



## World Council of Churches

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*" Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away ... " - Revelation 21:1*

We mourn the death at age 83 of Bishop Károly Tóth, former presiding bishop of the Synod of the Reformed Church in Hungary and, in the 1980s, a member of the Central Committee and the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches. Early in his career, Bishop Tóth served as an ecumenical officer and later as director of the ecumenical and communication department of his church, and he brought to his episcopal ministry a wealth of ecumenical commitment and experience. From 1985 to 1990, he also served as president of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Hungary.

Having grown up during World War II, Bishop Tóth spent most of his life and ministry within the post-war context of East-West conflict. He dedicated himself to healing divisions among peoples and seeking peace through open dialogue. Risking controversy and criticism on every side, he was active in the WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs and also served as a prominent leader in the Prague-based International Peace Conference.

From 1991 until his death last week, he continued to work diligently as president of the Ecumenical Research Centre in Hungary.

Bishop Károly Tóth made an outstanding contribution to the ecumenical movement during a difficult and complex time, ever confident in this promise concerning the goal of our common journey: "Nothing accursed will be found there any more" (Revelation 22:3). We give God thanks for our companionship with Károly Tóth on the pilgrimage of justice and peace.

May his memory be eternal!

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit  
General Secretary  
World Council of Churches

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