



**World Council  
of Churches**

**Stewards Programme  
Central Committee Meeting  
23 August – 7 September 2012**

**Crete, Greece**

**2012**



*Ecumenical experience for young people*

# Steward – ecumenical experience for young people

## Steward – a unique opportunity

WCC Stewards Programmes are unique events providing opportunities for participants to deepen their knowledge of the ecumenical movement, renew their ecumenical commitment and find inspiration for further work towards the unity of the Church.

The Stewards Programme will be composed of 3 phases:

- Ecumenical Learning Programme
- Assisting in an international ecumenical event
- Ecumenical Project planning

The programme will bring together young people from all over the world and give them the opportunity to contribute with their work to the operations of the Central Committee meeting. It will also provide a space for ecumenical learning, encounters and discussions.

The Central Committee of the World Council of Churches meets every 18 months to monitor and set directions to the Council's work. About 150 church representatives, advisors and observers will gather in Crete, Greece for the last Central Committee meeting before the 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Busan, Korea in 2013.

## “Work, pray and sweat”

Being a steward means hard work. The work done is often exhausting, intense and under pressure of short deadlines. The main areas of stewards' work are: *Worship, Conference Room, Documentation, Press Office, Sound*, and other tasks such as general administration, sorting mail, delivering messages, etc.



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## Learning and contributing

Before the meetings, stewards will participate in an Ecumenical Learning



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Programme which will expose them to the key issues of concern for the ecumenical movement worldwide.

Stewards will form a community of young people from different churches, countries and cultures, who bring their faith, backgrounds and visions to an ecumenical experience of togetherness and friendship. Being a steward will be a challenge, will foster involvement and participation, and may indeed change your life.

The Stewards programme is only the beginning of a long process. It encourages young people to continue the journey of ecumenism. The last element of the programme will focus on designing ecumenical projects which stewards will implement upon their return.

## Criteria

Stewards **have to be between 18 and 30 years old. English** is the working language of the programme and its good knowledge is required from the applicants. Stewards need to be prepared to endure an intensive programme of activities and long, tiring work days. Patience, ability to work with people from other countries and cultures, and a willingness to work together as a team, are essential.

## Financing

WCC will be responsible for board and lodging expenses during the time of the programme. Travel costs to and from Geneva are to be borne by the steward, except in cases where subsidy is granted.

Residents of following regions, if unable to finance their travel, are eligible for a subsidy: Asia, Africa, Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East and Pacific. All stewards

who are granted a travel subsidy are expected to make a cash contribution – within their capacity – towards travel expenses. The contribution can be a combination of funds from yourself, your church, parish, organisation, etc. The purpose of the contribution is to allow more young people to participate in the Programme, to strengthen the commitment of the participants and encourage the ownership of the programme by the participants and their local churches and organisations.

Please complete the relevant section of the application form concerning travel clearly. If you apply for a travel subsidy *you must indicate the amount you are ready to contribute*. Specific requests for assistance will be dealt with on a case by case basis.



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Passport, visas and any other personal related expenses are the responsibility of the steward.

## Interested?

Read the application form carefully, complete it clearly and fully (in English; type if possible) and send it to the address mentioned in the form before **15 March 2012**.

Only applications which are **fully completed and sent in time** will be considered. The places in these two events are limited so some applicants are bound to be disappointed simply because there will not be enough places for all well qualified applicants.