

A Message from the Young Adults Peace Pilgrimage to the Methodist, Wesleyan, United and Uniting Churches in the World Methodist Council.

*Then afterwards
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions (Joel 2.28)*

We young people from the World Methodist Communion gathered, supported by the World Methodist Council, the United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries, and the Korean Methodist Church. We participated in a Peace Pilgrimage in South Korea from June 23 to 27, 2025, representing more than 10 countries from all corners of the world. The pilgrimage faced the contextual reality from the democratization movements towards the hope for the re-unification of the Korean Peninsula. Geographically starting from *Seoul to Gwangju, Daejeon, Paju, and the DMZ, concluding in Seoul*. The pilgrimage aimed to be *on the move* by listening to and witnessing the devastation caused by warfare and political tensions that have persisted for 75 years on the Korean Peninsula.

In seeking peace, we commit to carrying one another's burdens and to journeying as disciples of Christ. As young Methodist and Wesleyan pilgrims from across the globe, we gathered in Korea—a land still marked by long-denied peace—to embark on a shared pilgrimage. We stand in solidarity with those who have witnessed violence and atrocities, and we uphold the cries for justice from all who have been impacted by war. As we visited places of deep pain and trauma, we were invited into a posture of active love—a love that sees, laments, remembers, and holds space. The work of peace demands that we confront hard truths and let go of our comfort. We lament to resonate globally on the ongoing legacies of colonialism, separation, political tension, war, military confrontation, exploitation, hatred, and enmity. True reconciliation—rooted in justice and dignity for all—requires bold prophetic action. We urge our churches and ecumenical networks to challenge injustice, embody Christ's healing presence, and live as witnesses to the God who unites and connects us all.

This pilgrimage is not the end; it is the beginning. We are called to speak truth, to bear witness, and to break down barriers. United in Christ and courageous in hope, we return to our communities not only inspired but ready to pilgrimage as peacebuilders, storytellers, and seekers of justice and truth. We call on our churches *to truly listen and to walk in the places*: to create space for our voices, to relinquish power and privilege, and to invest in our formation in shared faith. We invite our siblings in Christ to walk alongside us, to trust us, and to stand with us as we take risks towards peace, truth and reconciliation. This call to peace is not the mission of a few—it is the mission of the Church as one body in mutual witnessing. We honour those who continue to pray, hope, and labour for peace, even when it seems impossibly far away. We commit ourselves to carrying that work forward—in our communities, our churches, and our homes—by speaking out against injustice and witnessing to the peace of Christ through our words, actions, and lives.

We as young people, urge our national and regional bodies and networks, to embark in sinodal processess of mutual listening beyond our imposed usual boundaries; to discern the prophetic voices beyond our spaces, to recognise the faith of the faithless among us, and to embark in the uncertainties of exploring the hope beyond all hopes within all broken realities. We pledge our communities to trust God towards intergenerational listening, to bring to the centre the parts of our shared body that are in pain and struggle. Social and geopolitical challenges are increasing mistrust and radicalisation within our communities. We need to be able to hold each other in mutual fragility, leaving behind the ghosts of the past (cold war, imposed public enemies and demonisation of all otherness), to be able to see and witness the love of Christ in the encounter of all other human beings.

We Build Peace When...

A Collective Poem by Methodist Youth

We build peace when we're talking together
We build peace when we remain fervently committed to one another
We build peace when we learn to live through our differences
We build peace when we use privilege for the benefit of others
We build peace when we have justice!

We build peace when we build and participate in diverse communities
We build peace when we preach
We build peace when we share food
We build peace when we learn from each other.

We build peace when truth is revealed, and every voice has the space to speak ✨❤
We build peace when we face each other's difference straightforward
We build peace when we engage with curiosity
We build peace when eating together at a table.

We are courageous despite our fear
We build peace when we plant seeds of hope in areas where violence has been inflicted
WE BUILD PEACE WHEN WE START LISTENING
We build peace when we recognise each other's humanness
We build peace when our fear of something going wrong stops preventing the possibility of something going right.

Peace is built yesterday for tomorrow
We build peace when humanity is restored to those without power
We build peace NOW
Love is the thread that binds,
Peace, the path we walk together
Together—they are always a blessing.

We build peace when we tell the truth
We build peace when everyone is equal
We build peace when we hold hands
We build peace when we struggle!
We build peace when we weave together stories, struggles, and hopes. ✨❤

We build peace when we are empathetic
We build peace when we take that first bold step—
We build peace when we learn to accept our interconnectedness as God's creation
We build peace in radical hospitality, service and love for all.