



a partnership
of churches
in mission

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION



LIFE-FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES:

LIVING OUT GOD'S PROMISE OF A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH

ABOUT CWM:

VISION:

Life-flourishing Communities, living out God's promise of a New Heaven and a New Earth.

Our theology statement invites us to explore the meaning and experience of:

Life-flourishing communities living the urgency of the Risen Life on the streets, seas, lands and in the territories of Babylon; witnessing to the uprising of the Spirit as she brings into being the New Heaven and New Earth in our midst; and being at one with the God of Life in arising, shining, planting, praying, singing, dancing and embodying alternatives to empire's death and destruction.

This is a clear articulation of CWM's 2020-2029 strategy framework, "Rising to Life: Breaking out of Babylon". The ultimate goal of the strategy is life-flourishing communities, a new way of being and behaving, a pattern of living based on justice and peace, where fullness of life for all creation is our primary calling and commitment. The vision statement captures the essence of subversive imagination of a different world, where the Earth and all that is in it, serve and sustain all of God's creation; and where the people of God envision this new life for now.

VALUES

- Justice in relationships
- Mutuality, equality and interdependence
- Generosity of spirit
- Unity in diversity

MISSION:

Called in Christ to radical and prophetic discipleship, working in partnership with churches and the ecumenical community to resist life-denying systems, affirm peace, do justice and enable life-flourishing communities.

In our theology statement, we declare that "We seek, as an organisation and as a partnership of churches, a life rooted in obedience to God's mission focused on:

- Rising with the risen Jesus whose resurrection is insurrection and proclamation that Babylon is as fallen as the tomb is empty; and
- Responding in radical discipleship where we live out the New Heaven and New Earth in the midst of a violent, abused and grieving world as signs of transforming love".

In this mission statement, the emphasis is on naming this "violent, abused and grieving world" that ought to be replaced with life-flourishing communities, based on justice and peace. The means to that end is a clear sense of call to partnership with churches and the ecumenical community in which radical and prophetic discipleship is expressed in transformative and loving action to resist, affirm, support and enable life-flourishing alternatives.

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MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It is with great pleasure and a sense of profound gratitude that I extend my warmest greetings from the Council for World Mission (CWM) through this 2022 Annual Report. Reflecting on the past year, I can only thank God for all the strength and grace that God gave us to navigate through difficult days and accompany the member churches during the post-pandemic season of 2022.

Even though the Covid-19 pandemic has gradually faded, opening the world with non-restricted travels and opportunities to reengage with member churches and ecumenical partner organisations in-person, the past year has presented a unique set of challenges to our communities. The continued rise of inflation, increased living expenses, deepened polarisations in our societies, intensified climate crisis and military conflicts in various regions—amid many other crises—have caused great pain and suffering to the global society. In addition, corruption and exploitation fuelled by greed continue to threaten the lives of the poor and marginalised.

Despite all the chaos that happened in the world in 2022, we continued our efforts to accompany our member churches to cling to hope and move forward with the power of unity, resilience and faith. Using the digital opportunities provided by the pandemic, we made significant efforts to reduce our carbon footprint by reducing travel and implementing digital aspects of work while also prioritising some important in-person gatherings such as the Annual Members' Meeting and a few Board Meetings. We successfully launched The Onesimus Project (TOP) to invigorate our ongoing work

THE CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE AS A GLOBAL COMMUNITY ARE COMPLEX AND MULTIFACETED, AND THERE IS STILL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE.

on racial injustices and legacies of slavery. We have established new partnerships with theological educational institutions to work on decolonising theological education. We facilitated sending new Partners in Mission (PIM) and celebrated 40 years of Training in Mission (TIM). We have supported the displaced communities in Ukraine with Solidarity and Action Grants and continued our solidarity with communities in Myanmar and other countries.

As you read this report, you will understand that we have accompanied our members in addressing issues such as poverty, social inequality and climate change, and we have continued to advocate for human rights, social justice and peace in various contexts of the world. I am proud of the work that we have accomplished over the past year, and I want to take a moment to thank God and appreciate our staff for all that we have done.

However, we cannot rest on our laurels. The challenges that we face as a global community are complex and multifaceted, and there is still much work to be done. We must continue to work together to build a more just, equitable and sustainable world for all people, and planet Earth. In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all our member churches, ecumenical partners and supporters for your unwavering commitment. I am confident that together, we can continue to enable our congregations to rise to life and transform themselves into life-flourishing communities.

Rev. Lydia C. Neshangwe
CWM Moderator

GENERAL SECRETARY'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to present the Council for World Mission 2022 Annual Report. I thank God for enabling the CWM, a global partnership of churches in mission, to serve communities across the world, even in the midst of all the challenges that we faced in 2022. I also express my profound gratitude to the member churches for showing great resilience in serving the communities and keeping hope alive among the people.

As the pandemic has gradually faded, 2022 emerged as a year of reopening, providing us with the opportunities to rethink our priorities, reconnect with the communities and rekindle our mission work through the member churches, the primary agents of transformation. Wracked with great pandemic devastation and fueled by the military occupations in Myanmar, Ukraine, Afghanistan and many other parts of the world, the global community started experiencing the adverse impacts of economic recession and inflation of prices. The poor became vulnerable due to the lack of human security. Despite reopening, the world remained deeply wounded by all the devastation caused not only by the Covid-19 pandemic but many other global crises.

It is in this context that the CWM community remained firm and faithful in responding to God's call and mapping a way forward with the vision of creating "Life-flourishing Communities, living out God's promise of a New Heaven and a New Earth." The ultimate goal of this strategic vision is to witness a new way of being and behaving by promoting a pattern of living based on justice and peace, where the fullness of life for all creation is our primary calling and commitment.

Despite the challenges, we made significant progress in implementing the **New Programmatic Structure**. This new structure, designed to implement our strategy into six primary programmatic areas globally, will provide greater clarity and focus to our work. It represents a significant step forward in our efforts to build more just, equitable and sustainable life-flourishing communities.

We made significant efforts to reduce our carbon footprint as part of transforming our work to be more

eco-sensitive. We also made efforts to build capacity to empower younger theologians in ecological and economic justice. We formally began the **Theological Education for the Economy of Life (TEEL)**, CWM's first-ever Master of Theology programme, in collaboration with the Union Theological Seminary (UTS) in the Philippines. We are in the process of engaging with the member churches and ecumenical partners to participate in creating life-flourishing communities reflecting ecological integrity and climate justice.

We have prioritised **theological education** to build capacity for member churches to achieve their missional agenda and equip young generations with knowledge to face this world of uncertainties and serve communities. We have not only increased scholarship grants for the Academic Accompaniment Programme (AAP) but also developed new partnerships with theological institutions like the Yonsei University Global Institute of Theology (GIT). Even in the midst of the pandemic, we continued to facilitate the Young Scholars Online Forum to build a network of scholars for exchanging theological knowledge.

The **DARE** programme continued to be a cutting-edge initiative of the CWM, bringing various theologians and activists from the grassroots across the world and creating a platform for subversive thinking. The outcomes of the 2022 DARE programme held under the theme, "Re(l)ease: Liberation Theology" are being produced into several books.

We continued to accompany our member churches with **Solidarity and Action Grants**. In addition to regular relief activities, these grants were used by member churches and ecumenical partners to educate displaced children affected by the war in Ukraine, to provide medical and relief support in Myanmar, and to support the campaign against nuclear testing in Tahiti. We not only aim to provide monetary support but also missiological accompaniment amidst various crises.

As scheduled, we have successfully launched **The Onesimus Project (TOP)** at Van der Kemp Memorial Church in Bethelsdorp, South Africa, on 23 August

2022, the United Nations International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. The gathering witnessed CWM's act of confession, a commitment to reparative action, and a call to other churches and ecumenical and mission organisations with similar legacies for just action. The launch was crucial to prove CWM's commitment to restorative justice and action.

Despite the challenges during the post-pandemic context, we continued our commitment to sending and receiving **Partners in Mission (PIM)** to affirm our identity as a mission organisation. Our PIMs remain committed to the call of service and offer the best of self as a commitment to CWM's vision to live out the promise of God.

CWM partnered with the World Communion of Reformed Churches in envisioning a safe space for women in leadership and emerging women ecumenical leaders to come together to be able to support and challenge each other. A CWM-WCRC **Women in Leadership Roundtable** was held in October 2022, bringing women leaders from various parts of the globe for mutual sharing, solidarity, advocacy and reflection for women navigating patriarchal contexts.

All these programmes and other significant activities mentioned in this 2022 Annual Report are a testament to the hard work, dedication and creativity of our members, partners and staff worldwide. I believe that the CWM is well-positioned to continue serving our communities with renewed commitment, deepened faith and re-envisioned missional understanding of the CWM as a partnership of churches in God's Mission striving to create life-flourishing communities.

Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum
General Secretary

PARTNERS IN MISSION (PIM)



CWM facilitates the sharing of people as a means of deepening partnership and mutual support for member churches and partner organisations as they carry out God's mission. Through PIM, the resource of people is shared between members to enable them to accomplish their mission priorities. PIMs offer their skills, gifts and experiences to enrich the places they serve and open themselves to be enriched by their own encounters in these contexts. As CWM's visible expressions of its vision and mission toward building life-flourishing communities, they engage in a variety of services including pastoral ministry, theological education and community development. This involves a dynamic interchange of personnel between varied contexts across the world, and these engagements can be long-term or short-term, and may even be remote assignments.

At the end of 2022, CWM had facilitated the sharing of 19 PIMs in seven member churches and two ecumenical partners in long-term mission engagement.



Rev. Li Hau-Tiong is a Minister from Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) and served as Advisor for the Community Development Ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Singapore (PCS) and Guest Lecturer at the Trinity Theological College, Singapore. He has extensive experience in community care work, having taught relevant courses at Tainan Theological College and Seminary and served as the chairman of the Taiwan Association of Community Advancement.

Supporting COMMUNITY OUTREACH

PCS sought to expand congregational community engagement and to work collaboratively with other CWM member churches in East Asia. Hence, it invited Rev. Li to support in community outreach and set up a theological structure for local church community work.

During his stint as a Partner-in-Mission, he said, "I started on weekly visits to the member churches of the PCS together with several co-workers in the synod. I became acquainted with the pastors and church co-workers, getting to know their situations,

perspectives, challenges, and church ministry needs. At the same time, we were able to share the Synod's missionary vision and ministry plans. Through these sincere interactions of the pastoral staff, I felt the warmth of their hospitality, and experienced the blessings and strength of unity in the community of faith."

"My wife Hsu Su-fen and I were invited to share our experiences at the PCT Global Talent Training on 21 to 23 July 2022, and were glad for the assurance to know that important matters can be passed on to those serving in the future."

WALKING Around Grenada

"I've worked short stints in Nigeria and Kenya, and over 10 years as a Church Minister. Through the PIM programme, I could apply my experience in working with children and families as a social and community worker in the UK in a new setting and country. I take much joy in ministry outside the walls of the church as I believe the church should be outward-looking. We have many isolated people in this area, but how you bring them together due to mobility, and steepness of hills, is a challenge. As Chaplain to two schools, I have the privilege of talking to students in big spaces about Jesus and in small spaces thinking about behaviours and how they affect others."

From 12 to 16 December 2022, Nigel embarked on a fundraising walk around Grenada for sponsorship to repair the Samaritan Presbyterian Church and to build ecumenical relationships. Hosted by Methodists, Catholics, Presbyterians and Anglicans, and supported by other churches, he prayed for unity in the body of Christ in Grenada when he passed by a church of any denomination during his journey. The end of the walk was filled with celebration as the spirit of community and

partnership was seen through teachers and students from the Samaritan Presbyterian School who joined him on his fifth day of the journey.

"This (fundraising walk) has opened opportunities to talk on radio and TV and I hope to raise to the profile of the Presbyterian Church," said Nigel, who raised over USD 6,000 which will position them to do more community activities after extensive church repair.



Rev. Nigel Lindsay is a minister from the Congregational Federation (CF) and serves as Minister for the Samaritan Presbyterian Church, Grenada and Chaplain to Samaritan Presbyterian Primary School and MacDonald's College (Secondary School).



MISSION SUPPORT PROGRAMME (MSP)

With the Covid-19 pandemic adding a dimension to be factored into churches' projects, CWM's resources of people, finances and ideas continue to be utilised to assist member churches with their various mission programmes.

Our missiological response is to facilitate contextual initiatives for the emerging needs of specific communities, to develop digital resilience against Covid-19 and possible pandemics; to deepen partnerships between and among CWM, member churches and the ecumenical community; and to challenge churches in areas relating to justice and equality.



Campaigning for DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CHURCHES in Union of Wesh Independents (UWI)

HEULWEN DAN GYMLAU (SUNSHINE BEHIND THE CLOUDS)

The title words are taken from an "englyn," a traditional Welsh short poetry form, written by John Phillips in memory of his wife, Bethan, who lived with dementia, bearing witness to the fact that all was not lost in the dark clouds of confusion and unknowing that is so much part of the condition. Periodically, he maintains, rays of sunshine would cut through the dark clouds, moments of blessed memory of a day well lived and enjoyed.

The work was initiated in response to a presentation on dementia delivered by Beti George, a Welsh media celebrity who cared for her partner David for many years. Following a proposal to prepare a resource that would help and encourage Union of Welsh Independents (UWI) churches to become dementia-friendly, an engaging, comprehensive and practical handbook was produced. This was a project that bore fruit after much knowledge and information were gleaned from professional bodies such as the Alzheimer Society, Carers Trust Wales and Bangor University.



ANSWERING CHRIST'S CALL in Suffering and Struggle

United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA)'s MSP-3 project aspired towards deepening awareness and a culture of mission as the sole mandate of the church, reviving a church denomination hard hit by Covid-19. It has borne fruit in the vigorous pursuit of church unity that saw the reception of Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola (Igreja Evangélica Congregacional Em Angola) into the UCCSA fold and its renewed enthusiasm to persevere towards unity with the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA), another CWM member church in the Africa region.

The journey to transform local churches across Southern Africa may be a long and difficult one, but it has to be undertaken because it is both a calling as a church and an ideal for which all must aspire.



It was launched at our Assembly in June 2022, with a copy provided to all our churches. Our CWM MSP4 funded Digital Mission came into play at this time and we grasped the opportunity afforded us to produce a digital, online version of the handbook in both Welsh and English, offering our churches and members, and all website visitors, easy access to so much information, guidance and help to be dementia-friendly.

Since its inception, the Working Group members have been diligent in promoting the campaign, mainly through the area associations, with association coordinators appointed to encourage and support churches as they take on the challenge of becoming dementia-friendly churches. Monthly online meetings are also organised for this purpose.

An element of our MSP4 programme is the development and production of music resources. Bearing in mind the therapeutic role of music, especially in dementia care, we foresee many hopeful possibilities arising as our digital and dementia-friendly missions collaborate in ministry and service to our churches.



Watch and learn more about the campaign
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9fSU2t1ONI>

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CDP)



The Capacity Development Programme (CDP) invests in the churches' capacity for engagement with God's mission by supporting the capacity development efforts of churches and communities to fulfil their missional goals.

Through the Academic Accompaniment Programme (AAP) and Special Academic Accompaniment Programme (SAAP) over the years, CWM seeks to promote transformative theological research and studies that are contextual and relevant to the social context of the church and its communities.

Facilitating the pursuit of higher education, 23 AAP grants were given to individuals from 6 member churches: CCCAS, GPM, UPCS, UCCSA, PCI and CSI. Two Special AAP grants were also given in 2022.

EMPOWERING STUDENTS AND STRENGTHENING CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS in the Global South



Rev. Dr Minwoo Oh

"My research work was not my own success story. Rather, it was the result of built-up intellectual energy with my fellow colleagues in a supportive environment," said SAAP scholarship holder Rev. Dr Minwoo Oh, an ordained pastor from the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK), pursuing a doctoral degree in systematic theology at the University of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa.

"I appreciate the team behind SAAP supporting my academic journey such that I can focus single-mindedly on my research from day one," added Rev. Dr, whose qualitative research on U.S militarisation in South Korea from an eco-feminist theological perspective focuses on the negative impact on women's lives and the natural environment.

She also credited the Young Scholars Online Forum, a virtual gathering of CWM-sponsored students from different institutions worldwide where new ideas, alternative views and study materials were provided. These included books on militarisation published by CWM:



Faith in the Face of Militarization: Indigenous, Feminist, and Interreligious Voices and Resistance to Empire and Militarization Reclaiming the Sacred, which contributed to her intellectual roadmap to approach the phenomenon of militarisation in Christian theology through the concept of empire.

Pinpointing "SAAP's key direction that emphasizes study in the global South," she envisions an exchange of African and Asian women's theology to collectively address issues of liberation of women and natural resources from power structures that dominate.

"In the future, I hope to be involved in the work of strengthening solidarity with African women theologians to develop Asia-Africa theology," said Rev. Dr Oh, who graduated in May 2023.



IN THE FUTURE, I HOPE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE WORK OF STRENGTHENING SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICAN WOMEN THEOLOGIANs TO DEVELOP ASIA-AFRICA THEOLOGY

MEMBER CHURCH INITIATIVE (MCI)



Member Church Initiative (MCI) is under the Capacity Development Programme (CDP). Through MCI, CWM partners with member churches to invest in capacity for engagement with God's mission by supporting the capacity development efforts of churches and communities to fulfil their missional goals. MCI specifically aims to boost church leadership development and initiatives that equip faith communities to lead the resistance against life-denying forces in their contexts.

STRIVING TOWARDS GENDER JUSTICE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The United Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA) conducted a gender justice seminar on 20-22 October 2022 at Emseni Christian Centre, focused on building capacity for gender advocacy by strengthening efforts towards gender justice within the denomination and positioning churches to be of service to their communities. The seminar, themed

"The Promotion of Life-Flourishing Communities," drew participants from all 19 UPCSA Presbyteries, with at least three participants – a woman, a youth and a man — from each delegation.

Participants were inspired by Bible study sessions that addressed contemporary situations in clear and relevant ways. The participants had always seen the Bible as a book that told of the stories in the Middle East far removed from their own day-to-day struggles. However, they now identified themselves within the passages that were read; the Bible came alive for them.

The presenters were speakers from the lived experiences, and unheard voices and stories of the victims of injustices came to light. One participant said, "We may think that we strive for fairness and justice for all, but there are many of our congregants who are languishing with pain and agony. Sadly, many suffer in the hands of the leaders – ministers and elders."

Rev. Lungile Mpetsheni, UPCSA General Secretary said: "The CWM MCI presented UPCSA with opportunities to venture into areas which would have otherwise been left unattended. A church then achieves a much longed-for desire to be missional and to promote life-flourishing communities."

PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH OF CLERGY AND STAFF IN JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

In tackling pandemic-related challenges, The United Church in Jamaica and Cayman Islands (UCJCI) supported the mental health needs of its clergy and staff through two separate programmes: a Staff Motivational Retreat for Clergy and Lay Pastors in October and an Administrative Staff Engagement Initiative in December. The retreat brought together ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, lay pastors and ministry interns to share pandemic experiences and encouraging testimonies. Through the MCI, the retreat was an avenue for support, motivation and solidarity among the church leaders.

Having been in the forefront of dealing with challenges brought about by the pandemic, the Administrative Staff Engagement Initiative was a much-needed reprieve, focusing on worship, team building and an appreciation exercise to build camaraderie and strengthen relationships. Both initiatives helped to reaffirm the family culture of the UCJCI towards achieving productivity, renewing and re-energising them for service.

NURTURING FUTURE CHURCH LEADERS THROUGH TRAINING IN MISSION (TIM)

CWM's oldest and flagship programme, Training in Mission (TIM), continues to build on the strength and capacity of our member churches by tapping on the knowledge and skills of individuals to contribute to the mission of the church. Since 2017, it has been offering a Diploma in Mission Studies with accreditation from Trinity Theological College in New Zealand, providing its graduates with a qualification which recognises leadership skills in mission and education that improves volunteering and employment opportunities.

In 2022, a series of virtual roundtable events were held throughout the year to commemorate TIM's 40th anniversary, culminating in a virtual celebratory service. As one of the most impactful and longest-serving training programmes in the ecumenical world, TIM has trained over 400 young people who are serving as leaders in churches, ecumenical organisations and theological institutions today.

Equipped to SERVE CHILDREN IN POVERTY



Lim Sok Yee

"Ten different people representing 10 different nations, with different cultures and languages, bound together with the love of Christ. I have seen and experienced how difficult it is sometimes for churches or denominations to work together, but after the TIM experience, I truly believe that it can be done," stated Lim Sok Yee, from Gereja Presbyterian Malaysia (GPM), whose understanding of mission was broadened during the ten months she spent in South Africa and India for TIM in 2007.

Returning from the TIM programme, Lim Sok Yee worked for five years in the church kindergarten before she decided to go full-time in missions, serving children in villages. "The TIM

experiences of working with children in different parts of the world who are sick, underprivileged and victimised really lit up the fire in me. I wanted to be a voice for the poor and oppressed, to help children know that they are special in God's eyes, that God has a special plan for each one of them," she said.

"The journey as a missionary is not easy, but TIM has trained me well. Living in difficult situations, facing language problems, working together with people of different characters, all these are part and parcel of TIM. I had firsthand experience of how a missionary would feel and the many problems they would face. All these prepared me for my service now," she added. She has ended her service as a missionary after being away for seven years and is back in her next mission field—the church kindergarten in her town.



DISCERNMENT AND RADICAL ENGAGEMENT (DARE): REIMAGINING LIBERATION THEOLOGIES



Discernment and Radical Engagement (DARE) focuses on bringing newer, younger and cutting-edge scholarship (scholars and practitioners) to the “weaving mat” to explore and interrogate new models of mission and evangelism.

DARE Conferences provide ample opportunities for CWM to engage in biblical and theological conversation at a scholarly level. CWM has built and supported schools and seminaries throughout the world, and DARE presents an opportunity for CWM to affirm its commitment to education and contribute toward directing biblical and theological scholarship into the future.

eDARE webinars on 24, 26 and 28 October 2022 showed that our mission should include attending to the trauma that liberated people live with because of their oppression, highlighting how to participate in release as our calling and mission. We learnt from the least among us (e.g., Minjung, Dalits), named discriminations (Islamophobia, homophobia, Afrophobia), came to terms with

diversities of gender, class, race, sexuality, context, privileges, and reimagined liberation theologies for the present and the future.

The spotlights, presentations, responses and discussions saw a total attendance of 100, and invited the interweaving of three elements—release, re-lease, and re(l)ease—so that “rising to life” becomes more effective and more meaningful. Equally important, rising to life is required by all living beings, and by the earth as our home.

Most of the 43 presentations were theological, with several bringing insights from the fields of art, education, health, economics and literature, and from the daily lives of minoritised people in the market and on street corners.

In providing space for contributions from across the world, eDARE is therefore a testimony that the days when wisdom and mission come only from a few places has ended. There is wisdom in all (is)lands, across the world.

Provoking Constructive Discussion, IMPACTING SOCIETY



Reni S. Maiava

CWM's DARE programme is an exciting venture for the church. The themes and topics discussed, such as climate injustice, racism and colonisation are important issues that the church needs to make sense of in our geographical and societal contexts.

My involvement with CWM's DARE programme started in 2019 through the encouragement of my mentor Rev. Dr Jione Havea. That was an incredible learning experience in presenting at an international conference and being amongst accomplished theologians and biblical scholars.

That experience and the theme of interrogating, reimagining and (re)embracing Liberation Theologies and Liberation Hermeneutics motivated me to apply for eDARE 2022.

I had just completed my master's thesis in 2021, which was a reconstruction of the theology of sin from a

Samoan New Zealand-born woman's perspective, Agasala (the Samoan translation of sin). In eDARE 2022 I presented my research and received quality feedback to reconsider and revise my content.

As a theological student starting out in my academic journey, being part of eDARE 2022 has been motivating and encouraging in serving my church and community. The tough and real issues eDARE discusses need to be part of our talanoa (discussions, conversations) towards raising awareness, healing and processes of reconciliation within the church and faith community, as well as having a positive impact upon wider society. eDARE 2022's enriching talanoa expanded my views and gave me a new appreciation when reading the scriptures and applying alofa (love) to my family, church and community, in my humble and human capacity.

The energy and efforts of all those who present their talents through artistic expressions, research and writing is inspiring. I am very blessed to have been part of this movement and look forward to journeying with DARE/eDARE in the future. Fa'afetai tele ma fa'amanuia (thank you very much and blessings).

Enriching and Challenging DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES



Diana Paulding

Over the past two years, I have been studying for my PhD via distance learning. Devoid of the “corridor conversations” that so often provoke thought and discussion, eDARE was a key place for me to hear about other people's work, share my own research, and be challenged by new ideas.

I was honoured to have a paper accepted to present at this gathering.

In the paper that I presented, I drew connections between trauma hermeneutics and the need for liberation, and received thoughtful questions which helped me to drill down into the specifics of my research and think about how my research connects with other people's work. The interest, engagement and generosity shown during eDARE was a reminder

of the importance of my work for the wider church and reinforced my passion for my research.

One of the joys of eDARE is the diversity of topics that are covered, ranging from the Brazilian Landless Workers' Movement to male violence against Jesus, from Black theology to climate racism. It is very easy to do research in a bubble, never looking beyond your own niche area, let alone beyond your academic field. eDARE provided something different to the specialist biblical studies conferences I often attend. By opening myself up to ideas from different areas and hearing different voices, my own faith was enriched and I was reminded of the need for liberation in so many areas, and of the work being done to dismantle oppression in these spaces. This, in turn, reminded me that love and liberation must be the heart of any work that we do.

eDARE is a place to move beyond your comfort zone, to allow yourself to be challenged, and yet to do so in a place of fellowship. It is, in itself, a place of liberation.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR THE ECONOMY OF LIFE (TEEL): EMPOWERING YOUNG THEOLOGIANS IN ECONOMIC JUSTICE



As part of CWM's efforts in fulfilling its missional agenda as it engages with member churches and ecumenical partners in creating life-flourishing communities, it piloted its first Master of Theology in Theological Education for the Economy of Life (TEEL) programme in November 2022, in collaboration with the Union Theological Seminary (UTS), Philippines. The aim of the TEEL curriculum is to produce graduates with certificates, diplomas and degrees in the Economies of Life.

The TEEL curriculum emanated from the New International Financial and Economic Architecture (NIFEA) process that surfaced an increased demand from churches to educate young theologians and church leaders on an Economy of Life in a systematic and organised manner.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES



Mission Secretary – Africa Region Rev. Dr Sindiso Jele serving Holy Communion to the General Secretaries of CCM, FJKM, UCCSA, UCZ, and UPCA in pre-Regional assembly meeting

AFRICA Regional Assembly

CWM Africa's Regional Assembly was held under the theme "Rise to life: confessing witness to life-flourishing societies" on 11-16 May 2022 in Johannesburg, South Africa, attended by member church delegates, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), and Presbyterian Church of Mauritius. During a specially requested pre-assembly meeting session, General Secretaries and Presidents of member churches engaged with one other on ecclesiological matters as the CWM Africa family.

Participants discussed the impact of Covid-19 on the continent, such as the poor, elderly and rural communities being excluded from virtual church fellowship, issues of colonialism, where French doctors argued for the vaccine to be tested in Africa, and preferential vaccine distribution to richer nations before third-world countries. Emphasis was placed on the need to reexamine

the "new normal" and avoid normalising abnormal situations, such as gender-based violence which intensified during lockdown. In addition, the legacies of slavery were highlighted as a significant factor in the context of the assembly.

Delegates were challenged to actively participate in God's mission through creation care and good stewardship, with the KwaZulu Natal, South Africa floods induced by climate change cited as an example. Political turmoil, youth unemployment, exploitation of women and young girls, and an increase in suicides emerged in their collective reading of the signs of the time, and they were urged to stand in solidarity with Indigenous communities, address economic injustice and combat the worrying trend of human trafficking. There was a strong call for inclusivity especially for youth who feel excluded.

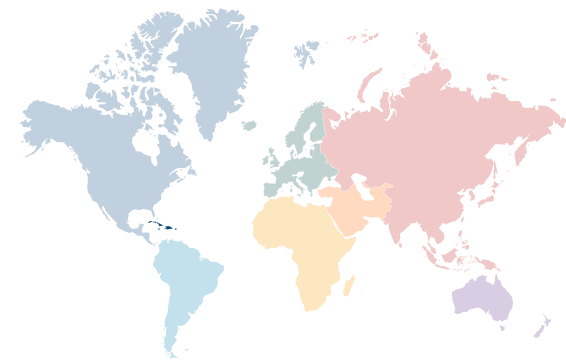
CARIBBEAN Regional Assembly

Delegates from CWM Caribbean member churches GCU and UCJCI, our ecumenical partner CANACOM (Caribbean and North America Council for Mission), board members and guests met for the CWM Caribbean Regional Assembly in Kingston, Jamaica from 18-22 September 2022.

The two opening greetings from CWM General Secretary Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum and UCJCI Moderator Rt. Rev. Gary Harriot offered insights and key reflection questions for the participants: how can we reclaim mission as emancipatory and transformative, and what kind of missional action do we need to put in place to affirm life in all its fullness for all? Given the urgency of contextual life-denying realities in the Caribbean, how must we understand and live in the reality of the Christ, who in the face of death and hopelessness said, "I am the resurrection and the life?" What does it mean for a church to say "we are resurrection people?" During the event, digital media inputs were

received from churches in the Philippines, South Africa and Britain, as well as live contributions from mission partners in CANACOM and Caribbean member churches on life-flourishing projects in which they are involved. Delegates prayed and dug deeper into each day's specific theme such as gender justice and economic wellbeing, and identified three collaborative life-flourishing initiatives they would like to explore with their communities upon their return.

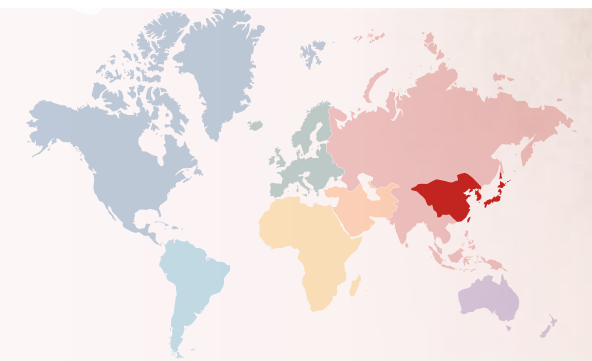
Recognising gender justice, racial justice and climate justice as key areas of work for closer attention regionally and globally, missiological reflector Rev. Marvia Lawes summed up the gathering: "Through stirring worship, disturbing and insightful Bible studies, we wrestled with tough texts and hard lessons, celebrated testimonies of faithful stewardship, and prayerfully recommitted ourselves to consistent prayerful reflection and life-flourishing action."



EAST ASIA Regional Assembly

The CWM East Asia Regional Assembly, held virtually from 24-25 May 2022, facilitated mutual sharing and collective discernment on emerging issues of the region for delegates from six East Asia member churches, resource persons and CWM Partners in Mission. Amidst turmoil in East Asia due to military operations, inequalities, the pandemic, conflicts in Ukraine, political situations in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Korea, and Myanmar's military dictatorship, CWM General Secretary, Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum delivered the opening greetings, encouraging participants to make it their mission to witness for peace and reconciliation in Christ.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Francis Yip challenged churches to share both the sufferings and emerging joys of the pandemic, considering how to actualise church ministry to reach those impacted by this crisis. Member churches discussed urgent mission priorities, success stories and challenges faced during the pandemic and post-pandemic times. They shared specific initiatives—some of which were MSP4 contributions—including distribution of aid (HKCCCC and PCM), collaborations (PCK), outreach, online learning (GPM) and managing social issues (PCT), observing that theological flexibility was a crucial factor for the global church to survive.



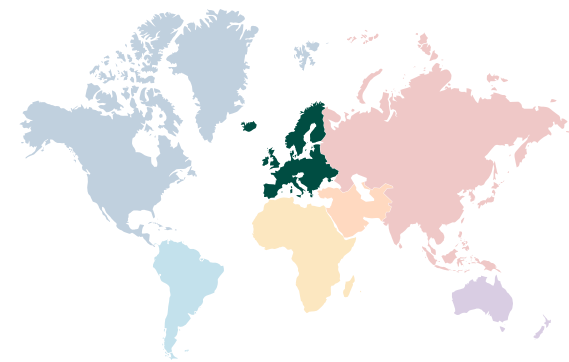
EUROPE Regional Assembly

Twenty-three CWM Europe member church delegates, CWM scholars and Partners in Mission gathered for the Regional Assembly themed “Rising up – Letting Go – Packing for the banquet” from 28 June-1 July 2022. Participants acknowledged the deep inequalities exposed by the Covid-19 pandemic and recognised the need to rise up against racial and gender-based violence. Rising up, however, requires the surrendering of privileges and systems that perpetuate inequality.

Cognisant of the interconnectedness of climate, racial and gender justice, participants were encouraged with the transformative power of opening up to adopt new ways of interpreting and modelling church. Participants witnessed the radical action by faith communities to address

issues such as racism, poverty, gender justice and climate action during an exposure visit to Luton Grassroots. The experience challenged them to consider the hospitality and generosity of Christian communities, especially towards vulnerable groups.

Going forward, they affirmed the need for partnership and collective action, intentionally listening to diverse voices, and living out Christ’s “counter community” in solidarity with different communities. The assembly called for more intentional work on racial justice, gender justice and climate justice in Europe, as well as the exploration of new models for church life and community beyond the challenges posed by church decline and the pandemic.



SOUTH ASIA Regional Assembly

The South Asia Regional Assembly 2022 was held online from 7-8 June 2022, providing delegates from the four South Asia member churches a platform for mutual learning, worship and reflection, as well as addressing emerging regional issues. Fr Dr Monodeep Daniel delivered the keynote address on “Church in a Post-Covid World,” emphasizing rationality and peaceful coexistence with other people and life-forms by respecting their values and habitats. Through a thematic reflection on “Economy of Life in a Post-Covid Church” by Rev. K. James Cecil Victor, churches were encouraged to align their missional agendas with the Nazareth Manifesto, and address the suffering of people in oppressive situations and places.

Each member church presented updates on activities and interventions. COB used its

hospitals as Covid-19 treatment centres during the pandemic. As part of its MSP-4 programme, COB has focused on developing training material used for training of trainers, training programmes and interfaith dialogues. CNI focused on its Phulbani diocese in East India, describing challenges from Hindu nationalism and extremism (moral policing), curbs on free speech and dissent. CSI shared about its Green Initiative that seeks to connect the grassroots level with churches, hospitals and other groups through seminars and conferences. PCI is currently involved in establishing schools for the differently-abled, HIV/AIDS awareness programmes, substance abuse programmes and support for female sex workers. The challenges faced by the church include limited resources for building projects, aiding flood victims and unemployment.



STRATEGIC PROGRAMME PLAN 2023-2025

The CWM 2020–2029 strategy framework guides the development of strategic plans of action for different stages along this ten-year trajectory. The ultimate goal of the strategy is to foster life-flourishing communities based on justice and peace, where the fullness of life for all creation is our primary calling and commitment. Life-flourishing is the key motif for our mission and discipleship, and through it, we challenge and re-envision the oppressive and life-denying systems of Babylon. We confess our witness to life-flourishing communities.

Our leading priorities for 2023-2025 intersect across all of the following programme areas:

Life-flourishing Creation and Economy:

The distress of God's creation is the consequence of systems, ideologies, legacies and practices that put profit over people and over the planet. The fact that those who are least responsible for the crisis are forced to bear its gravest consequences exposes how interlocking systems of oppression such as racism, patriarchy, economic injustice, casteism and ableism are intrinsically connected with the ecological crisis. Life-flourishing creation calls for courage and creativity to heal and restore the people and the planet through planetary solidarity. In addition, rising to life is a subversive witness that defies the market forces which commodify and annihilate life for profit. Breaking out from Babylon in such a market-driven world requires the audacity to engage in insurrectionist witness to abolish neo-liberal capitalism and heal the world with an alternative economy of life. Life-flourishing economy is an economy that embodies defiance against moneytheism and the celebration of abundant life.

Mission Programme and Partnership:

The missional vision of "rising to life and breaking out from Babylon" necessitates a radical shift in prophetic understanding and mission engagement. In an era of egotistic, mechanistic and technocratic dehumanisation and ecological degradation, CWM envisions creating alliances and engaging churches and peoples' movements to rediscover human identity in the image of God. This vision affirms embracing spiritualities, reshaping economies, restoring of ecology and renewing of the global space into life-flourishing communities. This programme area includes the existing Mission Support Programme (MSP), Partner in Mission (PIM) and the internship programme.

Discipleship, Spiritualities and Dialogue:

This programme area works with member churches, ecumenical and interfaith partners, government and civil society to offer a more intentional way to affirm the agency of those who are marginalized; to participate in their struggles and share their hopes; explore together ways to overcome marginalizing tendencies; and to resist/confront forces of marginalization and exclusion in and across specific contexts of the world. It also offers a timely intervention towards renewed shared theological reflections and analyses, advocacy, action and communication at, on, from and beyond the margins with the hope of encouraging and transforming churches and societies to be more just, responsive and inclusive. This programme area includes the existing Discernment and Radical Engagement (DARE), which focuses on bringing newer, younger and cutting-edge scholarship (scholars and practitioners) to the "weaving mat" to explore and interrogate new models of mission and evangelism.

Education, Formation and Empowerment:

CWM's missional vision requires the mediation of life-flourishing education to discern our public witness, engaging with the signs of the times. Life-flourishing education is both formal and informal collective inquiries of faith to rediscover the meaning and imperatives of faith to facilitate the community's public witness. Life-flourishing education includes community living, social analysis, learning from the orality and knowledge of the Indigenous communities, and participation in the campaigns and struggles to dismantle Babylon. Life-flourishing education, hence, privileges the epistemologies of the subaltern communities and employs alternative pedagogies of freedom. This programme area includes the existing Academic Accompaniment Programme (AAP), Special Academic Accompaniment Programme (SAAP), Member Church Initiatives (MCI), Training in Mission Programme (TIM), Face to Face Programme, and A New Face Programme (ANF).

Peace Building and Community Development:

This programme area seeks to translate CWM's core missional goals into practical and action-oriented, mission-driven and theologically rooted programmes that are intersectional in nature. The focus is on glocal peacebuilding in such a way as to address the realities of living under Empire in a time of no peace and no justice for people or planet. Embracing the inseparable relationship between the local-regional and global context and enlivened by the vision and call of peacebuilding for the healing of the nations for the fullness of life for all, member churches will be creatively and fully involved in action, advocacy and witness on local, regional and global levels while seeking to contribute to sustainable community development in their specific context as an imperative dimension of mission and the missio dei. The programme foregrounds peacebuilding and community development as intrinsically missional.

Mission from the Margins:

CWM seeks to propose alternative theologies that are rooted in the communities. It argues that the margins have voices, thus rejecting the ethology of the voice of the voiceless. As such "doing mission from the margins" would aim to radically engage communities within their context as they recover their voices stolen and suppressed by Babylon. Through establishing networks, strengthening capacities and creating alliances of the afflicted, this programmatic area will not only serve to dismantle "the mission model bequeathed to the contemporary church," but will work intentionally towards founding "alternative communities that bear witness to economic rule, justice-centred value systems, people-inspired political directions, permission-giving ethos for life in communities and generosity of spirit in relationships."

The Onesimus Project:

The Onesimus Project (TOP) has its roots in the CWM Legacies of Slavery (LOS) Programme which aimed to address the roots of racialised inequalities and injustices within the CWM family of churches and the wider world. This focus was embraced in recognition that the roots of racialised inequalities and injustices were also embedded within the missionary heritage of mission societies like CWM's forebear, the London Missionary Society (LMS). The TOP focuses on four key areas:

LEGACIES OF SLAVERY:

This area encompasses acts of apology and repentance, reparation of victims, and research and publication.

MODERN DAY SLAVERY:

This area aims to identify modern forms of slavery and promote racial justice, and is initiated by member churches and regions.

EDUCATION FOR LIBERATION:

This area focuses on advocacy and movement, training and community development, and alternative theological education.

TRANSFORMATIVE ECUMENISM:

This area aims to re-imagine ecumenism and promote solidarity for a liberating ecumenical movement.

THE ONESIMUS PROJECT (TOP)

Repairing and restoring communities

CWM launched The Onesimus Project (TOP) at Van der Kemp Memorial Church in Bethelsdorp, South Africa, on 23 August 2022, the United Nations International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, attended by local communities, congregants of CWM Africa member churches UPCSA and UCCSA, international guests and TOP Core Group members.

CWM General Secretary Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum emphasized the four focus areas of the project: to address legacies of slavery, contest modern-day slavery, promote education for liberation, and foster transformative ecumenism.

Viewers also joined the event online through a livestream to witness the CWM's act of confession and apology, led by CWM Moderator Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, CWM Board of Directors Mrs Rose Wedderburn (UCJCI) and Elder Lim Kar Hor (GPM). Consequently, Rev. Neshangwe formally launched The Onesimus Project on behalf of the CWM Board and offered the Bethelsdorp Statement.

The gathering witnessed CWM's commitment to reparative action, and a call to other churches and

ecumenical and mission organisations with similar legacies for just action. Representing the Bethelsdorp community, Chief Edmund Gaob Stuurman thanked the CWM for their courage in embarking on this journey of commitment to just action, and urged CWM not to let the opportunity to restore the lives of African communities pass them by.

The solemn event was interspersed with lively worship songs by choirs from UPCSA and UCCSA, and Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki, General Secretary of All Africa Conference of Churches, sent the participants out with a blessing, a fresh commitment to Christ's gospel of liberation and transformation.



ECUMENICAL ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

Participating in WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC) 11TH ASSEMBLY

CWM Moderator Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, CWM General Secretary Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum, and Deputy General Secretary Sudipta Singh participated during the WCC 11th Assembly held from 31 Aug-8 September 2022, under the theme “Christ’s love moves the world to reconciliation and unity.” CWM was among WCC ecumenical partners invited to set up exhibitions to showcase their programmes and work. This outdoor exhibition stand was a physical extension of CWM’s presence, and a space to network and engage with visitors and partners.

In addition, CWM held a successful workshop on “Rise to Life: Confessing Witness to Life-Flourishing Communities”

on 1 September, drawing over 50 participants who were introduced to key elements of CWM’s mission theology, and its theme of life-flourishing communities. It drew robust engagement and discussion from participants, who voiced appreciation for CWM’s commitment to inclusiveness and equality, and commended CWM for launching The Onesimus Project (TOP) in South Africa.

The CWM General Secretary was one of the invited speakers on the theme “Christian Unity and the Churches’ common witness” on 7 September, for a plenary session where speakers spoke on the mission of the church

in the ecumenical movement. Dr Keum spoke about the Arusha Call to Discipleship from the 14th World Mission Conference that provides directions for renewal of mission in unity. He expressed that transforming discipleship can bring reconciliation and healing, and as transformed disciples, we need to rediscover our faith at the margins.



CWM Leadership at the WCC 11th Assembly



SUPPORTING AND JOURNEYING WITH PEOPLE OF MYANMAR

CWM organised a Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM) Partners’ Roundtable event, for PCM’s global network of churches and ecumenical partners to strategise their solidarity efforts in Singapore on 2-3 August 2022. Partners from CWM Pacific member church Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ), World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, PC(USA), PC (Ireland), CWM East Asia member church delegates and the CWM Moderator Rev. Lydia Neshangwe received updates of PCM’s ministry efforts through its Covid and Crisis Response Committee (CCRC) amidst the situation in Myanmar.

Responding to God’s calling to be life-flourishing communities, CWM also organised and facilitated a working group meeting on 13 December 2022 to discuss PCM’s Agape Hospital Relocation Project.

Established by PCM, Agape Hospital provides basic healthcare and makes health services more accessible to the underserved Chin community. The hospital has served over 10,000 outpatients and over 1,000 inpatients from May to August 2022. CWM General Secretary Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum, said: “While the CWM family shared the grief of PCM and Tahan Theological College (TTC) for the tragic loss of their beloved leaders, we ought to respond to God’s calling to be life-flourishing communities. Therefore, CWM takes initiative in partnership with the East Asian region, PCM partner churches and ecumenical organisations to build a modern hospital in Tahan-Kalaymyo with one hundred beds.”

The subsequent meeting gathered PCM’s partner churches and ecumenical organisations to discuss their respective areas of collaboration and contribution.





FELLOWSHIP of Three International Mission Organisations

General Secretaries of Council for World Mission (CWM), Communauté Évangélique d'Action Apostolique (CEVAA) and United Evangelical Mission (UEM) discussed common concerns and strategised on possible joint mission activities when they met in Singapore on 8-9 March. Their first post-pandemic meeting was a time of biblical reflection, mutual encouragement, fellowship and exchange of news and information.

Sharing similar roots and purpose as mission organisations that are a partnership of Protestant faith communities worldwide, CEVAA, CWM and UEM actively pursued

paradigm shifts to become modern, international mission societies committed to equal rights of membership, a roundtable model of decision-making processes, and equality in sharing resources. They also jointly support the post of

Chair in Missiology at the Bossey Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches (WCC). The institute runs credit-based residential ecumenical formation programmes for young pastors, theologians and laypeople.



Honouring, lamenting and rejoicing with WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Two women leaders from the Global South—President of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) Rev. Najla Kassab, and Moderator of the Council for World Mission (CWM) Rev. Lydia Neshangwe—had discerned the need for a space for current and emerging women leaders to support one another and engage with gender justice issues during this Kairos moment.

“Both our organizations preach communing together, partnering, fellowshiping and working together, and now we’re practicing

what we preach by coming together to do all those things as women in leadership. As women we want to preach a message of collaboration, not competition,” said Rev. Neshangwe of the WCRC-CWM Women in Leadership Roundtable Meeting spearheaded by them, and held in Seoul, South Korea from 4-6 October 2022.

Female participants from many countries celebrated the achievements of women pioneers in church and ecumenical leadership while acknowledging that the journey towards justice is not yet

complete. “It is important to honour women as leaders, but we could also not forget the pain that women face, especially in the transitional time of leadership between men and women,” said Rev. Kassab, “We hope this was a time of strengthening, of envisioning, of sharing and of looking forward to a better tomorrow.”



Formalising ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP with All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)

CWM and AACC established an agreement for a Framework of Cooperation to deepen ecumenical collaboration on three key areas of engagement—economic and social justice; creation care (climate justice) and capacity strengthening for CWM and AACC’s member churches in mission, diakonia and leadership.

AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr Fidon Mwombeki said “AACC is so grateful to have this MoU with CWM. I wholeheartedly thank the

Board for their decision to establish this partnership, which was long overdue. We know the strengths of CWM in global thematic

engagement as witnesses of Jesus Christ. We look forward to work together for justice, peace and prosperity of all human beings.”



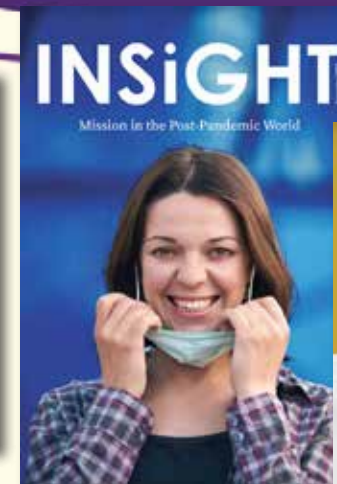
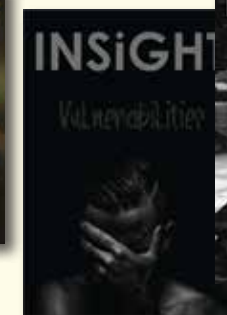
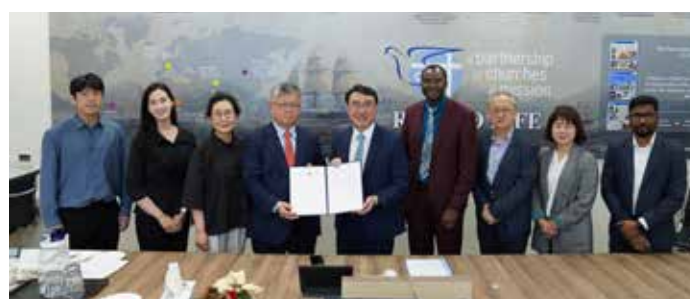
Grounding ECONOMIC JUSTICE BIBLICALLY

The first in-person Ecumenical School on Governance, Economics and Management (GEM) since 2019 opened in Berlin, Germany. The GEM School is a programme within the New International Financial and Economic Architecture (NIFEA) project, a joint collaboration by CWM, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), World Council of Churches (WCC) and World Methodist Council (WMC). Held on 4-8 July 2022, the focus was to develop competencies in current and future church leaders to advocate for eco-just and gender-just international economics.



STRENGTHENING theological education in the Global South

CWM and the Global Institute of Theology (GIT), Yonsei University, in December 2022, signed a MoU to strengthen theological education and advance studies in mission in the Global South. This MoU is aimed at facilitating academic accompaniment in post-graduate and doctoral studies for selected students from CWM member churches and ecumenical partners. It is also intended to foster faculty development in theological institutes in the Global South.



COMMUNICATIONS: REACHING OUT DIGITALLY AND IN PRINT

CWM Communications published six issues of INSiGHT, its bimonthly publication to provoke missional thinking among readers, and share news from member churches, ecumenical partners and itself, among others. It covered contemporary issues ranging from God's mission in the prolonged pandemic (January 2022); vulnerabilities in various forms (March 2022); mission in the post-pandemic world (May, July and September 2022); and an in-depth overview of The Onesimus Project (November 2022).

In addition, it produced "Sundays with CWM", a weekly devotional providing insights and prayers to kindle our Christian faith, and intended for personal, family and congregational gatherings to worship God. In commemoration of 40 years of the CWM Training in Mission (TIM) Programme, this year's meditations were written by former TIM participants, many of whom are upcoming young leaders of our member churches.

The Communications team also expanded its digital footprint on Facebook and YouTube with

consistent content creation, and through a website overhaul, showcased CWM's new strategic direction and revamped programmes. As a strategic tool to connect with its global audience instantly, it built its social media presence by steadily growing its Facebook followers from 5,600 to 6,364. It achieved over a million (1,032,702) in Facebook page reach, and 8,222 Facebook page visits.

Testament to the global shift in videography to effectively communicate in a digital era, its YouTube Channel's videos clocked over 6,000 views, which was a more than 50% increase from 2021. Its watch time saw a twofold increase to over 340 hours. It continued to leverage on its existing platforms, with Twitter garnering 820 followers in total.

CWM Buzz, a weekly email newsletter, connects directly with target audiences to receive the latest news updates. The existing mailing list consists of over 1,200 subscribers.





ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING (AMM): CALLING FOR TRANSFORMATIVE DISCIPLESHIP IN A WOUNDED WORLD

CWM Directors, member church delegates and guests gathered for the Annual Members' Meeting (AMM) 2022 in London from 13-15 June. The hybrid meeting saw the effective participation of member church representatives, who engaged in lively, perceptive and informative conversations in-person or virtually during plenary sessions. They covered wide-ranging issues such as transformative discipleship being actuated in ecumenical engagement; new opportunities for online ministry to youth and diaspora communities in the new normal; decolonising our mindsets; rethinking our theological approach; and the digital divide.

CWM General Secretary Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum spoke about engaging with member churches through the new programmatic structure, and for future AMMs to hold space for profound missional reflections, discernment and dialogue based on our contemporary challenges, and to include exposure to the hosting church and worship with local congregations.



WHO WE ARE

Our MEMBERS

32 Denominations

41 Countries

50,000 Congregations

21.5 Million Christians

AFRICA

- Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM)
- Churches of Christ in Malawi (CCM)
- United Church of Zambia (UCZ)
- United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA)
- Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa (UPCSA)

CARIBBEAN

- Guyana Congregational Union (GCU)
- United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI)

EAST ASIA

- Gereja Presbyterian Malaysia (GPM)
- The Hong Kong Council of the Church of Christ in China (HKCCCC)
- Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT)
- Presbyterian Church in Singapore (PCS)
- Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK)
- Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM)

EUROPE

- Congregational Federation (CF)
- Presbyterian Church of Wales (PCW)
- Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PKN)
- Union of Welsh Independents (UWI)
- United Reformed Church (URC)

PACIFIC

- Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa (CCCAS)
- Congregational Christian Church in Samoa (CCCS)
- Congregational Union of New Zealand (CUNZ)
- Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu (EKT)
- Etaretia Porotetani Maohi (EPM)
- Kiribati Uniting Church (KUC)
- Nauru Congregational Church (NCC)
- Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ)
- United Church in Papua New Guinea (UCPNG)
- United Church in Solomon Islands (UCSI)

SOUTH ASIA

- Church of Bangladesh (COB)
- Church of North India (CNI)
- Church of South India (CSI)
- Presbyterian Church of India (PCI)

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP



• BOARD OF DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES

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Rev. Lydia Neshangwe (Moderator)
Mr Siliga Atiake Kofe (Treasurer)
Dr Prema Sarojini Francis
Rev. Jill-Hailey Skeel Harries
Mrs Albertine Ehari Kabaru
Elder Lim Kar Hor
Rev. Giron Samely Lyttan
Rev. Kudzani Ndebele
Ms Sarah Phua Yiran
Rev. Ram Thanga
Ms Rozemarijn Annemieke van't Einde
Mr Markel Virgo
Mrs Rose Althea Wedderburn

COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION (UK)

Mrs Rose Althea Wedderburn (Chair)
Rev. Kudzani Ndebele
Ms Sarah Phua Yiran
Ms Lindsey Brown (Independent)
Rev. Philip King (Independent)
Rev. Giron Samely Lyttan
(resigned: 21 November 2022)

COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION AFRICA NPC

Rev. Lungile Mpetsheni (Chair, Independent)
Rev. Jill-Hailey Skeel Harries
Mr Markel Virgo

• COMMITTEES

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Ms Jennifer Britton
Ms Betty Kuili
Dr Sanjay Patra
Mr Mark Tucker
Ms Yu Chia-En

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Elder Lim Kar Hor
Rev. Kudzani Ndebele
Mrs Deborah Wilson

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Prof Ho Yew Kee (Chair)
Mr Courtney Campbell
Ms Celestine Khoo
Ms Priya Lukka
Mr Richard Morgan
Rev. Melanie Smith
Dr Marie-Aimee Tourres

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Ms Lindsey Brown
Rev. Giron Samely Lyttan
Rev. Lydia Neshangwe
Rev. Ram Thanga
Mrs Rose Althea Wedderburn

PROGRAMME REFERENCE GROUP

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Dr Iva Carruthers
Rev. Dr Byung Joon Chung Benjamin
Prof Kathleen Ferrier
Dr Aruna Gnanadason
Mr Corey Hampton - Youth
Mrs Diane Montoya
Rev. Dr Laurent Ramambason
Mrs Roina Taufao

MANAGEMENT

Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum (General Secretary)
Dr Sudipta Singh (Deputy General Secretary – Programmes)
Rev. Dileep Kumar Kandula
(Mission Secretary, General Secretariat)
Mr Sum Soon Yew (Mission Secretary, Finance)
Rev. Dr Sindiso Jele (Mission Secretary, Social Justice & Africa region)
Rev. Julie Sim (Mission Secretary, Mission Programme & Partnership, East & South Asia regions)
Rev. Daimon Mkandawire (Mission Secretary, Ecology & Economy)
Rev. Dr Young-Cheol Cheon (Mission Secretary, Communications)
Rev. Dr Michael Jagessar (Mission Secretary, Caribbean and Europe region - Until 31 December 2022)
Rev. Dr Peter Cruchley (Mission Secretary, Mission Development – Until 17 October 2022)
Rev. Nikometo Sopepa (Mission Secretary, Pacific region – Until 31 December 2022)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

COUNCIL FOR WORLD MISSION LTD

Company Number

201206146Z

Registered Charity

It is a registered charity in Singapore

Registered Address

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Singapore 069542

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#05-01 Parkview Square, Singapore 188778

Bankers

The Development Bank of Singapore Limited
12 Marina Boulevard, Marina Bay Financial Centre,
Tower 3, Singapore 018982

Solicitors

Goodwins Law Corporation, 143 Cecil Street,
#03-02 GB Building Singapore 069542

Company Secretary

Ms Pauline Ang Hooi Yeong

FINANCIALS

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

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TREASURER REPORT

Reflection

2022 marked the gradual exit from the worst of the pandemic, and in June of that year, the Council for World Mission (CWM) held its first Board of Directors and Annual Members Meeting in London since the pandemic began. The event was a joyous occasion of reunion, celebration, and gratitude for the gift of life. We give thanks to God for His grace and blessings.

Financial Highlights

INCOME LOSS
(£16.5 million)

EXPENSES
£6.7 million

NET DEFICIT
(£23.3 million)

FUND BALANCE
£178.6 million

Income

As the pandemic receded, new global crises emerged, including geopolitical tensions, high inflation, and rising interest rates, affecting global stability. These macro events have led to unprecedented turmoil in global investment markets, with all major asset classes experiencing a steep decline. In particular, the S&P500 (USD) and MSCI World (USD) indices were down by about 20% in 2022, impacting almost all investment asset classes. The stock indices decline is one of the worst since the 2008 financial crisis. As a result, CWM's income, which is largely generated through our investment returns, has been negatively affected.

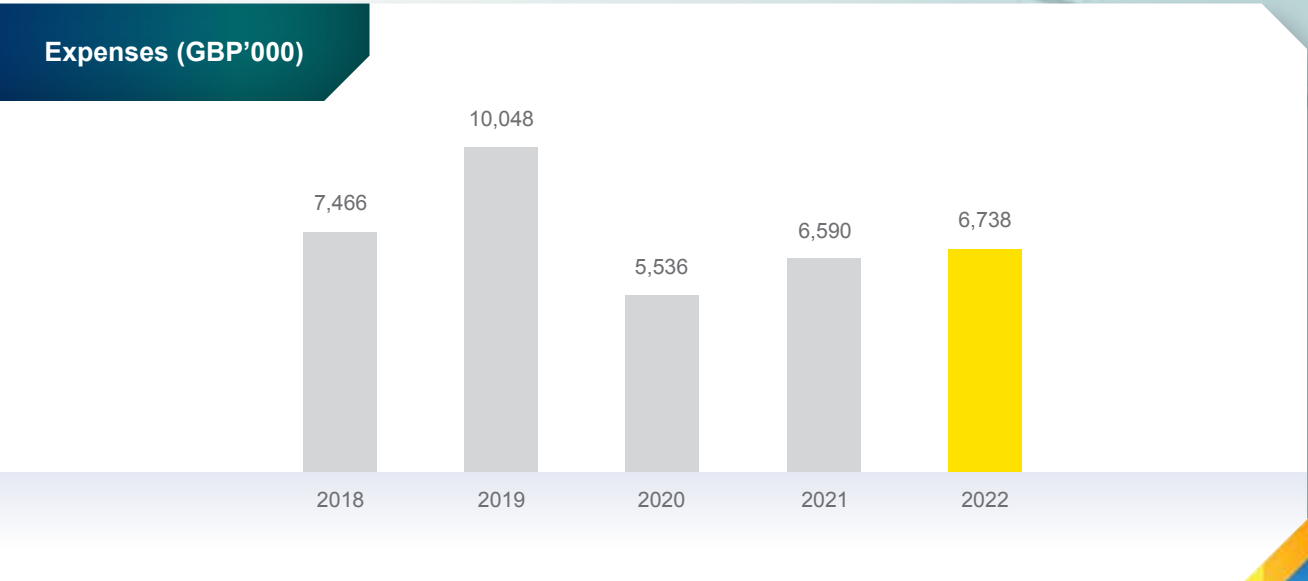
Our income recorded a loss of £16.5 million, mainly due to investment losses. Investment valuation loss was £21.7 million, primarily due to mark-to-market unrealised investment losses of £19.8 million. Realised income amounted to £1.5 million, voluntary & other income of £1.8m.

Our adherence to ESG investment principles which precludes investments in commodities (especially in Oil & Gas sector), has further affected returns as this sector is one of the only major asset classes that gained last year. However, the investment result is commendable against the broader market indices.

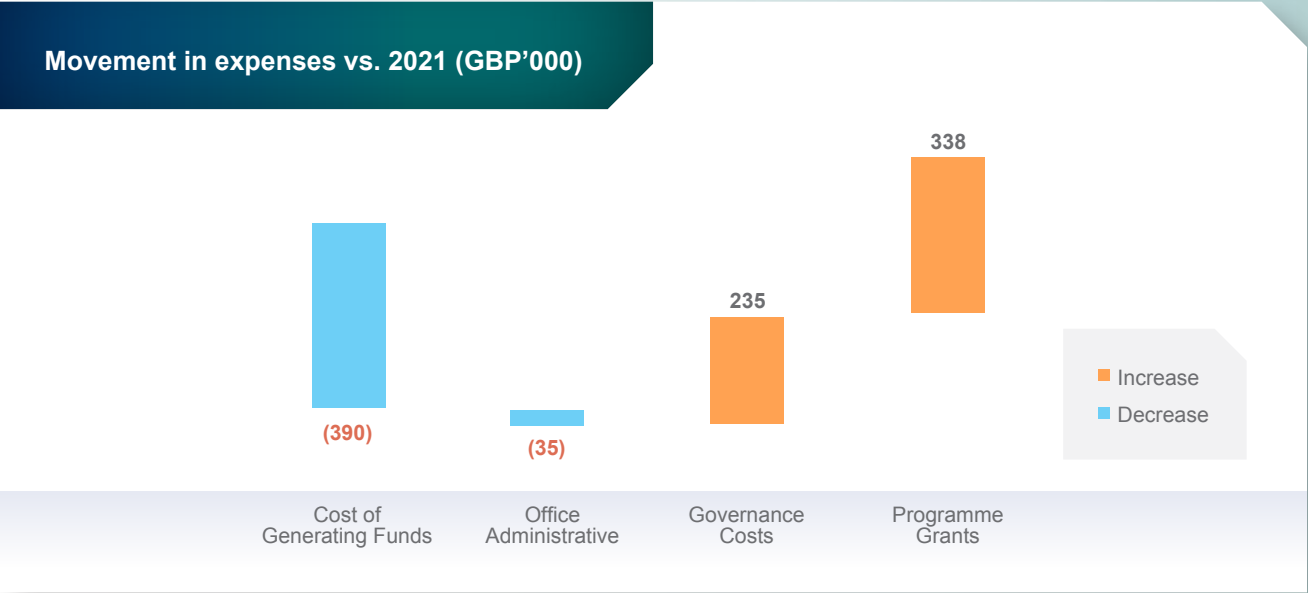


Expenses

Total expenses, including investment manager fees, increased marginally by 2.2% to £6.7 million.



The rise in expenses was primarily due to higher programme grants and governance meeting costs, as in-person activities resumed in the second half of 2022. Rebuilding connections, programmes, and mission is critical after more than two years of pandemic-induced movement restrictions.

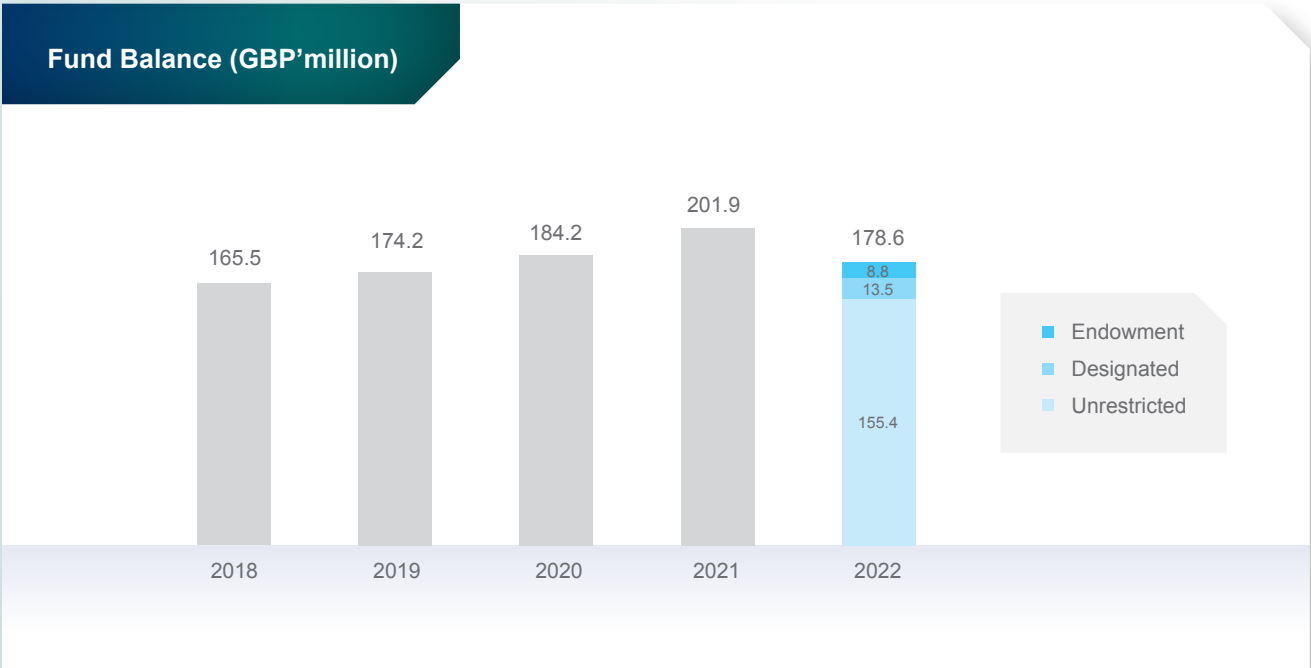


Programme Grant

Expenses for various programs, including Partners-in-mission, Capacity Development (MCI & SAAP), Cutting Edge Initiative (TOP), and Ecumenical & Solidarity grants, have increased due to the need to revitalise mission activities after two years of pandemic-induced movement restrictions. However, the average program expenses over the past three years (2020-2022) remain well below the pre-pandemic levels of 2018-2019.

Fund Balance

As of 31st December 2022, our fund balance stands at £178.6 million. Despite the turbulence in the global landscape, we take comfort in knowing that God is in control. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the inception of our investment fund, which began in 1998. Over the years, CWM has been guided by prudent long-term investment and responsible spending principles. These remain our guiding principles and our approach to stewardship.



Outlook 2023

Global risks that have been impeding the global recovery since 2022 have not subsided. At the time of writing, there is still ongoing military conflict in Europe, and geopolitical tensions and inflation remain high. Furthermore, banking crises have been added to the mix, as several US regional and a large European bank have failed or were compelled to merge in the first quarter of this year. As a result, the investment landscape will remain fragile as these risk factors continue exerting pressure on investment markets, affecting investment returns.

In closing, I am thankful for God's faithfulness and express gratitude for the reunion and reconnection of our members after a challenging two years during the pandemic. I sincerely appreciate the Board, Sub-Committees, and all Staff Members' unwavering efforts throughout the year.



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