

Dear WCRC Executive Members and President Najla Kassab:

May the peace of Christ be with you! I send greetings on behalf of the Disciples of Christ World Communion (Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council) on the occasion of the Executive Committee of the World Communion of Reformed Churches in May 17-20, which will be held online this time.

Although we see a glimpse of hope that we will soon be out of this global pandemic, unfortunately, the world is experiencing another surge of COVID-19. I lament that it has been too long for us to gather in person. I had anticipated that we could meet in person this year, yet the lingering pandemic still affects how we meet and gather as a community.

I understand that the member churches for the WCRC have endured a number of ordeals over the last couple of years—like others around the world. Yet, the members of the WCRC have shown to the world how churches faithfully carry the hope in Christ and live out their faith in God even during a dark time in human history. I am so grateful to my sisters and brothers in the WCRC for being a beacon of resilience and aspirations in a time such as this.

This year's theme for the executive meeting, Stand Firm, Giving Yourselves Fully to the Work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58), is particularly significant because it motivates us to move forward, free from our fear of continuing our work of the Lord for the world, which seems to constantly fall into the trap of war, conflict, and division. As you have indicated with this theme, we are standing firm in a transformative hope for the world, and I am pleased that the Disciples of Christ throughout the world could join the WCRC in this effort!

As you gather in May 17-20, I pray that the Holy Spirit guides your reflection and discernment regarding your call as the body of Christ in a time such as this.

Peace in Christ.

Rev. Paul S. Tché General Secretary

Disciples of Christ World Communion (DECC)

Paul & True