



UNITED METHODIST RADIO NETWORK

RÉSEAU DES RADIOS MÉTHODISTES UNIES

3^{ème} REUNION ANNUELLE
DU RESEAU DES RADIOS
METHODISTES UNIES

UNITED METHODIST RADIO NETWORK
REDE DE RADIO METODISTA UNITÁRIA

**LE RÔLE DE LA RADIO DANS LA VIE DE LA CONFÉRENCE :
RADIOS MÉTHODISTES, INSTRUMENT DE DÉVELOPPEMENT.**



23 au **27**
AVRIL 2017



LA MAISON DE L'ESPERANCE
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire



EN PARTENARIAT AVEC



PARTNER: UMCOM

REPORT

UNITED METHODIST RADIO NETWORK / UMCOM

Serge Pacôme N'GUESSAN

Assistant to the Coordinator

REPORT ON THE 3rd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UNITED METHODIST RADIO NETWORK

Date: from 24th to 26th April 2017

Venue : Maison de l'Espérance, Yopougon Abidjan – Côte d'Ivoire

Participants :

▪ **Cote d'Ivoire :**

Lydie ACQUAH, Station Manager, LA VOIX DE L'ESPERANCE, Coordinator of the United Methodist Radio Network

Serge Pacôme N'GUESSAN, Assistant to the Coordinator UMRN, Operation Manager LA VOIX DE L'ESPERANCE

Rev. AKAFFOU Célestin, Assistant to the Conference Secretary, in charge of média, Chaplain of the radio station

Rev. DOSSO SORY, Assistant to the Conference Secretary, in charge of Communication

Rev. MENSAH KODJO, Host at LA VOIX DE L'ESPERANCE

Mme Dominique TAYORO, General Director of Communication, Cote d'Ivoire UMC

▪ **RDC :**

Rev. André MASUDI, Station Manager, Radio LOKO Kinshasa

Nicolas MUNONGO, Communications Director, Central Congo Area

▪ **Libéria :**

Edward MASSAQUOI, Station Manager ELUM Monrovia

Georges Johnson, Producer, Communications Department, Liberia UMC

▪ **Angola :**

Carlos PEDRO GOUVEIA, Programs Manager, Radio Kairos Luanda

Augusto Miguel BENTO, Director of Communications, Angola West UMC

▪ **Nigeria :**

Rev Ignatius JESSE

Japheth ALIYUDA

▪ **Sierra Leone :**

Phileas JUSU, Director of Communications, Sierra Leone UMC.

Kesia GBONDO, Director Church and Society, Sierra Leone UMC

- **Philippines :**
Reiner Reyes PUNO
 - **Etats-Unis (UMCOM):**
Rev Gary HENDERSON, Chief Relations Officer
Danny MAI, Chief Technical Officer
Shelia MAYFIELD, Web Development Director
 - **Côte d'Ivoire (UMCOM) :**
NDZULO T. Joe, Project Manager
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CONTEXT

The 3rd annual meeting of the United Methodist Radio Network (UMRN), initially scheduled in Luanda, Angola, was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 24th to 26th April 2017.

This event was organized by the UMCOM (United Methodist Church Communication Agency) in collaboration with LA VOIX DE L'ESPERANCE which leads the Coordination of the UMRN with the agreement of the leadership of the Cote d'Ivoire Annual Conference.

In addition to the founding members of the Network, Côte d'Ivoire, Angola, Liberia and DRC, the third meeting was attended by other United Methodist conferences.

Thus, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and the Philippines participated for the first time.

This 3rd meeting main objective was sharing of experience, the training of Radio Managers on practical questions of the "radio profession" and above all providing a common vision to conferences regarding their stations or stations to be. Hence the main theme: "The role of radio in the life of the Conference: Methodist radios, instruments of development."

I) ORGANIZATION

The meeting was organized in three days:

The morning of the first day was devoted to the opening session and to the presentation of the main theme. In the afternoon, two workshops took place on distinct topics.

On the second day, a tour took place at the Abidjan based station LA VOIX DE L'ESPERANCE, followed by a training and lunch at LA VOIX DE L'ESPERANCE premises.

And finally, the third day was entirely dedicated to the general assembly of the Network.

II) DAY 1

1) Opening

The 3rd annual meeting of the UMRN began with an opening worship over which the Rev. Isaac BODJE, General Secretary of the Cote d'Ivoire UMC presided. He was representing the Bishop Benjamin BONI. Along with Rev. BODJE was the National President of the Laity, Mr. Louis ABOUA, Minister YED ANGORAN, Advisor of Bishop Benjamin BONI and the Director General of Communication, Mrs. TAYORO.

The General Secretary of the Conference addressed a welcome message to all the participants and especially those from foreign countries. He acknowledged the presence of UMCOM officials before declaring open the proceedings of the third annual meeting of the United Methodist Radio Network.

The Coordinator announced the schedule of the meeting and presented her greetings and welcome address to all the participants with special mention to those who participate for the first time at this gathering.

2) Presentation on the general theme

"The role of radio in the life of the Conference: Methodist Radios, instruments of development."

This is the theme that was presented by Mrs. Lydie ACQUAH, Director of LA VOIX DE L'ESPERANCE and Coordinator of the United Methodist Radio Network.

In her presentation, Mrs. ACQUAH highlighted the importance of radio in the internal and institutional communication of the Conference.

Radio is a powerful instrument of evangelism available to the Conferences because it remains a media of proximity, flexible and accessible despite the multiplicity of modern media.

For a Conference, the radio plays a role of support for internal communication, external communication and above all evangelism.

Radio is also an instrument of development through health campaigns and programs directed to children, youth, women, education... etc.

Finally, she highlighted the need for the Conferences to fully hold their radio in setting up and operation.

This presentation gave rise to many exchanges with the participants. Some of the concerns expressed have enabled the Coordinator to recall the importance and role of the Network. The contribution of the Network to the project to rehabilitate ELUM radio in Liberia, not forgetting the evaluation missions already carried out in collaboration with UMCOM.

Danny MAI, UMCOM's Director of Technology, went on to say that, contrary to what can be thought, UMCOM is not a project funding structure but it helps to find funding for projects through the support to the Network.

3) Workshops

In the afternoon of the first day, the workshops took place.

The first workshop on "**Challenges and Perspectives**", which was originally scheduled for the morning, was postponed in the afternoon, where the second workshop on "**Radio Management**" was also held.

These two workshops were moderated by the Coordinator Mrs. Lydie ACQUAH. Based on the experience of LA VOIX DE L'ESPERANCE, she illustrated her remarks with images and videos showing the actions that radios can take to face the challenges and perspectives of operation that are almost the same for all radios. These workshops also include the establishment of a formal management framework and the elaboration of a strategic plan to enable the radios to have management autonomy and also to be recognized as professional radios even being confessional one.

These two workshops were facilitated by comments, discussions, comparisons and sharing of experiences. The participants were very active through the contributions they made.

This first day ended with a dinner at the residence of Bishop Benjamin BONI.

III) DAY 2

In the morning a tour was organized at the station LA VOIX DE L'ESPERANCE, followed by a workshop lead by Mr. Eric M'BOUAH, a radio host, producer and Development Manager at Galaxie Africa Côte d'Ivoire.

" **What is the program schedule?** " Is the theme of the session he led. It emerges that the program schedule is what gives the taste to an antenna. It determines the specificity and the particularity of a radio. It allows the Radio to mark its positioning and to differentiate itself from the others. It must therefore be established taking into considerations the aspirations of the listeners.

Participants demonstrated their interest in the topic through a number of questions, to which the facilitator gave answers. Contributions greatly enriched the experience.

At the end of this workshop, lunch was offered by the radio LA VOIX DE L'ESPERANCE in its premises.

In the afternoon of the second day, Danny Mai, gave a presentation of UMCOM. He presented the organizational chart, the areas of expertise and competence, and the fundraising policy for project funding. He also clarified UMCom's support to United Methodist Radios, through the UMRN.

Following him, Shelia MAYFIELD, Director of web development, exposed on Web tools and sharing platforms which could made use of by the various Radios but also the Network.

To close this day, PUNO Reiner, representative of the Philippines, shared the experience of the UM radio operated by the Methodist University of the Philippines.

IV) DAY 3

The last day of the meeting was mainly devoted to the General Assembly of the Network.

In the first part, the Coordinator presented the work plan, which was approved by all participants.

After that, she narrated the history of the Network. The initiators, the founders and the objectives that motivated the creation of the Network were recalled by the Coordinator to allow the new participants to be at the same level of information.

Following this history, she briefly reviewed the actions of the Coordination under her leadership since the confirmation of the mandate in 2016 in Monrovia, Liberia, including the assessment missions of the three radio stations - Liberia, of which it is a major contributor to the rehabilitation, the radio of Angola which presents technical difficulties of covering, Radio LOKOLE of the DRC, which ceased to broadcast due to the failure of its transmitter. She also referred to ongoing actions such as the legal status of the Network, the designation of a headquarters and the creation of a bank account.

The second part of the General Assembly was devoted to the analysis of the by-laws drawn up in Liberia in 2016. To this end, Mr. Serge Pacôme N'GUESSAN from Côte d'Ivoire and Mr. Edward Massaquoi from Liberia, were designated to serve as the Secretariat of the general assembly.

All the articles originally drafted were completely reviewed. The following points were retained during the discussions which marked the analysis of the texts:

- **The drafting of a preamble, mentioning the history of the creation of the Network and the founding members**
- **The redefinition of the Network and its mission**
- **Modification of the different members' statutes.** The statutes selected are:
 - Ex officio members
 - Affiliate members
 - The partners
- **Modification of membership conditions**
- **Modification of the rate of membership fees and monthly contributions**

• **The method of designating the Coordination.** The rotation designation by Radio with a non-renewable mandate was reaffirmed. Priority was given to the four founding members in the order agreed in 2016 in Monrovia:

- 1) Radio LA VOIS DE L'ESPERANCE, Côte d'Ivoire until 2019
- 2) Radio KAIROS, Angola
- 3) Radio ELUM of Liberia
- 4) Radio LOKOLE of the DRC

• **The role of the Coordination and its running.**

UMCOM reaffirmed its financial support to the Network for its operation until it is able to take charge. In order to enable the Network to work effectively, UMCOM proposed to support the salary of a Secretary for the Network. Since the Assembly had not agreed on the immediate appointment of the Permanent Secretary, this matter would be considered by all members.

However, the Assembly allowed the Coordinator to express the urgency of the need at any time and to seize the members of the Network. Otherwise, the position will be filled at the next Network meeting in 2018.

• **The holding of the General Assembly of the Network.** The month of April of each year was selected for the Network meeting. Host countries must apply at least six months before the next meeting.

• **The management of the funds of the Network** was entrusted to UMCOM which will open an records dedicated to the Network.

• **Membership fees and contributions for the year 2016 - 2017** must be paid and transferred in accordance with the provisions to be indicated by UMCOM

The last part of the General Assembly addressed the issue of the next coordination.

On this point, unanimously, the outgoing Coordinator, Mrs. Lydie ACQUAH, was renewed until 2019 when a new Coordinator will be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Monrovia.

The next meeting of the United Methodist Radio Network will be held in Angola in April 2018.

The third meeting of the United Methodist Radio Network ended with a time of praise and prayer.

For the United Methodist Radio Network

Serge Pacôme N'GUESSAN

Assistant to the Coordinator