

## RESISTING ECONOMIC INJUSTICE AND ECOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION

At its 1997 General Council meeting, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches considered the twin threats to life, growing economic polarization and environmental devastation, as urgent challenges to faith. In the tradition of the Confessing Church of Germany in the 1930s and the churches' struggle against apartheid in the 1980s, the Council agreed to initiate "a committed process of recognition, education, confession and action (*processus confessionis*) regarding economic injustice and the destruction of the Earth" with the following steps:

*Step 1: We begin a process which starts by understanding and analyzing the economic situation and its consequences for people's lives, as well as the threats to creation.*

*Step 2: We will then work on identifying what churches and people of good will can and should do about it. WARC is calling on member churches to work hard on these issues in their own contexts, to raise awareness and educate themselves.*

*Step 3: Then we will be ready to confess our faith. We hope that this will be a common confession.*

*Step 4: Progressively we will undertake action, including changing our life styles and that of other people around the world.*

The work envisioned by WARC is distinctively confessional. Their intention is to build among the member churches around the world a collective spiritual-theological understanding of the current dual crises of the world and a common commitment to resist and reverse these seemingly irreversible tendencies as central to their faith. They may decide that God does not permit them to continue living under and acquiescing to the dominant and dominating economic-ecological order.

These are, for WARC, spiritual matters that may require action in terms of personal life-style, local church ministries and economic activities, confrontation with economic and political leaders, solidarity with victims of injustice and discrimination, and participation in local and global movements for debt cancellation, climate stabilization, women's participation, indigenous rights, etc.

Many other churches and bodies, such as the World Council of Churches, support the WARC proposal, and many more churches and religious groups are engaged in actions such as these. How many will come to the point of declaring fundamental faith resistance to the powers of economic injustice and ecological destruction remains to be seen.

- 1. What is your own church's stand on and action regarding these issues?**
- 2. What is your personal commitment regarding these issues?**