

Church and Peace as Europe-wide ecumenical network is united by the peace church witness, the call to non-violence, which is at the centre of the Gospel.

This year, we are exploring the relation between **Images of God and Nonviolence**, after last year's conference had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. We will be asking ourselves question about the (widespread patriarchal) image of God:

- Is there a direct relationship between the image of God and the promotion of violence or nonviolence?
- Which images of God promote nonviolence?
- Has peace theology overcome the patriarchal image of God?

Also we ask ourselves personally:

- What image of God do I have? How do I talk about and with God?
- How does this shape my commitment to peace?
- What understanding of God is expressed in the liturgical language and tradition of my community?
- How does it affect the structures of our communities?
- How we contribute to our groups, communities and churches developing a (gender) just theology of peace, a just (liturgical) language and attitudes?

We (also) consider the conference theme to be a contribution to engage with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and later resolutions in the context of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. These call for more protection for women from sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations, promotion of political participation of women, prevention of violence against women through the promotion of women's rights and gender equality, as well as gender mainstreaming in all areas related to peace and security.

In workshops we will address and deepen individual aspects.

Workshops

WS 1: *Blessed in God's Image: Radical Equality of Men and Women in Genesis 1–2* (Renato Lings, Denmark)

WS 2: *Images of God – Nonviolence – Language* (Marie-Noëlle Yoder, Switzerland)

WS 3: *Images of God and Fine Arts* (Nina Schroeder, VU Amsterdam, Netherlands)

WS 4: *Anti Racism: From Awareness to Action* (Beverly Thomas, UK)

WS 5: *Patriarchy, Sexism and the Churches* (Yosé Höhne-Sparborth, Netherlands)

WS 6: *Thursdays in Black – International Campaign against Genderbased Violence* (Nicole Ashwood, Switzerland)

WS 7: *Sexualised Violence in Christian Communities* (Janie & Neal Blough et Maria Biedrawa, France)

WS 8: *Violence against Women and Feminist Theology* (Lana Bobić, Croatia)

WS 9: *Identities in the context of political polarisation* (Salomé Haldemann and Ophélie Nartz, France)

Programme

Thursday, 2 September 2021

From 16.00 Arrival and Registration
18.30 Dinner
19.30 Opening and Annual General Meeting I
21.30 Evening prayer

Friday, 3 September 2021

7.30 Silent worship
7.45 Breakfast
8.45 Annual General Meeting II
10.15 Break
10.45 Annual General Meeting III
12.15 Lunch and Break
15.00 Excursion to the Council of Europe
Conversation with Dr. Daniel Höltgen, Director of Communications and Special Representative on Antisemitic, Anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes, and Rev. Sören Lenz, Executive Secretary Conference of European Churches Strasbourg
18.30 Dinner
19.30 Conference I: “‘I am who I am...’ - Images of God and (Non)violence”
Maria Biedrawa/ Antje Heider-Rottwilm
21.30 Evening prayer

Saturday, 4 September 2021

7.30 Silent worship
8.00 Breakfast
9.00 Conference II: “‘I am who I am...’ - A Name and its Consequences”
10.00 Break
10.20 Conference III: Workshops (90 min)
12.15 Lunch and Break
15.30 Conference IV: Workshops (90 min)
18.30 Dinner
19.45 Ecumenical Worship
Sermon: Rev. Nicole Ashwood, World Council of Churches programme executive for a Just Community of Women and Men
21.00 Open evening

Sunday, 5 September 2021

8.00 Breakfast
9.00 Morning prayer
Conference V: Observations, conclusions and agreements
12.15 Lunch and Departure

Fees and Payment

Venue

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

Fees

(per person incl. accommodation, meals,
conference costs)

Single room (ensuite)	250 € / £220
Single room (shared bathroom)	230 € / £200
Double room (ensuite)	230 € / £200
Double room (shared bathroom)	220 € / 190
Day guest package (w/o accomodation & breakfast)	140 € / £120

Concessions

Available for low income or un-waged participants; exact amount will depend on grant funding approved.

Bank transfer to

in £: 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 an email to gerald.drewett@ntlworld.com

in €: Church and Peace,
Bank fuer Kirche und Diakonie,
IBAN: DE33350601901014380015
BIC: GENODED1DKD

Registration

Please **register by 4 July 2021** via our website:
www.church-and-peace.org.

Church and Peace is...

the Europe-wide network of peace church communities, congregations, organisations, institutions and individual members from 14 countries and a broad range of Christian traditions.



church and peace

The common basis of Church and Peace is the call to nonviolence, at the heart of the Gospel, and a practical commitment to peace and reconciliation, our guidance and strength coming from the Bible. Members of Church and Peace support one another in developing a spiritual practice and lifestyle that serves peace and justice. Particularly in countries marked by conflict and war, we are united in a commitment to nonviolence and to linking peace theology and practice. Together we strive for reconciliation, engage in dialogue, peace education and conflict resolution. We work towards a just distribution of resources and advocate good stewardship of creation.

Contact

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'And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'

(Philippians 4:7)

Images of God and Nonviolence



International Conference and Annual General Meeting

2 – 5 September 2021

Strasbourg, France