



World Council of Churches

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To WCC member churches and
Ecumenical partners

Geneva, January, 2018

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ!

May this New Year be for all of us—our churches, our families, our dearest ones and the world at large—a year of peace and justice, a year full of God’s blessings!

The year 2018 has a particular meaning for the WCC: we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of our unique global fellowship of churches! A brochure and poster will soon be available at the 70th Anniversary website or by request to the WCC

The moderator of our central committee, Dr Agnes Abuom, reminds us that “the journey of 70 years should be one of commemoration, celebration and building on the milestones and lessons for the future.” The vice-moderator of the central committee, H.E. Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima, observes that reflecting during this anniversary celebrations on the future will also constitute the best strategic preparation for our next step, our next WCC assembly.

In close consultation with our governing bodies, we have decided to celebrate this distinctive anniversary year in many ways, in many places, and with as many member churches and ecumenical partners possible. You will find attached the calendar of events, which is still evolving as we receive notices from member churches that are preparing events in their own context.

We have also decided to invite member churches and ecumenical prayers to write stories and to compose prayers and songs on the occasion of the 70th anniversary. Please see attached a copy of my call to member churches and ecumenical partners.

Please visit our webpage dedicated to the 70th anniversary. There you will find information, stories, songs and prayers. <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/wcc70/>

It is my great pleasure to invite you and all our member churches and ecumenical partners to participate actively in the celebrations. Many of you will host programmatic events or you are planning your own events. To the question, "What can we do to participate?" Here are a few possibilities. I am sure that your commitment to our fellowship and your creative imagination will find many other ways of contributing:

1. Consider celebrating in your own context and in your own cultural and liturgical way, preferably on **August 23, 2018**, the date of the opening of the 1st assembly in Amsterdam. We will be commemorating the event that same day in Amsterdam with the Protestant Church of the Netherlands and young persons from churches everywhere.
2. Circulate among your constituency our call for stories, prayers and songs, and encourage WCC's friends to respond positively to these calls.
3. Translate into local languages and circulate as widely as possible material related to the 70th anniversary.

In advance, I thank you very much for helping us to organize these celebrations in a meaningful way. If you have any suggestions, kindly write or talk to me. If you prepare any event, kindly let me know, and I will gladly instruct my colleagues to include it in our inventory of events.

Yours in Jesus Christ, our common Lord and Saviour,



Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit
General Secretary