DEAR READERS,

The title of this year's annual report is brief: "We live diversity". In it, we present the diversity of the work of the United Evangelical Mission in the three regions and our holistic understanding of mission in greater detail. Important for facilitating this diversity is common learning, a process in which we realise that our faith is lived differently in different cultures without the unity of the faith being undermined. The apostle Paul described this as nothing less than the strategy of his missionary work: in the Letter to the Corinthians, he recounts how he embarked on this in his encounters with different cultures, in order to proclaim the gospel. "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22, NIV) At the UEM, in the various contexts in Africa, Asia, Germany – and recently even a little beyond Germany – we try to incorporate this idea and to develop, supervise, and evaluate our mutual concepts, programmes and projects in line with the pillars of our work. In the process of this work, the cultural diversity that people in our society always fear has turned out to be a blessing. We find new ideas and solutions when we open ourselves to shared learning and dare to do things that at first seemed unthinkable. Only through this courageously comprehensive thinking has the UEM been able to evolve from a classic mission society to an international missionary community. Peter Sandner, who died last year at the age of 89, made a decisive contribution to this evolution. In his time as director, he succeeded in overcoming the missionary paradigm of sending and receiving. Today, the UEM is living the dream of an ecumenical fellowship in which all parties have the same rights and obligations.

In the pages that follow, you will read about how this dream is unfolding in practice. Our work in the three regions embodies the pillars of the UEM – Advocacy, Diaconia, Development, Evangelism, and Partnership. The report includes transparent financial accounting and an explanation of how the UEM is structured. You, the UEM members, have contributed to making this great diversity possible through your membership dues, church districts and congregations, initiatives and circles of friends, and many, many private donations. In the name of the UEM, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude.

Volker Martin Dally
General Secretary of the United Evangelical Mission
»THE CLIMATE ACTION DAY 2017 WAS A GREAT SUCCESS«

(for further information about the Youth Climate Action Day, please see page 12)
WORKING PRIORITIES AT THE UEM
ACROSS BORDERS

THE UNITED EVANGELICAL MISSION

Think mission is old-fashioned? A relic from colonial times? Not anymore! Today’s United Evangelical Mission (UEM) is a coalition of 35 churches with equal rights in eleven countries, including Namibia, Rwanda, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. The mission community unites various denominations under its roof, such as Lutherans, Reformed, Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists. Members in Germany include six Protestant regional churches and the v. Bodelschwingh Foundations Bethel. Most of these churches originated from the work of two German mission societies: the Rhenish Mission (est. 1828) and Bethel Mission (est. 1886). After the churches in Asia and Africa became independent, they continued to maintain close bilateral relations with Germany and the mission headquarters in Wuppertal.

Wuppertal has been home to the mission for over 180 years, an era of many changes and transitions. Long gone are the classic pioneer missionaries of the nineteenth century, for example, who set out into the world from Germany to bring the gospel to the “heathens”. UEM staff exchanges go in many directions these days: no longer exclusively from north to south, but also from south to north and from south to south. These bridge builders live and work in various UEM member churches. One Tanzanian theologian worked for three years as a tutor for Ecumenical Education at the UEM Training Centre in Wuppertal. An East Congolese development expert commissioned by the UEM has been advising two churches in the province of Équateur in the west of the country for several years, showing people in this underdeveloped rural region how to improve their situation and overcome their poverty. His work has been a great boon to development.

German staff, on the other hand – whether theologians or other specialists – are sent out by the UEM to serve a member church upon request, following a consultation. There are engineers, doctors, management specialists, and theology lecturers, just to name a few.

The member churches in Africa and Asia, like the German ones, are grouped together into “regions”. In this way, churches that previously had little knowledge of each other and a bilateral connection only to “Wuppertal” are being encouraged to engage in dialogue and coordination with their partners in the region. The young adults in the UEM volunteer programme are also building bridges between people of different cultures and origins. (Volunteer programme, see page 21)

In 1996, the German mission organisation of the UEM became an international missionary communion. It took a courageous act of strength to create an equal network out of the former “star-shaped” structure of the mission, a web in which everyone’s equal participation in all decisions is more than just a pledge on paper, but actual lived practice.

Participants of the first international summer school on the topics of conflict management, mediation, and the protection of human rights in Wuppertal: Annika Huneke, Carla Weitensteiner, John Bosco Kamoga (seen left to right).

Young people from Asia (as shown in the picture), Africa, and Germany implemented their ideas on climate protection on the Youth Climate Action Day 2017.
WORKING PRIORITIES AT THE UEM

Advocacy, Diaconia, Development, Evangelism, Partnerships

From the beginning, the UEM has pursued a holistic understanding of mission, striving to improve not only the spreading of the gospel but also the educational, diaconal, and medical conditions of the people, and to advocate for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

Today, the international UEM communion is involved in five areas of work: its commitment to reconciliation, peace, and environmental protection and its courageous Advocacy for the rights of women and children and for human rights (Advocacy, see page 12 and following) are one, alongside Diaconia (Diaconia, see page 16 and following) and healthcare, and the struggle against poverty and disease. School, training, and continuing education are central elements of the international community, as is a scholarship programme (Development, see page 20 and following) intended to support the next generation in the member churches. Forging congregations and interfaith dialogue (Evangelism, see page 22 and following) also comprises part of this lengthy series of tasks, as do ecumenical partnerships (Partnerships, see page 24 and following).

They are the heart and the foundation of the international communion. About a hundred church districts and congregations in the German member churches of the UEM maintain close partnership ties with churches in Africa and Asia – often they have been connected for several decades. This includes not only regular exchange visits in both directions, but also preparatory meetings, bazaars, and country seminars on the circumstances in the partner country. Despite globalisation, we still know far too little about people’s everyday lives in countries like the DRC, Sri Lanka, Namibia, and Indonesia. But much of what we do know (or could know), we owe to the vibrant and local work of these partnership groups. Incidentally, the meetings of these groups, like other UEM meetings as well, have another special feature: they are usually associated with ecumenical worship services that broaden participants’ spiritual horizons. The UEM promotes, monitors, and shapes these partnerships and is proud of this ecumenical network in which the global church is vividly present. This too is a goal that the UEM would like to support even more in the future, with partnerships between professionals, schools, and hospitals.

The UEM member churches, be they in the Philippines or Sri Lanka, in North Rhine-Westphalia, Hesse, or Botswana, increasingly benefit from this communion through joint projects and programmes. For example, if the Baptist Church in Central Africa (CBCA) in the DRC establishes a centre that offers young people with disabilities and post-traumatic disorders a new chance for vocational training, adding to their prospects for life and giving a sense of independence, then the UEM will be there. People with disabilities are usually marginalized and stigmatized in Congolese society. Their parents are overwhelmed and do not know how to help their child or themselves. (Diaconia, see page 18)

A UEM project combating malnutrition among children and women. For example, women learn how to properly grow vegetables; they also get tools, seeds, and small animals.

This is just one example out of the many smaller and larger projects that give people new courage. The UEM communion is and remains a spiritual community committed to the liberating message of Jesus Christ. The UEM organises this community while respecting the different cultural influences of all of its members, all of whom participate in full and with equal rights. Admittedly, this is not always easy. But the path is a pioneering one, in a world where conflicts do not automatically disappear as the world grows closer together.

Fundamental information on the UEM such as its constitution, mission statement, etc., is available at www.uemission.org/en/about-uem/downloads.html
ADVOCACY

Projects and Programmes: 810,495 euros

SUCCESSFUL YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION DAY 2017 IN ASIA AND AFRICA

The UEM Africa Region and UEM Asia Region organised the Youth Climate Action Day 2017 with various events and campaigns in Rwanda, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, and Indonesia. In several places, UEM member churches conducted activities on the theme of climate protection. Young people collected rubbish and planted trees, and the churches provided information about climate protection in seminars, films, and the children’s worship service. Events took place in the run-up to the Climate Action Day on 4 November as well as on the day. This was to ensure that activities on the part of the church youth to protect the environment were not limited to one day, but instead would take place throughout the year.

The Climate Action Day 2017 was a great success in the Africa and Asia regions of the UEM. The Evangelical Church in West Papua and the Christian Churches in East Java and North Central Java participated for the first time. In addition to the church events, church based-institutions also put on regional campaigns to which outside groups such as schools, universities, environmental protection organisations, and members of other religions were invited.

Prior to the conference, the 45 international participants visited a mosque, a synagogue, and a church in Unna and Duisburg in areas where people from different religious communities have worked together in order to build peaceful and inclusive communities on a local level. In a joint message (see www.venirmission.org/joint_message), the participants committed themselves to strengthen interfaith action for peace, treat people with other religious convictions with respect, and resist those who discriminate, condemn, or prosecute people because of their faith, conviction, gender, or sexual orientation.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Through its International Training Centre and JPIC department, and with the support of all area and programme departments, the UEM conducted its first summer school for peace, conflict management, and the protection of human rights in Wuppertal from 17-28 July 2017. Twenty-five participants from Asia, Africa, and Germany attended the training. The UEM’s summer school curriculum put special emphasis on communicating the interlinkage of peace/mediation and human rights protection. The training empowered participants to get actively involved in conflict prevention and conflict resolution and to protect victims of human rights violations. Attendees also had the opportunity to take part in the peace conference prior to the training.

Following an evaluation of the summer school, there are plans to further develop the training and integrate the knowledge, experience, and resources on peace, conflict, and human rights within the UEM, its Training Centre in Wuppertal, and the programme/area departments. Other ecumenical bodies and mission organisations will also be invited to also send representatives to attend the summer school.

PEACE AMONG THE PEOPLE – INTERFAITH PEACE CONFERENCE

The global phenomena of religiously motivated violence, extremism, terrorism, xenophobia, and racism have also affected the realities for UEM member churches in Africa, Asia, and Germany, and the role of religions has become an issue in many parts of the world. The German government has initiated measures to observe and consider the crucial role of religious actors in peace and development processes. It was against this background that the annual conference of churches, mission societies and church development agencies took place in April 2017 in the conference centre of the Westphalian Church in Villigst. The theme of the conference was ‘Religion and Development’.

In the context of the aforementioned global trends and related debates on the role of religion, the UEM collaborated with the Rheinisch and Westphalian Church and the Catholic office of Justitia et Pax to host a conference entitled, “Peace Among the People: Interreligious Action for Peace and Inclusive Communities” in Wuppertal from 14-16 July 2017. Attending the conference were ninety representatives from Christian churches and from Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu communities from Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Tanzania, Nigeria and Germany. One of the conference goals was to demonstrate that interfaith action for peace in different cultural contexts and regions has been happening for many years, in contrast to the international media’s widespread conflation of violence with religion. The conference has been a unique opportunity to strengthen peace agents from different religions with different cultural backgrounds, and to offer a space for sharing and networking on peace and justice for the future.

In conversation: Pastor Lusungu Mbilinyi, Sheik Fudhil Suleiman Soraga and Pastor Dr Ipyana Mwamugobole, UEM tutor for ecumenical education (from left)
WORKING PRIORITIES AT THE UEM | ADVOCACY

WOMEN AND THEIR VOICES

An international training course for women, the first of its kind, was organised in Wuppertal from 12-22 October 2017. The twelve participants in this Women’s Leadership Training worked on topics such as the challenges and opportunities for women in leadership positions, leadership and socio-economic development, and the biblical perspective on women as leaders.

UEM HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

For more than twenty years, the UEM has been an advocate for victims of human rights violations and a steward of preserving the integrity of creation. For International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2017, the UEM issued a comprehensive package of materials on the theme, “Don’t Force Me”. The campaign helped to build awareness in the German Region about human rights, provided information about human rights concerns within the UEM Communion, and raised funds to support human rights projects.

RISING UP FROM DISASTER

In close cooperation with Interregional Women’s Programme Officer of the UEM Irene Girsang, trainer for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Nursini Silibombing, and Karo Batak Protestant Church representative Krismas Barus, the Asia Department brought together women and children from disaster-stricken areas in Indonesia for a joint programme. The programme focused on child victims of the Sinabung volcanic eruption and women victims of the Lapindo mud volcano and the flooding in Waisor and Badang. Programme facilitators helped participants to process their traumatic experiences through poetry, songs, and paintings. The results are amazing. Several remarkable songs and poems were produced, as well as ten paintings.

In connection with this joint programme, on 29 July 2017 the UEM organised a fundraising event involving Indonesian singer Glenn Fredly and the Indonesian Minister for Women’s and Children’s Affairs Prof. Dr Yohana Yembise. Nine paintings were sold at this event. The UEM was able to raise 120,000,000 Rupiah (approximately 7,100 euros) at the evening. Furthermore, the UEM may receive some financial support from the Indonesian government to help children in three areas recover from their trauma: North Sumatra, Java, and Papua.
THE UEM PROVIDES EMERGENCY AID

DROUGHT IN TANZANIA

When a request for support from the Karagwe Diocese in Tanzania was received in February 2017, the Solidarity Association of the UEM member churches reacted immediately by approving emergency aid. The Protestant Church in Hesse and Nassau, the Evangelical Church in the Rhineland, and the Evangelical Church of Westphalia, as well as German partnership groups and the UEM, appropriated €48,000 in emergency aid. The Karagwe Diocese is using the funds to supply desperately needed food and drinking water to the rural population, especially the schools.

The effects of a prolonged drought in East Africa were being felt for the second year in a row. Northwest Tanzania was affected as well: cataclysmic failures in the coffee, corn, and banana crops had made food scarce and expensive. The region’s people and its institutions such as day and boarding schools were struggling to cover the rising cost of drinking water. The lack of water drove livestock and wildlife into populated areas. Reports from the Karagwe Diocese indicated that fields in the Mabira district had been destroyed by elephants.

ATTACK ON A UEM MEMBER CHURCH IN THE PHILIPPINES

An emergency aid request from the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) also brought a swift reaction from the Rhenish and Westphalian Church and the United Evangelical Mission. They allocated €30,000 in emergency aid for the Philippine Church.

The church’s Dansalan College, in Marawi City in the southern Philippines, suffered a terrorist attack on 23 May 2017. The school’s main building burned down in the attack – including the science labs, the library, and the sleeping quarters. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte imposed martial law over the southern region of Mindanao. The attack was attributed to the Islamist rebel organisation Maute. The UCCP requested aid specifically for the 92 staff members of the school who were affected by the attack by the Maute rebels.

Reuel Marigza, Bishop of the UCCP, asked the UEM Solidarity Association for prayers, solidarity, and support for the affected staff of Dansalan College.

FLOODWATERS IN BOTSWANA

The Woodpecker Theological Seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana (ELCB) is located directly on the Notwane River in Gaborone. Heavy rains in the spring of 2017 brought flooding that inundated the seminary campus: guest rooms, seminar areas, and the kitchen were destroyed. Inadequate insurance coverage left the church responsible for the damage. The UEM Africa Region is providing €10,000 for the renovation of the site, so that the guest and teaching operations may be resumed. Without the aid from the UEM Africa Region, the theological seminary would probably have had to close. Woodpecker is the church’s only theological institute, training pastors, deacons, and evangelists.

Lecture at the Woodpecker Theological Seminary in Gaborone
DEMONSTRATIVE REPUBLIC OF CONGO: TRAINING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Rohland CEDIAR diaconal training centre of the Baptist Church in Central Africa (CBCA) is a home and training facility for 52 children and adolescents with disabilities and post-traumatic disorders in the North Kivu metropolis of Butembo. They are trained in the fields of tailoring, carpentry, hairdressing, shoemaking and leather-craft, and horticulture.

The centre also takes in former child soldiers who were traumatised by their experiences in war. The teenagers and their careers at the centre live together like one big family. Everyone participates in the daily household and workshop tasks. Not only do the young people learn a trade at the training centre, but also how to find their way in everyday life. Here they gain preparation to live independently: this includes shopping, cooking, washing, cleaning, and travel on public transport.

The aim is to integrate these young people into their families and village communities after training and give them better prospects, and thus a piece of independence. The social workers at the centre involve the families from the beginning and provide them with counselling. They know that only with the help of the family will these young people be able to cope with everyday life someday and integrate into the community.

According to the approach of CBCA diaconia director Polisi Kivava, “at the end of their time at CEDIAR (most of them stay for two years), the young people should be as independent as possible and be able to earn their own income using what they have learned. This is why the young people receive a starter pack with various tools after completing their training. Contacts with potential customers, which have already been cemented during training, make it easier for the young people to market the goods they have learned to make.”

INDONESIA: YAPENTRA, A SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN

Children born blind or with severe visual impairment face particular disadvantages in Indonesia. Almost no one makes allowances for them in daily life. Blind and visually impaired children are considered a burden, especially in rural areas. Often they are sent to beg on the streets instead of going to school, because the special schools for them are few and far between.

In 1978, near the province capital of Medan on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, the Christian-Protestant Church in Indonesia (GKPI) founded a boarding school for visually impaired and blind children. The school is free to attend. Here, skilled instructors teach 65 children from the primary to high school level. In addition to studying Braille, pupils also learn to use computers that are specially adapted to their needs. After school, the young people pick up certain trades, such as broom-making or massage, which improves their chances of independence and earning their own income. The especially talented pupils among them go on to study at the university.

Music is a focus of the school. All the children can learn to play instruments such as piano, saxophone, guitar, drums, and flute. The school’s big band and choir are popular bookings for events and celebrations. Concerts and festivals are held regularly on the school grounds, and the proceeds from these events help to fund the school. These musical successes strengthen the young people’s self-esteem.

Visitors are quick to notice the special atmosphere of this school. The pupils and teachers live, work, and study together on the extensive landscaped grounds like one big family. All of the children have domestic and gardening tasks to do. Their chores include cleaning, doing laundry, and preparing meals, as well as cultivating fruits and vegetables. These skills are important in order for them to be able to manage later on, in everyday life, and to not depend on the help of others.
The UEM scholarship programme is committed to assisting the UEM member churches with higher education by offering scholarship funds. Its budget has been continuously increasing since 2010 while the number and quality of the scholarship recipients has remained constant. As of December 2017, 94 students (44 from Asia, 48 from Africa, and 2 from Germany) were in the programme. Whereas support had previously been focused on theological studies, 62 per cent of the fields of study supported by the UEM are now non-theological in nature, including diaconia, medicine, social science, health service, educational studies, music, IT management, development studies, finances, administration, and management studies. These disciplines reflect the need of the UEM member churches for qualified staff and their engagement in social concerns within their regions.

After struggling with some gender imbalances in the group in 2017, the UEM had to take measures in order to restore the balance. The UEM General Secretary wrote an official letter asking church leaders to endorse more female candidates in the months ahead. Until the gender balance can be restored, the UEM will be accepting only female students into the scholarship programme.

The UEM scholarship programme organised a meeting from 13-16 August 2017 in Samosir Island, Indonesia for scholarship holders in Asia. Thirteen students studying in Indonesia, Hong Kong, and the Philippines gathered to discuss and share their final projects and academic writing. This meeting aimed to sharpen and broaden the students’ academic discourse through an intercultural and international perspective.

Dyah Ayu Krismawati, a former UEM scholarship holder from Indonesia, successfully completed her doctorate at the Protestant University Wuppertal/Bethel in 2017.

The South-South exchange between young volunteers from African and Asian member churches (since 2008) has been complicated by visa issues. This is why we are currently focusing on exchanges within Africa. But this too constitutes great enrichment in view of the diversity in Africa – people and places in the same country are so different from one another. There really is much to discover and learn from country to country: the culture, society, and people are never the same.

When former volunteers return from the programme, many of them take up duties and responsibilities in their church congregations and ecumenical partnerships, commit to development-focused organisations, and campaign for a more equitable distribution of resources in our one world.

Dyah Ayu Krismawati, a former UEM scholarship holder from Indonesia, successfully completed her doctorate at the Protestant University Wuppertal/Bethel in 2017.
EVANGELISM

MISSION AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

Mission and Interfaith Dialogue is a topic that has been growing in importance over the last twelve months. It has become particularly urgent in Germany, with the large number of Muslim refugees who have come to the country recently. Many congregations on the ground are assisting refugees, and the question of how to share our faith (or not) is frequently asked.

To encourage congregation members in Germany to share their faith in a respectful and dialogue-friendly way, the UEM Evangelism Department teamed up with the Association of Missionary Services (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Missionarische Dienste) and the Centre for Mission in the Region of EKD (ZMBK) to publish a brochure on this theme for use at the grassroots level. The brochure was published in January 2017, to much acclaim from a very diverse spectrum of readers. The first and second print runs of 3,800 and 5,000 copies, respectively, were gone within days; a third run of 10,000 copies was then printed and is currently being distributed all over Germany.

At the Women’s Assembly of the East Java Christian Church, men and women attended various workshops to discuss topics such as faith, family, the environment, and social and political responsibility in Indonesia.

HEALING AND DELIVERANCE

This remains an important topic. Within the German Region, the Executive Secretary for Evangelism is occasionally invited to speak on healing and prayer. In the Africa Region, follow-up work to last year’s Think Tank on Trauma Healing and Deliverance has been ongoing, with trainings of several hundred multipliers. The Executive Secretary for Evangelism continues her theological work on deliverance and has written a major academic article on the UEM process for an international publication.

CHURCH AND MIGRATION

With many local German congregations actively involved with refugees, and a growing number of Muslim refugees asking to be baptized, particularly those from Iran and Afghanistan, the issue of mission towards Muslims in Germany and the question of how to integrate these ever more urgent. At the same time, there is also a growing need for interfaith dialogue. The Executive Secretary for Evangelism is heading an internal UEM working group on these issues, and has been asked to assist with work in the Rhinish and Westphalian Church on these themes.

WOMEN AND INTERFAITH LIFE

“Building True Sisterhood” was the topic of the international women’s gathering of the UEM in East Java, Indonesia, from 3-18 July 2017, hosted by the East Java Christian Church, GKJW. The eight participants from Asia, Africa, and Germany were interfaith: Muslims and Christians from each region were represented. They were very familiar with and involved in inter-religious activities in their respective churches and countries. During the gathering, proceeding from their personal experiences, the women discussed interfaith issues, exchanged views, learned from each other, and observed how important interfaith life is nowadays and how women can practise it in their daily lives. The women also had the opportunity to stay in a Christian as well as a Muslim village in Java.

WOMEN AND PAINTING – GOD’S CREATION

This workshop resulted from a cooperation between the Training Centre Wuppertal and the Interregional Women’s Programme and took place in Wuppertal from 10-12 November 2017. It featured a professional painter from Bonn, Maria Dierker. The seventeen participants were taught how to produce their own paint from fruit and vegetables. They then used this same paint for their paintings. By the end of the workshop, over thirty paintings had been produced depicting the subject of women and the influence of God’s creation in their daily lives. The participants gave the UEM permission to use the paintings in its work.

Projects and Programmes: 366,958 euros

EVANGELISM CONTACT PERSONS (ECPs)

The new concept of the Evangelism Department is being implemented. The recruitment of Evangelism Contact Persons has turned out to be more complicated and time-consuming than expected, as many churches found it hard to locate suitable candidates in the prescribed age group (under 40). As of early March 2017, all seven positions in Africa, six of eight positions in Asia, and one of three positions in Germany had been filled.

Thirteen people participated in the sixteen-day training in May 2017 for the Evangelism Contact Persons. The nominee from the Evangelical Church of Congo was not granted a visa, and the nominee from the Evangelical Church in the Philippines, and the Chinese Rheinish Church in Hong Kong have not yet named an ECP.

The training, run by the Executive Secretary for Evangelism in close cooperation with the Training Centre Wuppertal, focused on evangelism theology and on project planning. Work plans were drawn up for the first year: the ECPs will concentrate on getting an overview of evangelism in their respective contexts, building a network of contacts and supporters, and consulting with their respective evangelism departments on identifying the areas where they should work in the coming years.

Most of the ECPs are already very active. The ECPs have a WhatsApp group in which they communicate about their work and share prayer requests.
PARTNERSHIP

Projects and Programmes: 209,944 Euros

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE OF THE UEM

In July 2017, the international partnership conference of the UEM took place in Wuppertal. Following the international partnership conferences in 2007 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and 2012 in Parapat, Indonesia, the discussions in Wuppertal were centered on the shape of the UEM’s partnership work in the future. Twenty-four delegates from Asia, Africa, and Germany worked together to develop new ideas for partnership work and to consider how existing partnerships can be strengthened.

The concluding document, entitled ‘Enjoy Partnership’, is available in German, English, French, Indonesian, and Swahili. It chronicles the diverse results from the various working groups. The title of the document was chosen in reference to Philippians 2:17 – 18: “I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So, you too should be glad and rejoice with me.” The delegates and the UEM hope for joyful, creative, and vibrant partnerships.

Lastly, an action plan was developed to govern the additional steps in the partnership work. As an example, the UEM, partnership groups, and churches should develop partnership activities that include a variety of different people in terms of interests, skills, profession, and gender.

The international partnership conference in Wuppertal concluded with a worship service.

First, the results of past international partnership conferences were evaluated. Here special focus was placed on evaluating the action plans from the Parapat conference in the areas of communication, structures, involvement of young people and women, ecumenical learning, partnership guidelines, and projects. Many goals have already been implemented, while others are still in progress.

Following the evaluation, various issues were discussed: Are equal partnerships even possible? How can we further increase our long-distance participation in our projects? How can we involve young people in partnerships? In addition to these issues, there was talk of expanding partnerships in the form of trilateral partnerships and South-South partnerships.

Materials about partnership work see www.vemission.org/en/topics/partnerships-within-the-uem.html
EDUCATIONAL WORK
Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Cameroon, and Indonesia, the Philippines, Germany, Namibia, Botswana, the young people could not have been more diverse: they came from Indo-

Both high school graduates and employees with graduate

degrees were present, and the origins of the young people

were invited to Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar to take

leadership. With this in mind, 19 young adults aged 19 to

young adults who already have some experience with

also offer these programmes internationally and to invite

tory in the training centre. They have been offered to adults

Ecumenical Leadership Trainings (ELT) have a long his-

Tanzania

First Ecumenical Leadership Training for Young Adults in

Many discussions were held at the first Ecumenical Leadership Training for Young Adults.

THE UEM TRAINING CENTRE WUPPERTAL

Grant from the UEM: 376,700 Euros

GLOBALES LERNEN IN ÖKUMENISCHER PERSPEKTIVE

First Ecumenical Leadership Training for Young Adults in

Tanzania

Ecumenical Leadership Trainings (ELT) have a long his-
tory in the training centre. They have been offered to adults
and young adults alike. Over time, the idea developed to
also offer these programmes internationally and to invite
young adults who already have some experience with
leadership. With this in mind, 19 young adults aged 19 to
33 were invited to Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar to take
part in the first international training (16–27 March).
Both high school graduates and employees with graduate
degrees were present, and the origins of the young people
could not have been more diverse: they came from Indo-
nesia, the Philippines, Germany, Namibia, Botswana, the
Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Cameroon, and
Tanzania. The participants discussed different styles of
leadership by linking together the theoretical contents of
the training with talks with leaders, as well as by reflecting
on their own experiences at a meta level. They learned
about methods of project management, which they then
used to develop their own projects. The UEM regions for
Germany, Africa, and Asia collaborated closely on this
training programme. The leadership team consisted of
staff from each of these departments.

Study Trip to Tanzania

Pastoral identity was the topic that led one group of pastors
in training (Vikare) to visit Lushoto from 16–30 June 2017.
There they met young pastors from the North-Western
Diocese of the Evangelical Church in Tanzania. A lively
debate ensued on lifestyle, pastoral identity and gender,
social development and pastoral identity as well as on the
subject of peaceful coexistence in a multifaith society and
other challenges facing congregations. The informal en-
counters on the trip helped participants to understand
themselves and one another. A special highlight for the
participants from Germany was the housing provided by
the congregations of the Tanzanian participants. This allo-
wed the German visitors to experience the normal every-
day life of a pastor in Tanzania. The personal encounters
facilitated intercultural experience and a change of per-
spective. Through these experiences, both unknown and
familiar, the participants reflected upon their own pasto-
ral identity.

Interfaith Learning Modules for Students of Jewish, Christian,
and Muslim Theology

As part of the JCM cooperation, the Kirchliche Hochschule
Wuppertal/Bethel, the Institute for Islamic Theology of
Osnabrück University, and the Abraham Geiger Kolleg
for rabbinic studies in Berlin signed a cooperation agree-
ment in 2016, after many preliminary discussions. In 2017,
this cooperation first took shape in the form of study
modules for the students of these institutions. A total of
nineteen students took part in the fourteen days of training,
in several topical block seminars. Seminar topics included
interfaith dialogue, rituals, the image of God, and the social
responsibility of religions. All participants also took part
in the annual JCM conference. The topic of the 2017 con-
ference was “Migration – A New Normal”. For many of
the students, this was their first intensive interfaith encounter
ever. One Jewish woman who attended said that “the
personal encounters opened up a new world for all of us.
I was able to ask the Muslim women everything I wanted
to know.” As one Christian participant said, “the intimacy
that developed during the course of the training led us to
talk openly not just about theological facts, but also ab-
out the feelings we have with regards to certain religious
and political topics”.

It is clear that the opportunities for face-to-face encoun-
ters within the framework of this cooperation lead to expe-
riences and lessons that no classroom or book, however
well written, can offer. The participants can carry out ex-
tensive work on theological themes, without fear of con-
travery. “In the safe space that exists during these semi-
nars, we are able to speak about our religious beliefs with
unusual openness. Here we can deal with our differences
in a fair way”, said one student rabbi. A Muslim student
summarized his experiences thusly: “No university course
on interfaith dialogue, not even ten of them, could have
given me what I got during this conference.” The abun-
dant positive feedback shows that the training led to a
lasting change in attitude for many of the participants.
One foreign participant spoke of the “strong relation-
ships built, that have changed participants’ lives in a very
positive way!” He said what many of them felt.

Some of the participants also reported that the interfaith
seminars had advanced their intercultural learning pro-
cess. “Unexpectedly, I gained a lot of understanding of
German society and of life in Germany”, said one foreign
participant. This shows that the training surpassed its
original goals and promoted a change in perspective, as
well as increased tolerance of ambiguity and improved
intercultural communication.

The UEM Training Centre Wuppertal Receives the Quality Seal
In April the Training Centre received a certification for its
adherence to the quality standards for further education of
the Gütesiegelverbund Weiterbildung e.V. The external
examiner came to the conclusion that the satisfaction of
the training participants is the main goal of the training
centre’s efforts to maintain and further develop the qua-
lity of its work. The planning of programmes is geared
towards the interests of the target groups and needs of
society. The UEM Training Centre Wuppertal also ensures
that its speakers and trainers have sufficient professional
and pedagogical skills and that the venues, material, and
media available for the seminars are appropriate for suc-
cessful learning.
THE UEM TRAINING CENTRE
BIELEFELD-BETHEL

Grant from the UEM: 443,300 Euros

GLOBAL LEARNING IN ECUMENICAL PERSPECTIVE

International Diaconia
In spring 2017, the UEM Training Centre Bielefeld-Bethel (TCB) and its International Diaconia programme moved to its new venue, Haus Terach, also within Bethel. The new location is far more centrally situated in Bethel, which will help to increase the visibility of the UEM and the options for diaconic cooperation with nearby educational and diaconic institutions. Renovation works of the building are still ongoing. At the same time, the concept of the International Diaconia programme was further developed and diversified. Its main focus will now be to offer international qualified training programmes in diaconia as well as to provide a forum for diaconia experts to share and exchange views.

The foundation for the new international study programme, “Diaconia and Social Studies”, was established in November 2017 at a meeting of church-owned universities in Africa, Asia, and Germany. The basic study programme on diaconia will have a special focus on education, public health, poverty reduction, and reconciliation. Modules of the study programme will be open to employees in churches and church-based organisations, for the purpose of continuing education. The study programme is set to begin in 2020, after the contracts of cooperation have been signed and continued.

Experts from all regions met in November 2017 for a symposium on “Healing through the Arts” in Rwanda. The interdisciplinary and international setting, with university lecturers in theology and psychology and therapists in music, visual arts, and theatre, made for an inspiring and fruitful exchange of experiences. Together the participants developed the main features of a common study module on trauma healing and reconciliation.

The MA in Diaconic Management, a joint programme with the Institute for Diaconic Science and Diaconic Management of the Protestant University Wuppertal/Bethel and three other international universities, is ongoing. The sixteen students on the third course had their last section and wrote their dissertations in 2017 (with graduation in January 2018). The UEM was able to get scholarships for all of them. The course will continue to be offered, and a network for alumni has been established as well. Most graduates of the MA programme are already in leading positions in their churches (one has even become a bishop). The UEM is pleased at the establishment of a cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the acquisition of funding for the alumni meeting in Namibia in 2017. The close links between alumni facilitate collegial counselling among graduates and support the implementation of programmes by member churches and the UEM in the regions where alumni are present.

Experts on diaconia, including professors on the subject and specialists on music therapy, have been sent by the TCB to different universities as guest lecturers or included in projects to advise and improve upon the services provided by the churches.

Financial support: 65,000 Euro

YOUNG ADULT’S NETWORK
ADULTS’ NETWORK

“KIRCHENTAG” IN BERLIN

The Young Adults’ Network was very active in the June 2017 “Kirchentag” in Berlin. With their highly visible violet t-shirts, the 46 young people who participated created a lively UEM presence through music and various actions and workshops, as well as a large international youth worship service that reached and inspired many young people. The Young Adults’ Network also had significant representation at the UEM stall during the event.

“ADULTS’ NETWORK”

Based on the good experiences from the very active young adults’ network, the UEM is forming an “Adults’ Network” to provide opportunities for international voluntary civic engagement in the German context. The foundation has already been laid, and the UEM will now be starting the information-and-recruitment phase.

If you are interested, please get in touch with us. Come and meet our network meetings, subscribe to our monthly newsletter or simply take part in the next action.

Young Adult’s Network

Adults’ Network

Miriam Albrecht (Germany), Ruth Claire Perdon (Philippines), and Paulin Mugisho (Democratic Republic of Congo) (seen right to left) took part in the “Youth for Children Camp” in Sri Lanka while at the same time preparing the UEM International Youth Project for 2018. The group painted a mural on “Peace, Reconciliation, and Rights for Children” with children from a Sri Lankan special needs school. This put a little colour on their faces!
## Profit and Loss Account

**1 January until 31 December 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Revenues</strong></td>
<td>1,177,374.15</td>
<td>1,039,051.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Freely available donations</td>
<td>1,536,256.41</td>
<td>1,735,456.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Member contributions</td>
<td>5,864,650.00</td>
<td>5,823,070.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Dedicated donations</td>
<td>1,800,622.03</td>
<td>1,367,348.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Other operating income</td>
<td>2,212,131.60</td>
<td>3,379,492.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interim result</strong></td>
<td>12,591,034.19</td>
<td>13,344,419.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Cost of materials</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Costs for consumables, supplies, and goods and of purchased merchandise</td>
<td>248,331.06</td>
<td>254,315.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Costs for purchased services</td>
<td>299,545.14</td>
<td>408,530.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cost of Materials</strong></td>
<td>547,876.20</td>
<td>662,845.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Personnel expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Wages and salaries</td>
<td>4,319,775.07</td>
<td>4,518,771.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Social security, post-employment and other employee benefit costs</td>
<td>1,112,938.72</td>
<td>1,183,556.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Personnel expenses</strong></td>
<td>5,432,713.79</td>
<td>5,695,137.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interim result</strong></td>
<td>6,610,444.20</td>
<td>6,979,246.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Write downs of intangible assets of fixed assets and tangible fixed assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Other operating expenses</strong></td>
<td>8,645,056.97</td>
<td>9,313,493.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interim result</strong></td>
<td>-2,572,599.49</td>
<td>-2,849,514.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7. Income from investments</strong></td>
<td>2,447.34</td>
<td>4,007.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8. Income from other long-term securities</strong></td>
<td>2,094,225.95</td>
<td>1,838,877.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9. Interests and similar income</strong></td>
<td>146.77</td>
<td>800.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10. Interests and similar expenses of which: interest expenses from compounding the accruals</strong></td>
<td>205,581.88</td>
<td>317,145.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>1,891,238.18</td>
<td>1,526,540.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11. Earnings before taxes</strong></td>
<td>-681,361.31</td>
<td>-1,322,973.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Fixed Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Intangible assets</td>
<td>4,403.28</td>
<td>788.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Tangible fixed assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Land, property rights and buildings, including buildings on third-party land</td>
<td>7,081,375.42</td>
<td>7,462,139.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Technical equipment and machinery</td>
<td>101,137.85</td>
<td>118,675.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Other fixed assets and office equipment</td>
<td>522,750.73</td>
<td>318,077.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Advance payments and assets under construction</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>26,300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7,705,264.00</td>
<td>7,925,193.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Financial assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Equity investments</td>
<td>450,001.00</td>
<td>450,001.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Cooperative shares</td>
<td>69,977.22</td>
<td>69,977.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Long-term securities</td>
<td>38,439,068.64</td>
<td>38,103,202.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which to UEM Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,074,559.73 EUR (previous year 7,074,559.73 EUR)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Other loans</td>
<td>1,814,225.61</td>
<td>1,717,752.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which to UEM Trust</td>
<td>1,500,220.54 EUR (previous year 1,500,220.54 EUR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40,773,272.47</td>
<td>40,340,932.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Current Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Inventories</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Raw, auxiliary and operating materials</td>
<td>4,370.11</td>
<td>9,319.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Advance payments</td>
<td>17,075.12</td>
<td>1,716.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21,445.23</td>
<td>11,035.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Receivables and other assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Trade receivables</td>
<td>894,307.65</td>
<td>444,343.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Other assets</td>
<td>883,340.88</td>
<td>1,001,105.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,777,648.53</td>
<td>1,445,488.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Cash-in-hand, bank balances</td>
<td>2,457,032.82</td>
<td>4,402,276.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>250,669.42</td>
<td>325,052.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>52,989,735.75</td>
<td>54,450,728.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Equity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Agreed capital</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Endowment UEM Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Initial capital</td>
<td>200,000.00</td>
<td>200,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Endowment contributions</td>
<td>7,078,274.51</td>
<td>7,078,274.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which to UEM Foundation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>188,944.13 EUR (previous year 188,944.13 EUR)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Net profit/net loss</td>
<td>-1,938,588.25</td>
<td>-1,257,226.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which annual net loss to UEM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-709,145.69 EUR (previous year – 1,322,372.34 EUR)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which annual net loss to UEM Foundation</td>
<td>27,784.38 EUR (previous year – 601.10 EUR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40,306,141.15</td>
<td>40,987,502.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Accruals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Accruals for pensions and similar obligations</td>
<td>1,230,980.00</td>
<td>1,325,107.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Other accruals</td>
<td>1,857,232.78</td>
<td>2,178,628.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which to UEM Foundation</td>
<td>1,900.00 EUR</td>
<td>(previous year 1,700.00 EUR)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,088,212.78</td>
<td>3,503,735.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which with a remaining term of up to one year</td>
<td>150,223.42</td>
<td>337,439.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which with a remaining term of up to one year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(previous year 337,439.67 EUR)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Liabilities towards affiliated companies</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which with a remaining term of up to one year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(previous year 0.03 EUR)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Other liabilities</td>
<td>9,364,333.29</td>
<td>9,485,102.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which with a remaining term of up to one year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9,148,560.87 EUR (previous year 9,223,497.71 EUR)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which with a remaining term of more than one year</td>
<td>215,772.42 EUR (previous year 261,604.62 EUR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which relating to social security</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>267,023.44 EUR (previous year 307,918.74 EUR)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which relating to social security</td>
<td>58,504.42 EUR (previous year 59,809.76)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,514,966.74</td>
<td>9,822,542.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Deferred income</td>
<td>80,815.08</td>
<td>136,948.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>52,989,735.75</td>
<td>54,450,728.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The revenue situation was influenced by the following factors in 2017:

**MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Right now the UEM depends heavily on member contributions. In the reporting year, German members paid €5,753,000, Asian members paid €64,000, and African members paid €47,000 to the UEM.

**DONATION DEVELOPMENT**

Donation volume has been steady over the past few years at around €3,000,000. The German donation market is trending away from open donations to earmarked donations. Donors prefer to donate to a single targeted project rather than to the organisation as a whole. This is also true of the donations received by the UEM. The UEM faces two challenges:

1. We have diminishing revenue from donations to finance our overhead, that is, our administrative costs. But this overhead is fundamental for the successful completion of projects, because no money comes in without accounting, for example.
2. The distribution of earmarked donations varies widely across regions. Often the projects and regions with strong partners in Germany receive disproportionately more earmarked donations than other projects and regions. So we balance the funds with financing from the budget in order to avoid inequalities and even envy within the UEM community. Earmarked donations have no effect on the outcome, since they are forwarded to the specified project on a 1:1 ratio.

**INTEREST DEVELOPMENT / REVENUE FROM INVESTMENTS**

The UEM’s investments, which had a book value of €38,439,000 (of which the UEM Foundation had €7,075,000) at the annual closure, are allocated according to strict sustainability criteria. The zero interest-rate policy of the European Central Bank has hit us hard. Long-term investments have matured in recent months. Hardly any interest can be generated from new investment. This is why interest income decreased from €1,676,000 in 2016 to €692,000. We had to compensate for this shortfall by selling capital investments. At the moment it remains to be seen whether the economy in the eurozone will see positive development and the key interest rate of the European Central Bank will be raised again.

**PROPERTY REVENUES**

We are seeing the first successes from the property strategy introduced in mid-2016. The UEM currently rents out 96 flats and houses. More than €400,000 has been invested in modernizing these properties. The goal is to manage the property portfolio in such a way that the revenues can be used to support the budget of the UEM. By 2017, the surplus from rented units was already €33,483. In 2018, €60,000 is expected. The goal for the next few years is €200,000 per year.

**OVERHEAD**

Overhead is what we term the administration and committees of the UEM. Various processes of modernization and cost savings were initiated for both in 2017. By 2020, administration should see savings of €420,000 compared to the 2016 level. This is to be achieved through rational restructuring, renewal of IT systems, documentation and analysis of work processes, and avoidance of redundant working steps. At the 2017 closure, €200,000 per year in savings had already been registered.

**CONCLUSION**

The association closes the financial year with a net loss of – €681,000 (previous year: – €1,323,000). Adding in the legally required reimbursement of the KZVK renovation contribution booked in the reporting year (€440,000), plus interest (€75,000), results in an adjusted annual shortfall of –€1,196,000.

The UEM has a total of €32,703,000 available in equity capital. It can therefore be concluded that the financial situation of the UEM currently poses no threat to its continued existence. Nevertheless, the situation should be described as serious, since valuable reserves are being drawn down year after year. We are striving to have a balanced budget by 2020; concepts have been worked out and are already decided.

**LINKS TO FURTHER INFORMATION**

More operating numbers and information can be found in the report by the auditor (in German), which is available here at the website: www.vemission.org/ueber-uns/downloads.html

More information on the sustainability filter used for UEM investments can be found here: www.kd-bank.de/verantwortung/Nachhaltigkeitsfilter.html (only in German language)
The equal hiring of men and women for positions is a number of staff members not of German origin is rising. From Africa and Asia, and two thirds from Germany. The in its composition. About one third of the team comes Like the committees, the UEM staff is also international additionally and to a large extent by the regional offices in Africa and Asia. The special donation sources are still coming from Germany. This is true for the South are equally involved in deciding which projects in Germany are funded, just as people in the North are equally involved in deciding which projects for children in need. The theme of the campaign is “Children in Need”; for this purpose and gather donations from all three regions. The special donation campaigns under the label “United Action” were conceived which also includes the Christians in the country. Similar developments are occurring in some regions in Africa. Regional congregations exist there that have members from a financially comfortable middle class. This is why the “United Action” campaign was launched back in 2012: it is bringing the member churches of the United Evangelical Mission even closer together. The idea is to keep pace with the growing self-confidence of the churches in Africa and Asia. The special donation campaigns under the label “United Action” were conceived also numerous South-South encounters. This internatio- nisation of decision-making processes, coupled with the international staff teams involved, offers creative and committed potential to further develop the work of UEM. STRONGS OF THE UEM A vibrant community needs flexible and effective administra- tion. Such administration is expensive and must be constantly updated and modernised. One current project is the modernisation of the IT landscape in the regional offices. International decision-making bodies are at the heart of the idea of the UEM. Since neither last-minute meetings of the Council nor spontaneous member gatherings are possible, strategic decisions require lengthy preparation and can then only be decided during official meetings. This can be a weakness in the face of rapid change. Additional decision-making powers were granted to the Management Team in 2008 in order to mitigate this effect and enable them to act. The UEM is clearly a vital communion. The consistent progress of its internationalisation also means that the community is perceived as a real gain for its members’ own church-related work. It is important to ensure that the working structures are effective so that the UEM com- munion can continue to serve its members. In a decision of principle, it was stipulated that the budget for 2020 must be balanced. Wuppertal, June 2018

Timo Pauler
Executive Secretary for Finance and Administration
ABOUT US
GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF THE UEM

35 Churches in Africa, Asia and Germany & vBS Bethel

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

General Assembly
- every 2 Years
- 68 Delegates

Council
- 2 Meetings / Year
- 12 Delegates
- 1 Moderator
- 1 Youth Delegate

Management Team
- General Secretary & 7 Executive Secretaries
- General Secretariat
- Executive Secretary Finance & Administration (Deputy GenSec)
- Executive Secretary appointed by Council (Deputy GenSec)

International Finance Committee of the Council
- every 2 Years
- 4 Delegates

Regionalversammlung Africa, Asia, Germany
- every 2 Years
- elects and dismisses

General Assembly assists

Council advises

Management Team advises

International Finance Committee of the Council advises

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF THE UEM

AFRICA
Botswana
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Botswana (ELCB)

Democratic Republic of Congo
Church of Christ in Congo (ECC)
Community of the Disciples of Christ in Congo (CDCC)
Association of Evangelical Churches of the Lulonga River (CADELU)

Cameroon
Evangelical Church of Cameroon (EEC)

Namibia
Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN)

Rwanda
Anglican Church of Rwanda (EAR)

Tanzania
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania

ASIA
China
Chinese Rhenish Church Hong Kong Synod (CRC)

Indonesia
Nias Christian Protestant Church (BNKP)
Karo Batak Protestant Church (GBKTP)
Evangelical Christian Church in Tanah Papua (GKI-TP)
Christian Church of Northern Central Java (GKJTU)
East Java Christian Church (GKJW)
Christian Protestant Angkola Church (GKPA)
Protestant Christian Church in Mentawai (GKPM)
Pakpak District Christian Protestant Church (GKPPD)
Simalungun Protestant Christian Church (GKPS)
Batak Christian Community Church (GKPK)
Batak Protestant Christian Church (GKPK)
Indonesian Christian Church (HKI)

Philippines
United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP)

Sri Lanka
Methodist Church in Sri Lanka (MC-SL)

GERMANY
Evangelical Church in the Rhineland (EKIR)
Evangelical Church of Westphalia (EKwW)
Evangelical Church in Hesse and Nassau (EKHN)
Evangelical Church of Hesse-Waldeck (EKHW)
Evangelical-reformed Church Synod of the Evangelical Churches in Bavaria and Northwest Germany – EK
Church of Lippe (LL)
v. Bodelschwingh Foundation Bethel (vBS Bethel)
The executive board of the UEM consists of the General Secretary and his two deputies. The deputies are paid at salary level EG15 BAT-KF, and the General Secretary is paid at salary level A16. The gross total for all three salaries in 2017 was less than 300,000 euros.

The position of the moderator is an honorary position and not paid. Travel expenses can be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts.

Members of the Council and delegates of the General Assembly can claim a flat-rate expense allowance of up to 90 euros per meeting. Travel expenses can be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts.

The UEM pays its staff according to the BAT-KF salary structure. The classifications of employees for the year being reported can be found between EG2 and EG14, and those of officials (excluding pastors) can be found between A13 and A16.

The members of the board (Management Team) are paid additional allowances of up to 500 euros per month. No arrangements for bonuses exist.

35 churches in Africa, Asia and Germany and the v. Bodelschwingh Foundation Bethel

General Assembly
68 delegates (voluntary)

Council
voluntary, governing body, 13 delegates and Moderator

Moderator
Willem Simarmata (HKBP, Indonesia)

African Region
• Jane Ewoule (EEC, Cameroon)
  Deputy: Eliki Bonanga (CDCC, Democratic Republic of Congo)
• Daphne Gurias (ELCRN, Namibia)
  Deputy: Mathushi Letilhage (ELCB, Botswana)
• Dr Jered Kalimba (EAR, Rwanda)
  Deputy: Kevin Nganza (CBCA, Democratic Republic of Congo)
• Dr Abednego Keshomshahaha (ELCT / NWD, Tanzania, Vice-Moderator)
  Deputy: Alex Malasusa (ELCT / ECD, Tanzania)

Asia Region
• Tetty Banowaty Artonang (GKPI, Indonesia)
  Deputy: Yohana Paini (GKPTU, Indonesia)
• Rosmalia Barus (GBK, Indonesia, Vice-Moderator)
  Deputy: Hermin Rumbrar (GKI-TP, Indonesia)
• Reuel N. O. Marigza (UCCP, Philippines)
  Deputy: Esron Lingga (GKPPD, Indonesia)
• Martin Rumanja Purba (GKPS, Indonesia)
  Deputy: K. K. Chan (CRC, Hong Kong)

Germany Region
• Thomas Fender (EK, Germany)
  Deputy: Birgit Krome-Mühlenmeier (LL, Germany)
• Dr Ulrich Müller (EKKW, Germany, Vice-Moderator)
  Deputy: Barbara Rudolph (EKIR, Germany)
• Dr Helga Rau (EKHN, Germany)
  Deputy: Bernd Müller (EKKW, Germany)
• Marion Unger (EKIR, Germany)
  Deputy: Annette Salomo (EKKW, Germany)

Youth Delegate
• Diotim Meyer (EKvW, Germany)
  Deputy: Brades Sijabat Pimpinan (HKI, Indonesia)

International Finance Committee of the Council
• Jane Ewoule, Cameroon
• Reuel N. O. Marigza, Philippines
• Dr Ulrich Müller, Germany

Financial Advisor
voluntary
• Anna Tenga Mzinga, Tanzania

Legal Advisor
voluntary
• Antje Hieronimus, Germany

Management Team
full-time
• Volker Martin Dally (General Secretary)
• Timo Pauler (Executive Secretary, Finance and Administration, Deputy General Secretary)
• Dr Jochen Motte (Executive Secretary, Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, Deputy General Secretary)
• Dr John Wesley Kabango (Executive Secretary, Africa Region)
• Sonia Parra-Hummel (Executive Secretary, Asia Region)
• Dr Andar Perfedingan Pasaribu (Executive Secretary, Training and Empowerment)
• Angelika Vedder (Executive Secretary, Germany Region)
• Dr Claudia Währisch-Oblau (Executive Secretary, Evangelism)

The Management Team of the UEM
In addition to its headquarters in Wuppertal, Rudolfstraße 137 (42285 Wuppertal, Germany) the UEM has further locations worldwide.

**THREE REGIONAL OFFICES**

Regional Office Africa  
Luther House  
Sokaine Drive  
PO Box 75240  
Dar es Salaam  
Tanzania

Regional Office Asia  
Jln. Selamet Ketaren 100  
Medan 20371  
Sumatera Utara  
Indonesia

Regional Office Germany  
Rudolfstraße 137  
42285 Wuppertal  
Germany

**TWO EDUCATION CENTRES**

UEM Training Centre Wuppertal  
Global Learning in Ecumenical Perspective  
Missionstraße 9  
42285 Wuppertal  
Germany

UEM Training Centre Bielefeld-Bethel  
Global Learning in Ecumenical Perspective  
International Diaconia  
Grete-Reich-Weg 9  
33617 Bielefeld  
Germany

**THE ABCS OF THE UEM**

**Carbon Offsets for Flights**  
In 2017, the UEM again offset its unavoidable emissions through its climate collections (Klima-Kollekte) and compensated for the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from business flights by UEM staff, General Assembly members, the Council and the regional assemblies. The UEM transferred fifty thousand euros to its climate collections in 2017. Projects funded by the climate collections include projects in the field of environmental protection. This is a way for the UEM to voluntarily do something to combat climate change.  
www.klima-kollekte.de

**The UEM Training Centre Wuppertal Receives the Quality Seal**  
In April 2017 the Training Centre received a certification for its adherence to the quality standards for further education of the Gütesiegelverbund Weiterbildung e.V. The external examiner came to the conclusion that the satisfaction of the training participants is the main goal of the training centre’s efforts to maintain and further develop the quality of its work. The planning of programmes is geared towards the interests of the target groups and needs of society. The UEM Training Centre Wuppertal also ensures that its speakers and trainers have sufficient professional and pedagogical skills and that the venues, material, and media available for the seminars are appropriate for successful learning.

**PARTICIPATION STAKES:**

The “On the Holy Mountain” International Protestant Conference Centre GmbH in Wuppertal  
The UEM holds a 60 per cent participation stake in the “On the Holy Mountain” conference centre. The centre has seventy guest rooms and twelve conference rooms and has had the privilege of hosting high-quality events by clients from the church realm, as well as increasingly from industry.

Maendeleo Bank  
The UEM has a € 650,000 stake in the Maendeleo Bank in Tanzania. The UEM therefore holds a stake of 20 percent of the bank’s total capital. One focus of the Bank is in financing small businesses and credit cooperatives. In addition, they can invest the money from church congregations and finance church congregations’ construction projects through low-cost loans.  
www.maendeleobank.co.tz
Volunteer Programme
Since the 1980s, the UEM has offered young people the opportunity to spend a year working as volunteers in development service in one of its member churches in Asia or Africa – an exchange from North to South. The programme continues to develop, and in 2002 young men and women began coming to Germany from African and Asian UEM member churches – an exchange from South to North. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has funded the UEM's North-South volunteer programme since 2008 as part of the "weltwärts" programme, and the UEM's South-North volunteer programme since 2014. Since 2008, young volunteers from African and Asian member churches have also been creating a connection between people and cultures in Africa and Asia – an exchange from South to South.

www.weltwaerts.de/de/programm.html

Energy Use Improvements at the Wuppertal Mission House
The old heating system of the Mission House in Wuppertal, the headquarters of the UEM, was replaced with a modern and environmentally friendly combined heat and power unit. In the long term, this investment will not only save the UEM money, but also will protect the environment by significantly reducing CO₂ emissions.

The improvements to energy use at the Mission House continue. Half of the lighting in the house has already been changed to LEDs. The alterations to the lighting installations in combination with the new heating and power unit have reduced electricity costs by 57 per cent. In comparison with annual costs for 2015, the increased gas costs of the heating and power unit have been almost completely offset by the remuneration for power fed into the grid and the reimbursement of energy taxes.

Fair Trade
The UEM is convinced that fair trade is an important building block for a more just and sustainable world. This is why the UEM actively supports fair trade by offering only fairly traded coffee and tea at UEM locations. The UEM also operates a small world shop with products from around the world at the mission house in Wuppertal.

DZI Seal of Approval
Since 2006, the UEM has carried the German Central Institute for Social Issues’ (DZI) renowned seal of approval for donations. This means that the DZI has certified that the UEM uses the money entrusted to it in a way that is in line with its constitution and that its accounting is transparent. More information on the DZI can be found here: www.dzi.de

Property
An important financial pillar of the UEM is its property portfolio. The UEM has a total of 31 properties, with 96 rented units, plus the conference centre and the service contracts for conference services and IT support. In 2017, three housing units were thoroughly renovated and successfully rented in order to ensure the properties’ survival and the income from them in the long term.

The state of housing in Wuppertal is largely up-to-date and is divided into about a third each in the “better”, “normal”, and “lesser” categories. Rents on the whole are slightly above the rent index average.

A maintenance project on the Mission House was started in the fall of 2017. The project will last for four years. The glazing on the Mission House windows is being replaced over several phases before painting of the wooden windows and construction is carried out sequentially. The continual upkeep in the past allows for the sustainable use of the existing window installations, which are now being updated to match the energy improvements. Investment will be amortised over the life of the windows.

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Theological Zentrum Wuppertal (ThZW)
• Ständige Konferenz von Juden, Christen und Muslimen
• Netzwerk Kirchliche Aids-Seelsorge
• Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
• Lutheran Mission Cooperation Tanzania
• International Coalition for Papua (ICP)
• Institut für Islamische Theologie an der Universität Osnabrück
• Institut für Diakoniewissenschaft und Diakoniemanagement
• German Action Network Human Rights – Philippines
• Gerechtigkeit jetzt! Die Welthandelskampagne
• Gemeindedienst für Mission und Ökumene (GMÖ)
• Forum Menschenrechte (FMR)
• Fachhochschule der Diakonie in Bielefeld (FHdD)
• Evangelisches Forum entwicklungspolitischer Freiwilligen-
• Evangelisches Erwachsenbildungswerk (EEB) Westfalen
• Ecumenical Network Central Africa (ÖNZ)
• Climate Alliance Germany
• China Information Office EMW
• Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service
• Association of Protestant Churches and Missions
• Arbeitskreis Welt-AIDS-Tag Wuppertal
• Arbeitsgemeinschaft Missionarische Dienste (AMD)
• Action against AIDS Germany
• Abraham Geiger College University Potsdam

Cooperation
We cooperate with the following organisations, alliances, and networks:
• Abraham Geiger College University Potsdam
• ACT Alliance
• Aktion gegen AIDS Germany
• Amit投保 Foundation China
• Arbeitsgemeinschaft Missionarische Dienste (AMD)
• Arbeitskreis Welt-AIDS-Tag Wuppertal
• Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany (EMW)
• Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service
• Protestant Agency for Diaconia and Development e.V.
• China Information Office EMW
• Clean Clothes Campaign
• Climate Alliance Germany
• Ecumenical Network Central Africa (ÖNZ)
• Eukumindo
• Evangelische Akademie Villigst im Institut für Kirche und
• Gesellschaft der Evangelischen Kirche von Westfalen
• Evangelische Hochschule Rheinland-Westfalen-Lippe
• Evangelisches Erwachsenenbildungswerk (EEB) Nordrhein
• Evangelisches Erwachsenenbildungswerk (EEB) Westfalen
• Evangelisches Forum entwicklungspolitischer Freiwilligendienst (eFev)
• Fachhochschule der Diakonie in Bielefeld (FHdD)
• Forum Menschenrechte (FMR)
• Fresh X
• Gemeindendienst für Mission und Ökumone (GMÖ)
• Gerechtigkeit jetzt! Die Welthandelskampagne
• German Action Network Human Rights – Philippines
• German Institute for Human Rights (member of the
• registered association)
• German Platform for Peaceful Conflict Management
• Institut für Mission, Ecumenical Affairs and Global
• Responsibility (MiEG)
• Institut für Aus-, Fort- und Weiterbildung (IAFW) der
• Evangelischen Kirche von Westfalen
• Institut für Diakoniewissenschaft und Diakonienmanagement
• (IDM) der Kirchlichen Hochschule Wuppertal/Bethel
• Institut für Islamische Theologie an der Universität Osnabrück
• International Coalition for Papua (ICP)
• Kirchliche Hochschule Wuppertal / Bethel
• Lutheran Mission Cooperation Tanzania
• Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
• Netzwerk Kirchliche Aids-Seelsorge
• Ständige Konferenz von Juden, Christen und Muslims in
• Europa (UCM)
• Südwind – Institute for Economics and Ecumenism
• Tanzania-Netwerk e.V.
• Theologisches Zentrum Wuppertal (ThZW)
• West Papua Network (WPN)
• World Council of Churches (WCC)

Sustainable Financial Investments
The capital of the UEM is invested in sustainable investment
• funds, using a sustainability filter that has been spe-
• cially adapted to the requirements of the UEM for this
• purpose. For example, no investment can be made in com-
• panies that are active in weapons or in genetic engineer-
• ing. Government bonds of countries with the death penal-
• tality are not to be bought. Only companies and countries
• that meet high standards in labour rights and the environ-
• ment may become part of the funds.

Preventing and Fighting Corruption
The UEM has actively pledged to adhere to a “Code of Con-
• duct” to combat corruption; it applies to staff of both the
• UEM and its members, in all three regions. The aim is to
• prevent and fight corruption at all levels.

Quidl Seal
The nationwide growth in the “weltwärts” programme
• (see page 21) means that quality standards for volunteer
• services have been developed. The sending organisations
• are expected to support these standards in order to be able
to evaluate their performance and continuously improve.
In recognition of the volunteer organisations’ compliance
• with this level, the external agency Quidl (Agency for
• Quality in Voluntary Services) assigns a seal of quality.
Following an extensive certification process, the UEM was
• awarded the Quidl seal of quality, thus confirming the
• high quality of the North-South programme.

www.quidl.de

Resource-Efficient Public Relations
The UEM uses FSC-certified paper for all of its print media,
• and in some cases even organic ink. UEM promotional
• giveaways are produced exclusively from sustainable and
• fairly traded materials, for instance pens from recycled or
• sustainable material and bags and T-shirts from fairly
• traded cotton. All information and working materials are
• available electronically and can be downloaded from the
• website. Electronic communication channels used by the
• UEM such as e-newsletters, websites, Oipod, YouTube,
• Facebook, and Instagram, offer resource-efficient oppor-
• tunities for public relations.

The paperless UEM stand
at the Kirchentag in Berlin.

The Sisters Community in the UEM
The Sisters Community within the UEM is comprised of
• women who have either worked overseas or are close to
• the work and objectives of the United Evangelical Mission.
The sisters are very involved in Germany and in the part-
• nership work and have a series of basic principles: (1.)
• Fostering the spiritual life of individuals and the commu-
• nity comes first and foremost. Such work includes Bible
• readings, prayer, and retreats. The sisters keep in touch
• with one another and assist their members with practical
• matters where possible. (2.) They regularly engage in in-
• tercession for one another and for the UEM community.
• (3.) Given their intercultural experiences, sisters partici-
• pate actively in their environment as much as they are
• able, for example in their church congregations, in the
• work of the United Evangelical Mission, or with refugees.
• (4.) They make the worldwide communion in Christ per-
• ceptibly come alive for others.

The sisters meet for social exchange and prayer in their respective “regions” throughout the year, as well as at the
central Sisters’ Day once a year. The various regions elect their own regional authorities. There are five regional
groups in Germany and one in Indonesia. A general direct-
• orate is elected every four years, consisting of the three
• sisters in the steering committee and the regional authori-
ties from the German regional groups. Currently serving
• on the steering committee are Erika Rogatzki, Stephanie
• Franz, and Renate Reuter. In addition to the personal in-
• volvement of the sisters in their communities and within
• the UEM, there are also group trips and retreats.

Prevention of Sexual Harassment
The UEM does not tolerate sexual harassment. This taboo
• subject that is widespread in all cultures has been addres-
sed by the UEM in a leaflet that includes directives and
• appropriate rules to apply.

“United Action” – Africa and Asia Donate to Children in Need
United Action is the name of the programme that the
• churches in Africa and Asia are using to collect donations for
• the “Children in Need” (“Kinder in Not”) organisation.
There are more and more people in Africa and Asia with
• the means to make a financial contribution for the good
• cause of mission. For many it is a concern to no longer be
• exclusively dependent on Germany, but rather to confid-
• ently take part in the shared task of the UEM. And they
• have been successful: the sum that the churches collect
• through United Action is growing each year. New for the
• German churches is that now German projects from Africa
• and Asia are being co-financed.

The UEM Foundation
The UEM Foundation was founded in 2005 to ensure the
• financial sustainability of the UEM. At the end of 2017,
• the capital of the foundation is 7,278,274.51 million euros.
• The significant growth in the past year resulted from the
• conveyance of properties that were sold and benefited the
• foundation.

Advertising
The UEM uses the following forms of advertising: mailings
• (fundraising letters), newsletters, e-mail newsletters, ad-
• vertisements, inserts, leaflets, posters, legacy marketing,
• and solicitations for large donations.

• cactus cree, Potsdamer Strasse 23, 64331 Weiterstadt
• HÜTH Druckerei & Etikettenwerk, Vohwinkeler Strasse 65,
• 42329 Wuppertal
• Joh. van Acken GmbH u. Co. KG, Magdeburger Strasse 5,
• 47800 Krefeld
• Ley und Wiegandt, Mündinghofe 26, 42279 Wuppertal
• Limberg Druck GmbH, Industriestrasse 17, 41564 Kaarst
• MediaCompany GmbH, Auguststrasse 29, 53229 Bonn
• netzezepde.de GbR, Eichenstrasse 15, 27313 Dülmen
• Profi Center Werbeagentur GmbH, Friedrich-Engels-Allee 265,
• 42285 Wuppertal
• unikat Werbeagentur GmbH, Hauptstrasse 76, 42349 Wuppertal

about us | the ABCs of the UEM

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Regarding the雙语 file, it seems to be a document that contains information about various organizations, alliances, and networks. It mentions the Theological Zentrum Wuppertal (ThZW), the Ständige Konferenz von Juden, Christen und Muslimen, the Netzwerk Kirchliche Aids-Seelsorge, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and several others. It also highlights the UEM's commitment to sustainability, preventing and fighting corruption, and resource-efficient public relations. The UEM Cooperation is involved in various projects and initiatives, as indicated by the mention of the Sisters Community, the United Action programme, and the UEM Foundation. The document includes sections on advertising and resource-efficient public relations, with references to various companies and media outlets that assist with the UEM's mission. The overall goal seems to be promoting and sustaining the UEM's activities and mission through various means, including legal, ethical, and economic strategies.
PROJECT EXAMPLE: HELP FOR WOMEN AND BABIES IN TANZANIA

The Protestant church district of Unna collected half a ton of medical equipment from Westphalian birthing centres for the maternity unit at the Mtoni Diaconal Centre in Dar es Salaam.

In 2016, a delegation from the Protestant church district of Unna visited their partner church district in Dar es Salaam. The programme included a visit to the Mtoni Diaconal Centre. In many areas of this diaconal centre for the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, the medical equipment was sorely lacking. Anja Wulf, one of the delegates and an independent midwife from Frömern, took a special interest in the new birthing centre, where some of the examination equipment was not working properly or was missing altogether. She wanted to help.

Back in Germany, Wulf negotiated with the Katharinen Hospital in Unna, the St Vincenz Hospital in Menden, and the St Johannes Hospital in Dortmund. All three hospitals wanted to help. This is how half a ton of equipment and medical devices in good working order came to be collected for the Mtoni Diaconal Centre in Dar es Salaam: the donations include an operating table, two suction cups, an emergency rucksack, two blood pressure monitors, and lamps for the operating table, as well as scales and cots for babies. Wulf ensures that “all equipment is tested, in top condition, and ready to be used and maintained on-site. We’re making it so that many women and infants can really be helped at birth.” The medical equipment then just had to be packed safely for transport and the customs and shipping declarations prepared. The cargo was shipped to Tanzania in mid-July 2017. Three months later – in October – Wulf and her colleague Michaela Pfeiffer were on-site to help with unpacking the donations and connecting and operating the devices. Staff from the Mtoni Diaconal Centre helped with the assembly as well. It soon became clear how urgently this equipment had been needed.

Many donations helped to make the idea of collecting medical equipment for a birthing centre in Dar es Salaam a reality. The sources included individual church congregations, the Unna church district, private individuals, and the Lions Club in Bergkamen. The Tanzanian working group of the Unna church district welcomes additional donations. As Dietrich Schneider, the chair of the working group, put it: “This is the hallmark of a partnership: that help is given where help is needed. We are glad to be able to participate in this good project. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.”

THANK YOU

For reasons of readability, exclusively masculine language is occasionally used in the 2017 Annual Report of the United Evangelical Mission. Any usages of male word forms are expressly meant to also include women.

The United Evangelical Mission follows a resource-efficient and sustainable production method for prints.

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