

Discernment Questions: 17 May

Questions for the Discernment Session on 17 May on the President's Address, the Reports of the Collegial General Secretariat (CGS) and the Strategic Plan Programme Group (SPPG)

1. Address of the President

1. The President expresses her hope that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be in person. She pulls upon the Communion to put our resources together to make this happen. Our coming together will rekindle a strong encounter as a Communion.
 - a. How can regions and member churches contribute to allow an in-person Executive Committee meeting in 2023?

2. Report of the Collegial General Secretariat

1. The WCRC is in the process of establishing a Reformed Ecumenical Office in Rome that shall seek ecumenical dialogue and engagement and joint action for peace and justice with ecumenical partners in Rome; and present significant Reformed initiatives to the ecumenical world.
 - a. Examine the potential of the office for strengthening the relations with the Roman Catholic Church. In which areas shall the two communions collaborate more closely?
 - b. Discuss which WCRC initiatives could gain a stronger global visibility by promoting them during the annual event in Rome.

3. Report of the Strategic Plan Programme Group

1. The SPPG recommends that the learnings of the programme work and the Covid-19 and Beyond process should be harvested and developed to build momentum towards the General Council 2025.
 - a. Which are the most important learnings of the work of the WCRC since Leipzig that should receive primary attention in the preparation of the 2025 General Council?
 - b. Are there important statements (like the faith stance on the ordination of women), ecumenical agreements (like the JDDJ and the Wittenberg Witness) or symbolic acts that you would want to be developed?
2. The SPPG recommends that the concept of "global apartheid" that had been explored during the Covid-19 process should be developed in the contexts of the WCRC response to poverty, marginalization, exclusion due to war, racism, authoritarianism and nationalism.
 - a. How would the concept of global apartheid inform the reading of the signs of the time in your context?
 - b. Which forms of witness would be inspired?
 - c. What are potential problems that should be considered by using the concept?
3. The SPPG recommends that the WCRC should develop a new working model that shifts the role of the secretariat from implementing programmes to strategic leadership in networking, coordination, collaboration, and communication.

- a. Identify strengths in the work of your church/region that could be utilized in programmes that express the vision and mission of the WCRC.
 - b. Describe the advantages that the shift to a network model would bring.
 - c. Name possible dangers that should be considered.
 - d. What would be the main role of the general secretariat in this new working model?
4. The SPPG recommends that the WCRC should become more flexible and creative in securing the necessary staff capacity to coordinate its programmatic work.
 - a. Which staff resources do you see in your church/region that could support the work of the WCRC?
 - b. How should such staff resources be integrated into the structures of the general secretariat