



Global Christian Forum

GCF Newsletter March 2025



A New Year of Shared Faith and Deeper Conversations

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we step into this new year, we do so with gratitude for the journey behind us and anticipation for the path ahead. The Global Christian Forum (GCF) continues to be a unique space where Christians from diverse traditions gather to share their faith stories, deepen relationships, and discover the movement of the Holy Spirit in one another's lives. In a world often marked by division, GCF stands as a testament to the power of listening, dialogue, and unity in Christ.

At its heart, the Global Christian Forum fosters connections across the broad spectrum of Christian traditions—Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Evangelical, Pentecostal, and Independent and migrant churches—inviting all to come together in a spirit of openness and humility. It is not about debate or theological argument but about encounter: hearing one another's stories, recognizing the presence of Christ in our different experiences, and finding common ground in our shared faith.

As we begin this year, we look forward to continuing this mission through storytelling—an essential part of the Christian journey. Throughout 2025, we will be sharing faith testimonies from past GCF participants, reflecting on how their encounters within the Forum have shaped their spiritual lives. These stories will be featured in this newsletter, on our website, and through social media, offering a glimpse into the profound ways in which God is working through the global Body of Christ.

We invite you to be part of this journey. Whether through prayer, engagement with these stories, or sharing your own testimony, your voice is an important part of this worldwide conversation. May this year be a time of renewed faith, deeper understanding, and greater unity as we walk together in Christ.

May God bless you and keep you,
Global Christian Forum



Participants in worship during the closing service of GG4.

The closing worship service ends the Fourth Global Gathering with prayers, singing, and fellowship.



Bishop Dr George Coorilos preaching in Accra.



Youth participants at the Fourth Global Gathering in Accra.

Reflections from Accra

Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada

Having never experienced, nor participated in the Global Christian Forum, I arrived in Accra with only the knowledge of what information I had received prior to the event and some searching through the GCF website.

There were two significant impacts for me: The design of the gathering which included significant time for the sharing of our own sacred stories was incredibly meaningful...the beauty and gift of the sharing of oneself, of one's journey with God, of God's journey with me, and of the gift of varied denominational backgrounds, experiences, and theologies. As a presenter, shaping the presentation to engage participants in continued conversation and sharing was an impactful approach for me.

The second impact was the journey to Cape Coast Castle and the worship which followed. By journey, I mean the entire journey. Driving to and from Accra, the "tour" and learning itself, the worship service including lament, the choir, the meal on the way back to Accra...my experience was very much one of a pilgrimage, a holy pilgrimage.

GCF Welcomes Dr. Natasha Klukach as the new Director of Research and Operations

In January 2025, the Global Christian Forum was delighted to officially welcome Dr. Natasha Klukach as the Director of Research and Operations! Dr. Klukach brings an abundance of experience in the ecumenical movement and a deep love for the global church to her ministry with GCF.

We had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Klukach about her new position, so you can read more about her in her own words.



1) Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I am Canadian and British with a mixed cultural heritage of English, Welsh, Ukrainian, and Belarusian grandparents. Raised Anglican, I have always felt drawn towards Eastern Orthodox spirituality and liturgy as well, and a fascination with all cultures, contexts, and Christian traditions. I studied at Trinity College, University of Toronto for a BA in Religious Studies and Philosophy and a ThM in Eastern Orthodox Spirituality. I have a MTS degree in Early Church History from Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, and my PhD in Ecumenical Theology is from King's College London in the UK.

I served as the Ecumenical Officer for the Anglican Church of Canada before taking up a post as Programme Executive for Church and Ecumenical Relations at the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland. Since that time, I taught in a Church of England theological college and worked as a theologian and church relations leader for World Vision UK. I was delighted to begin working for the GCF, an organisation at the heart of the ecumenical movement and the dynamic changes in Global Christianity today.

I currently live in a rural part of the UK and enjoy the peaceful surroundings with my two dachshunds.

2) Describe your previous experience with GCF.

My initial experience of the Global Christian Forum was whilst working for the World Council of Churches when I was asked to attend the Global Gathering in Manado, Indonesia in 2011. It was the first time I had encountered the unique charism of the Forum: the sharing of faith stories as the basis for fellowship and dialogue across diverse traditions. I was struck by how different the GCF is to any other Christian organisation or movement.

Years later my vocation circled back to the Forum. I was asked to represent World Vision International, for which I was working as a theologian, on the GCF International Committee. This was a gift from God! The opportunity to serve this unique organisation in a new way, having gathered different perspectives and experiences of Christianity around the world, became a meaningful part of my faith journey. The Asia Regional Meeting in 2022 and the Global Gathering in 2024 were brilliant.

I was invited by Dr Casely, the Forum's Secretary, to step into a staff role and am now working with him and our other colleagues to see how I can best serve the GCF. As Director of Research and Operations, this means being particularly mindful of how to balance our great vision, the impact of creating the spaces we do, harnessing our potential to do so much more with the reality of the need for resources - human and financial.

3) Where have you seen God at work in GCF's ministry?

God is at work whenever and wherever His disciples share the ways in which Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are present to them and with them.

The Global Christian Forum is remarkable. It is about creating spaces and opportunities for reconciliation, fellowship, and learning more about who God is by listening to how others experience Him. A person's role in ecclesiastical leadership, their walk of life, context, language, age and any other number of differences is not a source of division when one speaks from the heart about their experience of faithfully walking with the Lord. I have seen more openness and humility between traditions as well as individuals.

4) What are you looking forward to about in working with GCF?

We are in an exciting moment for the GCF following the Global Gathering in Accra last year. At this time we are looking at where God may be calling us next. Amongst many ideas, we are exploring greater engagement with youth, better capturing the impact of our charism on individuals and churches, and thinking about when and where we could encourage regional gatherings and grassroots engagement. My role is one of service and discovering how I can bring my experience and gifts to the use of the GCF is something I look forward to.

