

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BODY MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 29, 2018 AT 09:30 A.M. AT
CSI SYNOD SECRETARIAT, No.5, WHITES ROAD, ROYAPETTAH, CHENNAI

GB:2018:01 Devotion

The President of NCCI, the Rt. Rev. Dr. P. C. Singh delivered the message in the morning devotion.

GB:2018:02 Roll Call

I. Members Present

1. Rt. Rev. Dr. P.C.Singh, *President*
2. Rev. Dr. D.R. Sadananda, *Vice President*
3. Mrs. Aleyamma Thomas, *Vice President*
4. Rev. Dr. A.G. Augustine Jeyakumar, *Treasurer*
5. Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad, *General Secretary*
6. Dr. Patta Deva Raju,
7. Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose,
8. Mr. Suresh C. Jacob,
9. Mrs. Rachana Singh,
10. Rev.Dr. Bethel Krupa,
11. Mr. H. Arthur Sadhanandham,
12. Mr. M. Rajakara Rao,
13. Rev. Dr. Solomon Rongpi,
14. Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Panchoo,
15. Mr. K. Abraham,
16. Rt. Rev. Johan Dang,
17. Rev. Yesunath D. Kalekar,
18. Mr. Angelious Michael,
19. Deacon Vikal P. Rao,
20. Rev. G. S. Lyttan,
21. Lieut. Colonel Daniel Raju Dasari,
22. Mr. Raiston Prakash,
23. Dr. V. Esther Kathiroli,
24. Rt. Rev. Collin C.Theodore,
25. Fr. Joseph Puthenpura,
26. Mrs. Lidwina Cedric,
27. Rev. Dr. Packiam T.Samuel,
28. Rev. K. Sardar,
29. Rev. Dr. H.M. Watson,
30. Mrs. Ekta Peters,
31. Rev. Vijay Kumar,
32. Ms. Jyotsna Rani Patro,

33. Rev. Dr. P.Syamala Sukumar,
34. Rev. Prof. Dr. Mathews Emmanuel Thathapudi,
35. Mrs. Ella Sonawane,
36. Dr. Moses P. Manohar,
37. Mr. Shaju V. Joseph
38. Rev. Christopher Vijayan,
39. Rev. Joshua Peter,
40. Rev. Dr. Vincent Rajkumar,
41. Rev. S.Asok Kumar,

II. Apologies

1. Mr. Liju Jacob Kuriakose, Vice-President
2. Mrs. Asha Kiran Paradesi Babu,
3. Rt. Rev. Raja Socrates G.,
4. Rev. R.Zohmingliana,
5. Ms. Timngneilhing Kipgen,
6. Most Rev. Cyril Mar Baseliose,
7. H.G. Issac Mor Osthathios,
8. Dr. Saramma Varghese,
9. Rt. Rev. Dr. Mathews Mar Makarios,
10. Ms. Ani Koshy,
11. Bishop Subodh C. Mondal,
12. Mrs. Basanti Biswas,
13. Rt. Rev. Bajel Murmu,
14. Ms. G. Hanabalahun Kharbuki,
15. Mr. K. Jaya Rao,
16. Bishop Fred C. Marihal,
17. Mr. V. Inbaraj Jeyakumar
18. Dr. Sushant Agrawal,
19. Rev. Pradeep Jyotish,
20. Rev. Dr. Hemantkumar Parmar,
21. Rev. Arun Barwa,
22. Rev. Alfred Tiwade,
23. Rev. R. Lalnunzira,
24. Mr. Joy Raj Eric Tudu,
25. Rev. Dr. M. Mani Chacko,
26. Rev. Vinay Peter,
27. Dr. William Stanley,
28. Mrs. Mary George,
29. CH. R.P. Mani Kumar,
30. Dr. Mary Verghese,
31. Ms. Vinodhini Moses,
32. Dr. Bimal Charles,
33. Dr. Sunil Chandy,

34. Rev. Anupama Hial

III. Absentees

1. Dr. Ms. Roja Princy,
2. Fr. Ashwin Fernandis,
3. Rev. Dr. I.P. Asheervadam,
4. Mr. Judson Mathew Gundemadugula,
5. Rt. Rev. P.P. Marandih,
6. Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal Council of Churches,
7. Christian Endeavour in India,
8. Christian Union of India
9. Rev. Dr. Hmingthansanga

IV. Observers

1. Mr. Abraham George, representing TLMI
2. Mr. Koshy Mathews, representing YMCA
3. Ms. Imtinenla Aier, representing CMAI

V. Autonomous Bodies

1. Mr. Kasta Dip, IPC
2. Rev. Asir Ebenezer, URM

VI. Executive Secretaries/General Coordinators

1. Rev. R.Christopher Rajkumar,
2. Rev. Caesar David,
3. Mr. Pradip Bansrior,
4. Mr. Jianthaolung Gonmei,

VII. Membership kept on hold

1. Bengal Orissa Bihar Baptist Convention,
2. Council of Baptist Churches of Northern India,
3. India Evangelical Lutheran Church,
4. Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church,
5. Andhra Pradesh Council of Churches,

GB:2018:03 Constituting the General Body

Since notice of the meeting had been sent as per requirements, and the members present were 41 out of 89 (more than the required quorum), the President declared that the General Body was duly constituted.

GB:2018:04 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda, which had been circulated earlier from the NCCI Secretariat, was adopted.

GB:2018:05 Appointment of Recording Secretaries

It was resolved

Res. No.01/GB/2018:

Mr. H. Arthur Sadhanandham and Mrs. Rachana Singh be appointed as Recording Secretaries.

GB:2018:06 Obituaries & Felicitations

I. Obituaries

The house paid homage to the following persons who passed away:

- i. Colonel Chelliah Mony, Territorial Commander India Central Territory of The Salvation Army, who passed away on 25 September, 2017.
- ii. Rt. Rev. Dr. Samuel Amritham, a great ecumenical figure from India, and former Bishop of the South Kerala Diocese of the Church of South India, who passed away on September 26, 2017.
- iii. H.G. Zachariah Mar Theophilos, Metropolitan of Malabar Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church who passed away on Oct 24.
- iv. Rev. Dr. Liangao Soto, Principal of Indian Theological Seminary, Avadi, Chennai who passed away on 1st Feb 2018.
- v. Rt. Rev. Dr. G. T. Abraham, former Bishop in the Diocese of Nandyal of the Church of South India, who passed away on 15.2.2018.
- vi. Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Athanasius Suffragan Metropolitan, Mar Thoma Church, who passed away on 18 April, 2018.
- vii. Prof. Dr. Z. C. Devadanam who served as Treasurer of National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) from 2004 to 2008, who passed away on May 10, 2018.
- viii. Bishop Julias Santosh, former Bishop of the Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church, who passed away on 7th August 2018.
- ix. Most. Rev. Shiblal Soren, Former Moderator of Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (NELC), who passed away on August 12, 2018.
- x. His Grace the Most Rev. Thomas Mar Athanasius, Metropolitan of the Malankara Orthodox Church, Chengannur Diocese, who passed away on August 24, 2018.

The members stood up and observed a moment of silence after which Bishop Mar Awgin offered a word of prayer, thanking God for their life and work, and remembering their bereaved families.

II. Felicitations

During the period under review the following persons were appointed/elected to important positions:

- i. Mrs. Sujaya Kujur the first woman General Secretary of GELC
- ii. New Office Bearers of CNI Synod: (1) Most Rev. Dr. P.C.Singh, Moderator, (2) Rt. Rev. Dr. Probal Kanto Dutta, Deputy Moderator, (3) Mr. Alwan Masih, General Secretary, (4) Mr. Jayant Agarwal, Hony. Treasurer

- iii. New Office Bearers of UELCI for the next triennium 2018-2020: (1) Most. Rev. Dr. K.F. Paradesi Babu (AELC), President, (2) Rt. Rev. Johan Dang (GELC), Rev. Nivedita Horo (JELC), (3) Ms. Ratnakumari (GSELC), (4) Rev. Dr. A. G. Augustine Jeyakumar (ALC), Executive Secretary, UELCI & LWF National Committee (I), (5) Mr. B.N. Sahay, (ELC in MP), Joint Secretary, (6) Rev. Dr. Stanley Jose (CLC), Treasurer, (7) Rt. Rev. Bajel Murmu, (NELC), Joint Treasurer
- iv. Dr. J.V. Peter, Director of CMC Vellore for 2017-2022
- v. Fr Joseph Puthenpura CMI, General Secretary of AIACHE w.e.f. 23-03-2018.
- vi. Rt. Rev. Dr. D. Chandrasekaran has been consecrated as the new bishop of the Trichy- Tanjore Diocese of the Church of South India on 28th May 2018. He is the sixth Bishop of the Diocese.
- vii. Rt. Rev. George Cornelious T. is the new bishop of the Krishna Godavari Diocese of the Church of South India.
- viii. Rev.Dr. Anuparthi John Prabhakar has been appointed as the new Principal of Andhra Christian Theological College on 15th June 2018.
- ix. Rev.Dr. D.John Samuel Ponnusamy has been appointed as the Principal of Gurukul Lutheran Theological College & Research Institute.
- x. Rt. Rev. Sandeep Suresh Vibhute, elected as Bishop of Kolhapur Diocese of CNI
- xi. Rt.Rev. Paritosh Canning, elected as Bishop of Barrackpore Diocese of CNI

GB:2018:07 Confirmation of the Minutes of 23rd August 2017

Since no corrections or adverse comments were received on the minutes of the General Body Meeting held on 23rd August 2017 which had been circulated earlier, it was resolved:

Res. No.02/GB/2018:

The minutes of the Meeting of the General Body held on 23rd August 2017, which had been previously circulated, be confirmed.

GB:2018:08 Action Taken Report/Matters from General Body & Executive Committee Meetings

Action Taken Report/Matters from General Body

1. **Constituting Telangana Council of Churches & Andhra Pradesh Council of Churches [Ref. GB:2017:08 (1)]:** At General Body Meeting in 2017 it was resolved:

Res. No.03/GB/2017:

- (i) *The TSCC be asked to make corrections in its minutes.*
- (ii) *The TSCC should fill up all the positions of Office Bearers and Members of its committee.*
- (iii) *The draft Constitution should be finalized and approved by the TSCC, and then sent to the NCCI.*
- (iv) *Provisional membership will be granted by the General Body to the TSCC only after they fulfill the above mentioned three conditions.*
- (v) *Full affiliation can be granted only by the Quadrennial Assembly of NCCI.*

Res. No.04/GB/2017:

- (i) *The APCC be asked to make necessary corrections in its minutes.*
- (ii) *The draft Constitution should be finalized and approved by the APCC, and then sent to the NCCI.*
- (iii) *Provisional membership will be granted by the General Body to the APCC only after they fulfill the above mentioned two conditions.*
- (iv) *Full affiliation can be granted only by the Quadrennial Assembly of NCCI.*

Accordingly, the Telangana Council of Churches and the Andhra Pradesh Council of Churches have sent the required documents. Therefore, the General Body was of the opinion that as resolved in the previous General Body meeting of 2017, TCC & APCC be granted provisional membership and that full affiliation would be granted only by the Quadrennial Assembly of NCCI in 2020. It was resolved:

Res. No.03a/GB/2018

- i. *Provisional membership will be granted by the General Body to the Telangana Council of Churches.*
- ii. *Full affiliation can be granted only by the Quadrennial Assembly of NCCI in 2020.*
- iii. *The matter of representatives of the Salvation Army in TCC be addressed by the concerned authorities.*

Res. No.03b/GB/2018

- i. *Provisional membership will be granted by the General Body to the Andhra Pradesh Council of Churches.*
- ii. *Full affiliation can be granted only by the Quadrennial Assembly of NCCI in 2020.*
- iii. *The matter of representatives of the Salvation Army in APCC be addressed by the concerned authorities.*

- 2. Consent Letters and No Objection Letters [Ref. GB:2017:08 (2)]:** In the spirit of the resolutions of the last General Body Meeting, *the members of the General Body were asked to sign two certificates, namely:*
- (i) *A Consent Letter expressing their willingness to serve on the General Body and its Committees along with any Office to which they might be elected; and*
 - (ii) *A No Objection Certificate to relinquish their membership of the General Body and its committees, including any office they hold at the end of the quadrennium.*

It was reported that a few members are still to submit their Consent Letters and No Objection Certificates.

3. **Mythri House matters [Ref. GB:2017:08 (5) (A)]:**
Mythri House, Connaught Place, New Delhi was vacated by Nestle India Limited last September. Efforts have been on to find suitable tenants. One branch of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) occupied the first floor from February 2018. The second floor has been occupied by BIRD Travels Private Limited from 16th July 2018. The other two floors are still lying vacant.

The General Body noted the information.

4. **Finance Manuals [Ref. GB:2017:08 (5) (B)]:**
As suggested by the General Body in its meeting last year, soft copies of the NCCI & CSA Finance Manuals have been sent to all the General Body members.

Matters from Executive Committee Meeting of 28th August 2018

- I. **Appointment of new PGPW-Executive Secretary [Ref. EC:2018:31(I); Res. No. 24/EC/2018]**

The General Body was informed that the Executive Committee resolved to appoint Rev.Dr.Abraham Mathew as Executive Secretary, Policy Governance and Public Witness with effect from 1st October 2018 for a period of 5 years. He will operate from NCCI Delhi Office located in CNI Bhawan, New Delhi.

The General Body noted the information.

- II. **Draft proposal of salary revision for NCCI/CSA Secretaries and Staff [Ref. EC:2018:31(II); Res. No. 25/EC/2018]**

The General Body was informed that the Finance Committee had discussed a draft proposal of salary revision for NCCI/CSA. It outlined a scheme of 10%, 15% and 20% increment in the existing salaries. However, it was pointed out that the salaries cannot be revised until the rental income from all the four floors of Mythri House was assured. Therefore, Working Committee and Executive Committee resolved that the salary revision for NCCI/CSA Secretaries and staff be kept on hold until the rental income from all the four floors of Mythri House is assured, and an appropriate scheme of increment be adopted depending upon the financial resources.

The General Body noted the information.

- III. **Matters of NCCI Membership [Ref. EC:2018:31(III); Res. No. 26/EC/2018]**

The Membership Committee went through the Proceedings of the XXVIII Quadrennial Assembly of the NCCI (which was held in Jabalpur from April 27-30, 2016). It addressed the discussion of the Assembly on membership concerns. It was observed that as the Assembly took up the applications of different churches, there was a recurring suggestion that the matter of the membership of each church be referred to the NCCI General Body which will constitute a committee to look into the matter. The Membership Committee resolved to recommend to the NCCI

General Body that the NCCI Membership Committee be authorized to address all the membership applications that were placed before the XXVIII Quadrennial Assembly, and to bring their findings/recommendations to the General Body.

The General Body approved of the suggestion of the Membership Committee. It was resolved:

Res. No.04/GB/2018

The NCCI Membership Committee be authorized to address all the membership applications that were placed before the XXVIII Quadrennial Assembly, and to bring their findings/recommendations to the General Body.

IV. The resignation of Dn.Moumita Biswas, Executive Secretary, Women Concerns [Ref. EC:2018:31(IV); Res. No. 27/EC/2018]

The General Body was informed that Dn. Moumita Biswas, Executive Secretary, NCCI Women Concerns, submitted her resignation on 1st June 2018 stating that she has been called back by the Bishop of North East India Diocese of CNI, to prepare for her ordination on 2nd September 2018. She therefore would be relinquishing her position as Executive Secretary, NCCI Women Concerns w.e.f. 1st September 2018. The Executive Committee noted the resignation notice of Dn. Moumita Biswas, Executive Secretary, NCCI Women Concerns, and resolved that she is expected to settle all matters regarding her work, her accounts, and all properties of NCCI which are in her custody. Only on fulfilling these requirements will her salary matters be attended to.

The General Body noted the information.

V. Appointment of the new General Secretary of NCCI (Ref. EC:2018:33; Res. No.30/EC/2018)

The General Body was informed that the Search Committee, which had been appointed by the Executive Committee, presented its report to the Executive Committee. It recommended the name of Rev.Asir Ebenezer to be appointed as the new General Secretary of NCCI with effect from January 2019. The members discussed the proposal of the Search Committee. After due deliberation, it was resolved that Rev.Asir Ebenezer, Director CSI-SEVA be appointed as General Secretary of NCCI with effect from 1st January 2019.

The General Body received the information with appreciation.

GB:2018:09 Report of the Treasurer

The Executive Committee received the Report of the Treasurer on NCCI/CSA finances for the period 1st January to 30th June 2018 (see Appendix-I). The members appreciated the efforts made to strengthen the finances of the NCCI/CSA and resolved to approve of the

same with appreciation. It was however advised that care should be taken while mentioning the names of overseas partners to avoid any unnecessary problems.

It was resolved

Res. No.05a/GB/2018:

The report of the Treasurer on NCCI finances for the period 1st January to 30th June 2018 be approved with appreciation.

Res. No.05b/GB/2018:

The report of the Treasurer on CSA finances for the period 1st January to 30th June 2018 be approved with appreciation.

The President of the NCCI made an appeal to the members, that since the NCCI has been going through financial constraints because all the four floors of Mythri House have not been taken on rent, and because the NCCI Campus suffered damage during the floods in Nagpur on 6th July 2018, that they may graciously consider rendering financial help to the NCCI Secretariat. The President himself volunteered to contribute Rs. 2 lacs. Rev. Dr. Augustine Jeyakumar granted Rs. 50,000/- on behalf of UELCI. The NCCI had also received gracious grants from CASA, BSI, PCI, CNI, and BCM. So also, interest-free loans were received from UELCI, CBCNEI, and ICSA.

The President made an appeal to the constituent members to ensure that their respective units pay the NCCI membership fee regularly.

GB:2018:10 Audited Statement of Accounts

I. NCCI

The Treasurer presented the Statutory Auditor's Report and Audited Statement of Accounts of the NCCI for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

It was resolved

Res. No. 06/GB/2018:

The Statutory Auditor's Report and Audited Statement of Accounts of the NCCI for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 be approved.

II. CSA-Local

The Treasurer presented the Statutory Auditor's Report and Audited Statement of Accounts of the CSA-Local for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

It was resolved

Res. No. 07/GB/2018:

The Statutory Auditor's Report and Audited Statement of Accounts of the CSA-Local for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 be approved.

III. CSA-FC

The Treasurer presented the Statutory Auditor's Report and Audited Statement of Accounts of the CSA-FC for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

It was resolved

Res. No.08/GB/2018:

The Statutory Auditor's Report and Audited Statement of Accounts of the CSA-FC for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 be approved.

GB:2018:11 Appointment of Statutory Auditors

It was recommended by the Executive Committee to consider the re-appointment of M/s Lancy D'Souza & Co., as the Statutory Auditors for the FY 2018-19 both for NCCI and CSA.

I. Statutory Auditors for NCCI

It was resolved

Res. No.09/GB/2018:

To re-appoint M/s L.D'Souza and Co. as the Statutory Auditors for NCCI for the year 2018-2019.

II. Statutory Auditors for CSA

It was resolved:

Res. No. 10/GB/2018:

To re-appoint M/s L.D'Souza and Co. as the Statutory Auditors for CSA for the year 2018-2019.

GB:2018:12 Appointment of Internal Auditors

It was recommended by the Executive Committee to consider the re-appointment of M/s Subodh Kanetkar and Co., as the Internal Auditors for the FY 2018-19 for both NCCI and CSA.

I. Internal Auditors for NCCI

It was resolved:

Res. No. 11/GB/2018:

To re-appoint M/s Subodh Kanetkar & Co. as the Internal Auditors for NCCI for the year 2018-2019.

II. Internal Auditors for CSA

It was resolved:

Res. No. 12/GB/2018:

To re-appoint M/s Subodh Kanetkar & Co. as the Internal Auditors for CSA for the year 2018-2019.

GB:2018:13 Budget for 2018-2019

The Treasurer also drew the attention of the General Body to the budget of NCCI and CSA for the 2018-2019 Financial Year. It had already been passed by the Executive Committee in its meeting on 21st February 2018. Therefore, it was resolved:

Res. No.13a/GB/2018:

The budget of the NCCI for the financial year 2018-2019 be received with approval.

Res. No.13b/GB/2018:

The budget of the CSA for the financial year 2018-2019 be received with approval.

GB:2018:14 Report of the General Secretary

The General Secretary presented the Annual Report of the NCCI and CSA (see Appendix-II).

The house received the report and accepted it with appreciation.

It was resolved:

Res. No.14/GB/2018:

The Annual Report of the NCCI and CSA, as presented by the General Secretary be received with appreciation.

GB:2018:15 Report from NCCI Ministries/Concerns & Autonomous Bodies

The following Executive Secretaries/General Coordinators/Directors presented their reports:

1. Rev.Christopher Rajkumar – Unity and Mission (including IDEA and NEFGSD)
2. Rev. Caesar David – Communications
3. Mr. Pradip Bansrior – Dalit and Tribal/ Adivasi concerns
4. Mr. Jianthaolung Gonmei – Youth concerns
5. Fr. Thomas Ninan – ESHA
6. Mr. Kasta Dip – IPC

It was resolved:

Res. No.15/GB/2018:

The reports of the Executive Secretaries/General Coordinators/Directors be received with appreciation.

GB:2018:16 Reports from Related Agencies:

The General Body received the reports of Church's Auxiliary for Social Action, and Christian Medical Association of India. The reports were taken as read.

This year the General Body did not receive reports from AISSA, CLS, CISRS, ECLOF India, and HMI.

GB:2018:17 Any Other Business

The Executive Committee had directed the recording secretaries to come up with a draft statement on behalf of the NCCI. Mr. Arthur Sadhanandham read out the draft statement, particularly focusing on the floods in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamilnadu; 10 years of the Kandhamal carnage; and the forth coming general elections in 2019. The members of the General Body asked the recording secretaries to finalize the statement in the light of the comments and suggestions that were made. [(see Appendix-III) (Mr. Arthur Sadhanandham is expected to send the final statement)].

The General Secretary reported that in pursuance of Agenda item no. *GB:2017:18* the NCCI Secretariat has been communicating national concerns to all the constituent members through the electronic media. The constituent members are expected to be doing the needful. Members are also being encouraged to observe 26th November as Democracy Day. They are also encouraged to focus their educational ministries in the rural areas of the country.

GB:2018:18 Date of Next Meeting

As resolved by the Executive Committee, the following dates have been suggested:

- 28th February 2019 - Membership Committee, Finance Committee,
Working Committee
- 1st March 2019 - Executive Committee
- 2nd March 2019 - Meeting with WCC delegation

Since the WCC delegation will be visiting New Delhi, the NCCI President has arranged that the CNI Synod will host the meetings. Committee members will be accommodated in CNI Bhawan and in the National YMCA House.

The dates of the next meeting of the General Body will be intimated subsequently.

GB:2018:19 Vote of thanks

The General Secretary Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad thanked all the members and in particular the Presidium, the Executive Secretaries, Interns and Staff of NCCI, and the Recording Secretaries for their contribution in the efficiently conduct of the General Body meeting. He particularly thanked Rev.Dr. D.R. Sadananda, General Secretary, CSI for graciously hosting all the meetings.

Rt.Rev.Dr. P.C. Singh
President, NCCI

Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad
General Secretary, NCCI

Mr.H. Arthur Sadhanandham
Recording Secretary

Mrs.Rachana Singh
Recording Secretary