



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa

GREEN ELCSA

*"Go into all the world and
preach the Good News to all
creation." (Mark 16:15)*

**Quarter Two Report
July 2026**



Faith

Justice

Renewal

COORDINATOR'S FOREWORD

Mr. Khulekani S. BIYELA



Quarter Two of 2026 represents an important milestone in the journey of Green ELCSA. Following the adoption of the Green ELCSA 2026-2028 Strategy, the organisation entered a period of implementation characterised by institutional strengthening, programme development, growing partnerships, and increasing visibility within church and climate justice spaces.

During this quarter we focused on building the foundations that will enable Green ELCSA to become a leading Lutheran movement for ecological and community transformation. Significant progress was made in strengthening governance structures, delivering our flagship Green Champions Training Programme, expanding relationships with ecumenical partners, preparing new resource mobilisation opportunities, and establishing systems that will support sustainable growth over the coming years.

Although challenges remain, particularly around financial sustainability and organisational capacity, the quarter demonstrated the commitment of our volunteers, clergy, youth and partners to living out the Gospel through care for creation.

As Scripture reminds us, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation." (Mark 16:15). This report reflects our continued commitment to ensuring that faith inspires action, justice demands transformation, and renewal restores both people and creation.

Executive Summary

During Quarter Two (April - June 2026), Green ELCSA continued implementing its newly adopted strategic direction by focusing on institutional development, leadership formation, eco-theological education, communications, advocacy, and partnership building.

The most significant achievements during the quarter included:

- Formal institutional registration of Green ELCSA as a legal entity in South Africa.
- Successful launch and implementation of the Green Champions Training Programme.
- Recruitment of 39 Green Champions from across ELCSA.
- Strengthened collaboration with the South African Council of Churches (SACC) Ecological Justice Commission.
- Continued development of governance, finance and communication systems.
- Increased visibility within ecumenical climate justice networks.

These achievements contribute directly to the four strategic focus areas outlined in the Green ELCSA Strategy 2026–2028:

- Eco-Theology and Pastoral Formation
- Renewable Energy, Water Protection and Climate Resilience
- Storytelling, Movement Building and Shared Learning
- Community Empowerment and Practical Environmental Stewardship

Quarter at a Glance

Organisational Highlights

- Green ELCSA registration confirmed.
- Strategic implementation commenced.
- Monthly family meetings established.
- Quarterly reporting system institutionalised.
- Finance policy reviewed.
- Communications plan completed.

Capacity Development

- 39 Green Champions recruited.
- Six-session Green Champions curriculum finalised.

Partnerships

- Lutheran World Federation
- South African Council of Churches
- Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa (LUCSA)
- ELCSA Youth League
- ELCSA Student Organisation (Pietermaritzburg)

Resource Mobilisation

- LWF funding proposal completed.
- Donation platform launched and promoted.
- First recorded donation received (R500).

Progress Against the Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar One: Faith and Eco-Theology for Creation

One of Green ELCSA's central priorities is deepening theological engagement with ecological justice. During Quarter Two, considerable progress was made towards embedding creation care within church life.

The Green Champions Programme became the flagship initiative under this pillar. Following the recruitment of 39 participants, the curriculum was revised to six evening sessions to maximise accessibility for working participants and students. The programme seeks to equip church members with practical and theological understanding of: climate justice; eco-theology; creation care; environmental stewardship; renewable energy; and community resilience.

Green ELCSA also participated in Earth Day activities coordinated by the South African Council of Churches, demonstrating its growing public witness on ecological justice.

Furthermore, preparations began for documenting reflections from the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies meeting through Miss Nokulunga Shabalala, the Young and Women Engagement Lead for Green ELCSA. Nokulunga was selected as a delegate of the LWF in the 2026 SBs, with responsibilities of ensuring international policy discussions are effective and representative inform local theological engagement.

Assessment:

Progress under this pillar exceeded expectations for Quarter Two by successfully establishing Green Champions as a long-term leadership development programme.

Strategic Pillar Two: Renewable Energy, Water Protection and Climate Resilience

Although implementation of community renewable energy projects is planned for later phases of the strategy, Quarter Two focused on creating enabling conditions. Important developments included:

- continued exploration of faith-based approaches to renewable energy ownership;
- incorporation of practical environmental stewardship within Green Champions training;
- planning for future climate resilience projects.
- The LWF funding proposal also included practical activities centred on food security, ecological restoration and community resilience.

Strategic Pillar Three: Storytelling, Movement Building and Shared Learning

Green ELCSA significantly strengthened its communication and movement-building work.

Highlights included:

- establishing monthly Green ELCSA Family Meetings;
- strengthening communications planning;
- improving quarterly reporting;
- expanding visibility through church networks;
- preparing presentations for diocesan youth structures;
- promoting greater engagement with ecumenical partners.

The organisation also began developing systems for documenting stories emerging from Green Champions and local congregations.

Strategic Pillar Four: Community Empowerment and Practical Environmental Stewardship

Community empowerment continued through:

- Green Champions capacity building;
- partnership development;
- planning practical parish initiatives;
- encouraging local environmental action.

While most activities remained focused on preparation and capacity development, Green ELCSA is now well positioned to begin supporting parish-based implementation during subsequent quarters.

Institutional Development

Quarter Two represented one of the strongest organisational development periods since Green ELCSA's establishment. Achievements included:

Governance

- organisational registration confirmed;
- Terms of Reference refined;
- governance systems strengthened.

Financial Systems

The Coordination Team reviewed financial procedures, encouraged member giving and strengthened reporting systems.

Although only one donation was received during the quarter, this represents an important beginning towards diversifying Green ELCSA's funding base.

Communications

Green ELCSA adopted more structured communication approaches through:

- monthly family/general meetings;
- quarterly reports;
- communications planning;
- increased partner engagement.

Coordination

This Team provides strategic leadership, coordination, governance, and organisational oversight.



Partnership Development

The quarter saw continued expansion of Green ELCSA's strategic partnerships. Partnerships strengthened included:

Lutheran World Federation

- Participation in the Human Rights and Gender Justice workshop in Arusha, Tanzania, in May 2026. And ongoing collaboration around climate justice.
- Exploration of joint workshops.

South African Council of Churches

Green ELCSA strengthened its participation within the Ecological Justice Commission, contributing to national conversations on climate justice while positioning ELCSA within wider ecumenical advocacy.

LUCSA

Engagement continued through participation in Green Champions training and wider climate justice collaboration.

Challenges

Despite considerable progress, several challenges affected implementation. These included:

- limited financial resources;
- dependence on volunteers;
- balancing national coordination with local implementation;
- sustaining participation between training sessions.

Lessons Learned

Several important lessons emerged:

- Strong governance enables sustainable programme growth.
- Monthly communication improves accountability.
- Partnerships multiply impact.
- Young people continue to demonstrate significant interest in faith-based climate leadership.

ELCSA Durban Circuit Youth League Conference

June 2026

The ELCSA Durban Circuit Youth League Annual Conference remains one of the circuit's flagship gatherings, bringing together more than 500 young delegates each year for worship, leadership development, fellowship, and engagement on issues affecting the church and society. The conference provides an important platform for equipping young Lutherans with knowledge and practical tools to strengthen their faith and their contribution to their communities.

As part of the 2026 programme, Sinothile Ndlozi, a member of and Women and Youth Engagement Lead at Green ELCSA, delivered a presentation introducing delegates to the work and vision of Green ELCSA. Drawing from the organisation's commitment to eco-theology, environmental stewardship, climate and energy justice, and sustainable development, she challenged participants to recognise creation care as an integral expression of Christian discipleship rather than a separate environmental concern.

A particularly significant aspect of the session was its focus on youth leadership. By engaging an audience of over 500 young people, the presentation reinforced Green ELCSA's strategic objective of equipping the next generation to become ambassadors for environmental stewardship and climate justice within the Lutheran Church and beyond.

The positive engagement from delegates reflected a growing recognition that environmental justice, faith, and community wellbeing are deeply interconnected, and that the church has an important role to play in responding to the climate and ecological challenges of our time.



UNFCCC SB64

Green ELCSA was honoured to be represented at the 2026 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) sessions through Nokulunga Shabalala, who participated as a delegate of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Her participation provided Green ELCSA with an important opportunity to engage in global climate policy discussions while bringing the perspectives of faith communities and young people into international climate governance processes.

A key reflection from her participation was the growing recognition that faith-based organisations have an increasingly important role in climate action. Churches are uniquely positioned to mobilise communities, advocate for climate justice, and promote values of stewardship, solidarity, and care for creation. Representing both the LWF and Green ELCSA reinforced the importance of ensuring that faith voices remain present in international climate processes.

The conference also highlighted the persistent challenges facing developing countries, particularly regarding access to climate finance, adaptation support, and the need for greater accountability from developed nations in fulfilling their commitments under the Paris Agreement. These discussions reinforced the reality that climate change is not only an environmental issue but also one of justice, equity, and human dignity.

The experience further created opportunities to strengthen relationships with global ecumenical partners, exchange best practices with other faith-based organisations, and explore new avenues for collaboration on climate justice initiatives. These connections continue to enhance Green ELCSA's contribution to the wider Lutheran communion and the global faith movement for climate justice.

Nokulunga's participation as an LWF delegate reflects Green ELCSA's growing recognition within international ecumenical spaces and demonstrates the organisation's commitment to ensuring that South African Lutheran voices contribute meaningfully to shaping global conversations on climate justice.

SACC Ecological Justice Commission

The formal participation of ELCSA in the South African Council of Churches (SACC) Ecological Justice Commission marks an important milestone in the church's growing commitment to environmental stewardship and climate justice. This development signifies ELCSA's recognition that caring for creation is not only a theological responsibility but also an essential part of the church's public witness and social mission.



Joining the Commission creates a valuable platform for collaboration with churches and ecumenical partners across South Africa that are working collectively to address the ecological, social, and economic challenges facing communities. It strengthens ELCSA's ability to contribute a distinctly Lutheran perspective to national conversations on climate justice, biodiversity, sustainable development, and the wellbeing of vulnerable communities.

Participation in the Ecological Justice Commission further aligns with Green ELCSA's vision of equipping congregations to become active custodians of God's creation. Through this platform, ELCSA can contribute to national advocacy, strengthen policy engagement, develop joint programmes, and support local congregations in translating ecological justice into practical ministry.

As the church continues to strengthen partnerships and deepen its commitment to creation care, this collaboration provides a strong foundation for collective action that seeks to protect both people and the planet for present and future generations.

Financial Report

Prepared by Mr. Orefilwe Mothobi, Finance Coordinator

The second quarter of 2026 marked an important milestone for Green ELCSA as the organisation began its financial operations following the successful opening of its bank account in March 2026. The first deposits into the account were received in April 2026, primarily through donations and electronic fund transfers.

During the reporting period, Green ELCSA received total income of R670.00 and incurred operating expenses of R167.29 which consisted mainly of bank monthly service fees and Snap-scan transaction fees. As of 30 June 2026, the organisation had a closing bank balance of R502.71.

While we are deeply grateful for every contribution received, the reality is that our current financial position remains extremely limited. Behind every programme we hope to deliver are essential operational costs that cannot be avoided.

These include maintaining our website, paying for our Zoom subscription to facilitate meetings and trainings, banking costs and other administrative expenses that enable Green ELCSA to function effectively.

As a newly established organisation, we have not yet embarked on formal fundraising campaigns. Instead, we have introduced Snap-scan as a simple and secure way for individuals, congregations and organisations to support our work through voluntary donations.

We believe that even the smallest contribution can make a meaningful difference when many people choose to stand with us.

The truth is that our current resources are not enough to sustain the organisation over the long term. If Green ELCSA is to continue raising environmental awareness, mobilising communities, empowering young people and promoting the care of God's creation, we will require the ongoing generosity and partnership of those who believe in our mission.

We therefore extend our heartfelt appeal to all our stakeholders, congregations, partners and friends of Green ELCSA to consider supporting the organisation financially. Your donation is not merely a contribution towards operational expenses; it is an investment in a movement that seeks to inspire environmental responsibility, strengthen churches and communities and safeguard creation for future generations.

Every Rand received is carefully managed, and we remain committed to the principles of transparency, accountability and faithful stewardship. We value the trust placed in us and will continue to ensure that all monies are used responsibly to advance the mission and vision of Green ELCSA.

The work of Green ELCSA is driven by passion and purpose, but passion alone cannot sustain an organisation. With your continued support, we can strengthen our capacity, expand our reach and continue caring for God's creation. Together, every donation becomes a seed of hope for a greener, more sustainable future.

"I am a dedicated finance professional currently serving as the Finance Coordinator of Green ELCSA. I am passionate about promoting sound financial stewardship, transparency, accountability, and good governance within the Church. With a background in accounting and experience in financial management, budgeting, reporting, and internal controls, I strive to ensure that the resources entrusted to the Church are managed with integrity and excellence. I am committed to supporting the mission and growth of Green ELCSA by providing strategic financial leadership while upholding Christian values of faith, service, and responsible stewardship."



Mr. Orefilwe Mothobi, Finance Coordinator

Looking Ahead (Quarter Three)

Quarter Two laid a strong institutional foundation for the implementation of the Green ELCSA 2026 - 2028 Strategy. While much of the work during this period focused on building systems, strengthening partnerships, and developing leaders, these investments are already positioning Green ELCSA for greater impact in the years ahead.

As the organisation moves into Quarter Three, the focus will shift increasingly from planning to implementation - transforming strategy into practical action within congregations and communities.

Guided by its vision of faith in action for ecological and community transformation, Green ELCSA remains committed to proclaiming the Gospel not only through words, but through actions that protect creation, promote justice, and renew hope for future generations.

Green ELCSA



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