

Transformative Spirituality – Intercultural Mountain Pilgrimage

A Journey in the Mountains of Java / Indonesia

23 August 2026 – 5 September 2026

The Mountain Pilgrimage will unfold over an enriching two-week international program.

The first week will focus on transformative spirituality and the theological significance of mountains, drawing from various religious and cultural contexts (e.g. Psalm 121, Moses, Jesus). We will learn about the role of mountains in our climate.

The second week will invite participants to hike together and to deepen their understanding through a meditative approach within the Mountain pilgrimage framework.

Participants will encounter the majesty and value of God's creation, tapping into their inner strength and energy. The group may hike to a site of traditional religious significance, enhancing the spiritual journey.

The second week's final Workshop will consider how to apply the learnings and make them fruitful in the participants' respective contexts.

TRANSFORMATIVE SPIRITUALITY

In the lead-up to the WCC Assembly 2022, the concept of TRANSFORMATIVE SPIRITUALITY emerged as a vital theological response to the pressing challenges of climate change and the climate crisis. This form of spirituality seeks to inspire individuals to undergo personal transformation, enabling them to become role models through their presence, attitudes, lifestyles, and contributions to society.

MOUNTAIN PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimages have long been recognized as communal spiritual journeys, and MOUNTAIN PILGRIMAGE – akin to spiritual hiking – offers a unique variation of this experience. These pilgrimages, influenced by Christian spirituality, serve as sanctuaries for reflection, foster resilience, and provide profound access to the wonders of creation, all while nurturing the practice of transformative spirituality.

Within the framework of the international UEM programs, we aim to explore and experience the theme of Transformative Spirituality in an intercultural context. Participants will engage with the spirituality of mountains from both a Christian perspective and the religious-cultural understanding of the host country.

Target Group

This program is an intergenerational project (young and experienced persons), designed for people (all gender) from all three regions of UEM who serve as multipliers or trainers within their churches (volunteers and professionals): Five people from Asia, five from Africa, and five from Europe.

- You are open to diverse forms of spirituality?
- You are interested in spirituality of mountains, spiritual reflection and in togetherness?
- You are willing to go for 3-6 hours of hiking (going up and down in the mountains)?
- You are fit and have passion to do it?
- You are able to speak English on a basic level?
- You are interested to implement a program of transformative spirituality in your church?

What else do you need for application?

- A recommendation of your church or congregation to do a pilot project.
- A description of your current job or of your current volunteer work
- Join us on this transformative journey, where the mountains will not only be our backdrop, but also our guide: We seek deeper connections with the world around us, God's creation and God herself, with ourselves and each other.

Date

23 August 2026 – 5 September 2026
including arrival and departure days

Location

Kopeng, Semarang Regency, Java, Indonesia

Costs for participants

- Participants from the German Region: 550,00€, plus the costs for booking your own flight and visa application. You may ask your church and congregation for support.
- Participants of the Asia and Africa Region: depending on the church. For more information, please get in touch with us.

Contact persons

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Application

Please visit our website for your application.

www.vemission.org/en/education/seminars/conferences/mountain-pilgrimage-java