



Global Christian Forum

International Committee Meeting Narrative Report 26th October

The Global Christian Forum's International Committee met virtually, as the Covid-19 pandemic continues, on October 26, 2021. Participants joined from around the world to reflect on places they find hope and to plan for the next Global Gathering which will take place in 2024.

The meeting began with a prayer led by Commissioner Elizabeth Matear of the Salvation Army.

Finding Hope

Each participant was invited to share a place where they find hope in these uncertain times. There were many beautiful expressions of hope, some of those expressions included:

- Finding hope that we are moving toward the end of the Covid-19 pandemic, as vaccines are more widely available and countries are beginning to reopen.
- Prayer gives hope because it invites the peace of God, and God is the only Almighty and eternal One.
- Belief in resurrection is the foundation of hope because we are assured that evil does not have the final word; the final word belongs to God. This belief enables us to continue to be part of God's mission despite the current circumstances.
- There is hope in churches who are taking steps to protect the planet and care for the earth; there is hope in the energy of young people who are eager to lead the church in the movement for climate justice.
- Hope in ecumenical relationships and movements which offer a bright future for Christianity and Christian unity.
- Witnessing hope in the dialogue which is beginning between the Catholic church and the Pentecostal church in the US context.

Jean-Daniel Pluss shared about the French-speaking meeting of the Christian Forum in Switzerland. During the meeting, people were especially excited about the sharing of faith stories. The theme of the forum was based on abiding in Jesus who is the vine.

It was acknowledged by the group that the Global Christian Forum's practice of sharing faith stories remains a relevant and increasingly important way for Christians to connect and build relationships.

Fourth Global Gathering

The committee agreed that it will begin planning for the fourth Global Gathering. It was agreed that the gathering will take place April 15-19, 2024 with provision for participants to be part of worship in local churches on the Sunday before or after the gathering.

Four possible venue locations for the gathering were presented, and the committee decided to wait before choosing a venue for the Global Gathering. The planning group was tasked with choosing the venue after continued prayer and discernment. The planning group will also be responsible for organizing the theme and logistics of the meeting. The planning group includes the facilitation group and eight other international committee members.

Committee Transitions

The GCF International Committee took a few moments to celebrate the good work, friendship and faithful ministry of Commissioner Elizabeth Matear and Dr. Chris Ferguson who are leaving the committee.

For further information visit www.GlobalChristianForum.org or email communications@globalchristianforum.org.

The Global Christian Forum (GCF) is a unique gathering of global Christian churches and organisations bringing together all the major streams of world Christianity. It is an open space where all Christians can meet to nurture unity by fostering mutual respect and understanding as well as by addressing together common challenges. Represented in the GCF are many Christian World Communions and world Christian organisations, including the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the Pentecostal World Fellowship, the World Evangelical Alliance and the World Council of Churches. The GCF secretary is Rev. Dr. Casely Essamuah.

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