

Core of WEC



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This 'Core of WEC' document describes the foundation of what holds us together as an international and intercultural organisation. In addition there is a 'Practice of WEC' document which is an organisation-wide collection of 'Agreed Practices' and 'Guidelines'. We follow 'Agreed Practices' in all WEC contexts for the good of the wider body. 'Guidelines' are to be carefully considered and followed when applicable. At the Branch level there are also by-laws that branch members agree to follow.

Changes to the *Core of WEC* are made by the Leaders' Council.

Christ is the head of WEC International. We live as his servants and are committed to seek his will in all aspects of life and service.

Origin and Name

Radical trust and willingness to sacrifice were distinctive marks of early WEC. Faith and obedience characterised members of the new movement. Out of passion for Christ, trust in his leading and a deep desire to bring the gospel to those who had no opportunity to hear, C.T. Studd was led by God to Central Africa in 1913. Others joined in the work and with the valuable help of his wife Priscilla in England, the Heart of Africa mission was born.

C. T. Studd named the earliest principles the “Five Smooth Stones” from the stones David selected for his battle against Goliath:

- *Absolute faith in the deity of each person of the Trinity.*
- *Absolute belief in the full inspiration of the Old and New Testament Scriptures.*
- *Total commitment to know and to preach only Jesus Christ and him crucified.*
- *Obedience to Christ’s command to love all who love the Lord Jesus sincerely, without partiality, and to love all people.*
- *Absolute faith in the will, power and providence of God to meet all our needs in his service.*

Focus and urgency marked their methods. Their strategy was to identify the parts of the world that were unevangelised. Then by obedience to the Spirit’s leading, faith, prayer, commitment, and sacrifice they sought to make Christ known in those places as quickly as possible.

God’s promise to C.T. Studd was that his journey was not only for Africa. It was for the whole unevangelised world. The work expanded and the name Worldwide Evangelisation Crusade was adopted in 1919. In 1982 the name became WEC International. In this name WEC stands for ‘Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ’.

WEC has grown over the years and although our name has changed, our core passion remains - loving Christ and making him known. Radical trust, willingness to sacrifice, faith and obedience, focus and urgency mark our lives. We value the past while remaining committed to following the Spirit’s leading for effectiveness today.

Motto

If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him. (C. T. Studd)

Our Vision

To see Christ known, loved and worshipped by the unreached peoples of the world.

Our Mission

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, with a sense of urgency and a commitment to work with others, we:

1. Proclaim the gospel by word and deed, so that people come to a living faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and become his disciples.
2. Gather believers around Christ, establishing churches in the Word of God so that they make disciples in their communities and beyond.
3. Mobilise for missions, recruit, train, send and care for workers in fellowship with the wider Church.

Our Core Principles

The following principles, known as the Four Pillars of WEC, are core to the way we seek to live in order to honour Christ and fulfil our God-given mission. We recognize that these are possible only through the indwelling Christ and transforming work of the Spirit.

Faith

God is worthy of our absolute trust. We are totally dependent on him as the supplier of every need in our lives and ministries. We trust him to fulfil his revealed purposes despite opposition, difficulty and apparent impossibility.

We believe in:

1. The power of the gospel to transform the lives of people from every culture and background.
2. The power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's purpose and build his church.
3. The ability of the Holy Spirit to reveal God's will and purpose to his people as they earnestly seek him.
4. The power of God to supply every need in every situation, so that his work is not determined by circumstances but rather by the 'great and precious promises' in his Word.

Holiness

God is holy and has created us in his image. Our desire is to please him in every part of our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit. Holiness of life:

1. Brings glory to Christ as individually and collectively we live to please him above all else.
2. Is made possible through our union with Christ in his death and resurrection.
3. Is evidence of a Spirit-filled life.
4. Is essential for an effective witness to the gospel.

Sacrifice

Loving Christ is our core passion. The cross, with its principles of denying self and of losing one's life to bless others, is a defining symbol of life as a Christ-follower. With Christ as our model, we:

1. Accept a discipleship lifestyle, involving a willingness to risk all, placing God's will before personal goals, comfort or desires.
2. Are ready to set aside current patterns of thinking and standards of living, economic security and even be despised for the sake of the gospel.
3. Seek to identify with the people among whom we minister. This may require us to accept hardship and loneliness, be separated from family members and from Christian fellowship, endure persecution, imprisonment or even death.
4. Are willing to temporarily put aside a personal goal or ministry in order to fit in with the overall objectives of the team.

Fellowship

We are a community of God's people drawn from various backgrounds and cultures, reflecting the diversity of the global Church. We are united through one head - our Lord Jesus Christ, and are part of one Church - those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth. Our oneness in Christ makes it possible to serve together as brothers and sisters. To live in Christ-honouring fellowship means that:

1. Our fellowship is shaped by the Spirit's transforming work in us as disciples more than by cultural or personal expectations.
2. Our fellowship is strengthened by the use of the gifts of the Spirit and expression of the fruit of the Spirit.
3. We make every effort to maintain unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, working together with openness and humility, avoiding unhelpful emphases in doctrine or experience.
4. We strive to find the mind of the Lord together, believing that as we wait on God his mind can be discerned by the fellowship through the leading of the Holy Spirit.
5. We accept, support, and submit to one another in mutual accountability and love.
6. We value ethnic, cultural and denominational diversity and refuse any form of prejudice in the life and appointments of WEC.

Our Core Practices

The following core practices are an expression of our fundamental convictions about how God has led WEC. We function in these ways in order to live out these convictions and remain effective in the mission he has entrusted to us.

Prayer is a priority and integral to everything we do.

Governance

We seek to be movement-oriented with simple structures, accountability and a flexibility that can respond to the Spirit's leading. All entities function in a vital relationship of fellowship and interdependence.

Governance (leadership, decision-making, and implementation) functions at the following levels:

1. International – the Leaders' Council is the final authority of WEC International. The International Council is the primary governing body at this level. The Leaders' Council elects the International Director and the Deputy International Directors and has the right to review all International Council decisions.
2. Area – the Area Council has final responsibility for decision-making on area-wide planning and ministry.
3. Branch – the Branch Conference is the final authority for the branch. Each branch decides which governance responsibilities to delegate to the Branch Council.
4. Team – teams at the international, area or branch level are empowered by their relevant governance body to fulfil their ministry goals.

Leadership

1. We value servant leaders who wait on God for vision and direction.
2. We value and believe in the equality of men and women in leadership appointments.
3. We value God's appointment of leaders and affirm this through a process of election by those the leader will serve.

Decision Making

1. We seek the mind of God together and make every effort to find unity in our decisions.
2. We acknowledge the need to give the Holy Spirit pre-eminence in our guidance and decision-making.
3. We recognise the importance of research about areas of need and global trends as we respond to God's leading through the Spirit.
4. We value the participation of those closest to a decision in the decision-making process.
5. We recognise that God's direction can be discerned even when full unity of the participants has not been achieved.

Finance

1. God has called WEC to follow financial practices which express that Christ is worthy of our trust for every aspect of our lives. We approach matters of finance with prayer and communication, without appealing for funds.
2. We recognise that God provides for his servants in a multitude of ways, using whatever form, manner or time he may choose.
3. We apply our financial principles in varied cultural and legal contexts. Ultimately an appropriate application of these principles depends on an intimate relationship with God, Christ-like heart attitudes, and the Holy Spirit's confirmation through the fellowship.

Serving in WEC

There are many ways in which people contribute to the mission of WEC and we affirm this.

Any person wishing to serve with us must:

1. Show clear evidence of being born again by the Holy Spirit.
2. Love Christ and be committed to honour and serve him above all.
3. Demonstrate a growing knowledge of the Bible and evidence of living by its principles in everyday life.
4. Have the desire and the capacity to contribute to the mission of WEC.
5. Agree to live according to the *Core of WEC*.
6. Be affirmed by a home church to serve in the WEC fellowship.
7. Have completed appropriate orientation relevant to their intended service.
8. Have had their call affirmed by the relevant WEC membership granting entity.

Statement of Faith

We believe in:

1. One God, creator and sustainer of all things, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. The deity and humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ, his virgin birth and sinless life, his miracles, his atoning death on the cross for us, his bodily resurrection, his ascension to the right hand of the Father, his work as mediator, and his return in power and glory.
3. The ministry of the Holy Spirit to transform lives and empower for life and service.
4. The Holy Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, as originally given by God, divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy, and the ultimate authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
5. The sinfulness and guilt of all humanity since the fall, so that every person comes under God's judgement.

6. Redemption through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit as essential for salvation.
7. The justification of the sinner solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ.
8. Resurrection of the dead: those who are in Christ resurrected to a life forever with God and those who are outside of Christ resurrected to final judgement.
9. The unity in Christ of all believers who make up the Church, his body, which is his witness throughout the world.

Affirmation

The WEC Ethos Declaration is to be prayerfully read, considered and affirmed by each member every three years. This is first done when a member is accepted into WEC and then repeated at each triennial leadership election.

All members are required to affirm, and where applicable to sign, the Risk and Security Declaration.

WEC Ethos Declaration

1. I believe God has led me into the fellowship of WEC International.
2. I am willing to deny myself for the sake of Christ and remain committed to ministry within WEC International for as long as God so leads.
3. I have read the WEC resources prescribed during the candidate orientation, including the *Core of WEC*.
4. I agree to live according to the *Core of WEC*.
5. I shall submit to those who are over me in the Lord.
6. I am willing to endure inconvenience, hardship, sickness and even death in order to fulfil Christ's command to preach the gospel to the unreached and to make disciples of all nations.
7. I will humbly seek to be a loving, loyal, prayerful and unselfish worker in WEC International.

Risk and Security Declaration

1. I fully recognise that the nature and location of my work may result in abduction, unlawful arrest, accusation, imprisonment, personal injury or death.
2. I voluntarily choose to accept the risks involved in my work and hereby release any and all associated with me in my work from any and all legal or insurance claims which I or anyone of my family or friends could make in connection with such events.
3. If abducted or imprisoned, I understand that any and all associated with me will do all in their power both directly and indirectly through my government or other channels to obtain my release, but that they will not agree to ransom demands or engage in political bargaining.

Scripture References

Our Mission

1. Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Col. 1:28
2. Acts 2:42-47, 9:31; Eph. 2:19-22; Col. 1:18; 2 Timothy 3:14-17
3. Luke 10:2; Acts 13:1-3; 1 Thess. 5:11; 1 Tim. 4:6-8

Our Core Principles

Faith

1. Rom. 1:16; 2 Cor. 3:18, 5:17; Rev. 7:9
2. Acts 1:8; Rom. 8:28; Eph. 4:11-16
3. Ps. 32:8; Ps. 143:10; Prov. 3:5-6; Isaiah 30:21; John 16:13; Acts 13:2, 16:6
4. Ps. 23:1; Matt. 6:25-33, 19:26; 2 Cor. 9:8; Eph. 1:18-21; Phil. 4:19; Heb. 11

Holiness

1. Rom. 14:17-19; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1; Eph. 1:4, 5:25-27; 1 Pet. 1:14-16
2. John 15:5; Rom. 6-8; Gal. 2:19-21; Eph. 3:16-17; Col. 1:27, 3:1-17
3. 1 Cor. 6:17-20; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:30-32
4. Rom. 14:13; Eph. 4:17-24; 1 Th. 1:5, 2:10; 1 Tim. 4:12

Sacrifice

1. Luke 9:23, 14:25-33, 22:42; John 4:34, 5:30, 6:38; Phil. 2:5-8
2. Rom. 12: 1-2; 2 Cor. 8:9; Phil. 4:11-13; 2 Tim. 4:5
3. Mark 10:29-30; John 1:14, 20:21; 1 Cor. 9:22-23; 2 Cor. 6:3-10
4. Rom. 12:10; Phil. 2:3-4

Fellowship

1. John 7:38-39, 14:23-26; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 5:16-18; Col. 3:11
2. Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11; Gal. 5:22-26; Eph. 4:11-16
3. Rom. 12:18; Eph. 4:1-6, 22-32; Phil. 2:1-4; Col. 3:15; 1 John 1:5-7
4. John 14:25-26, 16:13; Acts 15:22, 25, 28, 16:10; Phil. 2:2
5. Rom. 12:9-10, 13:8-10, 15:7; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; 1 Cor. 13; Eph. 5:1-2, 21; Phil. 2:1-4; Col. 3:12-14
6. John 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Eph. 4:4-6; James 2:1, 8-9; Rev. 7:9