



Approved Relationship of the CTSA

with the World Forum on Theology and Liberation
(WFTL: <https://fmtlofficio.org>)



Procedure for Selection of CTSA Representatives to the WFTL and Job Description

Collaboration between the CTSA and the WFTL was approved by the Board at its meeting of October 26-27, 2019. This relationship recognizes the contribution of contextually situated theologies within the CTSA in their promotion of human dignity, equality, and social justice and values the richness of interaction with theologies contextualized within realities of the global South. Aligned with the CTSA's purpose of promoting theological research in the Roman Catholic tradition that is attentive to contemporary problems faced by the Church and the world, the WFTL is dedicated to supporting contextual theological research that is attentive to contemporary problems faced by the poor and marginalized in the Church and the world. The Forum shares with the CTSA concern about discerning the signs of the times for providing theological insights relevant to encouraging engagement in building global solidarity and prophetic intervention.

The WFTL was born in the global South (Brazil, 2005) to provide a space for strengthening dialogue between contextual theologies and the global justice movement which gather every two years where the World Social Forum (WSF) takes place. To further collective exploration of the relationship of theology and liberation in critical engagement with today's social movements for change, the WFTL brings together a pluralism of theological perspectives that adopt in common the option for the poor and marginalized and commitment to liberation, cognitive justice, and constructive transformation. Currently, the WFTL Permanent Secretariat is housed at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul - PUCRS, Brazil.

Today more than ever, the Catholic theological community confronts the need of increasing opportunities for contributing theological reflection on alternatives for just societal systems and relationships. The purpose of collaboration with the WFTL is to contribute to the construction of a global network of contextual theologies framed within the option for the poor and committed to constructive transformation in dialogue with ecumenical, intercultural, and interreligious perspectives. The connection of the CTSA with the WFTL will directly benefit CTSA members who are interested in furthering theological research on contextual theologies informed by principles of liberation, with attention to members of historically underrepresented groups. The CTSA Representatives to the WFTL will have opportunities to present their scholarship in Forum events, meetings, and publications and to bring new insights back to the CTSA.

As for participation of Society members in the WFTL biennial meetings, the CTSA President, in consultation with the leadership of CUERG and with Board approval, will appoint two representatives to the WFTL for a time period of four years beginning in Fall 2020. The CTSA Representatives will serve as members of the WFTL International Advisory Committee. While any CTSA member can participate in the meetings of the WFTL, the Board will only provide

funding for the CTSA representatives to the Forum. The procedure for selecting the CTSA Representatives to the WFTL and the responsibilities entailed for them are described as follows:

1. Procedure for Selecting the CTSA Representatives to the WFTL

- 1.1. The President selects two candidates and recommends them to the Board for ratification and approval.
- 1.2. The President presents to the Board the recommended candidates for ratification and approval.
- 1.3. In case that the Board declines any of the recommended candidates, the Board selects alternate members as representatives to the WFTL in consultation with the CUERG leadership and the President.
- 1.4. The President appoints the two CTSA Representatives approved by the Board.
- 1.5. The CTSA Representatives are appointed for four years, corresponding to two biennial periods for WFTL meetings, with no reelection to facilitate service in this capacity to other Society members.

2. Responsibilities of the CTSA Representatives to the CTSA

- 2.1. To provide an annual report to the CTSA Board for its pre-convention meeting on the meetings, events, and activities of the WFTL, with attention to:
 - a. How participation in the WFTL advances the mission and purpose of the CTSA
 - b. How the CTSA benefits from the WFTL contextual theological issues and insights
 - c. A precis of the essays presented by the CTSA Representatives at the WFTL biennial meeting
 - d. A detailed account on how the funds provided by the CTSA to attend biennial meetings have been used.
- 2.2. To present a report on the events and activities of the WFTL at the business meeting of the CTSA annual convention.
- 2.3. To consider the possibility of submitting a proposal for a select session focused on the thematic content of the WFTL biennial meeting and/or the topic of essays presented at the Forum for consideration of inclusion on the convention program at the discretion of the Convention Program Committee and the CTSA President-Elect, also with the option of submitting proposals for an Interest Group.

- 2.4. To consider the possibility of submitting a digital copy of the essays presented at WFTL biennial meeting for consideration of inclusion in whole or in part in the *Proceedings* at the discretion of the Convention Program Committee and the CTSA President-Elect.
 - 2.5. To consider the opportunity of providing information to Society members about the WFTL's theological issues, events, and activities by submitting postings on the CTSA Newsfeed, also with the option of offering with Board approval CTSA sponsored Zoom sessions during year on topics relevant to the CTSA-WFTL relationship.
 - 2.6. To promote in Forum events the visibility of contextual theologies and contributions of scholars from underrepresented racial and ethnic communities within the CTSA and uphold the interests and purpose of the CTSA within the Forum.
3. Responsibilities of the CTSA Representatives to the WFTL
- 3.1. As participants in the WFTL biennial meetings, the CTSA Representatives:
 - a. Participate in the activities and thematic panels sponsored by the WFTL for diverse sessions offered in the program of both the WFTL and the WSF.
 - b. Produce an essay on a topic connected to the theme of the WFTL biennial meeting to be presented at the Forum and submitted for publication in the WFTL book resulting from the meeting.
 - c. Serve as resource members to the WFTL on theological issues, concerns, and contributions of the CTSA ethnic and racial underrepresented groups.
 - 3.2. As members of the WFTL International Advisory Committee, the CTSA Representatives:
 - a. Attend committee meetings as called by the WFTL Permanent Secretariat, which customarily take place electronically during the year prior to the biennial meeting and physically on-site immediately after the Forum event.
 - b. Engage in a collaborative process of preparation, thematic selection, methodological articulation, and evaluation of the biennial Forum together with theologians from different parts of the world who also serve as committee members.
 - c. Contribute to shape the agenda of the Forum biennial meetings by including the concerns and research interests of contextual theologies within the CTSA.

Review and evaluation of the CTSA's relationship and participation with the WFTL will take place in the year 2026 and subsequently will occur every four years.

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