

World Day of Prayer International Committee – June 16-18, 2022

Asia Regional Representative Candidates

Self-Introduction and Biography

1. Jyoti Singh Pillai, WDP India
2. Devika Ukwatte, WDP Sri Lanka
3. Nancy Lin, WDP Taiwan



**Name:** Devika Ukwatte

**WDP Committee:** Sri Lanka

**Church Denomination:** Baptist

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My name is Devika Ukwatte from Sri Lanka. I am 59 years old. I am married with two daughters. I have one granddaughter. I am a member of the Cinnamon Gardens Baptist Church in Colombo, Sri Lanka. I have been actively involved in the life of the Church from a very young age. I have also been actively involved in Women's Work within the Baptist community in Sri Lanka as well as on an ecumenical level through the Asian Church Women's Conference and the World Day of Prayer National Committee. I have also served on the General Council of the Ceylon Bible Society.

I have represented the Baptist Church on the WDP National Committee for six years and was elected as its President four years ago. I have served on the Executive Committee of the Baptist Women's League of Sri Lanka for over 20 years including three years as Treasurer and three years as President. I have represented the Baptist Church on the National Association of Church Women Sri Lanka for 11 years during which time I served as National Representative to the Asian Church Women's Conference for four years and as Vice President of the ACWC for four years. During this period, I also served on the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin for four years.

I have experience in preparing agendas and minutes, attending to routine correspondence and enjoy being involved in organizing meetings, worship services and other programmes. I have been involved in the organizing of the local services for the past six years along with representatives of the various denominations in Sri Lanka. I would like to see a greater interest and involvement from all Christians in celebrating this important event, especially considering the many crises faced by most countries around the world, including Sri Lanka.



**Name:** Nancy Lin

**WDP Committee:** Taiwan

**Church Denomination:** Presbyterian

**Email:** nancymingmin@gmail.com

I was born in southern Taiwan to a Christian family. I was educated at the best university in Taiwan, National Taiwan University. Later, I became an ordained Presbyterian pastor's wife and a mother to two sons. My husband passed away in 2019. I now live with my mother and my younger son in northern Taiwan.

I taught at the Presbyterian Bible College in Taiwan for many years before I was invited to work in the General Assembly Office of my church. Currently, I serve as the Program Secretary for the Ecumenical Relations of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) and the Executive Secretary of the Taiwan Ecumenical Forum for Justice and Peace (TEF). My main responsibilities are networking with all partner churches and affiliated ecumenical organizations. In this capacity I make broad connections within the ecumenical community. I am gifted in advocacy, coordinating and networking.

In 1998, I represented Asian Church Women's Conference at a WDP regional workshop in Jakarta to prepare for the 2000 WDP service. I have also represented WDP Taiwan at the WDP International Committee Meetings in 2003 (UK) and 2017(Brazil).

On an international level, my ecumenical involvement includes serving as President of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) and Chairperson of the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC), where the WDPIC Chairperson is a committee member. I was also a Central Committee member of the World Council of Churches from Porto Alegre to Busan.

On a local level, I served as team ministry with my husband in various congregations. I have committed myself to training/empowering ordinary church women. Witnessing so many of them develop from a timid mother/housewife, thinking "I am nobody", into a leader in women's fellowship groups and later being elected deaconess or elders by the congregation gives me such a great joy. I believe this is a God-given mission and I take it as my life-long ministry.

For more than three decades I have journeyed with the WDP movement locally. Before the pandemic outbreak, my frequent overseas traveling for ecumenical meetings provided me opportunities to meet with church women worldwide and I often encountered members of the WDP community. At the 2021 annual retreat, the WDP Scottish Committee invited me to share my Taiwan experience online. Ever since my visit to the Church of Scotland Guild Assembly in 2014 I have kept in contact with WDP Scottish Committee members. At the ACWC Assembly, I always came across WDP members from the Asian region.

In 2022, the PCT Women's Ministry Committee will hold its centennial celebration. In order to project a future vision, we must review and learn from the past. All local PCT congregations are urged to identify the first woman elder in their own churches. Digging into "herstory" is a learning process. Local churches came to realize how in the early days church the contributions of women leaders were not acknowledged, recognized or recorded. As I see the changes in my church in the past hundred years my vision for the next 100 years of WDP leadership would be going beyond the women's movement, the leadership that can transform WDP, a prayer movement truly owned by all.