



Many Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) members are currently preparing for the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) which will take place from 31st August to 8th September in Karlsruhe, Germany.

A gathering of the global Church is always an exciting and important occasion, but this particular Assembly comes at a critical moment where churches are reflecting on their priorities in the context of a world that has been changed by COVID-19 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The formal purpose of the Assembly is to serve as the supreme legislative body for the WCC. Ordinarily it meets every eight years to review policy and practice and make appointments to the senior offices of the Council. It appoints a Central Committee to serve as chief governing body during this period.

The Assembly is also a vital space for reflection, discernment and planning and each assembly adopts a specific theme to guide this process. The theme chosen this year is “Christ’s love moves

World Council of Churches Assembly 2022

An introduction to this year’s Assembly by
Dr Nicola Brady, General Secretary, CTBI

The 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) will take place in Karlsruhe, Germany

the world to reconciliation and unity". The Assembly resources explain the theme in this way:

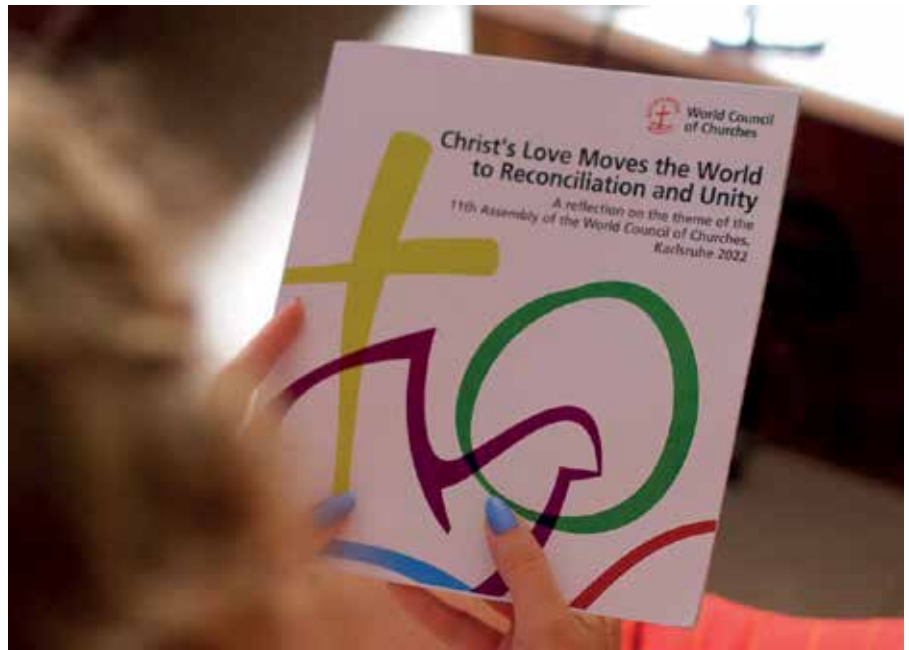
"In this fragmented and fractured world, the Assembly theme is an affirmation of faith that Christ's love transforms the world in the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. Against the powers of destruction and sin, the Assembly theme affirms that the love of the compassionate, crucified, and risen Christ is at the heart of this world. It is a radical call to the churches to work together unceasingly and with people of other faiths and all those of good will for just peace and reconciliation. It is a call for the visible unity of the church to become a prophetic sign and a foretaste of the reconciliation of this world with God, and the unity of humankind and all creation."

Supporting our member churches to engage

The theme that has been chosen, and the vision for the role and contribution of the Church that underpins it, aligns very closely with the work of CTBI. In recent years, CTBI has supported member churches and the National Ecumenical Instruments (NEIs) to respond to those identity-based challenges that put pressures on relationships, across these islands and in a wider global context. We have been creating space for dialogue on issues of racial justice, inter-faith relations and national identity and working to build the networks

...it is a call for the visible unity of the church to become a prophetic sign and a foretaste of the reconciliation of this world with God, and the unity of humankind and all creation.

that support collective engagement by churches in these areas. We also work to bring a collective voice from the British and Irish churches to issues of global solidarity, such as climate justice and care of refugees. CTBI staff will be supporting Assembly delegates from our



member churches to reflect together on the significance of the Assembly theme for our ongoing work.

The European Context

At a continental level, CTBI is supporting member churches to engage with the preparatory work being undertaken by the Conference of European Churches (CEC). The pre-Assembly meeting organised by CEC in February 2022 took a particular focus on relationships between Church and State and Church and society in a context of increasing secularisation, drawing on the learning from the pandemic experience. Participants from Ukraine spoke about the unified calls for peace from Christian churches and the wider faith sector, as they appealed for international support and solidarity.

What can you do to prepare?

Whether you will be attending the Assembly as a delegate, or following the proceedings at a distance, there are lots of ways to support this important work.

On the WCC website www.oikoumene.org you can find resources to help you:

- Understand how the Assembly works, including the different types of methodologies to be used for the different elements of the programme;
- Reflect on the Assembly theme and how this has been developed across the programme;

- Support the work in prayer and reflection by using the prayer resources and Bible Studies available.

It can be helpful to reflect on the following questions:

- What can you bring to this work? It is important that consideration of the Assembly theme is contextual and focused. The work of reconciliation takes place in concrete contexts. What might you be able to contribute from your own work?
- What would you like to take away from your engagement with this Assembly? What information or contacts would support you in connecting future work to this wider global context?
- How might CTBI help and support you in preparation and follow up?

If you have any questions about CTBI's involvement in the WCC Assembly, please email info@ctbi.org.uk



Find out more at:
www.oikoumene.org/about-the-wcc/organizational-structure/assembly#the-11th-assembly-of-the-world-council-of-churches