



CONCLUSIONS

American CLM Continental Meeting

México, September 19-24, 2016

*The fourth Continental Assembly of the Comboni Lay Missionaries (CLM) took place in Mexico on September 19-24 2016. The theme of the meeting was: “**The CLM vocation, identity and commitment for the mission from America**”. The Assembly was made up of 4 priests, 1 religious sister, 1 religious brother and 28 laity (11 delegates and the other belonging to the Mexico and Guatemala groups), among them there were the coordinators of 5 Comboni provinces with CLM presence, the American committee and the Central committee representatives.*

The objective of the meeting was to evaluate if the provinces with Comboni Lay Missionaries presence had been able to accomplish all or part of the commitments taken in the American CLM Continental Meeting that took place in Guatemala in September 2014. Each country presented the progress and challenges of the groups during the past two years. This time, we have also shared a time of training where we have reflect about indigenous pastoral and the importance of communication.

To conclude, aware of our Comboni vocation and according to our realities, we have progressed highly, because our structure (Central committee, American Committee y Coordinating teams of every province) is the axis that with love to Christ and committed to Comboni Mission take us to serve the most poor in and out of our frontiers. Never the less, there are great challenges and we must keep working on them, with hope, with joy, and trusting this project to God with help of Virgin Mary of Guadalupe.

Therefore, the agreed commitments, according to their respective areas are:

Our CLM reference group

In order to strengthen our local group (community) so that it will help us live our vocation all throughout our lives, we propose:

- 1. To cooperate, promote ad communicate with the groups from different countries in order to be enriched by everyone’s experience;*
- 2. To develop discernment processes that will help us to live our vocation as a life-long option;*
- 3. To formally accept new CLM in the group;*
- 4. To assume ownership of our history and documents as CLM*

Structure and coordination

In order to strengthen the groups of each province/circumscription and the continental organization, we propose:

- *That we be aware that the journey towards self-sufficiency must undergo a strengthening of organization, economy and formation;*
- *That in his/her field of responsibility each CLM “own what needs to be done and be done well;”*
- *That both the CLM and the MCCJ advisors know the international and continental agreements, as well as the various directories;*
- *After the continental and intercontinental meetings, each country group must get together to include and to adapt to their reality the commitments taken into the group’s action plan.*

Responsibilities of the Continental Committee:

- *To be in constant communication with the Central Committee and within the continent;*
- *To implement the international and continental agreements;*
- *To call and prepare the continental meetings.*
- *Promote meeting among the coordinators of the different countries to exchange experiences, formation, organization... in order to follow the agreements taken. These meetings could also be considered for the different services of the groups such as economy, training, communication, etc.*

Mission fields

We recognize the different rhythm and maturity of the various groups of CLM in each country; just the same, we need to take steps in view of the mission outside our borders. We understand that as CLM we must give a double answer to our vocation ad Gentes: both at the personal level (the call each individual receives) and at the level of the CLM group (taking responsibility as a group open to the possibility that others will go and act in our place), thus opening the Church to its missionary dimension ad Gentes and inter Gentes.

For this reason, our priorities in missionary activity as CLM shall be:

- *To promote mission and missionary vocations within the Church;*
- *To be in frontier situations, this does not depend on geographical location but to be where no one else wants to go.*
- *To form leaders in mission situations: “Save Africa with Africa”.*
- *To strengthen and ensure continuity to our presence as CLM in the existing communities.*

Economy

As a continent we want to take up the following commitments:

- *We recognize that we belong to this international CLM family and feel ourselves called to take responsibility for its existence. In this spirit, all the CLM must contribute to the group's common fund. Starting from this local fund, the group must then contribute to the international common fund managed by the Central Committee.*
- *Make an annual Budget that will be presented together with the program or assembly's agreements to the MCCJ province and share it with the Continental and Central committees.*
- *Intensify the missionary animation and search of new benefactors, maintaining good communication with them so they may feel involved in the missionary service and feel part of it.*
- *We must keep looking for financial autonomy and to be persistent, using all possible means to obtain it.*
- *We need to report and maintain all our projects documented to be transparent.*

Communications and Networking

- *To improve communication among the CLM groups of America, utilizing all means at our disposal;*
- *To have a secretary of communication in each country group;*
- *To see communications as the responsibility of all the members of the group. We suggest that each member has an electronic address.*
- *To print information material to be made available to people who have no internet access, so they are able to know us.*
- *To share the local wealth of information by having each group send an article to the international blog every two months;*
- *To publicize our being CLM and the realities of missionary life through the social media, in order to help mission and vocation promotion;*
- *To share regularly news and/or documents of the local coordinating team with the Continental and the Central Committees.*

Formation

As CLM of America, we commit ourselves to follow a common path of formation where the resolutions of previous assemblies will be our guide. Furthermore, we want to take up the following commitments:

- *To assume the formation of our own CLM been aware of the need of self-training that complements what we do as a group.*
- *To include a mission field experience in the period of formation.*

- *To explore the possibility of experiences of inter-community formation with groups of different provinces;*
- *To take advantage of the opportunities available in various ecclesial, social or cultural formation centers in our vicinity;*
- *To offer specific formation on the economy (to manage fund raising, projects, make budgets, transparency...);*
- *Learn about economy and the relationship that we may have as Christians with money (how we share in the common fund, simple life style, how we spend money in our daily lives...);*
- *To use the basic source of international CLM formation from which: we will share the formation programs, use its content and enrich it with new material coming from each group;*
- *Complete the personal accompaniment during reinsertion period;*
- *Promote the cyber Exchange of experiences to strengthen the training of laity in other countries of America.*

Comboni Family

*From the various realities where we live, we consider it is essential to maintain openness and dialogue, promoting and **taking the initiative** to meet in moments of conviviality, planning, work, training, fundraising and share life in mission as Comboni Family, to accomplish the ecclesial ideal of Comboni.*

Directory

It is fundamental that our local directories contain the general lines of our identity and organization, developed in a clear and flexible form, in a contemporary and attractive language. The following aspects must be included:

- *The directory will be the base and guide in training process, projects and planning;*
- *To take into consideration the presence of CLM from other countries in order to facilitate their insertion into the local group;*
- *To clarify the peculiarities of each country in a province with both the national and foreigner CLM;*
- *To define a minimum time of participation in order to be part of the executive;*
- *To define economic cooperation both locally and internationally;*
- *To plan the re-insertion of the CLM who return home;*
- *To include a short historical review both at the international and at the local level;*
- *To revise and update the directories in view of the next continental assembly.*