



World Council of Churches
Conseil œcuménique des Eglises
Consejo Mundial de Iglesias
Ökumenischer Rat der Kirchen
General Secretariat

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To:
WCC Member Churches
Members of Central Committee
Associate Councils
Christian World Communions
Regional Ecumenical Organizations
Specialized Ministries
International Ecumenical Organizations

Geneva, 21 April 2008

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Following my letter of 20 March 2008 reporting on the meeting of the central committee held in Geneva, 13-20 February, I now come to you with three concrete requests of the central committee.

1. The position of **Programme Executive for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation** had been declared vacant. Please find attached the vacancy notice providing all necessary information. You are most welcome to encourage and formally propose candidates for this position.
2. The central committee resolved to refer the attached text of the proposed **“statement on eco-justice and ecological debt”** to the churches for reflection. The central committee kindly invites member churches and ecumenical partners to respond to this proposed “statement” so that a revised text can be considered for adoption at the next central committee meeting. My colleagues will be at your disposal for any information or clarification you may need. In advance, many thanks for your much valued contribution.
3. Following the longstanding tradition of past World Council of Churches assemblies, the 9th Assembly in Porto Alegre adopted a text on ecclesiology: **“Called to be the One Church”**. By setting forth a challenge to the churches, the 9th Assembly gave a different kind of life to its statement on the Church. The statement requests us all to engage in the difficult task of the faith and ordering of other churches. Towards the goal of full visible unity, the assembly poses ten questions to the churches to guide their reflections in this task of sharing commonalities, divergences, and differences. In order to pursue that which makes for peace and builds up the common life, the central committee urges you to keep our *Call to be the One Church* before the hearts and minds of your communities. Again, I would be grateful to receive the results of your reflections which will enrich the process and help us all to advance towards unity.

In advance, I thank you all for your contribution to the life and work of our fellowship.

As a symbolic token of our gratitude, you will find herewith a booklet entitled “Love to Share”, which the central committee members received in February at their meeting. This document is a result of what we already share as a fellowship of churches and provides direction on how to share our spiritual resources. More specifically, it deals with issues of intellectual property rights and copyright and gives some direction in the task of searching for alternatives in the current situation, raising questions and clarifying some possible solutions and alternatives.

Please note that the text is also available on the internet and can be downloaded from the WCC website: oikoumene.org/lovetoshare. We hope that we will be able to publish a Portuguese and Spanish translation of the present text in the near future. Translations into French and German are also foreseen.

Also included in this letter is a copy of the Message of the Presidents of the WCC at Pentecost 2008. This message in all languages will be posted on our website: oikoumene.org.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon, I remain,

Yours in our Risen Lord,



Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia
General Secretary

- Enclosures:**
- Vacancy notice for the position of Programme Executive for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation
 - Proposed statement on eco-justice and ecological debt
 - Booklet entitled “Love to Share”
 - Message of the Presidents of the WCC at Pentecost 2008