



Council for World Mission
ASSEMBLY STATEMENT
Rise to Life: Together in Transformation

The Council for World Mission (CWM) Assembly met in Durban, South Africa, from 12 to 19 June 2024. With its struggles for emancipation and dignity, Africa provided a youthful and inspiring context for an Assembly focussed on rising to life. With great anticipation, member church delegates, partners and guests gathered for the first Assembly since the Covid-19 pandemic. In face of socio-political catastrophe and environmental emergency, the Assembly heard the call to rise to life and be together in transformation.

To follow Jesus Christ is a matter of transformation (Romans 12:2). We are transformed as we travel the journey of faith; and as we are drawn into the mission of God we become agents of transformation in our world. The Assembly nurtured prophetic spirituality to enable us to fulfil our missional calling in today's world.

We testify that the Triune God creates the world by love in and for cosmic community (Gen1-2); mission is a living spirituality and embodiment of God's love (1 John 4: 7-21). Led by the voices and actions of young people, we bear witness that through radical discipleship we can overcome life-denying powers.

Transforming Power

It is not true that market forces hold supreme authority in the human community.

This is true: "You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24). Rejecting the idolatry of wealth and power, disciples seek justice, compassion, and righteousness.

It is not true that the powerful are entitled to attack, subjugate, colonise or enslave their neighbours.

This is true: We are morally obliged to make reparation for historic wrongs and to actively resist and dismantle all forms of coloniality and enslavement.

It is not true that women must occupy a secondary and subordinate role in church and society.

This is true: God calls women to leadership in mission and calls everyone to practice gender justice and equity to effect transformative change in every aspect of life.

It is not true that migrants and refugees pose a threat and deserve hostility.

This is true: We are called to offer hospitality to strangers (Hebrews 13:2) as we work for justice and dignity with all who are marginalised and vulnerable.

We are called to be agents of transformation, resisting oppressive powers, and embodying alternative ways of living and being.

Revisioning Mission

It is not true that we can be complacent about the climate crisis.

This is true: passion for the flourishing of all creation lies at the heart of the mission of God.

It is not true that world peace can be secured by reliance on military might.

This is true: “blessed are the peacemakers” (Matthew 5:9); mission takes us to places of conflict and brokenness to work for justice and reconciliation.

It is not true that by ourselves we are strong enough to overcome global injustice.

This is true: “Greater is the one who is in you than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4.4); by building collaboration through transformative ecumenism we can defeat the forces of death and destruction.

It is not true that evangelism must be aggressive, divisive and oppressive.

This is true: we can share the good news of Jesus in humility and radical hospitality.

We are called to attend to the signs of the times, discerning the Spirit of life and God's call to mission today.

Life-Flourishing Communities

It is not true that we must face pain and suffering in isolation and abandonment.

This is true: "If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it" (I Corinthians 12:26). African values of Ubuntu teach us about interconnectedness.

It is not true that some people are disposable and can be ignored, excluded or slaughtered.

This is true: every human being is cherished by God, whose loving purpose is for all to live in dignity and to flourish in society (Psalm 139: 13-15).

It is not true that formation for leadership should be available only for a small elite.

This is true: transformative education, spiritual guidance and leadership development should be accessible to all; and formation opportunities for women, young people and children are a missional priority.

It is not true: that the time for cross-cultural service in mission is over.

This is true: churches are enriched by sending and receiving partners in mission.

We are called to engage in practices that reflect resurrection life, building life-flourishing communities.

Rise to Life

It is not true that death has the last word for humanity and the earth.

This is true: Christ has risen from the dead and we too can rise to life.

We rise to life in the Holy Spirit.

We are called to a mission which does not belong to us. Rather, it is God's mission, effected through the action of God's Spirit in the life of the world.

The unity we seek is not achieved through our own efforts. Rather, it is the Holy Spirit who unites, inspiring our spiritual commitment.

Facing our torn and troubled world, by ourselves we are unable to be hopeful. Rather, we “overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).

As we move with the wind of the Spirit towards our CWM jubilee in 2027, we trust God to renew our vision of mission, embodied in life-flourishing communities.