

First International Conference
Reformation and Modernity in the Light of Socio-Historic Bible Research
(19-23 February 2012, Predigerseminar Nürnberg)

"Ernsthafte Besinnung aufs Evangelium und scharfe Augen auf die Gegenwart sind die Kräfte, aus denen die lebendige Kirche neu geboren wird."

"Serious reflection on the Gospel and sharp eyes on the present reality are the forces through which the living church is born anew" *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

In 2017 there will be the quincentenary of the Reformation, 500 years after Martin Luther's 95 Theses in Wittenberg. In view of the present crisis of the western civilization it would not be adequate to just celebrate this event. Rather we should raise the question whether the Reformation can make a contribution to overcome this crisis and whether it has contributed to elements of that civilization causing the crisis. In this case self-critical assessment would be requested. From which vantage point questions like this can be raised? The Reformation suggested the Bible as criterion (norma normans) for every theology and church, consequently also for the Reformation itself. Interpreting the Bible, however, always is contextual. Therefore, we have to bring the present socio-historic bible research into dialog with the Reformation and today's challenges.

Theologians of all continents have formed a research alliance to work on the different themes of the issue in different working groups until 2016. The objective of this international conference is to launch the process which is to produce study books and to lead to an international final disputation in Wittenberg in 2017.

Program

1st day , Sunday, February 19

8:30 *Breakfast* *Arrivals in the morning*

13:00: *Welcome luncheon*

14:00: Coffee, Tea (every day)

14:30: *Introduction* to the conference
Prof. Dr. Ulrich Duchrow/Germany

14:45: *Keynote lecture*
A historical and theological interpretation of the Reformation from a critical peripheral epistemology point of view of modernity
Prof. Dr. Enrique Dussel/Mexiko

15:45: Coffee break

16:15: *Response* from the perspective of the crisis of the "global North"
Prof. Dr. Karen Bloomquist/USA

17:00: *Plenary discussion*

18:30: Dinner

19:30: *A Welcome from Luther's region:* The Luther sites during GDR times and today
Prof. Dr. Axel Noack/University Halle-Wittenberg

20:30: *Social evening*

2nd day, Monday, February 20

8:00 Breakfast 8:30 Meditation (every morning)

9:00: *Short presentations of the research plans in working group 1 (10 minutes each) as a proposal of how to organize a working group*

1. *Becoming human*

God and Humans Acting – what is the relationship?

Prof. Dr. Frank Crüsemann/Germany

Luther's theological anthropology: An African reception

Dr. Kenneth Mtata/Zimbabwe/Geneva

Happiness in Wisdom literature – aspects of person and community

Prof. Dr. Rainer Kessler/Germany

Becoming human by becoming God's subject in relation to the Bible, Reformation and present time

Prof. Dr. Hans G. Ulrich/Germany

Has Luther promoted the individualism of modernity?

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Duchrow/Germany

10:00: ***Plenary on WG 1***

10:30: Coffee break

11:00: ***Constituting the Working groups on Reformation and Modernity from biblical perspective, moderated by members of working group 1 (1st session)***

1. *Becoming human*

2. *God as trinitarian source of life – what does this mean ecologically and socially-together with*

3. *Religion(s) and direct, structural, cultural violence against humans and nature*

4. *Jesus Christ and his sisters and brothers*

5. *Holy Spirit and the communion of saints*

6. *Law and Tora*

7. *Political economy*

12:30: Lunch

14:30: ***Working groups continued (2nd session)***

16:00: Coffee break

16:30: ***Short presentations (10 minutes each) of the research plans in working group 2***

2. *God as trinitarian source of life – what does this mean ecologically and socially*

How to move from a death-bound civilization to a life-enhancing culture and political economy?

Prof. Dr. Timothy Gorrige

Images of God - Source of life relationships versus monarchic lordship in feminist perspective.

Prof. Dr. Karen Bloomquist

The rediscovery of God's name and unity – Biblical spirituality in social context

Prof. Dr. Klara Butting/Germany

17:00: ***Plenary*** on WG 2, followed by discussion on the process

18:30: Dinner

20:00: ***Evening***

Music and meeting with Oberlandeskirchenrat Michael Martin (Ev.-Luth. Host Church in Bavaria)

3rd day, Tuesday, February 21

9:00: **Short presentations (10 minutes each) of the research plans in working group 3**
3. Religion(s) and direct, structural, cultural violence against humans and nature –
How to develop a global yet heterotopic citizenship?

Luther's Left Hand Kingdom: Shalom Church and the Ethics of the Cross

Prof. Dr. Craig Nessan

Historical Impact of Luther on Turks (Muslims) and Jews: How it still Influences our Modern Liberal Discourse and Prejudices."

Prof. Dr. Charles Amjad-Ali

9:30: **Plenary on WG 3**

10:00: Coffee break

10:30: **Short presentations (10 minutes each) of the research plans in working groups 4-5**
Jesus Christ and his sisters and brothers

The rediscovery of Luther's theology of the cross in the context of liberation theology

Prof. Dr. Martin Dreher/Brasil

Martin Luther and Walter Benjamin in dialog on guilt and salvation

Dr. Silfredo Dalferth/Brasil/Germany

Bonhoeffer's new Interpretation of Luther's understanding of grace – The polemics against “cheap grace” in „Nachfolge“ (“On Discipleship”)

Prof. Dr. Renate Wind

11:00: **Plenary on WG 4**

12:00: **Lunch followed by**

Visitation Program in Old Nürnberg, including exposure to Nazi history

16:00: Coffee

16:30:

4. Holy Spirit and the communion of saints

"Seeing, remembering, connecting: ecclesial practices subversive of empire."

Prof. Dr. Karen Bloomquist

The general priesthood of believers - the mirage of the Reformation

Prof. Dr. Vitor Westhelle/Brasil/USA

Luther and the Anabaptists – Healing of Memories and Remaining Differences between Lutherans and Mennonites”

Prof. Dr. Fernando Enns

Holy Spirit and the Word

Prof. Dr. Walter Altmann

17:15: **Plenary on WG 5**

18:00 Dinner

4th day, Wednesday, February 22

9:00: *Short presentations (10 minutes each) of the research plans in working group 6*

6. Law and Tora

Law, Roman Law and Torah, seen from Paul's letter to the Galatians

(as compared to Luther's exegesis of Galatians)

Prof. Dr. Brigitte Kahl/USA

'I give you a new commandment' (Joh 13,34) – Against the absolutizing of the differentiation of 'law and gospel'

Prof. Dr. Carsten Jochum-Bortfeld/Germany

Martin Luther, Bartolomé de Las Casas and the faith of the others

Prof. Dr. Lauri Wirth

Justification by faith and the principle of needs – Justification by works and the ideology of efficiency: Social ethical consequences of the doctrine of justification

Dr. Edelbert Richter

Plenary on WG 6

10:30: Coffee break

11:00 *Working groups on Reformation and Modernity from biblical perspective (3rd session)*

12:30: Lunch

14:30: *Short presentations (10 minutes each) of the research plans in working group 7*

7. Political economy

The radicality of mercy – rereading Luther, S. Kierkegaard and Jon Sobrino's "principio-misericordia", developing their relevance for a critical political theology today

Prof. Dr. Sturla Stalsett

Luther and Economy: critique of early capitalism

Dr. Martin Hoffmann/Germany

Luther's "eucharistic economy"

Prof. Dr. Samuel Torvend/USA

Between God and Mammon in African Perspective

Prof. Dr. Maake J Masango/South Africa

15:15: **Plenary on WG 7**

16:00: Coffee break

16:30: **Plenary on project as a whole**

18:15: moving to the concerto

19:00: **Organ Concerto:**

Martin Luther in text and music

Prof. Dr. Michael Kuch/organ and Prof. Dr. Renate Wind/text

20:00: **Dinner in traditional restaurant**

5th day, Thursday, February 23

9:00: *Proposal of a special working group*, how to develop a *framework for the whole Project*, hermeneutically linking the Bible, Reformation and modernity in view of the crisis of western civilization

Final discussion on proposals for the project as a whole

10:30: Coffee break

11:00: *Synthesis and planning of the next steps*

12.30: *Blessing* for the journey

12:45: *Lunch*, followed by Coffee and Tea

Departure
