



World Communion of Reformed Churches

Called to communion, committed to justice

Persevere in Your Witness

An Invitation to the 2025 General Council

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

—Hebrews 12:1 (NRSV)

Greetings in the Name of Christ,

We are very pleased to inform you that the 27th General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches will take place in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in October 2025, hosted by the Church of Christ in Thailand with support from other Asian members.

Postponed a year due to the COVID pandemic, the 2025 General Council comes in a year of significance for the Communion, the 150th anniversary of our founding as the “Alliance of the Reformed Churches throughout the World holding the Presbyterian System.” We look forward to marking this anniversary while also moving into a post-pandemic world in which the challenges before us are as great as ever.

The Council’s theme, “Persevere in Your Witness” (inspired by Hebrews 12:1), will guide our gathering and is a strong biblical call to remain true to the faith we have in Jesus Christ and continue to strive for the promise of an abundant life for all.

We remain committed to the gender balance called for by the 2010 Uniting General Council and achieved at the 2017 General Council. As you consider the composition of your delegation, please remember all constitutional mandates, including non-clergy and young leaders (see the attached delegation information page for details).

As is our tradition, we invite your church to make a special contribution to the General Council. We rely on members making a donation that is the equivalent of one year’s membership dues for the Council. We are also accepting donations to a “Just Participation Fund” that will ensure all members can be present regardless of their financial circumstances, as well as support for other aspects of the Council. More information on this will come under a separate letter.

We thank you for your commitment to the Communion and ask that you keep our work and especially the preparations for the 2025 General Council in your prayers.

The latest information on the 2025 General Council can be found here: wrc.ch/gc2025

Blessings,

Hanns Lessing
Acting General Secretary
on behalf of the Collegial General Secretariat

Najla Kassab
President



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2025 General Council: Delegation Information Page

Composition

According to the WCRC Constitution, the number of voting delegates is based on the size of a member denomination:

- Up to four voting delegates for churches with up to 300,000 members
- Up to six voting delegates for churches from 300,001 to 1,000,000 members
- Up to eight voting delegates for churches with 1,000,001 or more members

In addition, each delegation must be gender balanced, no more than half may be clergy, and one member must be thirty-years-old or younger when the Council is convened (for those delegations with multiple people).

Fees & Costs

There are two levels of registration fees:

- For a non-subsidized delegate: 500 euros
- For a subsidized delegate: 300 euros (see below for additional information)

Registration fees account for much of the cost of running the General Council, including room rentals, equipment, translation and interpretation, printing, additional staff support, etc. The registration fee does **not** cover costs for meals, accommodations, or travel. Information on meals and housing will be provided at a later date.

Subsidies

To ensure delegates can be present regardless of their financial circumstances, subsidies will be offered to cover travel, food, and housing costs. These subsidies will be prioritized to ensure that constitutional mandates on delegation balances are met.

A delegate who wishes to receive subsidies must pay both the 300 euro registration fee along with a 700 euro contribution fee, for a total of 1000 euros.

Registration

To register a delegation for the General Council, a member church must be in good standing with the Communion, which includes being current on membership dues payments. To enquire about the status of your church's payments, please send an email to Anna Krüger: anna.krueger@wrcr.eu.

A letter will be sent in early 2024 to members with a request to submit their proposed delegates for the 2025 General Council. After each delegation has been vetted to ensure constitutional eligibility, the other aspects of the registration process will commence.