MORAVIAN CHURCH IN TANZANIA

REPORT OF FIRST MORAVIAN FEMALE PASTORS AND EVANGELISTS
CONFERENCE

HELD AT TEKU – 20th – 25th August, 2019

Introduction

We would like the God almighty the His mercies and grace who enabled the female pastors and evangelist to meet at our first conference. We wish to extend our gratitude to our partners in mission namely, Mission 21, ZZg and Unity Women’s Desk for their financial support which enabled us to have this conference. We wish to extend our gratitude to the Moravian Church in Tanzania leadership, the Lead Bishop, Rt. Rev. Conrad S. Nguvumali, Rt. Rev. Kenan S. Panja and the General Secretary Rev. David A. Mgomble for supporting this vision all the way until we finished the conference. We wish to thank all Moravian Provincial leaders facilitating the travels of all delegates who came. We wish to thank the World Council of Churches (WCC) who sent their representative of East Africa zone to facilitate issues of HIV/AIDS Rev. Pauline Njiru and provide resource book for religious leaders teaching people about HIV/AIDS to all participants and Moravian provincial leaders. We would like to thank the leaders of Teofilo Kisanji University, the vice Chancellor Prof. Hermas Mwansoko, and his deputies for giving as permission to use the facilities of the University. We thank the media and all people who prayed for this conference, and all who attend. May God almighty bless all of them. Generally the conference was a big success. Thanks and praise be to God.

Opening

The General Secretary of the Moravian Church Rev. David Mgombele, welcomed all participants. The coordinator of Women’s department introduced all participants by groups. The conference was opened by the Lead Bishop Conrad Nguvumali, who commended to efforts to plan that conference. He expressed gratitude to our partners in ministry who gave financial support to make the dream of that conference to come to fruition.

Purpose

The purpose of this conference was to bring a total of 180 female pastors and evangelists from all provinces of the Moravian Church in Tanzania and neighboring countries so as to equip them
with knowledge of current issues that affect the church in 21st century, furthermore, to give them a platform to share their experiences and challenges in the ministry.

**Specific Objectives**

i. To share their ministerial experiences Social, spiritual and cultural concerns  
   ii. To empower and encourage Female pastors to be confident and truthful to their calling  
   iii. To share some challenges that female pastor’s face in their ministry as they witness for Christ.  
   iv. To equip them with knowledge on Women rights advocacy and introduce the SDG’s and focus on number five (5).  
   v. To share their mission and evangelism strategies in 21st century.

During the course of the conference the following topics were covered;

- Bible study  
- The call and ethics of a pastor  
- Worship and Liturgy  
- Challenges that are faced by female pastors and evangelists in their ministries  
- Moravian Identity  
- The role of a pastor/evangelist in fighting against stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS and prevention of new infections.  
- Domestic and Gender based violence  
- Introduction of SDGs number five, (Gender mainstreaming and women rights advocacy)  
- Economy and entrepreneurship

The topics were covered effectively. On the topic of domestic and gender based violence against women all participants participated in a match for an inauguration of the campaign of “Thursday in Black” towards the World without rape and violence against women. This campaign was established by the World Council of Churches (WCC) during the decade of the Church in solidarity with women 1988 – 1998.

- The Lead Bishop, Rt. Rev. Conrad Nguvumali after the opening the Conference he presented on “The call and ethics of a pastor”  
- Rev. David Mgombele presented on Professional relationships  
- Rev. Dr. Cicely Athis-Hosford, led the Bible Study daily on the theme “Fulfill your Ministry” 2 Timothy 4:5.  
- Bishop Kenan Panja presented of Worship and Liturgy. To which he covered the history, procedures, the meaning and the Moravian way of doing.
We had Rev. Pauline Wanjiru from Kenya who works with WCC - The Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiative in Africa (EHAIA). She presented on the Role of a Pastor in fighting Stigmatization and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and how can we decrease new infections.

Domestic and Gender based violence was presented by the Captain Janet Masangano, who Works at the Gender Desk of Regional Police office.

Rev. Mary L. Kategile presented on The Moravian Identity, Introduction to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the attention was given to the goal number five which is on gender equality.

She also presented on Gender mainstreaming and women human rights advocacy

Economy and entrepreneurship

We had time to share challenges and blessings in groups then women presented all what they shared in their groups.

On Saturday we celebrated a love feast service with joy and gratitude to God for calling women in the ministry.

The conference received proper media coverage throughout the country. It was reported on two national televisions, two news papers and two blogs.

In conclusion the conference was a big success, the turnout was big, it was well attended by pastors and evangelists from all provinces and mission areas. Mission area of Ruvuma and Njombe was not represented. Unfortunately we had only one representative from Lake Tanganyika Province and only two from Rukwa Province.

At the end it was resolved that, this kind of conference should continue, that we should have it every two years. Then the participants called upon two things;

1. We request the provinces that have not stated to ordain women should start to do so.
2. We request the Moravian Church in Tanzania to have one Constitution.

Once again I thank God for the grace of enabling us to have this conference which has been very empowering and encouraging for female pastors and evangelist. I thank our partner in mission namely, Mission 21, ZZg, and Unity women’s desk for their financial support. On behalf of all participants I say thank you and God bless you.
Respectively I submit

Rev. Mary L. Kategile
Advisor of Women Department of the Moravian Church in Tanzania

Below are some pictures from the conference