

- Encouraging young people to be the part of the National Ecumenical Movement.
- Networking with the local and international Ecumenical partners for resource sharing and partnership.
- Connecting member Churches and local youth movements with NCCI youth concern ministry through organizing program both at regional and National levels.
- Strengthening direct partnership with youth fellowships of the members Churches and NCCI youth concern ministry and encouraging them to create ecumenical platform for young people to promote grassroots ecumenism.
- Identifying young people to engage them in a process of articulating their faith and understanding about God.

Invitation to Write



Constituent members of NCCI, especially Member Churches of NCCI, are requested to share recent reports of youth programmes with the NCCI Youth Concerns department for publication in the E- Newsletter.

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UTH TURN

Connect -Create -Change
Youth Concerns- National Council of Churches in India

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“Blessed are those who work for peace; God will call them his Child- Mathew 5:9”

The definition of peace is defined by the consumerist patterns of day-to-day life in this contemporary world. Today's peace is defined by having all material things and living a sophisticated life. But the definition of peace in Christ's teachings differs with the worldly definition of peace and it is interlinked with all the following relations.

Peace with God: - As we all sing “Jesus is the prince of peace” and word of God also says in (Ephesians 2:14) that God is our Peace. We can be sure that we can find peace in God. As we are all born in sin, we were all separated from God, but Christ restored our relationship again by taking our sins and griefs on the cross. Through his death he has given us the path of reconciliation (Romans 5:1). We rejoice in the hope, we rejoice in our sufferings, but we rejoice more in being reconciled with God.

Peace with Neighbors: - As God has taught us and made a path of reconciliation, we should always make sure to live in unity and good relationship with each other, (Colossians 1:20) and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. As God has empowered us in spirit to be a peacemaker, our responsibility as God's child is to spread peace and joy with one another.

Peace with ourselves: - As Jesus is our prince of peace, in him we are a new creation. He has made us whole and complete like him. When trials come and try to tear us apart, he is our peace. In God we are strong. As (John 16:33) says- These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have Peace. We can only find Peace in God our father.

Undoubtedly, Youth needs to create a culture of PEACE and CONFLICT-FREE environment. As the youths are considered as the key agents of peace building, they have potential to overcome violence against the world and can establish peace with the values of Christ teachings. As we journey towards the pilgrimages of peace, we continue with values of Christ to be an inclusive and establish peace with justice. As the verse also clearly says in Matthew – 5:9 when we work for peace we will be called as the children of God, we see that the youth age draws many of them away from God but as Youths we need to encourage each other and mold ourselves to be called as his children and to get an identity as God's child.

“The Youths of a nation are the trustees of prosperity” (Benjamin Disraeli)

Ms. Sahana Benya
Youth Secretary-UELCI

Prayer Points

- We pray for the young people who lost their jobs and disturbed mentally during the pandemic
- We pray for the young people who are affected by the new policies introduced by the Government .
- We pray for the Churches, Institutions NGO's, who are facing huge financial crisis in the Post Covid era.
- We pray for peace between the young people especially in the context of religious violence happening around us.
- We pray for the minority communities whose fidelity to the nation is judged by the hegemonic nationalists.

Upcoming Events

- OCYM 84th Global Conference on 3rd Oct-5th Oct at Mavelikara, Kerala.
- Youth Olympics in Church of North India from Oct 21-23 at Jabalpur .
- Youth Camp in GSELC on 15th-16th October at Badrachalem.
- Webinar on Youth Health and Healing in November.

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOCIETAL PEACE AND YOUTH IN THE POST COVID WORLD.

The three-day National Symposium on Societal Peace and Youth in the Post Covid Context was conducted on 26th to 28th July 2022 by the India Peace Centre at NCCI Campus Nagpur. This conference intended to deliberate on societal peace and need for solidarity in the present context especially focusing on young people from the member churches of NCCI and from different denominations and faiths. Around 35 young people participated and discussed about peace in the post Covid World. Mr. Angelious Michael inaugurated the sessions and Rev. Asir Ebenezer greeted the delegation with the statement "sovereignty to enhance peace". Dr. Tejinder Singh Rawal Spoke on the potentiality of the youth in peace building in the post Covid world in the areas like environmental issues and other areas that young people could use their energy for the cause of Peace. Dr. Joshua Peter spoke on how the pandemic helped to realize the opportunity to spread peace and unity among with people of other religions.

Rev. Dr. Packiam T. Samuel deliberated on Societal peace from a multi-faith perspective. The session highlighted the interdependence of all beings. Rev. Dr. Vincent Rajkumar continued on the socio-political perspective through positive and negative peace. The effect of Covid19 on people, the digital gap it created, the political response, and the response of faith communities and concluded with peace being the core while fighting against injustice, discrimination and violence. The panel discussion followed with Rev. Dr. Abraham Mathew speaking on societal peace and religion, Mr. Pradeep Bansrior speaking on societal peace from the perspective of Adivasis/tribals and Dalits, Rev. Jyothi Singh speaking on society and gender, and Rev. Dn. Ribin John presenting on societal peace and PWD and gender diversities. This discussions was moderated by Mr. B. Asher.

On the Second day the panel discussion on the various themes was moderated by Dr. Rawal. The panel discussions by Mr. Ashish Deshpande who presented on societal peace & urban deprived communities, Adv. Laxmi Malewar presented on societal peace & environment, Ms. Sonal Hikare presented on societal peace & youth in IT sector,

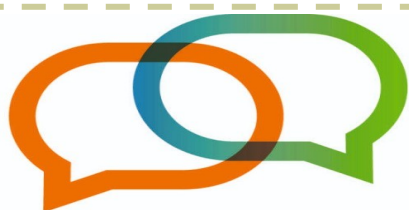
Ms. Lata Tokhi spoke on societal peace & child upbringing. Later the session followed by Adv. Allen Marques explained the fundamental rights, discrimination in marriage, equal opportunities, discrimination, and other legal factors. In the evening the participants were taken to India peace centre for 'dine and dialogue'. Rev. Dr. Joshuva shared his interfaith experience and how as a Christian community we could maintain the religious harmony. On the third day the participants were divided into two groups and the member churches youth secretaries were led by Mr. Asher and other delegation were led by Mr. Angelious. Mrs. Beryl Logan shared on the HIV/ AIDS interventions and Fr. Thomas Ninan shared on the biblical tools. Later the session was concluded by Mr. Angelious Michael and the delegates drew action plans to carry forward the peace initiatives in their respective communities and places.

NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERS MEET

The National youth leaders meet happened on 28th July 2022 at NCCI campus Nagpur. Youth leaders from the member Churches of NCCI had able to met physically after two years since covid. Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer had shared the greetings to youth leaders and also encouraged the youth leaders to build the network among the young people and also to plan future programs. The youth leaders from each Church had shared their programs which happened during the pandemic period. There are number of programs and activities conducted during the covid, many of the member Churches youth had actively participated and responded in the time of covid. The youth leaders had also shared the upcoming programs from their Churches. The



The youth leaders also had the opportunity to participate in the "National symposium on societal peace and youth in the post-covid world" organized by India peace centre. NCCI has also encouraged the member Churches to observe the international youth day on August 12th at their respective Churches on the theme "Intergenerational solidarity". The youth leaders has also discussed on the upcoming Quadrennial Assembly of NCCI in 2023 and National Ecumenical Youth Assembly NEYA in 2024.



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Student Chaplaincy Ministry Programme Phase-III



Church of South India, Department of Youth had conducted “ Student chaplaincy ministry programme” III Phase on 11-12th August at CSI synod centre Chennai. Adv.C.Fernandas Rathina Raj, General Secretary of CSI and Prof. Dr, B. Vimal Sukumar had inaugurated the program. The two day program has helped the student chaplains to learn more about the emotions and feelings in the student life because of various challenges like parental expectation education achievements, career management, family and peer group pressures and so on. Dr. Samason Gandhi took sessions on ‘ suicidal ideation in student: triggering factors and prevention’, ‘ handling guilt and anxiety in students Life’ and ‘ anger management. Rev. Christopher Dharmaraj has shared on ‘holistic mission of student chaplaincy ministry’. Feedback& sharing session took place. As a follow-up of III phase Student chaplains identified two educational institutions in their diocese to conduct workshops for students.

International Youth Day 12th August 2022

The International Youth Day is celebrated on the 12th August every year. The theme for this year 2022 is “Intergenerational Solidarity” which highlighted the issue of age related barriers in the society and in the religious communities. The young voices are not considered based on the ageism which is an unaddressed issue in our places. NCCI -youth concerns has encouraged the member Church youth leaders to bring awareness about the age related barriers in their Churches and society. Church of South India, in synod retreat centre has observed International Youth and invited NCCI-youth secretary to explain the challenges and prospects of the international youth day.





International Youth Day Celebrations at Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (NELC) at Dumka.



International Youth Day Celebrations at Mennonite Church at Bhilal

The Chaldean Syrian Church of the East has celebrated the International youth day and also volunteered to visit to the old age home and spent a day with them. Youth have committed to show their solidarity with all the generations and as an act of praxis they had shown what is mean by intergenerational solidarity.



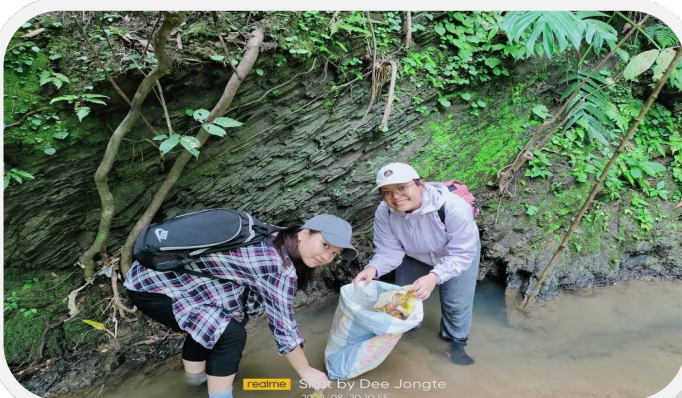
Theme: Saving Water and Its Sources Campaign (for the Year 2022-2023)



INITIATIVES TAKEN BY MTKP 2022

Mizoram Thalai Kristian Pawl(MTKP) has pursued two large initiatives, and one of which is Saving Water and Its Sources Campaign. It has formed a sub-committee to make projects in regards and take necessary actions thereof. Under the guidance and supervision of the said sub-committee, initiatives have been taken intensely in every pastorates and units under MTKP.

As of now,(2022) about 90 TKP Units have planted more than 1200 trees. Most of the TKP Units under MTKP have done social service in cleaning river water sources. More than 100 river water sources, village water wells (tuikhur) and *nala* were cleaned and scoured and a number of check dams were also made.



A pledge card to save water and to utilize water sparingly was made and most of the TKP members in every TKP Units pledged. A campaign was also done in every church under the Baptist Church of Mizoram to educate and inform the BCM members in regards to saving water and use water sparingly.



Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church

Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church has organized centre council camp for youth as part of their leadership program in their church at Ranchi from 18-19th August 2022. This two day program had given capacity building to the youth leaders and encouraged young people in the Church for the active participation and engagement in the Church and communities. Ms. Christiana Mundu has shared that the youth leaders program had impacted the youth leaders to serve in their respective congregations!

Arcot Lutheran Church



Arcot Lutheran Church, youth department has organized cycle rally on the International day of Peace on September 21st at Arcot.

11th WCC Assembly– Youth Pre-assembly on 27-31st August 2022 at Karlsruhe, Germany



Message from the Ecumenical Youth Gathering-11th WCC assembly

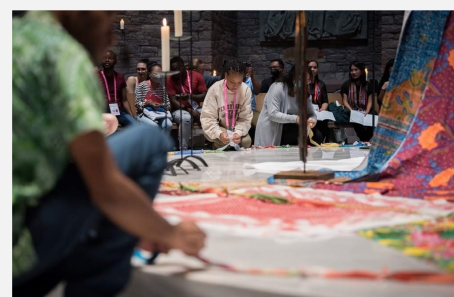
“For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ... Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.”

1 Corinthians 12v 12 and 14-15 (NRSV)

Within the Body of Christ there is diversity, through the gifts given to each member of the Body. To allow the Church to function to the fullest of its potential, we uphold these gifts. As one Body, we recognize not only how we are diverse, but also how the gifts we cultivate bring us together. However, at times, there are evil forces, struggles, and people that wound its members, leaving trauma and scars. We do not all have the same wounds, but recognize the wounds of the Body as a whole and lift up these wounds through joined prayer. Jesus Christ is able to transform these wounds into a tapestry of unique encounters, stories, and resilience. We lift up in prayer and invite all Christians to act for and with our siblings, humankind and all creation, who are suffering :

We may not be aware of every wound in the world today, still we strive for tomorrow, carrying them in our prayers. The examples of our laments below are the injustices that were voiced during the Ecumenical Youth Gathering.

- We lament that we cannot express all the countries lifted up during the Ecumenical Youth Gathering, in which we understand there is suffering and sorrow, because of the concern for the security and protection of participants.
- We lament the killings, the violence and brutality against human beings and crimes against humanity especially women, children and girls, in times of war, from foreign oppressors in countries such as Ukraine and Palestine.
- We lament the forced silence and unjust imprisonments of people fighting for self-determination in their countries, such as West Papua Kanaky (New Caledonia), Maohi Nui (French polynesia), Belarus; and the ongoing red-tagging and extra-judicial killings in the Philippines.
- We lament the forced displacements of people and nations due to climate crisis, wars and violent conflicts and oppression such as in the Middle East, many Pacific Islands, most African countries, and Latin America.
- We lament the hegemonic system imposed on many countries, and unilateral and unjust blockades that some countries have over others, such as Cuba, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.
- We lament the degradation and destruction of mother nature, including the oceans, for profit and human consumption, and the persecution of environmental activists who speak up.



- We lament the forced removal and displacement of Indigenous peoples from their lands, and the loss of traditions and identity that can teach us all how to better live on our earth through respect and knowing when enough is enough.
- We lament on religious intolerance and the persecution of people of faith around the world such as Nigeria, Iraq, Sudan, and Syria.
- We lament the dehumanization of humankind through human trafficking, forced migration, child labor, sexual exploitation, death penalty, impunity, the destruction of cultures and languages through ethnic cleansing and genocide.
- We lament the institutionalization and perpetuation of systemic racism through impact of neo-colonialism, imperialism, modern slavery, socio-economic inequalities, and the claiming of Indigenous lands.
- We lament the discriminatory treatment, exclusion, silencing, and stigmatization of the LGBTQIA+ community in our church communities and the society.
- We lament the gender based violence perpetuated by the patriarchal society and the millions of young women and girls whose human rights are denied and violated due to discriminatory gender norms.
- We lament our churches that do not recognize women's voices and participation in God's testimony, such as in biblical stories and today.
- We lament how people with disabilities are made invisible and inaudible in our churches and communities due to discriminatory attitude, policy and negligence to facilities for disabilities and the disabled human right for liberty.
- We lament the isolation and labeling of people in our communities because of poor mental health and mental illness.
- We lament forced unjust systems of poverty, with limited opportunities for education, economic opportunities, access to basic healthcare, and the denial of other basic human needs and rights.
- We lament the wounds inflicted by the church on its young members throughout history and the silence and complacency of the church to respond today.



We recognize, confess, and pray for justice, forgiveness and reconciliation of the wounds the Church as a Body has inflicted and continues to inflict in the world. We believe and affirm that the healing of wounds is a process, a journey, and a path. This requires a community grounded in the love of Christ with the knowledge of His Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection as the greatest gift to raise up all human beings from their deepest wounds and transform it into divine strength, making the Body whole.

Today, we as young people ask the Church to take the path of healing wounds. This path starts at this Assembly and requires participation in authentic encounters, together with openness for diversity and acceptance of differences.

We, as young people, are gifts to the church and society as part of the Body of Christ. Today, we advocate for the use of these gifts in our churches.. We invite all young people and the WCC Assembly as a whole to walk the talk—act now. We urge each other to use our prophetic voices to call out injustices, for all the wounds in the world, especially those in which churches have co-participated. Together, let us walk on the path of using our gifts, healing wounds, and transforming injustices:

- By giving an active and meaningful space for equal representation of young people in all processes of the World Council of Churches.
- By establishing a permanent youth desk focused on advocacy and reconciliation towards unity.
- By demanding the active listening of the cries of the young people, especially those in oppressed communities and those fighting for the pressing matter of climate justice. To stand with them, to work towards restoration and love, with a deep knowledge of the pains of the past.

As young people, we need to point out that we are a present for the present days. We are here, as stewards, theological students, advisors, delegates, participants, and observers. We are around 400 young people, full of gifts and overflowed by God's Spirit. We are grateful for the opportunity and the space we have at the Ecumenical Youth Gathering to grow together and be inspired by one another. However, this does not reflect the same at the 11th Assembly. In fact, only 93 out of 750 voting delegates with decision-making rights are young people. That is only about 12 percent.

Therefore, we urge the Assembly to recognise our presence and acknowledge our voices today and not only tomorrow. We urge the member churches to respect and intentionally reflect their commitment to young people at the decision-making spaces through fair and equal representation of young people in their delegation to the Assembly. Additionally, we urge this 11th Assembly to elect a fair and adequate representation of young people to the Central Committee.

To lead us into this path, we start with a prayer:

May God help us use our unique gifts to be unified in our diversity.

May Christ's love transform our discipleship to fight injustices that are creating these wounds.

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