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Geneva, 4 December 2025

WCC congratulatory message to Rev. Park Seung-Ryoul on his election as new General Secretary of NCCK

"Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith." - Hebrews 13:7

Dear sisters and brothers at NCCK,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the World Council of Churches (WCC), I wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Rev. Park Seung-Ryoul on his election as the new general secretary of the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCK). This appointment is both timely and inspiring, and we offer our sincere blessings as he takes up this important responsibility.

Rev. Park's long journey within the ecumenical movement—spanning from the Student Christian Movement to parish ministry, to his dedicated leadership at the Human Rights Center of the NCCK—embodies the kind of servant leadership that our shared fellowship so deeply values. His faithful service in lifting the voices of the marginalized and defending human rights embodies the prophetic tradition that has long defined NCCK's witness.

We are particularly moved by Rev. Park's commitment to continue NCCK's legacy beyond its centennial, deepening the work for democratization, human rights, and the hope of reunification on the Korean Peninsula. In these times of global tension and division, such steadfast dedication to peace-building offers hope not only for Korea but for our entire world.

As the NCCK prepares for the 40th anniversary of the Glion Meeting, we join you in remembering that powerful moment in ecumenical history—a moment when churches from North and South gathered in hope, defying division and lifting up the vision of God's peace. We look forward to walking alongside NCCK as you prepare for this meaningful anniversary and the Peace Convocation in September 2026.

We also recognize the many challenges our churches face today—militarism, ecological crisis, deepening inequalities, and threats to human dignity. Yet we are encouraged by the NCCK's continued commitment to walk with churches in Korea and beyond, grounded in prayer, compassion, and the unwavering hope that justice and peace remain possible through faithful witness.

At the WCC, we are grateful for the longstanding companionship we share with the NCCK. Your presence has always been a source of strength to the global ecumenical movement, and we look forward to deepening this partnership in the years to come—especially through the Pilgrimage of Justice, Reconciliation, and Unity.

May the Spirit of God guide Rev. Park and all those within the NCCK as you enter this new chapter of leadership and service. Please be assured of our prayers and solidarity.

Yours in Christ,

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