

ANNUAL REVIEW 2025

# Walking Toward Unity



World Council  
of Churches

The WCC is a global fellowship of 356 member churches, together representing more than half a billion Christians together on the Pilgrimage of Justice, Peace, and Reconciliation.

Member churches include most of the world's Orthodox churches, scores of Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, and Reformed churches, as well as many charismatic, independent, united, and uniting churches.

WCC's programmes strengthen the fellowship, nurture creativity in spiritual life, promote youth engagement, grow interreligious dialogue and cooperation, build health and wellness, combat racism, and expand a just community of women and men.

The WCC invites all people of goodwill to work together to heal a world filled with conflict, injustice, disease, inequity, and pain.

This annual review of the World Council of Churches records some of the activities, visits, initiatives, and programmes undertaken during 2025 on the journey of being catalysts of reconciliation, advocates for justice and peace, and agents of hope in our world. It reflects on an "ecumenical year" filled with commemoration of significant anniversaries in ecumenical history.

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Photo: Ivars Kupcis/WCC

*This Bossey experience has proven to be a necessity to our personal and professional growth. It is now up to us to choose what we make of our experience and what we carry home. Experiences and encounters are not random occurrences; they are gracious gifts from God. The question is what will you do with your gracious gift?*

—Winnie Nanjala, from the Kenya Christian Reformed Church, speaking on behalf of the January 2025 graduating class at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey.

# Message from the General Secretary

As we move deeper into 2026, I am proud and excited to present this roundup of events and actions of the World Council of Churches in 2025, our Ecumenical Year. Indeed, through this wide-ranging review, we realize just how, rooted in our shared faith, the WCC's activities and work in 2025 have advanced our commitment to be catalysts of reconciliation, advocates for justice and peace, and agents of hope in our world.

In 2025, under the aegis of the Pilgrimage of Justice, Reconciliation, and Unity, the council experienced a year steeped in history and tradition, as the WCC celebrated a host of anniversaries. The centenary of the landmark 1925 Life and Work conference was followed closely by observance of the 1700th anniversary of the first ecumenical council, in Nicaea in 325. Drinking deeply from those wells of our apostolic faith, the Faith and Order Commission gathered for its sixth world conference in the desert of Egypt to further reflect on the meaning of that universal creed for Christians and Christian churches today. Further sparking deliberations about the contemporary imperatives of faith, the WCC's executive committee met in China in November, while the WCC central committee's biennial meeting was held in June in South Africa, the site of the historic struggle against apartheid.

In-depth work by the WCC's commissions in 2025 also fuelled robust and consequential advocacy for justice, peace, and reconciliation in Palestine and Israel, Ukraine, Sudan, Korea, and a host of other conflict zones. Climate justice and sustainability, too, strongly marked the year's contributions, as did extensive work on human rights, gender justice, reform of international finance, youth engagement, and education of the next generation of ecumenical leaders.



Photo: Marcelo Schneider/WCC

Across the full range of signal events, exciting initiatives, and vital programmes detailed in these pages, I believe you will see the ecumenical fellowship living out “ecumenism of the heart” to which the WCC’s 11th Assembly called us in 2022.

The array of activities and initiatives highlighted in this annual review testifies, of course, to the great and pressing needs of today’s world. Yet they also illumine the vast network of churches, ecumenical partners, and allies that magnify and extend our programmes, as well as the deep well of faith that inspires Christians around the world to join hearts and hands with us to heal the world.

So as we continue our journey in 2026, we know that God still reigns, justice will prevail, and peace will come on earth. Therefore, we look forward confidently: firm in our faith, secure in the aptness and effectiveness of our witness, and—grounded in God’s love as revealed in Christ Jesus—boundless in hope.

*Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay  
General Secretary  
World Council of Churches*

# Living the Apostolic Faith Together

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

In January 2025, and in the southern hemisphere around Pentecost, churches across the world observed the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, inspired by the text of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed. The brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy prepared the prayers and reflections, which were jointly published by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the WCC.

## Common Easter

The year 2025 marked a common celebration of Easter and Pentecost by Eastern and Western Christianity, reinforcing the aspiration of the Council of Nicaea to find a common date to celebrate the risen Lord.

“The quest for a common day to celebrate Easter is a symbol of our desire for unity,” said WCC General Secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay. “Aligning our Easter celebrations would not only be a remarkable expression of unity but also a powerful witness to the world of our shared faith in the resurrection of Christ.”

## Berlin conference searched for a “Shared Anti-Racist Ecumenical Vision”

In May 2025, the WCC and partners in Germany marked the 140th anniversary of the Berlin Conference of 1884–85 with an international conference “Berlin 1884–1885 and Anti-Black Racism: In Search of a Shared Anti-Racist Ecumenical Vision.” Those gathered in-person and online acknowledged that the deep wounds of colonialism, carved 140 years ago, are by no means healed.



## South Africa conference affirms “Kairos” moment

The Prophetic Witness for Life, Justice, and Peace Conference and Seminars were held in Johannesburg in June, marking a moment of reawakening and recommitment for church leaders and partners across southern Africa. Participants pledged to transform the insights and prophetic calling of their gathering into tangible action within their congregations, communities, and countries.



Photo: Anna Roskozny

## The 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea

### *Online course: Introduction to Nicaea*

Beginning in September 2025, the WCC Commission on Faith and Order offered an online course, “Introduction to Nicaea – The 1700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed,” which invited deeper study of the Nicene Creed and the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea.

### *Regional lead-up conferences*

Through regional lead-up conferences, churches across the world explored the theme “Where now for visible unity?” offering time for reflection and input into the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order.

### *Global Ecumenical Theological Institute calls for “prophetic courage”*

The Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) convened for an online portion and concluded with a residential session in conjunction with the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order in Wadi El Natrun, Egypt. GETI students called on all to “announce with prophetic courage the hope which dwells within us.”

### *Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order*

The historic Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order, held in October 2025 and organized by the WCC Commission on Faith and Order at the Logos Papal Center



Photo: Vatican News

of the Coptic Orthodox Church at Wadi El Natrun, gathered around 400 participants around the theme “Where Now for Visible Unity?”

The conference issued a “Call to All Christians” that emphasized the urgent need for Christian unity in a divided world: “Let us aspire to live the unity for which Christ prayed, that the world may believe and experience God’s gifts of healing, justice, and abundant life,” reads the call.

### *Living witness to the faith expressed at Nicaea*

On 28 November, the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council was also commemorated with an ecumenical prayer service in Nicaea—modern-day Iznik, Türkiye—where the WCC general secretary joined His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Pope Leo XIV, and religious leaders. They shared the conviction that Nicaea is not only historically significant but also, in a time marked by violence and conflict, a call to new and courageous steps on the path towards unity.



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC



Photo: Marcelo Schneider/WCC

## Special publications and journals

The WCC produced special publications in conjunction with the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order. A thematic issue of *The Ecumenical Review* centred around the Sixth World Conference and the International Review of Mission carried womanist perspectives on Nicaea and the theme of “Living the Apostolic Faith Today.”

## Beijing+30 Consultation: A spiritual journey shaped by lived realities of women

In December 2025, people gathered in Jakarta, Indonesia, for the 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which outlined 12 critical areas of concern, including poverty, health, violence against women, power, and decision making, to realize all human rights and fundamental freedoms for women.

Communion of Churches in Indonesia General Secretary Rev. Darwin Darmawan noted that the agenda of gender-based violence profoundly challenges our churches.

“We must ask ourselves: how can we truly be active agents of faith?” he asked. “Power and education are essential tools.”

He urged people to ensure that women’s voices are heard, saying that “Beijing reminded the world—and the churches—that women’s rights are human rights. Yet we continue to fail whenever we justify inequality for religious reasons.”



Photo: Yakoma PGI



Photo: Yakoma PGI



Photo: Yakoma PGI

100th anniversary of the first Universal Christian Conference on Life and Work, held in Stockholm in 1925



# Global Pilgrimage Encounters

WCC in South Africa: an extraordinary legacy of churches

In June 2025, the WCC executive and central committees convened in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The WCC central committee, among many other statements, released a statement calling for an end to apartheid, occupation, and impunity in Palestine and Israel. The WCC reaffirmed its longstanding commitment to inter-religious dialogue and cooperation, and to international law as a framework for peace, justice, and accountability.

The statement calls for naming the reality of apartheid, stating, “We recognize and denounce the system of apartheid imposed by Israel on the Palestinian people, in violation of international law and moral conscience.”

The central committee welcomed four new member churches: the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (Malawi), the Apostolic Pentecostal Church International (Liberia), and the Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany.

The governing body celebrated the extraordinary legacy of South Africa’s churches and their leaders, who have embodied courageous Christian witness in the struggle against colonialism and apartheid. Throughout its meeting, the WCC central committee underscored its commitment to the Pilgrimage of Justice, Reconciliation, and Unity.

During a press conference, a journalist’s question sparked candid answers: “Is the world listening to the WCC?”

WCC moderator of the central committee, Bishop Prof. Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, said: “We always talk on TV and in newspapers about these people in power who are often behind the violence. Let’s talk more about the victims.”



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

## A warm welcome from the church in China

In November 2025, the WCC executive committee convened in Hangzhou, China, where the governing body expressed a deep commitment to accompanying the church in China and churches across the world. In China, the leadership of the WCC central committee was able to join the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Amity Foundation with a special event in Nanjing that drew 300 participants and 90 international guests. The governing body also took part in the launch of a special edition of a Bible commemorating the 1700 years of the Nicene Creed.



Photo: Marianne Ejdersten/WCC



Photo: Marianne Ejdersten/WCC

WCC central committee moderator Bishop Prof. Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm offered an address centring on unity of the churches and climate justice action.

“Both are central to our Pilgrimage of Justice, Unity, and Reconciliation,” he said. “Unity of the churches does not require an entirely common ecclesiology but a consensus that our different ecclesiologies do not have to separate us in the essential dimensions of our faith in the triune God.”

WCC General Secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay offered an overview of the many ecumenical commemorations and celebrations in 2025, which led to a fulfilling year of ecumenical visibility, vitality, unity, and strength.

Pillay acknowledged that it is unfortunate that so many countries are facing conflicts, challenges, and crises at different levels. “While nations pursue political ambitions, the climate crisis deepens,” he said. “We continue to call for a transformation of hearts and systems.”

The spiritual life included daily morning prayers with a different parish each day, combined with an introduction to the local congregation and thematic sessions presented by graduates from the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey from China.

In a special Pilgrimage Encounter Message, the executive committee reflected on the theme “Christ, Culture, and Context in China,” expressing appreciation for China’s contributions to advancing the work of the United Nations and to supporting its peacekeeping operations.

“We have been especially impressed during this visit by China’s evolving leadership in driving the renewable energy transition,” continues the message. “The scale of this investment, and its impact, is staggering.”



Photo: supplied

## The executive committee met online

The WCC executive committee also convened in May 2025 via video conference to conduct the regular business of the first half of the year and review preparations for the WCC central committee meeting, which convened in June 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Pilgrimage in Sri Lanka

In March 2025, the WCC Reference Group for the Pilgrimage of Justice, Reconciliation, and Unity met in Colombo, Sri Lanka, hosted by the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka in partnership with the Christian Conference of Asia. The visit included engagement with churches and communities working for justice and reconciliation.

“By walking alongside those facing challenges, we deepen understanding and commitment to a transformative pilgrimage,” said Rev. Karin van den Broeke, co-moderator of the Pilgrimage Reference Group. The pilgrimage encounter also included a powerful engagement on healing of memories with former combatants rebuilding their lives after the end of the war in 2009. Participants heard how long-term accompaniment by a local Methodist community — supported by livelihood training and the Healing of Memories methodology (including a three-day workshop led by Fr Michael Lapsley) — helped transform trauma, isolation, and stigma into renewed dignity and community participation. The testimonies highlighted that reconciliation is sustained through patient trust-building, inclusive spaces where “every story needs a listener,” and practical cooperation across former divides, including interfaith and civil–military relationships that have enabled safer reintegration into society.

## Joint Working Group

In September 2025, the Joint Working Group between the Catholic Church and the WCC marked 60 years of striving for unity. The groups held a plenary meeting in Rome. Over six decades, the group has served as a platform for dialogue and collaboration, building bridges of trust between the

Catholic Church and the member churches of the WCC. Today, it continues to accompany the churches on their common pilgrimage toward visible unity.



Photo: CCA

## Mourning Pope Francis

In April 2025, the WCC mourned the loss of Pope Francis, and WCC leaders attended the funeral at St Peter’s Basilica.

Moderator of the WCC central committee, Bishop Prof. Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm said: “Together with the entire Roman Catholic Church, we at the World Council of Churches mourn the loss of an extraordinary shepherd of the people of God.”



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

## Greeting Pope Leo

As Pope Leo XIV presided over a Mass of Inauguration in May 2025, he urged the world to walk toward God and to love one another—a message that resonated deeply with the WCC leaders who attended the mass as well as a private ecumenical audience with Pope Leo.

“In his private audience with us as representatives of churches and religions, he named as one of his priorities seeking the re-establishment of full and visible communion among all those who profess the same faith in the triune God,” said Bedford-Strohm. “It is also a great sign of hope for me that Pope Leo has so closely linked synodality and ecumenism to each other and that he wants to continue Pope Francis’ commitment to promoting the synodal nature of the Catholic Church and developing new and concrete forms for an ever-stronger synodality in ecumenical relations.”

## Meetings with global leaders

### *H.E. President Lee Jae-myung of the Republic of Korea*

In August 2025, a WCC delegation, together with the leadership of the National Council of Churches in Korea, paid a courtesy visit to H.E. President Lee Jae-myung of the Republic of Korea. President Lee expressed his deep appreciation for the WCC’s contributions to defending the constitution and advancing democracy and affirmed his hope that the WCC’s work for peace and solidarity across the world will continue, and that the WCC will also accompany them in improving relations between the two Koreas. He underscored the importance of remembering the history of solidarity and the sacrifices made in defending democracy. He expressed the hope that Christians from North and South Korea would continue to meet in the spirit of people-to-people solidarity. He prayed that just as Korea will be remembered as a nation that has blossomed into a vibrant democracy, so too will genuine peace blossom on the Korean Peninsula.



Photo: Yonhap News/Presidential Telecommunication Photo Journalist Group

### *Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi*

In October 2025, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi met with the leadership of the WCC. He welcomed the WCC Ecumenical Decade for Climate Justice Action and expressed gratitude for the WCC’s support for ecological transformation, peace initiatives, and political stability. He also expressed cordial appreciation for Pope Tawadros and the Coptic Orthodox Church.



Photo: Office of the President of Egypt

### *Chinese ministers*

WCC leaders, in November 2025, met with Duan Yijun, vice minister of the United Front Work Department of the CPC central committee, and director general of the National Religious Affairs Administration in China. During the meeting, they discussed the role of the WCC working for unity, world peace, and building bridges between religions and churches. They also spoke about the China Christian Council as a member of the WCC working for unity, promoting peace, and human wellbeing, and the longstanding relations between the WCC and the China Christian Council.

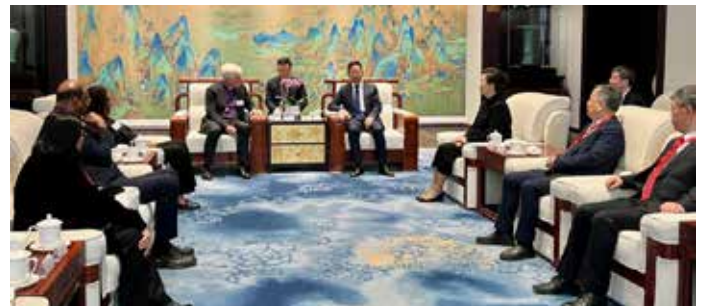


Photo: Marianne Ejdersten/WCC

# Pursuing Peace in a World Full of Conflict

## Bangladesh

The WCC expressed solidarity with the peace and justice efforts from Bangladesh's churches and its interim government. Chief adviser Muhammad Yunus welcomed a WCC delegation and thanked them for their show of support.

"We are doing our best—there are always ups and downs, but we are determined," Yunus said, adding, "We need your support in the days ahead. And I hope you will visit Bangladesh again."

## Colombia

The WCC, together with the United Nations, the Organization of American States, and the Roman Catholic Church, continued to be a permanent accompanier in the peace dialogue between the government of Colombia and the *Estado Mayor de los Bloques* of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP).

In June 2025, in addition to affirming the WCC's commitment to the peace process in Colombia, the WCC central committee also recognized in a minute the migration emergency that particularly affects several Central American countries, becoming a humanitarian crisis.

Throughout 2025, the WCC intensified its engagement in Colombia's ongoing search for peace, playing a vital role in supporting peaceful solutions to the longstanding conflict.

## Democratic Republic of Congo

In July 2025, the WCC expressed shock and horror over an attack on a Catholic church in Komanda, in the Ituri province of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## Ethiopia

In April 2025, the WCC expressed deep concern and sorrow over the tragic loss of civilian lives resulting from a drone strike in the town of Gedeb, Amhara region, Ethiopia.

## Haiti

In May 2025, noting the situation in Haiti had deteriorated markedly, the WCC executive committee urged more international attention and engagement in a minute on Haiti. It noted "The surge in violence and deaths due to the actions of gangs and self-defense groups, and during security force operations, has continued to escalate."



Photo: Marcelo Schneider/WCC



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC



Photo: Paul Jeffrey

## Korean Peninsula

In April 2025, in a letter to His Honour Justice Moon Hyung-bae, acting president of the Constitutional Court of Korea, the WCC reiterated its advocacy for the rule of law as a key constraint on abuses of political or economic power.

In August 2025, WCC General Secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Pillay travelled to South Korea for a visit that included the annual Global Prayer for Peace and Reunification. The WCC met with church leaders, students, and communities, standing in solidarity with them as they strive for reunification, reconciliation, and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

In December 2025, members of the Ecumenical Forum for Korea (EFK) met, seeking new ways to work for peace in the region. The newly-elected general secretary of the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK), Rev. Park Seung Ryoul, attending his first EFK meeting in this capacity, said that the NCCCK seeks to join hands more deeply with the global ecumenical community and strengthen and expand people-to-people networks for peace on the Korean Peninsula, centred on the Ecumenical Forum for Korea.

“At the same time, we remember our neighbours around the world who suffer from war and conflict, violence and oppression, and we renew the church’s calling to walk together in reconciliation and hope within our common life,” he said.

In August 2025, the National Council of Churches in Korea Reconciliation and Reunification Committee hosted an “80th Anniversary of Liberation and Division Ecumenical Joint Worship for the Sunday for Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula” at the Yeondong Presbyterian Church in Seoul.



Photo: Marcelo Schneider/WCC



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

## Palestine and Israel

Throughout 2025, the WCC continued to urge a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, calling for humanitarian corridors and the end of suffering. In October 2025, Pillay welcomed with profound relief the initial implementation of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, albeit while noting that the people of Gaza, in particular, continue to face immense hardship.

“The WCC emphasizes that the protection of civilians and adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law must guide all next steps,” he said. “Any governance arrangements must ensure the meaningful participation of Palestinians, uphold their right to remain on their land, and guarantee that the reconstruction and recovery process serves the principles of dignity, equity, and self-determination, rather than dependency, exclusion, or permanent occupation.”

### *Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel*

Operating in extraordinary circumstances amid a year of increasing insecurity and violence, the WCC Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel continued its witness, shedding light on the injustices faced by communities living under Israeli military occupation, and offering accompaniment and protective presence.

In addition to annual lobbying efforts in Brussels and Washington, D.C., a multi-faceted global campaign mobilized advocacy around the world under the theme of “Stop annexation, end the occupation,” running from 21 May to 11 June 2025, to pave a path for just peace in Palestine and Israel.



Photo: WCC/EAPPI



## Nepal

The WCC joined the Christian Conference of Asia and other ecumenical partners in expressing grave concern over the tragic loss of lives and escalating violence amid protests in Nepal in September 2025. “The unrest, which began on 8 September, is rapidly threatening peace and the safety of civilians across the nation,” noted a statement from the Christian Conference of Asia.

## Philippines

In September 2025, the WCC stood in solidarity with the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) as the NCCP joined a series of protests to denounce massive government corruption. The demonstrations coincided with the 53rd anniversary of the declaration of martial law, linking present struggles with painful lessons from the past.

In November 2025, the WCC general secretary expressed deep solidarity and sorrow following the devastation wrought by Typhoon Kalmaegi in the Philippines.

## South Sudan

The WCC stood in solidarity with the South Sudan Council of Churches, as churches addressed escalating insecurity, political tensions, and violence that threatened the peace many had worked so hard to build in the nation.

In May 2025, the WCC expressed profound sorrow and concern over an aerial attack on the Doctors Without Borders (*Médecins Sans Frontières*) hospital in Old Fangak, South Sudan.

### *World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel*

The WCC published resources for people and churches all over the world to pray, advocate, and stand in solidarity with people in the Holy Land during the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, observed from 20–26 September 2025.

An annual week of prayer, the theme in 2025 was “We Must Give Account,” taken from Hebrews 4:13. The week encouraged people of faith to pray for and work toward an end to Israeli occupation and oppression, and allowing both Palestinians and Israelis to live in peace.

## Myanmar

The WCC general secretary visited Myanmar in October 2025, expressing solidarity for churches and communities.



Photo: CCA



Photo: Paul Jeffrey



Photo: Paul Jeffrey



Photo: Ivars Kupcis/WCC

## Sudan

The WCC reiterated during 2025 its deep concern about attacks in Sudan and urged an immediate ceasefire.

In April 2025, the WCC expressed deep shock over attacks in North Darfur, Sudan, particularly the assaults on displacement camps in Zamzam and Abu Shouk, and the town of El Fasher.

In May 2025, the WCC signed a joint statement with the All Africa Conference of Churches, Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa, and ACT Alliance that expressed deep concern and strong condemnation of the violent escalation of hostilities in Sudan, specifically the attacks on the city of Port Sudan by the Rapid Support Forces.

In June 2025, the WCC condemned a violent attack on a humanitarian aid convoy in North Darfur, Sudan.

In October 2025, the WCC expressed grave concern over reports emerging from El Fasher, North Darfur, Sudan, following the capture of the city by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

## Ukraine

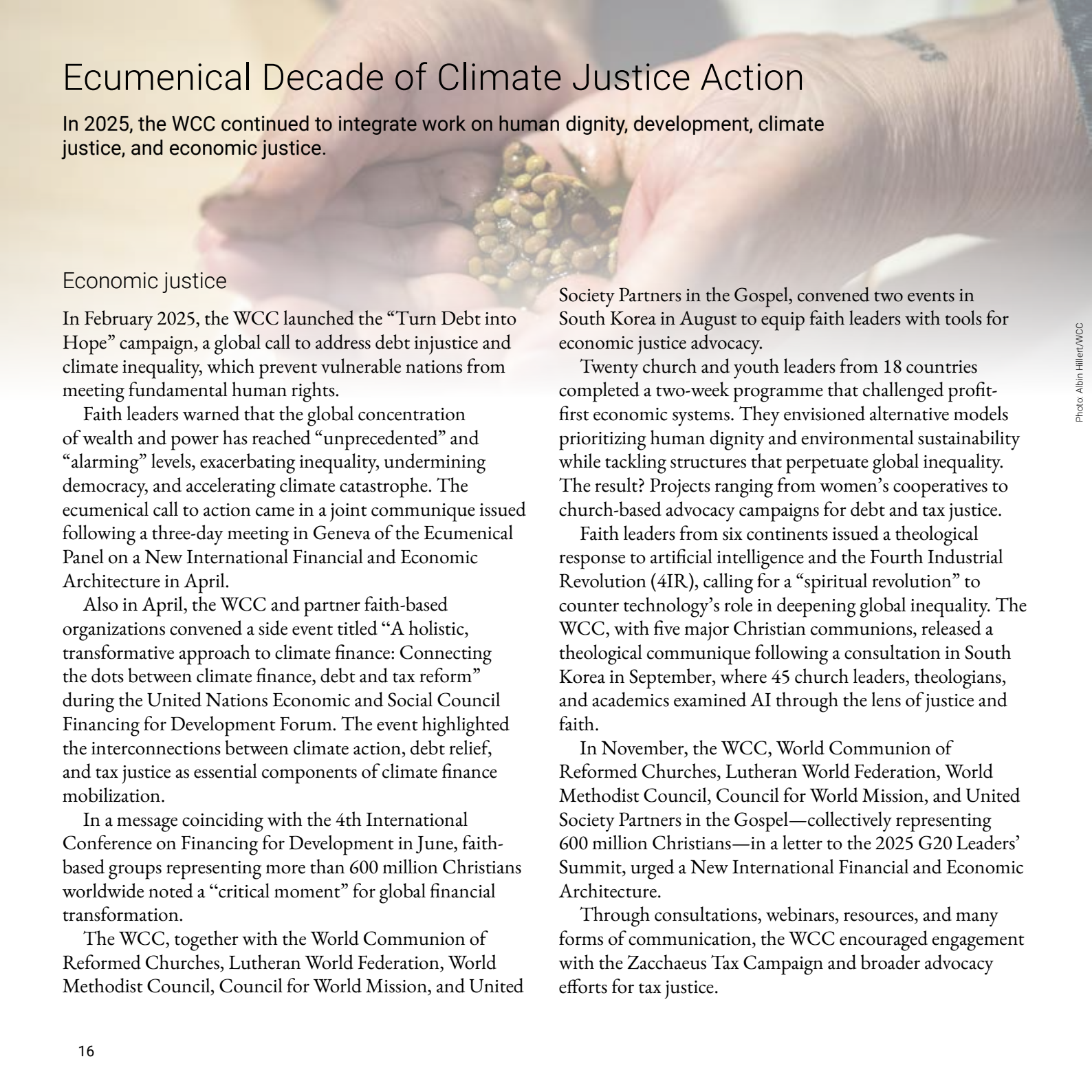
As 24 February 2025 marked the third anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the WCC noted with sadness that the war continued without any immediate signs of an end.

Then, at the beginning of the Holy Week of Easter, on 13 April 2025, the celebration of Palm Sunday in the Ukrainian city of Sumy was transformed into a day of lamentation by yet another Russian missile attack.

The WCC reiterated its demand that those responsible for such reprehensible attacks stop shedding innocent blood in pursuit of territorial and political ambitions. "We appeal to the international community to protect the victims from such aggression, and to hold the perpetrators accountable by all available means."

In August 2025, as the presidents of the United States and Russia met in Alaska, Pillay expressed hope and prayer that, from this meeting, progress toward a just peace for the people of Ukraine would emerge. Later that same month, as Russia launched a mass attack on Ukrainian cities overnight on 28 August, killing 18, including children, he called for a stop to attacks on Ukraine and urged dialogue, not violence.

On behalf of the global fellowship, the WCC general secretary extended prayers for the success of the ongoing negotiations for peace in Ukraine in December 2025. He said "An outcome that simply rewards the aggressor and does not ensure conditions for a sustainable peace for the people whose land has been invaded could only be regarded as an abject failure of diplomacy and of moral responsibility."



# Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action

In 2025, the WCC continued to integrate work on human dignity, development, climate justice, and economic justice.

## Economic justice

In February 2025, the WCC launched the “Turn Debt into Hope” campaign, a global call to address debt injustice and climate inequality, which prevent vulnerable nations from meeting fundamental human rights.

Faith leaders warned that the global concentration of wealth and power has reached “unprecedented” and “alarming” levels, exacerbating inequality, undermining democracy, and accelerating climate catastrophe. The ecumenical call to action came in a joint communique issued following a three-day meeting in Geneva of the Ecumenical Panel on a New International Financial and Economic Architecture in April.

Also in April, the WCC and partner faith-based organizations convened a side event titled “A holistic, transformative approach to climate finance: Connecting the dots between climate finance, debt and tax reform” during the United Nations Economic and Social Council Financing for Development Forum. The event highlighted the interconnections between climate action, debt relief, and tax justice as essential components of climate finance mobilization.

In a message coinciding with the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development in June, faith-based groups representing more than 600 million Christians worldwide noted a “critical moment” for global financial transformation.

The WCC, together with the World Communion of Reformed Churches, Lutheran World Federation, World Methodist Council, Council for World Mission, and United

Society Partners in the Gospel, convened two events in South Korea in August to equip faith leaders with tools for economic justice advocacy.

Twenty church and youth leaders from 18 countries completed a two-week programme that challenged profit-first economic systems. They envisioned alternative models prioritizing human dignity and environmental sustainability while tackling structures that perpetuate global inequality. The result? Projects ranging from women’s cooperatives to church-based advocacy campaigns for debt and tax justice.

Faith leaders from six continents issued a theological response to artificial intelligence and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), calling for a “spiritual revolution” to counter technology’s role in deepening global inequality. The WCC, with five major Christian communions, released a theological communique following a consultation in South Korea in September, where 45 church leaders, theologians, and academics examined AI through the lens of justice and faith.

In November, the WCC, World Communion of Reformed Churches, Lutheran World Federation, World Methodist Council, Council for World Mission, and United Society Partners in the Gospel—collectively representing 600 million Christians—in a letter to the 2025 G20 Leaders’ Summit, urged a New International Financial and Economic Architecture.

Through consultations, webinars, resources, and many forms of communication, the WCC encouraged engagement with the Zacchaeus Tax Campaign and broader advocacy efforts for tax justice.



Photo: Valter H Muniz/WCC



Photo: Valter H Muniz/WCC

## Launching the Decade

The WCC launched the Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action at its central committee meeting in Johannesburg in June 2025. The decade urges churches to consider climate change as a question of justice, and also urges that actions prioritize those who have contributed the least to climate change but face its worst consequences—a fundamental question of justice.

## Hope for Children initiative

The new WCC initiative “Hope for Children Through Climate Justice” introduced churches across the globe to resources and legal tools that hold climate crisis financiers accountable. The ongoing project aims to equip people of faith and partners in WCC’s global constituency with the knowledge on climate litigation, a rapidly growing and impactful way of addressing root causes of the climate crisis and protecting the rights of young people and future generations.

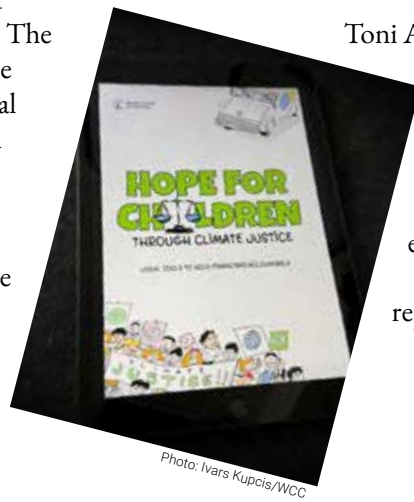


Photo: Ivars Kupcis/WCC

## Season of Creation

The WCC celebrated the Season of Creation in many ways, from theological webinars to action-oriented initiatives by member churches.

## COP30: a faith-based call to action

The WCC has a long history of offering input and key insights at the UN climate talks. Many online gatherings and in-person meetings built momentum and shared resources before COP30.

## Faith communities urge COP30: “No climate action without debt cancellation”

Toni Anne Hendricks, a youth researcher and climate advocate from the Moravian Church in Jamaica and member of the WCC delegation, presented an interfaith call to action at the High-Level Ministerial Segment of COP30 in Belém, Brazil, on 18 November, urging ambitious action on emissions, finance, and just transition.

The WCC joined faith leaders in calling for reparations, not debt, from wealthy polluters.

# WCC Commissions: In-depth Thought, Concerted Action

The WCC commissions met both online and in-person during 2025, with additional subgroups and study groups meeting online multiple times for dialogues, webinars, and special prayers.

## World Mission and Evangelism

The WCC Commission on World Mission and Evangelism and its three working groups continued to map plans for a world mission conference in 2028, continuing to engage the theme of “Mission as Counter-Creation” in planning the conference.

The global fellowship mourned the loss of Rev. Dr Peter Cruchley, director of the WCC Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, in August.

## Education and Ecumenical Formation

The WCC Commission on Education and Ecumenical Formation was an integral part of the International Planning Group for Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) 2025. GETI 2025 took place alongside the Faith and Order World Conference. The unique setting allowed participants to reflect on pressing theological issues, interact with leading ecumenical scholars and church leaders, and contribute to ongoing discussions on Christian unity, faith, and witness in today’s world.

## Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

The WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs met concurrently with the Life and Work centenary conference in Athens. The message adopted by the meeting recognized the Life and Work conference in Stockholm as the foundation stone upon which the ecumenical Life and Work movement—and the WCC Commission of the Churches on International affairs itself—was established.



Photo: Marcelo Schneider/WCC

“The witness of the ecumenical movement for unity amidst division is once again an urgent calling in a world that is on an accelerating trajectory of fragmentation, confrontation and conflict, and away from justice, solidarity, and peace, one hundred years after the Stockholm Conference,” noted the message.

## Young People in the Ecumenical Movement

Young People in the Ecumenical Movement met in Manila, Philippines. In a message, the young people expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet and have meaningful dialogue with the member churches and ecumenical partners of the WCC. The young people were accompanied by member churches of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines and youth member organizations of Kalipunan ng Kristiyanong Kabataan ng



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

Pilipinas, the expression of the ecumenical movement among Christian Youth in the Philippines.

They also had the opportunity to visit with four organizations - PAMALAKAYA, Baseco Compound, Rise Up for Rights and Life, and the Association of Positive Women Advocates Inc. in the Manila area that work and serve with communities who are faced with marginalization and oppression.

Karen Erina Puimera, moderator of the commission, from the Protestant Church in Western Indonesia, shared the commission's plans to build connections with other commissions to address issues that are relevant to youth right now. "I believe that the youth representatives in consultative bodies, or even in the central committee, will always bring forward the issues of young people and their experiences," she said.

### Commission on Health and Healing

The WCC Commission of the Churches on Health and Healing continued to provide resources and communication related to wellbeing for all. Rev. Dr Stavros Kofinas, moderator of the commission, highlighted the role of the commission in the changing world order: "A common thread that runs through all of our work is offering ways of healing the isolation, loneliness, and anxieties that have now predominated all societies." A role emphasized by Dr Cleopatra Nomonde Mqhayi-Mbambo, vice moderator of the commission, during the 47th General Council of the Christian Health Association of Zambia, "In this uncertainty, the role of faith-based health institutions becomes not less, but more essential," she said. "Yet, even in these trying times, faith-based health systems are innovating — responding creatively and courageously to severe financial cuts. Despite global downturns in health aid during 2024–25, we see signs of hope and innovation in action."

In a message, the commission called for urgent action to address threats to public health.

"As faith communities, we have the gift of hope that endures even in the most difficult times," reads the message.



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC



Photo: Ivars Kupcis/WCC

## Faith and Order

The work of the Commission on Faith and Order in 2025 focused on the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order, described on pages 5–6, and the extensive range of meetings and events related to the ecumenical year. Planning included a hybrid meeting held at St Bishoy Monastery in Egypt on 28 and 29 June. The gathering focused on logistics, a stewards programme, communications, church and cultural visits, and budget.





Photos: Albin Hillert/WCC

## Commission on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development

The Commission on Climate Justice and Sustainable Development continued its work to address the urgent climate emergency with prayer and action. Archbishop Julio Murray from the Anglican Church in Panama and moderator of the commission, stressed the urgent biblical message about the groaning of creation under corrupt and unsustainable systems of greed and consumption.

Speaking from his experience in Latin America, Murray connected Paul's ancient words to today's global climate emergency. "As Christians in Latin America, our reading of this text resonates with the struggles of people across the globe who endure injustice, poverty, and environmental destruction," he said. "These verses remind us that true transformation begins with *metanoia*—a change of heart, a change of mind by the power of the Holy Spirit."

(For information about COP30, see page 17.)



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

# In Solidarity with Member Churches

## Heritage and human rights in Armenia

An Armenian Heritage Conference was held in Bern, Switzerland, in May 2025, to address the consequences of the conflict in Artsakh/Nagorno-Karabakh regarding the protection of Armenian religious and cultural heritage, the human rights of its people, and the future security of the Armenian nation. His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, reflected on and lamented the destruction of Armenian churches and sacred sites in Nagorno Karabakh and other locations, saying “We are called to seek ways to prevent the further appropriation and destruction of sacred sites. We are witnessing condemnable violation of religious freedom and fundamental human rights.”



Photo:David Ghahramanyan

## National Council of Churches in Australia welcomed WCC in praying for unity

In March 2025, the National Council of Churches in Australia welcomed the WCC for a visit that focused on the Pilgrimage of Justice, Reconciliation, and Unity. The National Council of Churches in Australia hosted a webinar, with some participants gathering in person at the Catholic Institute of Sydney, and others online. The topic for the webinar was “That All May Be One—Stepping Stones on the Pilgrimage of Justice, Reconciliation, and Unity.”

Elizabeth Stone, general secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia and the key organizer of the webinar, commented: “Since our triennial Forum in 2024, our current focus as a council is deep listening and accompaniment with Australia’s churches about what we can do better together to witness the good news of Jesus Christ that promises hope and reconciliation to all people and creation.”

## United Church of Canada commemorates centennial

Preaching at a special centennial service for the United Church of Canada, WCC General Secretary Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay lifted his voice with joy and thanksgiving with those gathered at the Gower United Church in St. John’s, Newfoundland, on Pentecost Sunday in 2025.

“For us as Christians, true, realistic hope is anchored by faith, by a deep trust in God’s love and God’s promises, as revealed in the life and message, the death and resurrection, of Jesus,” he said. “We find in Jesus one so close to God, so



Photo: Cara Czech



Photo:WCC

beloved of God, so trusting of God, as to banish fear and engender hope and courage equal to any challenge.”

### 130th Maramon Convention in India

In February 2025, the WCC general secretary addressed over 100,000 people attending Asia’s largest Christian gathering, the Maramon Convention. “What a great witness your presence is, in this gathering of celebration, prayer, Christian unity, and an opportunity to drink from the wells of spiritual blessings,” he said during his sermon.

In May 2025, the India Peace Centre, in collaboration with the WCC and the National Council of Churches in India, launched a certificate programme consisting of four educational webinars on the nexus approach to land, water, and food. This locally developed initiative was built upon the January 2025 launch of an Interfaith Coalition on Land, Water, and Food in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha, and a follow-up seminar on the nexus approach held in Nagpur in April 2025. Both events were convened in collaboration with the WCC as well as diverse Indian stakeholders, including academics, faith representatives, social workers, scientists, and youth.

### Presbyterian Church in Taiwan gathers for 70th General Assembly

The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan gathered for its 70th General Assembly from 22 to 24 April also commemorating its 160th anniversary. The assembly was held under the theme “Inspire a Life of Faith—Seeking God’s House of Abundance.”

In December 2025, the church also hosted the Ecumenical Indigenous Peoples Network Reference Group and organized a programme of activities.



Photo: PCT Press

# Youth Engagement

## Ecumenical Institute at Bossey

In January 2025, students from the WCC Ecumenical Institute at Bossey took their annual visit to Rome, with a full programme that included lectures, tours of the Vatican, and opportunities to interact with leaders from the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity.

Later that month, 32 Bossey students graduated, reflecting on the profound and unique experience that will unite them as they embark on their journeys back to different parts of the world. Winnie Nanjala, from the Kenya Christian Reformed Church, spoke on behalf of the students. “This Bossey experience has proven to be a necessity to our personal and professional growth. It is now up to us to choose what we make of our experience and what we carry home,” she said. “Experiences and encounters are not random occurrences; they are gracious gifts from God. The question is what will you do with your gracious gift?”

In February, four master’s students from the World Council of Churches (WCC) Ecumenical Institute at Bossey participated in a series of preparatory sessions ahead



Photo: Gloria Charles/WCC



Photo: Gloria Charles/WCC

of their internships across various WCC departments. In June, they graduated with a Master of Advanced Studies in Ecumenical Studies.

In May, after more than two years of visioning and planning, the long-held dream of creating a dynamic, connected network for Bossey alumni and ecumenical partners became a reality. The founding assembly of the “Bossey Ecumenical Institute Network in Europe” took place at the Ort der Ökumene in Hanover, Germany, during Kirchentag. Rev. Emma Jansson, from the Church of Sweden, has been elected the president of the board of the new network. “It gives me hope to see young people coming together and creating ecumenical spaces through Bossey’s transformative relationships and spreading the message of unity,” she said.

Later that month, ten students began their summertime inter-religious studies at Bossey, encountering one another in honesty and humility. They graduated in July, sharing a special message. “Through honest dialogue and shared exploration, students engaged with migration not only as a political, climate-related, or social issue, but as a deeply spiritual and human experience that echoes across scriptures and histories,” reads the message. “Before arriving at a shared interfaith position, reflections were offered from each tradition, drawing on Jewish, Christian, and Islamic texts and teachings.”

A new academic year officially opened at Bossey in September 2025, with 31 students from around the world who gathered for an opening prayer service and orientation session, embarking on what will be an intense period of ecumenical community-building, academic learning, and profound connectivity. Among their activities, in October, they embarked on a three-day study visit to the Taizé Community in France.



Photo: Marcelo Schneider/WCC



Photo: Gloria Charles/WCC



Photo: Gloria Charles/WCC



Photo: Gloria Charles/WCC

## Ecumenical Voices of Youth Ambassadors

The WCC has strengthened youth participation in its communications and advocacy through the launch of the Ecumenical Voices of Youth Ambassadors (EVYA) network, an initiative of the WCC Youth Programme developed in close collaboration with the WCC Communication team to amplify young voices across the global ecumenical movement.

The EVYA network was created to provide a structured platform for young people from diverse regions and church traditions to actively engage in storytelling, advocacy, and digital communication.

At the launch of the initiative, the Communication team led a series of capacity-building sessions with the youth ambassadors, equipping them with practical skills in writing, content creation, and social media engagement. This foundation helps ensure that young perspectives are meaningfully integrated into the WCC’s ongoing work and public witness.

Since its launch, the network has enabled young ambassadors to make significant contributions across WCC communication channels, working alongside the communication team to produce:

- News features highlighting global ecumenical initiatives and youth-led projects
- Blog posts offering reflections on faith, justice, peace, climate, and social issues
- Social media content, including posts and reels that translate complex themes into engaging, accessible formats for wider audiences

Through EVYA, young people are not only telling stories but shaping the narrative of the ecumenical movement. Their contributions bring authenticity, creativity, and lived experience to WCC communications, helping

the organization reach new audiences and strengthen intergenerational dialogue.

This initiative demonstrates the WCC’s commitment to meaningful youth participation, moving beyond consultation toward co-creation.

By investing in youth leadership and communication skills and working hand in hand with the Communication team, the EVYA network continues to empower young people to be visible, vocal, and influential partners in the life and mission of the global church.

## Ecumenical International Youth Day

In August 2025, Ecumenical International Youth Day was observed over two days, allowing young people from across the world to explore the theme “Rooted in Hope: Nurturing Faith and Mental Wellbeing in the Face of Climate Crisis (Eco-Anxiety).”

Katelyn King, a licensed social worker whose Mennonite faith inspires her to work for justice, was the keynote speaker, offering a presentation that described her own formation of caring for the earth.

“My path to this work was not straightforward or expected,” she said, recalling how, as a child, she became very upset about climate change-related issues. “I remember feeling helpless and scared and sad—and I just started crying,” she said. “I was able to pack up those feelings, shove them in a box, and close the door.”

But not forever. King went on to describe how she now dedicates her life’s work to helping people deal with trauma—including eco-anxiety.

# Supporting Human Rights

From freedom of religion to prayers for justice to calls for following international law, the WCC continued throughout 2025 to support human rights across the world.

In March 2025, as climate change continued to devastate vulnerable communities worldwide, the WCC called on the UN Human Rights Council to address the “climate-debt-tax-human rights nexus as a moral imperative.” The statement, delivered by Rev. Peter Adenekan during the 58th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, highlighted how debt obligations are preventing governments in developing countries from meeting basic human rights and responding effectively to the climate emergency.

Adenekan, a student at the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, was conducting research with the WCC’s Living Planet Programme on the intersection of climate and debt in Nigeria and the role of churches as a contribution to the WCC’s Turn Debt into Hope Campaign.

“Many of these countries are spending more on servicing debt than on lifesaving public services and responding to the climate emergency,” Adenekan stated in his address to the UN Human Rights Council. “In other words, obligations to repay debt are preventing governments from meeting people’s rights to health, education, and a clean environment.”

The WCC also delivered a statement on the human rights situation of Armenian hostages at the 58th Regular Session of the UN Human Rights Council.

“The World Council of Churches expresses deep concern over the continued unlawful detention of Armenian individuals by Azerbaijan,” read the statement. “The taking and holding of hostages violate fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions, and constitute a serious breach of human rights.”

Also in March, a delegation led by the WCC participated in the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in March 2025 at the United Nations in New York City.

The WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs submitted a Commission on the Status of Women statement that outlined the theological foundations of the WCC’s commitment to gender equality.

“Justice, in the biblical sense, ensures that all people have equal access to resources, opportunities, and protections necessary for their flourishing,” the statement read. “For the WCC, this includes advocating for women’s rights and working toward the elimination of all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence, as outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action.”

In July, the WCC was involved in many different aspects of the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

Mervin Toquero, deputy general secretary of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, delivered a WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs statement in an interactive dialogue with the UN special rapporteur on Summary, Arbitrary, and Extra-judicial executions.

The WCC statement urged the government of the Philippines to protect victims and their families. “This includes shielding them from reprisals such as violence, arbitrary arrest, or online intimidation,” the statement read.

The WCC also participated in a briefing for nongovernmental organizations on human rights in the Philippines. Speakers shared that, despite the end of the Duterte regime in 2022 and his upcoming trial in the International Criminal Court, the situation for human rights in the Philippines has not improved. Killings, abductions,

and repression continue, and there has been no justice for the thousands of victims of the “war on drugs.”

Rise Up, a nongovernmental organization in the Philippines, reported that the government of Duterte’s war on drugs has caused one of the worst human rights crises in the country, killing thousands of the poor, leaving thousands of grieving widows, mothers, and orphaned children.

The WCC also delivered statements in the adoption of the Universal Periodic Review of Angola and Madagascar. Both statements focused on women’s rights, particularly obstetric fistula, in connection with the WCC visits to those countries in 2022 and 2024.

In September 2025, the WCC hosted a UN Human Rights Council side event, “Human Rights in Indonesia—One Year into the New Administration.”

### The wisdom of Indigenous peoples

Indigenous people have been a leading voice in the WCC, from dialogue at COP30 to theological discussions on de-colonial perspectives, to land rights.

The WCC released a seminar report entitled *Indigenous Spiritualities, Land Rights, and Climate Justice*. Edited by Lori Ransom, WCC Indigenous peoples consultant, the report serves as a platform for the clear, urgent, and much-needed voices of Indigenous peoples to expose the climate catastrophe through which we are living.

### Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN)

How do we promote full inclusion and belonging? Through EDAN, the WCC shared actionable steps and explored how churches can advance decolonial approaches to disability theology to foster collaboration for justice and inclusion.



Photo: Valter H Muniz/WCC



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

## Thursdays in Black

The Thursdays in Black campaign for a world free from rape and violence grew in 2025, as member churches and communities took actions from wearing black on Thursdays, to storytelling, to photo and art exhibits.

As Bishop Prof. Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, moderator of the WCC central committee, said: “Love is a central theme in our Christian faith. Spread love, choose kindness—let’s embrace this motto and act upon it.”

## Faith leaders at G20

In August 2025, the WCC joined global faith leaders in signing a joint letter calling on G20 finance ministers to take decisive action on the escalating global debt crisis. Released ahead of the G20 Finance Ministers’ Meeting, the letter—co-signed by WCC General Secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay—warned of the devastating consequences of unsustainable debt on vulnerable populations. Nearly half the world’s population lives in countries where debt payments exceed spending on health, education, and climate resilience.

As the G20 Interfaith Forum convened in Cape Town, South Africa, the WCC general secretary delivered a keynote presentation focusing on sustainability.

“The idea is that the world’s future requires a vision of development that can be sustained in the long run,” explained Pillay. “The goal must be a robust, sustainable society where each individual can feel secure.”



Photo: Valter H Muniz/WCC

## Interreligious Bridge Building

In February 2025, the WCC Office of Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation and the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue held its annual meeting in Rome.

In a communique, the groups stated: “In a world fractured by conflict, they underscored the vital role of religions—when guided by dialogue—in contributing to healing divisions, fostering fraternity, and cultivating peace and reconciliation.”

## Focus on reconfiguring interfaith work

In May 2025, an issue of *Current Dialogue*, the WCC journal on interreligious relations, focused on “Reconfiguring Interfaith Work: Lessons from the Field.”

“In a world that is increasingly both interconnected and polarized, the need for constructive and transformative dialogue among different religious and spiritual traditions has never been more pressing,” wrote guest editors Dr Elias El Halabi and Kathryn M. Lohre, co-moderators of the WCC’s Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation Reference Group, in a foreword.



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

# Communications

In 2025, WCC Communications supported an array of major ecumenical events, including the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order in Egypt, which provided an unprecedented opportunity to collaborate with the Coptic Orthodox Church and the Middle East Council of Churches. Timely news releases, engaging social media, and in-depth interviews preserved the legacy of this historic conference. In addition, WCC communications lifted the voices of GETI participants in inspiring ways.

In 2025, in view of the commemoration of the centennial of the Life and Work conference in Stockholm, a large set of more than 300 publications that embody serious and sustained ecumenical reflection on social ethics and action was digitized and made freely accessible online to research and scholarship. The collection includes reports, conference proceedings, study documents, pamphlets, and other material, including the process that led up to and followed the Universal Christian Conference on Life and Work in Stockholm in 1925. The collection was launched and promoted during various events commemorating the Stockholm conference and accompanied by a thematic issue of *Ecumenical Review*. To facilitate access to these unique resources, a dedicated webpage on the WCC website provides orientation and research guidelines, and direct links have been added to the WCC library catalogue.

Following the WCC central committee approval in June of “The Use of Artificial Intelligence in WCC Communications,” the communications team is implementing guidelines and recommendations to be shared with all staff. An assessment of the pilot translation project

during the central committee meeting found that while using AI translation accelerated the speed of translations and reduced costs, terminology errors and inconsistencies were problematic, especially in public documents. A small communications working group is clarifying how the AI guidelines should be used in practice by all WCC staff. Given the development speed and range of AI applications, applying ethical guidelines consistently and ensuring training will be most critical. The working group is also facilitating the assessment of the most helpful and appropriate AI applications for official WCC use.



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC



Photo: Rhoda Mphande/WCC



Photo: Grégoire de Fombelle/WCC



Photo: Ivars Kupcis/WCC

*Inspired by the hope we have through our faith in God, we seek justice in the midst of injustice, compassion in the midst of cruelty, accountability in the midst of impunity, responsibility in the midst of careless consumption, and peace in the midst of the most brutal violence.*

Report of the General Secretary to the WCC Central Committee,  
June 2025



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

## European Christian Internet Conference

In September 2025, the annual European Christian Internet Conference (ECIC), held in Tallinn, Estonia, explored the role of churches in countering disinformation and being themselves a credible voice of truth. WCC is involved in co-organizing the annual ECIC conferences with a WCC representative on the ECIC board.

## World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20

Faith-based groups, collaborating with their partners, including the WCC, advocated for digital justice at the WSIS+20, hosted by the International Telecommunication Union in July 2025 in Geneva.

Experts in digital justice, communicators, and media representatives then gathered for a WCC-hosted side event to the WSIS+20.

## AI and digital justice

In October 2025, a WCC webinar—the first in a series—“AI and Our Information Society: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly” explored the positive and negative aspects of artificial intelligence and its impact in the digital communication sphere.

Also in October 2025, the World Association for Christian Communication launched Module 2 of “Just Digital!”, a self-paced e-course that invites individuals and groups to explore the ethical issues of our digital lives and take action for a more just online world.

## Addressing gender inequality in the media

Key findings and recommendations from the 7th edition of the Global Media Monitoring Project were released in September 2025, providing an overview of gender equality and what can be done to address the gaps.

## Publications

Specific publications published in 2025 were mentioned throughout this report. In addition to the regular governance publications, particular focus was placed on publications for the Sixth World Conference and GETI 2025. In programmatic resources, new material and translations of earlier materials were published on a common date for Easter, climate and climate justice, with a focus on children, digital justice, HIV, obstetric fistula, and Indigenous rights. The 29 publications in the year included 16 translations. In addition to the WCC working languages, materials were translated into Arabic, Malagasy, Hausa, and Portuguese. All publications are available from the website as free PDFs.

### *WCC Journals*

In 2025, *The Ecumenical Review* focused on the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order, with an issue on “Where Now for Visible Unity?” containing reflections on the theme of the (then) forthcoming Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order. The focus on the Sixth World Conference and the Nicaea anniversary was also picked up in *International Review of Mission* with an issue initiated by the late Rev. Dr Peter Cruchley on “Women at the Council of Nicaea,” and coordinated with Just Community of Women and Men, and which was the focus of a workshop at the Sixth World Conference. The 2025 issue of *Current Dialogue*, to be published early 2026, focuses on the 60th anniversary of the Vatican II declaration *Nostra aetate* and its implications for Christian engagement with other faiths today. An issue of *Ecumenical Review* reviewing the 2025 Ecumenical Year is in preparation.

# Financial Results 2025 (unaudited)



Photo: Albin Hillier/WCC

## Consolidated Financial Results 2025 (Unaudited)

The World Council of Churches reports income of CHF 20.6 million and expenditures of CHF 22.8 million, resulting in a deficit of CHF 2.2 million for the year. This decrease in net funds is primarily attributable to a CHF 2.6 million shortfall in unrestricted and designated funds, partly offset by a CHF 0.4 million surplus in restricted funds behind programmes. General reserves amounted to CHF 7.2 million, above the target level of CHF 7.0 million.

Three main factors contributed to the deficit in unrestricted and designated funds. The real estate development project accounted for CHF 1.4 million, due to commercialization delays and ongoing costs such as depreciation and project management. The full-year impact of the relocation to the new office building, effective June 2024, resulted in CHF 0.8 million, with limited offsetting rental income. The Bossey Hotel & Conference Centre reported a CHF 0.4 million shortfall, primarily

from higher maintenance costs and reduced reservations linked to lower budgets among international organizations in Geneva.

Restricted funds, mainly for programme activities, generated CHF 0.4 million of surplus, supported by cost controls and increased contributions, including self-funded participation. Membership and programme contributions totalled CHF 14.2 million, up CHF 0.7 million from the previous year, due to more conferences and meetings, such as the GETI and the Sixth World Conference on Faith & Order in Egypt as well as the central committee meeting in South Africa. Financial returns from investments, including currency movements and revaluation effects, amounted to a modest CHF 0.1 million after a volatile period that favoured risk-taking (stocks), while conservative portfolios underperformed.

## Consolidated Financial Results 2025

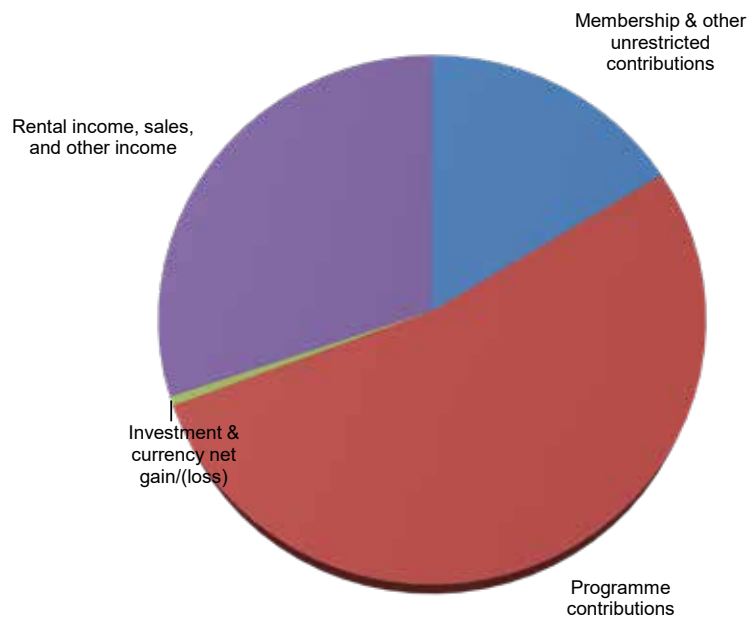
Unaudited

in CHF 000	Unrestricted & Designated Funds 2025	Restricted Funds 2025	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
<b>Income</b>				
Membership and other unrestricted contrib.	3,337		3,337	3,369
Programme contributions		10,884	10,884	10,180
Programme contributions assembly		14	14	13
Financial Income / (expenses)	(65)	181	116	1,450
Rental income & other sales	4,573	6	4,579	7,195
Miscellaneous income	1,129	513	1,642	1,169
Disposal of assets	(5)		(5)	-
Unrestricted income distribution	(2,985)	2,985	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,984</b>	<b>14,583</b>	<b>20,567</b>	<b>23,376</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Programme and other operating costs	4,659	4,495	9,154	8,519
Assembly related expenditure			-	54
Depreciation	2,358	142	2,500	2,326
Salaries	3,363	7,068	10,431	11,038
Interest expense	395	48	443	345
Tax expense	208	34	242	556
Redistribution of costs; internal (sales)/charges	(2,434)	2,434	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>8,549</b>	<b>14,221</b>	<b>22,770</b>	<b>22,838</b>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-
<b>Net surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>(2,565)</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>(2,203)</b>	<b>538</b>



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

<b>WCC SOURCES OF INCOME 2025</b>	CHF 000s	%
Membership & other unrestricted contributions	3,337	16.2%
Programme contributions	10,898	53.0%
Investment & currency net gain/(loss)	116	0.5%
Rental income, sales, and other income	6,216	30.2%
	<b>20,567</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



<b>INCOME TRENDS (Swiss francs 000's)</b>	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	<b>2025</b>
Membership and other unrestricted contributions	4,040	3,947	3,563	3,696	3,565	3,526	3,369	<b>3,337</b>
Programme contributions	13,895	13,431	10,993	11,305	11,913	10,544	10,180	<b>10,884</b>
Programme contributions Assembly	73	378	296	1,139	7,839	67	13	<b>14</b>
Other income	6,765	8,415	6,170	5,873	5,890	11,121	9,814	<b>6,337</b>
Gain on sale of land or disposal of assets	-	3,483	18,948	-	30,122	-	-	<b>(5)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,773</b>	<b>29,654</b>	<b>39,970</b>	<b>22,013</b>	<b>59,329</b>	<b>25,258</b>	<b>23,376</b>	<b>20,567</b>

## FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS 2025

### *Main contributors*

*Note: The list includes member churches, ecumenical partners, and other organizations that contributed more than CHF 20,000 to the WCC in 2025.*

American Baptist Churches USA, Anglican Church of Canada, Bread for the World, Britain Yearly Meeting, Catholic Committee for Cultural Collaboration, Christian Aid, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in USA, Christian Council of Sweden, Church of England, Church of Norway, Church of Scotland, Church of Sweden, Church of Sweden - International Department, Council for World Mission, DanChurchAid, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Dutch Reformed Church, Eglise

protestante unie de France, EKD - Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland, EKD - Evangelische Kirche in Hessen und Nassau, EKD - Evangelische Landeskirche in Württemberg, European Commission, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, Evangelische Mission Weltweit e.V., Felm, FILE, Finn Church Aid, Fondation pour l'aide au protestantisme réformé, Foundation for Theological Education-Asia & Pacific, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Kerk in Actie, Lund Mission Society, Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Norwegian Church Aid, Presbyterian Church (USA), Presbyterian Church in Canada, Presbyterian Church of Korea, Protestant Church in

Switzerland (PCS), Protestant Church in the Netherlands, Ref. Kirchengemeinde Aarau, Stichting Rotterdam,Stiftung fuer theologisches theater, Swiss Church Aid (HEKS-EPER), The Episcopal Church, The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, United Church of Canada, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, Uniting Church in Australia, Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, World Communion of Reformed Churches

*Other contributors (less than CHF 20,000)*

Member churches, ecumenical partners, other organizations, congregations, and individuals.





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