



Global Christian Forum

GCF Newsletter
September 2023

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! This is an exciting season in the ministry of the Global Christian Forum. We are currently in the midst of preparing for the Fourth Global Gathering which will be held in Accra, Ghana in April 2024.

The GCF is committed to its ministry as a forum that brings together leaders from every stream and family of Christianity for faith-sharing and relationship-building. The connections that are formed allow us to see one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, shared sojourners as we follow Jesus together. GCF is constantly asking the question "Who is missing from the table?" and seeks to include them in its fellowship.

As preparations move forward, we covet your prayers and support for the important ministry of global Christian unity. We equally give thanks for you and hold you in prayer always.



Fourth Global Gathering Preparations

The recent meeting of the GCF Committee in Helsinki, Finland refined the vision for the Fourth Global Gathering (GG4) next year in Accra, Ghana. It was an exciting time of visioning, as the committee felt God leading them toward a time of spiritual retreat and connection.

A clear and immediate decision was for the GG4 to be a spiritual retreat and not an academic conference or business meeting. This hope for Global Gatherings was born during the very origins of the GCF, where organizers recognized the need for such a space within the global stage of the ecumenical movement. A subcommittee was formed to plan the times of common prayer, and they will be working closely with local churches in Accra to incorporate the community's spiritual life into the GG4. The GCF Committee also received ample feedback from participants at the 2018 Global Gathering in Bogotá about the need for more unstructured time between sessions for participants to interact with each other. The GG4 in Accra will have plenty of such times for meaningful relationship building.

The Task Forces organized the schedule of the GG4 around the topics that were brought up during the Committee's study of the Bible passage and theme for the gathering, "That the World May Know (John 17:23)." The event will include a visit to the slave castles on the Ghanian coast in recognition of the ongoing impact of the historic Transatlantic slave trade on the contemporary church. Two other decisions were made to augment the mission of the GCF. The first is the opportunity for churches to look back on their progress by commemorating the 25th anniversary of the GCF and honoring its previous leaders and events. The second is the opportunity for churches to look forward to the future by enhancing the participation at the GG4 of young emerging leaders in the ecumenical movement.

The GCF Secretariat continues to receive nominations from churches and organizations for GG4 participants. The Committee is giving great care to ensure a diverse and equitable gathering. Further details on accommodations, costs, and the visa application process will be provided with the formal invitations for the GG4, which will be sent soon.

The Global Christian Forum appreciates your prayers and support, as they continue to pray and plan for the next Global Gathering.





Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together.

-Ephesians 4:2b-3

