

“Fear does no good. Wherefore a [person] must be bold and courageous in all things and stand firm.” Himself deeply unsettled by the fear of the powers and principalities, the fear of a punitive God and purgatory, and fear during life on Earth and after death, Martin Luther experienced how encountering a merciful, loving God time and again freed him from self-destructive fear - a key experience which was the starting point of the Reformation.

“Non vi sed verbo.” Not by force, but by the Word, was Martin Luther’s response in 1522 to those who wanted to impose the Reformation by force. But instead of nonviolence, violence became the shadow side of the Reformation.

Alternatively, for the broad majority of the Anabaptist movement of what has been called the Radical Reformation, as well as later peace church reform movements, nonviolence was the undeniable response to God’s love and the inherent expression of the Body of Christ. For this they were often cruelly persecuted as pacifist fanatics and heretics.

What does “500 years of Reformation” mean for us in today’s world where there is violence at so many levels - personal, societal, global?

If Reformation means realising that God is grace, love and mercy, and calls us to freedom, then we need to articulate what this means and to persevere in living it out in all areas of our lives:

- To embrace God’s love which is given to us in Jesus Christ in all vulnerability
- To accept our own security in God’s love and our own human vulnerability
- To denounce false powers and principalities, false security and, as a consequence, the use of violence as a means of protection and security

- To live out nonviolence in all areas of life - personal, societal, global - and to advocate for policies which affirm life.

During the conference we want to reflect on some of the different areas of our lives, to bring each other “good news” and to allow fear-free, safe spaces for sharing and learning together to take form.

Program

Friday, 9 June 2017

- from
- 16.00 Arrival and registration
 - 18.30 Dinner
 - 19.30 Annual General Meeting I
 - 22.00 Evening Prayer

Saturday, 10 June 2017

- 7.30 Silent worship
- 8.00 Breakfast
- 9.00 Annual General Meeting II
- 12.15 Lunch
Break
- 14.30 Opening of Conference:
Reformation 2017: Freed from fear, empowered to nonviolence
(Antje Heider-Rottwilm, chair,
Church and Peace)
- 15.00 Workshops 1 - 6 (Block 1)
- 16.30 Break
- 17.00 Workshops 1 - 6 (Block 2)
- 18.30 Dinner
- 20.00 Plenary: Feedback from Workshops
- 21.00 Evening open

Sunday, 11 June 2017

- 8.00 Breakfast
- 9.30 Worship
Preacher: Dr. Ana Raffai,
RAND, Sesvete, Croatia
- 11.00 Final discussion
- 12.15 Lunch and departure

Workshops on Saturday afternoon

Each workshop will be offered two times - at 3pm and at 5pm. For more information about the working groups please visit:
www.church-and-peace.org.

WS1: Security in Europe: Addressing fears of refugee “swarms” and terrorist threats and the European security ideology. (Andrew Lane, Quaker Representative to the European Union and Council of Europe, Brussels)

WS2: Security through militarisation, the responsibility to protect through military intervention or “just policing” as a way out of militarisation. A politically feasible alternative in the context of the concept of nonviolence?
(Karen Hinrichs, Oberkirchenrätin, Evangelical Church in Baden, Karlsruhe, Germany)

WS3: Our response to fear, populism, nationalism and the return of fascism; identifying the root causes of these attitudes and behaviours in our countries, looking at the role of the churches in providing resistance to such political developments, examining what is being done already and looking to organisations such as Sojourners in the USA for inspiration - what can we do in Europe?
(Barbara and David Forbes, Birmingham)

WS4: Is fear my enemy? Do we need to be afraid of fear? Do we need to get rid of fear or listen to fear? What paths of nonviolence can I take through my fears (body, attitudes, thoughts, relationships)? A (mostly) interactive workshop.
(Isabelle Eliat-Serck, Nonviolence Trainer, Walhain, Belgium)

WS5: Church and Peace, the Bible and Sexual Identities (LGBTQI): Introduction, personal testimonies and dialogue - share stories, listen to one another, raise questions and build bridges to help us to respect one another.

(Kjeld Renato Lings, Ph.D., author of „*Love Lost in Translation: Homosexuality and the Bible*“)

WS6: „Non vi sed verbo“ - a critical look at history: Lutheranism - Calvinism - Anabaptists - Peace Churches (Dr. James Jakob Fehr, German Mennonite Peace Committee, Bammental)

Practical details and organisation

Conference centre:

Centre culturel Saint-Thomas
2 rue de la Carpe Haute
67000 Strasbourg
www.centre-st-thomas.fr

Fee

(accommodation, meals, conference costs)

All rooms en-suite with shower/WC.

Single room **175 € / 190 CHF / £155**

Double room **150 € / 165 CHF / £130**

Prices per person including full board

Reduction for trainees, students, volunteers, job-less persons, or similar; the reduction amount will depend on the extent of grant applications approved.

Bedrooms will be distributed according to availability and date of application.

Bank transfer to:

- Church and Peace, Volksbank Mittelhessen, IBAN: DE6951390000073619602, BIC: VBMHDE5F
- In Switzerland: CEC, 2608 Courtelary, a/c 30-38150-4, IBAN: CH4406240016107241009, BIC: RBAB CH 22240
- In Great Britain & Ireland: Send Sterling cheque to the order of 'Church and Peace' to Gerald Drewett, 39 Postwood Green, Hertford Heath SG13 7QJ or alternatively make transfer by BACS to sort code 16 58 10, account 20745001 and send mail to gerald.drewett@ntlworld.com

Church and Peace is...

the Europe-wide network with over fifty corporate members from fourteen countries, coming from different Christian denominations and traditions.

The common basis of Church and Peace is calling for nonviolence, which is for us at the heart of the gospel, and practical commitment to peace and reconciliation. Members find guidance for their lives in the Bible and draw strength from the gospel. They are empowered by worship and prayer to say both No and Yes:

No to the structures of violence in private, social and intergovernmental relations, and Yes to the alternatives that are already lived out in many places.

The group and individual members of Church and Peace support one another in developing an everyday lifestyle that serves peace and justice. In all their different ways and places, particularly in countries marked by conflict and war, they are united in their commitment to nonviolence and to linking peace theology and practice. Together they struggle for reconciliation; invite stakeholders to engage in dialogue, peace education and conflict resolution; work towards a just distribution of resources; and stand up for good stewardship of creation.

Registration

On the separate application form by **20.04.17** to:

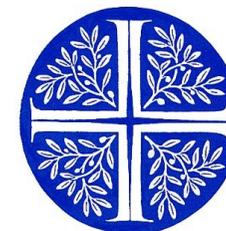
International Secretariat:

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Church and Peace

9 - 11 June 2017

Centre culturel Saint Thomas
Strasbourg



Conference and
Annual General Meeting

**“Do not be afraid; for see - I am
bringing you good news.”**

Luke 2,10

Reformation 2017:

**Freed from fear, empowered to
nonviolence**