

Geneva: World Council of Churches. Soft Cover. 90 Pages. Price: US\$ 6.90

Reviewer: Dr G M J van Wyk

The Yearbook of the World Council of Churches is indeed a useful reference book. Two introductory articles are included in the book. The first is entitled “1998: The Year in review”. This 16-page article offers a review of the work of the WCC in 1998. Included in this review is a reflection on the eighth assembly of the WCC. The themes that are discussed in this part of the article are: visible unity, the African setting of the assembly, human sexuality, and participation and decision-making. The second part of the article deals with the life of the churches. Themes discussed here are: ecumenical issues, the church in society and people in the news. The second introductory article is entitled “How the World Council of Churches is Organised”. Illustrated with charts, an introduction is given to the structure and governance of the council.

The main body of the book contains lists of the member churches of the WCC, as well as of the national and regional ecumenical bodies and specialised ecumenical organisations associated with the WCC. The lists include introductory statistics, addresses, telephone and fax numbers as well as e-mail addresses. The members of the WCC Central Committee are listed, as are those of the WCC Programme and Technical Staff. A list of publications by the WCC is also included in the book. The Constitution and Rules as amended by the last Assembly of the WCC are printed in the book.

This Yearbook is well organised and neatly printed. It is a very useful tool that could be used by the church and anyone looking for information on the church. The introductory article on the work of the WCC makes the publication even more than just a reference guide.

