



# Methodist-Roman Catholic International Commission



Plenary Meeting, 19-24 October 2025, El Salvador

## Communiqué



The Methodist-Roman Catholic International Commission met in plenary session in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 19 to 24 October 2025, building on its work on the theme of diversity, unity, and communion for mission. The Commission, officially called the *Joint Commission for Theological Dialogue between the World Methodist Council and the Catholic Church*, was established in 1967 as the bilateral theological dialogue between the World Methodist Council and the Catholic Church with the goal of full communion in faith, sacramental life, and mission. The meeting in San Salvador is the fourth annual meeting in the 12th round of the international Catholic-Methodist theological dialogue.

The Commission received a report on its pending publication of *We Believe in One God: Sixty Years of Methodists and Catholics Together*. The document synthesizes the Commission's eleven previous official dialogue reports, which demonstrates the common Christian faith shared by Catholics and Methodists. A culmination of nearly two years of work, the publication is the Commission's contribution to the celebrations marking the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

The Commission dedicated the majority of its meeting to exploring the themes of unity, diversity, and communion for mission. A draft report was reviewed by the Commission exploring these themes: models of discernment of the essentials of the Christian faith, the meaning and practice of unity and diversity in Methodist and Catholic churches, and communion as integral for the mission of the church. The draft report also included a chapter with concrete recommendations to Catholic and Methodist leaders to further deepen the communion already shared by Methodists and Catholics. The Commission expects to finalize the report by the end of 2026.

Bishop Juan de Dios Peña from the Evangelical Methodist Church in El Salvador, along with clergy and lay leaders, hosted the Commission for Eucharist followed by a dinner at the Vida Nueva Methodist Church in San Salvador. Bishop Peña preached on the meaning of unity from John 17.

The Commission visited a number of pilgrimage sites related to St. Oscar Romero and other Christian martyrs of El Salvador, including the Catholic Cathedral of San Salvador, the Divine Providence Hospital and Mons. Romero House, as well as the University of Central America.

The Commission extends its sincere thanks to Fr. Carlos Chavarria from San Benito Catholic Parish for assisting with the Commission's meeting.

Three Commission members were unable to attend the meeting due to family and work commitments. Fr. Anthony Currer of the Catholic Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle (UK), formerly of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity of the Holy See, substituted for Fr. Martin Browne OSB and acted as the Catholic co-secretary for the meeting.

The Commission is scheduled to meet next from 18-24 October 2026.

The Commission is made up of:

### ***Methodist Members***

Rev. Prof. Edgardo A. Colón–Emeric (Co-Chair), *United States of America*  
Rev. Matthew A. Lafferty (Co-Secretary), *Methodist Ecumenical Office, Rome*  
Dr. Jung Choi, *Korea/United States of America*  
Rev. Prof. Blanches de Paula, *Brazil*  
Prof. Geordan Hammond, *United Kingdom/United States of America*  
Rev. Prof. Glen O'Brien, *Australia*  
Rev. Dr. Hermen Shastri, *Malaysia*  
Prof. Lilian Cheelo Siwila, *Zambia/South Africa*

### ***Catholic Members***

Archbishop Shane Mackinlay (Co-Chair), *Australia*  
Rev. Martin Browne OSB (Co-Secretary), *Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, Rome*  
Prof. Catherine E. Clifford, *Canada*  
Rev. Prof. Gerard Kelly, *Australia*  
Sr. Prof. Mary Sylvia Nwachukwu DDL, *Nigeria*  
Rev. Prof. Daniel Franklin Pilario CM, *Philippines*  
Rev. Prof. Jorge Scampini OP, *Argentina*  
Dr. Clare Watkins, *United Kingdom*  
Rev. Anthony Currer, *United Kingdom (2022 and 2025 meetings)*