



World Council of Churches

Commemorating 70 years of Ecumenism
“Together on a Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace”

Pro Oriente – 9 July 2018 – Vienna

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit

WCC General Secretary



I have desired to come here, a pilgrim in quest of unity and peace. I thank God because here I have found you, brothers and sisters already making this same journey.

Walking together is not a ploy to strengthen our own positions, but an act of obedience to the Lord and love for our world.

Let us ask the Father to help us walk together all the more resolutely in the ways of the Spirit.

May the Cross guide our steps, because there, in Jesus, the walls of separation have already been torn down and all enmity overcome (cf. Eph 2:14).

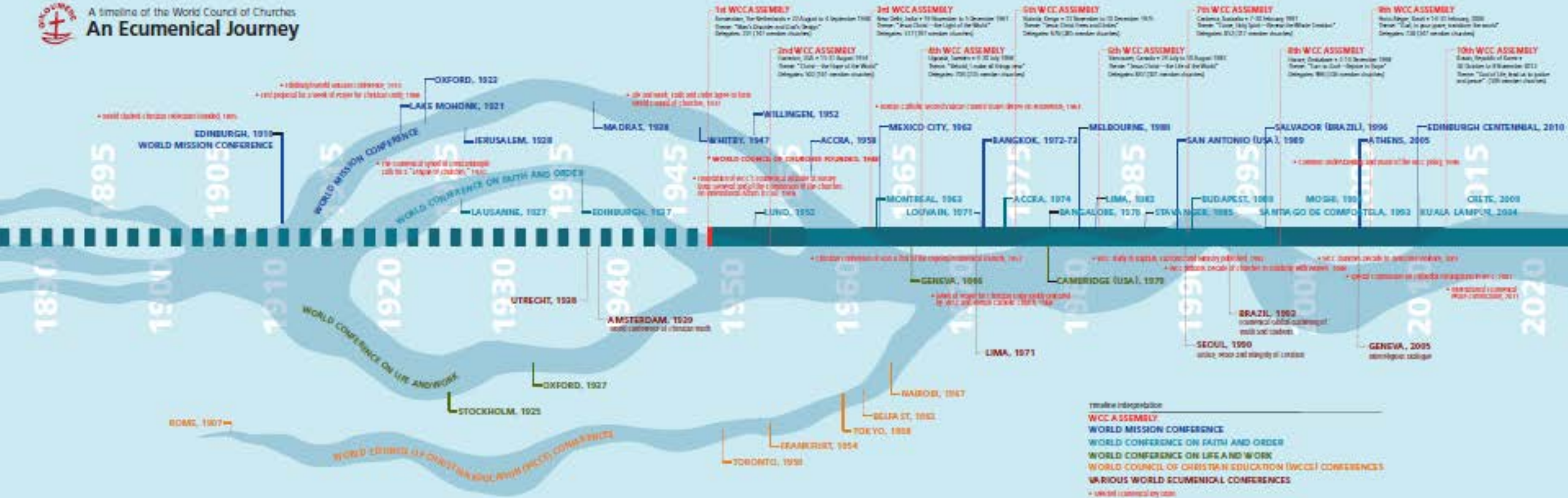
In him, we will come to see that, for all our failings, nothing will ever separate us from his love (cf. Rom 8:35-39).

Different views and expectations

- Visible unity of the church
- Together in mission
- Joint action for justice and peace
- Ecumenical learning



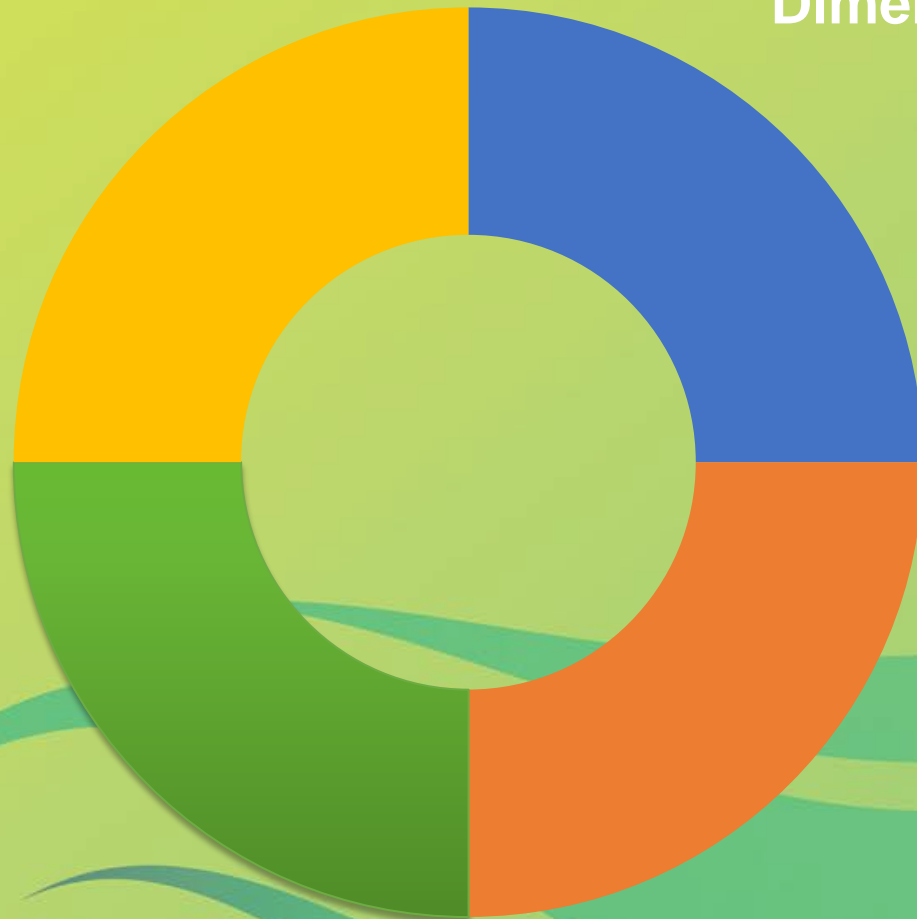
A timeline of the World Council of Churches
An Ecumenical Journey



Timeline Interpretation:
WCC ASSEMBLY
WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE
WORLD CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND ORDER
WORLD CONFERENCE ON LIFE AND WORK
WORLD COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (WCCE) CONFERENCES
VARIOUS WORLD ECUMENICAL CONFERENCES
 + world council of churches

Streams of the ecumenical movement

Dimensions of Being Church



■ Faith and Order/Koinonia

■ Social thought & action/diakonia

■ Mission/martyria

■ Education/didaskalia

Context matters: globally and locally

World War I

1968

Great Depression

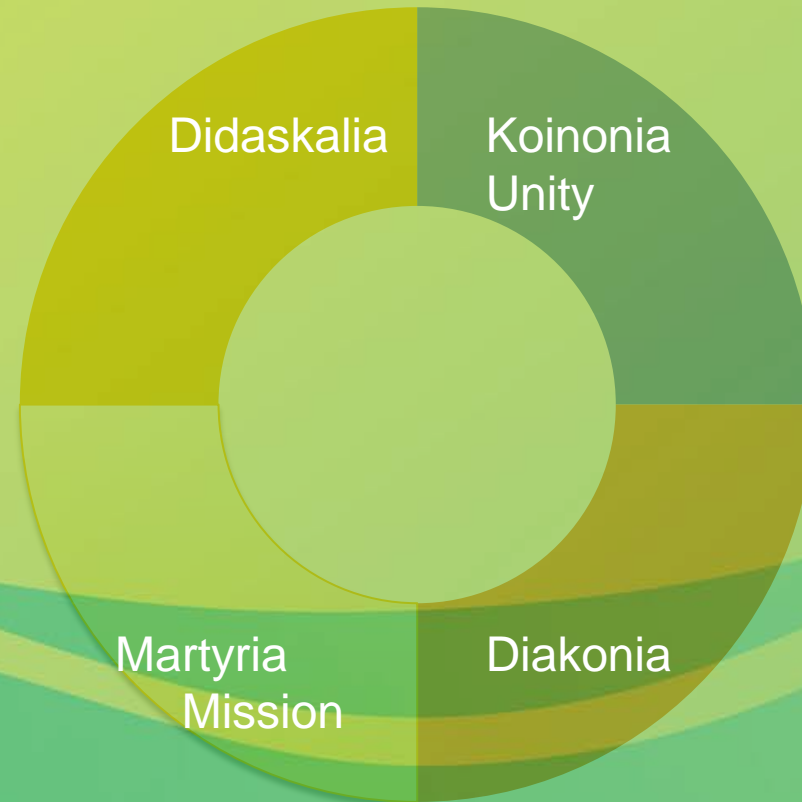
Vietnam/National
Security Policies/
Southern Africa

World War II

Globalisation

De-colonisation &
Nation building

World-Christianity/
inter-religious
cooperation



A journey of faith: the assemblies of the WCC



A global fellowship of 350 member churches representing 550 million Christians from 140 countries

Basis: The World Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Member churches come from all continents and include Orthodox (Eastern and Oriental), Anglican, Lutheran, Reformed, Methodist, Baptist, United, Pentecostal and other churches. A **majority** of member churches now come from the **South**.

Asia: 75 churches (62,600,000 members). Anglican, Assyrian, Baptist, Disciples, Free, Lutheran, Mar Thoma, Methodist, Non-denominational, Old Catholic, Orthodox (Eastern), Orthodox (Oriental), Reformed, United and Uniting.

Africa: 92 churches (131,935,000 members). African-Instituted, Anglican, Baptist, Disciples, Free, Lutheran, Methodist, Orthodox (Eastern), Orthodox (Oriental), Pentecostal, Reformed, United and Uniting.

Caribbean: 13 churches (2,600,000 members). Anglican, Baptist, Free, Methodist, Orthodox (Oriental), Reformed, United and Uniting.

Europe: 81 churches (287,000,000 members). Methodist, Old Catholic, Orthodox (Eastern), Orthodox (Oriental), Reformed, United and Uniting, Anglican, Assyrian, Baptist, Free Hussite, Lutheran, Mar Thoma.

Latin America: 28 churches (4,500,000 members). Anglican, Baptist, Disciples, Free, Lutheran, Methodist, Orthodox (Eastern), Orthodox (Oriental), Pentecostal, Reformed

Middle East: 12 churches (9,700,000 members). Anglican, Assyrian, Mar Thoma, Orthodox (Eastern), Orthodox (Oriental), Reformed.

North America: 31 churches (72,000,000 members). Anglican, Assyrian, Baptist, Disciples, Free, Lutheran, Mar Thoma, Methodist, Non-denominational, Old Catholic, Orthodox (Eastern), Orthodox (Oriental), Pentecostal, Reformed, United and Uniting.

Pacific: 17 churches (2,000,000 members). Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist, Reformed, United and Uniting

Article III of the WCC Constitution:

The primary purpose of the fellowship of churches in the World Council of Churches is to call one another to visible unity in one faith and in one eucharistic fellowship, expressed in worship and common life in Christ, through witness and service to the world, and to advance towards that unity in order that the world may believe.

Working together as churches and with ecumenical partners on

- Faith and order
- World Mission and Evangelism
- Diakonia and Public Witness
- Ecumenical Education and Formation
- Inter-religious dialogue and cooperation
- Women
- Youth
- Spiritual life
- Communication

With the common emphasis
of the **Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace**

Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace



God of life,
lead us to
justice and peace

World Council of Churches
10th Assembly
30 October to 8 November 2013
Busan, Republic of Korea

Assembly message:

“We intend to move together. Challenged by our experiences in Busan, we challenge all people of good will to engage their God-given gifts in transforming actions. **This assembly calls you to join us in pilgrimage.”**

Being on a Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace

- is participating in God's mission towards life
- is moving to issues and places relevant for life and survival of people and earth
- is deepening the fellowship of churches on the way with a strong spiritual dimension of common prayer and theological reflection
- is a journey of hope, looking for and celebrating signs of God's reign of justice and peace already here and now
- is discovering opportunities for common witness and transformative action that make a difference in today's world with an open invitation to all people of good will

The WCC is in two ways involved in the pilgrimage:

- through its member churches and their role in the ecumenical movement;
- through its own programmatic work.

Note: though these two ways of involvement are intertwined, they have a distinctive nature

2 Cor 5:14 – The love of Christ compels us

- Walking together
- Praying together, sharing hope and encouragement in Christ
- Encountering each other
- Developing trust and confidence
- Being accountable to each other
- Caring and advocating for each other
- Building relationships of mutual love



World Council
of Churches