

REPORT OF WCRC–INDONESIA
Persekutuan Gereja-gereja Reform di Indonesia
Rev. Zakaria J. Ngelow, moderator
Rev. Paulus Wijono, associate secretary

Introduction

The WCRC Indonesia Regional Council (WCRC–Indonesia) was founded in Jakarta on 9 May 2012, at the National Conference on Mission in Indonesia. The conference was sponsored by the WCRC, Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and the Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI). The conference was attended by previous WCRC general secretary, Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi. He also motivated participants to support formation of a regional WCRC council for Indonesia. Our bylaws (appendix 1) were sent to general secretary to be ratified.

Rev. Zakaria J. Ngelow was appointed as president or moderator of the council. Then he asked Rev. Arliyanus Larosa (general secretary of the Indonesia Christian Church, GKI) and Ms. Olvi Prihutami (of the Java Christian Church, GKJ) to join as secretary and treasurer. For the period of 2016-2019 the executive committee of WCRC-Indonesia is as follows:

Moderator	Rev. Zakaria J. Ngelow
Secretary	Rev. Arliyanus Larosa
Associate Secretary	Rev. Paulus Wijono
Treasurer	Rev. Marlene Joseph

Objectives of WCRC–Indonesia

1. Sharing WCRC information
2. Revitalisation and contextualisation of Reformed traditions
3. Coordinating solidarity and advocacy
4. Cooperation among members
5. Developing wider church ecumenism and interfaith dialogue.

Some Activities

1. WCRC–Indonesia was founded on 9 May 2012 in Jakarta.
2. Since 2012 a simple website of WCRC–Indonesia was provided to share information to member churches. I put them temporarily in my office website at www.oaseintim.org/wcrc-indonesia.
3. Our bylaws were approved by member meeting in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara, on 26 January 2013. The bylaws were then sent to the WCRC general secretary in Geneva. On May 2013 we got information from Ms. Yael Eka Hadiputeri, executive committee member of the WCRC, that Indonesia Regional Council of WCRC and its bylaws were approved at the executive committee meeting in Ghana, but ratification will be done by the 2017 General Assembly.
4. On 20 May 2015, we were visited by Rev. Chris Ferguson, the new general secretary of the WCRC, at GKI Gunung Sahari, Jakarta Pusat. He came to Indonesia to attend the 14th General Assembly of CCA, 27-29 May 2015. We shared information about

WCRC–Indonesia, and Rev. Ferguson shared about the WCRC. The meeting was attended by some 20 participants representing 14 member churches.

5. After the CCA general assembly Rev. Chris Ferguson visited some WCRC congregations in Bandung. Pasundan Christian Church (GKP) was host for this meeting.
6. On 22 July 2015 during the general assembly of Indonesia Protestan Church (GPI) in Palu, Central Sulawesi, there was a meeting of WCWRC member churches. The meeting shared information among member churches such as annual dues.
7. On 21 January 2016, during Communion of Churches in Indonesia's annual meeting in Parapat, North Sumatera, representatives of WCRC member churches had a short meeting. They agree to spend a day meeting on 29 February 2016 in Jakarta, during a celebration of GPI member churches.
8. The meeting in Jakarta on 29 February 2016 dealt with three main agenda items, namely an introduction to the Accra Confession (WARC, 2004) from an Indonesian perspective; sharing bread among member churches; then appointed the new moderator. The Accra Confession is not familiar to our member churches, although Indonesian translation was available since 2008 and published in our website. Sharing bread is a program to share available program among member churches to other members. Pasundan Church, for example, offers interfaith program or shelter program for the victims of domestic violence. Other churches are invited to come and learn how Pasundan Church runs the programs. I refused to continue as moderator of our regional communion, but the meeting insisted and just added Rev. Paulus Wijono (general secretary of Pasundan Christian Church) as associate secretary and Rev. Marlene Joseph (general secretary of Protestant Church in Western Indonesia) as treasurer.

Short information on member churches of WCRC in Indonesia

1. Indonesia ca. 18,000 tropical islands, 245 million people of about 500 ethnic groups; ca. 250 million population: 87% Muslim population; 10% Christians (of both Roman Catholics and Protestantism). Government recognizes five major world religions, but there are many indigenous religions.
2. Christianity arrived in the country since 7th century (as Nestorianism). Our Indonesian modern Christianity began in 16th century as Roman Catholic communities but converted to Dutch Calvinism in early 17th century.
3. Indonesian Protestantism came from three different backgrounds, namely (1) the Dutch Calvinist congregations under Dutch trade body then in 19th century reorganized under Dutch colonial rule as Protestant Church in Indonesia. This "colonial church" was reorganized into four (now 12) ethnic-regional churches, mostly in Eastern Indonesia. (2) Churches founded by mission boards from Europe (the Netherlands and Germany), eventually organized as "ethnic churches." (3) Churches founded by "American missionaries" of Protestant denominations, such as Pentecost, Christian Alliance, Adventism, etc.
4. WCRC member churches came from the (1) and (2) background. Some confined to a certain region, some other become ethnic churches that spread across the country following their members' migration. Most of our member churches were organized

into independent church since the 1930s. Less than a hundred years under Indonesian leadership.

5. Most of our member churches belong to rural or traditional agrarian churches. Some of their congregations are in the towns or big cities. Only Indonesia Christian Church (GKI) and the Protestant Church of Western Indonesia (GPIB) belong to urban churches. As for the size, some churches have only small number of members (less than 10,000) but others have some hundred thousand members. Of course you know when you check their respective annual dues. We do not have the number of Indonesian Christians of our WCRC–Indonesia members yet. Our estimation about 10 million (some 50% of Indonesian Protestantism).
6. All WCRC–Indonesia member churches are also member of our national Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI). We take our chance to have a short meeting of WCRC member representatives at the annual meeting of the national Communion.
7. Indonesian churches face some national challenges, such as religious radicalism, ecological crisis, and human rights. Religious radicalism among Muslims was rooted in the past history of Indonesian struggle for independence from colonialism but recently supported by transnational radical movements. Our ecological crisis was caused mainly by big corporations supported by our government. They take over our people's land. They convert our tropical forests into monoculture of palm oil plantations or break the ground for mineral minings. They also convert people's lands in the suburban cities to exclusive real estate. Land grabbing created injustice to our ecology and to our people. They were uprooted from their soil and lost their traditional economic resources. Human rights has become a major issue as some religious minority, included some Christian communities, are persecuted. Other minorities, such as LGBT and indigenous people are also marginalized.

Some Concerns

1. The executive committee of WCRC–Indonesia has difficulty of communication with member churches. Most of the churches did not reply to emails. It is a contradiction to the nature of the WCRC as a communion of one Christ's body lives in an era of modern-sophisticated information and communication technology. Therefore it is serious efforts are needed to develop better communication. As an effort we keep updated postal addresses, phones, and identify a contact person of each member churches. Online information is also updated, such as information from Hannover as we read in the WCRC Facebook (www.facebook.com/worldcommunion) or blog (wcrch.ch/blog). We also share as we get information from member churches. We utilize Facebook group and WhatsApp group and website for sharing information.
2. The second concern is the unpaid annual dues of most of our member churches, which ever increased as churches are leaving their dues unpaid. While waiting for the executive committee's new policy on this matter, churches are advised to pay their respective dues, begin in year 2015, while the back years can be paid in installments. It seems that the WCRC needs to review the amount of annual dues for some member churches which factually have no resources to pay, such as churches with small number of members (only some thousands) while they are economically poor.

3. Another concern is the financial limitation of most of our churches. Unpaid annual dues are related to this limitation. Indonesia is a big country with relative expensive travel costs. That is the main reason why we schedule our member churches meeting during a gathering of church leaders, such as annual meeting of our national communion of churches or of the Indonesia Protestant Church (12 out of 27 WCRC members belong to this church). Costs for our executive committee administrative needs are paid personally. Our new treasurer is working on a fundrasing plan to cover our executive committee administrative needs. I learned recently that an invitation for the moderator to a meeting abroad, such as to this executive committee meeting in Havana, is not paid by the WCRC office in Hannover.
4. We were informed that 2nd General Council of WCRC will be organized in Leipzig, Germany, 27 June - 7 July, 2017, under a theme: “God of Life Renew and Transform Us.” Please send as materials for the general council as soon as available. Some of our member churches need Indonesian translation of the documents (or their summary). We also wondered whether this time the council committee will provide Indonesian interpretation.



World Communion of Reformed Churches in Indonesia Persekutuan

Gereja-gereja Reform di Indonesia

Moderator: Rev. Zakaria J. Ngelow (zngelow@gmail.com)

Secretary: Rev. Arliyanus Larosa (arliyanus.larosa@gmail.com)

Associate Secretary: Rev. Paulus Wijono (plauzw@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Rev. Marlene Joseph (josephmarlene@rocketmail.com)

<http://www.oaseintim.org/wcrc-indonesia>

Bylaws of the Communion of Reformed Churches in Indonesia

I. Nature and Name

This ecumenical communion of churches is a Regional Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches, and is called the Communion of Reformed Churches in Indonesia.

II. Basis (Article II WCRC Constitution)

The basis of the World Communion of Reformed Churches shall be the Word of the triune God, incarnate in Jesus Christ and revealed in the holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is to this triune God that the church bears witness. The World Communion of Reformed Churches is committed to embody a Reformed identity as articulated in the Ecumenical Creeds of the early church, in the historic confessions of the Reformation, and as continued in the life and witness of the Reformed community.

III. ARTICLE III – IDENTITY

Drawing on the heritage of the Reformed confessions, as a gift for the renewal of the whole church, the World Communion of Reformed Churches is a communion of churches through:

- A. Affirming the gifts of unity in Christ through the mutual recognition of baptism and membership, pulpit and table fellowship, ministry and witness.
- B. Interpreting Reformed theology for contemporary Christian witness.
- C. Encouraging the renewal of Christian worship and spiritual life within the Reformed tradition.
- D. Renewing a commitment to partnership in God's mission, through worship, witness, diaconal service, and work for justice, so as to foster mission in unity, mission renewal, and mission empowerment.
- E. Encouraging leadership development and nurture of the covenant community.
- F. Engaging other ecumenical organizations and churches of other traditions in the ecumenical movement through dialogue and cooperation in ministry.

IV. ARTICLE IV – VALUES

- A. The World Communion of Reformed Churches strives to demonstrate and live the oneness in Christ we profess, to carry out its ministry in ways that enable all member churches to share their gifts, and to honour and be committed to God's saving purposes for the transformation of the world. The World Communion of Reformed Churches serves its members with love and care, encouraging their mutual support and nurture of one another.
- B. The World Communion of Reformed Churches in its order and actions is called to respect, defend, and advance the dignity of every person. In Jesus Christ all human differences must lose their power to divide. No one shall be disadvantaged for, among other reasons, race, ethnicity, or gender, and no individual or church may claim or exercise dominance over another.
- C. The World Communion of Reformed Churches embraces God's covenant promises for the redemption, restoration and renewal of the whole creation through Jesus Christ. In doing so, it affirms the biblical calling of the members to recognize the gift of baptism in one another, and the call to be unified in ministry, and together to bear witness to God's justice and peace and to the integrity of creation.

V. Mission and Purpose

The mission and purpose of the formation of this Regional Council of Indonesia is to foster communion and cooperation among WCRC member churches in Indonesia, and to promote the effectiveness of all WCRC ministries. This mission and purpose are brought about through:

1. Communicating information (resolutions, documents, concerns, etc) from the WCRC office to member churches in Indonesia,
2. Revitalization and contextualization of Reformed identity (doctrines, worship and liturgy, ethical guidance, church polity) in the life and ministry of member churches in Indonesia,
3. Facilitating solidarity and common witness in responding to issues and specific problems faced by the church locally or nationally,
4. Encouraging cooperation among the churches,
5. Fostering ecumenical partnership with churches of non-reformed traditions, and interfaith dialogue.

VI. Membership

Membership of WCRC Indonesia consists of members of WCRC that are based in the Indonesian region.

VII. Council Meeting

1. WCRC-Indonesia member churches shall ordinarily meet in Council once in every year.
2. In the council meeting member churches are represented by one or two delegates, with one vote for one church.

VIII. Executive Committee

1. WCRC-Indonesia is led by an Executive Committee.
2. Executive Committee consists of at least a Moderator, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. They are chosen in a council meeting.
3. Members of Executive Committee serve a term of three and a half years.

IX. Finance

Operational and program costs of WCRC-Indonesia will be raised by the Executive Committee from member churches and/or any non-binding sources, in a manner that does not conflict with the Constitution.

X. Ratification

These Bylaws of the WCRC-Indonesia are submitted to the Executive Committee of WCRC to be ratified according to WCRC Constitution Article XVI.B. In the same manner the election of the Indonesian Regional Executive Committee is submitted for ratification according to WCRC Constitution Article XVI.D and E.

XI. Additions to the Bylaws

Any other regulation not mentioned here that is required for the maintenance of an orderly fellowship will be decided by Executive Committee, on condition that it does not violate these Bylaws or the Constitution and Bylaws of WCRC.

Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara, 26 January 2013

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