



International Committee Meeting

Narrative Report

20th April 2022

The Global Christian Forum's International Committee met virtually on April 20, 2022. Participants gathered from around the world to reflect on their experiences of Easter in the midst of the suffering of this moment and to plan for the next Global Gathering which will take place April 15-19, 2024.

The meeting began with a devotion led by Reverend Everton Jackson who read from Matthew 28. He noted that the human family is in a season of bewilderment where there is no peace within and no peace without. There are numerous issues that confront us today: can we have hope in the face of political unrest, systemic racism, militarism, war, economic hardship, and suffering? Reverend Jackson proclaimed the good news that even when hope seems elusive, we have faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Even in the face of understandable fears, the words of the resurrection reverberate in our lives today: do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus; he is not here. He has risen!

Easter at a time like this

Each participant was invited to share in one word where they have witnessed or experienced Easter during this season. The faith stories shared were filled with honest wrestling and hopefulness:

- “*We shall overcome*” - being able to celebrate Easter in a full congregation again felt like true resurrection; the recovery of a friend who has struggled with cancer also felt like true Easter
- “*Easter doubt*” - we ask the question of how to speak of hope in a time of war. As Christians we can challenge and doubt the power of evil because Jesus Christ has overcome those powers.
- “*Hope beyond hope*” - the way of the cross means to hope in the worst conditions
- “*Joy*” - the participation of people in the parishes for Easter celebrations brought immense joy and community
- “*Light*” - receiving light from Christ with the Easter candle; light over darkness and freedom over tyranny

2024 Global Gathering

With joy and enthusiasm, the International Committee confirmed the venue and dates for the 2024 Global Gathering which will be held April 15-19, 2024 in Accra, Ghana. GCF notes that when Jesus prays for the unity of the church, the unity serves the purpose of witnessing to the world. Therefore, the theme of the Global Gathering will be “*That the World May Know*” from John 17:23b.

Global Gathering Planning Committees

The Secretary announced the recommendations for two task forces who will begin their work in planning the 2024. The recruitment and invitation task force will be led by Dr. David Han and Jean-Daniel Pluss. The Program and Content task force will be led by Wesley Granberg-Michaelson and Father Andrzej Choromanski.

Regional Consultations

The Secretary updated the committee on the upcoming regional consultations which are being planned for the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Africa. The next International Committee meeting will also be a regional consultation in Seoul, South Korea in October 2022.

For further information visit www.GlobalChristianForum.org or email communications@globalchristianforum.org.