



Highlights of the Ecumenical Movement 1910-2010

 World Council of Churches
www.wcc-oc.org



Explanation of symbols

-  WCC Assembly
-  World Conference Faith and Order or Faith and Order Commission Meeting
-  World Conference Church and Society (successor to Life and Work)
-  World Mission Conference
-  WCC Conference
-  Other World Ecumenical Conference
-  New WCC General Secretary
-  Selected Ecumenical key date

W.A. Visser 't Hooft (1891-1986)
A brilliant and visionary Christian leader from the Netherlands, Willem Visser 't Hooft was named WCC general secretary at the 1988 meeting where the WCC was first formed. He held that job until his retirement in 1986. He emphasized the importance of linking the ecumenical movement to existing social structures of the church through the ages. In 1969 he was elected honorary president of the WCC by the fourth assembly.

Eugene Carson Blake (1896-1986)
Blake served as general secretary from 1966 until 1972. A talent administrator and social reformer in the USA, he previously served as staff director of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA and as president of the national council of churches in the USA. An ardent advocate of the civil rights movement, he helped launch the WCC's Programme to Combat Racism.


Philip Potter (1921-)
A Methodist pastor, missionary and youth leader from Dominica in the West Indies, Potter served as the third general secretary from 1972 to 1989. A biblical scholar and leader of Bible studies, during his mandate he worked on the fundamental study of Christian witness and Christian service and the correlation of faith and action.

Emilio Castro (1927-)
A native of Uruguay, Castro was general secretary from 1989-1992. A theologian, he served as director of the WCC's Commission on World Mission and Evangelism. A Methodist pastor and theologian, he was noted for his eloquent preaching and progressive views on Christianity and the social order, and achieved widespread prominence among Protestant churches in Latin America.

Konrad Raiser (1928-)
A German Lutheran theologian and fifth general secretary from 1992 to 2003, Raiser once described how his ecumenical calling was like a "second conversion". During a contentious turbulent period for the ecumenical movement, he led the Council in a redefinition of the "Common Understanding and Vision" and in a fundamental review of the participation of Orthodox member churches.

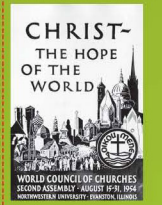
Samuel Kobia (1947-)
An ordained minister of the Methodist Church in Kenya, the sixth general secretary of the WCC is also the first African to hold the position and took up office in 2004. Kobia brings his lifelong concern for Africa to the world-wide ecumenical movement. Following his election, he called on churches to "work tirelessly to reach the healing of the world and the restoration of human dignity".

First Assembly
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
22 August to 4 September 1948
Theme: "Mary, Mother and God's Design"
Delegates: 353 (147 member churches)

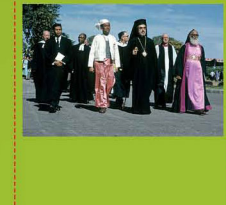


Second Assembly
Evansville, USA
16-31 August 1964
Theme: "Christ - the Hope of the World"
Delegates: 493 (114 member churches)

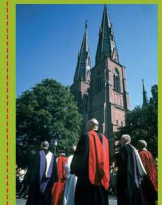
CHRIST - THE HOPE OF THE WORLD




Third Assembly
New Delhi, India
19 November to 5 December 1961
Theme: "Jesus Christ - the Light of the World"
Delegates: 577 (157 member churches)




Fourth Assembly
Uppsala, Sweden
4-20 July 1968
Theme: "Biblical, I make all things new"
Delegates: 714 (236 member churches)




Fifth Assembly
Nairobi, Kenya
28 November to 19 December 1976
Theme: "Jesus Christ: Peace and Unity"
Delegates: 676 (285 member churches)



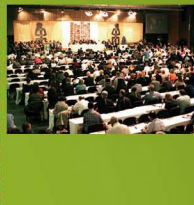
Sixth Assembly
Nassau, Canada
24 July to 10 August 1983
Theme: "Jesus Christ - the Life of the World"
Delegates: 847 (334 member churches)




Seventh Assembly
Cairns, Australia
7-20 February 1991
Theme: "Come, Holy Spirit - Renew the Whole Creation"
Delegates: 953 (317 member churches)



Eighth Assembly
Harare, Zimbabwe
8-14 December 1998
Theme: "Turn to God - Repose in Hope"
Delegates: 995 (336 member churches)



Ninth Assembly
Edinburgh, Scotland
14-23 February 2006
Theme: "God, in your grace, transform the world"
Delegates: 728 (346 member churches)




God, in your grace, transform the world