

Call for papers

Reconciliation: Christian Perspectives – Interdisciplinary Approaches

30-31 August 2017

In a world of strife and war on small and large scale, reconciliation is more needed than ever – and more difficult to achieve than ever. In academic theology and popular Christian discourse, the notion of reconciliation – seen as the impact or effect of the death and resurrection of Jesus – has been understood in different ways:

- some see it as referring primarily to personal salvation;
- others see it primarily as the overcoming of alienation and hatred between people;
- Yet others see the foregoing two dimensions as parts of an overarching process in which God is reconciling all things and all people to himself through Christ.

The Bible also speaks of reconciliation in these different ways but sadly, Christians have often failed to capture these divine-human cosmic dimensions of reconciliation in their respective contexts. In doing so, they have often failed to live as agents of reconciliation and transformation in society. On the other hand, some Christians have been radiant examples of holistic reconciliation in situations of great polarisation, tension and danger. Either way, the concept of reconciliation is a contested one, both theologically and practically, in many contexts.

This interdisciplinary, international academic conference aims to explore

- biblical and theological foundations of reconciliation,
- ways in which these biblical/theological notions have shaped Christian practices in various contexts;
- different dimensions of reconciliation: personal, political, social, economic, ethnic, inter-denominational, and inter-religious;
- significant case studies, past and present, from various contexts and continents and
- contributions from the perspective of other disciplines (social sciences) and other religious traditions.

The conference will consist of a number of plenary sessions and sub-group sessions. Sub-group sessions could address different parts of the world (e.g. Ireland, Rwanda, South Africa, Ukraine/Russia) or contested issues in reconciliation (such as economic justice, land issues, etc.).

Please submit a title and abstract of no more than 200 words by 28 February 2017 to the conveners (fao: Prof. Dr. Christoph Stenschke, see below)

The programme will be finalised in March 2017. The conveners aim at presenting an attractive programme that will cover different facets of reconciliation and that will initiate an ongoing dialogue across boundaries on this important theme.

The aim is to publish the revised conference papers in a conference volume or a peer reviewed academic journal.

All contributions and discussions will be in English.

Beginning: 30. 08. 2017 at 9.00 hrs
End: 31. 08. 2017 at 12.30 hrs

Conveners:

Prof. Dr. Tobias Faix
CVJM Hochschule Kassel, Germany
University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa
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Prof. Dr. Johannes Reimer
Theologische Hochschule Ewersbach, Ewersbach,
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Director World Evangelical Alliance, Peace and
Reconciliation Network, New York
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Prof. Dr. Klippies Kritzinger
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Prof. Dr. Christoph Stenschke
Forum Wiedenest, Bergneustadt, Germany
University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa
Stenschke@wiedenest.de

Conference partners:

Biblich-Theologische Akademie, Forum
Wiedenest, Germany
www.wiedenest.de/akademie

Gesellschaft für Bildung und Forschung in Europa
www.gbfe.org

College of Human Sciences, University of South
Africa, Pretoria, South Africa
www.unisa.za

Lutheran School of Theology, Aarhus, Denmark
www.teologi.dk

Compax Institut für Konflikttransformation,
Bienenberg, Switzerland
www.compax.org

Theologische Hochschule Ewersbach, Germany
www.th-ewersbach.de

European Evangelical Alliance
www.europeanea.org

Theologisches Seminar Bienenberg, Switzerland
www.bienenberg.ch

Location:

Forum Wiedenest, 51702 Bergneustadt, Germany; www.wiedenest.de

Conference fee:

- Registration until 31. May 2017: 130 Euro (including 1 lunch, 1 conference dinner and 3 coffees; accommodation and breakfast not included)
- Registration from 1. June 2017: 150 Euro including 1 lunch, 1 conference dinner and 3 coffees; accommodation and breakfast not included)
- Reduced fee for GBFE students: 55 Euro (for 1 lunch, 1 conference dinner and 3 coffees)

Registration:

Mr. Arthur Rempel
Gesellschaft für Bildung und Forschung in Europa
Bahnhofstr. 82a
33813 Oerlinghausen
Germany
Arthur.Rempel@gbfe.org

Please note that the registration for the conference must be done online on the GBFE website: <http://gbfe.org/>

The online registration form will be available in February 2017.