

# When



With roots in the 16th-century Reformation, and particularly in the theology of John Calvin, the World Communion of Reformed Churches dates its organizational history to 1875—and has been unifying churches over the course of its existence.



“The Alliance of the Reformed Churches throughout the World holding the Presbyterian System” was formed in London in 1875, bringing together 21 Presbyterian churches from Europe and North America. In 1891, also in London,

the International Congregational Council was formed.

In 1970 in Nairobi, Kenya, these two organizations, Congregational and Presbyterian, united as the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC), with 114 member churches in 70 countries.

Meanwhile, the Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC) formed in 1946. It gathered churches that had no other international ecumenical ties and were committed to mutual support in a Reformed confessional unity. The REC ultimately encompassed 41 churches in 26 countries, the majority in Africa and Asia.

In 2010, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, United States, the WARC and REC united to create the World Communion of Reformed Churches.



# Support

## Participate

- Use WCRC resources at your local church.
- Volunteer to assist at an event.
- Seek scholarships, grants or internships.
- Attend a consultation.
- Join a network.

## Pray

Pray that our witness to justice and communion will be guided by the unifying power of the Spirit.

## Give

Financial contributions are gratefully accepted. You may donate online or find bank transfer information at [wcr.ch/donate](http://wcr.ch/donate). Or you may send a check to either our Hannover or Grand Rapids office:



Donate Online

**WCRC**  
Knochenhauerstrasse 42  
30159 Hannover  
Germany

**WCRC - North America**  
1700 28th Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49508  
USA

# Connect

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# Called to communion. Committed to justice.



**World Communion  
of Reformed Churches**  
**WCRC**

## Who

The World Communion of Reformed Churches is comprised of 80 million Christians in Congregational, Presbyterian, Reformed, United, Uniting and Waldensian churches. The WCRC, working with its 225+ member churches, is active in supporting theology, justice, church unity and mission in over 105 countries.



## Why

United in Christ and rooted in the historic Reformed traditions, the WCRC with its member churches believe that God calls Christians to be part of the transformation of the world through the love of Jesus Christ by meeting spiritual needs and fostering justice for all.

## How

Representatives—men and women, lay and clergy—come from member churches to meet in a general council every seven years. Gathered together they discern God’s will through Scripture to decide the WCRC’s direction. The council also elects leadership to oversee its policies and work. These officers and executive committee members elect the general secretary.

The WCRC is funded by contributions from its member churches and church agencies. Gifts and grants also come from individuals, congregations, foundations and other sources. Supporters of the WCRC help make a difference in the world by donating to specific funds and scholarships, as well as to the organization as a whole.



## What

Called to communion and committed to justice, the WCRC fosters church unity and coordinates common initiatives for mission, theological reflection and formation, church renewal, justice and dialogue.

The WCRC unites churches in witness to the Lord Jesus Christ in many ways relevant to the world today:

- Fosters theological innovation and strengthens common understandings
- Promotes partnership of women and men in church leadership
- Bolsters the voices of churches on critical issues locally and globally
- Enhances the witness and outreach of member churches
- Participates actively with ecumenical partners

The WCRC also facilitates the sharing of resources to increase member churches’ outreach and leadership development:

- Churches’ actions are strengthened through clear faith-based statements such as the Accra Confession and other publications.
- Monies are shared to enhance a church’s community outreach through the Partnership Fund, particularly in the global south.
- Young leaders from around the world gather in the Global Institute of Theology, an intensive, inter-contextual, short-term academic programme.
- Scholarships assist female theology students in the global south to study for ordained ministry.
- Awards promote women as church leaders and Reformed theologians addressing practical world issues.

As an expression of common theology and beliefs, the WCRC contributes to the wider ecumenical movement through its reflections and actions.

