forum-Africa (GCF-A) Steering Committee.
2. In October 2011, NEG (now IEM-K) hosted a Round Table on "*Environment and Development with Special Emphasis on Global Warming: the Christian Response*". This was accompanied by a Tree Planting session in commemoration of the life and times of Africa's own Nobel Laureate, the late Professor Wangari Muta Maathai.

3. In October 2012, his Grace Archbishop Boniface Lele, the late Archbishop of Mombasa and Chair of the Kenya Episcopal Conference Commission on Ecumenism (KEC-CE), and Rev Fr Dr Charles Odira, Secretary KEC-CE, played host to NEG representatives. At this meeting they committed the Kenyan Catholic bishops to support and work with NEG in the mission of the church.
4. In January 2013, when the first ever International Ecumenical Fellowship (IEF) Chapter in Africa was launched at Bishop Stuart University (BSU), Mbarara, Western Uganda, NEG was represented. It was at this global meeting that the idea of having a Kenyan grassroots ecumenical body host a regional conference was mooted.
5. In the same month, NEG hosted Lady Kate Davson, the former President, International Ecumenical Fellowship. She graced the 2013 Service of Prayer for Christian Unity held at the St Paul's University Chaplaincy with her presence.
6. NEG was represented at the 42<sup>nd</sup> International Ecumenical Fellowship held in Avila Spain from 22-29 July 2013. It was at this meeting that the desire to have NEG (now IEM-K) host a regional conference was concretised and a tentative date (May/June 2015) was suggested.
7. At the 42<sup>nd</sup> International Ecumenical Fellowship Conference held in Avila Spain from 22-29 July 2013, NEG was honoured by being requested to host a regional conference. This meeting, entitled Regional Conference on Christian Unity in Africa was held in Nairobi from May 26-28, 2016. A report on this Conference is being prepared.