
Territory: Bugesera, Gicumbi, sectors of Gakenke, Kigali City, and Rulindo districts.

Statistics as of June 30, 2019: churches 215; membership 152,117; population 2,708,492.

**Territory and History**

The beginning of the Seventh-day Adventist mission in Rwanda coincides with the end of the First World War in 1919. It was begun by a Belgian missionary named David Elie Delhove, who was soon joined by a young man from Switzerland called Henri Monnier. The first Adventist mission started by Delhove in 1919 was the Gitwe Mission in the southern province of Rwanda. It was later named the Central Rwanda Field and located in the Ruhango district. The second mission, opened in 1921, was Rwankeri Mission in the northern province of the country. It was opened by Henri Monnier who moved there from the Buganza Mission. This mission was later named North Rwanda Field and
Rwanda was on September 9, 2014, as the East Central Rwanda Conference. The date of the inauguration of this first conference of the SDA Church in Rwanda Field with headquarters at Kayonza (eastern province), and East Central Rwanda Field with headquarters at Nunguyubundi.

From the spectacular growth of the East Central Rwanda Field, in terms of membership, finance, and church leadership in 2010, the next step was the establishment of the East Central Rwanda Conference. The inauguration took place at Nyarutarama, headquarters of the conference, on April 7, 2014.
and was officiated at by Dr. Blasious M. Ruguri, ECD president, Dr. Nathanael Walembe, ECD executive secretary, and Pastor Jerome Habimana, ECD treasurer. Leadership of the Rwanda Union Mission included Dr. Hesron Byiringiro, president, Pastor Issacar Ntakirutimana, executive secretary, and Abel Habiyambere, treasurer. The purpose of this conference was to “facilitate the proclamation of the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels’ messages to all peoples within its territory, leading them to accept Jesus as personal Saviour and to unite with His church, and nurturing them in preparation for His soon return.”

Field Territory

The territory of the East Central Rwanda Conference (ECRC) consists of the following geographical regions: Kigali city, Bugesera, Gicumbi, and Burundi districts, plus sectors Muyumbu, Nyakariro, Nzige, Gashengeri, Kibagiga, and Runizi of Gakenke district in the northern province. The sectors of Kivuye, Gatebe, Bungwe, and Ruhunde of Burera district are also part of the East Central Rwanda Conference; including the sectors Rushashi, Koko, Gashenzi, Minazi, Ruli, and Runizi of Gakenke district in the northern province. The elected officers of the new conference were, Pastor Isaac Ndwaniye (president), Pastor Naphat Karangwa (executive secretary), Pastor Elly Nkuba Kageruka (treasurer). The departmental directors of the conference were, Pastor Alexis Niyonagira (youth and publishing ministries); Pastor Edison Nsengiyumva (evangelism); Pastor Jolay Paul Umuremye (Sabbath School and personal ministries, and chaplaincy ministries); Pastor Kagimba Safu (stewardship and health ministries); Mathilde Mukagacinya (children and family ministries); Myriam Umuhoza (education and women’s Ministries); Rachel Mushimiyimana (shepherdess ministries). The membership of the conference was 107,809.


From its inauguration on September 9, 2014, until the end of 2019, the East Central Rwanda Conference (ECRC) has seen tremendous growth in terms of church membership, baptisms, evangelism efforts, faithfulness in returning of tithe, church leadership, education, and health ministries, just to mention some areas of church growth. The following comparison shows the growth of the East Central Rwanda Conference during this quinquennial period, from its establishment in 2014 until 2019. In the year 2014 (3rd quarter), it had 199 churches, 107 companies, and 107,809 members; while in 2019 there were 220 churches, 131 companies, and 156,177 members—an increase of 45 percent in church membership in less than five years. A total of 60,585 new members were added to the membership of the ECRC from 2015-2019. This is a record number, equivalent to the total membership of this field during the 30 years of its existence, from 1965 to 1995. There was also a record number of baptisms in Rwanda—20,121—due to the TMI evangelism initiative of Pastor Ted Wilson.

ECRC has also seen a considerable growth in tithe, with an increase of 160 percent between 2015 and 2019, while offerings increased by 150 percent in the same period. God has blessed the ECRC with clergy and laity who are skilled and committed to mission. Today 92 percent of the workers are equipped with university degrees, and among them 20 percent have master’s or doctor’s degrees. Today the conference has four primary schools, one secondary school, and very soon its polyclinic health center will open at Nyarurama, in the Kigarama sector, Kicukiro district, in Kigali city.

The leadership of the conference, both clergy and laity, work in unity toward the development of all aspects of church ministries. Their mission is to proclaim the everlasting gospel to all people within the ECRC territory, leading them to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour and to unite with His church, and nurturing them in preparation for His Second Coming.

Presidents


SOURCES


NOTES


12. The second conference to be organized was the North Rwanda Conference, located in the north province.


14. Ibid.

15. A record of 110,000 people were baptized in 2016 during the Total Member Involvement soul winning initiative led by the SDA Church worldwide president, Dr. Ted Wilson, in Rwanda (Andrew McChesney, “Propelled by Total Member Involvement, Adventist Church Tops 20 Million Members,” Adventist News Network, March 1, 2017, accessed April 10, 2020, https://news.adventist.org/en/all-news/news/go/2017-03-01/propelled-by-total-member-involvement-adventist-church-tops-20-million-members/).