

General Assembly of the International UEM begins on Sunday in Dar-es-Salaam

69 delegates from 39 members are participating

(Wuppertal/Dar-es-Salaam, September 11, 2025) – On Sunday, September 14, the 11th General Assembly of the United Evangelical Mission (UEM) begins. At the invitation of the Eastern Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ECD-ELCT), around 120 participants from Africa, Asia, and Europe will meet in the Tanzanian coastal city of Dar-es-Salaam until September 19. The theme of the conference is a verse from Matthew 7:3: "The beam in my eye. Discrimination in the Church and Diaconia."

Topics and focal points

The agenda includes a study day on discrimination in the church and diaconal sphere, mutual recognition of ordination, reports from the respective regions, the award ceremonies for the international essay competition and for innovative partnership forms as well as financial issues. In addition, the recommendations of the pre-consultations of women, young adults, and men will be presented and discussed.

69 delegates represent 39 members

The 39 members of UEM include 17 member churches from Asia (Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka), 15 member churches from Africa (Botswana, DR Congo, Cameroon, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, and Tanzania), and seven members from Germany. They are represented by a total of 69 delegates at the General Assembly.

Leadership and significance

The Assembly is chaired by the Moderator of UEM, Bishop Dr. Abednego Keshomshahara from Tanzania. The operational business of the international communion, with locations in Wuppertal (Germany), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), and Pematangsiantar (Indonesia), is managed by the Indonesian theologian Rev. Dr. Andar Parlindungan.

The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of UEM and meets every three years, alternating between the three UEM regions. It provides a central opportunity for representatives of the international members to come together in one place to discuss, pray, and celebrate together.

About „UEM“

The United Evangelical Mission (UEM) with offices in Wuppertal (Germany), Indonesia and Tanzania is an international, equal communion of 39 members, including 32 Protestant churches in Africa and Asia as well as six Protestant churches and the v. Bodelschwingh Foundation Bethel in Germany. The UEM consistently pursues a holistic understanding of mission. This includes improving the living conditions of suffering and disadvantaged people while respecting their personal dignity and taking their cultural context into account.