

Press Release

Heidelberg, August 30, 2022

Call to the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe: "This economy kills: Hearing the cry of the Earth and the poor and breaking the chains of injustice for all creation"

In an appeal supported by numerous ecumenists from around the world, delegates to the World Council of Churches (WCC) assembly taking place in Karlsruhe from Aug. 31 to Sept. 8 are urged to (re)engage more intensively and decisively with the survival issues of humanity and creation, as well as their structural causes, in light of the profound crisis of our civilization. The WCC should focus its commitment on overcoming the destructive "imperial mode of living" with the aim of developing sustainable alternatives, above all for theological and ecclesiological reasons.

Among the signatories of the call initiated by the network Kairos Europa, are Dr. Jooseop Keum, general secretary of the World Missionary Council, Dr. Chris Ferguson, until recently general secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, former leading WCC staff members such as Dr. Aruna Gnanadason, Dr. David L. Gosling, Dr. Rogate Mshana and Dr. Rob van Drimmelen, prominent liberation theologians such as Prof. Allan Boesak, Prof. Nancy Cardoso and Prof. Ulrich Duchrow, as well as ecumenical grassroots initiatives and non-governmental organizations. In agreement with Pope Francis, they say, "This economy kills."

The call situates itself in the tradition of the WCC and sees itself as a renewal and sharpening of the ecumenical movement's consensual decisions regarding the lack of sustainability of the global economic system. It explicitly warns against the promise of reconciling economy and ecology with a "Green New Deal", through which renewable energies are supposed to lead to an environmental turnaround and a boost in employment: "This promise is misguided, because green capitalism also needs economic growth - and the climate crisis is the flip side of economic growth. ... What is needed is a radical new approach that combines social and environmental sustainability goals with the politico-economic functionality." Such a fundamental turnaround, however, is not a win-win situation. It must be fought for in a conflict with those who benefit from the prevailing order.

To this end, the churches should read the signs of the times from the perspective of the crucified people and the desecrated creation, and dare to conflict with the powerful and the despoilers of creation so that all may have life. "In doing so, they must immediately go beyond their church walls and form alliances with the victims and the movements in solidarity with them." The call ends with an appeal for universal fraternity as the core of a shared utopia of justice, peace and integrity of creation.

For the wording of the call in English and German as well as the list of signatories see [here](#) (the english version reads from behind).

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