



# World Council of Churches

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1103 / Europe

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Church of Norway  
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Geneva, June 2019

### Invitation to member churches to name delegates for the 11th Assembly

Dear Ms Agøy,

Greetings in the name of the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

#### 1. The WCC 11th assembly

The next assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) will take place in Karlsruhe, Germany, from 8 – 16 September 2021 (arrivals 7, departures 17), under the theme *“Christ’s Love Moves the World to Reconciliation and Unity”*. The central committee accepted the invitation from our member church, the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), who presented an offer from the Evangelical Church in Baden to host the assembly in Karlsruhe. An assembly of the WCC is a significant, representative and diverse global, ecumenical church gathering.

Assemblies take place every eight years, and this will be the 11th Assembly of the WCC. An assembly is the highest governing body of the WCC. It gives direction for the next eight years and elects the central committee for the next period. As with previous assemblies, the 11th Assembly will contribute to deepening our unity in Christ and give a common witness to the world. The WCC 11th Assembly will be a milestone on our pilgrimage of justice and peace as a fellowship of churches.

#### 2. Naming assembly delegates

It is my privilege to invite all member churches to name their delegates to the assembly (this naming of delegates composes 80% of all the delegates). A WCC assembly is a special event and opportunity, and you are invited to select your delegates with a mandate from the highest authority of your church.

Upon the mandate from the central committee meeting, the executive committee determined the total number of delegates to be 775, which is a reduction from 825 delegates at the last assembly. This will affect the number of delegates some member churches may name directly. However, the central committee may compensate for this when they appoint an additional 20 % of the delegates, based on the nomination of additional delegates (See point 3 below).

The number of delegates per member church is determined by the total membership of each church, using figures supplied by the church. The same logic used for the two previous assemblies is used for allocating seats for the 11th Assembly. Member churches with 2 delegates or more are asked to consider fair and adequate representation of lay persons, indigenous peoples and differently-abled people and balance of men, women and young people.

**According to our records, the Church of Norway has a total membership of 3'800'000.**

If the total number of members of the church is not correct, please inform the assembly office.

**Based on this, the Church of Norway is invited to nominate 2 delegate(s).**

When nominating delegates, it is important to keep in mind that elections for the central committee and the presidents for the coming period will take place at the assembly. Only persons present in the assembly can be elected for the central committee or as WCC presidents. The executive committee is elected among the central committee members.

Please submit the name and contact details of each delegate to the assembly office **before 31 December 2019**. The list of delegates will be presented to the central committee in March 2020. Enclosed in this letter is a delegate naming form.

### **3. Nominating additional delegates**

The WCC Constitution and Rules make provision for the appointment of additional delegates based on nominations from the member churches. Therefore, the central committee invites member churches to nominate persons who could serve as additional delegates. The additional delegates (20 %) will be appointed by the central committee to strengthen the diversity of the assembly, and ensure fair and adequate representation of lay persons, indigenous peoples and differently-abled people and balance of men, women and young people, as well as persons with expertise particularly relevant for the assembly. Additional delegates are considered full delegates of their church.

Please submit additional delegate nominations to the assembly office **before 31 December 2019**. They will be presented to the central committee in March 2020. Enclosed in this letter is an additional delegate nomination form.

### **4. Advisors**

Member churches are also invited to nominate one advisor to their delegation. The invitation is particularly intended for "ecumenical officers", i.e. persons representing the ecumenical interests and relationships of their church. However, the assembly also needs advisors with competence in a number of areas, who could contribute to the assembly as a whole. Advisors have a right to speak, but do not participate in decision-making.

Please submit nominations for advisors to the assembly office **before 31 December 2019**. The central committee will appoint advisors in March 2020. Attached to this letter is an advisor nomination form.

### **5. Other forms of participation in the assembly**

The 11th Assembly of the WCC welcomes other people from around the world to participate in the spiritual life and thematic programme of the assembly at their own initiative and cost. Information and registration for general participation in the assembly will be published later on the assembly website at [www.oikoumene.org/assembly](http://www.oikoumene.org/assembly). There will be a Stewards' programme for young people and a Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) programme for seminarians, as well as a number of pre-assemblies. Invitations to nominate persons to these programmes will also be shared later.

## 6. Assembly contributions

Each member church is asked to make a financial contribution to the Assembly Fund that is equivalent to one annual membership contribution. The Assembly Fund is a solidarity fund that helps the member churches share the costs of preparing the assembly and to provide grants for delegate travel, board and lodging. The contributions can be shared in one or multiple payments between 2019 and 2021. Assembly Fund contributions can be made at the same time as membership contributions. For more information, please contact [membership@wcc-coe.org](mailto:membership@wcc-coe.org).

## 7. Policy on finance: to ensure fair participation at the 11th Assembly

When a representative of a WCC member church is named or nominated as an assembly delegate, the member church is responsible for all travel, board and lodging costs incurred as a result of the participation of the delegate. However, funds for fair participation can be made available for churches who request them, under the condition that the member church has made its membership contribution for 2019 and 2020 before February 28, 2021. The same policy may apply to advisors. A written request for assistance for participation should be submitted by the church **before 31 May 2021**. More information on the policy will be shared later.

The WCC Assembly office in Geneva can be contacted by email at [assembly@wcc-coe.org](mailto:assembly@wcc-coe.org). As plans develop, more information and resources will be available from June 2019 on the WCC web-site at [www.oikoumene.org/assembly](http://www.oikoumene.org/assembly).

As we continue the pilgrimage of justice and peace inaugurated by the 10th Assembly in Busan in 2013, I invite you to join in the journey toward Karlsruhe in September 2021. We look forward to the cooperation of your church in preparing for and participating in the assembly. I especially encourage you to take up the assembly theme in the life of your church – in prayer, theological reflection and in your service for God's world – affirming that "Christ's Love Moves the World to Reconciliation and Unity".

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit  
General Secretary

Cc: Mr Christofer SOLBAKKEN, Rev. Einar TJELLE, Rev. Marianne H. BREKKEN