



S_Youth_20251016 (Youth Caucus)

WCRC GA Youth Message

Preamble

We are struck by the pace of this general council. We are seeing a celebration of hyper-masculinity regarding the work and demand. At the opening actions there was a joke that the drafting committee would not sleep or socialise. Actually, we want the people that are capturing our words and discerning the minds of the Council to know us, to be part of us, and to be rested. We are worried about the well-being of all in the Council. Did we come here to get sick?

In this youth caucus we have begun to build solidarity and friendships but we've only had two days. We have so much gratitude to generations of young people before us—for advocating for our places here. We call on the World Communion of Reformed Churches to strengthen the youth fellowship—we need to meet and build community. Two days is an insufficient amount of time to formulate a statement that meets the challenges of our time and adequately expresses our concerns to bring to the Council.

Further, the format of this General Council, where caucus groups meet alongside workshops we do not think worked. It felt like we were being shipped off to Sunday School whilst everyone else could choose how to engage. We ask that WCRC think about giving young people and women more time and space in the future. And more, we dislike that there are no caucus groups for indigenous people, people living with disabilities or LGBTQIA people. These groups need their own caucus groups to connect and build solidarity rather than having to convene workshops to teach others.

We're too young to be so tired.

We recognise that our youth statement is quite different to those of generations of young people before us. We've discerned that the anger, fire and even the hope that young people had in previous councils is one that we are struggling to grasp. We are recognising within ourselves compassion fatigue and justice fatigue.

We want to question why the General Council needs to lean on the anger of young people?

When do you expect us to have these visions?

“In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.” Acts 2:17

We are all so busy, all the time. Sometimes we have no choice but to be busy. Capitalism has uprooted us from our communities, from our land, from our reliance on each other. We are isolated and divided from one another. Capitalism puts us in competition with one another—one of us has to be the most successful, earn the most money, have the most friends and fame. We're noticing how far our generation social media is making this worse. We share for likes and attention. Is better marketing what we need to spread the gospel? God's message becomes corrupted in competition. In today's market of greed and selfishness, simplicity and personal gains sells and this rhetoric is not the message of Christ.



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We're nervous when the church latches onto these tools for making disciples, especially with AI. We want to agree that indeed AI can sometimes be a useful tool that helps us expedite our work. However, we want to emphasise that AI is not neutral. Whatever we use AI for, we encourage you to question yourself every time—is this use of AI for God's glory? AI is not the Holy Spirit. It is our wrestling and working with Mother God that draws us closer to our Holy Father. We have watched a genocide in real-time in Gaza; we are seeing the catastrophic effects of climate change across the world—droughts, land erasure, floods; the rise of right-wing populism and hatred towards migrants and refugees, and we feel numb.

We are so angry. We really are. But how do we convey this to you at the Council? How can we suddenly let all this anger out when every day we need to carry on? When our circumstances make us powerless? So why be so angry here when we have to go home and carry on with our jobs, try and have enough money to shelter and feed ourselves, fund our education... We are already so overwhelmed with the immediacy of our daily lives and we want to be released from this rat-race, from the pressure, from the loneliness. When we protest and our governments take no notice, when we feel alone in our advocacy, what use is it now to be angry? We demand that the Church take a firm stand for the oppressed and marginalized, raise its voice on their behalf, and actively work for justice and social inclusion. We expect the Church to remain true to its mission: to stand with the weak, to speak out against injustice, and to give a voice to the voiceless.

Our witness is our hope

We have been so very moved by meeting each other. We're wondering—why aren't we all crying? For so many of us we have never left our countries. We have never met people with different stories than ourselves. We're a bit confused. Why aren't we all crying? Why aren't we weeping? Why aren't we lamenting together? Are we doing a huge injustice to one another by not paying attention? What time do we have to hear one another's stories? We notice the continued neo-liberal, colonial business format of this General Council and we reject it. Is this a World Communion or World Convention?

The only thing that will overcome our compassion fatigue is being together. We should react with our emotions. It is not only our words and ability to follow procedural rules well that define a communion in the Reformed faith. We lament that not all member churches are here, and we wish for better global representation in future General Councils.

We're too young to have experienced so much pain.

As young people in the WCRC, we believe it is essential to speak openly about mental health. We need the whole church, across generations, to join the conversation. Mental health is not only a youth issue, it is a human issue. We hope our communities and leaders will create spaces where people of all ages can speak honestly, listen with compassion, and find support and healing together. The message of Christ is one of love, care, and restoration, and this includes the care of our minds and hearts. We long for a Church where vulnerability is met with grace, where no one faces their struggles alone, and where mental health is understood as part of being human.

We see so much suffering. We are suffering. We have made suffering so normal that now we do not even recognise it anymore. We carry on day-to-day but are we living? We want to dance with God, laugh with God—we need to dance, sing and laugh with God to live. There's



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*a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak*

We are grieving. We are hurting. We lament. Yet we grasp onto the hope in God. God has a dream for the world and we must persevere. Justice will roll down like waters. We cannot go on like this, we cannot persevere in our suffering like this is normal—constantly exploiting one another and removing ourselves from God in our world. We have a good God but we are not living well. We petition, we pray, release our souls, release us from this disturbance and destruction, release us so we can see visions, so we can dream dreams, so we can see God in one another and in our beautiful world.

Proposals

1. The General Council will commit to facilitating greater opportunity for youth fellowship across the communion:
2. With at least one independent youth gathering prior to the next General Council.
3. Promoting greater opportunities for fellowship at a regional and global level.

2. WCRC will recognise the importance of good mental health by ensuring burnout, overwork, stress, and lack of sleep are not glorified and instead create greater opportunity for reflection, rest, and sabbath in our worshipping life. Promoting the same within its regions and member churches.

Appendix:

Where would Jesus, born among the disposed, be playing today?

Detention center

Fleeing on a boat

In crowded accomodation

Refugee camp

Playing a kite in Gaza

Homeless

In the closet

Where I am and where I'm not

What are the constrictions or structures that stop Jesus from playing?

Capitalism

Fear

Apathy

Patriarchy

Homophobia



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Racism

Ableism

War

Global economic injustice

Nuclear weapons

Where do you dream that Jesus could be today?

Community

Forest

Library

School

Free at point of need medical facility

At home, safe

LGTBQ+ community

Dancing at a Ceilidh

Where I feel safe

What are the gifts we have that can help release Jesus to allow him to play?

Community

Kindness

Creativity

Solidarity

Organising

Trust in God

Presence and witness

Privilege of choice

Disclaimer: Official versions of all Documents are in English. The translation has been made using AI and human translator assistance, however, the emphasis is for general meaning only.