



Global Christian Forum

Secretariat: Rev. Dr. Larry Miller,
Global Christian Forum,
8 rue Gustave Klotz,
Strasbourg 67000, France
Tel: +33 (0)3 88 15 25 71
Fax +33 (0)3 88 15 25 70
LarryMiller@GlobalChristianForum.org
www.globalchristianforum.org

Committee

Mr. Femi Adeleye

International Fellowship of Evangelical
Students

Commissioner William Cochran

Salvation Army International
Headquarters

Rev. Dr. Ganoune Diop

Seventh-Day Adventist Church General
Conference

Rev. Aiah Foday-Khabenje

Association of Evangelicals of Africa

H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios of

Sassima
Ecumenical Patriarchate

Rev. Anne-Cathy Graber

Mennonite World Conference

Fr. Mikhail Gundiaev

Moscow Patriarchate

Rev. Wesley Granberg-Michaelson

World Council of Churches

World Communion of Reformed
Churches

Rev. Prof. Robert Gribben

World Methodist Council

Rev. Dr. Prince Guneratnam

Pentecostal World Fellowship

Rev. Dr. Sang-Ehil Han

Church of God (Cleveland)

Rev. Dr. Rolf Hille

World Evangelical Alliance

Rev. Dr. Richard Howell

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Dr. Kathryn Johnson

Lutheran World Federation

Dr. Dimitra Koukoura

World Council of Churches

Bishop James D. Leggett

Pentecostal World Fellowship

Rev. Nicta Lubaale

Organisation of African Instituted
Churches

H.E. Metropolitan Mar Gregorios

Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate of
Antioch

Rev. Fr. Luis Melo

Catholic Church (Pontifical Council for
Promoting Christian Unity)

Rev. Pirjo-Liisa Penttinen

World Young Women's Christian
Association

Dr. Cecil M. Robeck

Pentecostal

Rev. Canon Dr. Sarah Rowland Jones

Anglican Communion

Rev. Fr. Calixto Salvatierra

Catholic Church (Pontifical Council for
Promoting Christian Unity)

Dr. Fausto Vasconcelos

Baptist World Alliance

Greeting To The 10th Assembly Of The World Council of Churches

Dear Moderator,
Dear General Secretary,
Dear Delegates and Participants,
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are living at an opportune time in the history of the Church, when God is at work in fresh ways for Christian unity. There is a new song. There is renewed movement. May those who have eyes to see, see the movement of the Spirit across the churches. May those who have ears to hear, hear the music of the Spirit in the churches.

The World Council of Churches is a significant manifestation of the movement of the Spirit towards the unity of all things envisioned in the letter to the Ephesians. The Global Christian Forum is another sign and instrument of this movement — and it is this Forum that brings to you this gift of music, these fraternal greetings, and our heartfelt thanks.

The last century has seen considerable changes in world Christianity, including dramatic demographic shifts towards the 'South' and the 'East', and the emergence and growth of the church expressed in new ways.

Reflecting on these changes and affirming the WCC's responsibility to 'strengthen the one ecumenical movement', the WCC general secretary, Rev Dr Konrad Raiser, presented to the 8th Assembly in Harare (1998) a call to explore the formation of 'a forum of Christian churches and ecumenical organizations' in which participation would go beyond formal membership of the WCC. 'The forum,' it was said, would 'be open to all bodies and organizations which share in the confession of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour according to the Scriptures and which seek to be obedient to God's call' (*Together on the Way*, p. 98). That assembly affirmed the idea and encouraged the central committee to develop such a forum.

On the basis of the decisions taken at the 8th assembly, the WCC offered support for the creation and growth of what has become the Global Christian Forum (GCF), initially providing staff and fostering space for the engagement both of churches who are members of the WCC and those who are not members.

So it is with a particularly profound sense of indebtedness to you and thankfulness for you that today we extend greetings of respect and love. Your humble and prophetic initiative fifteen years ago provided the Forum with a birthright. Your steadfast support and exemplary ecumenical hospitality ever since have undergirded the Forum as we carry out the mission to which you were the first to call us — and in which you now participate fully as one of the 'pillars'.



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Our prayer is that the one ecumenical movement, committed to gather all parts of the divided body of Christ into a covenanted fellowship, will find strength, courage, and mutual love through the power of God's Holy Spirit moving in the 10th Assembly. Our prayer is that you, the World Council of Churches, will flourish in the days and years ahead as a growing, merciful, joyous, and mutually accountable community of those in every part of the world who follow Christ in life daily.

May we walk steadfastly together in the pathways that lead through peace and justice into the unity of all things in and beyond this world so loved by God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Larry Miller

Secretary

Busan, 7 November 2013