

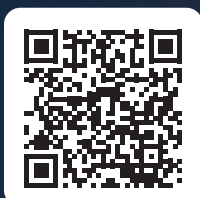
Ways to Peace 2025

Churches between
responsibility for the world
and their own nation

19th – 21th September 2025 | Fri. – Sun.

Evangelische Akademie Sachsen-Anhalt
Lutherstadt Wittenberg | Schlossplatz 1d

For more information and registration
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The churches' ecumenical networks cultivate intensive transatlantic and European contacts and friendships. In this year's study day Oikosnet Europe, together with the international partner churches of the Evangelical Church in Central Germany, is exploring a church's ethic of peace in the tension between global and national responsibility. The wars in Ukraine, the Middle East, and numerous other places around the world also call for a theological assessment. The Bible contains very different images of God. From a God of strength who commands armies to a God of peace who places law and justice above power and violence. What significance do biblical texts on peace have for politics and our Christian existence today?



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FRIDAY | September 19th 2025

16:30	Welcome at Evangelische Akademie, Schlossplatz 1d		Church between spiritual world responsibility and political state responsibility <i>Dr. Pavel-Andrei Prihracki (Assistant Professor Evangelical Lutheran Theological Faculty Comenius University Bratislava, Slovakia).</i>
17:00	Opening Message <i>Friedrich Kramer, Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Church in Central Germany & Peace Commissioner of the EKD</i>		Following a Path to Just Peace <i>Conference Minister Rev. Freeman Palmer, Associate Conference Minister Rev. Sheresa Simpson-Rice (Central Atlantic Conference United Church of Christ, USA)</i>
17:30	Entering & Introduction <i>Christoph Maier (Ev. Akademie Sachsen-Anhalt), Dr. Judith Königsdörfer (Lothar-Kreyssig Ökumenezentrum), Heinz-Joachim Lohmann (Oikosnet Europe), Eva Lange (Evang. Frauen in Mitteldeutschland)</i>		Political decisions and Christian conscience <i>Ks. Jan Kulik (Polish Orthodox Church)</i>
18:00	Panel 1 KONTEXTE Between responsibility for the world and their own nation <i>Moderation: Dr. Judith Königsdörfer (Lothar-Kreyssig-Ökumenezentrum)</i>		Ecumenical Responsibility in an European Context <i>Walter Lüssi (President of Oikosnet Europe, Zürich)</i>
	Briefings from the partner churches and Oikosnet Europe:	19:00	Panel debate <i>Moderation: Jens Lattke</i>
		20:30	Buffet at martas Hotel

SATURDAY | September 20th 2025 (Part 1)

9:00	Morning meditation <i>Rev. Freeman Palmer</i>		The Church's Peace Ethics in the Mirror and Context of Time Systematic Theological Considerations <i>Dr. Sarah Jäger (Assistant Professor of Tenure Track Theological Faculty at Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena)</i>
9:30	Panel 2 URTEXTE The "Pazifizierung" of God and the part of the churches <i>Moderation: Christoph Maier</i>		
	Is there a development in the Bible from more to less violent or warlike images of God? <i>Dr. habil. Gerlinde Baumann (Translator, Lecturer and Author)</i>	10:30	Coffee break
		10:45	In response <i>Fr. Gintaras Saungailo, PhD, the director of the Vilnius Orthodox Christian Institute for Education and Research</i>

SATURDAY | September 20th 2025 (Part 2)

11:00	Panel debate <i>Bishop Friedrich Kramer, Gintaras Saungailo, Dr. habil. Gerlinde Baumann, Dr. Sarah Jäger</i> <i>Moderation: Heinz-Joachim Lohmann und Christoph Maier</i>		WS 6: Peace work regional as a commitment to democracy <i>The work of the „Omas gegen Rechts“ (Grannies against the extreme right)</i> <i>Team EKM, Dr. R. Wesolowski, Halle (Saale)</i>
12:00	Lunch	15:30	Coffee & cake
13:15	Announcements for Workshops	16:00	Panel 3 SUBTEXT <i>Gender perspectives on war and peace</i> <i>Moderation: Eva Lange</i>
13:45	Workshops WS 1: Peaceful Learning in the Church of Sweden <i>Team from Diocese Lundt, Rev. Dr. Kerstin Wimmer</i> WS 2: Pursuing Just Peace <i>Team UCC, Rev. Freeman Palmer, Rev. Sheresa Simpson Rice, Rev. Dr. Kathryn Dwyer</i> WS 3: Peace Work at the Grassroots and in Everyday Church Life in Finland – Examples and Methodological Experiments <i>Diocese Lapua, Rev. Aaro Rytönen</i> <i>- speaker will attend online -</i> WS 4: Conflict and reconciliation <i>A theoretical and practical approach</i> <i>Colin Craig (Corrymeela and Oikosnet Europe)</i> WS 5: Different Points of View? <i>Oikosnet Europe and the Middle East</i> <i>Catriona Robertson (Iona Community, UKM), Kristin Gunleiksrud Raaum (Nowegske Kirkeakademie, Norway), Sergios Voilas (Interorthodox Centre of the Church of Greece), Christian Staffa, Ev. Akademie Berlin, Germany)</i>		Creating Peace without power? <i>Resilience, Resistance and Critique of Power</i> <i>Prof. Dr. H.E. Heleen Zorgdrager (Systematic Theology and Gender Studies, Protestant Theological University Utrecht and visiting professor to the Institute of Ecumenical Studies, Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, Ukraine)</i> Peace Ethics, Religion, and Diversity <i>Intersections, Challenges and Pathways Forward</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Ulrike Ernst-Auga (Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies (ZtG), Faculty of Theology Humboldt University of Berlin)</i>
		17:00	Panel debate <i>Dr. Ulrike Ernst-Auga, Dr. Heleen Zorgdrager, n.n.</i> <i>Moderation: Eva Lange</i>
		18:00	Dinner
		18:30	Get together & Music <i>Music: Hymn improvisations and jazz</i> <i>(Almuth Schulz)</i>

SUNDAY | September 21st 2025

10:00	Worship Service in the Castle Church <i>Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata, Program Director for the Department of Life, Justice and Peace, World Council of Churches, Geneva; Eva Lange</i>	11:30	Gallery Walk <i>Impulses for action, paths to peace, concretions</i> <i>n.n., just elected President, Heinz-Joachim Lohmann, Executive Secretary (Oikosnet Europe)</i>
11:00	Coffee break	12:15	Wrap-up and Conference observations <i>Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata</i> Farewell & travel blessing <i>Christoph Maier</i>
		12:45	Light Lunch (to go)