



## **GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL**

The World Methodist Council is a worldwide association of Methodist, Wesleyan and related United and Uniting Churches, connecting the family together. Through the Council, Churches whose roots are traced to the Wesleyan movement in the 18th century connect by listening to and learning from one another, offering mutual encouragement and engaging in united witness in the ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

The World Methodist Council seeks to strengthen and uphold the global connections in the Wesleyan tradition, to promote understanding and unity in the Methodist/Wesleyan family, to foster participation in the ecumenical movement, to clarify theological and moral standards, to encourage evangelism in every land and to identify priorities in the Methodist movement.

### **APPLICANT CHURCHES**

It is recognized that there are three categories of applicant churches:

- National/regional Methodist churches;
- United/Uniting churches with Methodist membership and/or heritage;
- Churches which have historically been part of a member church of the World Methodist Council

### **ELEGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Churches in the Methodist/Wesleyan tradition are eligible for membership in the World Methodist Council provided...

- the doctrine of the applicant church is in keeping with the traditional standards of Methodist doctrine:
  - affirming the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the primary rule of faith and practice and the center of theological reflection;
  - professing the ancient ecumenical creeds, the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds;
- the applicant church has a measure of autonomy, history and strength in its particular country and/or situation;
- the applicant church is a national or regional or global church. For avoidance of doubt, membership does not convey exclusivity within that body.



## **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:**

Process for applying for membership:

- The Governing body of the applicant church applies to the World Methodist Council for membership, presenting its history, statement of faith, and dimensions of ministry.
- The Officers of the World Methodist Council or group of Officers meet with officials of the church applying for membership to put certain questions, to include...
  - why the applicant church wishes to be part of the World Methodist Council.
  - the status of its ecumenical relationships – with Methodist churches and with other traditions.
- In cases where an applicant church was historically part of a World Methodist Council member church, the Officers shall engage in conversation with both parties.
- The Council will have due respect for regional Methodist councils as a checkpoint on our Methodist heritage and as a means to avoid further breaking of the Body of Christ.
- Officers of the World Methodist Council recommend acceptance/non acceptance into membership
- The World Methodist Council votes on the recommendation of the Officers.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP:**

Membership in the World Methodist Council includes the following responsibilities:

- an acceptance of the purpose and the Constitution of the World Methodist Council;
- the sending of representatives to the World Methodist Council/Conference;
- the financial support of the work of the World Methodist Council, including annual contributions to the ongoing ministry of the Council;
- the promotion of the work and the ministry of the World Methodist Council in the member church;
- the seeking to establish fellowship with member churches of the World Methodist Council in the region and/or country.

**Adopted**