

October 2025 Accountability Report

Geneva, 6 November 2025

1. Introduction: A word from the general secretary

Greetings and blessings to you in the name of our Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Thus far the Special Ecumenical Year 2025 has been so successfully celebrated with the Berlin Conference, Stockholm Conference, the Athens Conference and in October with the Faith and Order Conference.

The historic Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order took place in Wadi El Natrun under the theme “Where now for visible unity?” We had the opportunity to meet Egyptian president Abdel Fattah El-Sisi as well as experience a wonderfully hospitable welcome from His Holiness, Pope Tawadros II and the Coptic Orthodox Church. The conference closed with a “Call to All Christians” that pledged to transform words into living action and witness.

A great contribution to the conference was the participation of 80 students from the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI), who released a message emphasizing unity amid the world’s multiple crises, and urging churches to allow ancient confessions to speak anew.

I was grateful to be able to attend and preach at the World Communion of Reformed Churches General Council in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where the communion celebrated its 150th anniversary. In Thailand, I met with the Church of Christ in Thailand and the Christian Conference of Asia, and I also witnessed the on-the-ground ministry of churches operating hospitals and schools and nurturing the next generation of theologians.

Crossing the border to Myanmar, I expressed solidarity for churches and communities there and spent quality time listening to their current challenges and difficulties yet appreciating the depth of spirituality, faith and hope in the context of struggle and pain.

We were also pleased to congratulate the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA on their 75th anniversary. It was a great pleasure to deliver three lectures as part of the “Students' Lectureship on Missions” at Princeton Theological Seminary (USA).

2. What we have achieved? Key programmatic work this month

His Holiness Pope Tawadros II receives WCC delegation

His Holiness Pope Tawadros II of the Coptic Orthodox Church received a WCC delegation on 25 October.

WCC meets with Egyptian president Abdel Fattah El-Sisi

Egyptian president Abdel Fattah El-Sisi met with the leadership of the World Council of Churches.

Faith and Order conference closes with pledge to transform words into living action and witness

As the WCC Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order closed on 28 October, in addition to releasing an “Ecumenical Affirmation” and a “Call to All Christians,” participants pledged to bring the fruits of their prayers and dialogue to many churches and communities across the world in ways that show living action and witness.

Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order issues “Call to All Christians”

“Let us aspire to live the unity for which Christ prayed, that the world may believe and experience God’s gifts of healing, justice and abundant life,” the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order has said in a “Call to all Christians: Message of the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order,” agreed on the last day of the 24-28 October gathering.

What does visible unity look like? Global theologians reflect

“Where now for visible unity?” was the theme of the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order meeting in Egypt from 24 to 28 October and on the final day of the gathering, a panel of theologians from different regions and contexts reflected on the topic of “Living Visible Unity.”

Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order explores how visible unity can transform the world

Participants gathered at the WCC Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order in Egypt were challenged to act together to promote visible unity that works towards the transformation of the world.

Message from GETI: “announce with prophetic courage the hope which dwells within us”

A message released 28 October from the WCC Global Ecumenical Theological Institute emphasised unity amid the world’s multiple crises, urged churches to allow ancient confessions to speak anew, and called for announcing with prophetic courage the hope which dwells within us.

World Conference on Faith and Order wrestles with issues of decolonization and mission

As the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order continued its meeting in Wadi El Natrun in Egypt, it wrestled with issues of the place of the church in the world and the question of decolonizing its theology and mission.

Sixth World Conference explores the meaning of faith for church unity today

The church needs to move beyond words about ecumenism and unity to concrete acts that combine contemplation and action, work and prayer, the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order gathered in in Egypt was told.

Conference session lifts up hope and determination of Christians in the Middle East

A special session on 24 October during the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order in Wadi El Natrun, Egypt, lifted up the hope and steadfastness of Christians in the Middle East.

Faith and Order commission meets in Egypt ahead of World Conference

The Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order taking place in Egypt was a historic moment for the WCC and its Commission on Faith and Order, according to commission moderator Rev. Prof. Dr Stephanie Dietrich.

As World Conference on Faith and Order opens in Egypt, hearts and minds look to unity

The Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order of the WCC opened in Wadi El Natrun in Egypt, where His Holiness Pope Tawadros II of the Coptic Orthodox Church appealed to churches to engage in dialogue that will unite them on the path to true unity.

“A divided church has no message to a divided world,” says WCC general secretary to GETI

Speaking at the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute on 23 October, Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay, general secretary of the WCC, delivered an address titled “Do We Need Church Unity?”

Grand Imam of Al-Azhar to GETI participants: “Hope rests on you in confronting senseless wars”

His Eminence Dr Ahmad al-Tayyeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, received participants of the WCC Global Ecumenical Theological Institute at Al-Azhar headquarters on 22 October, in Cairo, Egypt.

Global ecumenical students visit heart of Coptic tradition in Cairo

As part of the study visit program of the 2025 edition of the WCC Global Ecumenical Theological Institute, participants visited the historic Coptic Orthodox Cathedral of St Mark in Cairo on 22 October.

WCC Commission on Faith and Order to convene in Wadi El Natrun

The WCC Commission on Faith and Order convened in Wadi El Natrun, Egypt, on 23 October, one day before the opening of the historic Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order.

Young theologians connect to carry the light of unity together

Participants of the WCC Global Ecumenical Theological Institute in Wadi El Natrun, Egypt, and the World Communion of Reformed Churches Global Institute of Theology in Chiang Mai, Thailand, connected online on 20 October.

Ecumenism as a lived experience: GETI study visits transform faith and understanding

From 18-19 October, students attending the WCC Global Ecumenical Theological Institute in Wadi El Natrun, Egypt, had the opportunity to embark on study visits.

Churches called to remember, resist, and rebuild: GETI plenary reflects on faith amid persecution

As part of the two-week immersion in the curriculum of the in-person phase of the WCC Global Ecumenical Theological Institute, participants gathered on 15 October for a plenary

session exploring the theme “Memory and Mission: Churches Responding to Persecution and Genocide.”

As GETI opens, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II to young people: “you are the heartbeat of Christianity”

As the residential portion of the WCC Global Ecumenical Theological Institute opened in Wadi El Natrun, Egypt, His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, head of the Coptic Orthodox Church, shared the message with young people that faith is not bound by age.

GETI opens with combination of knowledge, spiritual depth, and divine grace

The in-person session of the WCC Global Ecumenical Theological Institute opened on 13 October at the Saint Bishoy Monastery in Wadi El Natrun, Egypt.

As World Communion of Reformed Churches celebrates 150 years, WCC general secretary reflects: “God gives us the gift of perseverance”

As the World Communion of Reformed Churches celebrated its 150th anniversary on 19 October, WCC general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay expressed gratitude for the deep collaboration between the two organizations.

WCC general secretary gives thanks for local ministries in Thailand

WCC general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay, during a visit to Thailand, witnessed the on-the-ground ministry of churches operating hospitals and schools, and nurturing the next generation of theologians.

Sant’ Egidio “Daring Peace” meeting in Rome draws diverse faiths and cultures

United by the desire for peace, representatives of Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and other faith communities attended an international meeting, “Daring Peace,” hosted by Sant’ Egidio from 26-28 October in Rome.

Faith communities chart ethical path for COP30 climate action in Kenya

The WCC joined faith leaders, scientists, and grassroots actors on 22 October for the Kenya Pre-COP30 Dialogue.

WCC leads workshop on HIV and faith in Nicaragua

The WCC led a workshop in coordination with the Lutheran Church Fe y Esperanza and the Latin American Council of Churches, “Training of Trainers: HIV and Faith – Key Topics in Today’s HIV Response” in Nicaragua.

Faith groups launch hunger statement at UN food security meeting in Rome

Three of the world's largest Christian organisations joined in Rome on 22 October for an unprecedented move: a unified statement on the right to food and nutrition.

Faith leaders’ position COP30 as “People’s COP”

Faith leaders speaking at a pre-COP30 press conference called the upcoming summit in the Brazilian Amazon a unique opportunity to put Indigenous voices and grassroots communities at the heart of global climate negotiations.

WCC general secretary welcomed at Christian Conference of Asia headquarters in Chiang Mai

Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay, general secretary of the WCC, was welcomed at the Christian Conference of Asia headquarters in Chiang Mai on 16 October.

Churches unite for Jubilee 2025 Debt Reform: "Behind statistics are human faces"

The WCC joined faith leaders and policy experts in demanding radical debt reform during a Civil Society Policy Forum panel at the 2025 World Bank and International Monetary Fund Annual Meetings on 16 October.

WCC represented at annual meetings of World Bank Group International Monetary Fund

The WCC was represented at the annual meetings of World Bank Group International Monetary Fund.

International Eco-Theological Symposium addresses shared responsibility

On 8-9 October, an international eco-theological symposium was held at the Patriarchal Higher Ecclesiastical Academy of Crete under the theme "Eco-Theology: The Dynamics of Shared Responsibility."

Lasting peace in Korea calls for faith—and strong perseverance

During a workshop at the World Communion of Reformed Churches General Council, which opened 14 October, ecumenical leaders from the Korean Peninsula and across the globe expressed their shared vision of justice, reconciliation, and lasting peace in a divided land.

African theologians discuss key issues ahead of Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order

A senior African church leader said visible Christian unity was possible if churches embraced humility and exercised respect for each other's religious traditions.

WCC general secretary expresses thanks for strong collaboration with World Communion of Reformed Churches

WCC general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay, in a message to the opening of the 27th General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, expressed deep appreciation for the strong collaboration and shared journey between the two organisations.

WCC general secretary visits Myanmar, stands with churches and communities

WCC general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay visited Myanmar on 11-12 October, expressing solidarity for churches and communities.

Bossey students visit Taizé community for study and reflection

Students from the WCC Ecumenical Institute at Bossey embarked on a three-day study visit to the Taizé Community in France from 10-12 October.

"Save the ArQ" movement dedicated to safeguarding heritage of the Armenian Quarter in Jerusalem

During a plenary session at the WCC on 9 October, co-founders of the Save the ArQ movement—an initiative dedicated to safeguarding the Armenian Quarter and the heritage

of the Armenian Patriarchate—presented on “Preserving the Christian Heritage in Jerusalem - The case of the Armenian Quarter.”

WCC facilities exchange at Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development forum

The WCC shared insights at the Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD) annual forum, held 6-8 October online and in Istanbul under the theme “Faith-Inspired Action for Food Security, Justice, and Well-being.”

Global Ecumenical Theological Institute engages mind, heart, and action for transformation

Prof. Dr Ani Ghazaryan Drissi, coordinator of the WCC Global Ecumenical Theological Institute 2025, reflected on the program’s guiding principles, and the balance of academic content with spiritual engagement.

WCC Commission of the Churches on Health and Healing participates in 47th General Council of Christian Health Association of Zambia

Dr Cleopatra Nomonde Mqhayi-Mbambo, vice moderator of the WCC Commission of the Churches on Health and Healing, delivered the keynote address at the 47th General Council of the Christian Health Association of Zambia.

Conference commemorates 40th anniversary of Kairos Document in South Africa

The Desmond Tutu Centre of the University of the Western Cape organized a conference to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Kairos Document in South Africa.

WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs reflects on today’s geopolitical landscape

Peter Prove, director of the WCC Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, reflected on today’s geopolitical landscape, the crisis of multilateralism, and the importance of Christians coming together globally.

WCC general secretary delivers lecture series for Princeton Theological Seminary

WCC general secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay delivered three lectures as part of the “Students' Lectureship on Missions” at Princeton Theological Seminary (USA).

From Manila to Harare: Youth transform climate fear into church resilience with prayers and actions

On the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, 4 October, young Christians across three continents shared a message at the Season of Creation closing online prayer ceremony: turn climate anxiety into action.

African churches to gather online ahead of Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order

The All Africa Conference of Churches, in collaboration with the WCC, hosted an online regional pre-conference for Africa in preparation for the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order.

Faith and Order study group focuses on meaning of visible unity

Rev. Dr Ge Wen and Rev. Dr Sotiris Boukis are co-conveners of Study Group One of the WCC Commission on Faith and Order. They took time to reflect on the focus and goals of the group.

Majority of countries now support Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

With Kyrgyzstan signing, and Ghana ratifying, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the number of countries that have signed, ratified, or acceded into the treaty now represent a global majority.

WCC participates in Summit for Interfaith Unity and Peace

The WCC participated in a seminar, “The Global Convergence Challenge – Summit for Interfaith Unity and Peace,” hosted by the National Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland as part of the annual meetings of Religions for Peace Europe.

WCC explores partnership with Philippines climate campaign challenging fossil fuel finance

The WCC met with Philippines climate advocate Angelica Dacanay on 26 September in Geneva, Switzerland, to explore partnership on climate litigation and frontline campaigns.

WCC shares sermon during service in Wales commemorating Nicene Creed

WCC president from Europe Rev. Dr Susan Durber preached during an “Ecumenical Service of Celebration and Commitment, The Nicene Creed 325-2025: We Believe,” in Swansea Minster, Wales, on 28 September.

3. Update on communication

Press conference yields reflections on historic milestone of Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order

A press conference on 25 October drew reflections from those leading the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order in Wadi El Natrun in Egypt.

Ecumenical Review reflects on theme of Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order

As the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order prepared to meet in Egypt, the WCC journal *The Ecumenical Review* reflects on its theme “Where Now for Visible Unity?”

Join the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order online

Stories from the WCC Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order in Wadi El Natrun, Egypt, from 24-28 October were shared in a variety of ways, from live-streaming to features, from interviews to talk shows.

Resources published for the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order

Two key resources were published by the WCC to accompany the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order.

Translations of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 resources available worldwide

Churches and Christian communities worldwide are invited to prepare for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2026, as resources are available online in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Arabic.

Next-level "Just Digital" e-course will explore ethical issues of our digital lives

The World Association for Christian Communication launched Module 2 of "Just Digital!" a self-paced e-course that invites individuals and groups to explore the ethical issues of our digital lives and take action for a more just online world.

Webinar explores "AI and Our Information Society: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly"

A WCC webinar—the first in a series—"AI and Our Information Society: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly" explored the positive and negative aspects of artificial intelligence and its impact in the digital communication sphere.

Pre-COP30 Ecumenical Faith Leaders' Press Conference

COP30 will take place in Belém in the Brazilian Amazon from 10-21 November, with the Heads of State Summit beforehand on 6-7 November.

Features:

H.E. Bishop Abraham, Coptic Orthodox Church, believes Christian unity requires humility, dialogue, and love

His Eminence Bishop Abraham, from the Coptic Orthodox Church, took time to reflect on the role of his church in the ecumenical movement, and his vision for Christian unity today.

Litokne Kabua encourages churches to use the law for climate justice

Litokne Kabua recently completed an internship with the WCC in the area of climate justice. He took time to reflect on what gives him hope, and what he would like to see churches accomplishing in this area.

H.E. Metropolitan Gabriel of Nea Ionia reflects on democracy, participation, and Christianity

In a WCC interview, His Eminence Metropolitan Gabriel of Nea Ionia reflected on the role of the Church of Greece in hosting a "Life and Work" centenary conference, as well as more widely on what democracy and participation might mean from a Christian perspective.

Archbishop Rinalds Grants: Our differences should not prevent us striving for unity and serving those in need

A month since Archbishop Rinalds Grants has taken office as the new head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia, WCC invited him for a conversation on the importance of unity among Christians, and the path towards a just peace in Ukraine from the perspective of the Baltic countries.

Faith and Order moderator looks to world conference to help quest for visible church unity

In a world that is divided and where churches are also divided, the quest for visible unity is more relevant than ever, according to Rev. Prof. Dr Stephanie Dietrich, moderator of the WCC Commission on Faith and Order.

Prof. Dr Michalis Marioras reflects on how interreligious dialogue becomes transformative

Prof. Dr Michalis Marioras from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens is a member of the WCC Reference Group on Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation. In a WCC interview, he reflected on his hopes for interreligious dialogue and cooperation.

New book challenges Christian service tradition

The WCC hosted the launch of "Decolonizing Diakonia: From Servanthood to Companionship" by Rev. Prof. Dr Hyuk Cho and the late Rev. Junghee Park.

Norwegian Church Aid secretary general reflects on fostering understanding in a polarised world

Anne Cecilie Kaltenborn, secretary general of Norwegian Church Aid, took time to reflect on her recent visit to the WCC, her vision for deeper collaboration, and what gives her optimism in a polarised world.

WCC receives visitors from Norwegian Mission Society

On 22 September, the WCC received a visit from the Norwegian Mission Society. In addition to an introduction to the WCC, the group discussed inter-religious dialogue; life, justice, and peace; and unity, mission, and ecumenical formation.

4. Update on statements, comments and messages

29 October: WCC expresses grave concern over violence, reported atrocities in Sudan

29 October: WCC Communicator and Anti-Apartheid Campaigner Albert van den Heuvel dies at 93

24 October: WCC extends congratulations to Rev. Dr Karen Georgia Thompson, president-elect of World Communion of Reformed Churches

17 October: WCC sends greetings to Hindu communities on Diwali

17 October: National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA marks 75th anniversary

13 October: WCC welcomes release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners

13 October: WCC extends greetings for 75th anniversary of National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA

11 October: WCC welcomes ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, urges lasting peace

10 October: WCC central committee moderator shares insights at mission conference in central Africa

10 October: WCC marks World Mental Health Day: "we must be vigilant and respond"

9 October: Campaign to Stop Killer Robots sends letter to Pope Leo XIV

7 October: WCC congratulates Rev. Rainer Kiefer upon retirement from Evangelische Mission Weltweit

7 October: On second anniversary of 7 October 2023, WCC extends prayerful remembrance

7 October: WCC congratulates Evangelische Mission Weltweit on 50th anniversary

6 October: In tribute to Rev. Dr Peter Cruchley, WCC describes "a pilgrim, a prophet, and a passionate advocate"

3 October: WCC extends congratulations Rt. Rev. Rt. Hon. Dame Sarah Mullally, newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury

3 October: WCC condemns attack on synagogue in Manchester

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Essential to the WCC Strategic Plan (2023-2030) is the striving for visible Christian unity and justice in the world. The events of our special anniversary celebrations this year and the work of staff, leaders and members of the fellowship have all worked and collaborated extensively to give greater impetus to these strategic priorities. I am pleased to say that these events have led to a revived desire and energy for visible unity. All of these add value and effort to strengthening the WCC Pilgrimage of Justice, Reconciliation and Unity.

May the grace and love of God prompt, inspire and strengthen us as we keep praying, walking and working together as pilgrims and co-pilgrims in God's world.

Please remember in your prayers the many parts of the world that are facing wars, conflicts, hunger and natural disasters. Remember also the WCC executive committee meeting in Hangzhou, China, from 20-25 November 2025.

May the peace and love of Christ be with always.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerry Pillay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay
General Secretary
World Council of Churches