

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
DELEGATE(S) TO
TENTH ASSEMBLY OF THE
WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Council of General Synod invites candidates to represent the Anglican Church of Canada at the tenth assembly of the World Council of Churches, to be held in the fall of 2013 in Busan, South Korea.

About the World Council and the Assembly

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is a worldwide fellowship of 349 churches. It is the broadest and most inclusive among the many organized expressions of the modern ecumenical movement. The primary purpose of the WCC is “to call one another to visible unity in one faith and in one eucharistic fellowship, expressed in worship and common life in Christ, through witness and service to the world, and to advance towards that unity in order that the world may believe.” The Anglican Church of Canada is a founding member of the WCC.

The World Council of Churches holds an assembly every seven or eight years, bringing together people from its member churches in over 110 countries and territories. The formal purpose of the assembly is to review programs and determine the overall policies of the WCC, as well as to elect presidents and appoint a Central Committee that serves as the chief governing body of the WCC until the next assembly. Assemblies are also times of celebration and sharing. A central element for all participants is the worship life, where the community gathers for prayer and meditation, drawing on the diverse spiritual experience of the churches around the world.

Dates and Location of the Tenth Assembly

The theme of the next assembly is “God of Life, Lead Us to Justice and Peace.” The assembly will take place October 2–13, 2013, in Busan, South Korea. There are often pre-assembly events for women and youth. While delegates need to attend all sessions of the assembly itself, the pre-assembly events are optional; however, delegates are strongly encouraged to participate in the pre-assembly events because they prepare women and youth delegates for more active and informed participation in the life of the assembly. There will be an orientation event in fall 2012 or early 2013 to help prepare delegates, stewards, and visitors from Canada who have registered to attend the assembly.

Delegates

The Anglican Church of Canada has been invited to send two delegates to the tenth WCC assembly. In total, 725 voting delegates will be at the assembly, but it is expected some 3,500 people will attend, including stewards, staff, advisers, and many visitors from around the world. Every assembly is a learning experience since at least 70 per cent of the delegates will be new. The World Council of Churches strives to include at its assemblies an equal number of women and men, and lay and ordained, with 25 per cent youth (under age 30) among the delegates. The Anglican Church of Canada encourages applications from individuals who demonstrate the racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity of our church, including indigenous people, people with disabilities, and people of all sexual orientations and genders.

To help achieve this balance, the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches may invite the Anglican Church of Canada to suggest names for additional appointments. Those who

are nominated but not appointed one of the Anglican Church of Canada's two delegates may be suggested for these additional appointments.

Skills and Experience Sought

Delegates will be communicants of the Anglican Church of Canada and will be: actively engaged in the life of the Anglican Church of Canada at its various levels; possess a good understanding of and personal commitment to dialogue with different expressions of the Christian faith; demonstrate a strong interest and engagement in ecumenical engagement; have in-depth knowledge of Anglican ethos and theology; appreciate cross-cultural experience; and manifest openness to learning and communicating the wisdom of our Christian sisters and brothers of other traditions and contexts.

Delegates will require patience and an active interest in learning how others experience the Christian faith and the many different ways God is worshipped and faith is lived out. One needs to be assertive without being aggressive, and committed to dialogue in order to build understanding. This can be hard, sometimes frustrating work, but always a learning experience and a privileged opportunity to be part of this global ecumenical fellowship.

Expectations of Delegates

Delegates are responsible for attending all sessions of the assembly and to join in consensus decision making and voting on matters related to future WCC program emphases, statements on public issues, financial matters, and electing the presidents and Central Committee. There will be daily worship and Bible studies and many educational opportunities as well as decision-making sessions.

There will also be opportunities during the course of the assembly to meet and discuss with other members of the Anglican Communion from around the world.

Delegates are entrusted to represent the values, ethos, and policies of the Anglican Church of Canada in their words, actions, and interactions. Delegates are trusted to participate in the group discernment and decision-making of the assembly, bringing to bear the wisdom and skills of their experience in the Anglican Church of Canada. It is also expected that following the assembly, delegates will bring learnings from our partners to the life and work of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Anyone who agrees to be a delegate should be prepared for the possibility of being elected to the Central Committee. Since the WCC's foundation in 1948, the Anglican Church of Canada has had a representative on the Central Committee. The Central Committee meets for eight days every 12–18 months between assemblies, usually in Geneva.

Learn more about the assembly and the World Council of Churches at www.oikoumene.org.

Individuals interested in being considered to represent the Anglican Church of Canada at the next WCC assembly should submit a resumé with a cover letter outlining their interest, skills, and experience, along with a letter of reference, **no later than Monday, April 2, 2012** to:

The General Secretary
Anglican Church of Canada
80 Hayden Street
Toronto, ON
M4Y 3G2