

13 August 2018

Dear WSCF Senior Friends,

Greetings from your WSCF family!

My greeting may come as a surprise or cause for concern to Senior Friends who are not aware of the current state of the Federation. But as you may already know, we have been implementing cost-cutting measures in order to address the now perennial financial challenges that began to affect the work of the Federation in the 1990s.

While we achieved a breakthrough in 2016 as the Federation was released from a long-running debt relationship with the World Council of Churches, resources available for social movement organisations such as the WSCF continue to decline. Over the years, we have been gradually losing the financial support of our traditional partners—the churches and mission agencies—for undesignated funds that customarily have been used to cover the Federation's overhead and operating expenses.

As part of our effort to save on operational costs, our Inter-Regional Office now employs only two staff, a full-time general secretary based in Manila (my home country) and a part-time finance officer based in our Geneva office, which continues to serve as the Federation's repository of resources and center of financial management. As a result of cutbacks in inter-regional staff, the general secretariat's programmatic functions are now being shared by our regional staff who, in addition to their regional executive functions, now also serve as global program directors.

But despite the increase in workload due to reduced personnel, there had been no corresponding increase in staff salaries. In fact, WSCF's core budget can only afford to cover half of regional staff salaries, obligating the staff and the regional bodies they serve to raise the other half. Some regions are fortunate to have the networks and resources to support the salaries of regional staff, while others are not. To address this disparity, all regions have been requested to make regular contributions to a solidarity fund set up to fill the gaps in staff salaries. Unfortunately, the solidarity fund had not been able to meet its intended purpose as the regions themselves are facing financial challenges as well.

We are in the process of developing a new staff model and undertaking a study for the relocation of our regional offices. These efforts, including the streamlining of staff operations, are gradually paying off as we are steadily regaining our strength and recovering from the crisis that has gripped the Federation in the last decade. Establishing the Federation's stability and sustainability so that it may continue its prophetic witness in the Church and for the transformation of the world is the ultimate purpose of these organisational changes.

Complementing our quest for organisational stability is our drive towards financial sustainability, specifically in terms of establishing a regular internal revenue stream that will not only address the deficit in our core budget but, equally important, demonstrate the Federation's viability to our institutional partners.

Towards this end, we will be embarking on a renewed effort to raise funds from within the Federation's family, which includes our community of Senior Friends. But unlike our previous effort, this on-going campaign will elevate the level of ask in two ways: (1) securing not one-time but 5-year pledges from SCMs and Senior Friends; and (2) asking SCM members to contribute, not as individual members, but collectively as SCMs by pledging to organise fundraising initiatives for WSCF at least once a year for a period of five years.

We are hoping that through this new approach, we will be able to forge lasting solidarity within the Federation, which is essential in ensuring WSCF's viability regardless of the external challenges threatening its existence. This pledge campaign, provisionally titled "All In One Boat", will be launched after the meeting of the Executive Committee in June in Indonesia. But we would like to invite you to become among the first to pledge to this campaign, which will give us a sure footing and the necessary momentum when we formally launch the campaign.

Our goal is to raise \$ 50,000 per year from 100 Senior Friends. To reach this goal, we are asking our most devoted Senior Friends to pledge at least \$500 a year for the next five years, that is, beginning this year 2018 up until 2022.

I invite you to visit our new website: www.wscf.ch to learn more about the "All In One Boat" Fundraising Campaign and the different ways you can contribute to the current needs of WSCF.

[Home - World Student Christian Federation \(WSCF\)](http://www.wscf.ch)

www.wscf.ch

The WSCF is a global federation of student movements connecting two million members in over 90 countries.

The financial struggles that WSCF has faced over the last decade have inevitably led to existential doubts, that perhaps after more than 120 years of critical ecumenical youth formation on the world stage, it's time for WSCF's final curtain call as a global federation. But we believe it is in fact WSCF's role as both a witness and an active participant in the march of history that has endowed it with a unique discernment and vision so critical and necessary for young people today—as indeed more than ever—when the world sits on the crest of a new age of awakening.

Please be part of our effort to continue WSCF's legacy of which you are one.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your kind attention.

Yours in Christ,

Necta Montes
General Secretary