

## 7. Report of the Delegates to the World Council of Churches

The World Council of Churches held its 11th Assembly in Germany, Aug. 31 to Sept. 8, 2022. This gathering is believed to be the most diverse Christian gathering ever held, with participants from every continent. German churches helped host the event and welcomed more than 3,500 people to the city of Karlsruhe.

As a founding member of the WCC, the Church of the Brethren has sent delegates, observers, staff, and communicators to assemblies ever since the council's start in 1948. Assemblies are held about every eight years.

Representing the Church of the Brethren were delegate Liz Bidgood Enders; General Secretary David Steele; Nate Hosler, director of the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy; Bethany Seminary President Jeff Carter as a member of the WCC Central Committee; and Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, director of News Services.

Attending from Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) were President Joel S. Billi, who served as delegate; Vice President Anthony Ndamsai; and theological student and EYN staff member Koni Ishaya.

The schedule centered on morning and evening prayer services, demonstrating the ecumenical goal of Christian unity. Leadership came from the breadth of the Christian traditions involved with the WCC. Emphasis was given to including leadership of women, those with disabilities, youth and young adults, indigenous peoples, and laity as well as clergy.

On the business agenda were elections of the WCC presidents representing the continents of the world, and the 150 members of the Central Committee; documents relating to the organization of the WCC and its programing; and statements on current issues. Leading the business was moderator Agnes Abuom from the Anglican Church of Kenya, who was the first woman and the first African ever to serve as assembly moderator.

Bidgood Enders served on the writing team and helped present a paper on "War in Ukraine, Peace and Justice in the European Region." Additional public statements included "The Things that Make for Peace; Moving the World to Reconciliation and Unity," "Living Planet: Seeking a Just and Sustainable Global Community," "Seeking Justice and Peace for All in the Middle East," and "minutes" or brief papers on "Ending the War and Building Peace on the Korean Peninsula," "The Situation in West Papua," "Consequences of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh War," and "Syriac-Aramaic Genocide."

During the assembly, the Church of the Brethren group participated in meetings of the historic peace churches, as well as regional meetings for North America and Africa. Full reporting from the assembly is available on [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org).

David Steele, General Secretary

Liz Bidgood Enders, delegate

Jeff Carter

Nathan Hosler

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford