

Kerala Ecumenical Christian Fellowship- Dallas

Annual Report for the Year 2016.

Dear Members of the Kerala Ecumenical Christian Fellowship,

“Greetings to everyone in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ”

The Kerala Ecumenical Christian Fellowship, also known as KECF is an organization for the Kerala State based Episcopal Churches established in the Dallas Fort Worth area in the State of Texas.

Currently we have 22 churches as members which has joined together to build up the Christian faith and core values to strengthen the love and unity among the Kerala churches in this region under one banner.

It is my great pleasure and honor to submit you the 2016 annual report for the year which ended on December 31st, 2016.

On behalf of KECF, I take this opportunity to praise and thank Lord God Almighty for His abundant love, mercy, and blessings bestowed up on us throughout the years since its inception on December 26th, 1979. We are humbly praying to the Lord to continue His mercy up on us throughout the future years to come. We, the KECF executive committee express our sincere love, thanks and appreciations to all the clergies, member churches and the parishioners for their commitment and support towards the growth and prosperity of this organization and requesting the same cooperation during the coming years.

Activities during the year 2016.

1. Member churches:

Following are the current 22 churches which has the membership in the KECF

1. St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Valiyapally- Farmers Branch
2. Mar Thoma Church of Dallas- Carrollton
3. St. Ignatious Jacobite Syrian Cathedral Church- Carrollton
4. St. Alphonsa Syro Malabar Catholic Church- Coppell
5. CSI Church of Dallas- Farmers Branch
6. CSI Congregation of Dallas- Garland
7. St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Church- Carrollton
8. Holy Trinity CSI Church- Dallas
9. St. Thomas Kananya Jacobite Church- Irving
10. St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church- Mesquite
11. St. Thomas Evangelical Church of India- Irving
12. St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church- Garland
13. St. Paul's Malankara Orthodox Church- Plano
14. Mar Gregorios Jacobite Syrian Church- Mesquite
15. St. George Malankara Orthodox Church- Irving

16. St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Church of India- Carrollton
17. St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Church- Garland
18. Mar Thoma Church of Dallas- Farmers Branch
19. Christ the King Kananya Catholic Church- Farmers Branch
20. Schion Mar Thoma Church- Plano
21. St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church- Dallas
22. St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church- Mesquite

2. General Body Meetings:

The annual general meeting for the year 2015 was held on January 31st, 2016 at Mar Thoma Church of Dallas- 1400 W. Frankford Road, Carrollton, Texas 75007. The 2015 KECF president Rev. Sam Mathew presided over the meeting. After the prayer, welcome and introduction, the annual accounts and report for the year were presented and unanimously approved by the general body.

The following items were discussed as the agenda for the year 2016.

1) Hosting Church.

The General Body unanimously elected St. Mary's Orthodox Valiyapally, Farmers Branch as the hosting church for the year 2016.

2) Executive Committee Members for 2016.

The following persons were unanimously elected to the 2016 KECF executive committee.

1. President - Rev. Fr. Raju M. Daniel, President- St. Mary's Orthodox Valiyapally- Farmers Branch
2. Vice President – Rev. Sam Mathew- Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Carrollton
3. General Secretary - Mr. Alex Alexander- St. Gregorios Orthodox Church- Garland
4. Trustee – Mrs. Jiji Thomas Mathew- St. Mary's Orthodox Valiyapally- Farmers Branch
5. Choir Coordinator - Mr. John Thomas – St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church- Mesquite
6. Youth Coordinator – Miss. Alisha Johnson- St. Mary's Orthodox Valiyapally- Farmers Branch

Committee Members:

7. Very Rev. V. M. Thomas St. Mary's Malankara Jacobite Syrian Church- Carrollton
8. Rev. Dr. George Joseph Holy Trinity CSI Church- Dallas
9. Rev. Ninan Jacob CSI Congregation of Dallas- Garland
10. Rev. Alex K. Chacko Schion Mar Thoma Church- Plano
11. Rev. Fr. Joshi (George) Elambasserril St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church- Garland
12. Rev. Fr. Dr. Renjan Mathew St. Ignatious Jacobite Syrian Cathedral (KECF Clergy Secretary)
13. Mr. Shaji Ramapuram Mar Thoma Church of Dallas- Carrollton

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| 14. | Mr. Shiju Abraham | St. Thomas Kananya Jacobite Syrian Church- Irving |
| 15. | Mr. Jeryl Sajumon | St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Church- Carrollton |
| 16. | Mr. Mathew P. Abraham | Schion Mar Thoma Church- Plano |
| 17. | Mrs. Sushila Thomas | St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church- Mesquite |
| 18. | Mr. John Varghese | CSI Congregation of Dallas- Garland |
| 19. | Mr. Babu C. Mathew | St. Ignatious Jacobite Syrian Cathedral- Carrollton |
| 20. | Mr. Soney Jacob | St. Ignatious Jacobite Syrian Cathedral- Carrollton |
| 21. | Mr. Cecil Cherian | Mar Thoma Church of Dallas- Farmers Branch |
| 22. | Mr. Nibu K. Thomas | Mar Thoma Church of Dallas- Carrollton (2015 Treasurer) |

3. KECF Executive Committee Meetings:

The KECF Executive committee met 5 times to discuss various activities of the organization and taken important decisions during the year.

4. Major Activities during the Year:

a) World Day Prayer of 2016

The World Day Prayer for the year 2016 was held on March 12th, 2016 at Mar Thoma Church of Dallas-Carrollton from 09:00 AM to 01:00 PM. The president Rev. Fr. Raju M. Daniel presided over the meeting. Special prayers were held on behalf of the Country Cuba during the occasion Special invitees from Cuban Church in Dallas also participated in the meeting and delivered message. Mrs. Ancy Sam Kochamma along with the Savika Sangam of that church took the leadership to make the 2016 world day prayer a great success. About 140 plus people participated in the meeting which ended with lunch for everyone. On behalf of KECF, we express our thanks to the Mar Thoma Church of Dallas- Carrollton for hosting the event.

During the business meeting, Mrs. Sally Raju Kochamma of St. Mary's Orthodox Valiyapally was elected as the 2017 coordinator of the world day prayer celebrations. The function will be also held at St. Mary's Orthodox Valiyapally, Farmers Branch on March 11th, 2017 starting at 09:00 AM.

b) Three-Day Ecumenical Convention:

The 19th, three-day ecumenical convention for the year was held on August 5th, 6th and 7th 2016 at St. Mary's Orthodox Valiyapally from 06:00 PM to 09:00 PM. Rev. Fr. Zachariah Ninan (Zacher Achen) from Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (Member of Mar Baselios Monastery, Kottayam, Vicar of St. John's Malankara Orthodox Church, Kottayam, Jt. Secretary of the St. Thomas Orthodox Clergy Association) was the main speaker for the convention. This convention was a great success and has generated spiritual brilliances among the gatherings.

Mr. John Thomas the KECF choir director and members deserves special appreciations for their melodious and beautiful ecumenical choir songs presentation during the convention days which was highly enjoyed and appreciated by everyone.

The women's forum which was met on 6th, Saturday afternoon at the same venue was also a success. The speaker emphasized the importance of Women in family life and encouraged everyone to take up the leadership to build the family under prayer and Christian values.

The convention ended on August 7th at 08:30 PM with vote of thanks by the KECF General Secretary Mr. Alex Alexander.

c) Ecumenical Youth Convention:

Under the leadership of the KECF, the youth one-day retreat was held on September 17th, Saturday from 08:30 AM to 05:00 PM at St. Mary's Orthodox Valiyapally, Farmers Branch. The registration started at 08:30 AM followed by breakfast. The session started with praise and worship followed by prayer, messages, group discussion and presentation. During the afternoon session, there were various messages and group presentations which kept the participants very energetic throughout the day.

Rev. Fr. Mathew Alexander, from the Malankara Orthodox Church, Rev. Mathew Samuel from the Mar Thoma Church and Dr. George Aramath from the Jacobite Syrian church gave messages and leadership for the conference. All the speakers delivered very valuable and inspiring messages which was well appreciated by the youth members. We express our sincere thanks to all the leaders for their dedication and valuable advices given to our youth members.

Ms. Aleesha Johnson, the KECF Youth coordinator and Mr. Jeryl Sajumon worked as a team for the success of this event. They could bring over 150 youths from member churches which made the event a great success. This is the first time we could generate such a large youth crowd for the youth convention and all the youth members who participated are requesting for a two-day retreat during the future years.

On behalf of the KECF, we express our sincere thanks all the speakers, volunteers and to both of our two young talented leaders for their dedication and hard work.

d) Ecumenical Sports and Games:

As per the decision of the KECF general body, we could introduce a new activity for attracting the youth members of our member parishes. The 1st, ecumenical sports and games were held on October 22nd, 2016 from 09:00 AM to 05:00 PM at the field of St. Alphonsa Catholic Church, Coppell. About 9 teams representing member parishes participated in Flag Football games under the guidelines set by KECF. Everyone enjoyed this sports event which was coordinated under the leadership of Mr. Jeryl Sajumon, the KECF executive committee and sports sub-committees.

We express our sincere thanks to the Vicar Rev. Fr. Johnsty Thachara, Church committee and members of St. Alphonsa Church for allowing us to use the facilities without any cost. A revolving Championship Trophy was also awarded to the winning team from St. George Malankara Orthodox Church, Irving. Our special thanks go to Mr. Shiju Abraham of Spectrum Financial Services for sponsoring the beautiful ever rolling trophy for the event.

e) Christmas- New Year program- 2016

The 2016 Christmas and New Year program was held on December 03rd, 2016 at the Mar Thoma Event Center, Farmers Branch. The program started at 05:00 PM with the procession of lighted candles by the children, Clergies, executive committee members and the chief guest. For this year's function, we

were blessed by the presence of H. G. Alexios Mar Eusebius, the Metropolitan of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church- South West Diocese. The program started with the opening prayer led by the chief guest followed by the presidential welcome by Rev. Fr. Raju M. Daniel. The chief guest H. G. Alexios Mar Eusebius along with the executive committee members inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp which was followed by a well-planned Christmas skit was presented by St. Mary's Orthodox Valiyapally. Most of the member churches presented melodious and colorful Christmas carol songs which was highly appreciated by the audience. The program concluded with the vote of thanks by the KECF general Secretary Mr. Alex Alexander followed by the concluding prayer and benediction.

f) KECF Finance:

Besides the \$200.00 contribution per year from each member parishes, during the year we could collect offertory during the 3- day ecumenical convention and the Christmas new year program. As per the set guidelines and bylaws, the KECF do not accept any sponsorships from individuals or business for any of the KECF related functions. We had an opening balance of \$2,032.56 received from last year. We had a total operating income of \$13,668.56 with a closing balance of \$2,317.03 for the year 2016. There are two member churches which has not yet paid their annual dues and these amounts will be collected by the next executive committee of the KECF. A detailed finance report will be presented by the trustee Mrs. Jiji Thomas Mathew for discussion and approval in this meeting.

g) Conclusion:

On behalf of the Kerala Ecumenical Christian Fellowship of Dallas (KECF), I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks, love, gratitude and appreciations to all the clergies, member churches and the parishioners for their dedication, cooperation and commitment towards the spiritual growth and unity for the last 38 years in the Dallas Fort Worth area. We are looking forward for your continued prayers and support to keep-up the unity of this organization which is the oldest ecumenical fellowship in the North American Region.

We would also like to express our thanks to all the executive committee members, present and past leaders, youth members for their contributions towards the successful growth of KECF. On behalf of all the member parishes, executive committee members and the parishioners, I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Rev. Fr. Raju M. Daniel, the Church committee members and the parishioners for their dedication and support to conduct the year-long activities of the KECF in a very professional manner.

We, the 2016 KECF executive committee members would like to express our gratitude to everyone for giving us an opportunity to serve them in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayerfully submitted to the general body,

For the Kerala Ecumenical Christian Fellowship- Dallas

Alex Alexander

General Secretary

January 15, 2017