



## METHODIST MISSION AND ECUMENICAL NEWSLETTER - May 2022

### WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – 11<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY

The 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches will take place in Karlsruhe, Germany, from 31 August to 8 September 2022, under the theme "Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity". Postponed due to the COVID pandemic, the Assembly is now proceeding full steam ahead. Along with official delegates and representatives of member churches, the Assembly has now been open up for general participants to register and attend. For further information and resources on the Assembly: <https://www.oikoumene.org/about-the-wcc/organizational-structure/assembly>

Pre-Assembly gatherings are also arranged: Ecumenical Youth Gathering, Just Community of Women and Men, Ecumenical Disabilities Advocates Network, and Indigenous Peoples.

The 'Brunnen' space will operate like a marketplace, which includes a range of workshops, exhibitions, networking zones and side-events. Workshops are events given once that provide an opportunity for the assembly participants to come together to discuss and explore a specific thematic topic. Every day, over five days, 20 workshops will run parallel, offering a total of 100 workshops to the larger constituency.

Included in the programme are 23 sets of 'Ecumenical Conversations', where each stream which will focus on a unique topic to provide sustained, in-depth dialogue on critical issues affecting the unity, mission and witness of the church today – issues that require a common response. At the same time as ecumenical conversations, workshops will run every day for assembly participants.

**Public registration is now open** to anyone who is interested in participating in WCC 11th Assembly. Registrants will have access to most assembly programmes, and will encounter and experience the assembly with thousands of participants from all over the world (however only Delegates contribute to decision making processes). From Aotearoa New Zealand, the registration cost is EUR300, plus accommodation, meals and travel costs to be factored in. Registration can be made through this link: <https://register.event-works.com/WCC/WCC11Assembly/e/ce/g/75180/>

*The National Dialogue for Christian Unity will be organising opportunities for delegates, representatives and general participants to meet via Zoom prior to the Assembly, to help in preparations. If you are registering as a participant please contact the NDCU secretary, Rev Tony Franklin-Ross ( [tonyfr@methodist.org.nz](mailto:tonyfr@methodist.org.nz) ).*



Christ's love  
moves the world  
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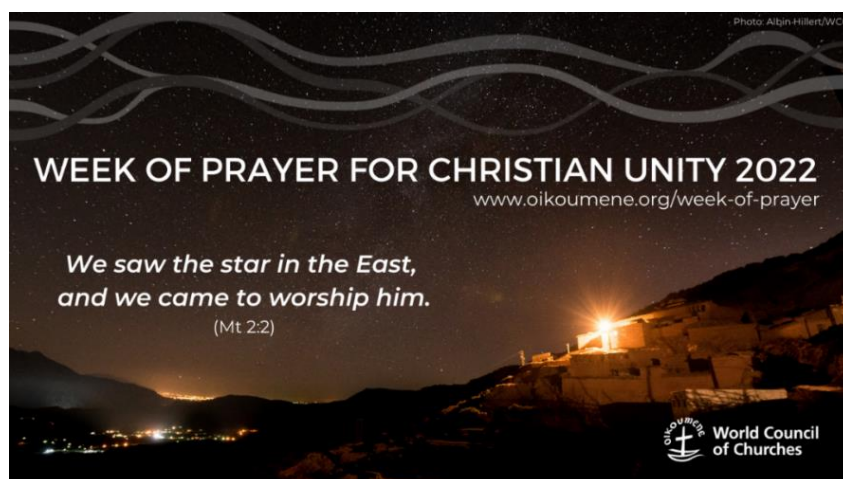


World Council of Churches  
11th Assembly  
Karlsruhe, Germany  
31 August – 8 September, 2022

## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY      29 May - 5 June 2022**

The traditional observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Aotearoa New Zealand, is between Ascension and Pentecost. Please consider organising a local observance: whether it be a combined ecumenical service of neighbouring churches, a combined social event or meal, a combined initiative for a local issue (such as a beach clean), or simply commit with other local churches to incorporate prayer within your respective Sunday services for each other's churches and for unity.

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship" (Matthew 2:2). This theme draws on the Epiphany text as very pertinent to the Middle East churches. For our part of the world, the link to the stars also lends itself to drawing in our own contextual image of the Southern Cross, and having a similar timing to Matariki. The international edition of the resources, including the suggested liturgy, and a 8-day Bible study booklet, are found at: <https://www.oikoumene.org/events/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity>



## **ECUMENICAL CYCLE OF PRAYER**

Pray with us! The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle takes us through every region of the world over the course of a year. Praying for each place on earth and its people at least once a year, we affirm our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts.

How about including the countries in each week's cycle of prayer in your parish bulletin, or in your Sunday prayers of intercession? You can find the list on the WCC website <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle> or on the refreshed MME webpages <https://www.methodist.org.nz/mahi/mme/prayer/>

### **MISSION AND ECUMENICAL BOARD**

**Methodist Church of New Zealand**

**Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa**

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