



مجلس كنائس الشرق الأوسط

The Middle East Council of Churches

Final Communiqué

The Christian Muslim Dialogue program of the General Secretariat of the Middle East Council of Churches held its 9th Christian Muslim youth encounter under the theme: “Young Peace Makers” from 5-9 August 2009.

Thirty males and females from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan participated in the youth encounter that was held at the Evangelical Faculty of Theology in Cairo. The Dean of the Faculty Dr. Atef Mehanni was the first speaker at the opening session and he was followed by: Mr. Guiguis Saleh the MECC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Safwat El-Bayadi the Head of the Evangelical Church in Egypt and one of the presidents of MECC, Bishop Yohanna Kolta the patriarchal assistant of the Coptic Catholic Church and the President Emeritus of MECC, Dr. Taysir Mandur the member of Al-Azhar committee for dialogue , Bishop Markos of Shubra Al-Khema Coptic Orthodox diocese and Bishop Nikola Antonio of Tanta Greek Orthodox diocese.

Mr. Saleh chaired the first session on: “Common Grounds between Christianity and Islam in the Context of Peace building” where Bishop Kolta, Counselor Ahmad El-Fadali and Engineer Nabil Samuel were the main speakers.

The Second day was dedicated to visit the Christian and Muslim institutions in Cairo.

In the third day, Miss Samah Halawani facilitated a workshop on “The Components of Conflicts and their Resolution”.

In the Fourth day, Mr. Elias El-Halabi facilitated a workshop on: “The Foundations of Joint Endeavors & Conditions for Success”.

During the four day encounter the participants have discussed many issues in small groups and plenary. They came up with the following recommendations:

1. To appreciate the studious and perseverant work of the MECC General Secretariat and its role in organizing these Christian and Muslim encounters and to urge the secretariat to organize more of such activities that aim at deepening the values of coexistence in our Arab society in addition to holding periodical encounters at the national levels as a follow up.
2. To stress on the importance of dialogue and to adopt it as a culture of life and a way to guarantee personal freedom of expression and belief in an atmosphere of democracy and based on love, tolerance and mutual respect.
3. To underline the role of the religious leaders in supporting the spheres of constructive dialogue and condemning fanaticism thus spreading concept of understanding the other and opening up to his/her culture.
4. To emphasize on the peaceful resolution of conflicts based on accepting the other as he/she is and keeping in mind that what is common between us is much more that separates us.
5. To support the joint initiatives that will spread the rapprochement, the social solidarity and the creative and sincere struggle for all human beings and every human being.
6. To tackle the points of divergence and resolve them in an effective manner that will preserve peace and strengthen social justice.
7. To highlight the youth commitment to peace building and to embrace the other because peace is build on the common grounds between Christianity and Islam and represents the transcendent value in both religions.
8. To condemn all the aggressive actions that are targeting the Iraqi and Palestinian populations and are aiming at uprooting them from their homelands and to support the process of reconciliation and national unity in Lebanon.

Finally, the participants expressed their gratitude to the president, the government and the people of the Arab republic of Egypt for their hospitality and for all the facilities that was provided by the Evangelical Faculty of theology in Cairo and have contributed to the success of the encounter.

Guirguis Saleh

MECC General Secretary

Cairo on 10/8/2009