

A new chapter for the Church in Timor-Leste

The New Apostolic congregations in Timor-Leste are under new leadership. Since the beginning of the year, responsibility for them has been assumed by the District Apostle Area Southeast Asia.

Until the end of 2025, the New Apostolic Church Western Germany had been responsible for the country between Indonesia and Australia, reflecting the historical connection to Portuguese-speaking regions. In recent years, however, geographical proximity has become increasingly important.

During a pastoral visit at the end of January, the previously responsible Apostle Dimitrios Diniz and the new leaders, District Apostle Edy Isnugroho and Apostle Aris Kusnandar, completed the official handover. Divine services, formal meetings, and personal encounters characterised the days in the country's capital, Dili, and its surroundings.

For around 400 years, the eastern part of the island of Timor was under Portuguese colonial rule. The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste has been an independent state since 2002.

The New Apostolic Church has been present in the country since the early 2000s and has steadily developed over the years. Legal recognition as a religious association in Timor-Leste strengthened its foundations, providing a secure basis for congregational work, divine services, and property matters. Today, the New Apostolic Church in Timor-Leste comprises twelve congregations with approximately 800 members and 29 ministers.

For further details, go to nac.today.

5 March 2026