



REV DR CLIFF BIRD

Candidate for Moderator

1. Who are you?

My name is Cliff Bird (Reverend Dr). I am from the Solomon Islands, and an ordained Minister of the United Church in Solomon Islands (UCSI) since 1996. I am married to Siera Bird and we have five children and four grandchildren. Currently I am serving as Advisor to my home church on voluntary basis – a role that I started in since February 2019. I am a seasoned fisherman and I like to sing and listen to music, and to brisk walk as much as I can.

2. What is your relationship with CWM?

My association with and knowledge of CWM go back many years. I was a partial scholarship recipient in my ministerial candidate days. I served as Partner in Mission (PIM) at the Pacific Theological College as senior lecturer and head of the department of theology and ethics. I was Mission Secretary for the Pacific Region. Over the course of many years, I served as resource person for CWM on numerous occasions.

3. What qualifies you for this role

I am an ecumenist at heart and have served in the ecumenical family both in CWM and beyond over many years. I am well informed of the crucial nature of the roles and responsibilities of the Moderator and am excitedly confident that I can fulfill these to the very best of my abilities. I have served in senior and executive management positions in the church (and in the secular world prior to my joining the ordained ministry). I already have a track record of my commitment to the CWM, and I am not about to let go of such commitment.

4. What will you bring to the role?

As an academic and pragmatist realist the greatest strength I will bring into CWM is my ability to link academia and seemingly privileged knowledge with contemporary existential realities and challenges. I believe this combination is needed today for a visionary and trail-blazing Christian organisation such as CWM. Empowering the local church within a panoramic perspective of a better world is a vision worth my commitment. I am very passionate about justice for all and fullness of life for all creation. I am a relationships initiator and nurturer and I know what it takes to shift between leadership styles and roles when needed.