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Wesleyan Theological Society
Christian Holiness Association
Dr Bill Kostlevy
B.L. Fischer Library
Asbury Theological Seminary
Wilmore, KY 40390
USA

March 2, 1998

Dear Dr Kostlevy,

As a clear and tangible expression of our desire to nurture and strengthen relationships with churches outside the membership of the World Council of Churches belonging to the Holiness, Evangelical and Pentecostal Traditions, I have pleasure inviting the Wesleyan Theological Society to designate an observer to the 8th Assembly of the WCC, to be held at the University of Zimbabwe, Harare, from 3 - 14 December 1998.

The forthcoming Assembly of the World Council of Churches will be especially significant because 1998 is the Council's Jubilee year, marking 50 years since its founding in Amsterdam in 1948. The Assembly will celebrate the biblical concept of "jubilee" around the theme "*Turn to God - Rejoice in Hope*". A new aspect of this Assembly will be the Padare, a Shona word meaning meeting place. The Padare will be an open space where people can share with others the work done by churches and ecumenical groups in many places around the world.

The 8th Assembly will also deal with a Policy Statement prepared by the Central Committee: "*Towards a Common Understanding and Vision of the World Council of Churches*" which will guide the WCC into the next century. In the chapter on Relationships this document states that "*The fellowship of the WCC is limited by the absence of other churches which have not sought membership*" and calls for efforts "*to sustain the search for new forms of relationships*". In keeping with the spirit of these words it was decided to issue invitations to a range of Evangelical, Pentecostals and African Instituted churches and organisations.

I hope very much that you will be able to accept our invitation. We will then send you the registration form and other information.

Looking forward to hearing from you, with kind regards,

Yours in Christ

Konrad Raiser
General Secretary