



OUTCOME STATEMENT OF THE 12TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES



Homecoming

57 years after the Constituting Assembly of the Pacific Conference of Churches, in Lifou, our ecumenical canoe has returned to Kanaky. We have been reinvigorated by the deep relationships that have been renewed and the warmth of the hospitality we have received.

The revelations of our reflections on Do Kamo, the Authentic Human in Permanent Becoming have been both profound and challenging. This gift of the faith of our Kanak people is a call to us in our rich Pasifika diversity, to seek the transformation of ourselves and of our world. It is not a transformation to perfection but a journey to be who God calls us to be.

Our Pacific traditions and faith history are enriched through storytelling. We commit to telling all the stories of the Pasifika Household of God. In doing so we build a Pacific that is home to all its people and where nobody is left to struggle alone.

Through stories we teach our young people to care for their neighbour and the environment. These stories will guide us in our voyage towards an ecumenical spirituality that weaves our faith traditions and indigenous knowledge and wisdom with our development experiences. We commit to equipping the emerging leaders of our household with the tools necessary to respond pastorally, prophetically and practically in an ever changing world.

Kanaky

The Pasifika Household of God has assembled in Kanaky in 2023.

We have been here before. We will be here again.

But we recognise that Kanaky is in need of support from the churches which formed the PCC in Lifou in 1966.

We affirm that Kanaky has always been and must remain Pasifika.

We stand ready to support Kanaky's pursuit of independence from France through a referendum promised by the French republic. We commit to supporting efforts to improve the wellbeing of the Kanak people.

We will voyage together for the holistic Self-Determination of Kanaky, Maohi, West Papua, Bouganville, the Land now called Australia and other territories who seek liberation.

Church called to transform

Drawn to Kanaky by call of Do Kamo, the Pacific churches recognise the need to lead regional change through transformation.

We must become more just in our approach, ensuring that God's household in the Pacific receives justice through sufficient employment, responsible leadership and efficient use of resources.

The church must reduce the financial burden on its members by converting its land to projects which benefit the people.

And it must call out leaders who do not put the needs of the people first.

Our communities have been turned into marketplaces which need transformation. We will engage those colonising legions which prevent the transformation of our people into their authentic selves in Christ.

In recognition of the role of the Church in the Pacific, we call for the Pacific Islands Forum to ensure a space to hear the voice of the church in its work, during its deliberations at programmatic, ministerial and leadership level.

Safe and Empowering churches

As a Household of God, we call for women and children, the elderly and people with disabilities, to be treated with respect and dignity at all times. Accordingly, we call on all Pacific churches to adopt policies which ensure safe spaces in which women and children can worship and find comfort and support in times of need. We also call on churches to ensure access to places of worship for those who need assistance and the adoption of liturgical methods that allow inclusivity for those who face challenges with sight or hearing.

We affirm the call by our young people for intergenerational engagement and empowerment as part of our ongoing transformation.

Militarisation of the Pacific

The continued militarisation of the Pacific remains an issue of concern.

The Household of God in the Pacific is a region of peace. Its desecration by the legions of military conquest must cease.

As guardians of Pasifika, we call on the governments of Australia, China, France, India, Indonesia, the United Kingdom and the United States to free our region of nuclear proliferation, weapons of mass destruction and military bases.

We persist in our call for regional ratification of the Treaty of the Prohibition on nuclear weapons and a total commitment to the Rarotonga Treaty for a Nuclear Free Pacific. We challenge past and present colonial powers in the Pacific to sign the TPNW.

We call on our own leaders to free our people from the shackles of development assistance by the rich and powerful as instruments of influence and control.

Guardianship

In the spirit of transformation, we, Pasifika churches, communities and nations, are called into a transformation to be guardians of our islands and the ocean that connects us.

We continue to condemn the dumping of nuclear and other waste in our ocean. We call on Japan to cease the dumping of contaminated water into our ocean.

We call on the United States, Britain and France to accept responsibility for the ongoing degradation of the ocean caused by their nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, the land now called Australia and Maohi Nui.

We will guide our people in the process of transformation that is needed to protect our forests and our oceans from extractive industry and corporate capture.

COP 28

As we continue to face the brunt of the impacts of climate change, we charge our representatives to COP28 to be the prophetic voice of the Pasifika Household of God to this important gathering in the midst of a planetary crisis. We urge COP28 to hear the cry of our people, land and ocean and to remember that without maintaining the 1.5 degree target, all climate adaptation and loss and damage funding is blood money.

May the Christ of the Islands reveal the Do Kamo within us all.

23 November, 2023

Noumea, Kanaky