

# Stewards Programme

## World Council of Churches Central Committee Meeting



August 19 – September 4, 2009  
Geneva, Switzerland



*Ecumenical experience for young people*

# Steward – ecumenical experience for young people

## Steward – a unique opportunity

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 at the next meeting of the Central Committee which will be held from August 26 to September 2, 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland. There will be a group of young people from all over the world participating in the meeting as stewards. You may be one of them!

WCC Steward 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
- Central Committee meeting
- Ecumenical Project planning

The programme will bring together 25 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.

## “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.



© Peter Williams / WCC

## Learning and contributing

Before the week of work at the Central Committee meeting stewards will



© Peter Williams / WCC

participate in a week-long Ecumenical Learning Programme which will expose them to the key issues of concern for the ecumenical movement world-wide.

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 back home.

## 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 and will provide some pocket money. 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.



© Paulino Menezes / WCC

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 **March 31, 2009**.

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