

REPORT ON ECUMENICAL MEETINGS HELD IN THE NAIROBI AREA DURING THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, 18th - 25st JANUARY, 2017

Prepared by IEM-K Communication and Publicity Committee

Executive Summary

The main objective of this report is to chronicle the activities of various IEM-K affiliates and individuals during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (hereinafter WOPCU) that was commissioned by the IEM-K Executive Board on 14th January 2017.

This report is based on oral reports by members of the Executive Board in their individual capacity, or as representatives of parishes/churches and religious congregations. The report outcomes reveal that IEM-K is quickly spreading its tentacles among churches and individuals alike. It is hoped that this report will embolden our faith, strengthen our commitment in the quest for Christian unity and inspire us to reach out to more members.

Introduction

Preparations for WOPCU began in earnest in December 2016 with the Liturgical Subcommittee having a series of exploratory meetings to ensure that WOPCU (January 2017) would be a success.

The Publicity and Documentation Subcommittee successfully organised two radio programmes at Waumini Radio and Family Radio in the lead-up to WOPCU. Elder Solomon Gacece and Rev Fr Eleftherios represented IEM-K.

Main Service of Prayer at the Lutheran Cathedral on 21st January 2017

The main Ecumenical Prayer Service for WOPCU was co-hosted by IEM-K and the Evangelical Lutheran Church. It was held at the Lutheran Cathedral on 21st January 2017. The choice of the Lutheran Church as venue for WOPCU was informed by the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017. Members felt that in terms of content, attendance, participation and general organisation, it was the best WOPCU so far. The entire liturgical service was lively and inspiring. The fellowship after the service was equally edifying, and despite the large number of guests, there were enough refreshments.

WOPCU at the Consolata Shrine, Westlands

Rev Fr Daniel Berteau, the parish priest of Consolata Shrine was instrumental in organising talks on ecumenism. During the Week of Prayer a special service was held every evening after which visiting members were given the opportunity to share on ecumenism and the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Rev Isaiah Obare, Rev Fr Gilles Blouin, Mr Joseph Mwaura and Canon Jane were at hand to represent IEM-K.

WOPCU at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Karen

Rev. Prof. Augustine Musopole reported that the special Ecumenical Service held on 19th January 2017 at CUEA was a great success and that the main theme of WOPCU was well articulated. IEM-K was well represented by Rev. Prof. Augustine Musopole, Dr. Ann Kanga, Bro. Charles Besigye, Rev Moses Wanjii, Bro. Michael Munyi and Miss Njeri Kang'ethe.

WOPCU at the Assumptionist Seminary, Ngong Road

Rev. Fr. Gilles Blouin reported that the week was an exciting time for prayer and worship and that his religious community (The Assumptionists) joined hands to pray for different Christian churches every day.

WOPCU at Tangaza University College, Karen

Rev. Fr. Kevin Kraft reported that WOPCU at Tangaza was launched on Tuesday 17th January and thereafter special in-house prayer services were held throughout the week.

WOPCU at the PCEA Gachie Church

Rev. Fr. Kevin Kraft reported that a special Ecumenical Prayer Service for WOPCU was held at the PCEA Gachie Church (an outreach ministry of the Loresho Community Church) on Friday, 20th January 2017. The ACK, Roman Catholic and Baptist churches within the area were well represented at the service. IEM-K was represented by Rev. Fr. Kevin Kraft.

WOPCU at the Missionaries of Africa Balozi House, Nairobi South C

Rev. Fr. Roger Tessier reported that several activities to celebrate WOPCU took place at Balozi House under the stewardship of Rev Fr Skoft. They also made use of the prayer intentions prepared by the Assumptionist Seminary for various Christian churches

WOPCU at the Ethiopian Church, Kilimani

During WOPCU Rev. Fr. Gilles Blouin visited and worshipped at the Ethiopian Church opposite Yaya Centre where he was very well received and was also given the opportunity to speak about ecumenism.

WOPCU at the Organisation of African Instituted Churches (OAIC)

Rev Fr Eleftherios Isaac Muiruri Ndwaru reported that the celebrations went well at OAIC. On Monday 23rd they had a fellowship and on Thursday 26th January they did a video shoot on peace and reconciliation.

Work in progress

It was reported that an article on the WOPCU Ecumenical Service at the Evangelical Lutheran Church has been submitted to the Catholic Mirror. Other matters being looked into include:

- 1) The updating and categorising of various IEM-K documents for their eventual uploading onto the IEM-K website.
- 2) Nation Television (NTV) has promised to feature IEM-K in an upcoming documentary on peace and reconciliation.