Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission

International Central Council

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Dear AIMM family,

As we navigate the unexpected shock of our Executive Coordinator John Fumana's death, we face the need to prayerfully discern next steps for AIMM's leadership. Observing how the AIMM community has come together in many ways across Africa and North America to mourn this profound loss of a dear friend, mentor, colleague and leader, we have found comfort and inspiration in the deep commitment of members to each other and to our joint ministries. AIMM ministries carry on in the same ways that you have come to trust, as will John's passionate vision to help "unlock and unblock local energy and assets in building communities' capacity to use their internal potential before looking at outside aid". God has a miraculous way of bringing new life and ideas and raising up new (and sometimes surprising) leaders, even out of the most painful circumstances. We hope you join us in continuing to support AIMM's ongoing ministries, as we look forward to seeing what God has in store through the new leadership team.

Referring to a Burkinabé proverb from West Africa which alludes to the wisdom in a hen having two wings rather than just one, the AIMM Executive Board has appointed two people to work together as the Interim Executive Coordination Team: Tara Burch, AIMM Communications, and Tany Warkentin, chair of the AIMM Canada Board. Tara and Tany will work together until the end of August, at which time Tara will work with Rod Hollinger-Janzen in this interim role. You'll recognize Rod as AIMM's former Executive Coordinator who faithfully led our organization from 2005-2021.

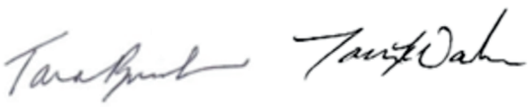
In the same spirit, the next permanent leadership will be a team of two Anabaptist Christians working in close collaboration with each other. The lead Co-Executive Coordinator will be based in Africa, connecting with and supporting AIMM members across Africa. The supporting Co-Executive Coordinator will be based in North America, supporting the staff and the more administrative side of AIMM's operations. As an international organization that functions within our global Anabaptist family, AIMM has experienced the value of collaborative leadership between Africa and North America and the benefits of having a leader who is familiar with each context's constituency and culture. A search committee is in place to begin the hiring process for this new Executive Coordination team. We trust that these leaders will be call to help lead our organization towards a thriving future in the reality of today's changing world.

Executive Coordination Team: To send nominations, request the profile, or submit a letter of application with resume, email aimmsearch@aimmint.org by August 10 or until the position is filled. For more information, please visit aimmint.org/executive-coordinators-search.

Each October, AIMM partners and stakeholders come together around a table to make key decisions that determine the priorities and activities for the coming year. These International Central Council (ICC) meetings have always occurred in-person, to solidify relationships between AIMM leaders and nurture productive conversations on how to collaborate and learn from each other. Another change during this interim period is to postpone the in-person ICC meetings hosted in Angola until October 2027. Instead, the 2026 ICC meetings will be moved to an online format, which will help simplify planning during the leadership transition and allow AIMM to try out this more cost-conscious format. We are entering a time when access and familiarity with online meetings have grown to a point that online ICC meetings may now become a helpful way of gathering global partners, while still maintaining the relational benefits of in-person meetings on alternating years.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for your faithful commitment and support of AIMM, and for the trust you place in us as we give direction to AIMM's joint ministries. We ask for your prayers for the Fumana family and friends and for the many partners who were touched by John's witness. We also welcome your prayers for the interim team, AIMM staff, and all those on the ground who continue to participate in what God is doing through AIMM ministries.

In Christ's service,



Tara Burch and Tany Warkentin, AIMM Interim Executive Coordination Team