



# FIRST FRIDAY LETTER

The World Methodist Council March 2021

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## Greetings from the General Secretary

During this holy Lenten Season, I greet you warmly as we break from our daily routines into solitude to reflect on our lives and our relationship with God.

After weeks of lockdown and “zoom fatigue,” I was privileged to start my Lenten journey with a seven-day hike on the Whale Trail in the Southern Cape. I suggest that this should be on all hikers’ bucket lists.

During my seven-day pilgrimage in nature, I rediscovered the meaning of Biblical texts like, “He leadeth me beside still waters, He restoreth my soul,” “I will lift my eyes unto the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord the Maker of heaven and earth.” and “The heavens declare the glory of God.”

When George Bernard Shaw stood at the edge of the Grand Canyon, there was no satire on his lips; rather, all he could do was bow his head and pray. As I traversed the mountains, valleys, and hills, I was constantly reminded that God is actively involved in redeeming the whole creation, including the political and economic realities. We are called to join God’s world-transforming work. The hymns, poetry, and sermons of John and Charles Wesley captures this theme. The classic Wesleyan hymn, “Love Divine all love excelling,” rang within my heart as I was “lost in wonder, love, and praise.”

On 2 March, we commemorated the death of John Wesley. The Methodist historian David Hempton claims that Methodism was a movement in search of its voice, which is why it was so noisy and so devoted to singing. What makes music touch many peoples hearts is that Charles’ hymns tell the whole gospel in one sitting or singing. Methodist music offers hope in desperation. It is therapy in times of sorrow, but above anything else, it provides an assurance and brings us closer to God.

In this edition of the First Friday Letter, you will find stories such as 40 Days of Lent: Find your own spiritual path, Ecumenical Global Week of Prayer regarding COVID-19, World Methodist Council Museum Update and more.

Yours in mission,

Ivan M. Abrahams



*A view from the Whale Trail*

## Nominees sought for 2021 Peace Award

If you have been planning to nominate someone who exemplifies Courage, Creativity, and Consistency for the World Methodist Peace Award, you must act now.

Applications submitted by May 31 will be considered for this year. Any application received after May 31 will be reviewed later for 2022. All supporting documents must be included at the time of submission.

The nominee should show courage in regard to physical danger or putting personal interest at risk. Creativity should include opening new initiatives and attracting others in working for the cause of peace. Consistency is judged by effort over a period of time and intensity, despite setbacks. Here is the link to read the full criteria:

<http://worldmethodistcouncil.org/whatwedo/world-methodist-peace-award/>

The recipient receives a medallion, citation and US \$1,000 which is symbolic of the larger recognition achieved in working for peace, justice and reconciliation. The recipient is included in the World Methodist Council Peace Award booklet and a featured article in WMC and Wesleyan/ Methodist publications.

Go to [www.worldmethodistcouncil.org](http://www.worldmethodistcouncil.org) and click on the “What We Do” tab and then click on the “World Methodist Peace Award” tab and complete the online application. Please send all nomination forms to Bishop Ivan Abrahams at [info@worldmethodistcouncil.org](mailto:info@worldmethodistcouncil.org)



## The Wait is Over! CYYAC21 is happening!



Registration is Open Now!

\$75.00

Register Here at:

<https://thecmechurch.org/cyyac21/>

Follow us on Social Media for Conference Updates!

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## Youth and Young Adult Scholarship Application registry now open

Scholarship opportunities for the 22nd World Methodist Council Conference are open now. Register by clicking on the link below.

<https://worldmethodistcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/YYA-Application-Form.pdf>



## Amid political unrest, cyclones plague Mozambique



*Floodwater from Cyclone Eloise covers much of the ground in Buzi, Mozambique. Four cyclones have hit the country in less than two years. Photo by Eurico Gustavo, UM News.*

In less than two years, four cyclones have struck Mozambique, killing thousands, leaving many homeless and destroying life-sustaining food crops.

The trail of destruction began with Cyclone Idai in March 2019, followed by Cyclone Kenneth (April 2019), Tropical Storm Chalan (December 2020) and Cyclone Eloise (January 2021). The country also was devastated by Cyclone Dineo in 2017.

More severe weather is forecast for February.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief, in consultation with Bishop Joaquina Filipe Nhanala of the Mozambique North and South conferences, is preparing emergency response to humanitarian needs.

Respeito Chirrinze, episcopal area disaster management coordinator (a program supported by UMCOR), said hundreds of families will benefit. “In the first phase,” he said, “our support plan includes the provision of food and construction material for 200 families.”

The government offered support through the National Institute for Disaster Management, offering food, medicine and blankets to families finding refuge in shelters.

Alberto Ganha lives with his wife and two children in the Póvoa neighborhood, on the outskirts of Beira, Sofala province.

“We truly don’t understand what has been happening recently,” he said. “We are left with no understanding of what Mother Nature is doing to us.”

Mozambique’s central and northern areas were hardest hit. Schools, hospitals, roads and bridges lay in ruins, isolating entire communities and complicating rescue. In the central area alone, more than 250,000 families were affected.

“(Cyclone) Eloise increased the misfortune in my family,” said Maria Francisco of Póvoa. “My 59-year-old mother died, buried in a house of precarious construction because when the rain and wind started, she refused to leave for a safe zone.”

Many homes, especially in rural areas, are made of stakes, ropes and grass and are covered with mud, said the Rev. Vasco Matio, superintendent of the Inhambane Norte and Vilanculos District.

Teresa Manuel’s home was near the Save River. The river, she recalled, “rose to 7.8 meters (25 feet) in height, with the waters overflowing until it flooded the districts of Machanga and Mambone.”

The Rev. Jacob Jenhuro, North Conference bishop’s assistant, said Cyclone Eloise far exceeded predictions of its impact.

“When we had the warning that another cyclone was going to hit the city of Beira, after being hit by Chalane three weeks ago,” said Américo Nhassengo, conference lay leader, “some people tried to reinforce their ceilings” with stones, blocks and sandbags.

*Continued...*

## Amid political unrest, cyclones plague Mozambique continued...

As with Cyclone Idai, Eloise pounded Beira, Dondo, Buzi and Namarroi — the latter in the Zambézia Norte District — forcing thousands of families from homes that were already fragile.

Churches were not spared, Nhassengo noted. “Some chapels were left without a roof, others without walls,” he said.

Flooded homes, yards and alleys challenge recovery, said Inácio Zitha, a resident of Bairro Macurungo.

“The floods we are experiencing now are similar to those caused by Idai in 2019. We are in bad shape here,” Zitha said. “Our entire neighborhood is flooded; waters have entered our homes. In most houses, water is 60 centimeters (two feet) high.”

The Rev. Benilde Pale is director of Dondo Orphanage. Government representatives warned the staff of the impending storm and asked to use the facility to shelter affected community residents.

“Unfortunately,” Pale said, “the orphanage center also suffered, where the classrooms were left without a roof.

“However, we give thanks to God that the dormitories have been spared, so they serve as our refuge and are home to some families from the surrounding population who came looking for shelter.”

In the district of Búzi, particularly in the main town, the river overflowed and flooded the riverside communities. People were moved to Guara-Guara.

“Eloise was accompanied by winds and torrential rains,” said Azarias Mindú, president of the Board of the Evangelization Extension in Búzi. “The village was almost submerged.”

“The roof of our chapel was completely torn off by the force and fury of the wind,” said the Rev. Pascoal Muriane of Buzi. “In some places, trees blocked the road, making it impossible for people and vehicles to move.”

The effects of Cyclone Eloise reached the province of Zambézia. According to the district superintendent, the Rev. Jose Miguel dos Santos, damage is still being assessed. “We already know about destroyed chapels and parsonages,” he said.

Even before Mozambique experienced the impact and devastation of four cyclones, the east African country was struggling with political instability.

“In the Sofala province, we have received hundreds of

families who fled from the insurgents in Cabo Delgado,” Graca Vilanculos, district director of education in Dondo, told UM News in December 2020.

In a Feb. 3 statement, Roland Fernandes, top executive of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, launched an appeal for solidarity with The United Methodist Church in Mozambique.

“The central part of the country, according to church sources, is plagued by armed conflict between the government and an insurrectionist group that broke away from the opposition political party,” Fernandes said. “The clashes, which started two months ago, are particularly intense in the North Annual Conference.”

Bishop Nhanala said members of the church are seriously affected.

“The situation is getting worse as the attacks continue. The flow of people from the north to other parts of the country is overwhelming,” she said.

Fernandes said the United Methodist Committee on Relief, in consultation with the bishop, is preparing emergency response to the humanitarian need.

“I encourage all United Methodists in their individual and corporate prayer to remember our sisters and brothers in Mozambique,” Fernandes said in the statement, “identifying with their courage and their need, asking God to surround them with grace and fill them with the love of Jesus Christ.”

*Gustavo is a communicator for the Mozambique North Conference and Sambo is the Lusophone correspondent in Africa for United Methodist News.*



*Isabel João (right) and Maria Lidia António salvage what they can of their corn crop, which was killed before it matured when their field was flooded by Cyclone Idai in Búzi, Mozambique, in 2019. File photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.*

## A Godless Ethic and Human Sexuality

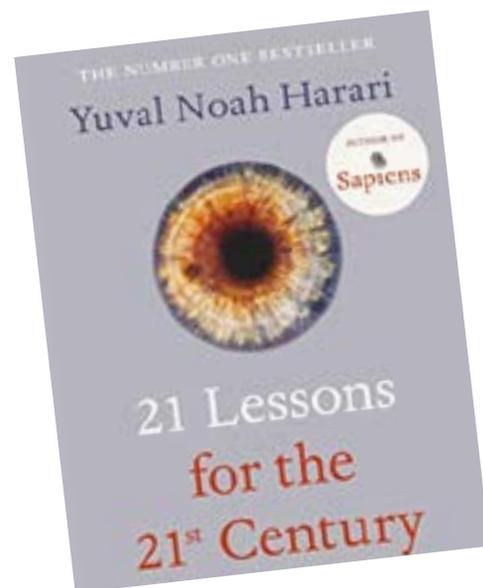
In the 1960's The Revd. Ted McIlvenna, a Methodist presbyter, became aware of the plight of LGBT people and, in 1964, he and other similarly concerned clergy held a 3 day dialogue between clergy and gay and lesbian activists at the White Memorial Retreat Centre, California. This was the first American organisation that dared to intentionally use the word "homosexual" as they established the "Council on Religion and Homosexuality" (CRH). The Council included representatives from the United Methodist Church, The Lutheran Church, The Episcopal Church USA, and the United Church of Christ (USA). In years that followed, the CRH organised costume parties while also taking legal action against unfair and unjust discrimination and persecution of LGBT persons. They chose to be true to the spirit of Christ rather than the word of the Bible, thus illustrating that the call of divinity was to act compassionately and that religious faith was not necessarily a standard of moral behaviour.

Indeed the very idea that one requires a divine being to act morally, argues *Yuval Noah Harari in 21 Lessons for the 21st Century*, assumes that morality is unnatural. But, morality and moral behaviour of one kind or another is present in all animals, all people everywhere of whatever religious persuasion. Even in nations without religious persuasion such as the Czech Republic or Denmark, says Harari, "morality doesn't mean following divine commands, instead it means reducing suffering ... (and) ... if you really understand how an action causes unnecessary suffering to yourself and others ... you will naturally abstain from it." Harari further argues that people murder, rape and steal because they have only a superficial appreciation of the misery it causes. The universal ethic "do not do unto others what you would not have them do to you" exists because no one wants to live in a capricious society of wanton immorality! Indeed, without love, friendship, and community our universe would be a miserable and unhappy space.

Scientific studies, Harari further argues, point out that feelings are not the domain of the human species, divine

spiritualities or that of "free will" but rather are implicit in biochemical mechanisms used by all mammals and living creatures in order to evaluate probabilities of survival and reproduction. So, when a human or another species sees a reptile such as a snake, fear is triggered by millions of neurons in the brain which calculate a high probability of death. Likewise, feelings of sexual attraction arise when other biochemical algorithms calculate that another individual offers a high probability of relational bonding, sexual mating or some or other coveted social goal. Moral feelings of guilt, outrage and forgiveness derive from neural mechanisms that evolve to enable group cohesion and cooperation. Feelings, therefore says Harari, are not the opposite of reason but an embedded rationality of evolution and a process of calculation that occurs below our human threshold of awareness. The April column will focus on further reflections on secularism and sexuality as featured in *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*.

*Keith Anthony Vermeulen researcher for the WMC.*



## Ecumenical Global Week of Prayer regarding COVID-19

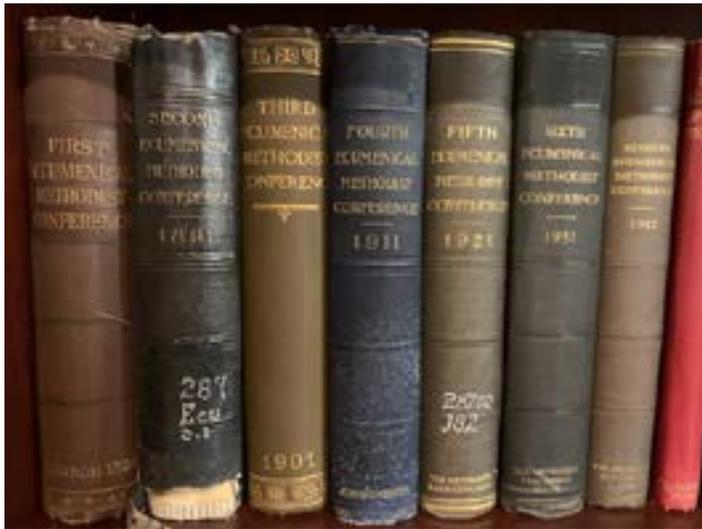


*Photo by Marcelo Schneider/WCC*

About one year ago at March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the novel coronavirus COVID-19 a global pandemic. People around the globe are suffering from the illness, millions lost loved ones, health workers fight to save the life of their patients and lockdowns cause collateral damages like economic hardships, hunger, violence, and lack of education, especially for those who are amongst the most vulnerable. One year after the pandemic started Christians are invited to join together in prayers: prayers of lament, prayers of intercessions for those who are suffering, prayers for leaders, prayers for healing, prayers for vaccination, prayers of hope... We as World Methodist Council will collaborate with our ecumenical partners in the World Council of Churches and several World Communions. Particularly we invite you to join us in a virtual prayer meeting Thursday March 25, 2021 at 2 pm CET. We will hear witnesses speaking of the impact of the pandemic for migrants and refugees and pray for and with them. For further information, please look at our website and the Facebook page. *Information submitted by Rosemarie Wenner, Geneva Secretary for the WMC*

## Museum sells extra copies of Conference Proceedings Books

Please contact the World Methodist Council Headquarters to buy a copy. The books are first come first serve. Please email us at [communications@worldmethodistcouncil.org](mailto:communications@worldmethodistcouncil.org).



*Older editions of Conference books*

Conference	Year	# of Copies	Price - US\$
1	1881	1	50
3	1901	1	20
4	1911	1	20
7	1947	4	20
8	1951	5	20
9	1956	2	20
10	1961	3	20
11	1966	1	20
12	1971	2	20
13	1976	4	20
14	1981	3	20
15	1986	2	20
16	1991	2	20
17	1996	3	20
18	2001	3	20
19	2006	2	20
20	2011	2	20

## Living Lent in a “Climate” of Change

We are approaching Lent (17 February 2021 - 3 April 2021) which is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter, and a time of self-examination and reflection, in which we are more aware of who we are and our responsibilities as Christians.

In a few months COP26 will take place (Milan - 28-30 September 2021 - “Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition” event; Milan - 30 September-2 October 2021 - Preparatory Conference, PreCop26; Glasgow - 1/12 November 2021 - COP26), so looking forward to this event we would like to dedicate the weeks of Lent to a critical attention to our “disposable” way of life and the constant need to hectically purchase consumer goods. The consumer society of which we are part is based on the purchase of unnecessary goods which, very often, satisfy needs driven by the pressure of advertising and/or social imitation among large segments of the population, leading to social and economic imbalances, as well as the suffering, we ourselves produce and inflict on Creation, of which climate change is one of the results.

The British Methodist Church in collaboration with JPIT (Joint Public Issues Team) and All We Can (Methodist Relief and development organisation) and, on the Italian side, with OPCEMI has launched an international campaign with and for young Methodists around the world who are called to meet and raise awareness in churches and the society in the run up to COP26 as part of the Methodist churches’ commitment to climate justice.

In this framework, it has been realised a 5-step dossier,

where the urgencies of climate change were associated with the goals of the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development with reference to some of the critical issues of how human beings are inhabiting the earth, although with differentiated responsibilities: food, waste, mobility, digitalization and energy, water.

The content was prepared by Irene Abra, youth coordinator for the project in Italy, and Antonella Visintin, Glam commission coordinator, for the thematic sheets and practical actions, while the liturgical sections were prepared by Rev. Mirella Manocchio, president of OPCEMI, the one on 21st February (food and climate change), by Rev. James Bhagwan, General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches of the Fiji Islands, the one on 28th February (waste), by Rev. Jorge Gerhard vice-president of the Methodist Church of Uruguay, the one on 7th March (mobility), by Dr. Rachel Lampard Team Leader of the Joint Public Issues Team of Great Britain, the one 14th March (digitalisation and energy), the one on 21st March (water) is taken from the resources of the Ecumenical Water Network.

In the five weeks leading up to Palm Sunday and Easter, the thematic sheet will be posted on OPCEMI’s website and Facebook page with the related liturgical resources, discussion topics and practical actions. With these proposals our aim is to promote individual and collective thought and action for a conversion to climate justice.

Find materials at <http://www.metodisti.it/progetto-cop26-2/quaresima/>

## 40 Days of Lent: Find your own spiritual path

During Ash Wednesday services on the first day of Lent, many United Methodist pastors invite their congregations “to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word” (from the United Methodist Book of Worship). While you may be aware of this season leading up to Easter, you may wonder how you might “observe a holy Lent.”

There is no one prescribed way. Instead, we are each encouraged to find our own method of confronting our sinfulness, remembering our mortality, and giving thanks for the gift of salvation we receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### Fasting

One of the more common practices is to give something up for Lent. Some abstain from chocolate, social media, shopping or something else through the season. This is a religious practice known as fasting. We fast to reorient ourselves away from the distraction of those things, and back toward God.

Another way to reorient your life toward God, is to focus on devotional practices like Bible study and prayer during the season.

### Bible reading

Many do not know where to begin when reading the Bible. The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide will help guide you in this pursuit. It provides a scripture passage and wonderfully thought-provoking and spirit-enriching material to read and think about each day.

### Prayer

In the busyness of our everyday lives, prayer can sometimes get squeezed out. Lent is a wonderful time to intentionally work toward finding more time in your life for prayer. You can experiment with different ways to pray during the season, or really delve into a new-to-you way of praying. Enriching your prayer life is a great way to spend Lent.

### Service

Another way to observe a holy Lent is to take on a new way of serving. Throughout the forty days of the season you can adopt a new habit of volunteering in the community, making special financial gifts to service organizations, singing in the choir, or participating in a small group.

### Rest

An important practice with which many of us struggle is the spiritual discipline of rest or Sabbath. We don’t have to rest on Saturday, the traditional Sabbath day, or even Sunday. You can instead find moments during an ordinary day to be still in God’s presence. You might choose to

spend a few minutes during lunch with a desktop meditation or listen to sermons during your commute. Each can be a great way of enriching your Lent.

### Child resources

You will also want to find ways to share the meaning of the season with the children in your life. While their focus may be on Easter baskets and new clothes, you can enter into special times to help them find deeper meaning to the season.

Consider trying some traditions from other cultures to enhance your Easter celebration. Make instruments during Lent that you can use to celebrate the resurrection in song on Easter Sunday, similar to Christians in Zimbabwe. Or try some special Easter foods, like the Easter breakfast cakes of Poland.

Even while dyeing Easter Eggs you can creatively teach children about your faith by sharing The Importance of the Egg: Children and Easter video, which tells of the symbolism of the Easter Egg in a wonderfully lively way.

### Learning

You may also use Lent as a time to learn about the seasons of Lent and Easter, and some of the practices of the Christian church.

Learning about rituals specific to the season can enhance your worship. You may want to know more about the ashes used on Ash Wednesday, a Maundy Thursday footwashing service you’re considering attending, or the Tenebrae service your congregation is planning for Good Friday.

You may also choose to learn more about baptism and communion, the sacraments of the church. Each has a connection to Lent and Easter.

### Worship

Many United Methodist churches offer services on Ash Wednesday to begin of Lent, and other special services during Holy Week, the final days leading up to Easter. There may also be special times of prayer, study, and other gatherings that will help you continue your journey throughout the season. If you are not connected to a United Methodist congregation, use Find-A-Church to locate one close to you.

### Observe a holy Lent

This 40-day journey called Lent is a wonderful opportunity to grow in your faith. Find your path of self-reflection and spiritual discovery, and invite others to join you as you seek to observe a holy Lent.

Read more stories at <https://www.umc.org/>

## Webinar offers History of Methodist-Catholic Dialogue

The Methodist Ecumenical Office Rome is hosting a webinar entitled, “From Denver to Dublin, from Brighton to Seoul: History of International Methodist-Catholic Dialogue from 1967 to 2006,” presented by World Methodist Council vice president Gillian Kingston. A laywoman from the Methodist Church in Ireland, Kingston was a member of the Methodist-Roman Catholic International Commission from 1986-2006. She will speak about the history of the international Methodist-Catholic bilateral dialogue from its inception in 1967 to 2006, share the major issues debated during this time period, and reflect on the importance of the Methodist-Catholic bilateral dialogue in the late 20th century.

The webinar will be streamed live via Zoom on 23 March. Please email the MEOR office at [office@meorome.org](mailto:office@meorome.org) for the Zoom link. A recording of the webinar will be posted on MEOR’s YouTube channel a few days after the webinar.

*Submitted by MEOR Director Rev. Matthew Laferty*



*Speaker Vice President of the WMC Gillian Kingston*

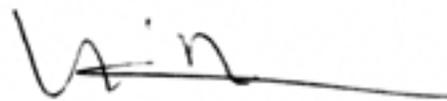
## Thanks from the Treasurer/ CFO



I thank the member churches of the World Methodist Council who made payments during the difficult year of 2020. Even with COVID-19 and its many ramifications, the 2020 year saw the highest membership payments by the 80+ member churches of the 2016-2021 Quinquennium.

I know this called for sacrifices and extra efforts, and I appreciate the resolve, which has allowed the Council to continue to meet its obligations as well as its important missions and ministries.

My heartfelt thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirby Hickey".

Kirby Hickey  
WMC Treasurer  
Chief Financial Officer

## World Methodist Council Museum Update

For those seeking additional information, linked below is the protocol that will be used to determine how the transfers are made and the core values that will be used to determine the important sharing of this ministry. We hope this is helpful and we look forward to receiving your proposal.

You may address questions to [info@worldmethodistcouncil.org](mailto:info@worldmethodistcouncil.org) and every effort will be made to answer in a timely manner.

Archival committee, Robert Williams, Alfred Day, Bishop Ivan Abrahams, Jackie Bolden and other experts who are being utilized, have released the criteria for individuals and organizations such as museums, theological schools, etc. below.

<https://worldmethodistcouncil.org/2021/02/15/elementor-5951/>

## Announcing New Leadership for The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe

The 43rd Conference of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe held on 20-22 November 2020 elected new leaders to replace the Presiding Bishop Rev. Dr. Solmon Zwana and General Secretary Rev. Dr. Jimmy Dube who had served the Church for five years. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the 43rd Conference elected the Revd George T. Mawire as the Presiding Bishop and Rev. Dr. Martin Mujinga as the General Secretary.

Rev. Mawire has served the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe faithfully since 1989. He held different church leadership positions including being the Circuit Superintendent in various circuits in different ethnic and provinces of Zimbabwe and was once Bishop of Kadoma District. When the Zimbabwean Methodists in the United Kingdom continued to grow in numbers and missing home fellowship and worship genre, the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe seconded Rev. G.T Mawire to be their first Chaplain and today the Fellowship has grown bigger numerically. At the time of his appointment, Rev. Mawire was the Superintendent of Cranborne Circuit. The new Presiding Bishop is a gifted administrator. He is a holder of BSC Management and MA in Human Resources from Middlesex University –London.



**Rev. George Mawire Presiding Bishop** of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe



**Rev. Dr. Martin Mujinga the General Secretary** of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe

The General Secretary Rev. Dr. Mujinga has served the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe since 1999. He served in different portfolios of Church leadership that includes being the Superintendent and Synod Secretary. Upon his appointment, Dr. Mujinga was the Lecturer and Academic Dean of United Theological College one of the biggest Ecumenical institutions in Southern Africa. Dr. Mujinga is a holder of a PhD in Systematic Theology from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He also attained MA and BA from the University of Zimbabwe. Dr. Mujinga is a scholar and his publications are mostly on Methodist history and theology.

The new leaders are expected to lead the people called Methodists in Zimbabwe in the context of socio-economic difficulties but on the hope that all help comes from God (Psalm 121:1-2). The Presiding Bishop and the General Secretary were inducted on the 19th of December 2020. The appointment of the Presiding Bishop and the General Secretary coincided with Covid-19, a devastating pandemic that has caused untold suffering in the world. However, their passion for ministry and the grace of God bestowed upon them will see the establishment of the Southern African Methodist University and a number of other projects left by the former leaders.

*Submitted by Rev. Dr. Martin Mujinga, General Secretary*

## It takes all of us!

In World Methodist Evangelism's 50th anniversary year, I'm reminded of how much the worldwide Wesleyan Methodist family means to us. We simply couldn't do our work without you!

All over the world, God has placed wonderfully gifted people in our midst who provide us wisdom and guidance as we discern the work God calls us to accomplish. These partners are our Regional Secretaries – leaders who volunteer their time and talents to empower the spreading of the gospel.

We are blessed to have teams on every continent:

### **Africa Team**

#### East MC Kenya

Bishop Catherine Mutua

Bishop William Muriuki Mwango

#### West MC Nigeria

Bishop Sunday Onuoha

#### South MC Southern Africa

Rev. Ralph Afghan

#### Central UMC DRC

Rev. Kimba Kyakutala Evariste

#### Team Members UM and AMEZ

#### Nigeria

Bishop Johnwesley Yohanna

Bishop Uduak (U.U.) Effiong

### **Asia Team**

#### Far East KMC

Rev. Dr. Chung Suk Kim

#### Southeast Asia MC Indonesia

Mrs. Maimunah Natasha

Rev. Denny Robert Nainggolan

### **Asia-Pacific Team**

#### Pacific WMC New Zealand

Rev. Dr. Richard Waugh

Rev. Atu Lagi

#### East Asia Chinese MC Australia

Bishop James Kwang

### **Caribbean Team**

#### MC Caribbean and the Americas

Rev. Dr. George Mulrain

### **Europe Team**

#### Central and Southern Europe UMC

#### Germany

Dr. Lenka Prochazkova

#### Germany UMC Germany

Rev. Christhard Elle

#### Northern Europe UMC Estonia

Rev. Taavi Hollman

### **Latin America Team**

#### Central America/Mexico Evangelical MC Costa Rica

Bishop Luis Fernando Palomo

#### South America MC Brazil and Cathedral Metodista de Petropolis

Bishop Paulo Lockmann

Rev. Ewander Ferreira de Macedo

### **North America Team**

#### AMEZ

Bishop Darryl Starnes

These outstanding partners help us to identify the needs, challenges, and opportunities in their areas. Through their collaboration, we are able to find the best ways to meet those needs and challenges, as well as to effectively embrace new opportunities. In essence, they bring the voice of their areas into the work of WME, and bring the voice of WME into the work in their areas.

We are grateful for the many ways in which the worldwide Wesleyan Methodist family comes alongside WME in our work. It is only through the efforts of the entire community of faith, which the gospel will be spread and people will come to know Jesus Christ.

Submitted by World Methodist Evangelism <https://worldmethodist.org/>



*Regional Secretaries for  
World Methodist Evangelism*



Please send press releases, articles and resources! Submissions should be a page or less (500-700 words), edited and ready to publish. Contact us by **Monday, March 29** at [communications@worldmethodistcouncil.org](mailto:communications@worldmethodistcouncil.org) if you would like your story to be included in the April edition of the First Friday Letter.

### On the Web

This and past First Friday Letters can be found online at [FirstFridayLetter.worldmethodistcouncil.org](http://FirstFridayLetter.worldmethodistcouncil.org).

The World Methodist Council's website may be found at [worldmethodistcouncil.org](http://worldmethodistcouncil.org).

The World Methodist Museum's website is at [methodistmuseum.org](http://methodistmuseum.org).

To subscribe to this newsletter, please email [communications@worldmethodistcouncil.org](mailto:communications@worldmethodistcouncil.org).

### About the First Friday Letter

The First Friday Newsletter is a monthly publication of the World Methodist Council.

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