



# World Council of Churches

General Secretariat

150 route de Ferney, PO Box 2100  
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland  
Phone: +41 22 791 6111 Fax: +41 22 791 0361  
Email: infowcc@wcc-coe.org www.oikoumene.org

Direct phone: +41 22 791 6285  
Direct e-mail: dcb@wcc-coe.org

Geneva, June 29, 2022

To:

- The family of the late Ephorus Rev. Dr. Willem Tumpal Pandapotan Simarmata,
- The sisters and brothers of the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) Church
- The Christian Conference of Asia

**Tribute from the World Council of Churches Acting General Secretary,  
Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca on the passing of  
His eminence late Ephorus (Archbishop)  
Rev. Dr. Willem Tumpal Pandapotan Simarmata**

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is with great sadness that the World Council of Churches and its global fellowship received the news of the passing away of His eminence late Ephorus (Archbishop) Rev. Dr. Willem Tumpal Pandapotan Simarmata, during the central committee meeting of the WCC on June 17. Rev. Dr. Simarmata was elected a member of the WCC central committee in 2013, at our last Assembly in Busan, and when we began the meeting, we had prayed for his health. We mourned together when we heard about his passing away.

For us, Rev. Dr. Simarmata, was a leader of the largest member church of WCC in Indonesia, the Batak Christian Protestant Church - **Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP)**. He was an international ecumenical leader, as the Moderator of the Christian Conference of Asia during the past seven years and the present Moderator of the United Evangelical Mission (UEM). But, his life and work not only influenced the spiritual life of people, as his leadership extended to the secular realm. He was currently a member of the House of Regional Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (Upper House).

As a truthful, accountable and inspiring leader, he was a shining example of exemplary leadership to people all over the world.

As we mourn his loss with you, the family members, members of the HKBP, and the ecumenical family, we also celebrate his life.

I can imagine Rev. Dr. Simarmata, quoting St Paul:

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Let us celebrate Rev. Dr. Simarmata's life and let us emulate his inspiring life.

With every good wish for God's blessings, and with our prayers.



Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Saucă  
Acting General Secretary  
World Council of Churches