

WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL

Statement on the Death of Pope emeritus Benedict XVI

1 January 2023

Together with other World Communions, the World Methodist Council extends its condolences to His Holiness Pope Francis and the entire Catholic Church on the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

Pope Benedict was a towering intellectual figure who published sixty-six books, three encyclicals, and three apostolic exhortations. His support of informed theological dialogue between Churches, including the dialogue between the World Methodist Council and the Roman Catholic Church, was a hallmark of his pontificate. Pope Benedict's impact on Christian unity through prayer and theological discourse is an enduring legacy of his ministry.

On learning of the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict's death, the President of the World Methodist Council, Rev. Dr. JC Park, commented, "His most significant contribution has been the spiritual and theological retrieval of the uniqueness of Jesus. His magnum opus Jesus of Nazareth, is the living witness of Jesus 'who is close to the Father's heart.'" (John 1:18)

May Benedict rest in peace and rise in glory.