

Reformed communiqué

A note on this issue

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Articles in Bahasa Indonesia, English, French, German, Korean, and Spanish

September 2020

전염병에 대한 대응을 발전시키는 WCRC

세계 개혁신교회협의회(WCRC)가 COVID-19에 커뮤니언이 어떻게 “예언자적 신학적 대응”을 제공할 수 있을지 인식하고 전염병이 드러낸 “세계적 아파르타르트”에 관하여 고백적인 교회가 되는 방향으로 나아가도록 커뮤니언을 준비하게 하는 세계적 회담의 절차가 시작되었다.

“COVID-19은 수많은 도전들과 현실들에 대해 우리의 눈을 뜨게 해주었다.”라고 WCRC 회장 나줄라 카삽(Najla Kassab)이 말했다. “우리의 고통과 투쟁 속에서 우리는 희망을 보는데, 주된 이유는 하나님과 함께 계시고 우리가 서로 격려하는 가운데 함께하기 때문이다. 지금은 튼튼한 커뮤니언, 예언자적 커뮤니언, 상처받은 모든 곳에 영향력 있는 현존을 세울 때이다.”

“오늘 우리 대화에서 우리는 다양한 수준의 모든 우리 가족들이 참여하며 특별히 COVID 위기에 대처함과 우리의 장기 계획들을 향해 나아가는 것 모두 즉각적 대응을 만들기 위해 노력한다.”라고 WCRC 사무총장 크리스 퍼거슨(Chris Ferguson)이 말했다. “이는 대화를 시작하고 위기에 대한 커뮤니언 전체의 인식을 가능하게 하며, 신학적 대응을 제공하기 위함이다.”

10가지 요점의 문서가 논의를 위해 제시되었고, WCRC의 정의와 증언 사무국장인 필립 비노드 피콕(Philip Vinod Peacock), WCRC 커뮤니언과 신학 사무국장 한스 레싱(Hanns Lessing), 그리고 그레자 바탁 카로 개신교(Gereja Batak Karo Protestant, GBKP) 소속의 WCRC 인턴 메타 긴팅(Meta Ginting)에 의해 소개되었다.

“우리에겐 필요한 것은 보통의 상태로 돌아가는 것이다.”라고 피콕은 말했다. “보통이라 함은 이러한 위기를 위기로 만든

것을 말한다. 이는 새로운 세계를 세울 기회이다.”

“바이러스는 우리가 우리 사회와 전 세계 속에 세워온 분리를 폭로한다.”라고 레싱은 말했다. “우리는 신학적 수준에서 만이 아니라 정치적 수준에서도 대응하도록 요청을 받았고, 우리가 교회가 되어가는 길로도 부름을 받았다.”

“이러한 전염병의 상황에서, 교회들과 종교적인 공동체는 아래서부터의 변화와 탈바꿈의 동력으로써 그들의 역할을 수행해야 한다.”라고 긴팅은 말했다. “우리는 ‘새로운 보통’을 기대하면서, 미래의 정의와 평화를 위해 함께 회복하고 함께 일하려고 한다.”

남부 아프리카 연합 장로교회(Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa) 소속의 룡길레 므펏셰니(Lungile Mpetsheni)가 진행한 이 논의는 전세계적인 집단으로부터 매우 다양한 응답들을 끌어냈다.

“종교개혁은 흑사평의 여파에서 탄생하였다. 이 전염병은 우리에게 우리의 소명과 우리가 사용하고 있는 신학적 언어들을 다시 논의하도록 독려한다.”라고 인도네시아 WCRC의 요아스 아디프라세티야(Joas Adiprasetya)가 말했다.

“COVID 위기는 정말로 우리에게 우리가 사용하고 있는 각본을 다시 구성하도록 요청한다고 생각한다.”라고 카리브해 및 북미 지역 의회의 안젤라 마틴스(Angela Martins)는 말했다. “우리는 이 바이러스를 통해 우리의 전통적, 획일적, 세계적 틀에서부터 벗어나 새롭고 신선한 신학적 이해를 가져오도록 요구 받았다.”

“우리는 정말로 전 생명의 경제를 새롭게 상상해야 한다.”라고 WCRC 전략계획 기획팀(SPPG)의 일원인 라스나카라

나다난다(Rathnakara Sadananda)는 말했다. “이는 개혁 요청하는 것이다”

“이는 교회가 된다는 것은 무엇이며 불확실성을 안고 살아간다는 것은 무엇인가에 대한 중요한 질문을 제기한다. 이는 교회가 되는 것의 의미를 재정의하고 있다.”라고 SPPG의 로데릭 휴잇(Roderick Hewitt)은 말했다. “그들은 부차적인 것들을 짚어지지 않는 교회가 되는 다른 방법을 재발견하고 있다. 지금은 신학, 언어, 이런 모든 것들을 다시 탐색하는 시간이다.”

“므펏셰니는 “이는 절차의 시작에 불과하다.”고 언급하면서, 이 절차를 진행하기 위한 실무진이 설립될 것이며, 인식을 에큐메니컬 파트너들과 함께 지역적 배경으로 옮길 것이라고 말하며 회의를 끝맺었다.

이 절차의 예상되는 결과는 다음과 같다:

- COVID-19 전염병에 대한 WCRC 선언문 초안 작성
- 회원교회들과 지역들이 절차에 참여할 수 있게 할 자료들 제작
- 중요한 주제들을 다룰 인터넷 세미나(webinars) 조직
- 다른 WCRC 프로그램에서 중요한 정의의 문제를 다룸
- 2024년 총회의 준비를 안내할 COVID-19 대응에서 나올 더 넓은 비전 탐색

30명 이상의 참여자들은 지리적으로 다양한데, 콜롬비아에서 호주로 “확대”되었고, WCRC 임원들, 실행위원회 임원들, 지역 리더들, SPPG 회원들, 세계선교협의회 대표들과 직원들이 포함되어 있다.

이 회담은 6월 19일 금요일에 열렸다.

Season of Creation 2020 guide now available

A new guide for eco-theological worship resources and activities for the 2020 Season of Creation is now available, thanks to a wide array of ecumenical partners.

The theme for the 2020 Season of Creation is “Jubilee for the Earth,” and the new guide provides creative ways for participation in the Season of Creation liturgical season, which is held annually between 1 September and 4 October.

“In Sunday School as a child I learnt that a jubilee year involved release from indebtedness, restoration of injustices, as well as a time of rest for the land,” said Hefin Jones, WCRC representative on the Season of Creation Advisory Board. “Celebrating Jubilee in the Season of Creation brings together a prophetic voice on climate injustice, along with actions for the restoration of the Earth—equality, justice, sustainability, and a transition to sustainable economies.”

The guide contains an ecumenical prayer service, liturgical resources, meditations, and ideas for action and advocacy that help individuals or congregations animate this year's theme.

The guide helps people explore the reality that, this year, the global reach of the novel coronavirus revealed our shared human nature and the interconnectivity of our economies, political structures, health care systems, food production chains, and energy and transportation systems in devastating ways. The pandemic also demonstrated that the entire web is rooted in the earth and limited by the earth's capacity to sustain our economic and ecological demands. The unjust effects of climate change are a consequence of our inability to find a sustainable balance of this web.



“As a professional ecologist I am only too aware of the integral relationship that exists between the Earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living,” said Jones, who is also a member of the WCRC Executive Committee. “In the year of the far-reaching effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic the need for just and sustainable systems has never been so clear.”

The beginning and the end date of Season of Creation are linked with the concern for creation in the Eastern and the Western traditions of Christianity, respectively.

1 September was proclaimed as a day of prayer for the environment by the late Ecumenical Patriarch Dimittrios I in 1989. The Orthodox church year starts that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. On 4 October, Roman Catholics and other churches from the Western traditions commemorate Francis of Assisi, known to many as the author of the *Canticle of the Creatures*.

Throughout the years, major Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and Anglican organizations have joined to encourage the 2.2 billion Christians worldwide to pray and act on ecological issues.

The Season of Creation is facilitated by the ACT Alliance, Anglican Communion, A Rocha, Christian Aid, European Christian Environmental Network, Global Catholic Climate Movement, Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Network, Lutheran World Federation, World Communion of Reformed Churches, and World Council of Churches.

The guide can be downloaded in English or German from the WCRC website. ●

(Original article courtesy of WCC.)

Die Weltgemeinschaft Reformierter Kirchen sucht ihren nächsten Generalsekretär

Die Weltgemeinschaft Reformierter Kirchen beginnt den Prozess zur Wahl ihres nächsten Generalsekretärs, nachdem Pfarrer Dr. Chris Ferguson seine Amtszeit im August 2021 beendet hat.

„Als eine globale Koinonia streben wir danach, mit und durch das Leben der gesamten Gemeinschaft zu erkennen, zu bekennen, Zeugnis abzulegen und reformiert zu werden, während wir gemeinsam an der Umgestaltung der Welt arbeiten“, sagte Präsidentin Najla Kassab. „Wir sind entschlossen, in Hoffnung zu leben und trotz aller Herausforderungen voranzukommen; den richtigen Kandidaten zu finden, der uns in unserer Arbeit führt, weil wir zur Gemeinschaft berufen und der Gerechtigkeit verpflichtet sind.“

Der Generalsekretär ist „der Hauptgeschäftsführer der Weltgemeinschaft Reformierter Kirchen und ist der Generalversammlung und dem Exekutivausschuss gegenüber dafür verantwortlich, die Arbeit der Weltgemeinschaft zu leiten und zu koordinieren“ (Verfassung, Artikel XII).

Der Generalsekretär trägt die Gesamtverantwortung für die Aktivitäten der Geschäftsstelle; er vertritt die Gemeinschaft und ihre Anliegen in kollegialer und pastoraler Weise; er nimmt regelmäßig am Leben der Mitgliedskirchen teil und ist in enger Zusammenarbeit mit dem Präsidenten, den Amtsträgern und den Mitgliedern des Exekutivausschusses für die Ausführung der Aufträge der Generalversammlung verantwortlich.

Eine vollständige Stellenausschreibung für die Position des Generalsekretärs, zusammen mit Angaben zu Qualifikations- und anderen Bewerbungsanforderungen, ist auf der folgenden Website zu finden: www.wcrc.ch/search

Die Bewerbungsfrist läuft bis zum 30. November 2020 ●



General Secretary search begins

General Secretary Chris Ferguson will complete his term of service to the WCRC in August 2021. The Executive Committee will elect the next general secretary during its meeting in May 2021, and a General Secretary Search Committee has been established to recommend a nominee. Applications are due by 30 November 2020. Full information on applying can be found at: <http://wrcr.ch/search>

Konferensi daring menyerukan ekonomi kehidupan dalam masa pandemi COVID-19

Konferensi daring “Ekonomi Kehidupan dalam Masa Pandemi” berfokus pada dampak sosio-ekonomi-ekologi dari krisis COVID-19 dan bagaimana krisis ini menawarkan kepada dunia sebuah kesempatan untuk memikirkan kembali dan membentuk ulang sistem keuangan dan ekonomi demi memprioritaskan kesehatan dan kesejahteraan komunitas serta planet bumi.

Konferensi tersebut mempertemukan sekitar 25 orang ekonom, teolog, aktivis keadilan sosial serta pemimpin gereja yang bersama-sama membahas faktor-faktor historis dan politis yang telah mengarahkan kepada dan masih terus membingkai krisis yang terjadi.

Mereka juga membahas implikasi teologis, etis dan moral serta transformasi jangka pendek maupun jangka panjang yang diperlukan dalam kebijakan, institusi dan sistem untuk meringankan dan mencegah lebih banyak penderitaan, tetapi juga, yang lebih penting, untuk mengatasi akar dari krisis ini.

Chris Ferguson, Sekretaris Umum World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), menekankan bahwa skenario global saat ini menyerukan agar kita “menunjukkan dan meneruskan visi dan tema inti dari Arsitektur Keuangan dan Finansial Baru (New International Financial and Economic Architecture/ NIFEA), dan bahwa semua ini harus selalu bersifat transformasional.”

“Kita perlu mengajukan pertanyaan tentang hutang dan perpajakan. Langkah kita berikutnya, termasuk langkah dalam jangka pendek, tidak bisa tidak radikal,” kata Ferguson.

“Dalam terang COVID-19 yang menyilaukan, kita melihat lebih jelas ketimpangan pendapatan dan kekayaan

yang ada. Kita melihat ketidaksetaraan gender yang besar dan perbedaan generasi yang ada dalam sistem ekonomi kita,” kata Isabel Apawo Phiri, wakil sekretaris umum Dewan Gereja Dunia (World Council of Churches/WCC).

“Tanggapan kita terhadap pandemi ini dapat saja mengubah dunia menjadi lebih baik, dan secara mendasar mentransformasi cara kita hidup, apa yang kita makan dan beli, apa yang kita produksi, bagaimana kita mendistribusikan barang serta di mana kita berinvestasi,” tambahnya.

Bagi Collin Cowan, sekretaris umum Dewan Misi Dunia (Council for World Mission/CWM), “bentuk dan besarnya pengaruh pandemi ini mungkin telah membuatnya kabur, tetapi tulisan-tulisan itu, yang sudah ada di dinding untuk waktu yang sangat lama, semuanya menunjuk pada beberapa bencana global yang tidak siap kita hadapi karena nasionalisme yang melayani diri sendiri, pengabaian yang tak berperasaan terhadap orang miskin serta sikap dan perilaku ketakutan terhadap “yang lain” telah membuat kita terpojok, terlindung, dan tidak siap menghadapi bencana sebesar ini.”

“Sistem ekonomi kita harus memprioritaskan individu di atas laba. Kita tidak boleh lupa untuk melindungi mata pencaharian dan kebutuhan dasar manusia,” kata Martin Junge, sekretaris umum Federasi Luteran Sedunia (Lutheran World Federation/ LWF).

“COVID-19 menyerukan lebih lanjut kepada kita untuk mengadakan pembaruan teologis dan etis di mana kita menangani ketidaksetaraan, kemiskinan, serta kebijakan publik untuk memastikan adanya sumber daya yang cukup dan akses yang sama

untuk layanan kesehatan. Sekarang ini adalah saat untuk menghidupkan kembali percakapan ini,” tambah Junge.

Sesi daring “Ekonomi Kehidupan dalam Masa Pandemi” adalah bagian dari dan dipromosikan oleh inisiatif NIFEA dari empat organisasi tersebut di atas yang berupaya untuk mempromosikan sistem keuangan alternatif yang harus muncul dari imajinasi mereka yang termarginalisasi, dari mereka yang telah ditinggalkan dalam pengambilan keputusan sosial-ekonomi serta politik.

Dua sesi konferensi ini, yang diadakan pada 17 dan 24 April, mengarah pada pengembangan pesan bersama dari organisasi penyelenggara, yang juga akan menjadi dasar advokasi terhadap lembaga keuangan dan ekonomi utama seperti Dana Moneter Internasional (IMF), Bank Dunia, G20 dan PBB.

Inisiatif NIFEA berawal pada Sidang Raya Penyatuan WCRC 2010 sebagai sarana memprogramkan Konferensi Accra dan dimungkinkan melalui pendanaan dari Otto per Mille. ●

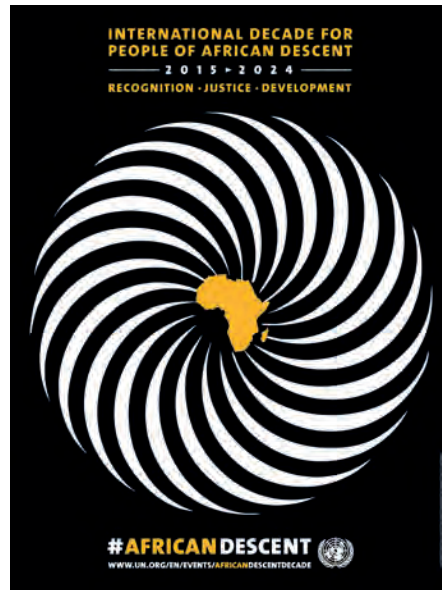
WCRC joins ecumenical call against racism

The following have signed this letter: Anglican Church in Canada, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Council for World Mission, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, KAIROS Canada, National Council of Churches (USA), Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, The United Church of Canada, The Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ, World Communion of Reformed Churches, World Council of Churches.

As people of faith, we welcome the debate held by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on 17-18 June on “current racially inspired human rights violations, systematic racism, police brutality against people of African descent and violence against peaceful protests” and the call for the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry into the on-going human rights violations of African descendant people in the United States and globally.

The recent killing of George Floyd in the United States sparked protests across the world and was the catalyst for calls for the UNHRC to hold this debate which was supported by 54 African countries and more than 600 human rights organizations around the world.

The world watched for 8 minutes and 46 seconds as a police officer knelt on the neck of Mr. Floyd resulting in his death. George Floyd’s murder points to the systemic and pervasive ways in which racism continues to inflict death and pain on black communities globally. Racism is a global problem that needs to be changed through legislation and intentional actions such as holding countries accountable for the systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice because of racism. The world is responding to these deadly acts of racism. The call for action from the United Nations is timely, it is appropriate and is an acknowledgement of the oppression, marginalization and killing of Black people.



The United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) was an invitation from the UN for the world to recognize that African descendant people are a group whose rights have to be promoted and protected. Noting that there are over 200 million people of African descent in the Americas, the decade calls for recognition, justice and development. In naming the need for promotion and protection of human rights of African descendant people, the UN is ensuring that George Floyd and others receive justice for the grievous actions committed against them. We must ensure that each individual has the right to live in freedom with dignity and respect, and to have their human and civil rights guaranteed.

Anti-black racism and racist actions are violations of human rights. These acts of racism against African

descendant people are well documented historically and in our contemporary contexts. The historic roots of anti-black racism are grounded in the commodification of African lives as seen in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, the East Africa Slave Trade, and the disregard for those who were enslaved and their descendants.

The call for change has not been enough. Petitions to their nations’ capitals have not brought about the deep changes that are necessary in countries around the world. As Christians believing in the love of God and the call for justice in the Judeo-Christian scriptures, we join with organizations around the world in calling for change and to the upholding of the human rights of African descendant people.

We welcome the words of Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, UN Special Rapporteur on Racism Professor E. Tendayi Achiume, High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, and other speakers in the debate who condemned the murder of George Floyd and the structural injustice and oppression both in the US and elsewhere which allowed it to happen. We salute the bravery of Mr. Floyd’s brother Philonise Floyd who so movingly shared the tragic details of his brother’s last moments, conveying the trauma he and his family are experiencing following the loss of a much-loved member of their family in these circumstances.

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WCRC condemns the injustice of racism in the United States



“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet the stones will cry out.”
—Luke 19:40

The World Communion of Reformed Churches expresses its grief, anger, and solidarity over the murder of George Floyd and the many, many other black people who have been killed in the United States by police forces.

In no uncertain terms we condemn this act of police brutality and call on the appropriate authorities on all levels to take quick action to bring the perpetrators to justice and address the long-standing root causes. We call for solidarity against anti-black racism understanding that racism in all its forms and the many ways it intersects with gender, ethnicity, and culture needs to be overcome. Racism has taken from us the lives of women, men, trans-persons, and even children.

We are appalled at the continuing systemic racism that undergirds the brutal violence faced by black communities and call for demolishing the structures of racism and the dismantling of white privilege. As our member church ECO states, “Simply put, racism is wrong. It is inconsistent with

the gospel of Jesus Christ and the church must work against it.”

We call on our member churches in the United States and elsewhere to commit to undoing the injustice of racism while at the same time acknowledging our complicity in upholding racism and racist ideologies, confessing, repenting, seeking forgiveness, and working towards reconciliation and reparations. We lift up the cries of the black community and call for the raising of voices of lament and the joining of hands in resistance.

“America is a society suffering from... a wound that was self-inflicted four hundred years ago through the institution of slavery and has never healed. It is an issue foundational to America. The black/white, slave/free legacy and current mindset must be dealt with before any peoples can be free in this nation,” said a pastoral letter from the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

The Ottawa General Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (a predecessor to the WCRC) declared what can be found in the Belhar Confession: “Racism is a sin, and the theological support of racist ideologies is a heresy.” We continue to lift up both this declaration

and Confession today and call on all our member churches as well as the global ecumenical community to speak firmly and prophetically against the sin of racism.

Along with the United Church of Christ, we affirm that “we are called to uproot white supremacy in all of its forms.”

With the Presbyterian Church (USA) we affirm blackness by stating, “GOD LOVES BLACKNESS. Too many have denied this basic truth for too long. Our choice to align ourselves with love and not hate requires both a rejection of racism and a positive proclamation that God delights in black lives.”

We acknowledge that racism is part of a global system of dominance that is intertwined and embedded with an unjust economic system, ecological violence, and patriarchy. In the Accra Confession we declared, “Therefore we reject any theology that claims that God is only with the rich, and that poverty is the fault of the poor. We reject any form of injustice which destroys right relations—gender, race, class, disability, or caste. We reject any theology which affirms that human interests dominate nature.”

We acknowledge that this system has resulted in what we can firmly

La reconciliación toma forma en la acción concreta en Argentina

name as Global Apartheid which seeks the consolidation of the power of few at the cost of the many and particularly those communities who are racialized. With the Evangelical Presbyterian Church we affirm that we are called “to speak out for justice and equality; to speak against racism, injustice, and inequality; and to work to arrest the origins of civil unrest—namely, poverty, racial separation, immorality, and a lack of radical love.”

In this moment of crisis we are called to adequately and deeply discern the signs of the times and to imagine and work towards another world in which the humanity and dignity of each individual is lifted up and the sinful structures of death are brought down. For we know that the Lord requires us “to act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

We particularly call on local communities and congregations to address the issue of police brutality by engaging local government agencies to dismantle the culture that encourages, embraces, and uses “use-of-force” policies and to demilitarize police forces.

We further call on churches to have crucial conversations on race and racism that work towards racial justice and specifically call all churches to examine and root out the role white privilege plays in their theology and praxis. Along with the Reformed Church in America we urge all our members to explore how they practically live out the Belhar Confession’s principles of justice, reconciliation, and unity.

We call on our churches and the wider ecumenical community to join in a day of lament, fasting, and prayer on 8 June—and let it only be a start to a continuing struggle for justice. ●

A pesar que la Comunión Mundial de Iglesias Reformadas y la Conferencia Mundial Menonita recién anunciaron el comienzo de una serie de diálogos bilaterales para fortalecer sus lazos, las comunidades reformadas y menonitas en Argentina resolvieron profundizar su propia cooperación.

Con buenos vínculos que datan desde hace mucho tiempo, las denominaciones argentinas inicialmente pensaron organización de un culto unido que pudiera dar forma al común anhelo de abrazarse en el servicio a un mundo sufrido y lastimado que necesita un toque sanador de la gracia de Dios.

El mencionado culto se realizaría a principios de 2020, pero la pandemia de COVID-19 cambió las prioridades. De repente, se convocó a comunidades religiosas para ayudar a las personas más vulnerables. De pronto las comunidades de fe fueron convocadas al servicio hacia las personas más vulnerables.

“Comenzamos a colaborar unas con otras en aquello que pudiera potenciar la diaconía comunitaria en los lugares donde cada una da testimonio de su fe concreta, en hechos concretos, en gestos de amor”, expresa el pastor reformado Gerardo Oberman. “Nuestra vinculación en el marco de la Pastoral Social Evangélica nos brindó la oportunidad de conocernos más, de valorar lo que cada una de las comunidades está haciendo en fidelidad al Evangelio liberador de Jesús.”

Por otro lado, animados por la Red Crearte, personas de diversas denominaciones, incluyendo a menonitas y reformados, y de varios países de América Latina, colaboran con una propuesta celebrativa en línea cada semana.

“Hemos sido desafiados a la cooperación fraterna y sorora con nuestros hermanos y hermanas reformadas, materializando aquella famosa frase de Menno Simons... Porque la verdadera fe evangélica... no puede permanecer dormida; sino que se manifiesta en toda justicia y obras de amor; ella... viste al desnudo; alimenta al hambriento; consuela a los afligidos; refugia a los excluidos; ayuda y consuela a todos los oprimidos; devuelve bien por mal”, manifestó Luis María Alman Bornes, Consejo Pastoral de la Comunidad Anabautista Menonita de Buenos Aires.

En ese sentido, el pensamiento menonita sintoniza con la preocupación de Calvino por la justicia social y su ética política y social, con fuerte impacto en el ejercicio económico responsable de la sociedad ginebrina de su tiempo, convirtiendo a la ciudad en una ciudad de puertas abiertas para refugiados y perseguidos, con una vasta tarea solidaria y de inclusión.

“En el marco de esta pandemia que recién empieza y que tendrá consecuencias sociales y económicas de efectos devastadores en importantes sectores de la población, necesitamos hoy más que nunca un ecumenismo de gestos concretos, que no solo sane las memorias del pasado, sino que construya también un presente inclusivo, sin sectarismos, que valore la riqueza de la diversidad que tienen nuestras tradiciones eclesiales”, afirma Oberman.

“Al menos en eso estamos animadas en este rincón del planeta las comunidades menonitas y reformadas. Sin duda el mejor camino hacia una reconciliación en la acción diaconía y solidaria, sostenida en la oración y en fidelidad al Evangelio, por el bien de nuestros prójimos y prójimas”, concluyó. ●

Let Me Breathe!

God of life, who breathed life into creation; Jesus, Son of God, who breathed the Holy Spirit onto his disciples; Holy Spirit, Comforter, who breathed tongues of fire on to the disciples, give us life, give us breath, let us breathe. Amen.

Rekia Boyd, Shereese Francis, Ramarley Graham, Manuel Loggins Jr., Jamar Clark, Michael Brown Jr., Ezzel Ford, Eric Garner, Akai Gurley, Laquan McDonald, Tamir Rice, Yvette Smith, Oliver Jarrod, Gregoire, George V King, Dominique Franklin Jr., Rondre Lamar Hornbeak, Emmerson Clayton Jr., Tommy Yancy, Quentin Byrd, John H. Crawford III, Ricky Deangelo Hinkle, Jerome C. Reid, Wally Flex, Corey Levert Tanner, Tanisha Anderson, Zikarious Flint, Antoine Dominique Hunter, Charles Goodridge, Jasson Harisson, Anesson Joseph, Steven Isby, Juan Muay, Gregory Lewis Towns Jr., Christopher Mccray, Justin Sullivan, Jacqueline Nichols, Ronald Singleton, Ernest Satterwhite, Florence White, Howard Wallace Bowe Jr., Venircia Woodard, DeAngelo Woods, Treon Johnson, Kaldrick Donald, Robert Baltimore, Cameron Tillman, Jordan Baker, Halis Kinsey, Kenneth Christopher Lucas, Asia Roundtree, Eddie Ray Epperson, David Andre Scoot, Eugene William, Lavon King, Craig J. McKinnis, John T. Wilson, Willie Sams, Robert Stora, Eric Ricks, Cedric Stanley, Tyrone Davis, Emanuel Jean-Baptiste, Victor White III, Lashano Gilbert, Eric garner, Akai Gurley, David Yearby, Cortez Washington, Jacorey Calhoun, Christopher Jones, Latandra Ellington, Mark Anthoy Blocker, Arvel Douglas Williams, Willie Harden, Romain Brisbon, Dustin Keith Glover, Balantine Mbegbu, Mathew Wolker, Levon Leroy Love, Tyree Woodson, Andre Milton, Darrien Nathaniel Hunt, DeAndre Llyod Starks, Kameron Jackson, Jerome Dexter Christmas, Dennis Grigsby, Michael Ricardo Minor, Amir Brooks, Iretha Lilly, Adam Ardettd Madison, Dante Parker, Samuel Shields, D'Andre Berghardt Jr., Briatay McDuffie, Montez Dewayne Hambric, Anthony Bartley, Jerry Brown, Jeffrey Ragland, Keara Crowder, Brian Demarcus West, Keith Childress, Quintonio LeGrier, Bettie Jone, Daquan Westbrook, Terrozza Griffin, Kevin Matthew, Michael Noels, Chan Lieths, Bobby Daniel, Lionels Waters, Leroy Browning, Ronnie Carr, Nicholas Robertsen, Calvin McKinnis, Javario Eagle, Charles Rosemond, Christopher Goodlow, Miguel Espinal, Dimitrie Penny, Derek Stokes, Raymone Davis, Carlumandarlo Zaramo, Mario Woods, Darius Smith, Freddy Baez, Steve Dormil, Randy Smith, Nathaniel Pickett, Darrick Napper, Marcus Meridy, Cornelius Brown, Yohan Leon, Jeray Chatham, Demetrius Bryant, Shane Whitehead, Richard Perkins, Jamar Clark, Rashad Bugg-Bey, Ryan Martin, Michael Marshall, John Allen, James Covington Jr., Delvin Simmons, Alonzo Smith, Bennie Lee Tignor, Tony Berry, Brian Crawford, Deaunte Bell, Anthony Ashford, Jerry Graham Jr., Rolly Thomas, Tyrie Cuyler, Marquesha McMillan, Lawrence Green, Kevin Brunson, Adriene Ludd, Dominic Hutchinson, Dion Ramirez, Lamontez Jones, Cory Jones, Rayshaun Cole, Paterson Brown, De'quan Williams, Ricky Ball, Martin Ryan, Kaleb Alexander, Jason Day, Leslie Portis Jr., Bernard Powers, Charles Pettit Jr., James McBride, Jeffery McCallum, Junior Prosper, Brandon Johnson, James Anderson, Anthony McKinney, Robert Berger, Ernesto Lopez, Jeremy McDole, Keith McLeod, Dante Osborne, Bobby Anderson, Adrian Campbell, Joseph Johnson-Shanks, Tyrone Bass, Brandon Foy, Clifford Butler Jr., Wayne Wheeler, Tyrone Holman, India Kagger, Lavante Biggs, Tyree Crawford, Angelo Perry, Cedric Williams, James Carney III, James Brown III, Felix Kumi, Yonas Alehegn, Bertrand Davis, Thaddeus Faison, Curtis Smith, Mansur Ball-Bey, Frederick Roy, Deviere Ransom, Garland Tyree, Alen Baker III, Asshams Manley, Redel Jones, Reginald Marshall, Nathaniel Wilks, Andre Green, Shamir Palmer, Tsombe Clark, Derrick Hunt, Christian Taylor, Troy Robinson, Max Gracia, Raymond Hodge, Antonio Clements, Darius Graves, Keshawn Hargrove, Earl Jackson, Khari Westly, Bryan Day, Dontae Martin, Devon Guisher, Andre Williams, Samuel DuBose, Albert Davis, Edward Foster, Antonie Smith, Chacarion Avant, Salvado Ellswood, Frederick Farmer, George Mann, Freddie Blue, Martice Milliner, Eugene McSwain, Javon Hawkins, Jonathan Sanders, Tremaine Dantzler, Marcellus Burley, Jason Hendley, Robert Malone, Maximo Rabasa, Kawanza Beaty, Kevin Judson, Victor Larosa III, Damien Harrell, Spencer McCain, Kevin Bajoie, Tyrone Harris, Trepierre Hummons, Alfontish Cockerham, Kris Jackson, Jermaine Benjamin, Deng Manyoun, Kevin Higgenbotham, Fritz Severe, Alan Williams, Isiah Humpton, Charles Ziegler, Ross Anthony, Quandavier Hicks, Andrew Ellebe, Sherman Byrd, Demouria Hogg, Richard Davis, Usaama Rahim, Curtis Jordan, Kevin Allen, Kenneth Dohard, James Strong, Dalton Branch, Anthony Briggs, Jerome Caldwell, Caso Jackson, Marcus Wheeler, Javoris Washington, Anthony Gomez Jr., Chrislon Talbott, Lorenzo Hayes, Ronell Wade, Kelvin Goldston, Lionel Young, Sam Holmes, Dedrick Marshall, Nephi Arriguin, Jason Champion, Nunnah Laroche, Brendon Glenn, Alton Simpson, Alexia Christian, Jeffery Adkins, Jared Johnson, Bryan Overstreet, Terrance Kellome, David Felix, Todd Dye, William Chapman, Samuel Harell, Reginald McGregor, Daniel Wolfe, Norman Cooper, Jeffery Kemp, Thaddeus McCarroll, Darell Brown, Tevin Barkley, Donte Noble, Frank "Trey" Shepherd III, Karl Taylor, Colby Robinson, Mack Long, Freddie Gray, Don Smith, Desmond Willis, Walter Scott, Paul Anderson, Justus Howell, Donald "Dontay" Ivy, Eric Harris, Darrin Langford, Robert Washington, Phillip White, Mya Hall, Jason Moland, Dominick Wise, Byron Herbert, Jamal Hall, Meagan Hockaday, Angelo West, Douglas Harris, Jeremy Kelly, Nicholas Thomas, Walter Brown III, Devin Gaze, Richard White, Denzel Brown, Brandon Jones, Askari Roberts, Kendre Alston, Jonathan Paul, Bobby Gross, Terrance Moxley, Theodore Johnson, Jamie Groom, Cedrick Bishop, Anthony Hill, Monique Deckard, Tony Robinson, Naeschylus Vinzant, Andrew William, Bernard Moore, Tyrone Lawrence, Fednel Rhinvil, Thomas Allen Jr., Shaquille Barrow, Darell Hubbard, Charly "Africa" Keunang, Cornelius Parker, Ian Sherrod, Glen Lewis, A'donte Washington, Calvin Reid, Terry Price, Janissa Vonville, Stanley Grant, Lavall Hall, Phillip Watkins, Anthony Bess, James Allen, Desmond Luster, Herbert Hill, Jeremy Lett, Markell Atkins, Yvette Henderson, Jimmy Robinson Jr., Natasha McKenna, Ledarius Williams, Dewayne Ward Jr., Edwarg Bright, Jermonte Fletcher, Alvin Haynes, Darin Hutchins, Tiano Meton, Demaris Turner, Isaac Holmes, Terence Walker, Rodney Walker, Kavonda Payton, Donte Sowell, Dewayne Carr, Mario Jordan, Marcus Golden, Omarr Jackson, Ronald Sneed, Artago Howard, Andre Murphy Sr., Hashim Abdul-Rasheed, Brian Pickett, Leslie Sapp III, Frank Smart, Matthew Ajibade, James Rich, Jamal Rollins, Gerald Hall, Terrence Thomas Jr., Ryan Joseph, Marlon Lewis, Anthony Eddington, Lavar Douglas, Earl Eubanks Jr., Waltki Williams, Redrick Batiste, Mark Hicks, Norman Gary, Bruce Johnson II, Jason Stringer, David Crosby-Dowdy, Abdul Artan, Irecas Valentine, Richard Grimes, Terrell Walker, Jerome Harmon, Cloetha Mitchell, Kajuan Raye, Talif Scudder, Ivory Pantallion III, Frank Clark, George Bush III, Darius Jones, Erickson Brito, Samson Fleurant, Dontrell Carter, Rasheem Singletary, Andrew Depeiza, Ritchie Harbison, Joshua Beal, Darryl Chisholm, Ferguson Lauren, Keenan Bradley, Terrence Colleman, Michelle Shirley, Thad Hale, Jason King, Roy Richards, Malcolm Hickson, Aaron Ballard, Demetrius Moore, Deborah Danner, Darius Wimberly, Deric Brown, Kirk Figueroa, Larry Matthew, Jaquar Mathis Donte Jones, Christopher Shackelford, Reginald Thomas, Carnell Snell Jr., Najjer Salaam, Jacquarius Robinson, George Richards-Meyers, Douglas Rainey, Alfred Olango, Christopher Sowell, Keith Scott, Oddis Colvin Jr., Kadeem Trotter, Philip Hession, Dahir Adan, Terence Crutcher, Nicholas Glenn, Tyre King, Markell Bivins, Terrence Sterling, Sadiq Idris, Robert Brown, Gregory Frazier, Moses Ruben, Micahel Thomson Jr., Jerome Damon, Jaqwan Terry, Levon Riggins, Donta Taylor, Alfred Toe, Kelley Forte, Brandon Coles, Omer Ismail Ali, Kenney Watkins, Colby Friday, Sylville Smith, Kendrick Brown, Fred Barlow, Jawari Porter, Darnell Wicker, Jamarion Robinson, Earl "Shaleek" Pinckney, Demarco Newman, Korryn Gaines, Paul O'neal, Joyce Quaweay, Jeffrey Smith, Donnell Thompson Jr., Devon Martes, Dalvin Hollins, Jeffrey Tyson, Richard Risher Jr., Austin Howard, Bernard Wells III, Derek Love, Jermaine Johnson, Gavin Long, Orville Edward, DeAngelo Webb, Josepg Mann, Taylor Gebhard, Jason Brooks, Andre Johnson, Alva Braziel, Earnest Fells, Micah Johnson, Alton Sterling, Earnest Fells, Sidney Washington, Philando Castile, Jai Williams, Delrawn Small, Carlos Brown, Kawme Patrick, Sherman Evans, Tyrone Reado, Laffayette Evans, Germichael Kennedy, Ismael Miranda, Donte Johnson, Jay Anderson, Deravis "Caine" Rogers, Angelo Brown, Quencezola Splunge, Isaiah Core III, Antonio Richardson, Raufeal Bostick, Rashawn Lloyd, Gary Porter, Clarence Howard, Antwun Shumpert, Michael Moore, John William, Lyndarius Witherspoon, Keith Bursey, John Brisco, Willis Walker Jr., Henry Green, Demarco Rhymes, William "Meat-Meat" James, Rodney Smith, Michael Johnson, Ollie Brooks, Osee Calix, Devonte Gantes, Dennis Hudson, Terry Frost, Doll Pierre-Louis, Vernell Bing Jr., Michael Wilson Jr., Joshua Beebee, Kentrill Carraway, Jessica William, Jabril Robinson, Sean Mondragon, Jaffort Smith, Arthur DaRosa, Arthur Williams Jr., Lionel Gibson, Alton

Witchard, Ronald Williams Jr., Burt Johnson, Deresha Armstrong, Reginald Dogan, Matthew Tucker, Charlin Charles, Ashtian Barnes, Joshua Brooks, Terrill Thomas, Willie Tillman, Demarcus Semer, Jorevis Scruggs, Rico Johnson, Demetrius Dorsey, Richard Bard Jr., Kisha Arrone, Edson Thevenin, George Tillman, Robert Howard, Pierre Loury, Rodney Watts, Mary Truxillo, Quon Williams, Diahlo Grant, Lamont Gully, Dazion "Jerome" Flenaugh, Laronda Sweatt, Kevin Hicks, Darius Robinson, Cameron Glover, Matthew Wood Jr., Kimani Johnson, James Simpson, James Brown III, Deriante Miller, Jermon Seals, Dominique Silva, Alexio Allen, Robert Dentmond, Torrey Robinson, Thurman Reynolds, India Beaty, Scott Bennett, Christopher Nelms, Lamar Harris, Jacai Colson, Peter Gaines, Marco Loud, Keith Montgomery Jr., Tyre Privott, Artaier Porter Jr., Akiel Denkins, Kionte Spencer, Greg Gunn, Cedric Ford, Christopher Davis, Travis Stevenson, Marquintan Sandlin, Kisha Michael, Che Taylor, Paul Gaston, Dyzhawn Perkins, Calvin Smith, Calin Roquemore, Ali Yahia, Sahlah Ridgeway, Peter Fanfan, Mohamed Barry, Jerand Ross, Shalamar Longer, Eric Harris, David Joseph, Marese Collins, Antronie Scott, Wendell Celestine Jr., Peter John, Randy Nelson, Charles Smith, Bruce Kelley Jr., Christopher Dew, Randolph McClain, Christopher Kalonji, Janet Wilson, Jonathan Bratcher, Tomothy Albert, Cedric Norris, Henry Bennett, Crayton West, Rakeem Bentley, Carlton Murphy Jr., Rodney Turner, Eric Senegal, Germonta Wallace, Trevon Johnson, Mark Guirguis, James E. Lewis, James Owens, Ruben Randolph, Jamal Parks, JR Williams, Davion Henderson, Darrion Barnhil, Jahlire Nicholson, Herbert Johnson, Marquis Thomas, Arties Manning, Kevin Darnell, Deaundre Phillips, Mi'Chance Dunlap-Gittens, Marvin Washington, Michael Russo, Jamake Cason Thomas, Johnnie J. Harris, Nana Adomako, Shelly Porter, Jerome Allen, Cole Wooley, Curtis Jamal Deal, Chad Robertson, Quanice Derrick Hayes, Jocques Scott Clemmons, Carlos Keith Blackman, Darryl L. Fuqua, Alonzo E. Ashley, Willard Eugene Scott, Raynard Burton, Kenneth Lee Bailey, Kadeem Torres, Jimmy Briggs, Jean R. Valescot, Chance David Baker, Keo Crockett, Christopher Carter, Don Clark, Medger Blake, Timothy Lionel Williams, Lorenzo Antoine Cruz, Earl Riley, Christopher Redding, Epthen Lamont Johnson, Dennis Todd Rogers, Brandon Wiley, Luke O. Stewart, Rashad Daquan Opher, Cordale Quinn Handy, Frederick Ricardo Brown, Jermaine Claybrooks, Rodney James Hess, Patrick Earl Gatson, Desmond Phillips, Alteria Woods, Don Johnson, William Stokes, Eddie Davis, Reno Joseph Owens, Leroy Brown, Marcus Williams, Christopher Wade, Glenn Watenpool, Richard Xavier Summers, Kenneth Francis, Zelalem Eshetu Ewnetu, Olugbalah Ridley, Keith Price, William D. Spates, Kendell Wilson, Daezion Turner, Hakim McNair, Gavin Williams, Selwyn Aubrey Hall, Burgon Sealy, Avery Richard, Jordan Edwards, Caleb Jackson, James Edward Ray, Rodney Henderson, Malik Carey, Landon Nobles, Mikel Laney McIntyre, Terry Percy Campbell, Terrell Kyreem Johnson, Robin White, Ronald Singletary, Clarence E. Coats, Jaison Fitzgerald, Tristan Long, Jimmie Montel Sanders, Ricco Devante Holden, Shaquian Tyrone Johnson, Charles Darnell Bake, John Spaulding, Joshua Barre, Terry Williams, Jordan Frazier, Giovonn Joseph-McDade, Lawrence Heyward Jr., Deveonte Johnson, Rodney L. Cole, Aaron Bailey, Joel Gatut Muturi, Quintec Locke, Zepp Crouchet, Alexander Bonds, Dejuan Guillory, Brian Easley, Kareem Ali Nadir Jones, Cardell Vance III, Edward Taylor, Antonio Garcia Jr., Vaughn Shaw, India N. Nelson, Isaiah Perkins, Aries Clark, Kesharn K. Burney, Deltra Henderson, Jashod Arthur Carter, Dwayne Jeune, Isaiah Tucker, Kerry Bradley, Preston Thornton, Quintas Harris, Kemonte Cobbs, Danatae Franklin, Darreon Neal, Eugene Nelson, Tyrease Carlyle, Patrick Harmon, Hussein Hassan, Herbert Gilbert, Kenneth Lewis, Keshawn Wilson, Nathaniel Richmond, Kiwi Herring, Scott Mayfield, Charles David Robinson, Michael Malik Kawon Lee, William Matthew Holmes, Ricky Ard, Anthony Antonio Ford, Ervin Eugene Sweat Jr., Brian Ziro, Eddie Russell Jr., Haraesheo Rice, Anthony Robinson, Demilo Trayuon Hodge, Marquis "Bubba" Jones, Sandy Guardiola, Jomekia Minter, Corey Boykin, John Robert Payne, J.C. Hawkins, Eric Garrison, Dewboy Lister, Timothy Earl Jackson, Antonio Levison, Jerry Richardson, Eric Higgs, Luvelle Kennon, Jarrett Varnado, Thomas Aikens, John Bazemore III, Phillip Pitts, Cornell Lockhart, Calvin Toney, Chester Randolph Ward, Shady Bel, Rehyen Bost-McMurray, Jackie Germaine Ragland, Aquoness Cathery, Rufus Cedric Baker, Keita O'Neil, Johnnie D. Carter, Jean Pedro Pierre, Zoe Dowdell, Michael Wilson, Todd A. Stone, Jesse Scarsbrook, Dennis Plowden, Corey Bailey, Shaleem Tindle, Ledarren D. Mixon, John Bailon, Trayvon Mitchell, Richard R. Towler, Shalun Dique Smith, Amanuel Dagebo, Jihad Merrick, Brian Gregory, Donte D. Shannon, Kevin Sturgis, Arther McAfee Jr., Ricky Jerome Boyd, Nathaniel T. Edwards, William Pollard, Crystalline Barnes, Billy Lewis Rucker, Michael Hansford, Anthony Joe Williams, Brett Dontae Bush, Anthony Jacob Weber, Tierre Guthrie, David Darden, Mark Daniels, Ronnell Foster, Lamar Green, Lawrence Shaw, Glenn Tyndell, Lonnie Smith, Edward Hallinan, Lee Edward Bonner, Darion Baker, Joshua D. Babb, Haydon Taylor, Marlon Smith, Qawi A. Muhammad, Marvin McMillian, James E. Waters, Jamil Harvey, Decynthia Clements, Cameron Hall, James Alfonso Vaughn, Stephon Clark, Danny Thomas, Edward Van McCrae, Bobby Hinton, Timothy Wyatt, Brian Bellamy, Saheed Vassell, Terrance Eppenger, Kenneth Ross, Dashaun Shepard, Steven Brooks, Andre Lavance Rippy, Sanchez Lowe, Dytadious Mobley, David Teneyuque, Demonjhea Jordan, Isaac Jackson, Abadi Gebregziber, Timothy Raye Mayfield, Elliott Reed, Anthony Trice, Jerick Rasheem Gray, Maurice Granton, Raymon Truitt, LaShanda Anderson, Marqeese Alston, Terrence White, Dwayne Clyburn, Tahaji Wells, Jonathan Buckley, Anthony Marcell Green, Timothy Deal, Thurman Blevins, Detandel Pickens, Devon, Rodney Lee Hunter, Chukwumankpam Mbegbu, Terrell Eason, Charles Webb, Rashaun Washington, Harith Augustus, Jethro Benjamin, Marlin Mack, Devaughdre Delsha Rogers, DMario Perkins, Daniel Hambrick, James Edward Blackmon, David Edward Hall, Tramaine Marquese Poole, Danny Lee, Spurgeon Daniels, Levester Taylor, Ricardo Giddings, Vaughn Denham, Stephen L. Caldwell, Charles Meadows, Gregory Campfield, Montae Shackelford, Anthony Makai Hutchinson, Christopher Anthony Stone, Mario Hobson, Aquantis Givens, Jeremiah Perdue, James Clay, Jalon Johnson, Oshae Terry, Aaron Demonta Fleming, DaShawn Cole, Thomas Watkins, Detric Driver, Nathaniel Sassafras, Dravious Burch, Paul Braswell, Patrick K. Kimmons, Toby Bailey, Serashawn Martez Dillon, Terrell Blake, Diamonte Riviere, Samuel Morris, Keyshon Parham, Jacob Servais, Cedric Pritchard, Armond Beckwith-Bell, Derrick Alexander Sellman, Tony Bernard Smith, Jose Centeno, Jesse J. Quinton, Laudemer Arboleda, Theoddeus Gray, Patrick Bryant, Tony Mathis, Timothy Leon, Olajuwon Murphy, Allen Fanning, Jack Fields Jr., Rio Antwuan Thomas, Roderick McDaniel, Roderick McDaniel, Eugene Benjamin Weathers, Jarmane Logan, John Young, Anthony M. Edwards, Dimaggio McNelly, Julius Ervin Tate, Joshua Boyd, Marcus Neal, Tameka LaShay Simpson, April Webster, Angel Viola Decarlo, Wayne Falana, Shane Lyons, Kerry D. Blake, Michael Dean, Jamee Johnson, Antwon Rose, Stephon Clark, Natosha "Tony" McDade Eric Reason, Matthew Burroughs, Abdoulaye Thiam, Lawrence Thompson III, Johnny Lee Burney, Juston Landry, D'ettrick Griffin, Quency Chavez Floyd, Mikyas Mehary Tegegne, Dwight Steward, Gregory Griffin, Allon Jones, Bruce Carter, Alex Johnson, Michael Elam, Pierre Woods, Kyron Marcell Sands, Bradley Blackshire, Luke Anthony Swann, Donqaule Maurice Gray, Rodney Lassiter, Nina Adams, Thomas Johnson, Derek Smith, Oscar Cain, Veltavious Griggs, Marzeus Scott, Myron Flowers, Kevin Leroy Beasley, Edward Fuller, Pamela Shantay Turner, Ruben Houston, Enosa Strickland, Crystal Danielle Ragland, Samuel Galberth, Kevin Pudlik, Ryan Twyman, Rodnell Cotton, Vincense Williams Jr., Marquis Weems, Tramon Savage, DeWayne Watkins, Jaymil Ellerbe, Bradley Rundle, Elijah Collins III, Benjamin Ray Smith, Gene Pool, Ben Fields, Kareem Omar Morgan, Tymar Crawford, Jamahl Smith, Onaje Dickinson, Dijon D. Watkins, Ashanti Pinkney, Leo Brooks, Hashim Jibri Wilson, Omari Thompson, Josef Delon Richardson, Deshon Downing, James Lee Kirkwood, Kaizen Crossen, Toussaint Diamon Sims, Charles Roy Pearson, Raymond Lewis Williams, Keith Carter, Wallace Wilder, Tyrone Domingo Banks, Terry Tillman, Cortez Shepherd, Bobby Ray Duckworth, Tasjon Tyreek Osbourne, Nicholas Walker, Eric Carter, Michael John, Crederick Joseph, Allan Feliz, Kwesi Ashun, John Feggin, Michael Austin, Kenneth Simeus, Lamar Alexander, David N. Anderson, Romello Barnes, Louis Patrick Veal, Kentrey Marquis, Elray Barber, George Floyd, Sean Reed, Steven Demarco Taylor, Ariane McCree, Terrance Franklin, Miles Hall, William Green, Samuel David Mallard, Tamir Rice, Botham Shem Jean, E.J. Bradford, Michael Brown, Breonna Taylor

Each of these people—all of them Black Americans—have been killed by police since 2013. •

—Sources: The Guardian, Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post

WCRC joins ecumenical call against racism

Continued from page 5

We call upon the Human Rights Council to investigate the circumstances of his death and the situation of systemic racism and related police brutality, both in the US and other parts of the world, and to ensure accountability for these violations. We call upon the Government of the US to fully cooperate with the investigation.

We call upon our churches to learn about the ways in which members and congregations can help drive global change to combat racial injustice through the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

Additionally, we ask that members:

- Call for an end to militarization, police violence, the killings, and all other forms of violence against African descendant people
- Commit to dismantling racism and discrimination in all forms
- Embrace and encourage an anti-racist environment within communities with commitment to accountability
- Commit to reflection and introspection that will increase personal awareness and ways to be engaged in solving this global problem

On behalf of the signatories of this letter, the Permanent Missions to the United Nations at Geneva will be contacted to urge them to support the resolution for the Human Rights Council to create the Commission of Inquiry. ●

Adopt an “Economy of Life” urge global religious groups

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought a new urgency to adopting an “Economy of Life,” and global religious groups that represent millions of people are saying now is the time.

In a joint message, the Council of World Mission, Lutheran World Federation, World Communion of Reformed Churches, and World Council of Churches urged governments to bolster support for health-care and social protection.

They further called for debt cancellation and the implementation of the Zacchaeus Tax proposals, including the initiation of progressive wealth taxes at national and global levels to resource the critical response to the pandemic.

“The public health emergency is symptomatic of a deeper economic crisis that undergirds it,” the message reads. “Moreover, ineffective and corrupt governance at national levels has exacerbated the inability of governments to support those who are most vulnerable to the pandemic.”

The ecological crisis facing the world today is closely related to COVID-19, the message notes.

“Measures to address the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic have been merely palliative and have been mainly directed to bailing out corporations rather than people,” the message reads. “In some places, economies are already being restarted at risk of mounting deaths, problematizing the perceived trade-off between rescuing the economy and saving lives.”

People who are already vulnerable are bearing the brunt in terms of loss of lives and livelihoods, the text continues. “The lockdown has also meant many are unable to escape from

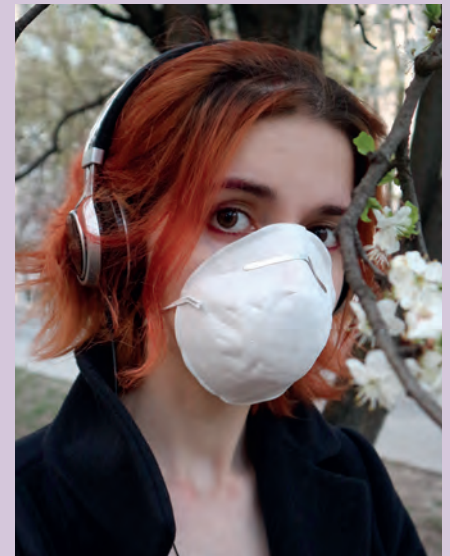


Image by Wereskowa, Wearing FFP mask during the COVID-19 pandemic in Khmelnytskyi, April 2020; Creative Commons License.

domestic violence,” the message reads.

“This crisis highlights the immense value of healthcare, the care economy, and women’s intensified care work burden.”

We are living in apocalyptic times, the message reads. “In its light we see anew and afresh the distorted realities and inequalities powerful interests have passed off as ‘normal’ and unquestionable... The human causes and systemic roots of this pandemic point to the exigency of systemic change if we are to be converted by the revelation Covid-19 is offering us,” the text reads.

The full statement is available on the WCRC website. ●

WCRC urges prayer and support for Christian Dalits in India

The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) joined with the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) to call for the inclusion of Dalit Christians and Muslims in the scheduled caste list which would allow them access to affirmative action policies.

The word Dalit, meaning broken or oppressed, is the name chosen by those who were formerly considered untouchable. Though untouchability is outlawed in India, the practice continues in different ways and forms.

The constitution of India protects rights and freedoms of Indian citizens and offers affirmative action in education and employment as a historic corrective for those who have suffered the violence and injustice of the caste system. However, a presidential order in 1950 denied those same rights to Dalits who had converted to Christianity or Islam.

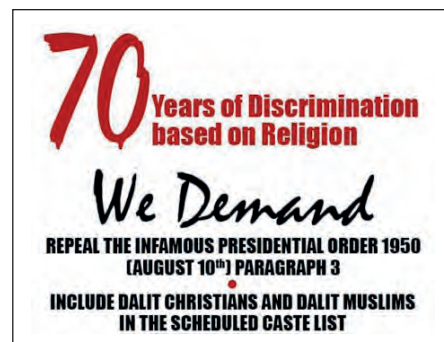
10 August 2020 was the 70th anniversary of the presidential order, and the NCCI, along with its member churches, organized a campaign throughout the country to bring attention to this continuing discrimination.

“Dalit Christians have a unique history of faith experiences because of their caste identity,” said Asir Ebenezer, NCCI general secretary. “They embraced Christianity as a faith affirmation against caste slavery and these experiences vary according to regional contexts. It is not only common knowledge but also borne out of numerous extensive research studies that the Dalits are unfortunately still identified first by their caste by a large section of the Indian society.”

“This is a historic injustice that needs to be corrected,” said Philip Vinod Peacock, WCRC executive secretary for justice and witness. “Christian and Muslim Dalits continue to

suffer under the caste system, and access to affirmative action should not be denied on the basis of religious affiliation.”

There is hope. On 7 January 2020, the Indian Supreme Court agreed to examine a plea that “Dalit Christians...should enjoy the same quota benefits reserved for Scheduled Castes.” Said Ebenezer: “The Supreme Court has a monumental opportunity now to



render justice to millions of Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims who continue to suffer from social stigma and the horrors of untouchability.”

The WCRC calls upon its member churches to support these sisters and brothers in prayer as they advocate for basic rights. The WCRC further calls upon its members to petition their own governments to advocate for these rights.

Churches express solidarity with people of Zimbabwe

In response to the situation in Zimbabwe, the World Communion of Reformed Churches, World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, and World Methodist Council issued a pastoral letter to the people and churches in Zimbabwe.

The letter was written in response to the laments of sisters and brothers in Zimbabwe and expressed “a deep concern about the circumstance” and solidarity for the “realization of human rights, for justice, and for

physical and economic security in their communities.”

The pastoral letter raised concerns over the deteriorating conditions that are exacerbated by the pandemic and specially noted the situation of women, children, young people, and men whose lives and livelihood are under threat due to hunger, unemployment, corruption, and insecurity. The letter underlined the economic situation that the country is facing and called attention to the underlying causes of failed human rights protection, corruption, and failed governance structures.

The letter spoke of the increasing use of force and intimidation of the Zimbabwean people who are protesting these failures and called attention to the mistreatment of political activists, political leaders, journalists, and advocates for human rights. It further condemned the sexual abuse and violence against women activists.

Speaking of the situation in Zimbabwe, Lungile Mpetsheni, secretary of the African Communion of Reformed Churches and general secretary of the United Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa, said, “In Shona (the most spoken language in Zimbabwe) when they ask ‘How are you?’ they say, ‘*merara sei*’ (How did you sleep?). The response: ‘*ndarara kana mararao*’ (I slept only if you slept). In that spirit, we cannot sleep until all people of Zimbabwe sleep well. Justice denied to the people of Zimbabwe is justice denied to all of humanity.”

The letter further upheld the ongoing ministry of the churches in Zimbabwe in their service to the most vulnerable and exhorted them to continually remember the “least of these” as they continue to raise voices of the most vulnerable.

The letter can be read in full on the WCRC website. ●

Appel à la prière et au soutien pour Beyrouth

Nous sommes pressés de toutes parts, mais non écrasés; inquiets, mais non désespérés; persécutés, mais non abandonnés; abattus, mais non anéantis.

Nous portons toujours avec nous dans notre corps l'agonie du [Seigneur] Jésus afin que la vie de Jésus soit aussi manifestée dans notre corps.

– 2 Corinthiens 4:8-10

La Communion mondiale d'Églises réformées (CMER) appelle ses églises membres à prier pour tous ceux qui ont été touchés par l'explosion dans le port de Beyrouth le 4 août 2020 et à leur apporter leur soutien dans la mesure de leurs possibilités.

L'explosion, dont le président du Liban Michel Aoun a déclaré qu'elle avait été causée par 2750 tonnes de nitrate d'ammonium, a tué au moins 180 personnes et en a blessé plus de 6000, endommageant une grande partie de Beyrouth.

Les dégâts ont touché les bâtiments des églises membres, dont l'Église évangélique nationale de Beyrouth, où le Comité exécutif de la CMER a tenu son premier culte en 2015. Toutes les fenêtres de l'église ont été détruites et plusieurs plafonds se sont effondrés.

Habib Badr, pasteur principal de l'église, venait de quitter son bureau lorsque le plafond s'est effondré à cause de l'explosion. « Les dégâts et la destruction sont incroyables... tout simplement incroyables ! Maintenant, priez pour nous. C'est un événement très grave », a-t-il déclaré.

La présidente de la CMER, Najla Kassab, qui travaille également pour le Synode national évangélique de Syrie et du Liban, a indiqué que les bâtiments de l'église et les maisons ont été endommagés, les fenêtres et les portes ayant été soufflées. « De nombreux



Libanais n'ont pas pu dormir dans leurs maisons et certains ont trouvé leurs maisons en ruines », a-t-elle déclaré.

L'école de théologie du Proche-Orient (NEST) a également subi des dommages importants. « La NEST n'a jamais été aussi gravement touchée qu'hier, même pendant les pires jours de la guerre de 15 ans au Liban. Bien sûr, nous ne sommes pas les seuls. La dévastation dans le reste de Beyrouth est vaste », a déclaré George Sabra, président de la NEST.

Selon BCC, « L'explosion survient à un moment critique pour le Liban. Avec l'augmentation des infections de COVID-19, les hôpitaux avaient déjà du mal à faire face. Maintenant, ils doivent traiter des milliers de blessés. Le pays traverse également une crise économique. Le Liban importe la plupart de ses denrées alimentaires et de grandes quantités de céréales stockées dans le port ont été détruites, faisant craindre une insécurité alimentaire généralisée à venir ».

« Vivre au Moyen-Orient nous a appris l'art de continuer, d'espérer et de croire que notre Seigneur est en chemin avec nous », a déclaré Najla

Kassab. « Chaque jour est un nouveau jour. Aujourd'hui, nous décidons de garder l'espoir et de continuer à nous battre contre le désespoir ».

« Nous continuons à espérer en la paix, en un avenir meilleur et en la force du voyage », a-t-elle déclaré. « Notre principale préoccupation est de préserver la dignité des personnes et de pouvoir entendre leur cri et de nous engager et de nous donner les moyens de faire la différence ». ●

(La Mission évangélique en Solidarité (EMS) a contribué à ce rapport ; image reproduite avec l'aimable autorisation de l'Église évangélique nationale de Beyrouth à travers l'EMS).

500 million Christians urge G20 to fix broken economic architecture

Four global organizations representing some 500 million Christians have written an urgent letter to G20 leaders, calling for them to leave behind the current broken financial architecture and promote a truly just and sustainable recovery:*

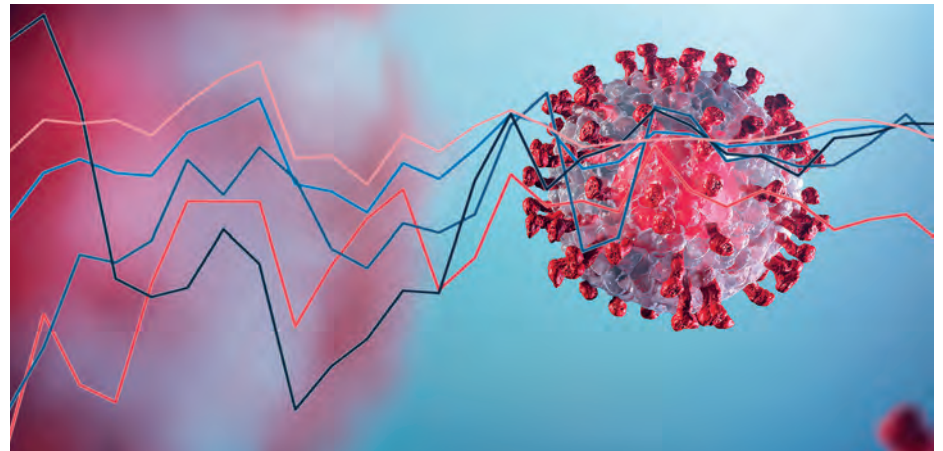
The Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the Group of 20 (G20)

Your Excellencies:

Our organizations, the World Council of Churches (WCC), World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Council for World Mission (CWM), have followed with profound concern how the COVID-19 pandemic and the related economic crisis have continued to destroy lives and livelihood around the world. To date this has resulted in more than half a million deaths, massive unemployment, increase of debts, poverty, and inequality in many parts of the world.

We want to express our appreciation for the G20's prompt efforts to address the crises by offering fiscal measures to support public health response, temporary debt relief for the poorest countries, and emergency financing facilities as agreed at your last meeting on 15 April 2020. We also welcome the G20's recognition of the necessity for governments to work together in a coordinated and coherent manner. At the same time, we think that more can and ought to be done to mitigate human suffering and promote a truly just and sustainable recovery.

As you are well aware, the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how many countries are ill-equipped and poorly resourced to



respond to an emergency of this scale and magnitude. It has exposed the deeper crisis which is a result of the current economic and development model, namely the exploitation of resources in a manner that destroys the planet and leaves the majority of people in poverty.

This moment offers us an unprecedented opening to collectively examine the current order and to 'build back better' a different system that nurtures the health, wellbeing and resilience of communities and the planet for generations to come. Here we would like to underline that COVID-19 recovery measures and policies must be compatible with urgent and ambitious action to address the climate crisis.

We believe that it is feasible today to embark on essential transformation in global and national development and economic policies and practices because the majority of people do not want to go back to the 'old normal.' For these changes to be viable and sustainable, discussions must also take place under the aegis of the United Nations (UN) where there is broad participation of countries and civil society. Multilateralism must remain

as a key principle and approach for addressing global challenges.

In light of the foregoing, permit us to share, on behalf of the churches, some proposals for the G20 to take into consideration at the upcoming meetings of the finance ministers and central bank governors and at the Leaders' Summit in November 2020:

- **Allocate adequate financial resources to the public health and social protection of the hundreds of millions of people whose livelihoods have been decimated by the pandemic and the related response measures.** This includes ensuring widespread testing, provision of protective and other equipment for healthcare, essential workers and hospitals; healthcare coverage for all, including the most vulnerable; the search for an effective, accessible, and affordable vaccine or cure; basic income grants, unemployment assistance, and wage subsidy schemes; as well as support for small businesses, and availing finance to support the COVID-19 related and other humanitarian needs.
- **Cancel the external debts of low- and middle-income countries**

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L'annexion est une menace pour la paix et la justice

Déclaration œcuménique sur le projet d'annexion du territoire palestinien occupé

« Le Seigneur fait régner la justice et le droit pour tous les opprimés. »

—Psaume 103:6

En tant qu'organisations religieuses représentant des fidèles du monde entier*, nous exprimons notre inquiétude quant au projet d'annexion des territoires palestiniens occupés en Cisjordanie par le gouvernement d'Israël.

L'annexion de ces territoires est une violation directe du droit international et va à l'encontre de plusieurs accords internationaux, des résolutions de l'Assemblée générale et du Conseil de

sécurité des Nations Unies, de cet avis consultatif de 2004 de la Cour internationale de justice et de la quatrième Convention de Genève de 1949.

Nous demandons de toute urgence à la communauté internationale de prendre des mesures immédiates pour remédier directement à cette action unilatérale. La nouvelle menace d'annexion renforce et aggrave la situation actuelle d'occupation, qui a trop longtemps porté atteinte aux droits et à l'avenir du peuple palestinien.

Nous nous associons aux cris de toutes les personnes de bonne volonté, de tous les Palestiniens et Israéliens qui ont souffert dans le conflit, et en particulier du peuple palestinien qui souffre chaque jour sous le régime

d'occupation et la situation insupportable du blocus à Gaza. Nous reconnaissons que la crise actuelle a des racines historiques et complexes, mais qu'elle est aussi le résultat d'actions unilatérales, d'un déséquilibre des pouvoirs et du recours à la force et à la violence au lieu du dialogue et de la négociation. La paix ne peut jamais être imposée unilatéralement, ni obtenue par des moyens violents.

* Cette déclaration a été publiée conjointement par l'Alliance ACT, la Fédération luthérienne mondiale, la Communion mondiale d'Églises réformées et le Conseil œcuménique des Églises. La déclaration est disponible sur le site de la CMER.

Statement on the anniversary of the Korean War

Seventy years ago, a conflict began that was to cost the lives of approximately three million people... and leave a lasting legacy of bitterness, fear and division among people who share the same language, traditional culture and ancient history.

The foundations for this catastrophic conflict were laid by the post-World War II division of the Korean Peninsula by the United States of America and the Soviet Union, which – in a bitterly cruel turn of events – followed almost immediately the liberation of Korean people from 36 years of Japanese imperial domination. The division into North and South became entrenched during the ensuing Cold War, which provided the context and impulses for the war that began on 25 June 1950, and of which the Korean people were overwhelmingly the victims.

After three years of appallingly destructive conflict, an Armistice Agreement was signed on 27 July 1953, establishing a ceasefire and creating a Demilitarized Zone separating North and South Korea. However, no peace treaty was ever concluded, and so the parties remain, technically, at war up to the present date.

On this sombre 70th anniversary occasion, we, as churches and councils of churches from countries that played a role in the division and conflict on the Korean Peninsula, join in calling for:

- An immediate formal declaration of the end of the Korean War; and
- Swift steps towards the adoption of a peace treaty to replace the 1953 Armistice Agreement, as a starting point for further progress towards the realization of a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

The full statement—signed by the World Communion of Reformed Churches, World Council of Churches, World Methodist Council, and many others—can be found on the WCRC website. ●

Arise and Shine

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The text speaks to us in the tight linking between two realities. Rise up. Shine like the dawning sun! You express the dawning of God's glory. AND the darkness shall cover the Earth. Not did but shall! "...Thick darkness the peoples!"

Do not rise and shine. Move and act because things are getting better but clearly because they are not yet there, and because through us the Lord's glory will shine as it has already risen upon us.

Isaiah is also clear that the task is structural, systemic, and global. "Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."

In these toughest of times we discern the rising up of God's creatures calling out for life and through the Spirit God calling us to join their lead and with them arise and shine forth.

To God be the glory. Amen. ●

WCRC mourns passing of African church leaders

Kobus Gerber



The World Communion of Reformed Churches mourns the passing of Kobus Gerber, former general secretary of the Dutch Reformed Church and member of the WCRC Executive Committee.

“As a member of the WCRC Executive Committee, Rev. Dr. Gerber was insightful and supportive, helping guide the Communion through several challenging transitions,” said Chris Ferguson, WCRC general secretary, in a letter of condolence. “As moderator of the WCRC Partnership Fund Committee he was an advocate for supporting member churches throughout the world.”

Gerber was the first general secretary of the General Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church, serving from 2004 to 2015. Gerber also served on the Executive Committee of the Reformed Ecumenical Council, a predecessor organization to the WCRC.

Expressing his sorrow and condolences, Setri Nyomi, former WCRC general secretary said, “Kobus was a faithful servant of God who provided good leadership as general secretary of the Dutch Reformed through some challenging times as we continued to work on the post-apartheid church.”

Gerber passed away on 6 August while awaiting a heart bypass procedure. He will be laid to rest on 23 August in a small ceremony in Wakkerstroom, South Africa.

The WCRC asks its members to be in prayer for the family and friends of Gerber and the Dutch Reformed Church, and to express their solidarity and condolences during this time of mourning.

Peter Kariuki Kaniah



The World Communion of Reformed Churches mourns the passing of Peter Kariuki Kaniah, out-going secretary-general of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA). Kaniah, 54, passed away on Sunday of complications from COVID-19, in Nairobi, Kenya.

“Rev. Kaniah will be remembered for his commitment and passion to serve the church and further the cause of justice not only in Kenya, but in the world, and the ways in which he was able to perceive justice as emerging from a perspective of faith,” said Chris Ferguson, WCRC general secretary, in a letter of condolence to the PCEA.

“We grieve with the PCEA during this time of their great loss,” said Lungile Mpetsheni, general secretary of the Uniting Presbyterian Church in South Africa. “It is a loss to the ecumenical movement at large and the Communion of Reformed Churches, particularly.”

“Rev. Kaniah was a dedicated church leader who provided inspirational leadership over a church that has experienced tremendous growth, not only in numbers of members, but in depth of commitment to Jesus Christ demonstrated in its community service,” said Debbie Braaksma, Presbyterian Church (USA) World Mission coordinator for Africa, who lived and served in Kenya.

The WCRC asks its members to be in prayer for the family and friends of Kaniah and the PCEA, and to express their solidarity and condolences during this time of mourning. ●

500 million Christians

Continued from page 13

(which were at damaging levels even before the pandemic) to free up resources for governments to respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic and to build the resilience and livelihoods of people and communities.

- **Implement global tax reform to fund the recovery.** This would include: the initiation of a progressive wealth tax, financial transaction tax and carbon tax at national and global levels; the reintroduction of capital gains and inheritance taxes; measures to curb tax evasion and avoidance; and reparations for slavery and other social and ecological debts. Furthermore, a COVID-19 surcharge must be levied on the super-wealthy, equity and hedge funds, and multinational, e-commerce and digital corporations that are reaping even greater returns from the current crisis to resource the critical response to the pandemic.
- **Safeguard public goods and the ecological commons;** guarantee living wages for all; and privilege such life-affirming areas as health, education, water and sanitation, agro-ecology, and renewable energy in both COVID-19 recovery and longer-term plans.

Our organizations collectively represent more than 500 million Christians worldwide. We hope that you will take our proposals into account in your deliberations and would appreciate a response to this letter.

We pray that you have constructive and transformative meetings. ●

** Signed by the general secretaries of the Council for World Mission, Lutheran World Federation, World Communion of Reformed Churches, and World Council of Churches.*



Chris Ferguson

From the General Secretary

Arise and Shine

*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
But the lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

—Isaiah 60:1-3 NRSV

The last six months has been the toughest of times for the whole world. It is not an exaggeration, and it is a rare moment in history about which it could be said that the whole world, all of the earth community, was so impacted. We all know by now that this world-changing moment does not just come down to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is that plus the convergence of at least three other interlocking global crises, each the fruit of the overreach of empire in imposing neoliberal market capitalism and its ideology and death-dealing spirituality as the motor of economic globalization. The ecological crisis, the economic and inequality crisis and the social justice crisis of systemic racism, patriarchy, authoritarianism, and toxic nationalism had all reached a boiling point when the pandemic hit to destroy more lives and both make things worse and at the same time expose the global situation for what it is in all its horror.

Even in the face of lockdowns and physical distancing and dealing with the life and death issues of the pandemic, the effect throughout the world of the seeing clearly the injustices and oppression of the current world laid bare did not just lead to lamentation. In many, many places and with many, many of the most vulnerable and the most afflicted the cries of the people and planet were cries of anger and protest. Faced with the murder of George Floyd as one example, a new chapter has been written. A new moment of naming and addressing systemic racism that is global in scope. Faced with authoritarianism and repression peoples are rising up. The uprising for climate justice has taken a new turn faced with the pandemic but it has not stopped. The model of exploitative capitalism that obliged the most vulnerable to sacrifice themselves for the profits of the 1% still tries to reinvent itself but now faced with a new growing and restive rising around the world demanding an economy of life.

Throughout our WCRC family we see our churches both responding to the realities of COVID and all the social and economic fallout that it brought but also reinvigorating their life and witness in response to the imperatives of the Accra Confession and the call for an economy of life. The actions range from the pastoral to the humanitarian to the prophetic and all seem in deep resonance with the WCRC strategic vision as a global *koinonia*, confessing the God of Life in a world fallen among thieves.

The words of Isaiah in chapter 60 speak directly to us. We do well to recall that chapter 60 comes after chapters 57 and 58 recount bleak failures of the people to address the deep and systemic injustices of their society and notably after condemning their religious practices for failing to embrace justice for the poor and vulnerable. Chapter 60 also comes before the strong expression in chapter 61 of God Spirit anointing God's sent one to bring good news to the poor—the very verses quoted by Jesus in Luke 4:16.

This call to arise and shine is not to be confused with the hopeful context of chapter 40, where the exiles are now free to return to the land. No, here the situation is harsher. The return has happened but the situation of injustice and lack of faithfulness to God's covenant of peace and reconciliation has gone from bad to worse, and the future promises an even more desperate turn.

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