

## **MINUTES of the thirteenth and first (virtual) meeting of the year 2021 of the Board of Directors of SIGNIS ALC**

The members of the Board of Directors of the Latin American and Caribbean Catholic Association of Communication, SIGNIS ALC, convened on May 16, 2021 by its president, Carlos Ferraro, met virtually on May 27, 2021, (4:00 p.m. Quito), in the first virtual meeting of the year and the thirteenth, since his appointment.

In accordance with the call, the meeting began at 4:00 p.m. (Ecuador time), with the participation of:

Carlos Alberto Ferraro, president  
María José Centurión, vice president  
Jorge Villa, first titular director (WhatsApp connection and mail)  
Lisa Bhajan, Second Principal Director  
Alejandro Caro, third titular director  
Fernando Ruiz, fourth titular director  
Bishop John Lewis William, delegate of SIGNIS Caribe  
Sonia Navas, Executive Secretary

Carlos Ferraro begins with the gratitude and welcome.

Bishop John - Lewis William offers a prayer and our Father is prayed together.

The following agenda is approved

1. VI COMLAC: proposed date, ongoing activities, proposed agenda
2. Assembly 2022: start of preparation
3. Progress of ongoing activities:
4. Laudato yes ambassadors
5. Community Radio
6. Ethics committee, safeguard policy
7. Presence of SIGNIS ALC delegates at world board
8. The participation of the members of SIGNIS in the process of listening to the Latin American Ecclesial Assembly, convened by CELAM.
9. Miscellaneous topics: 2020 Audit, ADVENIAT Evaluation, new SIGNIS ALC website

1. VI COMLAC: proposed date, ongoing activities, proposed agenda

The pre-COMLAC activities continue with the series of virtual conversations on topics that deepen the proposed axes. In the month of July 2021, it is about digital communication; the next one will be on community radio.

Also approach of universities to participate in VI COMLAC.

It is agreed that Alejandro Caro, coordinator of VI COMLAC, will consult with SIGNIS Panama and the USMA about the availability of holding the event in June or July 2022.

It is also agreed that the event will be held in person, or in case the covid19 pandemic does not allow it, it will be virtually on the indicated dates.

## 2. Assembly 2022: start of preparation

The Assembly will be held post-congress, from where the spiritual and updating inputs are received.

The SIGNIS ALC regulations are read, special treatment is given to article 9, which indicates times, processes to follow and documents that must accompany the call.

It is proposed that the Assembly's agenda include the presentation of the reports of the National Associates in the format indicated above, also send the regulations and mandate as input.

An agenda will be put together for the Assembly, according to the established processes and if in case the pandemic does not allow it in person, it will be carried out virtually.

It is also agreed that Carlos Ferraro will consult with SIGNIS worldwide about the time available prior to the World Assembly, so that the delegates carry out the necessary procedures to be present.

## 3. Progress of ongoing activities:

Majo Centurión, coordinator of SIGNIS ALC Joven, indicates that Ambassadors Laudato si, the PREA advanced study program that is certified with a postgraduate degree at the Andrés Bello Catholic University and the ITER of Venezuela, with the participation of 30 students from different countries from Latin America, has completed the first module and are currently in the second module. Participants maintain interest. In September, the second semester begins the same with 4 modules.

Carlos Ferraro and Sonia Navas comment on the progress in the training project for the creation of a digital Community Radio. The executive committee made up of advisers, training and programming managers, the general director, those responsible for both the Board of Directors and the executive secretariat meet every week. At the meeting, activities are monitored, constant evaluations and improvements are made. An essential part is the training that is with ALER, María Cianci, who coordinates the 16 trainers, 2 for each module, currently the second module is being studied. The 11 groups, one from each country, remain with little change.

## 4. Ethics committee, safeguard policy

Fernando Ruiz, coordinator of the ethics committee, states that 2 important meetings have been facilitated, in which the methodology has been presented, documents review and the first form was designed to collect the same information that was applied to the National Associates where it has given a singular panorama of the administrative situation. Mexico and Costa Rica did not reply to the 1st form.

The consulting team is preparing the content of the document, to transform it into a new form for consulting the presidents of the National Associates.

Lisa Bhajan proposed the Code of Ethics as an input for this work.

## 5. Presence of SIGNIS ALC delegates at world meeting

Depending on the theme of the Assembly, and because it has been constituted for several Boards of Directors, the elected members of the Board of Directors are the representatives on the world board.

6. The participation of SIGNIS members in the process of listening to the Latin American Ecclesial Assembly, convened by CELAM

Carlos Ferraro suggests to María José Centurión that she make a video where the presidents motivate their members to participate in the construction of a renovated church

7. Various topics: 2020 Audit, ADVENIAT Evaluation, new SIGNIS ALC website
  - 2020 Audit: ongoing, slower process due to pandemic
  - ADVENIAT Evaluation: The results of the external evaluation on the operation of SIGNIS ALC, centralized in the Executive Secretariat, is carried out by the consultancy of Dr. Jaime Carril. Who, with his team, has carried out data collection and virtual interviews at different levels of the Latin American and national organization.
  - The new SIGNIS ALC website is reviewed. The update that allows greater agility is rescued. Launch proposal when the precise date of the congress is available. The recommendation is that it be carried out before the previous process with SIGNIS and SIGNIS Brazil closes, on June 30.

The virtual meeting of the board of directors ends at 6:30 p.m. in Quito.

On record they sign:



Carlos A. Ferraro  
President SIGNIS ALC



Sonia Navas  
Secretary of the Board of Directors

