

The Accra Confession: Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth

The Accra Confession is a prophetic call, raising important questions and demanding a clear stand on economic and environmental injustices. This call is a vital part of our witness and mission.

The Accra Confession was adopted by the delegates of WARC 24th General Council in Accra, Ghana (2004). It is based on the theological conviction that the economic and environmental injustices of today's global economy require the ecumenical movement to respond as a matter of faith and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Justice for life was taken as the confessional subject. Delegates declared that, "economic systems are a matter of life and death" and "the integrity of our faith is at stake if we remain silent or refuse to act in the face of the current system of neoliberal economic globalization..."

Signs of the Times

In today's world economics is a matter of life and death. The increasing numbers of the world's poor majority (mostly in the Global South), not only struggle to meet their own needs, but are burdened by the demands from the world's wealthy minority (typically of the Global North) – A minority that demands global land, labour and resources to satisfy its own greed while the earth and her poor are abused, neglected or dying.

This is the crisis of Neoliberal Economic Globalisation ...However...
**We cannot serve both
God and Mammon.
It's time for us to change!!**



Journey with *The Accra Confession ...*

Challenged by the cry of the people who suffer and by the groaning of creation, Reformed churches embarked on a journey of faith that led to the Accra Confession. The Accra Confession puts justice at the heart of faith and urges Christians to be a disturbing element in society by resisting all forms of injustices.

It is based on the belief and affirmation of God's gift of abundant life, remembering that Christ said: "I have come that all may have life in fullness" (John 10.10).

According to John Calvin, founder of the Reformed movement, "God wills that there be proportion and equality among us, that is, each one is to provide for the needy according to the extent of one's means, so that no one has too much and no one has too little". Calvin affirmed the vocation of Christians to struggle so that the "crying difference between rich and poor" ceases and the Body of Christ (the community) remains in good shape. Christians see this vocation expressed in the biblical claim that God is the "helper of the helpless", the "parent of the orphaned" and the "God of the widow".



Thus the church is called to ...
**... Affirm the sovereignty of God
and denounce the power of
Mammon!**

The Accra Confession

and you ...

The Accra Confession is a faith statement that commits churches to “covenant in obedience to God’s will as an act of faithfulness in mutual solidarity and in accountable relationships.” This covenant binds us to work for justice in the economy and the earth in both our local communities and in our shared world.

Practice your understanding of The Accra Confession by following all or some of the suggestions below ...

- ✚ Read this guide to The Accra Confession together. Is The Accra Confession meaningful to your economic, social, political and/or environmental reality? If yes, then how?
- ✚ In what ministries of economic and environmental justice-making are your congregation and/or community groups presently engaged? What are some of the injustices that your community or neighboring communities face?
- ✚ Jesus teaches, we cannot serve God and Mammon (Lk 16:13) The Accra Confession calls us to reject today’s culture of greed and consumerism based on our faith in God. Name some examples of consumerism that you see in your daily lives and in the world. How does this type of greed keep you from fully loving yourself, others, and God and from caring for Creation? How might greed and consumerism contribute to the suffering of other persons and creation?

To explore the following, read the full text of The Accra Confession:

[http://www.warc.ch/documents/ACCRA_Pamphlet.pdf]

Look at the Bible verses in The Accra Confession. Which verses or stories can you relate to your own life? Which verses or stories can you apply to current global economic, political and social realities? Are there any other stories or verses from the Bible that you feel can be included in The Accra Confession?

The Accra Confession *and WARC ...*

The World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) is a worldwide fellowship of 75 million Reformed Christians in 214 churches in 107 countries. Reform Christianity is rooted within the 16th-century Reformation led by John Calvin, John Knox, and others. WARC has a small secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, and Area Councils in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America and the Caribbean.

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Semper Reformanda

Your guide to

THE ACCRA CONFESSIO



JUSTICE

is a matter of

FAITH ♦ UNITY ♦ SOLIDARITY

World Alliance of Reformed Churches