

Minutes of the face-to-face meeting of the Board of Directors
of SIGNIS ALC

Monte Alverna, Panama City, from May 17 to 19, 2018



In the City of Panama, in the Casa de Encuentro Monte Alverna, during the evenings and nights of May 17 to 19, 2018, the members of the Board of Directors of the Latin American and Caribbean Catholic Association of Communication met, SIGNIS ALC, convened by President Carlos Ferraro, to discuss the following agenda:

1. Appreciation of the NAs in each country, directors's report
2. BOARD SIGNIS participation report, April 2018
3. AL and 90 years SIGNIS
4. COMLAC VI
5. Editorial Policy
6. Presence and activities during 2017
7. Financial situation
8. Various

The meeting has the participation of: Carlos Alberto Ferraro, president
María José Centurión, vice president
Jorge Villa, first principal director
Lisa Bhajan, second principal director
Alejandro Caro, third titular director
Fernando Ruíz, fourth titular director
Father William John-Lewis, delegate of the SIGNIS Caribbean subregion

The secretary of the meeting of the Steering Committee is Sonia Navas, executive secretary.

At 2:15 p.m. on May 17, 2018, Fr. William starts the board meeting with a prayer.

Next, Carlos Ferraro, president of SIGNIS ALC, welcomes and thanks the participation of the directors in the meeting, as well as the joint collaboration in the formation of young SIGNIS.

María José Centurión, vice president of SIGNIS ALC, joins the words expressed by Carlos Ferraro.

When dealing with the first item on the agenda, managers share their views on NAs in each country or subregion.

With the support of an audiovisual, P. Williams John-Lewis summarizes the regional operation of SIGNIS Caribbean, indicating that each diocese has a delegate in SIGNIS Caribbean. And also that they have two international associates.

Stresses that the activities of SIGNIS Caribbean are based on collaborative work (share resources, dialogue and educate) and has been focusing on the integrated communication plan (pastoral letter) of the Antilles Episcopal Conference of bishops of the Antilles. The initial phase of the research plan allowed each diocese to make a diagnosis of its communication realities. The result will contribute to the creation of an Integrated Pastoral Communications Plan for the AEC region, directed by Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, through seminars and practices. The greatest achievement is the creation of an e-seminar (on-line) based on the Pastoral letter and which has been completed by 52 persons from around the Caribbean including some of the bishops!; as well as the Caribbean School for Catholic Communications.



He also reported that they sent a statement in solidarity for what happened in Mexico (earthquake) and in Ecuador (kidnapping and murder of El Comercio's news team).

Carlos Ferraro emphasizes that the integration of SIGNIS Caribbean and the modality of work in the different dioceses with the Church is unique. There is a symbiosis between the two instances, since they work with a single program common to all the countries of the Antilles.

About SIGNIS Peru, Fernando Ruiz presents a power point that synthesizes the history of creation and organization in Peru. In 2005, SIGNIS PERU, Peru Association of Communication Mons. Luciano Metzinger, was created. At the moment they have the approval of their statutes according to Canon Law through the Diocese of Carabayllo with the name of ASOCIACION PERUANA DE COMUNICADORES MONS. LUCIANO METZINGER. SIGNIS PERÚ. They actively participate in the Lima Film Festival, a Latin American film event organized by the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. They pay an annual fee of 240 Peruvian soles since this year. The institutional strengthening line comes first. They carry out various activities such as retreats of reflection, participate in the organization and development of the value-art film cycle at the Antonio Ruiz de Montoya University, participate in conversations regarding communication, make up the Organization of the Lay Table. In the future they are coordinating the use of educational material of the Paulines in cinema and values. They have created and organized the Youth Section of Signis-Peru with young people belonging to four universities who develop the training program of SIGNIS ALC. They also participate in the Pan-Amazon Ecclesial Network REPAM and in the Good Living Program organized by Signis.ALC.

The other directors also made a short presentation.

Subsequently, Carlos Ferraro said that in this period the incorporation of young people into the partners, through the SIGNIS ALC youth program constitutes the greatest contribution to the region. He urged that the Associates should be the guide and support of these young communicators in their proposals and projects.

María José Centurión reports on the launch of the SIGNIS COMMLAB workshop program (Communication Laboratory), a SIGNIS world program that will be held for the first time in Latin America, for Spanish-speaking young people of the associates, in Quito (Ecuador).

Regarding the SIGNIS ALC Joven program, managers give guidelines to continue building the road. One proposal is that binational meetings organized among young people and working continuously with them could be held; sponsorship is also proposed to guide them.

Second point: BOARD SIGNIS participation report, April 2018.

Carlos Ferraro reports on the activities and events held at a meeting of managers in Brussels. Remember that María José Centurión did not participate because she had to attend to an important issue of family health, although they were in constant virtual communication.

He points out that the new SIGNIS executive is working on an update, in accordance with the new challenges that are operating in the world. The new president is firm, managing, open to participation, and talks in terms of listening. Vice President Lawrence John Sinniah (The Jay) knows the institutional history and with the new vice P. Paul Samasumo, they work as a team. Father Luis García Orso is the ecclesial adviser.

The executive considered that the meeting should be accompanied by a strategic planning workshop. It was led by an expert from the USA. As the president of SIGNIS has a place in the Lay and Family Dicastery, which has a recently updated regulation.



It is explained that different commissions were created to design new lines of action coordinated by members that have competence over the matters they imply.

Thus, the Development line is entrusted to Larry Lynch, to obtain more and diverse funds. The Economy Line is commissioned to analyze the economic situation of SIGNIS. The line Commitment of the members: must find out how many members are worldwide. Marketing and branding will be responsible for defining the positioning strategies, responsible Pamela Alemán

To consider, one of the imprints that the president wants is for the DESKS departments to work actively. Carlos Ferraro informs about the members that are part of SIGNIS ALC that integrate the different committees animators of the DESK

Third point: AL and 90 years SIGNIS

The Catholic University of Louvain was the scene of a formal act for the 90 years of SIGNIS with the participation of the members of the world directory and the staff of the general secretariat.

Ideas are launched and it is agreed to make a review of the characters in Latin America in the 90 years. The first stage should be research and review of existing material. Even in each country. For which you must mark a timeline and a responsible.

Fourth point: COMLAC VI

With the proposal of Carlos Ferraro and unanimous consensus of the Board of Directors, the COMLAC VI coordination is named in Alejandro Caro, the third principal director, who accepts and raises the need to carry out an innovation, rethink scenarios, times, means and materials, as well as as the human contribution.

The proposals of the venues presented at the closing of the V COMLAC Paraguay 2016 (Chile and Peru) are analyzed. For reasons of public knowledge, about what happens in the Church of Chile, and for institutional and economic reasons of the Associate of Peru, they decline to be offices. Therefore, we proceed to analyze new possibilities.

The analysis carried out, taking into account different strategic considerations, such as geographic, economic, participation and institutional strengthening, added to the experience gained by Panama in the organization of the WYD, by unanimous consensus is considered that Panama is a good option, to be the headquarters of the VI COMLAC, in the month of October of the 2020. To this end, we invite to dialogue the representatives of the Catholic communicators of Panama, Eunice Meneses, Director of Communication of the Episcopal Conference of Panama (CEP) and Fernando Tovar, Deputy Director of Communication of the World Youth Day (WYD). Eunice indicates that it could be done but it is convenient to do it in January 2021, basing that it would be two years after the Pope's visit and that the month of January was chosen for WYD because it is the driest of the season and the most favorable climate to perform this type of events. He also indicates that he will talk with Bishop Ulloa to suggest that the COMLAC VI could be launched in November 2018, as part of the meeting of bishops of Central America.

The Board of Directors accepts the proposal made. A letter formalizing the request will be sent. The Board also believes it is appropriate to convene an academic committee that will evaluate the theme of the congress as well as the designation of the committee coordinator.



The Board of Directors also considers that a relevant topic could be digital communication and young people.

Sixth point: Presence and activities during 2017

When dealing with this point, the managers express that the previous meetings, both the face-to-face meetings in Quito and those made by Skype, have allowed everyone to be constantly updated on the activities that are carried out. So, they also received the 2017 report.

A brief report of the activities is made and the action is approved.

Item seven: Financial situation report

Carlos Ferraro, president of SIGNIS ALC, requested, beforehand, Alejandro Caro to carry out the analysis of the 2017 financial report presented by the executive secretariat.

Alejandro Caro mentions that he reviewed the report in detail and states that he has not found more news. The recommendation is that for the purchase of goods that have to be made at least three quotes, for purchases exceeding \$ 500, so that you can compare and select the best one. In the future, he thinks that the design of a sustainable strategy to provide services is important.

It is also recommended that next year the breakdown of salaries with the names of the officials be combined. In addition, the possibility of specifying the audit suggestions, which are very specific.

Carlos Ferraro indicates that management for sustainability is not easy, but that there is more than trying to open new sustainability supports.

In consensus, the directors agree that the young SIGNIS programs and the systematization program of innovative experiences in BV should be the contribution to the Associates.

Point eight: several

In consensus, it is ratified that the members of the Board of Directors must always be informed and participate in each of the actions that are carried out.

There is agreement among the members of the Board of Directors regarding the good coordination and coordination of the SIGNIS ALC Joven meeting and the way in which the facilitator Jaime Carril has led the day.

The schedule of the board meeting was on May 17 from 2:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., on May 18 from 2:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and on May 19 from 2:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. William participated in the first day.

With no other point to discuss, the meeting is terminated at 11:30 p.m. (Panama time), on May 19, 2018.

In constancy they sign:

(SIGN in Spanish minute)