

Training in Mission - Diploma in Mission Studies 2025

PROGRAMME BRIEF

The Council for World Mission (CWM) has been investing in equipping the young people for the ministry and mission of its member churches since 1981. Through TIM (Training in Mission) participants from Member Churches and Ecumenical Partners work together for 26 weeks of intensive mission training. The Programme is to be conducted in partnership with Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines and International University of the Caribbean in Jamaica and the United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands.

The pedagogical process of the Programme is intended to engage an action-reflection model of learning. Over 400 young people have so far been changed for life with a new practical and radical understanding of what witnessing to Christ means. In every church, TIM participants are to be seen as living expressions of CWM's understanding of partnership in mission.

The objectives of TIM include:

1. Christian formation as training for life and a life-long involvement with the mission of the church and developing skills for a life of witnessing. Since Christianity is not a private faith, but one that is lived out in community, great value is placed on discovering the 'otherness of Christ' revealed in each another. We move beyond our limited parish understanding of Christ to a more enlightened ecumenical and global vision. We engage in in-depth ecumenical and inter-cultural learning.
2. Development of wider vision, deepened commitment, a strengthened sense of fellowship and partnership with other Christians around the world, particularly through and among CWM churches. TIM is an adventure in faith transformation, where participants interact between God, self and society.

The learning model of TIM includes:

3. Building capacities in our churches, by enhancing the scope for the church's public and prophetic witness. This includes both the churches the participants relate to during the course of TIM AND their home churches, particularly on their return to country. By living, studying and working as a group for an extended period, participants learn about building wholesome relationships across cultural barriers. The emphasis is on going beyond tolerance of one another, to growing an appreciation of the diversity needed to *be* the Church in community.
4. Engaging with the Theology statement of CWM which reflects a critique and resistance on the one hand and an affirmation on the other. It is centered on the Christ of all the cosmos and grounded in Christ's liberative work.

Mission is God's. God invites the whole community of faith who make up the Church to be partners in God's mission. Young people and adults are invited to share in God's mission. Regardless of the level of their exposure and involvement in the mission of the church, young people have their own practical ways of working out their missiology. They are shaped by their various cultures and religious heritages through which they develop and express their different understandings about God and the role of the church in society.

The marks of God's mission include:

- To TELL - To bear witness to the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.
 - To TEACH - To explore the nature of discipleship, and to nurture and disciple believers in Jesus Christ.
 - To TEND - To care for people with the compassionate love of Jesus Christ.
 - To TRANSFORM - To transform unjust structures in society, with the advocacy of the Holy Spirit. In particular, this will involve confronting the conditions that have led to injustice.
 - To TREASURE - To care for the creation of God, stewarding the resources of the world for the good of all. In particular, this will involve uncovering the relationships between economy and ecology of life.
5. As young people evaluate their own life experiences, they consider how and where God is at work and toward what end. It is their missionary obedience and commitment in specific situations and involvement in everyday life which gives rise to new theological and missiological insights. The educational learning process calls for learning by doing or 'action reflection'.
- insights and ideas arise out of life involvement;
 - the emphasis is on 'learning by doing', not on prescribed answers;
 - ideas are contextual, historical and transitional;
 - every act is subjective (has a built-in bias);
 - it is not the quantity of knowledge that matters but the grappling with issues;
 - the real learning situation is LIFE – engagement with people in everyday activities.
6. Through placements we are taken through a five-fold learning experience that involves:
- Exploration of context through which we learn to look and listen anew to the concerns of people in local communities. This is geared towards heightening curiosity, motivation and interest in understanding the context of people's struggles.
 - Reflecting on how and where God works in the daily struggles of people in communities.
 - Drawing out contextual implications for mission and suggesting alternative creative options for the church to rediscover how to engage in effective mission action in their context.
 - Relating what has been learnt in such a way that personal growth will be promoted, including documenting experiences for future use.
 - Integrated framework and methodology - We focus on addressing mission issues in context both local and global. Sensitive and current issues of our times are examined through mission perspectives: issues such as globalization, domestic violence, climate crisis, family, gender, social cohesion/peace-making and conflict management and mission in multi-cultural and multi-religious contexts.

In 2025 the **Training in Mission Studies will be held from late April to November 2025** (final travel dates to be confirmed). The online (4-5 weeks) preparatory materials will be ready for participants to commence work with in April. [The draft outline of the programme is: 4-5 weeks of online training, followed by a week of transition and orientation to the Philippines, Diploma studies, travel, transition and re-orientation to Jamaica, followed by a Certificate Programme in Peace and Justice Studies, and a week of evaluation and transition to return home].

Participants will need access to a computer and internet for the online component in their home country, and should have some competency in English-for-communication, as this is the language of programme delivery. [Note for General Secretaries: We note that it has been taking some applicants over THREE months to get visa approvals and flights must be booked by end-April. Complete applications must be finalized by end-February (Section C - Medical), it is important to contact empowerment@cwmission.org to make special arrangements to have any incomplete applications considered.]

CONTEXT for TIM 2025

The 2025 TIM will be held in THREE key settings:

1. In the participants' local environment, where they will research key understandings of local mission in their own contexts, and identify missional leaders to continue to correspond with,
2. In a Seminary environment in East Asia, with easy local access to culture and mission exposures and activities. See [Union Theological Seminary - Cavite, Philippines \(uts.ph\)](http://uts.ph)
3. In a mixed Member Church and university setting in Jamaica (Caribbean), with a variety of culture, justice-oriented mission and peace/reconciliation foci. International University of the Caribbean IUC

TRANSFORMATION AS THE PARADIGM

The pedagogical model of Training in Mission includes:

- Affirming the concept of building capacities for the churches consistent with the mission statement of CWM.
- Enhancing the scope for the church's public witness. Thus, while affirming the commitment to be in solidarity with the churches, the TIM will carve out a niche of enabling and empowering young people to explore and witness as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of the church, in the wider society.
- Practicing the Theology Statement of CWM which reflects a critique and resistance on the one hand, and an affirmation on the other. It is centered on a cosmic world view and rooted in a Christology that is liberative.

The Training in Mission is now transformed into Diploma in Mission Studies. Participants of the TIM Programme will work towards the completion of a Diploma in Mission Studies at the end of the Programme. Graduates will possess qualification which recognizes applied leadership skills in mission and education to enhance employment opportunities or to work in a voluntary capacity. CWM's member churches will benefit by having qualified individuals with the knowledge and skills to successfully lead areas of responsibility in a wide range of Christian mission roles.

Key components of the studies include:

- Introductory grounding in contemporary approaches to Mission
- Developing skills in cultural sensitivity and contextual understanding, including personal and group skills for adaptive leadership
- Theological Reflection and Spiritual Formation with a missiological focus
- Developing skills for managing mission projects and tasks
- Developing skills in evaluating appropriate strategies and effectiveness of mission activities in different contexts

SELECTION CRITERIA

Participants in the Training in Mission - Diploma in Mission Studies must:

- Be 20 to 29 years old at the start of the Programme, single, and not an ordained minister
- Be able to spend up to 5 months away from home and commit to time before and after the programme to prepare and contextualize learnings in their own environment.
- Be an active member of a CWM member church, and committed to serve the church upon return
- Have paid or volunteer experience and/or involvement in project work or secular NGO programs
- Have demonstrated educational capacity
- Be interested in exploring mission issues in an international and multicultural context
- Be able to relate well with others and mature enough to cope with stress, be of exemplary behaviour and character
- Be proficient in spoken and written English, as this is the main language of communication

Applications should demonstrate how the applicant's participation in TIM will enhance the church's leadership capacity in line with its human resource development strategy, enabling the church to better pursue its mission priorities.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

1. All CWM member-churches are encouraged to nominate a maximum of four young people: two(2) males and two(2) females for the Training in Mission - Diploma in Mission Studies Programme. Applications should be *endorsed by the General Secretary and/or Church Moderator* of the sending church, following its respective internal selection process.

2. CWM will select up to twelve (12) participants from the nominated names, ensuring balance in gender and regional representation in the Programme.

3. All the applications will be processed by the CWM Education, Formation and Empowerment Secretary and considered by the CWM Programme Team. Shortlisted Applicants should be available for an online interview 10-13 March.

4. Upon notification of offer of participation, the selected participants are expected to process their passport / visa requirements *BEFORE* the TIM place and flights can be confirmed.

Note: It is expected that acceptance of a place in the TIM programme implies full engagement in the programme and prioritization of TIM relationships, so participants should not schedule other activities during the period of TIM. Exceptions are made for health or pastoral reasons.

For further Information, please contact:

Email: empowerment@cwmission.org

Subject Line: TIM 2025

Proposed Key Dates - To be confirmed (*estimates as at November 2024*)

Close of Nominations	28 February
Applicants are Shortlisted	6 March
Shortlisted Applicants' Interviews	10-12 March
Offers communicated/accepted	14-15 March
Final Participants' List / Reserve list communications	17-18 March
Letter provided for Visa Applications	18 March
Visa Applications to be submitted	by 24-28 March

[Normally, Cultural Exchange Visas, or Special Transit visas, will be required for the Philippines, UK/US transit visa and Jamaica. If participants already have a UK or US visa, CWM should be informed, as this provides additional options for routing.]

Online Orientation Sessions	28 April
Online Preliminary Module starts (approx 5 hours per week)	May
Depart Home countries	
Arrive UTS, Manila	

Week 1	Local Orientation	late June
Week 2	Module 1	
Week 3		
Week 4	Module 2	
Week 5		
Week 6	Module 3	
Week 7		
Week 8	Module 4	
Week 9		
Week 10	Module 5	
Week 11		
Week 12	Field Assignments	
Week 13	Presentations	
Week 14	Transfer	
Week 15		
Week 16	Cert - Part	
Week 17	Cert - Part	
Week 18	Cert - Part 4	
Week 19	Cert - Part 5	
Week 20	Evaluations /Valedictory / Departures	
	Est. Arrive home by	

Reporting to Home Churches / GS

25 November - 6 December