

Global Ministries Cross Regional Event

Presenters

AFRICA

MUYUNGA BRIAN - UGANDA

Muyunga Brian is an ecumenical youth leader from Uganda and a member of the Anglican Church of Uganda, currently serving as the Executive Secretary for Youth at the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC). In this continental leadership role, he is responsible for developing frameworks, programs, and capacity-building initiatives that equip young people to participate meaningfully in the life, governance, and mission of the AACC, their respective churches, and the broader socio-political transformation of their communities and nations.



Brian also serves on the World Council of Churches (WCC) Central Committee and the Commission for Youth in the Ecumenical Movement, where he contributes to global ecumenical policy formation, intergenerational dialogue, and the articulation of youth perspectives within international theological and justice-oriented discourses. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Laboratory Technology from Makerere University (Uganda) and a Bachelor of Divinity from St. Paul's University (Kenya). His interdisciplinary academic formation—bridging biomedical sciences and theology—shapes his commitment to integrating scientific inquiry, ethical reflection, and faith-based praxis in advancing the mission of the Church and sustainable development across Africa. Brian's scholarly and practical interests center on Pan-Africanism, ecumenism, youth agency, and holistic development. His work is grounded in a vision of a just and equitable society in which all people live with dignity. He is particularly committed to mobilizing young Africans to recognize the continent as the locus of their identity, vocation, and future, and to contribute their skills, creativity, and energy toward Africa's sustainable development and shared prosperity.

REV. DR. PURITY MALINGA – SOUTH AFRICA

The Right Rev. Purity Malinga is a Methodist minister, theologian, educator, and church leader from Ixopo, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Following five years as a teacher, she answered God's call to ordained ministry in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, completing her theological training with distinction before earning a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard University.



A dedicated theological educator, Rev. Malinga has taught and mentored church leaders through the Federal Theological Seminary, Theological Education by Extension College, C, John Wesley College, and the University of Pretoria, making a significant contribution to theological education in Southern Africa.

She served as Bishop of the Natal Coastal District (2000-2008) and Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (2019-2023). In recognition of her distinguished service in ministry, theological education, and church leadership, the University of South Africa awarded her an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy in Theology in 2024.

EAST ASIA & THE PACIFIC

REV. WELLA HOYLE-DE ROSAS - PHILIPPINES

Rev. Wella Hoyle-De Rosas, Th.M., is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) and a full-time faculty member of the Silliman University Divinity School (SUDS), where she teaches Christian Ethics, Feminist Theology, Religion, and Contemporary Theologies. She earned her Bachelor of Theology degree cum laude from Silliman University Divinity School and completed her Master of Theology studies at Hanshin University and Silliman University, specializing in Ecumenism, Social Transformation, and Christian Ethics. Her academic and ministerial work is deeply rooted in ecumenism, gender justice, social transformation, and contextual theology in the Philippine setting.



Beyond the classroom, Rev. Hoyle-De Rosas actively serves in church and community leadership through ecumenical and justice-oriented ministries. She currently coordinates the SUDS Justice and Peace Center (JPC) and serves with the Association of Women in Theology (AWIT) and other ecumenical organizations in Negros Island. She has represented Philippine theological voices in international conferences and academic forums across Asia, including Thailand, Hong Kong, and Indonesia, and has contributed publications on feminist ethics and women's leadership in the church. Her ministry continues to bridge theology, education, and social engagement in the service of inclusive and transformative communities.

REV. DR. TAFUE LUSAMA

Rev. Dr. Tafue Lusama is the Director of the Institute of Climate Indigenous Knowledge at Pasifika Communities University in Suva, Fiji.



LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

MR. LORENZO MOTA KING – DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Mr. Lorenzo Mota King is an Accountant with advanced studies in auditing, public finance, project management, non-profit organizational administration, and fund accounting. He has served as a board member for prestigious national and international organizations, including Eclof Dominicana, Coop-Aspire, the Inter-American Accounting Association, Opportunity International, the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of the Dominican Republic (ICPARD), and the Dominican Bible Society; he also served as President of the Evangelical University Foundation (FEU).



Currently, he holds the following positions: Member of the Pastoral Team at the Community Christian Church; Executive Director of the Dominican Churches' Social Service (SSID); President of the Dominican Bible Society; Director of the Dominican-Haitian Dialogue of Evangelical Churches; President of CONLAMIC International; Member of the Global Emergency Committee of Church World Service (CWS); Coordinator of the Global Network for Disaster Risk Reduction for the Dominican Republic; Member of the Governing Board of Action by Churches Together (ACT Alliance); Member of the Board of Directors of Helping Hand; and Member of the Supervisory Board of CoopAspire.

MS. GABRIELA LIGUORI - ARGENTINA

Ms. Gabriela Liguori holds a bachelor's degree in social work from the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), Argentina, where she has also served as a faculty member since 2004. She currently belongs to the Department of Pre-Professional Practices and oversees the course "Migration and Human Rights." She has been a member of research groups focused on migration-related topics.



Since 1995, she has been part of the professional staff at the Argentine Commission for Refugees and Migrants (CAREF)—an ecumenical organization comprising five historic Protestant churches in the country—which addresses migration issues from a human rights perspective. In 2006, she assumed the position of General Coordinator for the institution, and in 2018, that of Executive Director—a role she continues to hold to this day.

MIDDLE EAST & EUROPE

REV. CHARLOTTE FISCHER - GERMANY

Rev. Charlotte Fischer serves as a minister in the Protestant Church in the Rhineland. She studied Protestant theology in Wuppertal and Münster, where she developed a strong interest in systematic theology.

Following parish ministry and academic work in systematic theology, Rev. Fischer now serves in the Trinitatiskirchengemeinde Bonn-Endenich, a congregation with a strong diaconal and socio-political focus in the center of Bonn, Germany.



Her academic research explores the nature and mission of the church today, with particular attention to post-systematic ecclesiology and the role of the church in contemporary society.

Rev. Fischer is actively engaged in ecumenical dialogue. She participated in the *Next Gen exchange project (2024-2025)* between the Protestant Church in the Rhineland and the conferences of the UCC Keystone and Wisconsin, contributing to the „*Declaration of Faith of Daycholah and Wuppertal*“—_a statement addressing Christian nationalism and its narratives. She currently chairs the EKIR–UCC working group.

She is committed to advocating for the inclusion and rights of queer people within the church. In the wider church context, she serves on the standing theological committee of the Protestant Church in the Rhineland, where she contributes her expertise to ongoing theological reflection and advisory work.

She is engaged to Benjamin Unkel and lives in Bonn, Germany.

REV. PROF. MITRI RAHEB - PALESTINE

Founder and President of Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem. The most widely published Palestinian theologian to date, Dr. Raheb is the author and editor of 50 books including: *Decolonizing Palestine: The Land, The People, The Bible*; *In the Eye of the Storm: Middle Eastern Christians in an Age of Empire*; *Politics of Persecution: Middle Eastern Christians in an Age of Empire*; *The Cross in Contexts: Suffering and Redemption in Palestine*; *Faith in the Face of Empire: The Bible through Palestinian Eyes*; His books and numerous articles have been translated so far into thirteen languages. Rev. Raheb served as the senior pastor of the Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem from June 1987 to May 2017 and as the President of the Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land from 2011 to 2016. A social entrepreneur, Rev. Raheb has founded several NGO's including the Christian Academic Forum for Citizenship in the Arab World (CAFCAW). He is a founding and board member of the National Library of Palestine, and a founding member of Bright



Stars of Bethlehem, a US 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. He is an elected member of the Palestinian National Council as well as the Palestinian Central Council.

Rev. Dr. Raheb received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity in 2022 from Wartburg Theological Seminary. In 2017, he received the Tolerance Award from the European Academy of Science and Arts, and in 2015, the Olof Palme Prize. In 2012, the German Media Prize was awarded to Dr. Raheb. Launched in 1992, this award was mainly granted to Heads of States, including President Obama (2016), German Chancellor Angela Merkel (2009), Bill Clinton (1999), Nelson Mandela (1998), King Hussein of Jordan (1997), Boris Yeltsin (1996), President Arafat (1995), and Yitzhak Rabin (1995). He also received, for his outstanding contribution to Christian education through research and publication, an Honorary Doctorate from Concordia University in Chicago (2003), and for his interfaith work, the “International Mohammad Nafi Tschelebi Peace Award” of the Central Islam Archive in Germany (2006), and in 2007, the well-known German Peace Award of Aachen. The work of Dr. Raheb has received wide media attention from major international media outlets and networks, including CNN, ABC, CBS, 60 Minutes, BBC, ARD, ZDF, DW, BR, Premiere, Raiuno, Stern, The Economist, Newsweek, Al-Jazeera, al-Mayadin, RT, LBC, Vanity Fair, and others.

Dr. Raheb holds a Doctorate in Theology from Philipps University in Marburg, Germany. He is married to Najwa Khoury and has two daughters, Dana & Tala.

SOUTHERN ASIA

DR. SURYANINGSI MILA - INDONESIA

Dr. Suryaningsi Mila, a lecturer at The Theological Seminary of the Christian Church of Sumba, Eastern Indonesia, has served in this role since 2010 and is currently the chairperson of the seminary. She is an ordained pastor of The Christian Church of Sumba. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in theology and the sociology of religion at Satya Wacana Christian University (Indonesia). She holds a Ph.D. in Inter-Religious Studies from Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia) and specializes in interreligious dialogue, particularly a communitarian reading of the scriptures among Muslim and Christian women in Indonesia. She also actively presented academic papers at national and international conferences. Most of her works and publications focus on feminist theology, contextual theology, and interfaith relations. Besides, she also had academic experiences in international programs such as the Mission 21 summer school in Hong Kong and Southern China (2019), Short Term Award of Senior-Multifaith Women's Leadership, Australian Award Indonesia (2019), Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS 2016 and 2024), and as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar in Georgetown University, Washington DC, from November 2024 to May 2025. Along with lecturing at the seminary, she is active in ministering at local churches, participating in many social work initiatives, and in community services such as advocating for women's rights and the issues of the marginalized.



REV. PREMAN RAJAN ROHAAN – SRI LANKA

Rev. Preman Rajan Rohaan is an ordained Christian pastor of the Church of the American Ceylon Mission (CACM) in Sri Lanka and is a committed leader in peacebuilding, ecumenism, and community transformation. He currently serves as the National Coordinator of the CACM Peace Commission (since 2018) and as the Regional Minister of the Colombo–Malayaham Region.



Internationally, he is a Founding Member of the South Asia Forum for Freedom of Religion and Belief (SAFFoRB) in Geneva and serves as a trainer at the Asian Academy for Campus Ministry under the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia in Hong Kong.

Within Sri Lanka, he actively engages in civil society initiatives, including the Christian Solidarity Forum in Colombo, the Jaffna People’s Forum for Co-existence, and the Civil Society Actors Forum in Batticaloa. With extensive experience in humanitarian aid, child rights advocacy, youth empowerment, interfaith dialogue, and reconciliation, he has served in multiple leadership roles, particularly in post-conflict regions.

He played a significant role in peacebuilding efforts following the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks and in fostering reconciliation between Tamil and Muslim communities in the Batticaloa and Ampara districts. His contributions have been recognized by EHED–Caritas Sri Lanka, which honored him as a National Peace Actor, and by Northeast Alabama University, which awarded him an honorary doctorate. His ministry reflects a deep commitment to justice, peace, and inclusive community development, with a particular passion for bringing the Christian Gospel into the public sphere by standing in solidarity with marginalized communities and advocating for dignity, democratic rights, and freedom for all.

NORTH AMERICA

MICHAEL R. FISHER, JR., PH.D. – UNITED STATES

Michael R. Fisher Jr., Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the political economy of race/racism in the Department of African American and African Studies and an Assistant Professor by courtesy in City and Regional Planning at The Ohio State University. He holds research affiliations with the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the Center for the Study of Religion at Ohio State, as well as with the Metropolitan Policy Center at American University and NP3: Nurturing People. Power. Place. at Case Western Reserve University and was a 2023–25 Fellow with the Public Religion Research Institute.



Trained as an interdisciplinary scholar, Dr. Fisher's areas of specialization include race, policy, and socio-economic inequality, and race and religion. He is the editor of *Confronting Racism and White Supremacy in the US: Twenty-First-Century Theological Perspectives* (Friendship Press, 2024). He's currently finishing a book, *Black Urban Study: Race and Redevelopment in the Inner City* (under contract with Georgetown University Press), that assesses the long-term impact of urban redevelopment on Black communities in inner city neighborhoods in the US.

HEATHER RODENBERG – UNITED STATES

Heather Rodenberg is a doctoral student at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), pursuing a joint PhD in Political Science and International Affairs. She is affiliated with both UCSD's political science department and the School of Global Policy and Strategy. Her research centers around how communities worldwide build local stability in the aftermath of conflict. She is especially interested in how the international context shapes that process, both in supporting resilience and in undermining community-driven cohesion. This work is grounded in both personal and professional experience. Heather's journey began in Eswatini while her parents served Global Ministry missions, and she has since lived across the United States and the United Kingdom. Prior to her doctoral studies and informing this work, she held roles in the U.S. government, including at the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, U.S. Africa Command, and supporting civilian harm mitigation efforts at the Department of Defense. In addition to these professional roles, she also volunteers at the International Rescue Committee to support refugees in her local community. Heather holds a master's degree in international relations from the University of Cambridge and attended William & Mary in Virginia for her undergraduate studies. She can also frequently be found enjoying Southern California beaches and trails or at home working to perfect her chocolate chip cookie recipe.