



MWCLC DUBAI 2025 CONFERENCE REPORT

The **Majority World Christian Leadership Conference (MWCLC) Dubai 2025** took place from **September 8-12, 2025**, in Dubai, bringing together **108 delegates** from about 30 countries to focus on four critical themes: **Identity, the Holy Spirit, Mission, and Discipleship**. The conference structure was designed to foster rich discussion and global perspectives, with each issue featuring **two main papers** and **four responses** from diverse parts of the world, supplemented by various **case studies**.

I. KEY THEMES AND SESSIONS

The conference sessions provided a platform for theological reflection and practical application, emphasising a Majority World perspective.

Identity

The session on **Identity** explored the core self-understanding and role of Majority World Christians in the global context.

Main Papers:

1. *Our Identity and Role as Majority World and Kingdom Citizens.*
2. *Indigenous Movement and Minority Identity.*

The Holy Spirit

The discussions on the **Holy Spirit** addressed the balance between divine power and organisational management in Christian life and mission.

Main Papers:

1. *Recovering the Supernatural in Life and Mission.*
2. *Managerial Missiology or Dependence on the Spirit?*

Mission

The **Mission** focus centred on re-evaluating mission theology and ownership from the Majority World's viewpoint.

Main Papers:

1. *A Biblical Theology of Mission understood from a Majority World perspective. Here we had a paper from each of the four regions, helping us understand mission from their particular regional perspective.*
2. *The Majority World taking ownership of the Mission Mandate – Telling the story of mission out of the Majority World.*

Discipleship

The session on **Discipleship** analysed its fundamental role in measuring the Church's success and its expression across different cultural settings.

Main Papers:

1. *Discipleship as the measure of success for the Church.*
2. *Contextual and cultural realities of discipleship. Here we also had papers presented from the different regions.*

II. DELEGATE ENGAGEMENT AND NEXT STEPS

The conference facilitated **rich discussions** on each topic. Delegates were organised into **table groups** to discuss the papers and case studies.

- **Feedback Mechanism:** **Feedback** from these group discussions was diligently **shared with all** delegates and **recorded**.
- **Paper Enrichment:** This collective input will be **incorporated by the paper writers** to **enrich and refine the final papers**, ensuring the output of the conference reflects a broad and contextualised understanding of the issues. The plan is to use the papers as content for a book publication based on the themes addressed.

The MWCLC Dubai 2025 successfully gathered leaders to deliberate on essential aspects of Christian leadership, mission, and practice, setting a foundation for further collaboration and theological development from the Majority World.

III. LISTENING TEAM FEEDBACK

The overarching conclusion is that Majority World churches are actively defining a **new era of global Christianity** by moving away from dependence on Western frameworks and establishing authentic, contextualised, spiritually dynamic missional practices.

The report outlines the following findings across the four themes:

1. Identity

The most pressing issue is forging an **authentic Christian identity** that is not seen as a “white man’s religion.” This involves rooting the faith in diverse local contexts, including the perspectives of **women, youth, and indigenous** peoples, and shaping identity to effectively address **local realities** and contextual challenges.

2. The Work of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is central to **revival, renewal, and mission**, with powerful movements reported across Africa and Asia. The challenge is balancing **spiritual openness** with **discernment** against uncritical spirituality and critiquing a reliance on managerial missiology in favour of a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit.

3. Mission

Mission is defined as belonging to **God first** and is rooted in both biblical theology and the Majority World context. Key responses include addressing issues like **migration, secularism, and interfaith encounters**. Mission must be holistic, embracing **salvation, compassion, and creation care**, and requires **cooperation** between various Christian bodies.

4. Discipleship

Discipleship is **urgent and central**, serving as the **true measure of church growth**. It must be intentional, relational, and communal, allowing for **contextual expressions** (like *sumud*—steadfastness). The primary goal is to **multiply Christlike disciples** who reach the next generation amidst modern challenges like technology and materialism.

IV. SUGGESTED ACTION POINTS

Based on these findings, the following action points should be considered by Majority World Christian leaders and their partners to foster this emerging era of Christianity:

1. Identity & Contextualisation

- **Decolonise the Faith:** Develop and articulate theological frameworks and worship practices that definitively separate the Christian message from any perception of it being solely a 'white man's religion,' emphasising its ancient, global, and multi-ethnic roots.
- **Amplify Marginalised Voices:** Create intentional platforms and leadership structures to **include and empower women's, youth, and indigenous perspectives** in all levels of church governance, theology, and mission strategy.
- **Contextual Integrity:** Prioritise research and practice in **authentic contextualisation**, ensuring that Christian identity and expression are deeply rooted in, and relevant to, local cultural norms and pressing social issues.

2. Spiritual Formation & Missiology

- **Balance Spirituality and Management:** Actively **critique and move beyond managerial missiology** by emphasising reliance on the **Holy Spirit's supernatural work** while still maintaining effective planning and organisational strategy.
- **Cultivate Discernment:** Invest in theological training and teaching that promotes **critical spiritual discernment** to guard against uncritical or manipulative spiritual practices, ensuring that powerful movements remain aligned with sound doctrine.

3. Holistic Mission & Cooperation

- **Embrace Holistic Mission:** Intentionally integrate the full scope of God's mission, ensuring activities embody **holistic transformation** that includes not only evangelism and salvation but also practical **compassion, justice, and creation care**.
- **Engage New Realities:** Develop specific missional strategies to address the contemporary challenges of **migration, urban secularism, and interfaith encounters** within local and regional contexts.
- **Promote Cooperation:** Establish and strengthen **cooperative partnerships** among diverse Majority World churches and Christian organisations to maximise resources and collective impact in mission.

4. Discipleship & Multiplication

- **Shift Measure of Success:** Re-orient church focus to view **intentional, relational discipleship** and the **multiplication of disciple-makers** who are **Christlike** as the primary measure of health and growth, rather than just attendance or budget.
- **Develop Contextual Discipleship Models:** Create discipleship curricula and practices that are sensitive to **local contextual challenges** (e.g., teaching *sumud*—steadfastness—in areas of political instability) and effective in reaching the next generation amidst technological and material pressures.

We decided that the conversation should continue for now in the four regions.

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