



Training in Mission - Diploma in Mission Studies 2026

PROGRAMME BRIEF – Part 1

The Council for World Mission (CWM) equipped young people for the ministry and mission of its member churches through “TIM” since 1981. TIM (Training in Mission) participants from Member Churches and Ecumenical Partners work together for 26 weeks of intensive missional leadership development. The 2026 Programme is conducted in partnership with Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines, a Youth Activism Programme in another Region and particular learning about Economy and Economy. An additional short Urban Missional Leadership exposure will take place in Singapore.

The pedagogical process of the Programme is intended to engage an action-reflection model of learning. Over 400 young people have so far been changed for life with a new practical and radical understanding of what witnessing to Christ means. In every church, TIM participants are to be seen as living expressions of CWM's understanding of partnership in mission.

The objectives

1. Christian formation as training for life and a life-long involvement with the Church engaged in God's mission and a life of witness. Christianity is not a private faith, but one that is lived out in community. We discover the 'otherness of Christ' revealed in difference. We move beyond local understandings of Christ to a broader ecumenical and global vision. We engage in in-depth ecumenical and inter-cultural learning.
2. Development of broad vision, deep commitment, strong fellowship-partnership with others around the world, particularly through and among CWM churches. TIM is an adventure in faith transformation, where participants interact between God, self, society and creation.
3. Building capacity in Churches, by enhancing the scope for public and prophetic witness. This includes both the churches the participants relate to during the course of TIM AND their home churches. Through life, study and work as a group (for an extended period), participants learn about building wholesome relationships across cultural barriers. The emphasis is on going beyond tolerance of one another, to growing an appreciation of the diversity needed to *be* the Church in community.

The methods

4. Engaging with the Theology statement of CWM which reflects both a critique and challenge. It is centred on the Christ of all the cosmos and grounded in Christ's liberative work.
5. Exploring the Marks of Mission as they are experienced in different settings:

To TELL - To bear witness to the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

To TEACH - To explore the nature of discipleship, and to nurture and disciple believers in Jesus Christ.

To TEND - To care for people with the compassionate love of Jesus Christ.

To TRANSFORM - To transform unjust structures in society, with the advocacy of the Holy Spirit. In particular, this will involve confronting the conditions that have led to injustice.

To TREASURE - To care for the creation of God, stewarding the resources of the world for the good of all. In particular, this will involve uncovering the relationships between economy and ecology of life.

6. TIMs consider how and where God is at work and toward what end. It is their missionary obedience and commitment in specific (often challenging) situations, and involvement in everyday life, which gives rise to new theological and missiological insights. The educational learning process calls for learning by doing or 'action reflection'. The emphasis is on 'learning by doing', not on prescribed answers; ideas are contextual, historical and transitional; every act is subjective (has a built-in bias); it is not the quantity of knowledge that matters but the grappling with issues; the real learning situation is LIFE – engagement with people in everyday activities.

Such 'doing' also requires reflection and integration. This happens through class/group work, community interactions, TIM colleagues, interactions and mentoring from home church, resource people and CWM staff. TIMs will use a range of tools throughout their programme to find which ones can best support their ongoing development for life-long learning.

7. Through fieldwork we are taken through a five-fold learning experience that involves:
- i. Exploration of context as we learn to look and listen anew to the concerns of people in local communities. This emphasizes curiosity, motivation and interest in understanding the context of people's struggles.
 - ii. Reflecting on how and where God works in the daily struggles of people in communities.
 - iii. Drawing out local implications for mission and suggesting alternative creative options for the church to rediscover how to engage in effective mission action in their context.
 - iv. Relating what has been learnt in such a way that personal growth will be
 - v. Intersectionality and Integration – We address both local and global issues of our times (e.g. globalization, domestic violence, climate crisis, family, gender, social cohesion/peace-making/conflict management and multi-cultural and multi-religious pluralism). Each is examined using a variety of mission perspectives and theological resources.

Training in Mission Studies will be held from May to November 2026 (final travel dates to be confirmed, but expected to be from late-June to the second week of November). The online (4-5 weeks) preparatory materials will be ready for participants to commence work with in May. [The draft outline of the programme is: 4-5 weeks of online training, followed by a week of transition and orientation to the Philippines, Diploma studies, travel, transition and re-orientation to another context for missional deepening and field experience in a different context and the transition to return home].

Participants will need access to a computer and internet for the online component in their home country, and should have some competency in English-for-communication, as this is the language of programme delivery. They will need a laptop or notebook for their studies while away. [Note for General Secretaries: We note that it has been taking some applicants over THREE months to get visa approvals and flights must be booked by end-April. Complete applications must be finalized by end-February (Section C - Medical), it is important to contact empowerment@cwmission.org to make special arrangements to have any incomplete applications considered.]

CONTEXT for TIM 2026

The 2026 TIM will be held in THREE key settings:

1. In the participants' local environment, where they will research key understandings of local mission in their own contexts
2. In a Seminary environment in East Asia, with easy local access to Filipino culture and mission exposures and activities. See [Union Theological Seminary Regional - Cavite, Philippines \(uts.ph\)](http://UnionTheologicalSeminaryRegional-Cavite.Philippines.uts.ph)
3. In a mixed Member Church, CWM consultation setting and college/university setting in a third region.

TRANSFORMATION AS THE PARADIGM

The pedagogical model of Training in Mission includes:

- Affirming the concept of building capacities for the churches consistent with the mission statement of CWM.
- Enhancing the scope for the church's public witness. Thus, while affirming the commitment to be in solidarity with the churches, the TIM will carve out a niche of enabling and empowering young people to explore and witness as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of the church, in the wider society.
- Practicing the Theology Statement of CWM which reflects a critique and resistance on the one hand, and an affirmation on the other. It is centred on a cosmic world view and rooted in a Christology that is liberative.

The Training in Mission is now transformed into Diploma in Mission Studies. Participants of the TIM Programme will work towards the completion of a Diploma in Mission Studies at the end of the Programme. Graduates will possess qualification which recognizes applied leadership skills in mission and education to enhance employment opportunities or to work in a voluntary capacity. CWM's member churches will benefit by having qualified individuals with the knowledge and skills to successfully lead areas of responsibility in a wide range of Christian mission roles.

Key components of the studies include:

- Introductory grounding in contemporary approaches to Mission
- Developing skills in cultural sensitivity and contextual understanding, including personal and group skills for adaptive leadership
- Theological Reflection and Spiritual Formation with a missiological focus
- Developing skills for managing mission projects and tasks
- Developing skills in evaluating appropriate strategies and effectiveness of mission activities in different contexts

SELECTION CRITERIA

Participants in the Training in Mission - Diploma in Mission Studies must:

- Be 20 to 29 years old at the start of the Programme, single, and not an ordained minister
- Be able to spend up to 5 months away from home and commit to time before and after the programme to prepare and contextualize learnings in their own environment.
- Be an active member of a CWM member church, and committed to serve the church upon return OR be nominated by CEVAA, UEM or WCRC.
- Have paid or volunteer experience and/or involvement in project work or secular NGO programs
- Have demonstrated educational capacity
- Be interested in exploring mission issues in an international and multicultural context
- Be able to relate well with others and mature enough to cope with stress, be of exemplary

behaviour and character

- Be proficient in spoken and written English, as this is the main language of communication

Applications should demonstrate how the applicant's participation in TIM will enhance the church's leadership capacity in line with its human resource development strategy, enabling the church to better pursue its mission priorities.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

1. All CWM member-churches are encouraged to nominate a maximum of four young people: two(2) males and two(2) females for the Training in Mission - Diploma in Mission Studies Programme. Applications should be endorsed by the General Secretary and/or Church Moderator of the sending church, following its respective internal selection process. Additional applications will be sought from CEVAA, UEM, WCRC. Nominations for these will be accepted up to end February.

2. CWM will select up to twelve (12) participants from the nominated names, ensuring balance in gender and regional representation in the Programme.

3. All the applications will be processed by the CWM Education, Formation and Empowerment Secretary and considered by the CWM Programme Team. Shortlisted Applicants should be available for an online interview 3-6 March.

4. *Upon notification of offer of participation, the selected participants are expected to process their visa applications BEFORE the TIM place and flights can be confirmed.*

Note: It is expected that acceptance of a place in the TIM programme implies full engagement in the programme and prioritization of TIM relationships, so participants should not schedule other activities during the period of TIM. Exceptions are made for health or pastoral reasons.

Applications should show how the applicant's participation in TIM will enhance the church's leadership capacity in line with its human resource development strategy, enabling the church to better pursue its mission priorities.

Mission is God's. God invites the whole community of faith who make up the Church to be partners in God's mission. Young people and adults are invited to share in God's mission. Regardless of the level of their exposure and involvement in the mission of the church, young people have their own practical ways of working out their missiology. They are shaped by their various cultures and religious heritages through which they develop and express their different understandings about God and the role of the church in society. The marks of God's mission include:

Key components of the studies include:

- Introductory grounding in contemporary approaches to Mission
- Develop personal/group skills in cultural sensitivity/contextual understanding and how they function within a team
- Theological Reflection and Spiritual Formation with a missiological focus
- Developing adaptive leadership skills for evaluating and managing mission projects and tasks in a variety of contexts

[Normally, Cultural Exchange Visas, or Special Transit visas, will be required for the Philippines and other countries. If participants already have a UK or US visa, CWM should be informed, as this provides additional options for routing.]

For further Information, please contact: Email: empowerment@cwmission.org

Subject Line: TIM 2026 Application

DRAFT SCHEDULE (draft 2.0 2026) – this is an approximation only and will change as plans develop

Applications Period	February 2 – February 25
Shortlist Finalized	February 27
Interviews	March 3-6
Participation Offers	March 10 (responses by 12)
Reserve Offers (2 nd Round)	March 13

Participation Finalized	March 16
Bookings Commence (those with passports)	March 18
Last date for Passport numbers to be confirmed	April 10
2 nd round Flight Bookings confirmed	April 17

Online Orientation Sessions	April 18-19 April
Online Preliminary Module starts (approx 4 hours per week)	May 1-3

	May 8-10
	May 15-17
	May 22-24
	May 29-31
Final Online Orientations	June 5 / 12
Depart Home countries	June
Arrive Singapore / Transit and Programme Orientation	June 28
Arrive Shalom Hotel, Manila	June 30
Transfer to UTC for Orientation	July 1

Orientation	Welcome	July 2
Week 1	Module 1	July 6-10
Week 2	Module 1	July 13-17
Week 3	Module 2	July 20-24
Week 4	Module 2	July 27-31
Week 5	Sports Week	August 3-7
Week 6	Module 3	August 10-14
Week 7	Module 3	August 17-21
Week 8	Module 4	August 24-28
Week 9	Module 4	Aug 31 – Sept 4
Week 10	Culture Week	Sept 7-11
Week 11	Module 5	Sept 14-18
Week 12	Module 5	Sept 21-25
Week 13	Assignments/Presentations	Sept 28
	Transfer to Singapore	Sept 29
Week 14	Singapore CWM Visit	Oct 1-5
	Transfer to Region tbc	Oct 6
Week 15	Orientation	Oct 7-9
	Exposures and Plan Youth Initiative	October 10-16
Week 16	Module 6	Oct 19-23
Week 17	Module 7	Oct 26-30
Week 18	Youth Initiative	November 2-5
	Prep final Presentations	November 6
Weekend	Presentations and Valedictory Service	November 7-8
	Departures	November 9

Reporting to Home Churches / GS	15 Nov - 5 December
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